

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): October 7, 2009



Southwest Airlines Co.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

1-7259  
(Commission  
File Number)

74-1563240  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

P. O. Box 36611, Dallas, Texas  
(Address of principal executive offices)

75235-1611  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (214) 792-4000

Not Applicable

Former name or former address, if changed since last report

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On October 7, 2009, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its traffic results for September 2009. The press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference into this Item 2.02.

The information furnished in this Item 2.02 shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall such information be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits:

99.1 Registrant's September 2009 Traffic Release.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

October 7, 2009

By /s/ Laura Wright

Laura Wright  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
*(Principal Financial and*  
*Accounting Officer)*

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Exhibit Index

| Exhibit No. | Description                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 99.1        | Registrant's September 2009 Traffic Release. |

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**CONTACT:** Investor Relations (214) 792-4415

## **SOUTHWEST AIRLINES REPORTS SEPTEMBER TRAFFIC**

DALLAS, TEXAS – October 7, 2009 -- Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) announced today that the Company flew 5.8 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in September 2009, an 8.8 percent increase from the 5.3 billion RPMs flown in September 2008. Available seat miles (ASMs) decreased 7.8 percent to 7.7 billion from the September 2008 level of 8.4 billion. The load factor for the month was 74.7 percent, compared to 63.4 percent for the same period last year. For September 2009, passenger revenue per ASM is estimated to have increased in the three percent range as compared to September 2008.

For the third quarter 2009, Southwest flew 19.7 billion RPMs, compared to the 18.8 billion RPMs recorded for the same period in 2008, an increase of 4.7 percent. Available seat miles decreased 5.8 percent to 24.8 billion from the third quarter 2008 level of 26.3 billion. The third quarter 2009 load factor was 79.6 percent, compared to 71.6 percent for the same period last year.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2009, Southwest flew 56.3 billion RPMs, compared to the 56.2 billion RPMs recorded for the same period in 2008, an increase of 0.1 percent. Available seat miles decreased 4.3 percent to 74.5 billion from the 2008 level of 77.8 billion. The year-to-date load factor was 75.6 percent, compared to 72.3 percent for the same period last year.

This press releases, as well as past releases on Southwest, are available online at **[southwest.com](http://southwest.com)**.

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SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.  
PRELIMINARY COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC STATISTICS

|                               | SEPTEMBER |           |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                               | 2009      | 2008      | CHANGE    |
| Revenue passengers carried    | 6,777,496 | 6,424,143 | 5.5%      |
| Enplaned passengers           | 7,950,437 | 7,353,011 | 8.1%      |
| Revenue passenger miles (000) | 5,771,993 | 5,307,438 | 8.8%      |
| Available seat miles (000)    | 7,723,485 | 8,376,529 | (7.8)%    |
| Load factor                   | 74.7%     | 63.4%     | 11.3 pts. |
| Average length of haul        | 852       | 826       | 3.1%      |
| Trips flown                   | 89,497    | 95,947    | (6.7)%    |

|                               | THIRD QUARTER |            |          |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|----------|
|                               | 2009          | 2008       | CHANGE   |
| Revenue passengers carried    | 22,373,892    | 22,243,013 | 0.6%     |
| Enplaned passengers           | 26,396,360    | 25,686,181 | 2.8%     |
| Revenue passenger miles (000) | 19,706,579    | 18,822,810 | 4.7%     |
| Available seat miles (000)    | 24,771,016    | 26,287,035 | (5.8)%   |
| Load factor                   | 79.6%         | 71.6%      | 8.0 pts. |
| Average length of haul        | 881           | 846        | 4.1%     |
| Trips flown                   | 283,663       | 300,537    | (5.6)%   |

|                               | YEAR-TO-DATE |            |          |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------|
|                               | 2009         | 2008       | CHANGE   |
| Revenue passengers carried    | 64,810,234   | 67,741,176 | (4.3)%   |
| Enplaned passengers           | 75,951,788   | 77,945,753 | (2.6)%   |
| Revenue passenger miles (000) | 56,281,687   | 56,226,510 | 0.1%     |
| Available seat miles (000)    | 74,495,618   | 77,815,557 | (4.3)%   |
| Load factor                   | 75.6%        | 72.3%      | 3.3 pts. |
| Average length of haul        | 868          | 830        | 4.6%     |
| Trips flown                   | 852,371      | 898,759    | (5.2)%   |

