

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): January 9, 2012



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 January 9, 2012, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its traffic results for December 2011. 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 December 2011 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.

January 9, 2012

By /s/ Laura Wright

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

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Registrant's December 2011 Traffic Release.

CONTACT: Investor Relations (214) 792-4415

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES REPORTS DECEMBER TRAFFIC

DALLAS, TEXAS – January 9, 2012 – Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) today reported December 2011 combined traffic results for Southwest Airlines and AirTran. AirTran became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Southwest Airlines Co. (“the Company”) on May 2, 2011. For purposes of comparability, the Company is providing combined traffic results for Southwest Airlines and AirTran for periods prior to the acquisition date. See the accompanying tables for combined results.

The Company flew 8.2 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in December 2011, which was comparable to the combined RPMs flown in December 2010. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 1.8 percent to 10.5 billion from the December 2010 combined level of 10.3 billion. The load factor for December 2011 was 78.4 percent, compared to the combined load factor of 80.1 percent in December 2010. For December 2011, passenger revenue per ASM (PRASM) is estimated to have increased in the seven to eight percent range as compared to December 2010’s combined PRASM.

For the fourth quarter 2011, the Company flew 25.2 billion RPMs, compared to 24.7 billion combined RPMs flown for the same period in 2010, an increase of 1.9 percent. Fourth quarter 2011 ASMs increased 2.2 percent to 31.3 billion, compared to the combined level of 30.6 billion for the same period in 2010. The fourth quarter 2011 load factor was 80.5 percent, compared to the combined load factor of 80.7 percent for the same period in 2010.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, the Company flew 103.9 billion combined RPMs, compared to 97.6 billion combined RPMs flown for the same period in 2010, an increase of 6.4 percent. The combined year-to-date ASMs increased 4.9 percent to 128.5 billion, compared to the combined level of 122.5 billion for the same period in 2010. The combined year-to-date load factor was 80.8 percent, compared to the combined load factor of 79.7 percent for the same period in 2010.

This release, as well as past news releases about Southwest Airlines Co., is available online at **southwest.com**.

/more

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.
PRELIMINARY COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC STATISTICS

	DECEMBER		
	2011	2010	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	8,933,476	8,901,503	0.4%
Enplaned passengers	10,917,993	10,953,466	(0.3)%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	8,195,341	8,222,991	(0.3)%
Available seat miles (000)	10,454,875	10,265,582	1.8%
Load factor	78.4%	80.1%	(1.7) pts.
Average length of haul	917	924	(0.8)%
Trips flown	114,957	113,503	1.3%

	FOURTH QUARTER		
	2011	2010	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	27,526,166	27,330,796	0.7%
Enplaned passengers	33,510,920	33,276,264	0.7%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	25,180,506	24,713,320	1.9%
Available seat miles (000)	31,297,561	30,626,417	2.2%
Load factor	80.5%	80.7%	(0.2) pts.
Average length of haul	915	904	1.2%
Trips flown	343,756	340,597	0.9%

	TOTAL YEAR		
	2011	2010	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	110,141,610	107,605,957	2.4%
Enplaned passengers	135,274,464	130,921,515	3.3%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	103,864,488	97,597,121	6.4%
Available seat miles (000)	128,518,201	122,460,579	4.9%
Load factor	80.8%	79.7%	1.1 pts.
Average length of haul	943	907	4.0%
Trips flown	1,399,644	1,366,826	2.4%
