

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): May, 7 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 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On May 7, 2012, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its traffic results for April 2012. The press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated by reference into this Item 7.01.

The information furnished in this Item 7.01 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 April 2012 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.

May 7, 2012

By /s/ Laura Wright

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

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Registrant's April 2012 Traffic Release.

CONTACT: Investor Relations (214) 792-4415

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES REPORTS APRIL TRAFFIC

DALLAS, TEXAS – May 7, 2012 – Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) today reported April 2012 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 8.6 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in April 2012, compared to 8.8 billion combined RPMs flown in April 2011, a decrease of 2.1 percent. Available seat miles (ASMs) decreased 1.9 percent to 10.8 billion from the April 2011 combined level of 11.0 billion. The load factor for April 2012 was 79.8 percent, compared to the combined load factor of 79.9 percent in April 2011. For April 2012, passenger revenue per ASM (PRASM) is estimated to have increased in the seven to eight percent range as compared to April 2011’s combined PRASM.

For the first four months of 2012, the Company flew 32.3 billion RPMs, compared to 32.5 billion combined RPMs flown in the same period in 2011, a decrease of 0.7 percent. The year-to-date ASMs increased 0.4 percent to 41.4 billion from the combined level of 41.3 billion for the same period in 2011. The year-to-date load factor was 78.0 percent, compared to the combined load factor of 78.8 percent for the same period in 2011.

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

	APRIL		
	2012	2011	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	9,289,247	9,236,152	0.6%
Enplaned passengers	11,253,225	11,351,996	(0.9)%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	8,614,428	8,802,661	(2.1)%
Available seat miles (000)	10,799,914	11,011,630	(1.9)%
Load factor	79.8%	79.9%	(0.1)pts.
Average length of haul	927	953	(2.7)%
Trips flown	115,660	118,606	(2.5)%

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2012	2011	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	34,850,069	34,817,547	0.1%
Enplaned passengers	42,407,510	42,546,248	(0.3)%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	32,299,297	32,518,091	(0.7)%
Available seat miles (000)	41,432,807	41,275,175	0.4%
Load factor	78.0%	78.8%	(0.8)pts.
Average length of haul	927	934	(0.7)%
Trips flown	449,556	452,173	(0.6)%
