

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 10, 2017**



Southwest Airlines Co.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas	1-7259	74-1563240
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
P. O. Box 36611, Dallas, Texas		75235-1611
(Address of principal executive offices)		(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))

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On January 10, 2017, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its traffic results for December 2016. 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 2016 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 10, 2017

By /s/ Tammy Romo

Tammy Romo
Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Exhibit Index

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Registrant's December 2016 Traffic Release.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES REPORTS DECEMBER TRAFFIC

DALLAS, TEXAS – January 10, 2017 – Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) (the "Company") today reported its December, fourth quarter, and total year preliminary traffic statistics.

The Company flew 10.4 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in December 2016, an increase of 4.2 percent from the 10.0 billion RPMs flown in December 2015. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 4.8 percent to 12.6 billion in December 2016, compared with December 2015 ASMs of 12.1 billion. The December 2016 load factor was 82.6 percent, compared with 83.0 percent in December 2015. Based on these results and an improvement in close-in yields, the Company now estimates its fourth quarter 2016 operating revenue per ASM (RASM) will decline in the 3.0 to 4.0 percent range, as compared with fourth quarter 2015.

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

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214-792-4415

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/more

Southwest Airlines Co.
Preliminary Comparative Traffic Statistics

DECEMBER			
	2016	2015	Change
Revenue passengers carried	10,561,159	10,105,907	4.5%
Enplaned passengers	12,845,248	12,371,034	3.8%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	10,445,407	10,020,969	4.2%
Available seat miles (000s)	12,645,787	12,068,272	4.8%
Load factor	82.6%	83.0%	(0.4) pts.
Average length of haul	989	992	(0.3)%
Trips flown	111,765	108,208	3.3%

FOURTH QUARTER			
	2016	2015	Change
Revenue passengers carried	32,006,767	30,368,454	5.4%
Enplaned passengers	38,779,938	37,039,737	4.7%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	31,366,176	29,727,972	5.5%
Available seat miles (000s)	37,147,109	35,367,574	5.0%
Load factor	84.4%	84.1%	0.3 pts.
Average length of haul	980	979	0.1%
Trips flown	329,740	319,178	3.3%

TOTAL YEAR			
	2016	2015	Change
Revenue passengers carried	124,719,765	118,171,211	5.5%
Enplaned passengers	151,740,357	144,574,882	5.0%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	124,797,986	117,499,879	6.2%
Available seat miles (000s)	148,522,051	140,501,409	5.7%
Load factor	84.0%	83.6%	0.4 pts.
Average length of haul	1,001	994	0.7%
Trips flown	1,311,149	1,267,358	3.5%
