

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, 2018**



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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR 230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR 240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On January 9, 2018, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its traffic results for December 2017. 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 2017 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, 2018

By: /s/ Tammy Romo

Tammy Romo

Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES REPORTS DECEMBER TRAFFIC

DALLAS, TEXAS – January 9, 2018 – Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) (the "Company") today reported its December, fourth quarter, and total year 2017 preliminary traffic statistics.

The Company flew 10.7 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in December 2017, an increase of 2.6 percent from the 10.4 billion RPMs flown in December 2016. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 1.8 percent to 12.9 billion in December 2017, compared with December 2016 ASMs of 12.6 billion. The December 2017 load factor was a record for the month of December at 83.3 percent, compared with 82.6 percent in December 2016. Based on these results, the Company continues to estimate its fourth quarter 2017 operating revenue per ASM (RASM) will increase in the one to two percent range, as compared with fourth quarter 2016.

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

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements. Specific forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements related to the Company's expected results of operations for fourth quarter 2017. These statements involve assumptions and other factors that are difficult to predict and that could cause actual results to vary materially from those expressed in or indicated by them. Factors include, among others, the Company's customary quarterly close and review procedures and any resulting adjustments.

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/more

Southwest Airlines Co.
Preliminary Comparative Traffic Statistics

DECEMBER			
	2017	2016	Change
Revenue passengers carried	11,077,369	10,561,159	4.9%
Enplaned passengers	13,344,173	12,845,248	3.9%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	10,713,293	10,445,407	2.6%
Available seat miles (000s)	12,868,065	12,645,787	1.8%
Load factor	83.3%	82.6%	0.7 pts.
Average length of haul	967	989	(2.2)%
Trips flown	113,451	111,765	1.5%

FOURTH QUARTER			
	2017	2016	Change
Revenue passengers carried	33,695,001	32,006,767	5.3%
Enplaned passengers	40,428,884	38,779,938	4.3%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	32,189,839	31,366,176	2.6%
Available seat miles (000s)	37,886,814	37,147,109	2.0%
Load factor	85.0%	84.4%	0.6 pts.
Average length of haul	955	980	(2.6)%
Trips flown	337,190	329,740	2.3%

TOTAL YEAR			
	2017	2016	Change
Revenue passengers carried	130,256,190	124,719,765	4.4%
Enplaned passengers	157,677,218	151,740,357	3.9%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	129,041,420	124,797,986	3.4%
Available seat miles (000s)	153,811,072	148,522,051	3.6%
Load factor	83.9%	84.0%	(0.1) pts.
Average length of haul	991	1,001	(1.0)%
Trips flown	1,347,893	1,311,149	2.8%
