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# Southwest Airlines Reports December Traffic

DALLAS, Jan. 5 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) announced today that the Company flew 5.5 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in December 2006, compared to the 5.0 billion RPMs flown in December 2005. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 8.3 percent to 8.0 billion from the December 2005 level of 7.4 billion. The load factor for the month was 68.9 percent, compared to 67.6 percent for the same period last year.

For the fourth quarter 2006, Southwest flew 16.8 billion RPMs, compared to the 15.1 billion RPMs recorded for the same period in 2005, an increase of 11.0 percent. Available seat miles increased 10.0 percent to 23.9 billion from the fourth quarter 2005 level of 21.7 billion. The fourth quarter 2006 load factor was 70.2 percent, compared to 69.6 percent for the same period last year.

For the year ended December 31, 2006, Southwest flew 67.7 billion RPMs, compared to the 60.2 billion RPMs recorded for the same period in 2005, an increase of 12.4 percent. Available seat miles increased 8.8 percent to 92.7 billion from the 2005 level of 85.2 billion. The year-to-date load factor was 73.1 percent, compared to 70.7 percent for the same period last year.

This release, as well as Southwest's great low fares, are available online at [http://www.southwest.com/?src=IR\\_010507](http://www.southwest.com/?src=IR_010507).

## SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO. PRELIMINARY COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC STATISTICS

	DECEMBER		
	2006	2005	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	6,834,736	6,265,391	9.1 %
Enplaned passengers	7,869,164	7,255,795	8.5 %
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	5,506,475	4,994,097	10.3 %
Available seat miles (000s)	7,992,307	7,382,345	8.3 %
Load factor	68.9%	67.6%	1.3 pts.
Average length of haul	806	797	1.1 %
Trips flown	93,171	88,153	5.7 %

FOURTH QUARTER

	2006	2005	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	21,093,758	19,485,341	8.3 %
Enplaned passengers	24,073,803	22,225,745	8.3 %
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	16,799,770	15,139,361	11.0 %
Available seat miles (000s)	23,914,966	21,748,689	10.0 %
Load factor	70.2%	69.6%	0.6 pts.
Average length of haul	796	777	2.4 %
Trips flown	279,903	259,377	7.9 %

YEAR-TO-DATE

	2006	2005	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	83,851,484	77,693,875	7.9 %
Enplaned passengers	96,276,791	88,379,900	8.9 %
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	67,691,243	60,223,100	12.4 %
Available seat miles (000s)	92,663,023	85,172,795	8.8 %
Load factor	73.1%	70.7%	2.4 pts.
Average length of haul	807	775	4.1 %
Trips flown	1,092,331	1,028,639	6.2 %

SOURCE Southwest Airlines Co.