

September 4, 2008



Southwest Airlines Reports August Traffic

DALLAS, Sept. 4 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) announced today that the Company flew 6.6 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in August 2008, a 5.2 percent decrease from the 7.0 billion RPMs flown in August 2007. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 1.5 percent to 8.9 billion from the August 2007 level of 8.7 billion. The load factor for the month was 74.6 percent, compared to 80.0 percent for the same period last year.

For the eight months ended August 31, 2008, Southwest flew 50.9 billion RPMs, compared to the 49.2 billion RPMs recorded for the same period of 2007, an increase of 3.6 percent. Available seat miles increased 5.1 percent to 69.4 billion from the 2007 level of 66.1 billion. The year-to-date load factor was 73.3 percent, compared to 74.4 percent for the same period last year.

This news release, as well as past news releases on Southwest, are available online at <http://www.southwest.com/?src=INVRINVAUTR000000080804>.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO. PRELIMINARY COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC STATISTICS

	AUGUST		
	2008	2007	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	7,751,171	8,273,072	(6.3)%
Enplaned passengers	8,970,247	9,605,342	(6.6)%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	6,630,104	6,995,510	(5.2)%
Available seat miles (000)	8,882,141	8,746,716	1.5 %
Load factor	74.6%	80.0%	(5.4) pts.
Average length of haul	855	846	1.1 %
Trips flown	101,433	101,407	0.0 %

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2008	2007	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	61,315,942	59,970,374	2.2 %
Enplaned passengers	70,592,742	69,055,656	2.2 %
Revenue passenger miles (000)	50,919,072	49,172,552	3.6 %

Available seat miles (000)	69,439,029	66,063,302	5.1 %
Load factor	73.3%	74.4%	(1.1) pts.
Average length of haul	830	820	1.2 %
Trips flown	802,812	769,230	4.4 %

SOURCE Southwest Airlines Co.