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Southwest Airlines Reports September Traffic

DALLAS, Oct. 2 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Southwest Airlines Co. (NYSE: LUV) announced today that the Company flew 5.3 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in September 2008, a 5.9 percent decrease from the 5.6 billion RPMs flown in September 2007. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 0.8 percent to 8.4 billion from the September 2007 level of 8.3 billion. The load factor for the month was 63.4 percent, compared to 67.9 percent for the same period last year.

For the third quarter 2008, Southwest flew 18.8 billion RPMs, compared to the 19.7 billion RPMs recorded for the same period in 2007, a decrease of 4.4 percent. Available seat miles increased 2.2 percent to 26.3 billion from the third quarter 2007 level of 25.7 billion. The third quarter 2008 load factor was 71.6 percent, compared to 76.6 percent for the same period last year.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2008, Southwest flew 56.2 billion RPMs, compared to the 54.8 billion RPMs recorded for the same period in 2007, an increase of 2.6 percent. Available seat miles increased 4.6 percent to 77.8 billion from the 2007 level of 74.4 billion. The year-to-date load factor was 72.3 percent, compared to 73.7 percent for the same period last year.

This press releases, as well as past releases on Southwest, are available online at <http://www.southwest.com/?src=INVRINVSETR000000081002>.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO. PRELIMINARY COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC STATISTICS

	SEPTEMBER		
	2008	2007	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	6,420,673	6,985,944	(8.1)%
Enplaned passengers	7,353,011	7,979,454	(7.9)%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	5,309,055	5,640,978	(5.9)%
Available seat miles (000)	8,378,982	8,313,707	0.8 %
Load factor	63.4%	67.9%	(4.5) pts.
Average length of haul	827	807	2.5 %
Trips flown	95,947	96,099	(0.2)%

THIRD QUARTER

	2008	2007	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	22,239,543	23,553,366	(5.6)%
Enplaned passengers	25,686,181	27,242,613	(5.7)%
Revenue passenger miles (000)	18,824,428	19,685,690	(4.4)%
Available seat miles (000)	26,289,488	25,715,957	2.2 %
Load factor	71.6%	76.6%	(5.0) pts.
Average length of haul	846	836	1.2 %
Trips flown	300,537	297,782	0.9 %

	YEAR-TO-DATE		
	2008	2007	CHANGE
Revenue passengers carried	67,737,706	66,956,318	1.2 %
Enplaned passengers	77,945,753	77,035,110	1.2 %
Revenue passenger miles (000)	56,228,127	54,813,530	2.6 %
Available seat miles (000)	77,818,010	74,377,009	4.6 %
Load factor	72.3%	73.7%	(1.4) pts.
Average length of haul	830	819	1.3 %
Trips flown	898,759	865,329	3.9 %

SOURCE Southwest Airlines Co.