

# Southwest Airlines Reports December Traffic

[Southwest Airlines Co.](#) (NYSE: LUV) (the "Company") today reported its December, fourth quarter, and total year 2018 preliminary traffic statistics.

The Company flew 11.1 billion revenue passenger miles (RPMs) in December 2018, an increase of 3.3 percent from the 10.7 billion RPMs flown in December 2017. Available seat miles (ASMs) increased 5.4 percent to 13.6 billion in December 2018, compared with December 2017 ASMs of 12.9 billion. The December 2018 load factor was 81.6 percent, compared with 83.3 percent in December 2017.

This release, as well as past news releases about Southwest Airlines Co., is available online at [Southwest.com](#).

Southwest Airlines Co.

## Preliminary Comparative Traffic Statistics

### DECEMBER

	2018	2017	Change
Revenue passengers carried	11,211,115	11,077,369	1.2%
Enplaned passengers	13,619,622	13,344,173	2.1%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	11,069,368	10,713,293	3.3%
Available seat miles (000s)	13,563,854	12,868,065	5.4%

Load factor	81.6%	83.3%	(1.7) pts.
Average length of haul (miles)	987	967	2.1%
Trips flown	115,789	113,451	2.1%

#### FOURTH QUARTER

	2018	2017	Change
Revenue passengers carried	34,432,204	33,695,001	2.2%
Enplaned passengers	41,707,440	40,428,884	3.2%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	33,715,984	32,189,839	4.7%
Available seat miles (000s)	40,366,897	37,886,814	6.5%
Load factor	83.5%	85.0%	(1.5) pts.
Average length of haul (miles)	979	955	2.5%
Trips flown	347,331	337,190	3.0%

#### TOTAL YEAR

	2018	2017	Change
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Revenue passengers carried	134,890,243	130,256,190	3.6%
Enplaned passengers	163,605,833	157,677,218	3.8%
Revenue passenger miles (000s)	133,322,322	129,041,420	3.3%
Available seat miles (000s)	159,795,153	153,811,072	3.9%
Load factor	83.4%	83.9%	(0.5) pts.
Average length of haul (miles)	988	991	(0.3)%
Trips flown	1,375,030	1,347,893	2.0%

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ABOUT SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

[Southwest Airlines Co.](https://www.southwest.com) operates one of the world's most admired and awarded airlines, offering its one-of-a-kind value and Hospitality at 121 airports across 12 countries. Southwest took flight in 1971 to democratize the sky through friendly, reliable, and low-cost air travel and now carries more air travelers flying nonstop within the United States than any other airline<sup>1</sup>. By empowering its more than 72,000<sup>2</sup> People to deliver unparalleled Hospitality, the maverick airline cherishes a passionate loyalty among more than 134 million Customers carried in 2025. Southwest leverages a unique legacy and mission to serve communities around the world including harnessing the power of its People and Purpose to put communities at the Heart of its success. Learn more by visiting [Southwest.com/citizenship](https://www.southwest.com/citizenship).

1. Based on U.S. Dept. of Transportation quarterly Airline Origin & Destination Survey as of Q4 2025
2. Fulltime-equivalent active Employees as of Dec. 31, 2025

Media Contacts:

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