

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO
Form 10-Q
May 01, 2018

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File No. 1-7259

Southwest Airlines Co.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

TEXAS 74-1563240
(State or other jurisdiction of (IRS Employer
incorporation or organization) 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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company
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.

Edgar Filing: SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO - Form 10-Q

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes
No

Number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of the close of business on April 27, 2018: 579,803,228

TABLE OF CONTENTS TO FORM 10-Q

PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017

Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Item 5. Other Information

Item 6. Exhibits

SIGNATURES

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.
FORM 10-Q
PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

Southwest Airlines Co.

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet

(in millions)

(unaudited)

	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017 As Recast
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,822	\$ 1,495
Short-term investments	1,421	1,778
Accounts and other receivables	680	662
Inventories of parts and supplies, at cost	430	420
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	448	460
Total current assets	4,801	4,815
Property and equipment, at cost:		
Flight equipment	21,143	21,368
Ground property and equipment	4,506	4,399
Deposits on flight equipment purchase contracts	913	919
Assets constructed for others	1,607	1,543
	28,169	28,229
Less allowance for depreciation and amortization	9,396	9,690
	18,773	18,539
Goodwill	970	970
Other assets	959	786
	\$25,503	\$ 25,110
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,320
Accrued liabilities	1,134	1,700
Air traffic liability	4,420	3,495
Current maturities of long-term debt	365	348
Total current liabilities	7,162	6,863
Long-term debt less current maturities	3,227	3,320
Air traffic liability - loyalty noncurrent	1,010	1,070
Deferred income taxes	2,216	2,119
Construction obligation	1,563	1,390
Other noncurrent liabilities	706	707
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock	808	808
Capital in excess of par value	1,452	1,451

Edgar Filing: SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO - Form 10-Q

Retained earnings	14,238	13,832
Accumulated other comprehensive income	78	12
Treasury stock, at cost	(6,957)	(6,462)
Total stockholders' equity	9,619	9,641
	\$25,503	\$ 25,110

See accompanying notes.

3

Southwest Airlines Co.
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
(in millions, except per share amounts)
(unaudited)

	Three months ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
		As Recast
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Passenger	\$4,585	\$4,546
Freight	42	42
Other	317	266
Total operating revenues	4,944	4,854
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Salaries, wages, and benefits	1,821	1,730
Fuel and oil	1,018	956
Maintenance materials and repairs	257	243
Landing fees and airport rentals	330	313
Depreciation and amortization	277	318
Other operating expenses	625	688
Total operating expenses	4,328	4,248
OPERATING INCOME	616	606
OTHER EXPENSES (INCOME):		
Interest expense	32	29
Capitalized interest	(10)	(11)
Interest income	(12)	(7)
Other (gains) losses, net	4	63
Total other expenses (income)	14	74
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES	602	532
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	139	193
NET INCOME	\$463	\$339
NET INCOME PER SHARE, BASIC	\$0.79	\$0.55
NET INCOME PER SHARE, DILUTED	\$0.79	\$0.55
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$547	\$350
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING		
Basic	587	613
Diluted	588	614

Cash dividends declared per common share	\$.125	\$.100
--	---------	---------

See accompanying notes.

4

Southwest Airlines Co.
Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
(in millions)
(unaudited)

	Three months ended	
	March 31,	
	2018	2017
		As Recast
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net income	\$463	\$339
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	277	318
Unrealized/realized (gain) loss on fuel derivative instruments	(7)	) 27
Deferred income taxes	72	54
Changes in certain assets and liabilities:		
Accounts and other receivables	(15)	) (35)
Other assets	(178)	) (81)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(501)	) 92
Air traffic liability	866	918
Cash collateral received from derivative counterparties	65	37
Other, net	(40)	) (44)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,002	1,625
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Capital expenditures	(409)	) (414)
Assets constructed for others	(24)	) (49)
Purchases of short-term investments	(200)	) (563)
Proceeds from sales of short-term and other investments	560	556
Net cash used in investing activities	(73)	) (470)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from Employee stock plans	9	7
Reimbursement for assets constructed for others	139	49
Payments of long-term debt and capital lease obligations	(82)	) (369)
Payments of cash dividends	(148)	) (123)
Repayment of construction obligation	(7)	) (2)
Repurchase of common stock	(500)	) (550)
Other, net	(13)	) 4
Net cash used in financing activities	(602)	) (984)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	327	171
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	1,495	1,680
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	\$1,822	\$1,851
CASH PAYMENTS FOR:		

Edgar Filing: SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO - Form 10-Q

Interest, net of amount capitalized	\$18	\$27
Income taxes	\$4	\$6

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF NONCASH TRANSACTIONS

Flight equipment under capital leases	\$14	\$39
Assets constructed for others	\$40	\$50
See accompanying notes.		

5

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

Southwest Airlines Co. (the "Company" or "Southwest") operates Southwest Airlines, a major passenger airline that provides scheduled air transportation in the United States and near-international markets. The unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements include accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries.

The accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company and its subsidiaries have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles in the United States ("GAAP") for complete financial statements. The unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for the interim periods ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 include all adjustments which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the interim periods. This includes all normal and recurring adjustments and elimination of significant intercompany transactions. Financial results for the Company and airlines in general can be seasonal in nature. In many years, the Company's revenues, as well as its Operating income and Net income, have been better in its second and third fiscal quarters than in its first and fourth fiscal quarters. Air travel is also significantly impacted by general economic conditions, the amount of disposable income available to consumers, unemployment levels, corporate travel budgets, natural disasters, and other factors beyond the Company's control. These and other factors, such as the price of jet fuel in some periods, the nature of the Company's fuel hedging program, and the periodic volatility of commodities used by the Company for hedging jet fuel, have created, and may continue to create, significant volatility in the Company's financial results. See Note 3 for further information on fuel and the Company's hedging program. Operating results for the three months ended March 31, 2018, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for future quarters or for the year ended December 31, 2018. For further information, refer to the Consolidated Financial Statements and footnotes thereto included in the Southwest Airlines Co. Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Effective as of January 1, 2018, the Company adopted Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2014-09: Revenue from Contracts with Customers, ASU No. 2017-07: Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost, and ASU No. 2017-12: Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities. All amounts and disclosures set forth in this Form 10-Q reflect the adoption of these ASUs. See Note 2 for further information.

The Company reclassified \$54 million from Aircraft rentals to Other operating expenses in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2017, to be comparative with the current period's presentation. Aircraft rentals expense included in Other operating expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2018, was \$40 million. This reclassification had no impact on Operating income, Net income, the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet, or the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows.

2. NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

On February 7, 2018, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") issued ASU No. 2018-02, Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income. This standard gives entities the option to reclassify tax effects stranded in Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) ("AOCI"), as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act enacted in December 2017, to Retained earnings. The guidance is effective for fiscal

years beginning after December 15, 2018, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption, including adoption in an interim period, is permitted. At December 31, 2017, the Company had revalued its deferred tax AOCI balance from a deferred tax rate of 36.9 percent to a new deferred tax rate of 23.3 percent as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The Company adopted the standard as of January 1, 2018, and accordingly during first quarter 2018, the

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

Company elected to reclassify \$2 million previously stranded in AOCI to Retained earnings in the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

On August 28, 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-12, Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities (the "New Hedging Standard"). The New Hedging Standard amends the hedge accounting model to enable entities to better portray the economics of their risk management activities in the financial statements and enhance the transparency and understandability of hedge results. The New Hedging Standard also simplifies the application of hedge accounting in certain situations. The New Hedging Standard is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted in any interim or annual period. The Company elected to early adopt the New Hedging Standard as of January 1, 2018. The adoption was done on a prospective basis, as required. The most significant impacts of the New Hedging Standard on the Company's accounting are the elimination of the requirement to separately measure and record ineffectiveness for all cash flow hedges in a hedging relationship, as well as a change in classification of premium expense associated with option contracts. Such premium expense for the Company's fuel hedges was previously reflected as a component of Other (gains) losses, net, in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, but under the New Hedging Standard is reflected as a component of the line item to which the hedge relates, which is Fuel and oil expense. As such, the classification of premium expense for the three months ended March 31, 2017, has been reclassified in order to be comparative with current period results in the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income. The impact of the cumulative effect of the adjustment to move the reporting of ineffectiveness as of January 1, 2018, to AOCI from Retained earnings, was a \$20 million loss, net of taxes. The adoption and resulting reclassification had no impact on the Company's net income, earnings per share, or cash flows.

On March 10, 2017, the FASB issued ASU No. 2017-07, Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost (the "New Retirement Standard"). The New Retirement Standard requires employers to present the service cost component of the net periodic benefit cost in the same income statement line item as other Employee compensation costs arising from services rendered during the period. The other components of net benefit cost, including amortization of prior service cost/credit, and settlement and curtailment effects, are to be included in nonoperating expenses. As required by the New Retirement Standard, the Company adopted this guidance retrospectively as of January 1, 2018, using a practical expedient which permitted the Company to use the amounts disclosed in its pension and other postretirement benefit plan note for the prior comparative periods as the estimation basis for applying the retrospective presentation requirements. As such, the Company reclassified \$3 million of Salaries, wages, and benefits expense to Other (gains) and losses under the New Retirement Standard in the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2017. The adoption and resulting reclassification had no impact on the Company's net income, earnings per share, or cash flows.

On February 25, 2016, the FASB issued ASU No. 2016-02, Leases (the "New Lease Standard"). The New Lease Standard is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. The New Lease Standard requires lessees to recognize a right-of-use asset and a lease liability on the balance sheet for all leases (with the exception of short-term leases) at the lease commencement date and recognize expenses on the income statement in a similar manner to the current guidance in Accounting Standards Codification 840, Leases ("ASC 840"). The lease liability will be measured at the present value of the unpaid lease payments and the right-of-use asset will be derived from the calculation of the lease liability. Lease payments will include fixed and in-substance fixed payments, variable payments based on an index or rate, reasonably certain purchase options, termination penalties, fees paid by the lessee to the owners of a special-purpose entity for

restructuring the transaction, and probable amounts the lessee will owe under a residual value guarantee. Lease payments will not include variable lease payments other than those that depend on an index or rate, any guarantee by the lessee of the lessor's debt, or any amount allocated to non-lease components.

The Company has formed a project team to evaluate and implement the New Lease Standard, and currently believes the most significant impact of the New Lease Standard on its accounting will be the balance sheet impact of its aircraft operating leases, which will significantly increase assets and liabilities. As of March 31, 2018, the Company had 53

7

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

leased aircraft under operating leases and also had another 76 aircraft under operating leases that are being subleased to another airline. As of March 31, 2018, the net present value of future rents for those aircraft was approximately \$900 million. This amount only includes contractual payments due to lessors, and does not consider certain items that the New Lease Standard requires to be assessed in determining the final asset and liability to be reflected on the Company's balance sheet, such as lease renewal options and potential impairments, nor does it consider the sublease income that is due from third parties. The Company also has operating leases related to terminal operations space and other real estate leases. Although the real estate leases will also have a substantial impact to the balance sheet, the Company does not expect the leases related to terminal operations space to have a significant impact since variable lease payments, other than those based on an index or rate, are excluded from the measurement of the lease liability. The Company also does not expect the adoption of the New Lease Standard to impact any of its existing debt covenants.

In addition, the New Lease Standard eliminates the current build-to-suit lease accounting guidance and could result in derecognition of build-to-suit assets and liabilities that remained on the balance sheet after the end of the construction period. The underlying leases for these facilities will be subject to evaluation under the New Lease Standard. See Note 7 for further information on the Company's build-to-suit projects.

The Company is evaluating the recently affirmed proposal which provided an optional transition method for adoption of the New Lease Standard, which would allow entities to continue to apply the legacy guidance in ASC 840, including its disclosure requirements, in the comparative periods presented in the year of adoption. The Company plans to adopt the New Lease Standard on January 1, 2019, and will continue to provide updates to its plans in future periods.

On May 28, 2014, the FASB issued ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (the "New Revenue Standard"), also referred to as Accounting Standards Codification 606, Revenue From Contracts With Customers ("ASC 606"), which replaces numerous revenue recognition requirements in GAAP, including industry-specific requirements, and provides companies with a single revenue recognition model for recognizing revenue from contracts with Customers. The New Revenue Standard establishes a five-step model whereby revenue is recognized as performance obligations within a contract are satisfied in an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to receive in exchange for satisfaction of those performance obligations, or standalone selling price. The New Revenue Standard also requires new, expanded disclosures regarding revenue recognition. See Note 5 for further information. The Company has adopted the provisions of the New Revenue Standard on January 1, 2018, using the retrospective method. As such, results for the three months ended March 31, 2017, have been recast under the New Revenue Standard in order to be comparative with current period results in the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows. The amounts in the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2017, have also been recast.

The most significant impact of the New Revenue Standard relates to the accounting for the Company's loyalty program. The New Revenue Standard eliminated the incremental cost method for loyalty program accounting, which was previously allowed in prior accounting guidance. The Company is now required to account for the liability for points earned using a relative fair value approach.

The New Revenue Standard also resulted in different income statement classification for certain types of revenues (primarily ancillary revenues) which were previously classified as Other revenues, but under the New Revenue Standard are included in Passenger revenues, and certain expenses, which were previously classified as Other operating expenses, but under the New Revenue Standard are offset against Passenger revenues.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

The following table provides the impact of applying the New Revenue Standard to the Company's previously reported balances as of December 31, 2017:

(in millions)	Balance as of December 31, 2017		
	As Reported	New Revenue Standard	As Recast
Accrued liabilities	\$1,777	\$ (77)	\$1,700
Air traffic liability	3,460	35	3,495
Air traffic liability - loyalty noncurrent	—	1,070	1,070
Deferred income taxes	2,358	(239)	2,119
Retained earnings	14,621	(789)	13,832

The impacts of applying the New Revenue Standard, the New Retirement Standard, and the New Hedging Standard to the Company's unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2017, are as follows:

(in millions), except per share amounts	Three months ended March 31, 2017				
	As Reported	New Revenue Standard	New Retirement Standard	New Hedging Standard	As Recast
Passenger revenue	\$4,424	\$ 122	\$ —	\$ —	\$4,546
Other revenue	417	(151)	—	—	266
Salaries, wages, and benefits	1,733	—	(3)	—	1,730
Fuel and oil expense	922	—	—	34	956
Other operating expenses (a)	696	(8)	—	—	688
Other (gains) losses, net	94	—	3	(34)	63
Provision for income taxes	202	(9)	—	—	193
Net income	351	(12)	—	—	339
Net income per share, basic	0.57	(0.02)	—	—	0.55
Net income per share, diluted	0.57	(0.02)	—	—	0.55

(a) The Company reclassified \$54 million from Aircraft rentals to Other operating expenses in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2017, to be comparative with current period's presentation. See Note 1 for further information.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

The impact of applying the New Revenue Standard to the Company's unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the three months ended March 31, 2017, are as follows (amounts may not recalculate due to rounding):

(in millions)	Three months ended March 31, 2017		
	As Reported	New Revenue Standard	As Recast
Net income	\$351	\$ (12)	\$ 339
Deferred income taxes	62	(9)	54
Changes in certain assets and liabilities	874	21	894
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,625	—	1,625

3. FINANCIAL DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

Fuel contracts

Airline operators are inherently dependent upon energy to operate and, therefore, are impacted by changes in jet fuel prices. Furthermore, jet fuel and oil typically represents one of the largest operating expenses for airlines. The Company endeavors to acquire jet fuel at the lowest possible cost and to reduce volatility in operating expenses through its fuel hedging program. Although the Company may periodically enter into jet fuel derivatives for short-term timeframes, because jet fuel is not widely traded on an organized futures exchange, there are limited opportunities to hedge directly in jet fuel for time horizons longer than approximately 24 months into the future. However, the Company has found that financial derivative instruments in other commodities, such as West Texas Intermediate ("WTI") crude oil, Brent crude oil, and refined products, such as heating oil and unleaded gasoline, can be useful in decreasing its exposure to jet fuel price volatility. The Company does not purchase or hold any financial derivative instruments for trading or speculative purposes.

The Company has used financial derivative instruments for both short-term and long-term timeframes, and primarily uses a mixture of purchased call options, collar structures (which include both a purchased call option and a sold put option), call spreads (which include a purchased call option and a sold call option), put spreads (which include a purchased put option and a sold put option), and fixed price swap agreements in its portfolio. Although the use of collar structures and swap agreements can reduce the overall cost of hedging, these instruments carry more risk than purchased call options in that the Company could end up in a liability position when the collar structure or swap agreement settles. With the use of purchased call options and call spreads, the Company cannot be in a liability position at settlement, but does not have coverage once market prices fall below the strike price of the purchased call option.

For the purpose of evaluating its net cash spend for jet fuel and for forecasting its future estimated jet fuel expense, the Company evaluates its hedge volumes strictly from an "economic" standpoint and thus does not consider whether the hedges have qualified or will qualify for hedge accounting. The Company defines its "economic" hedge as the net volume of fuel derivative contracts held, including the impact of positions that have been offset through sold positions, regardless of whether those contracts qualify for hedge accounting. The level at which the Company is economically hedged for a particular period is also dependent on current market prices for that period, as well as the types of derivative instruments held and the strike prices of those instruments. For example, the Company may enter into "out-of-the-money" option contracts (including "catastrophic" protection), which may not generate intrinsic gains

at settlement if market prices do not rise above the option strike price. Therefore, even though the Company may have an economic hedge in place for a particular period, that hedge may not produce any hedging gains at settlement and may even produce hedging losses depending on market prices, the types of instruments held, and the strike prices of those instruments.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

For the three months ended March 31, 2018, the Company had fuel derivative instruments in place for up to 84 percent of its fuel consumption. As of March 31, 2018, the Company also had fuel derivative instruments in place to provide coverage at varying price levels, but up to a maximum of approximately 76 percent of its remaining 2018 estimated fuel consumption, depending on where market prices settle. The following table provides information about the Company's volume of fuel hedging on an economic basis considering current market prices:

Period (by year)	Maximum fuel hedged as of March 31, 2018 (gallons in millions)	Derivative underlying commodity type as of March 31, 2018
Remainder of 2018	1,235	WTI crude and Brent crude oil
2019	1,377	WTI crude and Brent crude oil
2020	867	WTI crude and Brent crude oil
2021	340	WTI crude oil
2022	88	WTI crude oil

(a) Due to the types of derivatives utilized by the Company and different price levels of those contracts, these volumes represent the maximum economic hedge in place and may vary significantly as market prices fluctuate.

Upon proper qualification, the Company accounts for its fuel derivative instruments as cash flow hedges. The Company adopted the New Hedging Standard as of January 1, 2018. See Note 2 for further information on this adoption. Under the New Hedging Standard, all periodic changes in fair value of the derivatives designated as hedges are recorded in AOCI until the underlying jet fuel is consumed. See Note 4. Prior to the adoption of the New Hedging Standard, ineffectiveness resulted when the change in the fair value of the derivative instrument exceeded the change in the value of the Company's expected future cash outlay to purchase and consume jet fuel. To the extent that the periodic changes in the fair value of the derivatives were ineffective, the ineffective portion was recorded to Other (gains) losses, net, in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period of the change. The Company's results are subject to the possibility that the derivatives will no longer qualify for hedge accounting, in which case any change in the fair value of derivative instruments since the last reporting period would be recorded in Other (gains) losses, net, in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period of the change; however, any amounts previously recorded to AOCI would remain there until such time as the original forecasted transaction occurs, at which time these amounts would be reclassified to Fuel and oil expense. When the Company has sold derivative positions in order to effectively "close" or offset a derivative already held as part of its fuel derivative instrument portfolio, any subsequent changes in fair value of those positions are marked to market through earnings. Likewise, any changes in fair value of those positions that were offset by entering into the sold positions and were de-designated as hedges are concurrently marked to market through earnings. However, any changes in value related to hedges that were deferred as part of AOCI while designated as a hedge would remain until the originally forecasted transaction occurs. In a situation where it becomes probable that a fuel hedged forecasted transaction will not occur, any gains and/or losses that have been recorded to AOCI would be required to be immediately reclassified into earnings. The Company did not have any such situations occur during 2017, or during the three months ended March 31, 2018.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

All cash flows associated with purchasing and selling fuel derivatives are classified as Other operating cash flows in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows. The following table presents the location of all assets and liabilities associated with the Company's derivative instruments within the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet:

(in millions)	Balance Sheet location	Asset derivatives		Liability derivatives	
		Fair value at 3/31/2018	Fair value at 3/31/2017	Fair value at 3/31/2018	Fair value at 3/31/2017
Derivatives designated as hedges (a)					
Fuel derivative contracts (gross)	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ 145	\$ 112	\$ —	\$ —
Fuel derivative contracts (gross)	Other assets	195	136	—	—
Interest rate derivative contracts	Other noncurrent liabilities	—	—	24	20
Total derivatives designated as hedges		\$ 340	\$ 248	\$ 24	\$ 20
Derivatives not designated as hedges (a)					
Fuel derivative contracts (gross)	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ 23	\$ 35	\$ 23	\$ 35
Interest rate derivative contracts	Accrued liabilities	—	—	1	1
Interest rate derivative contracts	Other noncurrent liabilities	—	—	—	1
Total derivatives not designated as hedges		\$ 23	\$ 35	\$ 24	\$ 37
Total derivatives		\$ 363	\$ 283	\$ 48	\$ 57

(a) Represents the position of each trade before consideration of offsetting positions with each counterparty and does not include the impact of cash collateral deposits provided to or received from counterparties. See discussion of credit risk and collateral following in this Note.

The following table presents the amounts recorded on the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet related to fair value hedges:

Balance Sheet location of hedged item	Carrying amount of the hedged liabilities	Cumulative amount of fair value hedging adjustment included in the carrying amount of the hedged liabilities (a)	
		March 31, 2018	March 31, 2017
(in millions)			

Long-term debt less current maturities \$784 \$793 \$ 5 \$ 15

(a) At March 31, 2018 and 2017, these amounts include the cumulative amount of fair value hedging adjustments remaining for which hedge accounting has been discontinued of \$21 million and \$22 million, respectively.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

In addition, the Company had the following amounts associated with fuel derivative instruments and hedging activities in its unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet:

(in millions)	Balance Sheet location	March December	
		31, 2018	31, 2017
Cash collateral deposits held from counterparties for fuel contracts - current	Offset against Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ 60	\$ 15
Cash collateral deposits held from counterparties for fuel contracts - noncurrent	Offset against Other assets	20	—
Due to third parties for fuel contracts	Accounts payable	—	29
Receivable from third parties for fuel contracts	Accounts and other receivables	9	—

All of the Company's fuel derivative instruments and interest rate swaps are subject to agreements that follow the netting guidance in the applicable accounting standards for derivatives and hedging. The types of derivative instruments the Company has determined are subject to netting requirements in the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet are those in which the Company pays or receives cash for transactions with the same counterparty and in the same currency via one net payment or receipt. For cash collateral held by the Company or provided to counterparties, the Company nets such amounts against the fair value of the Company's derivative portfolio by each counterparty. The Company has elected to utilize netting for both its fuel derivative instruments and interest rate swap agreements and also classifies such amounts as either current or noncurrent, based on the net fair value position with each of the Company's counterparties in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The Company's application of its netting policy associated with cash collateral differs depending on whether its derivative instruments are in a net asset position or a net liability position. If its fuel derivative instruments are in a net asset position with a counterparty, cash collateral amounts held are first netted against current outstanding derivative asset amounts associated with that counterparty until that balance is zero, and then any remainder is applied against the fair value of noncurrent outstanding derivative instruments. If the Company's fuel derivative instruments are in a net liability position with the counterparty, cash collateral amounts provided are first netted against noncurrent outstanding derivative amounts associated with that counterparty until that balance is zero, and then any remainder is applied against the fair value of current outstanding derivative instruments.

The Company has the following recognized financial assets and financial liabilities resulting from those transactions that meet the scope of the disclosure requirements as necessitated by applicable accounting guidance for balance sheet offsetting:

Offsetting of derivative assets
(in millions)

Description	Balance Sheet location	March 31, 2018			December 31, 2017		
		(i) Gross amounts	(ii) Gross amounts	(iii) = (i) + (ii) Net amounts	(i) Gross amounts	(ii) Gross amounts	(iii) = (i) + (ii) Net amounts

Edgar Filing: SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO - Form 10-Q

		of recognized assets	offset in the Balance Sheet	of assets presented in the Balance Sheet	of recognized assets	offset in the Balance Sheet	of assets presented in the Balance Sheet
Fuel derivative contracts	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$168	\$ (83)	\$ 85	\$147	\$ (50)	\$ 97
Fuel derivative contracts	Other assets	\$195	\$ (20)	\$ 175	(a)\$136	\$ —	\$ 136 (a)

(a) The net amounts of derivative assets and liabilities are reconciled to the individual line item amounts presented in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet in Note 9.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

Offsetting of derivative liabilities
(in millions)

Description	Balance Sheet location	March 31, 2018			December 31, 2017		
		(i) Gross amounts of the recognized liabilities	(ii) Gross amounts offset in the Balance Sheet	(iii) = (i) + (ii) Net amounts of liabilities presented in the Balance Sheet	(i) Gross amounts of the recognized liabilities	(ii) Gross amounts offset in the Balance Sheet	(iii) = (i) + (ii) Net amounts of liabilities presented in the Balance Sheet
Fuel derivative contracts	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$83	\$ (83)	\$ —	\$50	\$ (50)	\$ —
Fuel derivative contracts	Other assets	\$20	\$ (20)	\$ —	(a)\$—	\$ —	\$ — (a)
Interest rate derivative contracts	Accrued liabilities	\$1	\$ —	\$ 1	\$1	\$ —	\$ 1
Interest rate derivative contracts	Other noncurrent liabilities	\$24	\$ —	\$ 24	(a)\$21	\$ —	\$ 21 (a)

(a) The net amounts of derivative assets and liabilities are reconciled to the individual line item amounts presented in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet in Note 9.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

The following tables present the impact of derivative instruments and their location within the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

Location and amount of (gain) loss recognized in income on cash flow and fair value hedging relationships

(in millions)	Three months ended March 31, 2018		Three months ended March 31, 2017	
	Fuel and oil	Interest expense	Fuel and oil	Interest expense
Total	\$4	\$ 10	\$139	\$ 8

Loss on cash flow hedging relationships:

Commodity contracts:

Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI into income	4	—	139	—
---	---	---	-----	---

Interest contracts:

Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI into income	—	2	—	3
---	---	---	---	---

Impact of fair value hedging relationships:

Interest contracts:

Hedged items	—	6	—	6
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments	—	2	—	(1)

Derivatives designated and qualified in cash flow hedging relationships

(in millions)	(Gain) loss recognized in AOCI on derivatives		(Gain) loss recognized in income on derivatives (ineffective portion) (a)	
	Three months ended March 31, 2018	Three months ended March 31, 2017	Three months ended March 31, 2018	Three months ended March 31, 2017
Fuel derivative contracts	\$(78) *	\$ 79 *	\$ —	\$ 14
Interest rate derivatives	(1) *	— *	—	—
Total	\$(79)	\$ 79	\$ —	\$ 14

*Net of tax

(a) Amounts are included in Other (gains) losses, net.

Derivatives not designated as hedges

	(Gain) loss recognized in income on derivatives Three months ended March 31,		Location of (gain) loss recognized in income on derivatives
(in millions)	2018	2017	
Fuel derivative contracts	\$—	\$51	Other (gains) losses, net
Interest rate derivatives	(1)	(1)	Interest expense
	\$ (1)	\$50	

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

The Company also recorded expense associated with premiums paid for fuel derivative contracts that settled/expired during the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 of \$34 million and \$34 million, respectively. These amounts are recognized through changes in fair value within AOCI for designated hedges, and are ultimately recorded as a component of Fuel and oil in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income during the period the contracts settle.

The fair values of the derivative instruments, depending on the type of instrument, were determined by the use of present value methods or option value models with assumptions about commodity prices based on those observed in underlying markets or provided by third parties. Included in the Company's cumulative net unrealized gains from fuel hedges as of March 31, 2018, recorded in AOCI, were approximately \$17 million in unrealized gains, net of taxes, which are expected to be realized in earnings during the twelve months subsequent to March 31, 2018.

Interest rate swaps

The Company is party to certain interest rate swap agreements that are accounted for as either fair value hedges or cash flow hedges, as defined in the applicable accounting guidance for derivative instruments and hedging. The New Hedging Standard also addresses targeted improvements to special hedge accounting for interest rate hedges. Though the Company will not be making any changes to the accounting for its current interest rate hedges as of the January 2018 adoption date, the New Hedging Standard provides the Company with more opportunities to achieve special hedge accounting for potential interest rate hedges in the future. Several of the Company's interest rate swap agreements qualify for the "shortcut" method of accounting for hedges, which dictates that the hedges are assumed to be perfectly effective, and, thus, there is no ineffectiveness to be recorded in earnings. For the Company's interest rate swap agreements that do not qualify for the "shortcut" method of accounting, ineffectiveness is required to be measured at each reporting period. The ineffectiveness associated with all of the Company's interest rate swap agreements for all periods presented was not material.

Credit risk and collateral

Credit exposure related to fuel derivative instruments is represented by the fair value of contracts that are an asset to the Company at the reporting date. At such times, these outstanding instruments expose the Company to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties to the agreements. However, the Company has not experienced any significant credit loss as a result of counterparty nonperformance in the past. To manage credit risk, the Company selects and periodically reviews counterparties based on credit ratings, limits its exposure with respect to each counterparty, and monitors the market position of the fuel hedging program and its relative market position with each counterparty. At March 31, 2018, the Company had agreements with all of its active counterparties containing early termination rights and/or bilateral collateral provisions whereby security is required if market risk exposure exceeds a specified threshold amount based on the counterparty credit rating. The Company also had agreements with counterparties in which cash deposits, letters of credit, and/or pledged aircraft are required to be posted as collateral whenever the net fair value of derivatives associated with those counterparties exceeds specific thresholds. In certain cases, the Company has the ability to substitute among these different forms of collateral at its discretion.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

The following table provides the fair values of fuel derivatives, amounts posted as collateral, and applicable collateral posting threshold amounts as of March 31, 2018, at which such postings are triggered:

(in millions)	Counterparty (CP)						Other (a)	Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F		
Fair value of fuel derivatives	\$ 116	\$ 67	\$ 77	\$ 39	\$ 17	\$ 11	\$ 13	\$ 340
Cash collateral held from CP	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
Aircraft collateral pledged to CP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Letters of credit (LC)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Option to substitute LC for aircraft	(200) to (600)(b)	(100) to (500)(c)	(150) to (550)(c)	(150) to (550)(c)	N/A	N/A		
Option to substitute LC for cash	N/A	>(500)(c)	(75) to (150) or >(550)(c)	(125) to (150) or >(550)(d)	(d)	N/A		
If credit rating is investment grade, fair value of fuel derivative level at which:								
Cash is provided to CP	(50) to (200) or >(600)	(50) to (100) or >(500)	(75) to (150) or >(550)(e)	(125) to (150) or >(550)(e)	>(125)	>(65)(e)		
Cash is received from CP	>50(e)	>150(e)	>250(e)	>75(e)	>100(e)	>30(e)		
Aircraft or cash can be pledged to CP as collateral	(200) to (600)(f)	(100) to (500)(c)	(150) to (550)(c)	(150) to (550)(c)	N/A	N/A		
If credit rating is non-investment grade, fair value of fuel derivative level at which:								
Cash is provided to CP	(0) to (200) or >(600)	(0) to (100) or >(500)	(0) to (150) or >(550)	(0) to (150) or >(550)	(g)	(g)		
Cash is received from CP	(g)	(g)	(g)	(g)	(g)	(g)		
Aircraft or cash can be pledged to CP as collateral	(200) to (600)	(100) to (500)	(150) to (550)	(150) to (550)	N/A	N/A		

(a) Individual counterparties with fair value of fuel derivatives <\$9 million.

(b) The Company has the option of providing letters of credit in addition to aircraft collateral if the appraised value of the aircraft does not meet the collateral requirements.

(c) The Company has the option of providing cash, letters of credit, or pledging aircraft as collateral.

(d) The Company has the option to substitute letters of credit for 100 percent of cash collateral requirement.

(e) Thresholds may vary based on changes in credit ratings within investment grade.

(f) The Company has the option of providing cash or pledging aircraft as collateral.

(g) Cash collateral is provided at 100 percent of fair value of fuel derivative contracts.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

4. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Comprehensive income includes changes in the fair value of certain financial derivative instruments that qualify for hedge accounting, unrealized gains and losses on certain investments, and actuarial gains/losses arising from the Company's postretirement benefit obligation. The differences between Net income and Comprehensive income for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

(in millions)	Three months ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
NET INCOME	\$463	\$339
Unrealized gain on fuel derivative instruments, net of deferred taxes of \$25 and \$5	81	9
Unrealized gain on interest rate derivative instruments, net of deferred taxes of \$- and \$1	3	2
Total other comprehensive income	\$84	\$11
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$547	\$350

A rollforward of the amounts included in AOCI is shown below for the three months ended March 31, 2018:

(in millions)	Fuel derivatives	Interest rate derivatives	Defined benefit plan items	Other	Deferred tax	Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$ 3	\$ (7)	\$ (9)	\$ 33	\$ (8)	\$ 12
ASU 2017-12 adoption adjustment (a)	(26)	—	—	—	6	(20)
ASU 2018-02 stranded AOCI adoption adjustment (b)	—	—	—	—	2	2
Changes in fair value	102	1	—	—	(24)	79
Reclassification to earnings	4	2	—	—	(1)	5
Balance at March 31, 2018	\$ 83	\$ (4)	\$ (9)	\$ 33	\$ (25)	\$ 78

(a) The Company adopted the New Hedging Standard as of January 1, 2018. See Note 2 for further information on this adoption.

(b) The Company adopted the Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from AOCI as of January 1, 2018. See Note 2 for further information on this adoption.

The following table illustrates the significant amounts reclassified out of each component of AOCI for the three months ended March 31, 2018:

Three months ended March 31, 2018 (in millions)	Amounts reclassified from AOCI	Affected line item in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
AOCI components	\$ 4	Fuel and oil expense

Unrealized loss on fuel derivative instruments	1	Less: Tax expense
	\$ 3	Net of tax
Unrealized loss on interest rate derivative instruments	\$ 2	Interest expense
	—	Less: Tax expense
	\$ 2	Net of tax
Total reclassifications for the period	\$ 5	Net of tax

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

5. REVENUE

Passenger Revenues

The Company's contracts with its Customers primarily consist of its tickets sold, which are initially deferred as Air traffic liability. Passenger revenue associated with tickets is recognized when the performance obligation to the Customer is satisfied, which is primarily when travel is provided.

Revenue is categorized by revenue source as the Company believes it best depicts the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flow. The following table provides the components of Passenger revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 (in millions):

(in millions)	Three months ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
Passenger non-loyalty	\$3,948	\$3,907
Passenger loyalty - air transportation	491	507
Passenger ancillary sold separately	146	132
Total passenger revenues	\$4,585	\$4,546

Passenger non-loyalty includes all revenues from Passengers related to flights paid for primarily with cash or credit card. All Customers purchasing a ticket on Southwest Airlines are generally able to check up to two bags at no extra charge (with certain exceptions as stated in the Company's published Contract of Carriage), and the Company also does not charge a fee for a Customer to make a change to their flight after initial purchase, although fare differences may apply. Passenger loyalty - air transportation primarily consists of the revenue associated with award flights taken by frequent flyer program members upon redemption of frequent flyer points. Passenger ancillary sold separately includes any ancillary fees charged separately, such as in-flight purchases, EarlyBird Check-In®, and Upgraded Boarding.

Air traffic liability primarily represents tickets sold for future travel dates, funds that are past flight date and remain unused, but are expected to be used in the future, and the Company's liability for frequent flyer benefits that are expected to be redeemed in the future. The majority of the Company's tickets sold are nonrefundable. Southwest has a No Show policy that applies to fares that are not canceled or changed by a Customer at least ten minutes prior to a flight's scheduled departure. Refundable tickets that are sold but not flown on the travel date and canceled in accordance with the No Show policy can also be reused for another flight, up to a year from the date of sale. A small percentage of tickets (or partial tickets) expire unused. The Company estimates the amount of tickets that expire unused and recognizes such amounts in Passenger revenue using the redemption method once the scheduled flight date has lapsed. Based on the Company's revenue recognition policy, revenue is recorded at the flight date for a Customer who does not change his/her itinerary and loses his/her funds as the Company has then fulfilled its performance obligation. Amounts collected from passengers for ancillary services are also recognized when the service is provided, which is typically the flight date.

Initial spoilage estimates for both tickets and funds available for future use are routinely adjusted and ultimately finalized once the tickets expire, which is typically twelve months after the original purchase date. Spoilage estimates are based on the Company's Customers' historical travel behavior as well as assumptions about the Customers' future travel behavior. Assumptions used to generate spoilage estimates can be impacted by several factors including, but not

limited to: fare increases, fare sales, changes to the Company's ticketing policies, changes to the Company's refund, exchange and unused funds policies, seat availability, and economic factors.

Frequent Flyer Program

The Company records a frequent flyer liability for the relative fair value of providing free travel under its frequent flyer program for all points earned from flight activity or sold to companies participating in the Company's frequent flyer program as business partners. The frequent flyer liability is a performance obligation that is satisfied when a

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

member redeems points for travel or other goods and services, or upon spoilage of the points. Points earned from flight activity are valued at their relative standalone selling price by applying fair value based on historical redemption patterns. Points earned from business partner activity are valued using a relative fair value methodology based on the contractual rate which partners pay to Southwest to award Rapid Rewards points to the business partner's customers. The terms for these agreements are no more than 10 years in length. The Company's liability for frequent flyer benefits include a portion that are expected to be redeemed during the following twelve months (classified as a component of Air traffic liability), and a portion that are not expected to be redeemed during the following twelve months (classified as Air traffic liability - loyalty noncurrent). The Company continually updates this analysis and adjusts the split between current and non-current liabilities as appropriate.

In order to determine the value of each frequent flyer point, certain assumptions must be made at the time of measurement, which include the following:

Allocation of Passenger Revenue - Revenues from Passengers related to travel who also earn Rapid Rewards Points has been allocated between flight and Rapid Rewards Points based on each obligation's relative standalone selling price. The Company utilizes historical earning patterns to assist in this allocation.

Fair Value of Rapid Rewards Points is determined from the base fare value of tickets which were purchased using prior point redemptions for travel and other products and services, which the Company believes to be indicative of the fair value of points as perceived by Customers and representative of the value of each point at the time of redemption. The Company's booking site allows a Customer to toggle between fares utilizing either cash or point redemptions, which provide the Customer with an approximation of the equivalent value of their points. The value can differ however, based on demand, the amount of time prior to the flight, and other factors. The fare mix during the period measured represents a constraint, which could result in the assumptions above changing at the measurement date, as fare classes can have different coefficients used to determine the total frequent flyer points needed to purchase an award ticket. The mixture of these fare classes could cause the fair value per point to increase or decrease.

For points that are expected to expire unused, the Company recognizes spoilage in accordance with the redemption method. The Company utilizes historical behavioral data to develop a predictive statistical model to analyze the amount of spoilage expected for points sold to business partners and earned through flight. The Company continues to evaluate expected spoilage at least annually and applies appropriate adjustments in the fourth quarter of each year, which impacts revenue recognition prospectively through the redemption method. In most historical periods, the impact of changes in the estimated spoilage rate has not resulted in material changes to revenue recognition. However, due to the size of the Company's liability for frequent flyer benefits as a result of the elimination of the incremental cost method of accounting for flight points, changes in Customer behavior and/or expected future redemption patterns could result in more significant variations in Passenger revenue under the New Revenue Standard.

ASC 606 requires the Company to allocate consideration received to performance obligations based on relative fair value of those obligations. The Company has a co-branded credit card agreement ("Agreement") with Chase Bank USA, N.A. ("Chase"), through which the Company sells loyalty points and other items to Chase. At inception of this Agreement, the Company estimated the selling prices and volumes over the term of the Agreement in order to determine the allocation of proceeds to each of the deliverables (travel points to be awarded, and marketing components, which consist of use of the Southwest Airlines' brand and access to Rapid Rewards Member lists, advertising elements, and use of the Company's resource team). The Company has elected the transition provision within ASC 606 to reflect the aggregate effect of historical modifications to the Agreement when (i) identifying the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligations, (ii) determining the transaction price, and (iii) allocating the transaction price to the satisfied and unsatisfied performance obligation. The Company records Passenger revenue

related to air travel when the travel is delivered. The marketing elements are recognized as Other revenue when earned following the sales-based royalty method.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

As performance obligations to Customers are satisfied, the related revenue is recognized. The events that result in revenue recognition that are associated with performance obligations identified as a part of the Rapid Rewards Program are as follows:

Tickets and Rapid Rewards Points - When a flight occurs, the related performance obligation is satisfied and the related value provided by the Customer, whether from purchased tickets or Rapid Rewards Points, is recognized as revenue.

Frequent flyer points redeemed for goods and/or services other than travel - Rapid Rewards Members have the option to redeem points for goods and services offered through a third party vendor, who acts as principal. The performance obligation related to the purchase of these goods and services is satisfied when the good and/or service is delivered to the Customer.

Marketing Royalties - As part of its Agreement with Chase, Southwest provides certain deliverables, including use of the Southwest Airlines' brand, access to Rapid Rewards Member lists, advertising elements, and the Company's resource team. These performance obligations are satisfied each month that the Agreement is active.

The components of Air traffic liability, including contract liabilities based on tickets sold, unused funds available to the Customer, and frequent flyer points available for redemption, net of expected spoilage, as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 were as follows (in millions):

(in millions)	Balance as of	
	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Air traffic liability - passenger travel and ancillary passenger services	\$2,631	\$ 1,898
Air traffic liability - loyalty program	2,799	2,667
Total Air traffic liability	\$5,430	\$ 4,565

The balance in Air traffic liability – passenger travel and ancillary passenger services also includes unused funds that are available for use by Customers that are not currently associated with a ticket, but represent funds available for use to purchase a ticket for a flight that occurs prior to their expiration. These funds are typically created as a result of a prior ticket cancellation or exchange. These performance obligations are expected to have a duration of twelve months or less; therefore, the Company has elected the provision within ASC 606 to not disclose the amount of the remaining transaction price and its expected timing of recognition for passenger tickets. Recognition of revenue associated with the Company's frequent flyer liability can be difficult to predict, as the number of award seats available to members is not currently restricted and they could chose to redeem their points at any time that a seat is available. The performance obligations classified as a current liability related to the Company's frequent flyer program were estimated based on expected redemptions utilizing historical redemption patterns, and forecasted flight availability, fares, and coefficients. The entire balance classified as Air traffic liability – loyalty noncurrent relates to frequent flyer points that were estimated to be redeemed in periods beyond 12 months following the representative balance sheet date. The Company expects the majority of frequent flyer points to be redeemed within two years.

Air traffic liability includes consideration received for ticket and loyalty related performance obligations which have not been satisfied as of a given date. A rollforward of the amounts included in Air traffic liability as of March 31, 2018 and 2017 are as follows (in millions):

	Air traffic liability
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$4,565
Current period sales (passenger travel, ancillary services, flight loyalty, and partner loyalty)	5,403
Revenue from amounts included in contract liability opening balances (a)	(1,827)
Revenue from current period sales (a)	(2,711)
Balance at March 31, 2018	\$5,430

21

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

(a) Does not include certain ancillary revenues that are purchased on the day of travel, which do not flow through Air traffic liability.

	Air traffic liability
Balance at December 31, 2016	\$4,221
Current period sales (passenger travel, ancillary services, flight loyalty, and partner loyalty)	5,415
Revenue from amounts included in contract liability opening balances (a)	(1,701)
Revenue from current period sales (a)	(2,796)
Balance at March 31, 2017	\$5,139

(a) Does not include certain ancillary revenues that are purchased on the day of travel, which do not flow through Air traffic liability.

All performance obligations related to freight services sold are completed within twelve months or less; therefore, the Company has elected the provision within ASC 606 to not disclose the amount of the remaining transaction price and its expected timing of recognition for freight shipments.

Other revenues primarily consist of marketing royalties associated with the Company's co-branded Chase® Visa credit card, but also include commissions and advertising associated with Southwest.com®. All amounts classified as Other revenues are paid monthly, coinciding with the Company fulfilling its deliverables; therefore, the Company has elected the provision within ASC 606 to not disclose the amount of the remaining transaction price and its expected timing of recognition for such services provided.

In the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company recognized, in Other operating revenue, \$271 million and \$231 million, respectively, related to the marketing, advertising, and other travel-related benefits of the revenue associated with various partner agreements including, but not limited to, the Agreement with Chase.

The Company is also required to collect certain taxes and fees from Customers on behalf of government agencies and remit these back to the applicable governmental entity on a periodic basis. These taxes and fees include foreign and U.S. federal transportation taxes, federal security charges, and airport passenger facility charges. These items are collected from Customers at the time they purchase their tickets, but are not included in Passenger revenue. The Company records a liability upon collection from the Customer and relieves the liability when payments are remitted to the applicable governmental agency.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

6. NET INCOME PER SHARE

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted net income per share (in millions, except per share amounts):

	Three months ended March 31, 2018 2017	
NUMERATOR:		
Net income	\$463	\$339
DENOMINATOR:		
Weighted-average shares outstanding, basic	587	613
Dilutive effect of Employee stock options and restricted stock units	1	1
Adjusted weighted-average shares outstanding, diluted	588	614
NET INCOME PER SHARE:		
Basic	\$0.79	\$0.55
Diluted	\$0.79	\$0.55

7. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Commitments

The Company has contractual obligations and commitments primarily with regard to future purchases of aircraft, repayment of debt, and lease arrangements. As of March 31, 2018, the Company had firm orders with Boeing in place for 236 737 MAX 8 aircraft, 30 737 MAX 7 aircraft, and 17 737-800 aircraft, as well as options for 115 737 MAX 8 aircraft. The Company's capital commitments associated with these firm orders are as follows: \$866 million remaining in 2018, \$900 million in 2019, \$1.4 billion in 2020, \$1.7 billion in 2021, \$1.2 billion in 2022, and \$5.1 billion thereafter.

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport

In December 2013, the Company entered into an agreement with Broward County, Florida, which owns and operates Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport ("FLL"), to oversee and manage the design and construction of the airport's Terminal 1 Modernization Project. Pursuant to an addendum entered into during 2016, the cost of the project is not to exceed \$333 million. In addition to significant improvements to the existing Terminal 1, the project includes the design and construction of a new five-gate Concourse A with an international processing facility. Funding for the project has come directly from Broward County aviation sources, but flows through the Company in its capacity as manager of the project. Major construction on the project began during third quarter 2015. Construction of Concourse A was completed during second quarter 2017, and construction on Terminal 1 is expected to be completed by mid-2018. The Company has determined that due to its agreed upon role in overseeing and managing the project, it is considered the owner of the project for accounting purposes. As such, during construction the Company records expenditures as Assets constructed for others ("ACFO") in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet, along with a corresponding outflow within Assets constructed for others in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, and an increase to Construction obligation (with a corresponding cash inflow from financing activities in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows) as reimbursements are

received from Broward County.

Houston William P. Hobby Airport

In fourth quarter 2015, the Company effectively completed construction on a new international terminal at Houston William P. Hobby Airport ("HOU"). The project final cost was approximately \$150 million, and the Company provided the funding for, as well as management over, the project. In first quarter 2018, the Company received a reimbursement from the City of Houston of \$116 million for the investment and updates made to HOU, representing the remaining unamortized net book value of the project as of the reimbursement date. With the reimbursement received, the Company

23

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

has created a Construction obligation in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet along with an inflow within the Reimbursement for Assets constructed for others in the unaudited condensed Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows. The Construction obligation will be reduced primarily through the Company's airport rental payments to the City of Houston as the construction costs of this project are passed through to the Company via recurring airport rate charges.

Los Angeles International Airport

In March 2013, the Company executed a lease agreement (the "T1 Lease") with Los Angeles World Airports ("LAWA"), which owns and operates Los Angeles International Airport ("LAX"). Under the T1 Lease, which was amended in June 2014 and September 2017, the Company is overseeing and managing the design, development, financing, construction, and commissioning of the airport's Terminal 1 Modernization Project at a cost not to exceed \$526 million (including proprietary renovations, or \$510 million excluding proprietary renovations). In October 2017, the Company executed a separate lease agreement with LAWA (the "T1.5 Lease"). The Company will oversee and manage the design, development, financing, construction, and commissioning of a passenger processing facility between Terminals 1 and 2 (the "Terminal 1.5 Project"). The Terminal 1.5 Project is expected to include ticketing, baggage claim, passenger screening, and a bus gate at a cost not to exceed \$479 million for site improvements and non-proprietary improvements.

These projects are being funded primarily using the Regional Airports Improvement Corporation (the "RAIC"), which is a quasi-governmental special purpose entity that acts as a conduit borrower under syndicated credit facilities provided by groups of lenders. Loans made under the separate credit facilities for the Terminal 1 Modernization Project and the Terminal 1.5 Project are being used to fund the development of each of these projects, and the outstanding loans will be repaid with the proceeds of LAWA's payments to purchase completed construction phases. The Company has guaranteed the obligations of the RAIC under each of the credit facilities of the respective lease agreements. As of March 31, 2018, the Company's outstanding remaining guaranteed obligations under the credit facilities for the Terminal 1 Modernization Project and Terminal 1.5 Project were \$143 million and \$46 million, respectively.

Construction on the Terminal 1 Modernization Project began during 2014 and is estimated to be completed during 2018. Construction on the Terminal 1.5 Project began during third quarter 2017 and is estimated to be completed during 2020. The Company has determined that due to its agreed upon role in overseeing and managing these projects, it is considered the owner of these projects for accounting purposes. LAWA is reimbursing the Company (through the RAIC credit facilities) for the site improvements and non-proprietary improvements, while proprietary improvements will not be reimbursed. As a result, the costs incurred to fund these projects are included within ACFO and all amounts that have been or will be reimbursed will be included within Construction obligation on the accompanying unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Dallas Love Field

During 2008, the City of Dallas approved the Love Field Modernization Program ("LFMP"), a project to reconstruct Dallas Love Field with modern, convenient air travel facilities. Pursuant to a Program Development Agreement with the City of Dallas and the Love Field Airport Modernization Corporation (or "LFAMC," a Texas non-profit "local government corporation" established by the City of Dallas to act on the City of Dallas' behalf to facilitate the development of the LFMP), the Company managed this project.

Although the City of Dallas received commitments from various sources that helped to fund portions of the LFMP project, including the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA"), the Transportation Security Administration, and the City of Dallas' Aviation Fund, the majority of the funds used were from the issuance of bonds. The Company guaranteed principal and interest payments on \$456 million of such bonds issued by the LFAMC. As of March 31, 2018, \$424 million of principal remained outstanding. The Company utilized the accounting guidance provided for

lessees involved in asset construction. Upon completion of different phases of the LFMP project, the Company has placed the associated assets in service and has begun depreciating the assets over their estimated useful lives. The corresponding LFMP liabilities are being reduced primarily through the Company's airport rental payments to the City of Dallas as the construction costs of this project are passed through to the Company via recurring airport rates and charges. Major construction was effectively completed by December 31, 2014. During second quarter 2017, the City of Dallas approved

24

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

using the remaining bond funds for additional terminal construction projects, which were effectively completed in March 2018.

During 2015, the City of Dallas issued additional bonds for the construction of a new parking garage at Dallas Love Field. The Company has not guaranteed the principal or interest payments on these bonds, but remains the accounting owner of this project.

Construction costs recorded in ACFO for the Company's various projects as of March 31, 2018, and December 31, 2017, were as follows:

(in millions)	March 31, 2018			December 31, 2017		
	ACFO	ACFO, Construction Net (a)	Obligation (b)	ACFO	ACFO, Construction Net (a)	Obligation (b)
FLL Terminal	(c)\$282	\$279	\$281	\$258	\$256	\$258
LAX Terminal 1	(c)450	432	447	433	417	433
LAX Terminal 1.5	(c)42	42	42	31	31	31
LFMP Terminal	543	470	513	543	474	516
LFMP Parking Garage	(c)164	164	164	152	152	152
HOU International Terminal	126	117	116	126	118	—
	\$1,607	\$1,504	\$1,563	\$1,543	\$1,448	\$1,390

(a) Net of accumulated depreciation.

(b) Construction obligation will be reduced through future facility rent payments. These future payments are not fixed per the lease agreement, but are variable and fluctuate based on various market and other factors outside the control of the Company.

(c) Projects still in progress.

Contingencies

The Company is from time to time subject to various legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business, including, but not limited to, examinations by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). The Company's management does not expect that the outcome of any of its currently ongoing legal proceedings or the outcome of any adjustments presented by the IRS, individually or collectively, will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flow.

8. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Accounting standards pertaining to fair value measurements establish a three-tier fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. These tiers include: Level 1, defined as observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets; Level 2, defined as inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs in which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

As of March 31, 2018, the Company held certain items that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. These included cash equivalents, short-term investments (primarily treasury bills and certificates of deposit), interest rate derivative contracts, fuel derivative contracts, and available-for-sale securities. The majority of the Company's short-term investments consist of instruments classified as Level 1. However, the Company has certificates

of deposit, commercial paper, and time deposits that are classified as Level 2, due to the fact that the fair value for these instruments is determined utilizing observable inputs in non-active markets. Other available-for-sale securities primarily consist of investments associated with the Company's excess benefit plan.

The Company's fuel and interest rate derivative instruments consist of over-the-counter contracts, which are not traded on a public exchange. Fuel derivative instruments currently consist solely of option contracts, whereas interest rate derivatives consist solely of swap agreements. See Note 3 for further information on the Company's derivative

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

instruments and hedging activities. The fair values of swap contracts are determined based on inputs that are readily available in public markets or can be derived from information available in publicly quoted markets. Therefore, the Company has categorized these swap contracts as Level 2. The Company's Treasury Department, which reports to the Chief Financial Officer, determines the value of option contracts utilizing an option pricing model based on inputs that are either readily available in public markets, can be derived from information available in publicly quoted markets, or are provided by financial institutions that trade these contracts. The option pricing model used by the Company is an industry standard model for valuing options and is the same model used by the broker/dealer community (i.e., the Company's counterparties). The inputs to this option pricing model are the option strike price, underlying price, risk free rate of interest, time to expiration, and volatility. Because certain inputs used to determine the fair value of option contracts are unobservable (principally implied volatility), the Company has categorized these option contracts as Level 3. Volatility information is obtained from external sources, but is analyzed by the Company for reasonableness and compared to similar information received from other external sources. The fair value of option contracts considers both the intrinsic value and any remaining time value associated with those derivatives that have not yet settled. The Company also considers counterparty credit risk and its own credit risk in its determination of all estimated fair values. To validate the reasonableness of the Company's option pricing model, on a monthly basis, the Company compares its option valuations to third party valuations. If any significant differences were to be noted, they would be researched in order to determine the reason. However, historically, no significant differences have been noted. The Company has consistently applied these valuation techniques in all periods presented and believes it has obtained the most accurate information available for the types of derivative contracts it holds.

Included in Other available-for-sale securities are the Company's investments associated with its deferred compensation plans, which consist of mutual funds that are publicly traded and for which market prices are readily available. These plans are non-qualified deferred compensation plans designed to hold contributions in excess of limits established by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The distribution timing and payment amounts under these plans are made based on the participant's distribution election and plan balance. Assets related to the funded portions of the deferred compensation plans are held in a rabbi trust, and the Company remains liable to these participants for the unfunded portion of the plans. The Company records changes in the fair value of the assets in the Company's earnings.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

The following tables present the Company's assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis at March 31, 2018, and December 31, 2017:

Description	March 31, 2018 (in millions)	Fair value measurements at reporting date using:		
		Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Assets				
Cash equivalents				
Cash equivalents (a)	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ —	\$ —
Commercial paper	285	—	285	—
Certificates of deposit	12	—	12	—
Time deposits	25	—	25	—
Short-term investments:				
Treasury bills	1,144	1,144	—	—
Certificates of deposit	277	—	277	—
Fuel derivatives:				
Option contracts (b)	363	—	—	363
Other available-for-sale securities	122	122	—	—
Total assets	\$3,728	\$2,766	\$ 599	\$ 363
Liabilities				
Fuel derivatives:				
Option contracts (b)	(23)	—	—	(23)
Interest rate derivatives (see Note 3)	(25)	—	(25)	—
Total liabilities	\$(48)	\$—	\$ (25)	\$ (23)

(a) Cash equivalents are primarily composed of money market investments.

(b) In the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet amounts are presented as a net asset. See Note 3.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

Description	Fair value measurements at reporting date using:			
	December 31, 2017 (in millions)	Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant other observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Assets				
Cash equivalents				
Cash equivalents (a)	\$ 1,133	\$ 1,133	\$ —	\$ —
Commercial paper	350	—	350	—
Certificates of deposit	12	—	12	—
Short-term investments:				
Treasury bills	1,491	1,491	—	—
Certificates of deposit	287	—	287	—
Fuel derivatives:				
Option contracts (b)	283	—	—	283
Other available-for-sale securities	107	107	—	—
Total assets	\$3,663	\$2,731	\$ 649	\$ 283
Liabilities				
Fuel derivatives:				
Option contracts (b)	(35)	—	—	(35)
Interest rate derivatives (see Note 3)	(22)	—	(22)	—
Total liabilities	\$(57)	\$—	\$(22)	\$(35)

(a) Cash equivalents are primarily composed of money market investments.

(b) In the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet amounts are presented as a net asset. See Note 3.

The Company had no transfers of assets or liabilities between any of the above levels during the three months ended March 31, 2018, or the year ended December 31, 2017. The Company did not have any assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis as of the three months ended March 31, 2018, or the year ended December 31, 2017. The following table presents the Company's activity for items measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the three months ended March 31, 2018:

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	
(in millions)	Fuel derivatives
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$ 248
Total gains (realized or unrealized) included in other comprehensive income	101
Purchases	18 (a)
Settlements	(27)
Balance at March 31, 2018	\$ 340

(a) The purchase of fuel derivatives are recorded gross based on the structure of the derivative instrument and whether a contract with multiple derivatives is purchased as a single instrument or separate instruments.

The significant unobservable input used in the fair value measurement of the Company's derivative option contracts is implied volatility. Holding other inputs constant, an increase (decrease) in implied volatility would result in a higher (lower) fair value measurement, respectively, for the Company's derivative option contracts.

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

The following table presents a range of the unobservable inputs utilized in the fair value measurements of the Company's fuel derivatives classified as Level 3 at March 31, 2018:

Quantitative information about Level 3 fair value measurements

	Valuation technique	Unobservable input	Period (by year)	Range
Fuel derivatives	Option model	Implied volatility	Second quarter 2018	14-31%
			Third quarter 2018	21-30%
			Fourth quarter 2018	22-29%
			2019	21-26%
			2020	20-23%
			2021	19-20%
			2022	19%

The carrying amounts and estimated fair values of the Company's long-term debt (including current maturities), as well as the applicable fair value hierarchy tier, at March 31, 2018, are presented in the table below. The fair values of the Company's publicly held long-term debt are determined based on inputs that are readily available in public markets or can be derived from information available in publicly quoted markets; therefore, the Company has categorized these agreements as Level 2. Debt under six of the Company's debt agreements is not publicly held. The Company has determined the estimated fair value of this debt to be Level 3, as certain inputs used to determine the fair value of these agreements are unobservable. The Company utilizes indicative pricing from counterparties and a discounted cash flow method to estimate the fair value of the Level 3 items.

(in millions)	Carrying value	Estimated fair value	Fair value level hierarchy
French Credit Agreements due June 2018 - 2.54%	\$ 1	\$ 1	Level 3
2.75% Notes due 2019	298	298	Level 2
Term Loan Agreement payable through 2019 - 6.315%	55	55	Level 3
Term Loan Agreement payable through 2019 - 4.84%	15	15	Level 3
2.65% Notes due 2020	486	483	Level 2
Term Loan Agreement payable through 2020 - 5.223%	225	225	Level 3
737 Aircraft Notes payable through 2020	144	144	Level 3
2.75% Notes due 2022	300	295	Level 2
Pass Through Certificates due 2022 - 6.24%	273	293	Level 2
Term Loan Agreement payable through 2026 - 2.67%	215	215	Level 3
3.00% Notes due 2026	300	284	Level 2
3.45% Notes due 2027	300	292	Level 2
7.375% Debentures due 2027	126	151	Level 2

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

9. SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(in millions)	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Derivative contracts	\$ 175	\$ 136
Intangible assets, net	410	413
Capital lease receivable	72	76
Non-current prepaid maintenance	130	5
Other	172	156
Other assets	\$ 959	\$ 786

(in millions)	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Accounts payable trade	\$ 189	\$ 186
Salaries payable	202	201
Taxes payable	282	203
Aircraft maintenance payable	51	38
Fuel payable	107	123
Other payables	412	569
Accounts payable	\$ 1,243	\$ 1,320

(in millions)	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
ProfitSharing and savings plans	\$ 132	\$ 579
Aircraft and other lease related obligations	39	40
Permanently grounded aircraft liability (a)	14	34
Vacation pay	372	365
Contract ratification bonuses	95	83
Health	95	100
Workers compensation	173	172
Property and income taxes	56	57
Other	158	270
Accrued liabilities	\$ 1,134	\$ 1,700

(in millions)	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Postretirement obligation	\$ 282	\$ 275
Non-current lease-related obligations	75	85
Permanently grounded aircraft liability (a)	13	13
Other deferred compensation	241	237
Derivative contracts	24	21
Other	71	76
Other noncurrent liabilities	\$ 706	\$ 707

(a) These amounts represent the current and noncurrent portion of the Company's cease-use liability recorded as a result of the Company grounding its remaining leased Boeing 737-300 aircraft in 2017. The first quarter 2018 decrease was primarily related to contractual rent obligations paid.

For further details on fuel derivative and interest rate derivative contracts, see Note 3.

30

Southwest Airlines Co.
Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements
(unaudited)

Other Operating Expenses

Other operating expenses consist of distribution costs, advertising expenses, personnel expenses, professional fees, aircraft rentals, and other operating costs, none of which individually exceeded 10 percent of Operating expenses.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On April 17, 2018, Southwest Airlines Flight 1380 ("Flight 1380") from New York-LaGuardia to Dallas Love Field suffered an uncontained failure of its port CFM56-7B engine, resulting in a Customer fatality, potential injuries to other Customers, and damage to the aircraft. While the cause of the failure is under investigation, the FAA has ordered inspections of all CFM56-7B engines in operation. On April 23, 2018, the Company announced that it was voluntarily going beyond the FAA requirement and performing ultrasonic inspections on all CFM engines in its fleet. The Company is cooperating with all federal, state, and local regulatory and investigatory agencies to determine the cause of this accident. The Company is unable to predict the full effects relating to this accident, which may include increased maintenance and replacement costs, increased litigation or regulatory costs, reduced revenues or reduced revenue growth, and harm to its brand.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Relevant comparative operating statistics for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 are included below. The Company provides these operating statistics because they are commonly used in the airline industry and, as such, allow readers to compare the Company's performance against its results for the prior year period, as well as against the performance of the Company's peers. Certain operating statistics for the three months ended March 31, 2017 have been recast as a result of the Company's January 1, 2018 adoption of Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (the "New Revenue Standard"), ASU No. 2017-07, Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost (the "New Retirement Standard"), and ASU No. 2017-12, Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities (the "New Hedging Standard"). See Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information on the changes associated with each ASU.

	Three months ended		
	March 31,		Change
	2018	2017	
Revenue passengers carried	31,332,137	29,538,790	6.1 %
Enplaned passengers	37,543,100	35,578,350	5.5 %
Revenue passenger miles (RPMs) (000s) ^(a)	30,439,493	29,340,658	3.7 %
Available seat miles (ASMs) (000s) ^(b)	37,366,468	36,699,870	1.8 %
Load factor ^(c)	81.5	% 79.9	% 1.6 pts
Average length of passenger haul (miles)	972	993	(2.1)%
Average aircraft stage length (miles)	749	758	(1.2)%
Trips flown	326,216	321,790	1.4 %
Seats flown ^(d)	49,116,216	47,746,088	2.9 %
Seats per trip ^(e)	150.56	148.38	1.5 %
Average passenger fare	\$146.33	\$153.90	(4.9)%
Passenger revenue yield per RPM (cents) ^(f)	15.06	15.49	(2.8)%
Operating revenues per ASM (cents) ^(g)	13.23	13.23	—
Passenger revenue per ASM (cents) ^(h)	12.27	12.39	(1.0)%
Operating expenses per ASM (cents) ⁽ⁱ⁾	11.58	11.57	0.1 %
Operating expenses per ASM, excluding fuel (cents)	8.86	8.97	(1.2)%
Operating expenses per ASM, excluding fuel and profitsharing (cents)	8.58	8.70	(1.4)%
Fuel costs per gallon, including fuel tax	\$2.07	\$1.96	5.6 %
Fuel costs per gallon, including fuel tax, economic	\$2.09	\$2.03	3.0 %
Fuel consumed, in gallons (millions)	489	487	0.4 %
Active fulltime equivalent Employees	57,112	54,652	4.5 %
Aircraft at end of period	717	727	(1.4)%

(a) A revenue passenger mile is one paying passenger flown one mile. Also referred to as "traffic," which is a measure of demand for a given period.

(b) An available seat mile is one seat (empty or full) flown one mile. Also referred to as "capacity," which is a measure of the space available to carry passengers in a given period.

(c) Revenue passenger miles divided by available seat miles.

(d) Seats flown is calculated using total number of seats available by aircraft type multiplied by the total trips flown by the same aircraft type during a particular period.

(e) Seats per trip is calculated using seats flown divided by trips flown. Also referred to as "gauge."

(f) Calculated as passenger revenue divided by revenue passenger miles. Also referred to as "yield," this is the average cost paid by a paying passenger to fly one mile, which is a measure of revenue production and fares.

- (g) Calculated as operating revenues divided by available seat miles. Also referred to as "operating unit revenues," this is a measure of operating revenue production based on the total available seat miles flown during a particular period.
- (h) Calculated as passenger revenue divided by available seat miles. Also referred to as "passenger unit revenues," this is a measure of passenger revenue production based on the total available seat miles flown during a particular period.
- (i) Calculated as operating expenses divided by available seat miles. Also referred to as "unit costs" or "cost per available seat mile," this is the average cost to fly an aircraft seat (empty or full) one mile, which is a measure of cost efficiencies.

Financial Overview

The Company recorded first quarter GAAP and non-GAAP results for 2018 and 2017 as noted in the following tables. See Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures and the Reconciliation of Reported Amounts to Non-GAAP Financial Measures for additional detail regarding non-GAAP financial measures.

First quarter 2017 reflects recast financial information related to the adoption of new ASUs. Effective as of January 1, 2018, the Company adopted the New Revenue Standard, the New Retirement Standard, and the New Hedging Standard as detailed in Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

(in millions, except per share amounts)	Three months ended		March 31,		Percent Change
	2018	2017			
GAAP					
Operating income	\$616	\$606	1.7	%	
Net income	\$463	\$339	36.6	%	
Net income per share, diluted	\$0.79	\$0.55	43.6	%	
Non-GAAP					
Operating income	\$584	\$574	1.7	%	
Net income	\$438	\$359	22.0	%	
Net income per share, diluted	\$0.75	\$0.58	29.3	%	

First quarter 2018 Net income was \$463 million, a 36.6 percent increase year-over-year, or \$0.79 per diluted share. The increase in GAAP Net income was primarily driven by a reduction of the Company's federal corporate tax rate, from 35.0 percent in first quarter 2017 to 21.0 percent in first quarter 2018, related to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act legislation enacted in December 2017. Excluding special items in both years, first quarter 2018 non-GAAP Net income was \$438 million, a 22.0 percent increase year-over-year, or \$0.75 per diluted share, also primarily due to the reduction in the federal corporate tax rate. Operating income for first quarter 2018 was \$616 million, and non-GAAP Operating income for first quarter 2018 was \$584 million, both slightly higher than the same prior year period amounts.

For the twelve months ended March 31, 2018, the Company's earnings performance, as recast (See Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements), combined with its actions to manage invested capital, produced a 27.1 percent pre-tax non-GAAP return on invested capital ("ROIC"), or 20.8 percent on an after-tax basis, compared with the Company's pre-tax ROIC of 28.8 percent, or 18.2 percent on an after-tax basis, for the twelve months ended March 31, 2017. The primary cause of the year-over-year increase in after-tax ROIC was the decrease in the Company's federal corporate tax rate related to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act legislation enacted in December 2017. See the Company's calculation of ROIC in the accompanying reconciliation tables as well as the Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

Company Overview

The Company ended first quarter 2018 with 717 aircraft in its fleet, which reflects the first quarter delivery of nine new 737-800 aircraft from Boeing, one new 737 MAX 8 aircraft from Boeing, and one pre-owned Boeing 737-700 aircraft from a third party. Additionally, the Company expects to take delivery of 17 new 737-800 aircraft and 18 new 737 MAX 8 aircraft during the remainder of 2018, including two new 737-800s that had been received as of April 25, 2018. After taking into account scheduled deliveries for new and pre-owned aircraft during 2018, the Company's fleet

is expected to increase to 752 aircraft by year-end 2018.

The Company currently expects its second quarter 2018 ASMs to increase in the 3.5 to 4 percent range, compared with second quarter 2017. The Company continues to expect its 2018 ASM growth to be in the low five percent range, year-over-year, with second half 2018 in the low seven percent range. The Company plans to continue its route network

33

and schedule optimization efforts through the addition of new markets and itineraries, while also pruning less profitable flights from its schedule.

The Company continues to expect to begin selling tickets in 2018 for service to Hawaii, subject to requisite governmental approvals, including approval from the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") for Extended Operations, a regulatory requirement to operate between the U.S. mainland and the Hawaiian Islands. The Company also announced its intent to begin service to four Hawaiian airports: Honolulu International Airport, Lihue Airport, Kona International Airport at Keahole, and Kahului Airport.

During April 2018, the Company entered into an agreement with Alaska Airlines to lease 12 slots at New York's LaGuardia Airport and 8 slots at Washington Reagan National Airport through 2028. These opportunities complement the Company's network and fit within its existing 2018 growth plans.

During April 2018, the Company's Mechanics and Related Employees, represented by Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association ("AMFA"), reached an Agreement in Principle with the Company. A ratification vote has not yet been scheduled.

The Company continued to return value to its Shareholders during first quarter 2018 through a \$500 million accelerated share repurchase program, which was launched in January 2018 with a financial institution in a privately negotiated transaction ("First Quarter 2018 ASR Program"). The Company received 8.7 million shares in total under the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program, which was completed in April 2018. The purchase was recorded as a treasury share repurchase for purposes of calculating earnings per share. The Company had \$850 million remaining under its May 2017 \$2.0 billion share repurchase authorization as of March 31, 2018. On April 30, 2018, the Company launched a new accelerated share repurchase program by advancing \$500 million to a financial institution in a privately negotiated transaction ("Second Quarter 2018 ASR Program"). The specific number of shares that the Company ultimately will repurchase under the Second Quarter 2018 ASR Program will be determined based generally on a discount to the volume-weighted average price per share of the Company's common stock during a calculation period to be completed no later than July 2018. The purchase will be recorded as a treasury share purchase for purposes of calculating earnings per share. The Company also made cash dividend payments totaling \$148 million during first quarter 2018.

Material Changes in Results of Operations

Comparison of three months ended March 31, 2018 and March 31, 2017

Operating Revenues

Passenger revenues for first quarter 2018 increased by \$39 million, or 0.9 percent, year-over-year. Holding Load factor and Passenger revenue yield constant, the increase was primarily attributable to a 1.8 percent increase in capacity. In addition, there was a benefit to first quarter 2018 from the shift in Easter travel to being spread across both March and April 2018 versus primarily just benefiting April 2017. On a unit basis, Passenger revenues decreased 1.0 percent, year-over-year. The decrease was largely driven by a 2.8 percent decrease in Passenger revenue yield due to (i) the industry's competitive domestic fare environment and (ii) the impact from the Company's operation of a sub-optimal first quarter 2018 flight schedule as a result of a temporarily reduced fleet size upon the retirement of its Boeing 737-300 ("Classic") fleet, which was completed in third quarter 2017. Strong travel demand resulted in a first quarter record load factor of 81.5 percent.

Freight revenues for first quarter 2018 remained flat, compared with first quarter 2017. Based on current trends, the Company expects second quarter 2018 Freight revenues to increase, compared with second quarter 2017.

Other revenues for first quarter 2018 increased by \$51 million, or 19.2 percent, year-over-year. The increase was primarily due to an increase in revenue associated with cardholder spend on the Company's co-branded Chase® Visa credit card. The Company currently expects Other revenues in second quarter 2018 to increase, compared with second

quarter 2017.

34

The Company expects its sub-optimal flight schedule to continue to pressure yields in second quarter 2018. Based on current bookings and revenue trends, the Company expects second quarter 2018 operating unit revenues to decrease in the one to three percent range, compared with second quarter 2017 operating unit revenues of 14.27 cents, as recast. Approximately one to two points of this estimated decrease is attributable to recent softness in bookings following the Flight 1380 accident on April 17, 2018. See Note 10 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further details on the accident.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses for first quarter 2018 increased by \$80 million, or 1.9 percent, compared with first quarter 2017, while capacity increased 1.8 percent over the same period. Historically, except for changes in the price of fuel, changes in Operating expenses for airlines have been largely driven by changes in capacity, or ASMs. The following table presents the Company's Operating expenses per ASM for the first quarter of 2018 and 2017, followed by explanations of these changes on a per ASM basis and dollar basis:

(in cents, except for percentages)	Three months ended March 31,		Per ASM change	Percent change
	2018	2017		
Salaries, wages, and benefits	4.88 ¢	4.71 ¢	0.17 ¢	3.6 %
Fuel and oil	2.72	2.60	0.12	4.6
Maintenance materials and repairs	0.69	0.66	0.03	4.5
Landing fees and airport rentals	0.88	0.85	0.03	3.5
Depreciation and amortization	0.74	0.87	(0.13)	(14.9)
Other operating expenses	1.67	1.88	(0.21)	(11.2)
Total	11.58 ¢	11.57 ¢	0.01 ¢	0.1 %

Operating expenses per ASM for first quarter 2018 increased by 0.1 percent, compared with first quarter 2017, primarily due to wage rate increases and increases in market jet fuel prices. This increase was partially offset by decreases in Depreciation and amortization and Other operating expenses. See below for further information.

Operating expenses per ASM for first quarter 2018, excluding Fuel and oil expense and special items (a non-GAAP financial measure), decreased 0.3 percent, compared with first quarter 2017, primarily due to decreases in Depreciation and amortization and Other operating expenses, partially offset by wage rate increases. See Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures and the Reconciliation of Reported Amounts to Non-GAAP Financial Measures for additional detail regarding non-GAAP financial measures. Based on current trends and excluding Fuel and oil expense and profitsharing expense, the Company expects its second quarter 2018 unit costs to increase in the one to two percent range, compared with second quarter 2017 unit costs of 8.17 cents, as recast, which excluded Fuel and oil expense, profitsharing expense, and special items. The Company expects 2018 unit costs, excluding Fuel and oil expense and profitsharing expense, to be comparable with 2017 unit costs of 8.47 cents, as recast, which excluded Fuel and oil expense, profitsharing expense, and special items. The second quarter and full year 2018 year-over-year outlook for unit costs, excluding Fuel and oil expense and profitsharing expense, includes the current estimated impact of the Agreement in Principle with AMFA, as well as a preliminary cost estimate related to the Flight 1380 accident.

Salaries, wages, and benefits expense for first quarter 2018 increased by \$91 million, or 5.3 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On a per ASM basis, first quarter 2018 Salaries, wages, and benefits expense increased 3.6 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On both a dollar and per ASM basis, the majority of the increases were the result of higher salaries driven by increased wage rates and headcount. Based on current cost trends and anticipated capacity, the Company expects second quarter 2018 Salaries, wages, and benefits expense per ASM, excluding profitsharing expense, to increase, compared with second quarter 2017.

Fuel and oil expense for first quarter 2018 increased by \$62 million, or 6.5 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On a per ASM basis, first quarter 2018 Fuel and oil expense increased 4.6 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On both a dollar and per ASM basis, the increases were attributable to higher market jet fuel prices, partially offset by

35

the recognition of \$30 million in net hedging gains in first quarter 2018 versus the recognition of \$106 million in net hedging losses in first quarter 2017. See Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures and the Reconciliation of Reported Amounts to Non-GAAP Financial Measures for additional detail regarding non-GAAP financial measures. These totals include cash settlements realized from the settlement of fuel derivative contracts associated with the Company's economic fuel hedge totaling \$23 million received from counterparties for first quarter 2018, compared with \$143 million paid to counterparties for first quarter 2017. These cash settlement totals exclude gains and/or losses recognized from hedge ineffectiveness in 2017 and from derivatives that did not qualify for hedge accounting for both periods. Those items are recorded as a component of Other (gains) losses, net. See Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. The Company's average economic jet fuel cost per gallon, which includes hedge settlements in both years, increased 3.0 percent, year-over-year, from \$2.03 for first quarter 2017 to \$2.09 for first quarter 2018. These figures include premium expense associated with the Company's fuel hedges, which on a per gallon basis equated to approximately \$0.07 in both years. The Company also slightly improved its fuel efficiency during first quarter 2018, compared with the same prior year period, when measured on the basis of ASMs generated per gallon of fuel, driven primarily by the retirement of the Classic aircraft and the addition of the more fuel-efficient 737 MAX 8 aircraft. Fuel gallons consumed increased 0.4 percent, as compared with first quarter 2017, while year-over-year capacity increased 1.8 percent.

As of April 20, 2018, on an economic basis, the Company had derivative contracts in place related to expected future fuel consumption as follows:

Period	Maximum percent of estimated fuel consumption covered by fuel derivative contracts at varying West Texas Intermediate/Brent Crude Oil, Heating Oil, and Gulf Coast Jet Fuel-equivalent price levels (a)
2018	78%
2019	63%
2020	38%
2021	20%
2022	less than 5%

(a) The Company's hedge position can vary significantly at different price levels, including prices at which the Company considers "catastrophic" coverage. The percentages provided are not indicative of the Company's hedge coverage at every price, but represent the highest level of coverage at a single price. See Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

As a result of applying hedge accounting in prior periods, including related to hedge positions that have either been offset or settled early on a cash basis, the Company has amounts in Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) ("AOCI") that will be recognized in earnings in future periods when the underlying fuel derivative contracts settle. The following table displays the Company's estimated fair value of remaining fuel derivative contracts (not considering the impact of the cash collateral provided to or received from counterparties—see Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information), as well as the amount of deferred gains/losses in AOCI at March 31, 2018, and the expected future periods in which these items are expected to settle and/or be

recognized in earnings (in millions):

Year	Fair value of fuel derivative contracts at March 31, 2018	Amount of gains (losses) deferred in AOCI at March 31, 2018 (net of tax)
Remainder of 2018	\$ 114	\$ 6
2019	124	38
2020	74	18
2021	23	2
2022	5	—
Total	\$ 340	\$ 64

36

Assuming no changes to the Company's current fuel derivative portfolio, but including all previous hedge activity for fuel derivatives that have not yet settled, and considering only the expected net cash receipts related to hedges that will settle, the Company is providing the below sensitivity table for second quarter 2018 jet fuel prices at different crude oil assumptions as of April 20, 2018, and for expected premium costs associated with settling contracts each period, respectively.

	Estimated economic fuel price per gallon, including taxes and fuel hedging premiums (c)(e)	Estimated economic fuel price per gallon, including taxes and fuel hedging premiums (d)(e)
Average Brent Crude Oil price per barrel	Second Quarter 2018	Full Year 2018
\$55	\$1.85 - \$1.90	\$1.85 - \$1.90
\$65	\$2.05 - \$2.10	\$2.05 - \$2.10
Current Market (a)	Approximately \$2.20	\$2.15 - \$2.20
\$75	\$2.20 - \$2.25	\$2.20 - \$2.25
\$80	\$2.25 - \$2.30	\$2.25 - \$2.30
\$85	\$2.30 - \$2.35	\$2.30 - \$2.35
Estimated fuel hedging premium expense per gallon (b)	\$0.06	\$0.06

(a) Brent crude oil average market prices as of April 20, 2018, were approximately \$73 and \$70 per barrel for second quarter 2018 and full year 2018, respectively.

(b) In accordance with the Company's early adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2017-12, Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities, the Company began reporting premium expense within Fuel and oil expense as of January 1, 2018.

(c) Based on the Company's existing fuel derivative contracts and market prices as of April 20, 2018, second quarter 2018 economic fuel costs are estimated to be approximately \$2.20 per gallon, including fuel hedging premium expense of approximately \$34 million, or \$.06 per gallon, and an estimated \$.07 per gallon in favorable cash settlements from fuel derivative contracts.

(d) Based on the Company's existing fuel derivative contracts and market prices as of April 20, 2018, annual 2018 economic fuel costs are estimated to be in the \$2.15 to \$2.20 per gallon range, including fuel hedging premium expense of approximately \$135 million, or \$.06 per gallon, and an estimated \$.06 per gallon in favorable cash settlements from fuel derivative contracts.

(e) The fuel price per gallon sensitivities provided assume the relationship between Brent crude oil and refined products based on market prices as of April 20, 2018. The Company's fuel costs per gallon for second quarter and full year 2018 on a GAAP basis are each expected to include a gain of approximately \$.01 per gallon, related to contracts settling in second quarter and full year 2018, respectively, but for which the impact has been recognized in a prior period. These expected gains are excluded from the Company's estimated second quarter and full year 2018 economic fuel costs per gallon. Therefore, based on the Company's existing fuel derivative contracts and market prices as of April 20, 2018, second quarter 2018 fuel costs per gallon on a GAAP and economic basis are estimated to be approximately \$2.19 and approximately \$2.20, respectively; and the provided outlook range for full year 2018 is currently expected to encompass both the GAAP and economic fuel costs per gallon. See Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

Maintenance materials and repairs expense for first quarter 2018 increased \$14 million, or 5.8 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On a per ASM basis, Maintenance materials and repairs expense increased 4.5 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On both a dollar and per ASM basis, approximately 60 percent of the increases were attributable to higher Boeing 737-700 engine maintenance expense due to increased flight hours. The remainder of the increases were due to the timing of regular maintenance checks. The Company currently expects Maintenance

materials and repairs expense per ASM for second quarter 2018 to increase, compared with second quarter 2017.

Landing fees and airport rentals expense for first quarter 2018 increased by \$17 million, or 5.4 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On a per ASM basis, Landing fees and airport rentals expense increased 3.5 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On both a dollar and per ASM basis, the majority of the increases were due to an increase in rental rates at various stations throughout the network. The Company currently expects Landing fees and airport rentals expense per ASM for second quarter 2018 to increase, compared with second quarter 2017.

Depreciation and amortization expense for first quarter 2018 decreased by \$41 million, or 12.9 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On a per ASM basis, Depreciation and amortization expense decreased 14.9 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On both a dollar and per ASM basis, the majority of the decreases were associated with a net decrease in depreciation expense related to the Company's flight equipment, as the decrease from the retirement of the Company's Classic fleet exceeded the additional depreciation from the addition of new purchased 737 MAX 8 aircraft, new purchased 737-800 aircraft, and pre-owned 737-700 aircraft on capital leases. The Company currently expects Depreciation and amortization expense per ASM for second quarter 2018 to decrease, compared with second quarter 2017.

Other operating expenses for first quarter 2018 decreased by \$63 million, or 9.2 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On a per ASM basis, Other operating expenses decreased 11.2 percent, compared with first quarter 2017. On both a dollar and per ASM basis, the majority of the decreases were the result of \$25 million of gains from the sale of 39 owned Classic aircraft and a number of spare engines to a third party recognized during first quarter 2018. This gain on sale of grounded aircraft was considered a special item and thus excluded from the Company's non-GAAP results. See Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures and the Reconciliation of Reported Amounts to Non-GAAP Financial Measures for additional detail regarding non-GAAP financial measures. Other operating expenses also included a \$14 million decrease in Aircraft rentals. See Note 1 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information on the presentation of Aircraft rentals. The remainder of the decreases were due to insurance recoveries from the impacts of irregular operations received in first quarter 2018. The Company expects Other operating expenses per ASM for second quarter 2018 to be comparable with second quarter 2017, excluding the impact of \$8 million in lease termination expense in the prior year.

Other

Other expenses (income) include interest expense, capitalized interest, interest income, and other gains and losses.

Interest expense for first quarter 2018 increased by \$3 million, or 10.3 percent, compared with first quarter 2017, primarily due to the issuance of two debt facilities since first quarter 2017, including \$300 million of 2.75% senior unsecured notes and \$300 million of 3.45% senior unsecured notes, both issued in November 2017. Interest expense associated with these new issuances was partially offset by the maturity of \$300 million of 5.125% senior unsecured notes in March 2017.

Capitalized interest for first quarter 2018 decreased by \$1 million, or 9.1 percent, compared with first quarter 2017, primarily due to aircraft deliveries and the completion of large technology projects, including the Company's new single reservation system, which the Company implemented in May 2017.

Interest income for first quarter 2018 increased by \$5 million, or 71.4 percent, compared with first quarter 2017, primarily due to higher interest rates.

Other (gains) losses, net, has primarily included amounts recorded as a result of the Company's hedging activities. With the adoption of the New Hedging Standard, the elimination of the requirement to separately measure and record ineffectiveness for all future cash flow hedges in a hedging relationship, as well as a change in classification of premium expense associated with option contracts from Other (gains) losses, net, in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income, to Fuel and oil expense, has significantly reduced amounts reflected for hedging activities in Other (gains) losses, net. With the adoption of the New Retirement Standard, the Company is required to include all components of its net periodic benefit cost (income), with the exception of service cost, in Other (gains) losses, net, versus previously classified and reported as operating expenses in Salaries, wages, and benefits. See Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information on both new standards. Also, see Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information on the Company's

hedging activities. The following table displays the components of Other (gains) losses, net, for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

38

(in millions)	Three months ended March 31, 2018	2017
Mark-to-market impact from fuel contracts settling in future periods	\$—	\$43
Ineffectiveness from fuel hedges settling in future periods (a)	—	14
Realized ineffectiveness and mark-to-market (gains) or losses (a)	—	8
Other	4	(2)(b)
	\$4	\$63

(a) With the adoption of the New Hedging Standard, the separate measurement and recording of ineffectiveness has been eliminated for all cash flow hedges in a hedging relationship effective January 1, 2018. See Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

(b) Includes \$3 million reclassified from Salaries, wages, and benefits to Other (gains) losses, net, as a result of the New Retirement Standard. See Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

Income Taxes

The Company's effective tax rate was approximately 23.1 percent in first quarter 2018, compared with 36.4 percent in first quarter 2017. This decrease was primarily attributable to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act legislation enacted in December 2017. The Company continues to project its full year 2018 effective tax rate to be in the 23 to 23.5 percent range based on currently forecasted financial results.

Reconciliation of Reported Amounts to Non-GAAP Financial Measures (excluding special items) (unaudited)
(in millions, except per share amounts and per ASM amounts)

	Three months ended March 31,		Percent
	2018	2017	Change
Fuel and oil expense, unhedged	\$1,014	\$816	
Premium cost of fuel contracts	34	34	
Add (Deduct): Fuel hedge (gains) losses included in Fuel and oil expense, net	(30)	106	
Fuel and oil expense, as reported	\$1,018	\$956	
Add: Net impact from fuel contracts	7	37	
Fuel and oil expense, excluding special items (economic)	\$1,025	\$993	3.2%
Total operating expenses, as reported	\$4,328	\$4,248	
Add: Reclassification between Fuel and oil and Other (gains) losses, net, associated with current period settled contracts	—	8	
Add: Contracts settling in the current period, but for which gains and/or (losses) have been recognized in a prior period (a)	7	29	
Deduct: Lease termination expense	—	(5)	
Add: Gain on sale of grounded aircraft	25	—	
Total operating expenses, excluding special items	\$4,360	\$4,280	1.9%
Operating income, as reported	\$616	\$606	
Deduct: Reclassification between Fuel and oil and Other (gains) losses, net, associated with current period settled contracts	—	(8)	
Deduct: Contracts settling in the current period, but for which gains and/or (losses) have been recognized in a prior period (a)	(7)	(29)	
Add: Lease termination expense	—	5	
Deduct: Gain on sale of grounded aircraft	(25)	—	
Operating income, excluding special items	\$584	\$574	1.7%
Net income, as reported	\$463	\$339	
Add: Mark-to-market impact from fuel contracts settling in future periods	—	43	
Add: Ineffectiveness from fuel hedges settling in future periods	—	14	
Deduct: Other net impact of fuel contracts settling in the current or a prior period (excluding reclassifications)	(7)	(29)	
Add: Lease termination expense	—	5	
Deduct: Gain on sale of grounded aircraft	(25)	—	
Add (Deduct): Net income tax impact from fuel and special items (b)	7	(13)	
Net income, excluding special items	\$438	\$359	22.0%
Net income per share, diluted, as reported	\$0.79	\$0.55	
Add (Deduct): Net impact to net income above from fuel contracts divided by dilutive shares	(0.01)	0.04	
Add (Deduct): Impact of special items	(0.04)	0.01	
Add (Deduct): Net income tax impact of fuel and special items (b)	0.01	(0.02)	
Net income per share, diluted, excluding special items	\$0.75	\$0.58	29.3%
Operating expenses per ASM (cents)	11.58¢	11.57¢	
Deduct: Fuel and oil expense divided by ASMs	(2.72)	(2.60)	

Edgar Filing: SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO - Form 10-Q

Deduct: Profitsharing expense divided by ASMs	(0.28)	(0.27)
Add (Deduct): Impact of special items	0.07	(0.02)
Operating expenses per ASM, excluding profitsharing, Fuel and oil expense, and special items (cents)	8.65 ¢	8.68 ¢ (0.3)%

(a) As a result of prior hedge ineffectiveness and/or contracts marked to market through earnings.

(b) Tax amounts for each individual special item are calculated at the Company's effective rate for the applicable period and totaled in this line item.

Non-GAAP Return on Invested Capital (ROIC) (in millions) (unaudited)

	Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2018	Twelve Months Ended March 31, 2017		
Operating income, as reported	\$3,417	\$3,269		
Contract ratification bonuses	—	356		
Net impact from fuel contracts	(125)	(247)		
Asset impairment	—	21		
Lease termination expense	28	27		
Aircraft grounding charge	63	—		
Gain on sale of grounded aircraft	(25)	—		
Operating income, non-GAAP	\$3,358	\$3,426		
Net adjustment for aircraft leases (a)	107	109		
Adjusted operating income, non-GAAP (A)	\$3,465	\$3,535		
Non-GAAP tax rate (B)	23.1	% (d) 36.6	% (e)	
Net operating profit after-tax, NOPAT (A* (1-B) = C)	\$2,665	\$2,241		
Debt, including capital leases (b)	\$3,300	\$3,282		
Equity (b)	8,561	7,350		
Net present value of aircraft operating leases (b)	732	957		
Average invested capital	\$12,593	\$11,589		
Equity adjustment for hedge accounting (c)	196	698		
Adjusted average invested capital (D)	\$12,789	\$12,287		
Non-GAAP ROIC, pre-tax (A/D)	27.1	%	28.8	%
Non-GAAP ROIC, after tax (C/D)	20.8	%	18.2	%

As of January 1, 2018, the Company adopted ASU 2014-09: Revenue from Contracts with Customers, ASU 2017-07: Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost, and ASU 2017-12: Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities. As a result, certain prior period results have been recast due to the transition methods applied. See Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information.

(a) Net adjustment related to presumption that all aircraft in fleet are owned (i.e., the impact of eliminating aircraft rent expense and replacing with estimated depreciation expense for those same aircraft). The Company makes this adjustment to enhance comparability to other entities that have different capital structures by utilizing alternative financing decisions.

(b) Calculated as an average of the five most recent quarter end balances or remaining obligations. The Net present value of aircraft operating leases represents the assumption that all aircraft in the Company's fleet are owned, as it reflects the remaining contractual commitments discounted at the Company's estimated incremental borrowing rate as of the time each individual lease was signed.

(c) The Equity adjustment for hedge accounting in the denominator adjusts for the cumulative impacts, in AOCI and Retained earnings, of gains and/or losses associated with hedge accounting related to fuel hedge derivatives that will

settle in future periods. The current period impact of these gains and/or losses is reflected in the Net impact from fuel contracts in the numerator.

(d) As the twelve month rolling tax rate no longer approximates an annual tax rate due to the significant impact the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act legislation enacted in December 2017 had on corporate tax rates, the Company is utilizing the first quarter tax rate for 2018 ROIC, after-tax. The first quarter 2018 GAAP tax rate was 23.1 percent, and the Non-GAAP tax rate for the period was also 23.1 percent. Utilizing the Company's tax rate based on Operating income, non-GAAP for the twelve months ended March 31, 2018, of 33.8 percent, Non-GAAP ROIC, after tax, would have been 17.9 percent. See Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures for additional information. For full year 2018, the Company continues to estimate its effective tax rate to be in the 23 to 23.5 percent range.

(e) The GAAP twelve month rolling tax rate as of March 31, 2017 was 36.6 percent, and the twelve month rolling Non-GAAP tax rate was also 36.6 percent. See Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures for additional information.

42

Note Regarding Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

The Company's unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("GAAP"). These GAAP financial statements include (i) unrealized noncash adjustments and reclassifications, which can be significant, as a result of accounting requirements and elections made under accounting pronouncements relating to derivative instruments and hedging and (ii) other charges and benefits the Company believes are unusual and/or infrequent in nature and thus may make comparisons to its prior or future performance difficult.

As a result, the Company also provides financial information in this filing that was not prepared in accordance with GAAP and should not be considered as an alternative to the information prepared in accordance with GAAP. The Company provides supplemental non-GAAP financial information (also referred to as "excluding special items"), including results that it refers to as "economic," which the Company's management utilizes to evaluate its ongoing financial performance and the Company believes provides additional insight to investors as supplemental information to its GAAP results. The non-GAAP measures provided that relate to the Company's performance on an economic fuel cost basis include Fuel and oil expense, non-GAAP; Total operating expenses, non-GAAP; Operating income, non-GAAP; Income tax rate, non-GAAP; 12 month rolling income tax rate, non-GAAP; Net income, non-GAAP; and Net income per share, diluted, non-GAAP. The Company's economic Fuel and oil expense results differ from GAAP results in that they only include the actual cash settlements from fuel hedge contracts - all reflected within Fuel and oil expense in the period of settlement. Thus, Fuel and oil expense on an economic basis has historically been utilized by the Company, as well as some of the other airlines that utilize fuel hedging, as it reflects the Company's actual net cash outlays for fuel during the applicable period, inclusive of settled fuel derivative contracts. Any net premium costs paid related to option contracts that are designated as hedges are reflected as a component of Fuel and oil expense, for both GAAP and non-GAAP (including economic) purposes in the period of contract settlement. The Company believes these economic results provide further insight on the impact of the Company's fuel hedges on its operating performance and liquidity since they exclude the unrealized, noncash adjustments and reclassifications that are recorded in GAAP results in accordance with accounting guidance relating to derivative instruments, and they reflect all cash settlements related to fuel derivative contracts within Fuel and oil expense. This enables the Company's management, as well as investors and analysts, to consistently assess the Company's operating performance on a year-over-year or quarter-over-quarter basis after considering all efforts in place to manage fuel expense. However, because these measures are not determined in accordance with GAAP, such measures are susceptible to varying calculations, and not all companies calculate the measures in the same manner. As a result, the aforementioned measures, as presented, may not be directly comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies.

Further information on (i) the Company's fuel hedging program, (ii) the requirements of accounting for derivative instruments, and (iii) the causes of hedge ineffectiveness and/or mark-to-market gains or losses from derivative instruments is included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, and Note 2 and Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, which discuss the Company's January 1, 2018 adoption of the New Hedging Standard.

The Company's GAAP results in the applicable periods include other charges or benefits that are also deemed "special items," that the Company believes make its results difficult to compare to prior periods, anticipated future periods, or industry trends. Financial measures identified as non-GAAP (or as excluding special items) have been adjusted to exclude special items. Special items include:

1. Contract ratification bonuses recorded for certain workgroups. As the bonuses would only be paid at ratification of the associated tentative agreement and would not represent an ongoing expense to the Company, management believes its results for the associated periods are more usefully compared if the impacts of ratification bonus amounts are excluded from results. Generally, union contract agreements cover a specified three- to five- year

period, although such contracts officially never expire, and the agreed upon terms remain in place until a revised agreement is reached, which can be several years following the amendable date;

2. A noncash impairment charge related to leased slots at Newark Liberty International Airport as a result of the FAA announcement in April 2016 that this airport was being changed to a Level 2 schedule-facilitated airport

from its previous designation as Level 3 (a "slot" is the right of an air carrier, pursuant to regulations of the FAA, to operate a takeoff or landing at a specific time at certain airports);

3. Lease termination costs recorded as a result of the Company acquiring 13 of its Boeing 737-300 aircraft off operating leases as part of the Company's strategic effort to remove its Classic aircraft from operations on or before September 29, 2017, in the most economically advantageous manner possible. The Company had not budgeted for these early lease termination costs, as they were subject to negotiations being concluded with the third party lessors. The Company recorded the fair value of the aircraft acquired off operating leases, as well as any associated remaining obligations to the balance sheet as debt;

4. An Aircraft grounding charge recorded in third quarter 2017, as a result of the Company grounding its remaining Boeing 737-300 aircraft on September 29, 2017. The loss was a result of the remaining net lease payments due and certain lease return requirements that could have to be performed on these leased aircraft prior to their return to the lessors as of the cease-use date. The Company had not budgeted for the lease return requirements, as they are subject to negotiation with third party lessors; and

5. A gain recognized in first quarter 2018, associated with the sale of 39 owned Boeing 737-300 aircraft and a number of spare engines to a third party. These aircraft were previously retired as part of the Company's exit of its Classic fleet. The gain was not anticipated, and the Company associates it in conjunction with the grounding charge recorded in third quarter 2017.

Because management believes each of these items can distort the trends associated with the Company's ongoing performance as an airline, the Company believes that evaluation of its financial performance can be enhanced by a supplemental presentation of results that exclude the impact of these items in order to enhance consistency and comparativeness with results in prior periods that do not include such items and as a basis for evaluating operating results in future periods. The following measures are often provided, excluding special items, and utilized by the Company's management, analysts, and investors to enhance comparability of year-over-year results, as well as to industry trends: Total operating expenses, non-GAAP; Operating income, non-GAAP; Income tax rate, non-GAAP; 12 month rolling income tax rate, non-GAAP; Net income, non-GAAP; Net income per share, diluted, non-GAAP; and Operating expenses per ASM, non-GAAP, excluding profitsharing, Fuel and oil expense, and special items.

The Company has also provided its calculation of return on invested capital, which is a measure of financial performance used by management to evaluate its investment returns on capital. Return on invested capital is not a substitute for financial results as reported in accordance with GAAP, and should not be utilized in place of such GAAP results. Although return on invested capital is not a measure defined by GAAP, it is calculated by the Company, in part, using non-GAAP financial measures. Those non-GAAP financial measures are utilized for the same reasons as those noted above for Net income, non-GAAP and Operating income, non-GAAP - the comparable GAAP measures include charges or benefits that are deemed "special items" that the Company believes make its results difficult to compare to prior periods, anticipated future periods, or industry trends, and the Company's profitability targets and estimates, both internally and externally, are based on non-GAAP results since in the vast majority of cases the "special items" cannot be reliably predicted or estimated. The Company believes non-GAAP return on invested capital is a meaningful measure because it quantifies the Company's effectiveness in generating returns relative to the capital it has invested in its business. Although return on invested capital is commonly used as a measure of capital efficiency, definitions of return on invested capital differ; therefore, the Company is providing an explanation of its calculation for non-GAAP return on invested capital in the accompanying reconciliation, in order to allow investors to compare and contrast its calculation to those provided by other companies.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$1.0 billion for the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared with \$1.6 billion provided by operating activities in the same prior year period. The operating cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2018, were largely impacted by the Company's Net income (as adjusted for noncash items) and an \$866 million increase in Air traffic liability as a result of bookings for future travel and sales of frequent flyer points to business partners. Additionally, the Company had net cash inflows of \$65 million in cash collateral from fuel derivative counterparties during the three months ended March 31, 2018. See Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements. These were partially offset by a \$501 million decrease in Accounts payable and accrued expenses as a result of the Company funding the 2017 Southwest Airlines Co. ProfitSharing Plan contribution of \$543 million in first quarter 2018. For the three months ended March 31, 2017, in addition to the Company's Net income (as adjusted for noncash items), there was a \$918 million increase in Air traffic liability as a result of bookings for future travel and sales of frequent flyer points to business partners, and the Company had net cash inflows of \$37 million in cash collateral from fuel derivative counterparties. Net cash provided by operating activities is primarily used to finance capital expenditures, repay debt, fund stock repurchases, pay dividends, and provide working capital.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$73 million during the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared with \$470 million used in investing activities in the same prior year period. Investing activities in both years included Capital expenditures, primarily related to aircraft and other equipment, payments associated with airport construction projects, denoted as Assets constructed for others, and changes in the balance of the Company's short-term and noncurrent investments. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, Capital expenditures were \$409 million, the majority of which was payments for new aircraft delivered to the Company, but also included payments related to airport and other facility construction projects. This compared with \$414 million in Capital expenditures during the same prior year period. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, the Company's transactions in short-term and noncurrent investments resulted in a net cash inflow of \$360 million, compared with a net cash outflow of \$7 million during the same prior year period.

Net cash used in financing activities was \$602 million during the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared with \$984 million used in financing activities for the same prior year period. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, the Company repaid \$82 million in debt and capital lease obligations, repurchased \$500 million of its outstanding common stock through an accelerated share repurchase program, paid \$148 million in cash dividends to Shareholders, and received a reimbursement from the City of Houston for \$116 million for the investment and updates made at Houston William P. Hobby Airport. See Note 7 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information regarding the reimbursement. During the three months ended March 31, 2017, the Company repaid \$369 million in debt and capital lease obligations, repurchased \$550 million of its outstanding common stock through an accelerated share repurchase program and open market share repurchases, and paid \$123 million in cash dividends to Shareholders.

The Company is a "well-known seasoned issuer" and has an effective shelf registration statement registering an indeterminate amount of debt and equity securities for future sales. The Company currently intends to use the proceeds from any future securities sales off this shelf registration statement for general corporate purposes.

The Company has access to a \$1.0 billion unsecured revolving credit facility expiring in August 2022. The revolving credit agreement has an accordion feature that would allow the Company, subject to, among other things, the procurement of incremental commitments, to increase the size of the facility to \$1.5 billion. Interest on the facility is based on the Company's credit ratings at the time of borrowing. At the Company's current ratings, the interest cost would be LIBOR plus a spread of 100.0 basis points. The facility contains a financial covenant requiring a minimum coverage ratio of adjusted pre-tax income to fixed obligations, as defined. As of March 31, 2018, the Company was in compliance with this covenant and there were no amounts outstanding under the revolving credit facility.

On May 17, 2017, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$2.0 billion of the Company's common stock in a new share repurchase authorization. Under this \$2.0 billion share repurchase authorization, in January 2018, the Company launched the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program and advanced \$500 million to a financial

45

institution in a privately negotiated transaction. The Company received 8.7 million shares in total under the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program, which was completed in April 2018. The purchase was recorded as a treasury share repurchase for purposes of calculating earnings per share. The Company had \$850 million remaining under its May 2017 \$2.0 billion share repurchase authorization as of March 31, 2018. On April 30, 2018, the Company launched a new accelerated share repurchase program by advancing \$500 million to a financial institution in a privately negotiated transaction ("Second Quarter 2018 ASR Program"). The specific number of shares that the Company ultimately will repurchase under the Second Quarter 2018 ASR Program will be determined based generally on a discount to the volume-weighted average price per share of the Company's common stock during a calculation period to be completed no later than July 2018. The purchase will be recorded as a treasury share purchase for purposes of calculating earnings per share.

The Company routinely carries a working capital deficit, in which its current liabilities exceed its current assets. This is common within the airline industry and is primarily due to the nature of the Air traffic liability account, which is related to advance ticket sales, unused funds available to Customers, and frequent flyer deferred revenue, which are performance obligations for future customer flights, do not require future settlement in cash, and are mostly nonrefundable. See Note 5 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information. The Company believes that its current liquidity position, including unrestricted cash and short-term investments of \$3.2 billion as of March 31, 2018, anticipated future internally generated funds from operations, and its fully available, unsecured revolving credit facility of \$1.0 billion that expires in August 2022, will enable it to meet its future known obligations in the ordinary course of business. However, if a liquidity need were to arise, the Company believes it has access to financing arrangements because of its investment grade credit ratings, large value of unencumbered assets, and modest leverage, which should enable it to meet its ongoing capital, operating, and other liquidity requirements. The Company will continue to consider various borrowing or leasing options to maximize liquidity and supplement cash requirements, as necessary.

Contractual Obligations and Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

The Company has contractual obligations and commitments primarily with regard to future purchases of aircraft, repayment of debt, and lease arrangements. See Note 7 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information. As of April 25, 2018, as a result of the modification of the Company's future aircraft commitments during April 2018, the Company had firm deliveries and options for Boeing 737-700, 737-800, 737 MAX 7, and 737 MAX 8 aircraft as follows:

The Boeing Company

	MAX 7 MAX 8		MAX 8 Options	Additional -700s	Additional MAX 8s	Total	
	-800 Firm Orders	Firm Orders						Firm Orders
2018	26	—	19	—	1	—	46 (b)
2019	—	7	20	—	—	3	30
2020	—	—	35	—	—	—	35
2021	—	—	44	—	—	—	44
2022	—	—	27	14	—	—	41
2023	—	12	22	23	—	—	57
2024	—	11	30	23	—	—	64
2025	—	—	40	36	—	—	76
2026	—	—	—	19	—	—	19
Total	26	30	237	(a) 115	1	3	412

(a) The Company has flexibility to substitute 737 MAX 7 in lieu of 737 MAX 8 aircraft beginning in 2019.

(b) Includes eleven 737-800s, one 737-700, and one 737 MAX 8 delivered as of April 25, 2018.

For aircraft commitments with Boeing, the Company is required to make cash deposits toward the purchase of aircraft in advance. These deposits are classified as Deposits on flight equipment purchase contracts in the unaudited Condensed

46

Consolidated Balance Sheet until the aircraft is delivered, at which time deposits previously made are deducted from the final purchase price of the aircraft and are reclassified as Flight equipment.

The following table details information on the aircraft in the Company's fleet as of March 31, 2018:

Type	Seats	Average Age (Yrs)	Number of Aircraft	Number Owned	Number Leased
737-700	143	14	513	397	116
737-800	175	3	190	183	7
737 MAX 8	175	—	14	14	—
Totals		11	717	594	123

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The Company's unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires the Company's management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying footnotes. The Company's estimates and assumptions are based on historical experience and changes in the business environment. However, actual results may differ from estimates under different conditions, sometimes materially. Critical accounting policies and estimates are defined as those that both (i) are most important to the portrayal of the Company's financial condition and results and (ii) require management's most subjective judgments. The Company's critical accounting policies and estimates are detailed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. As a result of the Company's January 1, 2018 adoption of ASU No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers and ASU No. 2017-12, Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities, it has updated its discussions of critical accounting policies related to Revenue Recognition, Financial Derivative Instruments, Fair Value Measurements, and Frequent Flyer Accounting. Also, see Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information about the accounting implications of these ASUs.

Revenue Recognition

Tickets sold for Passenger air travel are initially deferred as Air traffic liability. Passenger revenue is recognized and Air traffic liability is reduced when the service is provided (i.e., when the flight takes place). Air traffic liability primarily represents tickets sold for future travel dates and funds that are past flight date and remain unused, as well as a portion of the Company's liability associated with its frequent flyer program. Air traffic liability fluctuates throughout the year based on seasonal travel patterns, fare sale activity, and activity associated with the Company's frequent flyer program.

For air travel on Southwest, the amount of tickets that will expire unused are estimated and recognized in Passenger revenue once the scheduled flight date has passed. Estimating the amount of tickets that will expire unused involves some level of subjectivity and judgment. The majority of Southwest's tickets sold are nonrefundable, which is the primary source of unused tickets. Southwest has a No Show policy that applies to fares that are not canceled or changed by a Customer at least ten minutes prior to a flight's scheduled departure. According to Southwest's current "Contract of Carriage," all refundable tickets that are sold but not flown on the travel date can be reused for another flight up to a year from the date of sale, or some tickets can be refunded. This policy also applies to unused Customer funds that may be the result of an exchange downgrade, in which a Customer exchanges their ticket from a previously purchased flight for a lower priced ticket, with the price difference being available for use by the Customer towards travel up to twelve months from the date of original purchase. Fully refundable tickets rarely expire unused. Estimates of tickets that will expire unused are based on historical experience over many years. Southwest has consistently applied this accounting method to estimate revenue from unused tickets at the date of scheduled travel.

Events and circumstances outside of historical fare sale activity or historical Customer travel patterns can result in actual spoiled tickets differing significantly from estimates. The Company evaluates its estimates within a narrow range of acceptable amounts. If actual spoilage results in an amount outside of this range, estimates and assumptions are reviewed and adjustments to Air traffic liability and to Passenger revenue are recorded, as necessary. Additional

47

factors that may affect estimated spoiled tickets include, but may not be limited to, changes to the Company's ticketing policies, the Company's refund, exchange, and unused funds policies, the mix of refundable and nonrefundable fares, promotional fare activity, events leading to significant flight cancellations, and the impact of the economic environment on Customer behavior. The Company's estimation techniques have been consistently applied from year to year; however, as with any estimates, actual spoiled tickets may vary from estimated amounts.

The Company believes it is unlikely that materially different estimates for future spoiled tickets would be reported based on other reasonable assumptions or conditions suggested by actual historical experience and other data available at the time estimates were made.

Financial Derivative Instruments

The Company utilizes financial derivative instruments primarily to manage its risk associated with changing jet fuel prices. See "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk" for more information on these risk management activities, and see Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for more information on the Company's fuel hedging program and financial derivative instruments.

All derivatives are required to be reflected at fair value and recorded on the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet. At March 31, 2018, the Company was a party to over 400 separate financial derivative instruments related to its fuel hedging program for future periods. Changes in the fair values of these instruments can vary dramatically based on changes in the underlying commodity prices. For example, during 2017, market "spot" prices for Brent crude oil peaked at a high of approximately \$67 per barrel and hit a low price of approximately \$45 per barrel. Market price changes can be driven by factors such as supply and demand, inventory levels, weather events, refinery capacity, political agendas, the value of the U.S. dollar, geopolitical events, and general economic conditions, among other items. The financial derivative instruments utilized by the Company primarily are a combination of collars, purchased call options, call spreads, put spreads, and fixed price swap agreements.

The Company enters into financial derivative instruments with third party institutions in "over-the-counter" markets. Since the majority of the Company's financial derivative instruments are not traded on a market exchange, the Company estimates their fair values. Depending on the type of instrument, the values are determined by the use of present value methods or standard option value models with assumptions about commodity prices based on those observed in underlying markets.

Fair values for financial derivative instruments are estimated prior to the time that the financial derivative instruments settle. However, once settlement of the financial derivative instruments occurs and the hedged jet fuel is purchased and consumed, all values and prices are known and are recognized in the financial statements. Although the Company continues to use a prospective assessment to determine that commodities continue to qualify for hedge accounting in specific locations where the Company hedges, there are no assurances that these commodities will continue to qualify in the future. This is due to the fact that future price changes in these refined products may not be consistent with historical price changes. Increased volatility in these commodity markets for an extended period of time, especially if such volatility were to worsen, could cause the Company to lose hedge accounting altogether for the commodities used in its fuel hedging program, which would create further volatility in the Company's GAAP financial results.

Estimating the fair value of these fuel derivative instruments will also result in changes in their fair values from period to period. For derivative contracts that qualify for hedge accounting, the change in the fair value of the derivative instrument is recorded every period to AOCI until the underlying jet fuel is consumed. If a derivative contract does not qualify or ceases to qualify for hedge accounting, the change in the fair value of the derivative instrument is recorded every period to Other (gains) and losses, net in the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period of the change.

Fair Value Measurements

The Company utilizes unobservable (Level 3) inputs in determining the fair value of certain assets and liabilities. At March 31, 2018, these consisted of its fuel derivative option contracts, which were a net asset of \$340 million.

The Company determines the fair value of fuel derivative option contracts utilizing an option pricing model based on inputs that are either readily available in public markets, can be derived from information available in publicly quoted markets, or are quoted by its counterparties. In situations where the Company obtains inputs via quotes from its counterparties, it verifies the reasonableness of these quotes via similar quotes from another counterparty as of each date for which financial statements are prepared. The Company has consistently applied these valuation techniques in all periods presented and believes it has obtained the most accurate information available for the types of derivative contracts it holds. Due to the fact that certain inputs used in determining the estimated fair value of its option contracts are considered unobservable (primarily implied volatility), the Company has categorized these option contracts as Level 3. Although implied volatility is not directly observable, it is derived primarily from changes in market prices, which are observable. Based on the Company's portfolio of option contracts as of March 31, 2018, a 10 percent change in implied volatility, holding all other factors constant, would have resulted in a change in the fair value of this portfolio of less than \$12 million.

As discussed in Note 8 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, any changes in fair value of cash flow derivatives designated as hedges are offset within AOCI until the period in which the expected future cash flow impacts earnings. Any changes in the fair value of fuel derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting are reflected in earnings within Other (gains) losses, net, in the period of the change. Because the Company has extensive historical experience in valuing the derivative instruments it holds, and such experience is continually evaluated against its counterparties each period when such instruments expire and are settled for cash, the Company believes it is unlikely that an independent third party would value the Company's derivative contracts at a significantly different amount than what is reflected in the Company's financial statements. In addition, the Company also has bilateral credit provisions in some of its counterparty agreements, which provide for parties (or the Company) to provide cash collateral when the fair value of fuel derivatives with a single party exceeds certain threshold levels. Since this cash collateral is based on the estimated fair value of the Company's outstanding fuel derivative contracts, this provides further validation to the Company's estimate of fair values.

Frequent Flyer Accounting

The Company utilizes estimates in the recognition of liabilities associated with its frequent flyer program. These estimates primarily include the liability associated with Rapid Rewards frequent flyer member ("Member") account balances that are expected to be redeemed for travel or other products at a future date. Frequent flyer account balances include points earned through flights taken, points sold to Customers, or points earned through business partners participating in the frequent flyer program.

Under the Southwest Rapid Rewards frequent flyer program, Members earn points for every dollar spent. The amount of points earned under the program is based on the fare and fare class purchased, with higher fare products (e.g., Business Select) earning more points than lower fare products (e.g., Wanna Get Away). Each fare class is associated with a points earning multiplier, and points for flights are calculated by multiplying the fare for the flight by the fare class multiplier. Likewise, the amount of points required to be redeemed for a flight is based on the fare and fare class purchased. Under the program, (i) Members are able to redeem their points for every available seat, every day, on every flight, with no blackout dates; and (ii) points do not expire so long as the Member has points-earning activity during a 24-month time period. In addition, Members are able to redeem their points for items other than travel on Southwest Airlines, such as international flights on other airlines, cruises, hotel stays, rental cars, gift cards, event tickets, and more. In addition to earning points for revenue flights and qualifying purchases with Rapid Rewards Partners, Members also have the ability to purchase, gift, and transfer points, as well as the ability to donate points to selected charities.

The Company utilizes the deferred revenue method of accounting for points earned through flights taken in its frequent flyer program. The Company also sells frequent flyer points and related services to business partners participating in the frequent flyer program. Liabilities are recorded for the relative standalone selling price of the Rapid Rewards points which are awarded each period. The liabilities recorded represent the total number of points

expected to be redeemed by Members, regardless of whether the Members may have enough to qualify for a full travel award. At March 31, 2018, the loyalty liabilities were approximately \$2.8 billion, including \$1.8 billion classified within Air traffic liability and \$1.0 billion classified as Air traffic liability – loyalty noncurrent.

In order to determine the value of each frequent flyer point, certain assumptions must be made at the time of measurement, which include the following:

Allocation of Passenger Revenue - Revenues from Passengers related to travel who also earn Rapid Rewards Points has been allocated between flight and Rapid Rewards Points based on each obligation's relative standalone selling price. The Company utilizes historical earnings patterns to assist in this allocation.

Fair Value of Rapid Rewards Points is determined from the base fare value of tickets which were purchased using prior point redemptions for travel and other products and services, which the Company believes to be indicative of the fair value of points as perceived by Customers and representative of the value of each point at the time of redemption. The Company's booking site allows a Customer to toggle between fares utilizing either cash or point redemptions, which provide the Customer with an approximation of the equivalent value of their points. The value can differ however, based on demand, the amount of time prior to the flight, and other factors. The fare mix during the period measured represents a constraint, which could result in the assumptions above changing at the measurement date, as fare classes can have different coefficients used to determine the total frequent flyer points needed to purchase an award ticket. The mixture of these fare classes could cause the fair value per point to increase or decrease.

The majority of the points sold to business partners are through the Southwest co-branded credit card agreement ("Agreement") with Chase Bank USA, N.A. ("Chase"). Consideration received as part of this Agreement is subject to Accounting Standards Codification 606, Revenue From Contracts With Customers ("ASC 606"). The Agreement has the following multiple elements: travel points to be awarded, use of the Southwest Airlines' brand and access to Rapid Rewards Member lists, advertising elements, and the Company's resource team. Under ASC 606, these performance obligations are not distinct and consideration from the Agreement is allocated based on the relative selling price of each performance obligation.

Significant management judgment was used to estimate the selling price of each of the performance obligations in the Agreement at inception. The objective is to determine the price at which the Company would transact a sale if the product or service was sold on a stand-alone basis. The Company determines the best estimate of selling price by considering multiple inputs and methods including, but not limited to, the estimated selling price of comparable travel, discounted cash flows, brand value, published selling prices, number of points awarded, and the number of points redeemed. The Company estimates the selling prices and volumes over the term of the Agreement in order to determine the allocation of proceeds to each of the multiple performance obligations. The Company records passenger revenue related to air transportation when the transportation is delivered. A one percent increase or decrease in the Company's estimate of the standalone selling prices, implemented as of January 1, 2018, resulting in an allocation of proceeds to air transportation would have changed the Company's Operating revenues by less than \$2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2018.

Under its current program, Southwest estimates the portion of frequent flyer points that will not be redeemed. In estimating the spoilage, the Company takes into account the Member's past behavior, as well as several factors related to the Member's account that are expected to be indicative of the likelihood of future point redemption. These factors include, but are not limited to, tenure with the program, points accrued in the program, and whether or not the Member has a co-branded credit card. The Company believes it has obtained sufficient historical behavioral data to develop a predictive statistical model to analyze the amount of spoilage expected for points sold to business partners. The Company updates this model at least annually, and applies the new spoilage rates effective October 1st each year, or more frequently if required by changes in the business. Changes in the spoilage rates applied annually in recent years have not had a material impact on Passenger revenues. However, given the Company's January 1, 2018 adoption of the New Revenue Standard and elimination of the incremental cost method of accounting for flight points, the value of the frequent flyer liabilities subject to changes in the spoilage rates has significantly increased. Therefore, future spoilage rate changes are much more likely to cause volatility in Passenger revenues. For the three months ended March 31, 2018, based on actual redemptions of points sold to business partners and earned through flight, a

hypothetical one percentage point change in the estimated spoilage rate would have resulted in a change to Passenger revenue of approximately \$27 million (an increase in spoilage would have resulted in an increase in revenue and a decrease in spoilage would have resulted in a decrease in revenue). Given that Member behavior will continue to develop as the

50

program matures, the Company expects the current estimates may change in future periods. However, the Company believes its current estimates are reasonable given current facts and circumstances.

51

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Form 10-Q contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Forward-looking statements are based on, and include statements about, the Company's estimates, expectations, beliefs, intentions, and strategies for the future, and the assumptions underlying these forward-looking statements. Specific forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts and include, without limitation, statements related to the following:

- the Company's fleet and capacity plans and related expectations;
- the Company's network and schedule optimization plans and strategies;
- the Company's financial outlook and projected results of operations, including factors and assumptions underlying the Company's projections;
- the Company's plans and expectations with respect to managing risk associated with changing jet fuel prices;
- the Company's expectations with respect to liquidity and capital expenditures, including its anticipated sources of funds;
- the Company's critical accounting policies and related estimates and assumptions;
- the Company's assessment of market risks; and
- the Company's plans and expectations related to legal and regulatory proceedings.

While management believes these forward-looking statements are reasonable as and when made, forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual results may differ materially from what is expressed in or indicated by the Company's forward-looking statements or from historical experience or the Company's present expectations. Factors that could cause these differences include, among others:

- the Company's dependence on third parties, in particular with respect to its fleet and technology plans and expectations;
- the impact of changes in consumer behavior, actions of competitors (including, without limitation, pricing, scheduling, capacity and network decisions, and consolidation and alliance activities), fuel prices, economic conditions, natural disasters, and other factors beyond the Company's control on the Company's business decisions, plans, and strategies;
- the impact of governmental regulations and other governmental actions related to the Company and its operations;
- the Company's ability to timely and effectively implement, transition, and maintain the necessary information technology systems and infrastructure to support its operations and initiatives;
- changes in the price of aircraft fuel, the volatility of commodities used by the Company for hedging jet fuel, and any changes to the Company's fuel hedging strategies and positions;
- the Company's ability to timely and effectively prioritize its initiatives and related expenditures; and
- other factors as set forth in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the detailed factors discussed under the heading “Risk Factors” in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Caution should be taken not to place undue reliance on the Company's forward-looking statements, which represent the Company's views only as of the date this report is filed. The Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

As discussed in Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements, the Company endeavors to acquire jet fuel at the lowest possible price and to reduce volatility in operating expenses through its fuel hedging program with the use of financial derivative instruments. At March 31, 2018, the estimated fair value of outstanding contracts, excluding the impact of cash collateral held from counterparties, was a net asset of \$340 million.

The Company's credit exposure related to fuel derivative instruments is represented by the fair value of contracts that are in an asset position to the Company. At such times, these outstanding instruments expose the Company to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties to the agreements. As of March 31, 2018, the Company had eight counterparties in which the derivatives held were a net asset. To manage credit risk, the Company selects and periodically reviews counterparties based on credit ratings, limits its exposure with respect to each counterparty, and monitors the market position of the fuel hedging program and its relative market position with each counterparty. However, if one or more of these counterparties were in a liability position to the Company and were unable to meet their obligations, any open derivative contracts with the counterparty could be subject to early termination, which could result in substantial losses for the Company. At March 31, 2018, the Company had agreements with all of its active counterparties containing early termination rights and/or bilateral collateral provisions whereby security is required if market risk exposure exceeds a specified threshold amount based on the counterparty's credit rating. The Company also had agreements with counterparties in which cash deposits, letters of credit, and/or pledged aircraft are required to be posted as collateral whenever the net fair value of derivatives associated with those counterparties exceeds specific thresholds.

At March 31, 2018, \$80 million in cash collateral deposits were held by the Company from counterparties based on its outstanding fuel derivative instrument portfolio. Due to the types of derivatives held as of March 31, 2018, the Company does not have cash collateral exposure. See Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

The Company is also subject to the risk that the fuel derivatives it uses to hedge against fuel price volatility do not provide adequate protection. For example, in periods where jet fuel prices are expected to more closely correlate to changes in the prices of Brent crude oil, the Company may choose to mitigate this risk by entering into more fuel hedges that are Brent crude oil based. In addition, to add further protection, the Company may periodically enter into jet fuel derivatives for short-term timeframes. Jet fuel is not widely traded on an organized futures exchange and, therefore, there are limited opportunities to hedge directly in jet fuel for time horizons longer than approximately 24 months into the future.

See Item 7A "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, for further information about market risk, and Note 3 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements in this Form 10-Q for further information about the Company's fuel derivative instruments.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act")) designed to provide reasonable assurance that the information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports that it files or submits under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms. These include controls and procedures designed to ensure that this information is accumulated and

communicated to the Company's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Management, with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of March 31, 2018. Based on this evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of March 31, 2018, at the reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

During first quarter 2018, the Company implemented changes to its processes in response to the adoption of ASU No. 2014-09: Revenue from Contracts with Customers, ASU No. 2017-07: Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Postretirement Benefit Cost, and ASU No. 2017-12: Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities. See Note 2 to the unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements for further information. This has resulted in a material process change to the frequent flyer and air traffic liability component of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The operating effectiveness of these process changes will be evaluated as part of Company's annual assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting.

Except as noted above there were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2018, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

A complaint alleging violations of federal antitrust laws and seeking certification as a class action was filed against Delta Air Lines, Inc. and AirTran Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiary AirTran Airways, Inc. (collectively with AirTran Holdings, Inc., "AirTran") in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta on May 22, 2009. The complaint alleged, among other things, that AirTran attempted to monopolize air travel in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act, and conspired with Delta in imposing \$15-per-bag fees for the first item of checked luggage in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act. The initial complaint sought treble damages on behalf of a putative class of persons or entities in the United States who directly paid Delta and/or AirTran such fees on domestic flights beginning December 5, 2008. After the filing of the May 2009 complaint, various other nearly identical complaints also seeking certification as class actions were filed in federal district courts in Atlanta, Georgia; Orlando, Florida; and Las Vegas, Nevada. All of the cases were consolidated before a single federal district court judge in Atlanta. A Consolidated Amended Complaint was filed in the consolidated action on February 1, 2010, which broadened the allegations to add claims that Delta and AirTran conspired to reduce capacity on competitive routes and to raise prices in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act. In addition to treble damages for the amount of first baggage fees paid to AirTran and to Delta, the Consolidated Amended Complaint sought injunctive relief against a broad range of alleged anticompetitive activities, as well as attorneys' fees. On August 2, 2010, the Court dismissed plaintiffs' claims that AirTran and Delta had violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act; the Court let stand the claims of a conspiracy with respect to the imposition of a first bag fee and the airlines' capacity and pricing decisions. On June 30, 2010, the plaintiffs filed a motion to certify a class, which AirTran and Delta opposed. On June 18, 2012, the parties filed a Stipulation and Order that plaintiffs abandoned their claim that AirTran and Delta conspired to reduce capacity. On August 31, 2012, AirTran and Delta moved for summary judgment on all of plaintiffs' remaining claims. On July 12, 2016, the Court granted plaintiffs' motion to certify a class of all persons who paid first bag fees to AirTran or Delta from December 8, 2008 to November 1, 2014 (the date on which AirTran stopped charging first bag fees). Defendants have appealed that decision. On March 29, 2017, the Court granted defendants' motion for summary judgment and dismissed all claims against AirTran. On April 13, 2017, the plaintiffs filed a notice of appeal from the district court's judgment, and on April 24, 2017, AirTran filed a conditional notice of cross-appeal to appeal the Court's order certifying a class. The appeals of the class certification and summary judgment orders have been consolidated. On March 9, 2018, the Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's order granting summary judgment to AirTran and Delta. On April 13, 2018, plaintiffs petitioned the Court of Appeals for rehearing and rehearing en banc, and that petition is pending. AirTran denies all allegations of wrongdoing, including those in the Consolidated Amended Complaint, and intends to defend vigorously any and all such allegations.

Also, on June 30, 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") issued a Civil Investigative Demand ("CID") to the Company. The CID seeks information and documents about the Company's capacity from January 2010 to the date of the CID including public statements and communications with third parties about capacity. In June 2015, the Company also received a letter from the Connecticut Attorney General requesting information about capacity. The Company is cooperating fully with the DOJ CID and the state inquiry.

Further, on July 1, 2015, a complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on behalf of putative classes of consumers alleging collusion among the Company, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines to limit capacity and maintain higher fares in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act. Since then, a number of similar class action complaints were filed in the United States District Courts for the Central District of California, the Northern District of California, the District of Columbia, the Middle District of Florida, the Southern District of Florida, the Northern District of Georgia, the Northern District of Illinois, the Southern District of Indiana, the Eastern District of Louisiana, the District of Minnesota, the District of New Jersey, the Eastern District of New York, the Southern District of New York, the Middle District of North Carolina, the District of Oklahoma, the

Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Northern District of Texas, the District of Vermont, and the Eastern District of Wisconsin. On October 13, 2015, the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation centralized the cases to the United States District Court in the District of Columbia. On March 25, 2016, the plaintiffs filed a Consolidated Amended Complaint in the consolidated cases alleging that the defendants conspired to restrict capacity from 2009 to present.

The plaintiffs seek to bring their claims on behalf of a class of persons who purchased tickets for domestic airline travel on the defendants' airlines from July 1, 2011 to present. They seek treble damages, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and expenses. On May 11, 2016, the defendants moved to dismiss the Consolidated Amended Complaint, and on October 28, 2016, the Court denied this motion. On December 20, 2017, the Company reached an agreement to settle these cases with a proposed class of all persons who purchased domestic airline transportation services from July 1, 2011, to the date of the settlement. The Company agreed to pay \$15 million and to provide certain cooperation with the plaintiffs as set forth in the settlement agreement. The Court granted preliminary approval of the settlement on January 3, 2018, and on March 23, 2018, the plaintiffs filed a motion asking the Court to approve a proposed notice program and to set a schedule for objections, opt-outs, and the final fairness hearing. The Court has not yet ruled on that motion. The Company denies all allegations of wrongdoing.

In addition, on July 8, 2015, the Company was named as a defendant in a putative class action filed in the Federal Court in Canada alleging that the Company, Air Canada, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines colluded to restrict capacity and maintain higher fares for Canadian residents traveling in the United States and for travel between the United States and Canada. Similar lawsuits were filed in the Supreme Court of British Columbia on July 15, 2015, Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan on August 4, 2015, Superior Court of the Province of Quebec on September 21, 2015, and Ontario Superior Court of Justice on October 6, 2015. In December 2015, the Company entered into Tolling and Discontinuance agreements with putative class counsel in the Federal Court, British Columbia, and Ontario proceedings and a discontinuance agreement with putative class counsel in the Quebec proceeding. The other defendants entered into an agreement with the same putative class counsel to stay the Federal Court, British Columbia, and Quebec proceedings and to proceed in Ontario. On June 10, 2016, the Federal Court granted plaintiffs' motion to discontinue that action against the Company without prejudice and stayed the action against the other defendants. On July 13, 2016, the plaintiff unilaterally discontinued the action against the Company in British Columbia. On February 14, 2017, the Quebec Court granted the plaintiff's motion to discontinue the Quebec proceeding against the Company and to stay that proceeding against the other defendants. On March 10, 2017, the Ontario Court granted the plaintiff's motion to discontinue that proceeding as to the Company. On September 29, 2017, the Company and the other defendants entered into a tolling agreement suspending any limitations periods that may apply to possible claims among them for contribution and indemnity arising from the Canadian litigation. The Saskatchewan claim has not been served on the Company, and the time for the Company to respond to that complaint has not yet begun to run. The plaintiff in that case generally seeks damages (including punitive damages in certain cases), prejudgment interest, disgorgement of any benefits accrued by the defendants as a result of the allegations, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and other costs. The Company denies all allegations of wrongdoing and intends to vigorously defend this civil case in Canada. The Company does not currently serve Canada.

The Company is from time to time subject to various legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business, including, but not limited to, examinations by the Internal Revenue Service.

The Company's management does not expect that the outcome in any of its currently ongoing legal proceedings or the outcome of any proposed adjustments presented to date by the Internal Revenue Service, individually or collectively, will have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flow.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the factors disclosed in Item 1A. Risk Factors in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities (1)

Period	(a) Total number of shares purchased	(b) Average price paid per share	(c) Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs	(d) Maximum dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs
January 1, 2018 through January 31, 2018	736,838	\$ (2)	(3) 736,838	\$ 850,032,588
February 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018	—	\$ —	—	\$ 850,032,588
March 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018	7,588,824	\$ (3)	7,588,824	\$ 850,032,588
Total	8,325,662		8,325,662	

On May 17, 2017, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$2.0 billion of the Company's common stock. Repurchases are made in accordance with applicable securities laws in open market, private, or accelerated repurchase transactions from time to time, depending on market conditions, and may be discontinued at any time.

Under an accelerated share repurchase program entered into by the Company with a third party financial institution in fourth quarter 2017 (the "Fourth Quarter 2017 ASR Program"), the Company paid \$250 million and received an initial delivery of 3,323,537 shares during December 2017, representing an estimated 75 percent of the shares to be purchased by the Company under the Fourth Quarter 2017 ASR Program based on a volume-weighted average price of \$56.4158 per share of the Company's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange during a calculation period between November 8, 2017 and December 6, 2017. Final settlement of the Fourth Quarter 2017 ASR Program occurred in January 2018 and was determined based generally on a discount to the volume-weighted average price per share of the Company's common stock during a calculation period completed in January 2018. Upon settlement, the third party financial institution delivered 736,838 additional shares of the Company's common stock to the Company. In total, the average purchase price per share for the 4,060,375 shares repurchased under the Fourth Quarter 2017 ASR Program, upon completion of the Fourth Quarter 2017 ASR Program in January 2018, was \$61.5707.

Under the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program, the Company paid \$500 million in January 2018 and received an initial delivery of 6,468,663 shares during March 2018, representing an estimated 75 percent of the shares to be purchased by the Company under the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program based on a volume-weighted average price of \$57.9718 per share of the Company's common stock on the New York Stock Exchange during a calculation period between February 1, 2018 and March 7, 2018. The third party financial institution delivered an additional 1,120,161 shares to the Company in further partial settlement of the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program in March 2018, which was determined based generally on a discount to the volume-weighted average price per share of the Company's common stock during a calculation period completed in March 2018. Final settlement of the First

Quarter 2018 ASR Program occurred in April 2018 and was determined based generally on a discount to the volume-weighted average price per share of the Company's common stock during a calculation period completed in March 2018. Upon settlement, the third party financial institution delivered 1,137,702 additional shares of the Company's common stock to the Company. In total, the average purchase price per share for the 8,726,526 shares repurchased under the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program, upon completion of the First Quarter 2018 ASR Program in April 2018, was \$57.2966.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable

56

Item 5. Other Information

None

57

Item 6. Exhibits

- 3.1 Restated Certificate of Formation of the Company, effective May 18, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2012 (File No. 1-7259)).
- 3.2 Second Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, effective November 17, 2016 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 21, 2016 (File No. 1-7259)).
- 10.1 Supplemental Agreement No. 104 to Purchase Agreement No. 1810, dated January 19, 1994, between The Boeing Company and the Company. (1)
- 10.2 Supplemental Agreement No. 9 to Purchase Agreement No. 3729, dated December 13, 2011, between The Boeing Company and the Company. (1)
- 10.3 Supplemental Agreement No. 10 to Purchase Agreement No. 3729, dated December 13, 2011, between The Boeing Company and the Company. (1)
- 31.1 Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer.
- 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of Chief Financial Officer.
- 32.1 Section 1350 Certifications of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. (2)
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document.
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document.
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document.
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document.
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document.
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document.

- (1) Pursuant to 17 CFR 240.24b-2, confidential information has been omitted and has been filed separately with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to a Confidential Treatment Application filed with the Commission
- (2) Furnished, not filed.

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 thereunto duly authorized.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

May 1, 2018 By/s/ Tammy Romo

Tammy Romo
Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
(On behalf of the Registrant and in
her capacity as Principal Financial
and Accounting Officer)