

Sickout? Southwest Airlines Cancels 1,000 More Flights as Disruptions Increase

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by [Tyler Durden](#), [ZeroHedge](#)

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Southwest airlines canceled nearly 2,000 flights between Saturday and Sunday – **blaming the FAA and the weather** for problems that didn't seem to affect other airlines. According to FlightAware, Southwest canceled **over 1,000 of the flights on Sunday**.

“We experienced significant impact in the Florida airports [Friday] evening after an FAA-imposed air traffic management program was implemented due to weather and resulted in a large number of cancellations,” Alan Kasher, who oversees Southwest's flight operations, in a statement obtained by several news outlets on Saturday.

About 800 Southwest flights were canceled on Saturday, according to flight-tracking website FlightAware. Other major carriers, including American Airlines and Spirit Airlines, [appeared to have](#) significantly fewer disruptions.

BY AIRLINE				
Cancelled		Delayed		AIRLINE
#	%	#	%	
1018	28%	422	11%	Southwest
270	12%	377	17%	China Eastern
105	7%	181	13%	Air China
63	2%	195	6%	American Airlines
54	16%	44	13%	Lion Air
39	18%	39	18%	Wings Air
37	8%	20	4%	Saudia
32	4%	82	11%	Spirit
31	10%	120	40%	GoAir

Southwest said in a statement on Saturday that it is attempting to “return to close to normal operations as we move into Sunday.”

“We are working hard behind the scenes to minimize challenges and fully recover the operation as we take care of displaced Crews and Customers as quickly as possible,” the company said, without elaborating on the nature of the flight disruptions.



Southwest Airlines

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Air Traffic Control (ATC) issues and disruptive weather have resulted in a high volume of cancellations throughout the weekend while we work to recover our operation. We appreciate your patience as we accommodate affected Customers as quickly as possible, and Customer Service wait times are longer than usual. If your travel was affected, please explore self-service rebooking options by checking your flight status on southwest.com.

Travel Advisory

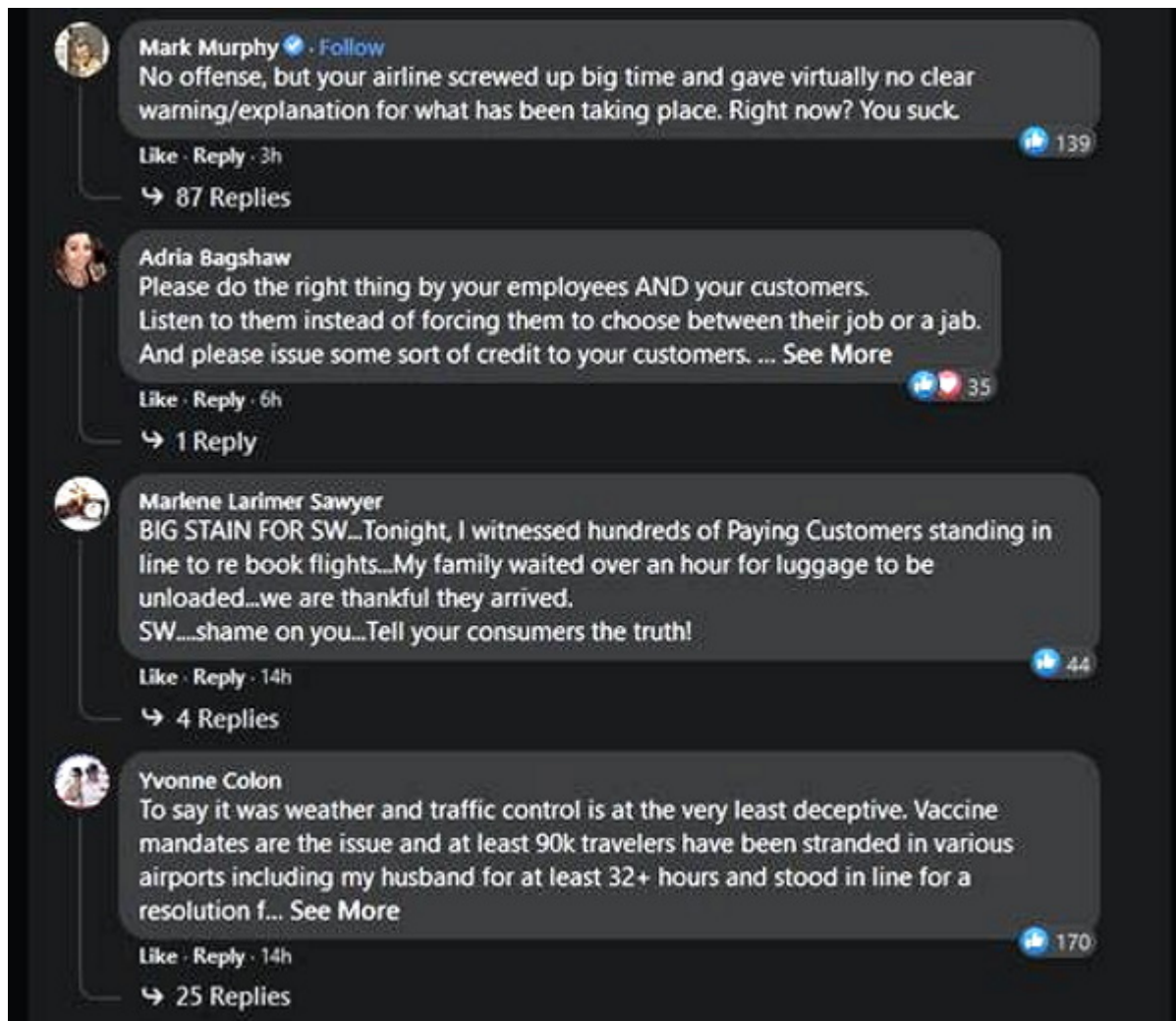
Scheduled service may be disrupted.



Southwest

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As Jack Phillips of [The Epoch Times](#) points out, the firm's Saturday statement also blamed the issue on air traffic control problems and the weather.

"We experienced significant impact in the Florida airports yesterday (Friday) evening after an FAA-imposed air traffic management program was implemented due to weather and resulted in a large number of cancellations," Southwest said.

There was speculation on social media that the flight cancellations were being triggered by employees calling in sick en masse. In its statement Saturday, Southwest did not make reference to the speculation.

"Southwest Airlines must join our industry peers in complying with the federal government's COVID-19 vaccination directive,"

Southwest CEO Gary Kelly announced on Oct. 4, explaining that the company works as a federal contractor and needs to comply with President Joe Biden's September vaccine mandate for federal employees and contractors. That [prompted a lawsuit](#) from Southwest's pilot union, the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, which is seeking a court injunction against the mandate.

On its website Saturday, the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association [blamed](#) the cancelations on "a number of issues, but we can say with confidence that our Pilots are not participating in any official or unofficial job actions," in an apparent reference to speculations about employees calling in sick.

"Our Pilots will continue to overcome [Southwest Airlines] management's poor planning, as well as any external operational challenges, and remain the most productive Pilots in the world," the statement continued. "They will continue to be focused on their highest priority—safety."

Meanwhile, on Sunday morning, there were long lines at Southwest's ticket counter in the Tampa airport, according to local media.

B.J. Romero, a passenger, told [Fox13](#), "I have two kids. I have appointments. I have work. I can't miss work. I have people relying on me, so I have to be home. That's not going to work for me."

When asked about whether Southwest's claim about bad weather caused mass cancelations, Romero balked at the suggestion. "That sounds like baloney to me," Romero told the station. "The weather is fine in all connecting areas, there's no bad weather."

"There's got to be something behind the scenes they're not telling us."

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