



A report released earlier this week could give loyal customers of low-cost airline [Southwest Airlines](#) here in Birmingham, AL a reason to hope, though it could still be a long shot.

[The latest U.S. Department of Transportation Air Travel Consumer Report](#) shows that Southwest has dropped to eighth place for on-time arrival performance, its lowest finish since the government began to collect the information in 1987 (see page 6 for the rankings).

A couple of weeks ago [WBHM's](#) Andrew Yeager [filed a piece](#) about what the planned acquisition of [AirTran](#) by the Dallas-based airline may mean for The Magic City.

Considering that [several reports](#) about the results suggest the airline's expansion into larger airports is a major reason for the drop, it gives more credence to the idea that shifting flights from the major hub in Atlanta to Birmingham might help them regain their on-time bragging badge of honor over the long term.

Time will tell...

**Image:** *Southwest Airlines logo.* Courtesy of official website.