



USAir/U-S Airways U-S Airways Express

U-S Airways was founded in 1939 as All American Aviation. It was headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and primarily served the State of Pennsylvania and the Ohio Valley. In 1953 the carrier took on the name "Allegheny Airlines" and, after several mergers with other carriers, grew into a major airline in the United States. The name was changed to "US Air" in 1979 and on April 9, 1988 the carrier merged with Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) gaining access to Albuquerque through PSA's route from Los Angeles using MD-80 jets. Four months later, new nonstop flights were added to Pittsburgh, the carrier's major hub, and the nonstop flights to Los Angeles were replaced with flights that stopped in Tucson and San Diego. Both of those flights went onto San Francisco and all flights then operated with Boeing 737-300 jetliners. In 1992 US Air briefly operated a flight from Albuquerque to Denver that continued onto the carrier's hub in Charlotte, North Carolina, using larger 737-400 aircraft. The westbound flights to Tucson, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, were then discontinued. The following year a flight to Kansas City began that continued onto another major hub at Philadelphia however that flight was also short lived, ending in early 1995. The spring of 1995 saw only one daily flight for USAir at Albuquerque going to Pittsburgh however the aircraft type was upgraded to a Boeing 757. By the summer of 1995, service was increased to three nonstops per day to Pittsburgh with 737-400 aircraft. The company changed their name to "U-S Airways" in 1997 and began downsizing its hub operation at Pittsburgh, ending all service to Albuquerque on September 3, 1997.



USAir McDonnell Douglas MD-80 originally flown by PSA in 1988.



USAir Boeing 737-300 at the Albuquerque Sunport in a new livery starting in 1989.



USAir Boeing 737-400 at the Albuquerque Sunport introduced in 1992.



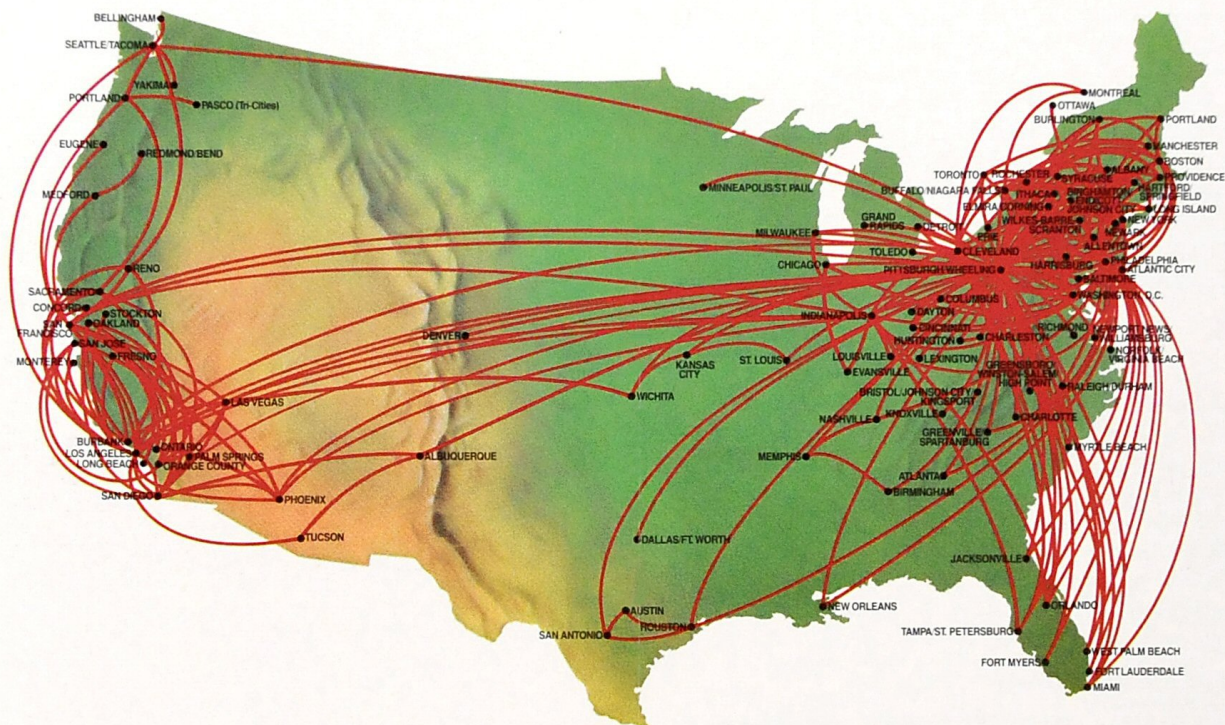
USAir Boeing 757-200 used at Albuquerque in 1995.



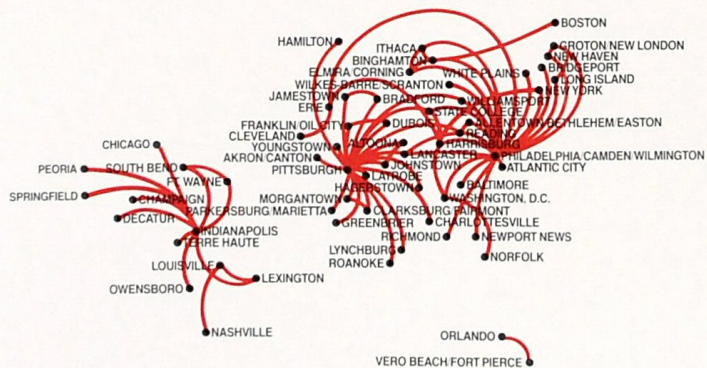
U-S Airways Boeing 737-300 at the Albuquerque Sunport reflecting the name change and a new livery in 1997.



USAIR



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USAir route map from August, 1988.

Ten years later on November 4, 2007, U-S Airways merged once again, this time with America West Airlines, and regained access to Albuquerque through America West's hubs in Phoenix and Las Vegas. In addition to the 737-300's, Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft were introduced. America West was also operating select flights between Albuquerque and Phoenix as America West Express using Canadair Regional Jets operated by Mesa Airlines. These flights became U-S Airways Express with the merger. Farmington, New Mexico also had U-S Airways Express service to Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Salt Lake City which was operated by Air Midwest, a subsidiary for Mesa Airlines, using Beech 1900D aircraft. All Farmington service had ended by mid-2008. The Albuquerque-Las Vegas flights were dropped about one month after the merger and all service between Albuquerque and Phoenix was converted to U-S Airways Express in late 2010 with only occasional flights still operating with U-S Airways mainline aircraft. A second U-S Airways Express affiliate, SkyWest Airlines, began supplementing Mesa Airlines on the Albuquerque-Phoenix route in 2012. For the summer months of 2015, an all-night nonstop flight from Albuquerque to Charlotte was added using a U-S Airways mainline Airbus A319 jet. The carrier then merged with American Airlines but this time the American name was maintained and all U-S Airways Express flights were converted to American Eagle. The merger was completed on October 17, 2015 at which time U-S Airways ended with a history dating back 76 years.



U-S Airways Airbus A319 at the Albuquerque Sunport in the final livery starting in 2007.



U-S Airways Express Canadair CRJ-200 at the Albuquerque Sunport. Both Mesa and SkyWest Airlines flew this aircraft type.



U-S Airways Express Canadair CRJ-900 at the Albuquerque Sunport. Both Mesa and SkyWest Airlines also flew this aircraft type.



U-S Airways Express Beech 1900D used for service to Farmington, New Mexico in 2007 and 2008.

U-S Airways had seen four different paint schemes on its aircraft during the two times it served Albuquerque. The carrier also had several aircraft painted with special schemes honoring sports teams and in the livery of airlines that it has merged with in the past including PSA and America West. American has carried on this tradition and maintained one aircraft in a U-S Airways paint scheme as well.



U-S Airways Airbus A319 in the former colors of America West Airlines at the Albuquerque Sunport.



U-S Airways Airbus A319 in the former colors of PSA.



American Airlines Airbus A321 retaining the colors of U-S Airways.

More detail on PSA, America West, and American Airlines, as well as the U-S Airways Express operations by Mesa, Air Midwest, and SkyWest Airlines, has been written in separate links for each of these carriers in the “Major airlines regional partners” section.