

## HEINLEIN GENEALOGY

# Pittsburgh International Airport

day, operating from ten gates on Concourse B, and one US Airways Club location. Numerous US Airways ticketing and customer service counters were abandoned, and 15 gates on Concourse A and B were sealed off from the rest of the airport.<sup>[9]</sup> Pittsburgh's air traffic bottomed out in 2013 with 7.8 million passengers and 36 destinations.<sup>[33]</sup>

Despite de-hubbing the airport, US Airways chose Pittsburgh in 2008 for their systemwide flight operations control center, after a bidding war with Charlotte and Phoenix led to state and local subsidies totaling \$16.25 million being offered to US Air to build the center at Pittsburgh.<sup>[39]</sup> The center worked on emergency operations for US Airways Flight 1549 after it landed in the Hudson River. The airline closed the center in 2015 as part of its merger with American Airlines. (The center was rebuilt as a 9-1-1 center for Allegheny County, which opened in 2019.<sup>[40]</sup>)

American Airlines still has a maintenance base at Pittsburgh, which dates back to the US Air days and employs 500 people. American Airlines maintains and repairs all its Airbus narrowbody fleet at Pittsburgh. In 2021, it extended its lease at the airport for five years.

When US Air took its final flight in 2015 before all operations were subsumed by American Airlines, Flight 1939, it did not stop in Pittsburgh, which former Allegheny County Executive Jim Roddey said was "the final insult" by the airline to Pittsburgh.

## Recent years

Since the wind down of US Airways hub at Pittsburgh, new low cost carriers have been able to enter the market, creating more choices for local passengers.<sup>[33]</sup> Pittsburgh has also been successful in attracting airlines to serve the region for the first time or to return to the market. Allegiant Air commenced service in February 2015 and established a base of operations later that year.<sup>[42]</sup> Frontier Airlines re-entered the Pittsburgh airport in 2016 after a four-year absence.<sup>[43]</sup> Spirit Airlines commenced service to seven destinations in 2017.<sup>[44]</sup> Alaska Airlines began service in 2019 with a nonstop route to Seattle/Tacoma.<sup>[45][46]</sup> In July 2021, Breeze Airways began nonstop service to four cities.<sup>[47]</sup> In October 2021, Sun Country Airlines announced it would enter the Pittsburgh market with service to its hub at Minneapolis/St. Paul.<sup>[48]</sup>



Airside Terminal, with the Alexander Calder mobile Pittsburgh on display in center

Starting in September 2017, non-ticketed persons were allowed to access the airside terminal and gates, similar to pre-9/11 policy. Pittsburgh was the first airport (since 9/11) in the nation to allow non-passengers to pass through security to dine and shop in a post-security terminal. Participants can sign up for myPITpass on the airport's website and must pass through the alternate security checkpoint before continuing through to the Airmall in the airside terminal.<sup>[15]</sup> The airport became one of the first in the United States to use a new TSA system called Credential Authentication Technology, which phases out the use of boarding passes at TSA security checkpoints in favor of a stronger system that verifies passengers based solely on a government-issued ID.