

Airmail Routes in the United States, 1927



Note: The first U.S. airmail flight took off in 1918. By 1927 mail was flown on 24 major routes. To beat the trains, mail planes had to fly at night and in all weather, which led to the development of instruments that made flights more reliable. Airmail service also accelerated the development of air routes, airports, and navigation systems.

Source: Data from *Historical Atlas of the United States, Centennial Edition*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1988