



## Association for Postal Commerce

"Representing those who use or support the use of mail for Business Communication and Commerce"

**"You will be able to enjoy only those postal rights you believe are worth defending."**

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### *Postal News for May 2015*

*May 31, 2015*

#### *Domestic Postal News*

**Washington Post**: Six years after the end of the Great Recession, Americans are startlingly anxious about their economic prospects. The in a way that suggests that the consumer psychology may have fundamentally changed, with people less willing to spend than they were in economic prosperity. Government data released Friday showed that the economy shrank at a 0.7 percent annual rate between January and February as consumers pulled back on spending. The disappointing numbers interrupted a steady clip of positive economic news that many analysts said the nation was on the verge of liftoff. Although the United States faces other headwinds, the newfound prudence of American consumers has created a core economic dilemma. Some economists say that the recession caused a psychological trauma deeper than initially appreciated, leaving consumers unwilling to inject their money back into the economy in the form of vacations, clothing and nights out.

**PoliticsUSA**: Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) won another victory in the battle against privatizing mail delivery. He has quietly backed off of a plan to close 82 mail processing plants.

**WDBJ**: The U.S. Postal Service cited "operational considerations," and the need to ensure "prompt, reliable and predictable service," to delay its consolidation plan. A local union leader says the facility in Greensboro that was slated to process Roanoke's mail cannot handle the volume. Cooper is the President of American Postal Workers Union Local 482. He says Roanoke's mail now goes to Greensboro to be cancelled and 10 percent of it is hauled back to Roanoke for processing. "You need to fight for first class service for a first class stamp," Cooper told WDBJ. "And I know that the postal service is not coming to their end of the bargain." The Postal Service says the planned consolidation will re

*May 30, 2015*

#### *Postal and Federal News*

**Office of the President**: President Obama announced his intent to nominate Marie Therese Dominguez, Nominee for Administrator of the National Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation. Marie Therese Dominguez served as Vice President for Government Relations for the United States Postal Service from 2007 to 2013.

**Federal Register**: **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** New Postal Products , 31082 [2015-13120] [[TEXT](#)] Postal Products; A 13070] [[TEXT](#)]

#### *Attention Postal One! Users:*

- **PostalOne! Release 41.0.4.0** will be deployed on Sunday morning May 31, 2015 between 4:00 AM and 10:00 AM CT. This r

Release 41.0. This release will require an extended maintenance window. The PostalOne! system will not be available May 31 through 10:00 AM CT. There will be an optional Mail.dat® client download created with the release. The download will not require the submission of Mail.dat. Changes in validations of update jobs will occur in both the available clients(41.0.0.1 and 41.0.4.0) and

- **PostalOne! Release 41.0.4.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** will occur on Sunday morning May 31, 2015. Validation will occur on Monday, June 1, 2015 between 9:00 AM CT and 11:00 AM CT. TEM environment will not be available until completed on Monday June 1, 2015 at 11:00AM CT.

Release notes for PostalOne! Release 41.0.3.0 and 41.0.4.0 can be found on [https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail\\_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm).

### *International Postal News*

**IRELAND:** *The Irish Times*: Postage fees are to increase from July in order to stem unsustainable financial losses at An Post, the company. In a statement, An Post said that following a review of pricing, rates for postal services will increase from July 1st. The standard domestic 100g within Ireland will increase from 68c to 70c while the standard international letter rate up to 100g will increase from €1.00 to €1.10. "Despite Post's ongoing cost reduction and product innovation initiatives, the increase is necessary to stem the unsustainable financial losses arising from the Universal Service Obligation – losses totalled €38m in 2014 – whereby customers in all areas of the country are provided with daily collection for a uniform tariff," said the statement.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *ThisIsMoney*: A bumper pay rise for Royal Mail's boss has outstripped that of posties after she received a 13 per cent package. Until last year, Moya Greene had not had a pay hike since joining the firm five years ago. In that time, postal workers saw the company's annual report yesterday revealed that Greene saw her total pay and perks rise 13 per cent last year to £1.5million. As well as the package includes two annual return flights to her native Canada, which appear to have cost the company a total of £14,000.

*May 29, 2015*



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**WORLD MAIL & EXPRESS EUROPE**

**8TH - 10TH JUNE 2015 - BELGIUM**

*The growth in cross border e-commerce, its implications for customs and security processes, continued examples of diversification strategies, and the need to become more and more environmentally friendly are clearly the hot topics of the day. [The 2015 World Mail & Express Europe Conference & Exhibition](#) is being held at the magnificent Château du Lac on the shore of Lake Genval, Belgium. The programme will explore the pressures being placed on organisations in the mail and express sectors to deliver their core activity: the delivery of physical items on a universal or quasi-universal scale. The World Mail & Express Europe conference will be held on the 8th to the 10th of June and the World Mail Awards on the 9th of June. [Senior executives from the industry](#) will be speaking about 'redefining delivery' where the speakers will be talking about cost-effective methods of delivery in an ever changing and adapting industry. Here is a list of some of the [attendees](#) from [around the world](#).*

Visit: [www.triangle.eu.com/europe](http://www.triangle.eu.com/europe) for the latest programme information. [Register today!!](#)

## *Postal and Federal News*

**USPS Industry Alert: Labeling List and Mail Direction Files Publication Delayed** The publication of the July 1, 2015 labeling lists will be delayed in order to make necessary adjustments to the modified facility consolidation schedule. New labeling list files will be posted on the Fulfillment (EPF) website and on the FAST website (under Resources) on Friday, June 5, 2015, for the July 1, 2015 effective date.

### *USPS DMM Advisory:*

- **PostalOne!® Release 41.0.4.0** – will be deployed on Sunday morning May 31, 2015 between 4 AM and 10 AM CT. This release includes fixes to Release 41.0. It will require an extended maintenance window and the **PostalOne! system will not be available between 4 AM and 10 AM CT**. An optional Mail.dat® client download will be created with this release. The download will be required for submission of Mail.dat. Changes in validation of update jobs will occur in both of the available clients (41.0.0.1 and 41.0.4.0) and both will be supported.
- **PostalOne! Release 41.0.4.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** – will occur on Sunday morning May 31, 2015 between 9 AM and 11 AM CT. TEM validation will occur on Monday, June 1, 2015 between 9 AM and 11 AM CT. **TEM will not be available until after 11 AM on Monday, June 1, 2015.**
- Release notes for PostalOne! Release 41.0.3.0 and 41.0.4.0 can be found on [https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail\\_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm).

### *Attention Business Customer Gateway Users:*

- **Program Registration Release 14.0.0.1** — will be deployed to Production from 00:00 am (Midnight) to 4:00 am CDT on Sunday, June 7, 2015. There will be an outage and the Online Enrollment Service and Incentive Program accessible via the Business Customer Gateway will be unavailable during this time.

### *Attention Postal One! Users:*

- **PostalOne!® Release 41.0.3.0 Production Deployment-** PostalOne! Release 41.0.3.0 will deploy on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 9:00 PM CT. This release includes new business functionality, fixes to issues from Release 41.0 and updates to existing functionality. There will be an outage and the application will remain online during the deployment. There will be no mandatory Mail.dat® client download created with the release. The download will not auto-update or be required for submission of Mail.dat. Changes in validation of update jobs will occur in both the available clients (41.0.0.1 and 41.0.4.0) and both will be supported.
- **PostalOne! Release 41.0.3.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** will also occur on Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 9:00PM CT. The PostalOne! TEM validation will occur on Friday, May 29, 2015 between 9:00AM CT and 11:00AM CT. TEM validation will occur on Friday May 29, 2015 until after TEM validation is completed. PostalOne! Release 41.0.4.0 will be deployed on Sunday, May 31, 2015 between 4:00 AM and 10:00 AM CT. This release includes fixes to Release 41.0. This release will require an extended maintenance window and the **PostalOne! system will not be available May 31, 2015 between 4:00 AM CT through 10:00 AM CT**. There will be an optional Mail.dat® client download created with the release. The download will not auto-update or be required for submission of Mail.dat. Changes in validation of update jobs will occur in both the available clients (41.0.0.1 and 41.0.4.0) and both will be supported. PostalOne! Release 41.0.4.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM) will occur on Sunday morning May 31, 2015.
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Release notes for PostalOne! Release 41.0.3.0 and 41.0.4.0 can be found on [https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail\\_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm).

## *Domestic Postal News*

**Charlotte Observer:** Red Ventures, the Internet marketing firm based in Indian Land, S.C., said Thursday that it has completed its \$310 million acquisition of the marketing services firm Imagitas, which facilitates change of address requests for the U.S. Postal Service. Red Ventures had announced a definitive agreement to buy Imagitas from Pitney Bowes, a Stamford, Conn.-based e-commerce company that provides shipping and marketing engagement insight.

**Post & Parcel:** America's postal regulator has thrown out a formal complaint by a trade union about the US Postal Service failing to meet its service targets. A complaint by the American Postal Workers Union was rejected by the Postal Regulatory Commission despite the fact that the Commission found the Postal Service failed to meet its service targets in its most recent full financial year (2014). The union first put forward the complaint in 2013, but the regulator initially rejecting it on the grounds that the union was not eligible to make its complaint because it could not show it was being harmed by the Service's compliance failure. Reconsidering an amended version of the complaint, yesterday the Commission declined to consider it on the grounds that the union "did not raise the issue of USPS service problems in its own annual review of USPS compliance. As a result, the Commission decided that the union did not raise new material issues of fact for the Commission to consider".

### *International Postal News*

**CANADA:** **Entrepreneur:** Canada has always been a top destination for U.S. online sellers that want to test the waters of an international market. A neighbor's proximity, coupled with the fact that many of its residents speak English, make it the perfect first step to expanding a business. Impressively, as much as 60 percent of online Canadian shoppers buy from American merchants. But despite the inherent opportunities, there are some challenges ahead. An upcoming change in postal rates will impact cross-border shipping; and businesses should be aware: On May 31, the U.S. Postal Service will implement a zone-based pricing for priority mail international shipments heading to Canada.

**ISRAEL:** **The Jewish Press:** Religiously observant mailmen in Ashkelon are pleading with the Yad L'Achim anti-missionary organization on their behalf so that they don't have to deliver missionary material to tens of thousands of homes. The mailmen had asked their employer, Israel Post, to stop the task on the grounds that it offends their religious sensibilities, but their request fell on deaf ears. Yad L'Achim appealed directly to the court to have the delivery of the offensive material, produced by a local Baptist cult, be immediately suspended. One of its legal advisers, Moshe Morgenstern, says the distribution of the flyers, in Hebrew and Russian, was a violation of the law banning attempts to entice minors to convert. Morgenstern says that children who arrive home from school before their parents and collect the mail, are the first to be exposed to the material.

**POLAND:** **Post & Parcel:** Polish Post has reported that it will continue to be the designated universal services operator (USO) for Poland. The company won the contest organized by the President of the Office of Electronic Communications, the regulator of postal market.

*May 28, 2015*

### *Postal and Federal News*

#### ***Office of the USPS Inspector General:***

- **Spring 2015 Semiannual Report to Congress** The Office of Inspector General is tasked with ensuring efficiency, accountability, and integrity of the Postal Service. We also have the distinct mission of helping to maintain confidence in the mail and postal system by the use of our authority to help protect the integrity of the Postal Service. We just released our Semiannual Report to Congress, which presents a snapshot of how we fulfill our mission for the 6-month period ending March 31, 2015. Read the report. [Unscheduled Leave in the Chicago District](#) subscribed to Audit Reports for U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General. This information has recently been updated, and you will receive an email notification when it is updated.
- **Unscheduled Leave in the Chicago District** Unscheduled leave is any absence from work that is not requested or approved in advance by management to replace experienced employees, resulting in additional work hours or overtime. This could negatively impact morale. The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) monitors unscheduled leave using the Human Resources Report. This report identifies risks that could impact employee morale, productivity, efficiency, and costs. Our objective was to assess unscheduled leave across the Postal Service and identify opportunities to reduce it.

**Federal Register:** **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** Postal Products; Amendments , 30502–30503 [2015–12906] [[TEXT](#)] 30

**Sen. Jon Tester:** As the U.S. Postal Service continues to face a budgetary shortfall, Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Heidi Heitkamp (Ore.) are providing data so policymakers can make informed decisions on how to improve service in rural America. Tester and Heitkamp wrote Postal Regulatory Commission Chairman Robert Taub to urge his agency to conduct an in-depth study of rural mail delivery. The Senators want the study to focus on rural communities and between urban and rural communities. They requested that PRC's findings be made public semi-annually. [Tester and Heitkamp's letter is available online.](#)

## *Domestic Postal News*

**Reuters:** May 28 Amazon.com Inc said on Thursday it will expand same-day delivery to San Diego and the Tampa Bay Area under its Prime Air service, which has been an engine of revenue growth for the online seller. Amazon offers same-day delivery to Prime members for \$5.99 per order or \$8.99 plus 99 cents per unit. It will now allow Prime members free same-day shipping on orders over \$35, Greg Greeley, head of Prime Air, said. "Prime same-day delivery volumes will grow dramatically now that we are making it free," he said. See also [The Wall Street Journal](#).

**Federal News Radio:** Facing opposition stretching from Capitol Hill to rural communities, the Postal Service has put off a key part of its network consolidation plan that continues to lose billions of dollars a year. USPS will postpone until 2016 nearly all processing facility consolidations. Approximately 100 facilities will be affected, according to agency spokeswoman Sue Brennan. Brennan said the agency based its decision on operational considerations. "The Postal Service will continue to provide prompt, reliable and predictable service consistent with the published service standards," she said. "We will continue to implement network efficiencies and pursue service performance improvements as it has always done." Lawmakers represent rural areas oppose the Postal Service's decision, while calling for studies that could further delay network changes.

**AllGov:** The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is delaying another round of shuttering post offices and other facilities—a move that could save \$1 billion a year—because of opposition on multiple fronts. USPS officials were preparing to close 82 locations this year as part of its "network rationalization" consolidation effort that saw 141 facilities eliminated in 2012. The 2012 closures have saved USPS \$865 million annually. The dates for the 2013 closures have been changed to "TBD" (to be determined), according to the latest schedule (xls) produced by the agency. The closures have come under fire from Republicans and Democrats in Congress whose states and districts faced job losses as a result. More than 7,000 jobs are expected to be lost.

**NBC Miami:** The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is increasing efforts to ensure the safety of mail carriers by offering a hefty reward to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of anyone robbing a letter carrier or robbing postal property. It's called the Robbery Reward Program.

**American Postal Workers Union:** Contract negotiations between the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the U.S. Postal Service ended in a stalemate on May 27. The union and management had agreed to extend the current labor contract, which expired on May 20, for a one-month period until midnight. With no new agreement in place, the APWU and USPS will begin a mediation process that is expected to last approximately 60 days. During the terms of the current contract will remain in place. During this round of contract talks, the APWU made the unprecedented move of returning to the bargaining table, insisting that quality service is crucial to maintaining a strong, public Postal Service.

**Northland News Center:** Representative Rick Nolan is angry that the U.S. Postal Service plans to shut down postal services in Duluth. At a rally on Wednesday, Congressman Nolan stood up with others who support keeping Duluth's processing and distribution facility open. Nolan says he strongly opposes the service slowing down mail delivery from overnight to anywhere from three days to a week. He says that slowdown is having serious impacts on businesses, newspapers, advertisers and the general public. One speaker at the rally called out Wisconsin lawmakers for not helping end the service cuts. "I live in Wisconsin I hope you make a call to Mr. Duffy or Congressman, your Senator Johnson, because they have not supported any postal workers," Todd Fawcett of the American Postal Workers Union said.

**The Register-Guard:** The U.S. Postal Service's processing centers in Springfield and Bend have been removed from a closure list and will remain open in the foreseeable future, members of Oregon's congressional delegation said today. The announcement was made by the offices of U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden, and U.S. Reps. Peter DeFazio, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer, Kurt Schrader and Suzanne Bonamici. The two centers' removal was announced after a recent meeting between delegation members and Deputy Postmaster General Ronald Stroman.

**The Wall Street Journal:** The idea that mobile advertising budgets will inevitably catch up to the amount of time people spend with their smartphones is taken as gospel in the marketing world. But what if they don't? Today, the latest Internet Trends report from noted prognosticator Mary Meeker's investment firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers provided more fodder for true mobile ad believers, particularly with a slide showing the amount of time Americans spend consuming mobile media and the amount of money advertisers are willing to spend on the medium. Meeker sees the mobile ad market as a \$25 billion opportunity in the U.S.. People are currently spending 24% of their media time with mobile devices, but spending just 8% of their budgets on mobile ads, she found.

## *International Postal News*

**ARMENIA: News.am:** The Government of the Republic of Armenia (RA) approved a draft amendment in the law on the 2006-2007 Privatization of State Property, which proposes to add Haypost company—the national postal service of the country—on the list of enterprises subject to privatization.

Zhoghovurd daily. "The fact is that, after Argentinean Armenian billionaire Eduardo Eurnekian came to Armenia and met with RA Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan, the government launched a process aimed at the privatization of Haypost.

**BULGARIA:** [Focus](#): "Postal market in Bulgaria reports a sustainable growth in terms of revenues, increasing by 5% every year," Bulgaria's Minister of Transport, Information Technologies and Communications Valeri Borisov said speaking at the opening of the 50th plenary sitting of the Postal Regulation (CERP), which takes place in the Bulgarian capital city Sofia, the press office of the ministry announced. "Development of the postal market brought a serious increase in the shipments of goods, as the so-called non-universal postal services make around 80% of the total market," Borisov explained. "The dynamic growth of the online trade provides a new niche for the postal operators – delivering goods ordered online," Borisov remarked.

**CHINA:** [Wall Street Journal](#): Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. is ramping up efforts to speed up delivery services to more Chinese cities to meet consumer expectations, even as it presses its logistics partners to crack down on practices that hurt its reputation. The Chinese e-commerce giant's hopes to offer next-day deliveries in 50 cities by the end of this year, up from 34 cities currently, Cainiao President Judy Tong said. In a meeting with logistics and delivery partners earlier Thursday, she also urged the logistics companies it works with to refrain from waging a fierce price war to meet service standards. If it continues, "ultimately we will lose this market," she told the audience.

**GERMANY :** [Postal Technology International](#): Parcel carriers DHL, GLS and DPD have joined forces to participate in a trial of a new letterbox by Irish-based start-up parcelhome.com. The company claims that the new letterbox can accommodate 95% of all parcel deliveries, with a size of 16 x 13in. It can also be easily fitted at the customer's home with wall mounted or free standing installations. The trial will run until July in 100 households in the city of Mechelen, Belgium, near Brussels.

**GERMANY :** [Eyefortransport](#): Deutsche Post DHL is investing in innovation to play a leadership role in the global development of the logistics industry and to shape a sustainable future.

**GERMANY:** [Transport Intelligence](#): Siemens announced that it has broken out its Logistics and Airport Solutions business as an independent company named Siemens Postal, Parcel & Airport Logistics GmbH. Siemens Postal, Parcel & Airport Logistics GmbH (SPPAL) goes into operation in 2015. The business with mail, parcel and baggage handling systems, currently known in the market as Logistics and Airport Solutions, will become an independent company under the Siemens umbrella. The carve-out in Germany has been undertaken as a step to ensure the company's strong long term its position as a provider of technology and solutions for logistics processes.

**EUROPE:** [Eyefortransport](#): More than 30 mostly European organisations are pressing for the development of unmanned cargo aircraft. Airlines, shippers, universities and aircraft manufacturers, grouped under the name Platform for UCA (PUCA), are researching technological solutions and hoping to attract investment.

**May 27, 2015**

*Postal and Federal News*

**[Office of the Inspector General of the USPS: Unscheduled Leave in the Chicago District -- Audit Report HR-AR-15-006, May 21, 2015](#)**

**What The OIG Found.** District management did not effectively oversee unscheduled leave, which led to 635 of 7,804 employees using 344,121 of 737,787 unscheduled leave hours (47 percent). These employees averaged 542 hours compared to the remaining employees, averaging 55 hours of leave. We referred these employees to the OIG's Office of Investigations for further review. Of the 635 employees visited, representing 185 of the 635 employees (29 percent), 40 of 60 supervisors (67 percent) did not receive training on the Enterprise Resource Management System — the Postal Service's leave management system — and 32 (53 percent) did not receive training on leave management. In addition, supervisors did not consistently use the system to monitor unscheduled leave use. Further, district officials did not have a process to review the management of unscheduled leave activity. Finally, district Labor Relations personnel did not review leave activity as required. Reducing the group of 635 employees' average individual leave usage of 542 hours, to the remaining employees' average of 55 hours, would reduce about 309,000 of the 737,787 total unscheduled leave hours (42 percent). This represents about \$3.3 million in costs not used more efficiently in FY 2014.

**What The OIG Recommended.** We recommended management train supervisors and provide guidelines on the Enterprise Resource Management System and leave control. We also recommended management establish processes to ensure reviews of employee leave management are completed.

**USPS Industry Alert: Network Rationalization Initiative** -- The Postal Service has decided to defer most of the plant consolidations to take place this summer as the final stage of its Network Rationalization Initiative. The Network Rationalization Initiative is the multi-phase, in 2011 to balance mail processing infrastructure costs against current and anticipated mail volumes and successfully right-size the postal decision to defer the next phase of the initiative was based upon operational considerations, and was made to ensure that the Postal Service prompt, reliable and predictable service consistent with the published service standards. *The planned consolidation activities will resume* Service will continue to implement network efficiencies and pursue service performance improvements as it has always done.

**Government Accountability Office: Report to the Ranking Member, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate -- U.S. Postal Service Improved Management Procedures Needed for Parcel Select Contracts**

**What GAO Found:** In June 2014, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) established standard procedures that departments should follow for negotiated service agreement (NSA) contracts, including Parcel Select NSAs. Although the procedures, in part, address some management practices, such as defining performance management activities, they lack documentation requirements and clearly defined management responsibilities for some activities. For example, the procedures do not require USPS to document some key management decisions, such as USPS's decision to forego additional revenue when a mailer did not ship a minimum volume of packages, as contractually required. Documenting such information could improve future decision making and enhance accountability for the effective and efficient use of resources. USPS acknowledged that the procedures contained gaps when they were initially established. Reviewing and updating the procedures to include documentation requirements and clearly defined management responsibilities would provide additional information to help USPS's Parcel Select NSAs are effectively managed. USPS's costing method for Parcel Select NSAs does not account for parcel size or use contract-specific cost estimates. Each Parcel Select NSA is required to earn sufficient revenues to cover USPS's costs—"attributable costs" in the postal context. The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), which annually reviews compliance, determines whether a contract met this requirement. However, USPS's analysis of attributable costs for Parcel Select NSAs is limited, because USPS does not collect information on the impact of package size or weight on specific contracts or developed contract-specific cost estimates.

- **Package size and weight information:** USPS does not collect information on the size of NSA packages and has not studied the impact of package size and weight on USPS's delivery costs for specific contracts. However, larger and heavier packages can increase USPS's costs. For example, carriers must walk packages that are too large for a centralized mailbox to the customer's door, which increases costs. USPS encourages mailers to use size and weight to inform their own business decisions. For example, one mailer continually assesses package size and weight to make effective decisions about the delivery method it chooses. If mailers route larger or heavier packages via Parcel Select, collecting such information could improve USPS's analysis of attributable costs for Parcel Select NSAs.

- **Contract-specific cost estimates:** USPS's method to determine attributable costs uses average cost estimates for the Parcel Select NSAs instead of contract-specific cost estimates. USPS's use of averages further limits its analysis of the extent to which each Parcel Select NSA's attributable costs, because USPS had not studied the extent to which the size and weight of packages shipped under individual contracts deviated from the characteristics of packages USPS used to estimate the average.

USPS officials questioned whether the benefits of developing contract-specific cost estimates would exceed the costs; however, USPS has used less intensive methods, such as sampling, to improve estimates for other products in the past.

## *Domestic Postal News*

**The Digital Marketing Blog:** The rise in data collection and analytics is leading more and more marketers to target specific consumers for their advertising use. Now that the market is shifting to mobile, the industry is working hard to advance the science and tech of cutting edge targeting and advertising campaigns. So far, advertisers like what they see, but clamor for even more clarity, according to eMarketer's new report, "Marketing: Have Industry Advances Raised Advertisers' Confidence Levels?"

**Fierce Government:** The Postal Regulatory Commission, a commission independent of the Postal Service that acts as its regulatory agency, recently ruled that it would not hear an appeal on the closure of a rural Idaho post office because it didn't have the authority to overturn a Postal Service decision to close a contracted-out community post office if it is the sole source of postal services in the community. It wasn't the case.

**Salon:** What got many people so excited last year about the concept of postal banking – enabling the U.S. Postal Service to provide expanded financial services to the 68 million Americans with little or no access to them — was a government white paper from the post office's Inspector General, outlining the advantages of such a program. In a nutshell, USPS IG David Williams explained how postal banking could promote financial inclusion.

while turning a small profit for the Postal Service besides, a complete win-win idea. Now, Williams' office has delivered a follow-up re Postal Financial Services," which goes into more detail about what a modern postal banking system might look like. Unfortunately, mu Hill since last January, and none of it good. If a Democratic Senate majority couldn't get pro-postal banking members onto the Postal S there's little hope that the current Republican majority will. However, this remains a tremendous idea to relieve economic inequality an public-sector ladder into the middle class; and continued agitation just might get it done.

**Palm Beach Post:** As the Federal Trade Commission weighs the proposed merger of Staples and Office Depot, the American Postal W busters to nix the deal. The FTC rejected in 1997 a marriage of Staples of Framingham, Massachusetts, and Office Depot of Boca Rato argue that the rise of Amazon, Walmart and Staples have changed the competitive landscape.

**Government Executive:** Amid a barrage of pressure from across the spectrum of postal stakeholders, the U.S. Postal Service has indefi facility closures scheduled for later this year. In each of the last two sessions of Congress, lawmakers in both parties pleaded with posta delay the consolidations, which would have cost thousands of jobs and essentially eliminated overnight delivery. Postal unions and larg against the closures. USPS had dates set to shutter each of the remaining phase two facilities, but in the most recently updated, publicly for 68 of those plans have been changed to "TBD" -- to be determined. The new round of consolidations has caused outcry from custom service standards have been negatively impacted even more than anticipated. USPS declined to comment on the reasons for the postpor

**The Cannabist:** An Oregon Court of Appeals panel has ruled that a U.S. postal inspector and Portland police had no legal authority to o based on their contraband hunches and a police dog's reaction after sniffing the item. The Oregonian reports Wednesday's ruling is exp standing practice of having a postal inspector and two police officers pulling aside and examining express-mail packages at a Portland cargo center without first obtaining search warrants.

**Lubbock Avalanche-Journal:** Americans have grown up with Saturday mail delivery, and we think many would miss it if was stopped mail only on five days a week is one of several changes the United States Postal Service needs to make. The days of long handwritten l but gone, but our nation's mail will go on. However, it should be delivered only five days a week. Like it or not, Saturday mail deliveri

**KFDM:** In the aftermath of torrential rain and overnight flooding that has crippled Houston City, shut down highways and left thousan service will make mail deliveries where possible. As water recedes in impacted areas and conditions improve, we will make every atten where delivery was not permissible due to flooding. Each day, Houston City Post Offices deliver mail to approximately 2.1 million resi customers in the 770 ZIP Code areas. Houston City post offices have 2,435 city letter carriers and 240 rural carriers who deliver four m residents of Houston City daily.

**Boston Globe:** A longstanding bid to move the US Postal Service sorting facility out of the way of a South Station expansion essential — and may also jeopardize a second project: building a new boulevard that would let thousands of Olympics spectators walk along For stadium.

**Consumerist:** Last October, United Parcel Service announced it would attempt to cut down on delivery stops and protect consumers' pa with its Access Point service that drops off packages at local businesses where you can pick them up at your convenience. While the id who doesn't want to protect their unattended packages? – in practice, it appears there are still a few kinks to work out: Mainly that peop service, and the packages may not be as secure as we'd hoped.

### *International Postal News*


**ARMENIA** [Panorama:](#) The Armenian government on Thursday approved the draft decision on the privatization of HayPost CSJC.


**SWITZERLAND** [Post & Parcel:](#) Swiss Post has said its 2015 is off to a "good start" with profits rising 13% in the first quarter. The sta its Group profit reached CHF 225m in the first three months of the year, helped mainly by its financial services. [1 CHF = 0.97 EUR]

*May 26, 2015*


### ***Domestic Postal News***





 [Toledo Blade](#): Toledo Councilman Steven Steel today demanded that the U.S. Postal Service restore the sorting of outbound mail from to eliminate other mail processing operations at the sorting facility on St. Clair Street. "I think the notion of consolidating mail sorting and sorting service has been a failed experiment. I think it is time for the postal service to admit that it is a failed experiment," Councilman said at a conference in Government Center. The councilman said he plans to introduce a resolution at today's council meeting urging the Postal Service to move to the processing and distribution center on St. Clair in the Toledo Warehouse District.

 [eCommerceBytes](#): Stamps.com revealed that its planned acquisition of Endicia is still proceeding through the Hart-Scott-Rodino antitrust review. Ken McBride said during the company's recent quarterly earnings call, "We are currently in the regulatory review process with the Department of Justice. The timing of that process remains uncertain." The pre-merger review process is set up so that the US DOJ and the Federal Trade Commission review acquiring and acquired firms are competitors, or are related in any other way such that a combination of the two firms might adversely affect competition.

### ***International Postal News***


 [BBC](#): Postal staff in New Zealand are to get electric tricycles to help them deliver greater volumes of parcels. The three-wheelers, which will be used to drive on the pavement alongside pedestrians, are being issued to staff in the North Island city of New Plymouth and will eventually be rolled out across the country, Radio New Zealand reports. There'll also be electric four-wheelers which will cost around NZ\$20,000 (\$14,500; £9,500) each. The media have dubbed "Postman Pat cars" after the British children's TV character. NZ Post official Ashley Smout told the radio that the vehicles are being used because the rise of online shopping meant that delivery staff are carrying larger parcel loads on their rounds while fewer people are seen on the streets. Weighing of up to 300kg (660lbs), the vehicles allow postal and parcel rounds to be combined for greater efficiency, the New Zealand Herald says.


 [Daily Nation](#): The Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology has renewed the contract of the postmaster general in state agencies. ICT Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i, in a letter addressed to Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Joseph Kinjira, has renewed Kinjira's term for three years. The Postal Corporation of Kenya board had evaluated Mr Kinjira, whose term expires in August and rejected him to go at the helm of Posta based on his poor performance. Correspondence seen by the Nation between the two State agencies indicates that the new term is in disregard of the board's recommendation and contrary to stipulated procedures.

 [CBC](#): It'll be a historic day in Hamilton courts on Tuesday as Canada Post faces off against the city over where it can put super mailboxes. The city is installing community mailboxes across Hamilton Mountain as part of a nationwide plan to phase out urban door-to-door mail delivery. The city says how they do it and has gone to court to assert those rights. Canada Post rejects this notion, saying federal legislation gives it a mandate that municipal powers trumps municipal powers. The fight is being watched by many other municipalities across the country, all of which are facing similar pressure to install super mailboxes.

*May 25, 2015*

### ***International Postal News***

 [Stuff](#): New Zealand Post will next week introduce high-tech three and four-wheeled vehicles to deliver mail and parcels in the city. The vehicles will carry as much mail as four posties and will be trialled in New Plymouth before being rolled out around the rest of the country next year. NZ Post chief executive Ashley Smout, said a decline in residential mail and an increase in parcels were behind the beginning of the vehicle service and New Plymouth was chosen as the test ground because of its geography.

 [The Globe and Mail](#): In Canada Post Corp. president Deepak Chopra's world, the parcel business is like American Pharoah, winner of the Kentucky Derby Preakness Stakes. Delivering your cable bill or letters from grandma, on the other hand, is more like Upstart, the horse that finished dead last. "You have to place your bets on horses that can win," Mr. Chopra said as he defended the controversial decision to end home mail delivery at an annual meeting last week. And the parcel business, he insisted, is a "winning horse," while letter mail is in "epic decline." A year and a half ago when he announced its plan to become financially viable, Mr. Chopra is making it clear that Canada Post's fortunes are now inexorably tied to parcel delivery. Whether Mr. Chopra can generate enough revenue in the expanding world of e-commerce to offset the demise of mail, its main business, remains to be seen.

*May 23, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***



[National Postal Mailhandlers Union](#): May 22, 2015- The USPS announced significant changes to the Network Rationalization Consolidation initiative. With the exception of the Houston P&DC and Queens, the USPS suspended all remaining closures and consolidations to a date to be determined. The National Office of Inspector General held a meeting to discuss the implications of this decision. Additional information will be disseminated as it becomes available.



[National Association of Letter Carriers](#): Last week, a private mail delivery company in the UK called Whistl announced it was ceasing operations, on the heels of its loss of a private equity investor's funding. Whistl (formerly called TNT Post) was established as a joint venture between a postal operator PostNL and a private equity company called LDC (part of Lloyd's Banking Group). In 2012, Whistl became the first private company in the UK to introduce large-scale end-to-end delivery of mail—the pickup, processing and delivery of mail. The company began operations in major UK cities of London, Manchester and Liverpool, and said its goal was to have 42 percent of UK addresses covered by its end-to-end service. Last month, LDC pulled out of the joint venture. Whistl's difficulties follow the recent collapse of a private parcel delivery company in the UK. The new private delivery companies rely on contracted delivery employees, or employees on so-called "zero hours" contracts, establishing irregular employment in the postal sector. The companies also have been accused of "cherry picking"— that is, focusing only on the most profitable routes to the detriment of nationwide universal service provision.

[Motley Fool](#): In an earlier article, I looked at the three big changes facing FedEx Corp. and United Parcel Service in the shipping market. A shift in consumer preference toward slower/lower-cost delivery options and burgeoning e-commerce deliveries, have contributed to the decline of SmartPost and UPS's SurePost. Both services offer lower-cost ground delivery options and use the U.S. Postal Service, or USPS, for final delivery to consumers. As such, SmartPost and SurePost both carry risk due to their reliance on the USPS. The U.S. Postal Service is increasing its reliance on these companies. In truth, SmartPost and SurePost contribute much more in volume growth than they do in profit. The question for FedEx and UPS is how to carry on increasing SmartPost and SurePost shipping volumes . . . or rein in volume growth by trying to shift retailers to their traditional shipping methods.

[Wall Street Journal](#): Proponents of getting the mailman more involved with financial services say it could help solve two persistent problems: providing banking services to the "underbanked" while aiding the depressed finances of the postal service. Including banking in post office services was proposed last past by the Postal Service inspector general and is backed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D, Mass.) as a way to bring basic banking services to underserved areas. The Postal Service declined to comment Friday. It's unclear how much impact the new report may have though. The postal service already has a service to send money abroad, "Dinero Seguro," also called Sure Money. But while Dinero Seguro allows customers to wire money to nine Latin American countries, "languishing" while the money transfer business continues to grow, according to the Inspector General Report.

## ***International Postal News***

[Economic Times](#): The Department of Posts (DoP) is likely to soon start a Rs 1,370-crore mega project that will allow India's 1.3 lakh post offices to use network-connected handheld terminals for postal delivery. The devices will have a biometric module to authenticate an individual's identity, a solar-powered panel for charging terminals and a thermal printer to instantly print receipts.

May 22, 2015


## ***Domestic Postal News***


[Independent Community Bankers Association](#): Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA) President and CEO Camden McLaughlin issued the following statement following the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General's proposal to significantly expand the number of financial products that can be provided by a post office to become a licensed bank.


"ICBA strongly disagrees with the assertion that the answer to the U.S. Postal Service's growing operational, management and financial problems is entering the banking industry. The Postal Service has rung up billions of dollars in losses, is defaulting on required payments for its health-care plan, can't borrow another dime from the U.S. Treasury and receives an estimated \$18 billion annually in taxpayer subsidies and special privileges. "The Postal Service's role in delivering the mail does not make it a good fit for handling credit or lending to consumers. The idea of trying to salvage a floundering operation by venturing into a new business with inherent risks and for which the Postal Service lacks the qualifications or expertise defies logic, reason and prudence. "Financial services are being provided competitively in the private market. The thing we need is more government intervention in Americans' personal finances—one that would further put taxpayers on the hook for the Postal Service's mounting losses. The Office of Inspector General's proposal would be a disaster waiting to happen. "Furthermore, the Postal Service should cease playing the role of business consultant to USPS and instead focus on evaluating and improving USPS' existing products and services. The traditional role of an Inspector General."



[American Postal Workers Union](#): The Postmaster's Advisory Committee (MTAC) is made up of approximately 150 multi-national companies and mailing industry groups. These corporations and their associations are often comprised of executives, members of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) and the USPS Board of Governors. Such individuals have personal connections and influence in the Postal Service. As a result, they are able to effectively lobby the Postal Service and Congress on behalf of their new corporate employers. Notably, many of the MTAC advisory committee members are also media spokespersons. In addition, many members belong to more than one business association. As a result, the larger corporations frequently have more than one representative at the MTAC meetings. Many former corporate representatives now working in high-level management positions at the Postal Service. This revolving door of corporate executives, along with the influence of big-business, helps promote changes that benefit corporations in the postal industry – often at the expense of the public good.

 [Quad Graphics Blog](#): Standard Mail flats will experience a range of change from a decrease of 1% to an increase of 6.5%. Periodicals will experience a change from a decrease of 7% to an increase of about 15%. The wide range for Standard Mail is due to the transition to FSS pricing. The transition to FSS pricing for the non-FSS carrier route price, so clients that have large percentages of carrier route and/or high density volume will realize increases in the carrier route portion of the mail (about 20% of the total volume on average). However, the 3- and 5-digit portion will see decreases of about 1-2% by not paying the FSS price which is lower than non-FSS 3- and 5-digit prices. If you're confused, join the crowd. This is why we have been cautious in our statements about what a particular mailing might experience for an increase. Every client and every mailing has to be analyzed on its own merits. Which price cells the volume currently falls into and the price cells it will end up in under the new structure, the impact can and will vary.

 [Newsmax](#): The United States Postal Service's plan to replace its entire fleet of more than 200,000 mail trucks at once doesn't make sense, says a former USPS executive on Thursday. During a hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, representatives from the government and the private industry said the vehicles do need to be replaced. But a smarter, more cost-effective solution would be to do so over time, according to The Hill's Tom Ichniowski. However, there might not be enough money for the Postal Service to buy the vehicles. And even if the agency were to buy a new fleet of vehicles in another quarter century. With mail service becoming old-fashioned and outdated, some think the high cost of replacing the entire fleet is not a smart idea. The USPS turned down an offer to refurbish its fleet in 2011 at a cost of \$3.5 billion. "We found in 2011 that the Postal Service's delivery fleet — about 175,000 vehicles at that time — largely because it would cost about \$5 billion," said Lori Rectanus, the director of the GAO. The USPS "also chose to not refurbish the vehicles, which would have cost about \$3.5 billion." The latter option would have saved money to the life of the vehicles. The USPS has been losing money for some time as mail delivery is replaced by email and other electronic communications. [Federal News Radio](#).

 [House Subcommittee on Government Operations](#): *"Issues Facing Civilian and Postal Service Vehicle Fleet Procurement"*

### [Joseph Corbett, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, U.S. Postal Service](#)

- The Postal Service currently maintains a diverse fleet of delivery vehicles including Long Life Vehicles (LLV), as well as delivery vans. Going forward, it continues to require a diverse and flexible fleet of vehicles capable of operating in a full range of climates, road conditions, and terrain.
- The planned useful life of LLVs when acquired was 24 years. The fleet has continued to provide needed delivery service, but with increasing costs and increasing risk of parts supply problems and structural fatigue.
- In its order granting the Postal Service an exigent price increase, the Postal Regulatory Commission noted that "capital outlays are essential for the Postal Service to maintain and continue to develop the Nation's needed postal services," and that "[l]ow levels of capital investment reduce the Postal Service's ability to maintain and improve business assets". The Commission went on to specifically state that "the combination of low levels of liquidity and related low levels of capital investment are significant to the entire postal system. If the Postal Service cannot maintain, and replace its fleet of delivery vehicles, it could very quickly lose its ability to meet the delivery requirements of the Nation's Obligation."
- In its report entitled "U.S. Postal Service: Actions Needed to Strengthen the Capital Investment Process, GAO-14-155 at 2 (Jan. 2014), the Government Accountability Office stated that the Postal Service's "limited resources have constrained its funding for capital investments to support its delivery mission and restructure and modernize its operations."
- As packaging and shipping continue to be an area of revenue growth, it will be important for USPS to invest in vehicles to ensure it can meet its mission of providing prompt, reliable, and efficient mail service to all areas of the country.
- In order to effectively meet the needs of our customers and employees, the Postal Service must invest in and maintain its existing and our delivery fleet is a critical component.
- The Postal Service is currently in the initial phases of a multi-year process to acquire a long overdue new delivery fleet.
- The Postal Service plans to release its RFP for prototypes—open to eligible suppliers—in the near future.
- The prototype RFP will be flexible as to fuel source.

- After testing and evaluation during the prototype phase, and possible technical revisions, the Postal Service will issue a production contract award or awards.
- For the Postal Service, the question is not how can we afford to purchase new vehicles at this time, the question is how can we invest investment as we fight for viability. In fact, it is a fiscally responsible decision.



**U.S. Postal Service v. Postal Regulatory Commission, No. 14-1010:** In response to [an earlier letter filed by the U.S. Postal Service](#) Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the following letters were submitted with the court by the Postal Regulatory Commission, Nonprofit Mailers, the Association of Magazine Media, and the Association for Postal Commerce.:

- [Postal Regulatory Commission](#): Whether or not this Court has issued its mandate, if the Postal Service prevails in this litigation to relieve the Postal Service of its obligation to notify its customers that the surcharge is scheduled to end, and can seek review request is denied. If the Postal Service nevertheless concludes that expedited issuance of the mandate is essential for some reason, such relief after this Court issues its opinion. But in the absence of a concrete motion based on this Court's opinion, there is no issuance of the mandate, which would unnecessarily complicate the orderly consideration of whether a petition for rehearing is appropriate.
- [Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers et al.](#): This responds to the Rule 28(j) letter filed by the USPS on May 19. The mailers also hope for a decision soon. The USPS assumes, however, the decision will (1) vacate Commission Order No. 1926 and (2) authorize the 4. remain in effect pending remand. Neither assumption is warranted. First, vacatur would be unjustified even assuming arguendo an outcome for the USPS: grant of its petition for review and denial of the mailers'. The USPS has not shown that "the agency's decision raise serious doubts about whether the agency can adequately defend its decision at all," *Verizon v. FCC*, 740 F.3d 623, 659 (11th Cir. 2014). It does not contend that any limit on the rate surcharge would be ultra vires, but merely that the Commission failed to explain adequately why it imposed. The Commission could "redress" any "failure of explanation on remand while reaching the same result." *Lilliputian v. Mat. Safety Admin.*, 741 F.3d 1309, 1313 (D.C. Cir. 2014). Second, the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over rates filed with it. The Court has no authority to prescribe a different, longer-lasting surcharge pending remand. *Burlington Northern Inc. v. United States*



***From the Federal Register:***

<b>Postal Regulatory Commission</b>		
<b>NOTICES</b>		
New Postal Products ,		
29761–29762 [2015–12383]		<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
29760–29761 [2015–12384]		<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
29761 [2015–12385]		<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
29760 [2015–12581]		<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
Postal Products; Amendments ,		
29759–29760 [2015–12382]		<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
<b>Postal Service</b>		
<b>NOTICES</b>		
Product Changes:		
	Parcel Return Service Negotiated Service Agreement ,	
	29762 [2015–12406]	<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
	29762 [2015–12407]	<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>



**Housing Wire:** A new white paper from the USPS' Office of the Inspector General lays out a series of distinct paths that would allow the USPS to expand its role in the banking and financial services sector. In the white paper, the USPS-OIG suggests five different approaches for the post office to expand its role in the banking and financial services sector.

***International Postal News***



agency would likely need approval from regulators to expand existing offerings, as well as additional approvals from Congress and regulators for adding other services outside its current legal authority.



**Office of the Inspector General:** More than a quarter of households in this country either don't have a bank account, or have often expensive alternative financial services like check cashing and payday lending. These underserved households are looking for and the U.S. Postal Service may be able to help. In a January 2014 white paper titled [Providing Non-Bank Financial Services for the U.S.](#) Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) explored how postal financial services could save Americans time and money, help banks and with customers, and create new revenue for the Postal Service. In a new follow-up paper titled [The Road Ahead for Postal Financial Services](#) potential approaches the Postal Service could take for expanding the financial services it offers.



**The Hill:** The cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service could make billions more each year if it were to get into the banking business, according to a report from the watchdog. In a new report released Thursday, the watchdog said that even without under existing legal authority, the nation's post office could make \$10 billion a year by offering financial products like electronic money transfers. And if the Postal Service received expanded authority to offer other financial products, as is done in some other countries, it could pull in as much as \$10 billion more per year, according to the report. Rep. Bill Latham, the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight Committee with jurisdiction over the mail, said Thursday Congress should let post office officials shape the next postal reform bill.



**Federal Times:** The Postal Service and two unions are struggling to reach new contracts as the groups battle over the pay and benefits for Postal Service employees. The American Postal Workers Union said the main block on a new deal was Postal Service demands for a new contract that would reduce benefits for future employees, as well as cuts to current employee pay and benefits. But the Postal Service Postal Service and the unions have been in negotiations past the May 20 expiration of the current contract. The new deadline is May 27. During that time, the original contract will expire. In a statement to its members, the NRLCA said it had appeared that the union and the Postal Service were making progress on a deal, but cost-of-living increases and the maintenance of benefits.

**INDUSTRYALERT** *USPS Shipping Products and Services Webinar Series May 26, 2015, 11a.m. EDT* Join us as the Postal Service continues to host its series of informational webinars on a variety of products and services. This webinar will cover service enhancements, features, benefits, how to get started, and onboarding information to acquire the knowledge and skills to effectively use the service. On May 26, 2015 at 11a.m. EDT we will discuss Delivery Instructions Delivery Instructions allows the recipient of a package to electronically authorize the carrier to leave a package at a specific location, leave with neighbor, hold at a Post Office or reroute their package to a new domestic destination. You can also request that shipments be delivered through one of our expedited products in one to two days; Priority Mail Express or Priority Mail Express® the postage from the ground service. Speaker: Sherri Evans, Manager, Shipping Development Participant information is provided below. Event starts at 11:00 a.m. EDT Delivery Instructions Attendee Information: US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (866) 381-9870 Conference ID: 17345167 <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=eccdaf0f327a1d6a01786b053cee41468> If you cannot join using the direct link above, logins below: Alternate URL: <http://usps.webex.com> Event Number: 996 934 473



**The Hill:** When it comes to the U.S. Postal Service, the organization's decline has been well documented for years. Last year the Postal Service lost \$1.5 billion, marking the eighth consecutive year of multi-billion dollar losses. Further, for consumers, the Postal Service is still failing to meet the needs of First-Class mail, Standard Mail, Periodicals, Package Services, and more according to a recent federal review. As the agency seeks to re-balance its balance sheet and service standards, it's clear that improved management at the top is necessary. In the last several months the Postal Service has advised efforts to expand into offerings that are unrelated to its primary letter mail responsibility and interrupt areas where such products are currently stands, the Postal Service's security standards are not up to code. The agency does not comprehensively trace the senders of mail that it handles. More specifically, it does not electronically track packages sent through foreign postal services. There are also financial concerns. Customs is unable to collect billions of dollars annually due to unreported foreign goods entering the U.S. via the Postal Service. The department's tracking create concerns for public safety with the potential for unsafe products and food, and other hazardous materials (potentially weapons) into the United States. During his tenure former U.S. attorney general Eric Holder expressed great concern about the shocking amount of mail in the U.S. Postal System.





**Engadget:** When it's not busy sending its delivery personnel on the New York subway, Amazon has quietly been working to expand its Prime Now service. From today, customers in Manhattan, the company's first Prime Now location, can shop at a number of local businesses and have their orders delivered within 60 minutes.



**Wall Street Journal:** The stingy investment in U.S. infrastructure in recent years hasn't made much sense to logistics and transportation. It may appear even less adequate if businesses look more closely at the way infrastructure dollars are spread around the country. Companies are building supply chains but doing that in a system fractured by state and local interests. The rise of e-commerce is becoming a double-edged sword.

logistics real estate.

 [Wall Street Journal](#): Don't bet on a decline in fuel costs too quickly. The [WSJ's Nicole Friedman](#) reports prices rebounded on unexpectedly large drops in U.S. crude oil and petroleum products supplies. The inventories are declining after hitting a record high in


 [NBC New York](#): Federal authorities charged a U.S. postal worker after he allegedly trashed about 2,000 pieces of mail in Queens, a attorney's office confirmed. Norberto Cintron, a Queens Village mail carrier, is assigned to the post office at 20-920 Jamaica Avenue, t


### ***From the Federal Register:***

- **Postal Regulatory Commission** New Postal Products, 29352 [2015's 12269] [\[TEXT\]](#)  
29351's 29352 [2015's 12270] [\[TEXT\]](#)


### ***U.S. Postal Service Collective Bargaining Update:***


- The United States Postal Service and the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) have agreed to extend contract negotiation bargaining agreement. Although the contract with the APWU expired at midnight Wednesday, May 20, the Postal Service and decided to extend the negotiations deadline by one week to May 27, 2015. The APWU represents more than 196,000 employees mechanics, vehicle drivers, custodians and some administrative positions.
- On May 20, negotiations on a new labor contract between the United States Postal Service and the National Rural Letter Carrier (NRLCA) came to an impasse. The parties will continue to follow the current agreement until a new contract is reached through process. The NRLCA represents more than 116,000 employees who deliver mail primarily in rural and suburban areas.

 [Politico](#): Intra-party warfare is reaching a boil as Congress struggles to conclude a messy session of legislating and head home for a amounts to a last-ditch scramble during the most rigorous work period of the young GOP Congress. With the outcome uncertain, palace and relations across and within party lines are frayed.


 [Washington Post](#): The Florida postal worker who landed a gyrocopter on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol last month was indicted grand jury in Washington on six felony and misdemeanor charges punishable by up to 9 1/2 years in prison, prosecutors announced. The charge, another felony count of operating without an airman's certificate, three misdemeanor counts of violating national defense airspace count of operating a vehicle falsely labeled as a postal carrier.


### ***International Postal News***

 [Castanet](#): Canada Post Group delivered a profit in the first quarter, turning around a loss from the same period last year even as the r a steeper decline in the volume of letter mail. The group, which includes financial results from Canada Post, Purolator and other business profit before tax of \$22 million versus a loss of \$37 million in the comparable period a year earlier. Revenue increased 10 per cent to \$ billion. Canada Post's main business, which focuses on letters and parcels, also saw improved results on higher prices for stamps and p business saw earnings rise to \$24 million before taxes compared with a loss of \$27 million a year ago, while revenue grew 6.4 per cent volumes fell 8.4 per cent, or by 41 million pieces, compared with the year-earlier period. Canada Post has been moving ahead with a pl delivery across the country, though the initiative has met with some opposition. Residents and local city officials in both Hamilton and against the plan with the postal service, while the postal workers' union has filed a lawsuit in Federal Court calling the service cancellat March, Canada Post said it had converted 100,000 addresses that had door-to-door delivery to community mail boxes in 2014 and plan addresses this year.

 [Canada NewsWire](#): Canada Post's annual public meeting in Ottawa is billed as an opportunity for Canadians to "speak directly to se about present and future policies and direction." This year's meeting saw some tough questions being posed to Canada Post executives cutbacks. "When our money-making post office is trying to impose massive service downgrades on Canadians, you'd expect to hear be Palecek, National President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, who attended the meeting. "Instead, we keep hearing the same ti just don't stand up to scrutiny." Palecek pointed out that the senior executive of Canada Post, Deepak Chopra, is a Harper appointee and are becoming a federal election issue for many angered at losing their home delivery, rural post offices and affordable postage rates. "T

to change this government," said Palecek. "The Harper government is driving the postal train wreck and it needs to stop and get off before it crashes." The New Democratic Party promised this week to restore home delivery to the million Canadians who lost it in 2014. The new service is cheaper and easier compared to the cost of switching millions more to centralized mailboxes.

 **BBC:** Royal Mail has reported an increase in full-year profits, with cost cuts helping the company in a "challenging" market. It reported adjusted operating profit before transformation costs, up 6% from a year earlier. Revenues in the year to 29 March were barely changed, but volumes grew by 3%, although revenues from its parcels business rose by just 1%. Letter volumes fell by 4%, with revenues from letters down 2%. Royal Mail expects this year to follow a similar pattern to last year, with strength coming in the second half. Royal Mail chief executive Moya Greene said the operating environment remains challenging. "Competition in the UK parcels and letters market is fierce, the company said.

 **Professional Pensions:** The scheme had a surplus of Â£3.2bn at 29 March under the IAS 19 accounting standard compared with Â£2.1bn as of 28 September 2014. Royal Mail said the increase was largely driven by return on assets, particularly the rise in the market value of derivative assets used to hedge inflation and interest rate risk.

May 20, 2015


## **Domestic Postal News**

### **At the Postal Regulatory Commission:**

- Market Dominant Billing Determinants FY 2015 Quarter 2  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92367/Letter%20ICP-and-ICM%20BD%20FY\\_20150520152956.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92367/Letter%20ICP-and-ICM%20BD%20FY_20150520152956.pdf)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92367/MDBD\\_Q2FY2015.zip](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92367/MDBD_Q2FY2015.zip)
- International Market Dominant Products Billing Determinants FY 2015 Quarter 2  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92368/Letter%20ICP-and-ICM%20BD%20FY\\_20150520152956.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92368/Letter%20ICP-and-ICM%20BD%20FY_20150520152956.pdf)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92368/Q215\\_MKT\\_DOMINANT\\_INTL\\_BD.xls](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92368/Q215_MKT_DOMINANT_INTL_BD.xls)




These are numbers for this years, National Postal Forum attendance: 3,259 attendees â€" included in this number are 944 exhibitors and 1,933 mailing industry attendees.


 **Democrat News:** U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill May 12 called on her colleagues and the U.S. Postal Service to make preservation of rural delivery standards a priority during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee roundtable on the Postal Service.



**My Print Resource:** At the National Postal Forum in Anaheim, CA, Neopost USA is unveiling its new corporate identity as well as its new communications management hardware and software solutions â€" specifically intelligent document handling solutions, shipping solutions and customer communications management and mailing solutions. "The National Postal Forum is the best public event for Neopost USA to demonstrate our commitment to the United States Postal Service as an industry partner and to publicly support USPS programs and strategies," said Vinny Caruso, Neopost USA's Vice President of Postal Relations. "A very good example is the fact that Neopost USA fully embraces the USPS' Intelligent Mail program. Our NeoShip solution and our corporate parent's ProShip solution give customers of all sizes the peace of mind they expect and deserve when using physical mail and shipping solutions."

 **Post & Parcel:** America's community newspaper industry raised concerns before Congress yesterday, regarding the standard of rural mail delivery. The Newspaper Association said the drop in rural mail standards was predictable, with a slow decline seen over the past three decades. But the industry's executive Tonda Rush told the Senate's Government Affairs committee yesterday that the ongoing consolidation of the US Postal Service is accelerating the problems, leading to "enormous complaints" from rural publishers. Rush explained that with local mail facilities closing, rural publishers are traveling much greater distances to be sorted, which impacts on delivery time. "We're losing subscribers, and we're hearing a lot from publishers about the impact on small towns of the rural mail service declines," she said. With Congress doing nothing for years to help reform the federal agency, mail trends, USPS has been planning to close about 82 more of its mail plants in 2015 to save an estimated \$750m a year more. "We're in a difficult encounter if the 2015 closures proceed," said Rush. "Certainly the experience so far has not been positive. We believe that 99% of our problems are caused by the decline of the network."





 **Today:** Replacing your smartphone battery just got harder. Fearing cargo fires like one that caused a United Parcel Service freighter Dubai in 2010, at least 18 airlines have banned freight shipments of lithium-ion rechargeable batteries this year. Pilots are pushing for the ban to be lifted for passenger flights until they can be transported more safely. Removing lithium-ion batteries from parts of the US\$6.4 trillion (S\$8.5 trillion) global market risks disrupting supply chains for a technology used to power products from Apple iPhones to Lenovo Group laptops. As many as 30 million units are made each year are shipped by plane, and cargo bans have already affected supplies of defibrillator power-packs in Australia and New Zealand, a group representing battery-makers.


 **From the Federal Register:**


- **Postal Regulatory Commission** *NOTICES* New Postal Products , 29105 [2015â€12119] [[TEXT](#)]


### ***International Postal News***


 **Investors Chronicle:** UK Mail (UKM) has reacted to competitive postal markets by outlining plans to improve service, efficiency and cost. The transition is the ongoing process of moving into a new automated hub in Coventry. This should provide extra capacity and reduce operational costs, prompted boss Guy Buswell to warn - somewhat ominously - that this year's results will be more weighted towards the second half.

 **The Observer:** The managing director of The Gambia Postal Services Corporation (GAMPOST) has explained that government's decision to turn the service into an autonomous entity, public enterprise, was based on the premise that by so doing the post will become more efficient and better able to respond effectively to the ever changing needs of consumers and the competitive environment it operates in.

 **Financial Times:** Airline pilots, train drivers, postal workers, insurance industry employees, even the security couriers who fill up Berlin's public transport dispensers - it has seemed, lately, as if anyone in Germany who feels an urge to go on strike is doing so. So far this year, about 350,000 days of work lost to strikes, more than double the 150,000 lost in the whole of 2014. No longer is it accurate, if ever it was, to paint Germany as a rock of stability in industrial relations set in a European sea of British unrest, French cussedness, Greek indolence and Italian disorder. The rising militancy in labour relations bill that Germany's government, a grand coalition of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, intends to pass on Friday will tighten collective bargaining rules and discourage strikes, at least when they involve no more than a restive minority of a company's workers. Specifically, the bill aims to restore the "one company, one union" principle, which has been one of German industry's distinctive features since the post-war, but which, in some sectors, has been diluted over the past five years.


 **The Toronto Star:** Canada Post is refusing to disclose any information related to complaints about mail delivery last year or the end of the year. The Star filed two separate requests under the federal Access to Information Act and despite months of wrangling over the wording, Canada Post flatly rejected the requests and is keeping all records secret. The Star asked for aggregate data and a summary of the types of complaints about delivery in 2014 and the switch to community mailboxes. In recent years, the post office has come under fire over its plan to end home delivery, in general, including service during Toronto's 2013 ice storm, when residents complained about no mail delivery for weeks at a time in 2014.

 **Post & Parcel:** Royal Mail has extended acceptance times for its two-day tracked parcel delivery service to allow major business customers to drop off parcels any time up to midnight, five days per week. The UK universal postal service provider said the extended hours for its Royal Mail Tracked 24 service will be available across the country, for items dropped off at 39 mail centres and eight regional distribution centres around the country.

 **CEP News:** In Norway, the country's three biggest media companies prepare for an entry into the parcel business. High-ranking managers from Schibsted said in an interview with Aftenposten that the three companies together already could reach 91% of the households in Norway. The newspaper and magazine delivery staff. Moreover, the newspaper and magazine volumes had been declining for years, while the distance-selling market was booming.

*May 19, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***

 **Springfield News-Leader:** Operations at Springfield's mail processing center on Chestnut Expressway are on track to move to a Kanawha County site, despite efforts by Missouri's senators to delay the closure. Missouri Sens. Claire McCaskill, a Democrat, and Roy Blunt, a Republican, had urged Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe to hold off on the consolidations in a December letter, saying the agency had not adequately

closures would have. In a letter to leaders of a Senate subcommittee last month, McCaskill and four other senators again requested the closures through the end of the 2016 fiscal year.



[Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#): Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Committee Members Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) hosted a roundtable discussion and discuss the various challenges facing the Postal Service in rural communities across the country. Members heard from representatives of the Letter Carriers' Association, National Association of Postmasters of the United States, Postal Regulatory Commission, and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. You can watch a webcast of the roundtable [here](#).

**Sen. Carper:** "Our Constitution requires that the Postal Service deliver mail to the last mile. This means that no matter how rural or remote, every American will get their mail. However, as the Postal Service has made changes to service to address its financial condition, service to rural communities has suffered. While delivery to our most rural communities certainly presents unique challenges, it also presents an important competitive advantage that can help the Postal Service thrive. I hope today's discussion provided members a chance to better understand rural postal issues and how to address these challenges in the context of comprehensive postal reform this Congress. We must help the Postal Service move in a more efficient direction, better leverage its 200-year old distribution network, and understand new ways we can help it maintain service without putting rural communities at a disadvantage."

**Sen. McCaskill:** "Rural post offices are part of the identity of rural America. The obligation for the Postal Service to provide universal service to all people doesn't just apply to Americans in big cities and urban centers—it applies everywhere."

**Sen. Tester:** "By reducing services, making product deliveries less timely, and increasing the burdens on customers, it's difficult to see how the Postal Service can survive. But Congress can ensure that the Postal Service becomes financially solvent by making a few basic policy changes so that we can bring this important part of rural communities into the future."

**Sen. Heitkamp:** "In North Dakota and other rural areas across the country, farmers and hardworking families may live 20, 30, or even 40 miles from town. But where they live shouldn't prohibit them from getting their mail in a timely manner. Getting our mail in a timely manner enables our businesses, their products, helps families and seniors get needed prescriptions, and allows individuals to access services beyond their communities. Comprehensive legislation that makes needed reforms to the Postal Service and truly works for rural communities in North Dakota and other rural areas is a top priority."



[USA Today](#): Package-delivery giant UPS (UPS) will pay more than \$25 million to settle charges it submitted false claims to the federal government in connection with delivery of Next Day Air overnight packages, the Department of Justice said Tuesday. UPS provides delivery services to federal agencies through contracts with the General Services Administration and U.S. Transportation Command, which supports Department of Defense operations. The company guaranteed next-day delivery of packages by specified times under those contracts, federal officials said. However, UPS contracted to deliver packages on time, but failed to do so, federal prosecutors said. The subterfuge allegedly prevented government agencies from receiving refunds for late deliveries. Government officials charged that UPS knowingly recorded inaccurate delivery times on packages to make it appear as if they had been delivered on time.




[Direct Marketing News](#): The Postal Service's new acting CMO, Jim Cochrane, admitted that, like all marketing channels, mail is not as data-driven as it used to be. "We've argued that it's gotten its data act together and is better poised to engage in the digitally dominated marketing world than it was in the past. It's now focused on data and analytics. In the past it was a field of dreams, but now 90% of our mail volume is using IMb [Intelligent Mail] and we're getting close to that," Cochrane said today at a press conference at the National Postal Forum in Anaheim. Cochrane, who spent the last 10 years in operations roles, said he himself is amazed at how far the Postal Service has come toward completing its mission of "informed visibility." "It can be done, of course. Cochrane said that the Postal Service faces a constant challenge in harnessing data due to the vastness of its system. It's one of the biggest IT operations on the planet," employing up to 3,000 applications. Randy Miskanic, Cochrane's successor as CIO, admitted that it's "great to keep up with all the technological advances for capturing and deploying data. "Marketing goes through a lot of change. We have to focus on the primary issues marketers are facing and lean the process accordingly," Miskanic said. "We have to focus on what brings in the revenue."



[The Richfield Reaper](#): The Provo processing center is scheduled for closure July 2015. Central and southern Utah will be impacted. Mail from Delta to Fillmore to Provo will be processed in Salt Lake. All mail from Price to Blanding to Moab will be processed in Grand Junction. Mail from Richfield to Kanab to St. George will be processed in Las Vegas. Mail will now take one week or longer for delivery to all of these towns. "If these changes, they have ignored the pleas of 51 senators—including Orrin Hatch—and 178 members of the House of Representatives who have called for a moratorium in service cuts and the closure and consolidation of mail processing facilities. Ruth Goldway, postal regulatory commission chairwoman, said in her latest service cuts, and said "The Postal Service is required to give the highest consideration to the requirement for the [most] expeditious"


and delivery of important letter mail." This burden falls particularly hard on individuals in rural America and those who have limited options if they do not pay their bills online; they pay their mortgage and other payments by mail. This slower delivery will subject those who pay


 **eNews Park Forest:** In a joint letter today to Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan, Oregon's congressional delegation expressed serious concerns about proposals to close mail processing centers in Bend and Eugene. "Oregon has already lost mail processing plants in Salem, Klamath Falls and Medford. More locations in Eugene and Bend set to be consolidated this year. If these mail processing plants close, mail will have to flow through Portland even when their destination is in the same town it originated in," said the letter, which was signed by U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, Reps. Suzanne Bonamici, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer, Peter DeFazio, and Kurt Schrader. "This causes delays in mail delivery, increases costs, and the Portland location must process, and forces mail carriers to cover larger distances and work longer hours. These plant closures not only affect mail processing locations but also put rural jobs at risk," the letter said. The letter was written in response to a meeting on May 13 in which Oregon's congressional delegation met with Deputy Postmaster General Stroman to discuss the latest plans for reducing the Postal Service's chronic budget deficit and specifically to learn what the impact will be on rural mail delivery.


 In [a letter to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals](#), the U.S. Postal Service wrote the following:


USPS seeks review of Postal Regulatory Commission Order No. 1926, which authorized USPS to recoup only a fraction of its revenue loss adjustment for losses suffered "due to" the Great Recession. That order is arbitrary and capricious and contrary to law because it is not supported by the governing statute and grossly underestimates USPS's actual recession-related losses. Since January 2014, USPS has been collecting a much lower amount authorized by the Commission through a 4.3% rate surcharge. As of March 31, 2015, USPS had collected approximately 60% of the amount authorized. See May 15, 2015 Notice of Revenue Collection (Ex. A). USPS expects that it will recoup the entirety of the authorized amount by early August, at which point it must lift the surcharge. USPS must also provide 45 days' notice before lifting the surcharge. Order No. 2319 at 5-6 (Ex. B). Thus, absent a decision or other action by this Court, USPS would need to notify its customers of the rescission as early as mid-June.


USPS very respectfully notes that these timing considerations could have significant practical implications for the parties. Changing the surcharge on a nationwide basis is an expensive and complicated process. If USPS is correct that the Commission's calculation of recession-related losses was too low, it would be far more efficient for the current 4.3% rate surcharge to remain in force for the period necessary to recoup the correct amount of the adjustment, rather than be removed in early August only to be re-imposed shortly thereafter.

 **Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee** Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Committee members Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), Tester (D-Mont.) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.). A bipartisan roundtable on rural postal issues held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. Presenters: Tonda Rush, Chief Executive Officer, National Newspaper Association; John P. O'Connell, Director of the Office of Accountability & Compliance (OAC), Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC); Anthony Leonardi, National President, National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS); Jean Marc Favreau, Counsel, National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. PostCom has a [recap of comments](#) available on this site.

 **Office of the Inspector General: [Investing in Reverse Logistics: It's Only Logical](#)** With all those designer shoes, cutting-edge electronics, and other items shipping into our homes via ecommerce, it's only logical that sometimes the shoes won't fit, the electronics won't work, and the kids outgrow the toys on to the next hot toy. The bottom line is that some of the stuff we buy needs to be returned. And that's known as reverse logistics. We can put its excess facility space to good use by offering shipping and return services to businesses that have combined inventory storage and shipping. The Postal Service could offer customers an alternative delivery option in which they could pick up purchases at any of the 32,000 post offices. Would you, as one of those who want packages sent to a location of their choosing, rather than wait for the item at home or work. Are you a frequent returner? What returns service? What could the Postal Service do to ease the return or forwarding of goods?

 **Direct Marketing News:** "Readers Sound Off on the Digital Postal Service" Custom mail for consumers, direct mail triggered by clicks, and partnerships providing rides home for wedding-goers are some tips offered by experts.

 **Direct Marketing News:** The digitalization of the U.S. Postal Service is officially underway. Better use of data for the benefit of all alike was the common theme driven home by the Postmaster General, CMO, COO, and VP sales of the Post Office during the opening remarks at the National Postal Forum in Anaheim.

 **KOKI:** A bad road is causing trouble for people in an Inola neighborhood. Monday, they learned if their street isn't fixed in 30 days it will have to be cancelled.

 [ABCNews](#):  "Here's Why You May Never Need to Go to a Post Office Again"



***From the Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES New Postal Products***, 28716â€28717 [2015]



[GlobeNewswire](#): The United States Postal Service launched an integrated marketing campaign today called "Watch Us Deliver" to highlight improvements to Priority Mail, and the new Watch Us Deliver Dashboard (WatchUsDeliver.com), which showcases the latest innovations of USPS and features a stunning collection of live counters, impressive postal facts and entertaining modules, like the Live Counter of rescued American Bald Eagles "Independence" and "Franklin." From free package pick-up, improved tracking technology, to Sunday delivery, the Postal Service continues to enhance its package delivery services to capitalize on the continued growth of e-commerce. "This campaign is designed to build momentum in our package delivery business and to highlight the many ways the Postal Service is changing and improving to better serve our customers," said Betty Su, Executive Director of Brand Marketing. "We're excited to communicate about the compelling reasons to do business with the Postal Service."



[Post & Parcel](#): The US Postal Service is working on new services to notify customers when mail or parcels are being delivered. A new service called Real Mail Notification has been trialed in Northern Virginia since last year, and is soon to be tried out in New York. Customers can now go to check on what is in their physical mailboxes in the same way they might check their email or Facebook account. The Postal Service is launching a new USPS service, which notifies customers about incoming parcels and allows them to manage their deliveries. US Postmaster General Michael Chabot announced new services in her speech to the National Postal Forum yesterday, as she declared that the mail industry had to accelerate its innovation in the digital world.

## ***International Postal News***



[Sudan Vision Daily](#): Sudan is scheduled to host the African Union conference for mail services to be attended by 29 African nations representing the Universal Postal Union, African Telecommunications Association, regional associations and many service providers, consumer associations. The event will be attended by Lieut. Gen. Bakri Hassan Saleh, First Vice-President. Speaking at a press conference, Dr. Taha Osman, Minister of Science and Communications, said the conference is aimed at upgrading postal services, benefiting from technology and re-affirming cooperation between African organisations, underlining the importance of an e-government and promoting Sudan's candidacy for African and Universal Postal Union membership. He said the conference aims to broaden the scope of cooperation between stakeholders and customers to contribute to materializing electronic services in African interests at international arena, postal development and cooperation, developing human resources and enhancing stamps collection.



[Fox News](#): There's a business opportunity gleaming just south of the border, perfectly ripe for ecommerce disruption. According to a new report, Latin America is the second fastest-growing ecommerce market in the world. Even Amazon, with its finger ever on the pulse of great opportunities in Latin American web sales in 2013, indicating that the market's growth is no passing fluke. And at the heart of Latin America's economic growth is the postal network. Once you've decided what you want to sell, you'll need to decide how to ship it. An option is to use the global postal network for delivery. The Postal Service handles shipping within the U.S. and then passes it off to the local post in Brazil for delivery. The postal network is a good option for residential deliveries that weigh less than 66 lbs. Businesses typically spend less with this option, and all shipping fees are disclosed up front. Traditional postal networks can sometimes take upward of 20 days for delivery because items need to clear customs. However, there are ways to allow businesses to deliver products via the postal network in as little as eight to 10 days.




[The Yeshiva World News](#): The Israel Postal Authority is in the midst of implementing a fiscal rehabilitation program which results in the closure of branches, including in Yerushalayim. While the service boasts improved service and increased efficiency, a growing number of capital cities are not receiving mail. There are a growing number of complaints of mail not reaching its destination, packages that are never delivered and mailboxes on streets. Persons wishing to mail a letter are finding it increasingly difficult as a growing number of mailboxes have become 'inactive' sticks of wood. It is impossible to find a mailbox in some areas other than visiting a post office.





[CNN Money](#): QIWI plc has announced a launch of a strategic partnership and joint money transfer service with Russian Post. Now, clients can make money transfers through QIWI Kiosks, website and Visa QIWI Wallet mobile application and receive cash in any of 40 countries. Money transfers are made in Russian rubles with a limit of 15,000 rubles, including the fee, per one operation. Transfers may be made on the next business day after the transaction. Moreover, the sender may order an additional service for delivering the money transfer to the recipient.


**May 18, 2015**


## **Domestic Postal News**

 [Linn's Stamp News](#): "The Postal Service gave up about \$100 million in the delay in postal rate increases due to filing errors." That's according to an official at the Postal Regulatory Commission. It underscores the difficulties U.S. Postal Service had this spring securing approval for rate increases. The USPS had seemingly crafted a way to get the most out of the allowable increase without boosting the 49¢ price of a first-class letter. Instead, it filed a mix of other rate increases for publications and packages that the commission refused to endorse. It refused not once but twice, declaring the agency's filing had failed to show its requested higher rates complied with the law. The agency's filing was a mess, the PRC said, warning the USPS it would have to file again.

 [Wall Street Journal](#): As online shopping grows in popularity, more parcel-delivery services and retailers, plagued by the failed-packet problem, are experimenting with ways to eliminate the often inefficient, maddening "last mile" of the supply chain altogether. E-commerce hasn't put pressure on delivery companies had hoped. Dropping off items purchased online at homes scattered across a neighborhood adds time, miles and cost. Amazon.com Inc. and its peers are able to negotiate low prices based on their huge volumes. Dropping off packages in bulk and creating a network of locker banks to fetch their parcels at nearby retailers or locker banks dramatically improves the economics of delivery. FedEx offers a 24-hour locker service in 31 cities in Texas, as well as in Memphis, Tenn., situating most lockers outside FedEx stores or Walgreens pharmacies. UPS is testing a network of ATM-like smart lockers adjacent to a Staples store and an Aldi supermarket. DHL started building self-service lockers in Germany in 2008. The company has installed 2,700 locker banks, mostly in train stations, and opened 12,000 staffed parcel pickup points, including newsstands. The company hopes to expand the locker program elsewhere in Europe and the U.S.

 [Printing Impressions](#): Wilen Direct, a leading direct mail solutions provider, has been awarded the United States Postal Service Partnership Award. The award, presented at the National Postal Forum, is one of three "best-in-class" awards that the USPS presents annually to companies that have demonstrated leadership and innovation in the industry with creative use of postal products and services.

 [Postmaster General Promotes Convergence of Mail and Digital Technology at the National Postal Forum](#) -- In a keynote speech at the National Postal Forum, the annual mailing industry trade show, Megan Brennan, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer of the Postal Service, outlined opportunities for the mailing industry to leverage the rapid adoption of digital and mobile technology by today's consumers. "We're in a mobile-oriented culture, with laptops, tablets, smartphones and now even watches providing digital and mobile experiences in every aspect of our lives," she said. "The good news is that our industry has a big role to play in that digital future." As consumer trends point to a continued mobile convergence, she said, "the idea that mail can serve as a powerful complement to digital marketing campaigns and play a more prominent role in multi-channel marketing. As we extend that physical experience of mail into a mobile experience, mail delivers much greater value for the sender and receiver," she said. Brennan also highlighted technology advances that enable a piece of mail to launch a website, video, or an interactive experience with technologies like augmented reality. Postmaster General believes mail can be a powerful tool for marketers to spark product discovery and drawing consumers into the digital world of a particular brand. Brennan also revealed that the Postal Service is developing a daily digital notification of mail to be delivered to customers. "We're calling it 'real mail notification' and it's being piloted in Northern Virginia and enables consumers to use a mobile device to see what's arriving in their mailbox." The Postal Service also unveiled several new promotions to spur wider adoption of industry best practices, including the Emerging and Advancing Mail Promotion, which is designed to encourage use of advanced inks, papers, sensory features and interactive mail-piece elements; and the Mail Engagement Promotion, which is designed to encourage the use of QR codes, augmented reality and other features that leverage mail to engage consumers. [Click here to view the full transcript of the Postmaster General's keynote address.](#) A video of Brennan's full speech will be posted online at [about.usps.com/news](http://about.usps.com/news).

 [MTAC and the U.S. Postal Service Working Together to Enhance the Value of Mail -- MTAC Receives the U.S. Postal Service Partnership Award](#). The U.S. Postal Service recognized the Postmaster General's Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) this week for its leadership in technology, innovation and supporting growth for the mailing industry. Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan and Deputy Postmaster General Stroman presented the Partnership for Growth Award to MTAC at the annual National Postal Forum. The prestigious award recognizes MTAC's leadership in an evolving technology environment. "Our collaboration with MTAC is incredibly valuable," said the Postmaster General. "It has endured through challenges and allows the Postal Service and the mailing industry to work better together, and it allows us to grow stronger together with a shared commitment to the future." MTAC's leadership has enhanced the value of mail through product development, mail preparation and entry, visibility and service, mail measurement, and payment acceptance. MTAC work groups have played instrumental roles in modernizing the mailing industry as the industry moves through technology. "MTAC is deeply honored to receive the prestigious Partnership for Growth Award," said MTAC Chair Chris Lierman. "Our successful relationship with the Postal Service for a half-century, and we look forward to continuing our work together to improve quality and efficiency to move the mailing industry into the future." MTAC and USPS share technical information with mailers and receive their advice and recommendations concerning mail-related products and services. This enhances the value of mail for customers and expands the use of products and services for mailing industry stakeholders and the Postal Service.





[Federal News Radio](#): Working for the federal government can be downright dangerous. Too often, fatal. All IRS personnel, and





- **PostalOne! Release 41.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** will occur on Monday, May 18, 2015. The environment will not be available between 6:00AM CT and 4:00PM CT. TEM validation will occur on Monday, May 18, 2015, 4:00PM CT.

### **International Postal News**

 [The Times of India](#): In a rare observation coming from the official auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor General has appreciated the department. The reason: deliveries of speed post letters which are more reliable and faster than private courier services.

 [The Sunday Times](#): Six days a week, cyclists clad in green jerseys and laden with bulging pannier bags climb the hills of Bristol, Bath morning rounds. The Velopost cyclists deliver letters from GP surgeries, dentists, small businesses and councils, each covering about 2000 families. family-owned Somerset printing company, Velopost is one of the newest challengers to Royal Mail's 500-year dominance of Britain's postal market.


 [Journal of Commerce](#): Workers at Germany's postal and logistics giant Deutsche Post have launched a new round of strike action, according to a union Verdi continuing this year's wave of industrial action. German workers have already been on strike for twice as many days this year as in 2014, putting Europe's largest economy on course to set a new record for industrial action.

 [Telegraph](#): Royal Mail is expected to reveal the brutal impact of fierce competition in Britain's postal market this week when it unveils its profits. City analysts expect Royal Mail to report a 16pc fall in annual operating profit before one-off charges to £562m despite the decline. The weaker performance by the 500-year-old postal service is expected even though it has taken on extra parcel volumes following the collapse of the December last year and the suspension of delivery services by Whistl last week. It is now handling more than 2m extra letters a day.

May 16, 2015


### **Domestic Postal News**

 [Nightly Business Report](#):  Postal Service package push -- Morgan Brennan tells us about the USPS's multi-billion dollar turnaround.


	<p><b>PostCom welcomes its newest members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <a href="#">FCL Graphics</a> 4600 N. Olcott Harwood Heights, IL 60706 represented by <b>Jenna Galecki</b> Director of Postal Affairs</li> <li>* <a href="#">Bell and Howell</a> 3791 S. Alston Avenue Durham, NC 27713 represented by <b>Timika Brown</b> Marketing Communications</li> </ul>
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 **PostCom Members !! The 2015 National Postal Forum special issue of the [PostCom Bulletin](#) online.**

 **From the Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES New Postal Products , 28307â€28308 [2015â€11861] [TEXT]**

 [Journal of Commerce](#): Teamsters union efforts to organize the largest U.S. trucking company, \$5.8 billion FedEx Freight, ran into trouble in pro-union town, Chicago. City and road truck drivers at the less-than-truckload carrier's Chicago Heights, Illinois terminal voted against the union, 8, the company said in a statement. Chicago Heights is the sixth facility where the Teamsters have lost a National Labor Relations Board election. The union began its campaign at FedEx Freight last fall.

### **International Postal News**


 [Nikkei](#): Japan Post Holdings' banking and insurance units reported profit growth for the fiscal year ended March, even as its mail delivery unit saw rising costs. Japan Post Holdings' net profit inched up 1% to 482.6 billion yen (\$4 billion) for the term ended March 31. But at mail delivery, net profit fell by half, with its postal and parcels operation suffering its first operating loss in three years.


 [Journal of Commerce](#): Germany's postal and logistics giant Deutsche Post has launched a new round of strike action, according to the newspaper.


continuing this year's wave of industrial action. Workers across most German states are taking part in the walkout. Verdi is expecting "Speckenwirth, Verdi department head for postal services, told German media, adding that many consumers will be missing their letters

May 15, 2015

### **Domestic Postal News**

 [AdWeek](#): Actor Danny Glover was on the KTVU morning news yesterday in support of the postal worker's union, which is looking for a new contract with the USPS expires next week. While Glover was telling viewers about his mom and dad, who were postal workers, anchor Kelly Campbell got a mid-thought, saying they were almost out of time. She quickly asked Glover what his goal was. "Well, you should have given me more time," said Glover. "So why don't you go on. If you don't have enough time, then why bother? Just don't give me two minutes." Campbell apparently didn't have enough satellite time for a long interview.

 [Army Times](#): Free mail has been authorized for U.S. service members and Defense Department civilians serving in support of operations in the Baltic states and Inherent Resolve in Iraq. Under a policy announced May 15 by Army Postal Programs, free mail of 13 ounces or less can be sent to Latvia and Iraq by the authorized personnel. Contractors are not eligible for free mail privileges. To use the benefit, mailers must hand the items to the upper right corner of the items mailed from the designated locations.

 [CBSLocal](#): A "strong, sweet" odor forced the evacuation of a New Jersey post office and brought hazmat crews to the scene Friday morning. The incident happened at about 9:30 a.m. at the United States Postal Service office on Route 130 in Hamilton Township, Mercer County. According to the report, workers were evacuated after a "strong, sweet odor" was detected inside the building's annex. It was not immediately known if the odor came from the area or kitchen. Chopper 3 HD was over the scene of the post office where it showed hazmat workers dressed in protective yellow suits and yellow bins outside the building. The hazmat workers were also seen entering the building. There were no immediate reports of any injuries. The investigation was not immediately known. The incident remains under investigation.


### **+++ *The Passing of Former PRC Chairman George Haley* +++**


*We note with sadness the passing of former Postal Rate Commissioner George Haley, age 89. Haley was elected to the Senate in 1964 as a Republican representing Kansas City, Kan., and served one term. Haley was close to Martin Luther King Jr. and attended Morehouse College in Atlanta with King, graduating in 1949. He went on to earn a law degree from the University of Arkansas in 1952, one of just two blacks at the school. According to The History Makers, an African American history column, Haley endured overt racism but was a top scholar and wrote for the law review. Haley joined the law firm of Stevens Jackson in Kansas City, Kan., which provided assistance on the desegregation case Brown v. Board of Education. Haley ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1966 and later joined a law firm in Washington D.C. before establishing his own practice in 1981. Haley served under six presidents, including as chairman of the Postal Rate Commission under President George H.W. Bush and as U.S. Ambassador to Gambia from 1998 to 2001 under President Bill Clinton. The ambassadorship was poignant because Alex Haley had traced his family history to Gambia for the book Roots.*



**From the Federal Register:** Postal Regulatory Commission:

- NOTICES Changes in Postal Prices , 28015â€"28016 [2015â€"11684] [[TEXT](#)]
- Meetings; Sunshine Act , 28015 [2015â€"11978] [[TEXT](#)]

 [eCommerceBytes](#): Two republicans on the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform sent a letter to the Postmaster General demanding she turn over details about the agency's competitive products operations. (See item below.) While it is lawful for the USPS to provide competitive services, its market dominant services can't subsidize them, and that's what's at the center of the investigation.

 [House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform](#): In a letter to **Postmaster General Megan Brennan**, the **Chairman of the Committee**, **Jason Chaffetz**, and the **Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations**, **Mark Meadows** wrote:

Since fiscal year 2008, competitive products volume has grown from 1.574 billion pieces in fiscal year 2008 to 3.448 billion pieces in fiscal year 2014.



2014. Market-dominant mail volume has declined dramatically over the same period, from 201 billion pieces to just 152 billion. As a result, the Postal Service now relies on competitive products for 22.5 percent of its total revenue, more than double the percentage in 2008. While the Postal Service's recent package related revenue growth has provided a much-needed financial bright spot, the Postal Service's necessarily complicated legal framework to ensure compliance with the statutory prohibition on cross-subsidization of competitive and market-dominant products and revenue.

Under this regulatory scheme—established as a result of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 (PAEA)—the Postal Service is required to account for the costs attributable to market-dominant and competitive products separately. Competitive products are required to cover all attributable costs, plus a share of the "institutional costs," at a rate determined by the Postal Regulatory Commission. The Postal Service is required to pay a portion of competitive products revenue to the market-dominant side of its ledger to approximate the taxes owed on what would be considered competitive-side profits if the Postal Service were a private-sector company. The growth in competitive products revenue makes the PAEA's related provisions far more important than expected at the time of enactment. Opportunities for cross-subsidization exist in a number of areas. In fact, some of the Postal Service's actions and public statements have heightened concerns about cross-subsidization. For example, a "Frequently Asked Questions" document the Postal Service produced regarding its Network Rationalization plan stated:

"[C]ost savings realized through this and other initiatives should better position the Postal Service to make the needed investment in package processing and other automation equipment, and in our delivery fleet, which will help us to grow our competitive package business."

Given that Postal Service "package delivery" products are almost solely competitive in nature, it is important to ensure the bridge between market-dominant and competitive products is maintained. To help the Committee better understand the state of the Postal Service's competitive products operations, we are requesting information regarding competitive products' assets, revenue, service performance, and materials. Specifically, please provide the following documents and information no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2015:

1. Service performance comparisons for each competitive product for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2014.
2. A list of all capital assets over \$10 million purchased since October 1, 2007, and a depreciation schedule outlining how each asset was subsequently expensed to market-dominant and competitive products.
3. A detailed explanation of the planned cost attribution to market-dominant and competitive products for the Next Generation Acquisition Program.
4. A detailed explanation of why cost attribution, as a percentage of total costs, has declined since the passage of PAEA.
5. Proforma financial statements in an Income Statement format proscribed by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for competitive products: First-Class Mail, Standard Mail, each Competitive Product, and other for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2014.
6. The Postal Service's methodology used to attribute costs for packages delivered on Sundays, including how USPS determines attributable and institutional and how USPS allocates attributable costs to market-dominant and competitive products.
7. The Competitive Products Enterprise Statement of Allocated Assets and Liabilities required by 39 CFR Â§3060.14 for fiscal year 2014.
8. The Income Report, the Financial Status Report, the Identified Property and Equipment Assets Report, and the Competitive Products Enterprise Statement of Allocated Assets and Liabilities that were required to be filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission pursuant to 39 CFR 3060.20 for fiscal year 2008 through 2014.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal investigative oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and may at "any time" investigate "any matter" as set forth in House Rule X. When producing documents to the Committee, the production sets to the majority staff in Room 2157 of the Rayburn House Office Building and the minority staff in Room 2477 of the House Office Building. The Committee prefers, if possible, to receive all documents in electronic format. An attachment to this request for additional information about responding to the Committee's request.




[Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#): Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Ranking Member (D-Del.) and Committee members Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), will host a bipartisan hearing on postal issues on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. Presenters include: Executive Officer, National Newspaper Association (NNA); Margaret Cigno, Director of the Office of Accountability & Compliance (OAC) of the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC); Anthony Leonardi, National President, National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS); Jean M. M. National Rural Letter Carriers' Association





[Wall Street Journal](#): FedEx lost a motion in a legal case that is an important test of how much responsibility parcel carriers bear for


they carry. The WSJ's Laura Stevens reports a judge on Thursday denied a motion to dismiss federal charges of conspiracy to distribute, refusing to go along with FedEx's argument that it is protected as a common carrier. Also at stake is a fine that could be double the \$82 million. The Department of Justice says FedEx took in from "rogue Internet pharmacies."


## ***International Postal News***


 [Financial Times](#): Interfering with the mail is a criminal offence that could bring a heavy fine or imprisonment. Trying to compete with Royal Mail is costly, as Whistl discovered this week. The only rival to offer door-to-door letter delivery suspended its services and 2,000 staff after Royal Mail sued. Wells, Whistl chief executive, blames Royal Mail's "anti-competitive and predatory pricing" practices for its difficulties.


 [The Australian](#): It's hard to imagine today, but in the 19th century the most admired and emulated entity in the world was a postal service. It was considered one of the wonders of the modern world, a harbinger of the efficiency and integrity of an amazing future.


 [The Japan Times](#): Japan Post Co. said Friday it will increase its basic Yu-Pack parcel delivery fees by 4.8 percent on average starting in 23 years. The measure is designed to cover rises in delivery and labor costs. The basic fees mainly apply to services for individuals. The gargantuan Japan Post Holdings Co. delivers some 500 million parcels a year under the Yu-Pack service. The hike means about 70 million parcels to new pricing.


 [Canada NewsWire](#): The Canadian Union of Postal Workers welcomes the announcement today from the New Democratic Party of Canada that it will restore home mail delivery to those whose service has been cut by the Conservative government.


 [The Jakarta Post](#): Deutsche Post DHL (DPDHL) Group's Disaster Response Team (DRT) will extend its deployment till May. The earthquake hit the region on 12 May and causing additional devastation to the area. The 18-strong team of volunteers from DHL, trained in disaster management, were deployed in three waves and tasked with improving logistics operations at Tribhuvan Kathmandu Airport, sorting incoming relief supplies. Over the last three weeks, the DRT handled over 2,000 tons of incoming relief supplies, sorting and moving goods into centralized airside warehouses run by the United Nations World Food Programme for further distribution by international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

 [Malta Independent](#): MaltaPost has successfully upgraded the security of its website after a report published in the last edition of The Sunday Times highlighted a number of security weaknesses, turning its website into one of Malta's most secure in the process.

 [CBC](#): The backlash against Canada Post is growing, with four mayors in the greater Montreal area joining the legal battle against the government's decision to phase out urban home mail delivery by 2018.


 [Post & Parcel](#): Dutch postal service PostNL has introduced automated parcel locker terminals at transport hubs in the Netherlands. The Polish parcel locker supplier InPost on the project, which has seen self-service parcel pick-up and drop-off points introduced in Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. The lockers have also appeared at railway stations in Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Breda, Eindhoven, Leiden and Almere. The brand "Pakketautomaten" gives customers the chance to collect parcels, including e-commerce purchases, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, about their travels.


 [Post & Parcel](#): A special task force acting on behalf of Ghana's Postal and Courier Services Regulatory Commission (PCSRC) arrested several operators in Accra this week. Courier companies operating in Ghana are obliged to register with the PCSRC and have a valid licence.


 [Postal Technology International](#): TNT Italy has launched a bike delivery service to cover a designated traffic restricted zone in the center of Rome. TNT's five cyclists will replace the four vans that formerly served the area, generating an overall CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of between 110 lb and 150 lb per year. Will travel an average of 12 miles each day, the equivalent of approximately 3100 miles per year. Making nearly 80 stops daily, the cyclist's productivity similar to levels achieved previously by the traditional vans. TNT's bike delivery service uses "Fixie" bicycles, or bikes with a single gear, provided by BH Bikes. These bikes are light (26 lb), practical and easy to drive in the congested downtown area.








*May 14, 2015*

## ***Domestic Postal News***

 **Timberjay:** What a mess. That's the only way to describe the current status of mail delivery in our area in the wake of the closure of facility last month. It's a far cry from the "seamless" transition promised by postal service spokespeople back in February when they co Duluth's mail processing center. If the past few weeks are any indicator, however, I'd say the seams are pretty frayed right now. Easily,

 **WANE:** The U.S. Postal Service released its top 30 dog attack city rankings in advance of National Dog Bite Prevention Week next 5,767 postal employees were attacked by dogs last year. "There's a myth we often hear at the Postal Service: Don't worry, my dog won't Manager of Safety Linda DeCarlo. "Dog attacks are a nationwide issue and not just a postal problem. Any dog can bite and all attacks a responsible pet ownership." Big cities such as Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, and Dallas all make the top five list from 2014. Others i

 **WorkersCompensation:** Officials recently delivered some bad news for the U.S. Postal Service at one of its locations in Chicago (26 year,the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Chicago North Area Office initiated an inspection after receiving a complaint alleging unsafe working conditions. OSHA found workers were exposed to various electrical hazards and is serious and one other-than-serious violation with proposed penalties of \$63,540. "The Postal Service has a responsibility to make sure o good working order," said Angeline Loftus, OSHA's area director in Des Plaines. "Each year hundreds of workers are injured by electri The Postal Service needs to re-evaluate this facility and correct these hazards immediately."

 **DMM Advisory:** New ACS<sup>SM</sup>,<sup>SM</sup> Ancillary Service Option and Intelligent Mail<sup>SM</sup> Barcode Service Type IDs. Beg ACS<sup>SM</sup>,<sup>SM</sup> Ancillary Service Option and new Intelligent Mail<sup>SM</sup> barcode Service Type IDs will be available. Change Service Requested Mail<sup>SM</sup> letters and flats and Bound Printed Matter flats:  Intelligent Mail<sup>SM</sup> barcode is required.  CSR Option 2 is only availab Undeliverable mail (UAA) will be forwarded when there is a current change-of-address on file.  A Forwarded Fee will be charged f forwarded (see <https://ribbs.usps.gov/acs> for more details).  All other UAA mail will be discarded.  Provides an ACS notice for discarded mail.  Avoids returned mail and weighted fee charges. More information on this new ACS ancillary service option can be <https://ribbs.usps.gov/acs>. Intelligent Mail<sup>SM</sup> barcode Service Type ID information for this service can be found at: <https://ribbs.u>






#### Office of the Inspector General:


- [What Do Leading Businesses Do to Deliver Quality Customer Service?](#)

The Postal Service wants to improve the customer experience in an effort to increase loyalty and revenue. It hopes to customer satisfaction by anticipating customers' behavior and predicting their future needs using a major management Delivering Results, Innovation, Value, and Efficiency (DRIVE) Initiative 25 - Improve Customer Service. We are co an audit to find out whether DRIVE 25 used established DRIVE project management processes such as establishing a goals, measuring and reviewing performance, and conducting proper oversight. 1. What can the Postal Service do to success of this DRIVE initiative? 2. Do you know of steps other companies or industries have taken to achieve simila What elements of customer service should the Postal Service track to ensure the success of this initiative?

- [Do Postal Service Executives Have the Data They Need for Effective Decision Making?](#)

Postal Service executives depend on data to manage their business strategies and daily activities. They need efficient quality data to ensure they are making the most informed decisions for the organization. We've been conducting a ser audits of the data postal officers use. And we're planning next to focus on the chief operating officer and executive vi president's (COO) use of data. The COO is responsible for the daily activities of 491,000 career employees working i than 31,000 facilities supported by a fleet of over 200,000 vehicles. Are you familiar with the COO's use of date? Ho COO use data to manage activities and mitigate risk? Does the COO have the right tools and data to make informed c What information do you think the COO should focus on for effective decision making?

 **Postalnews.com:** *From an APWU report --* The Postal Service's second quarter performance scores are in  but you wouldn't know website. Instead of posting a press release bragging about on-time delivery scores  as management typically does  the results are the Postal Regulatory Commission's daily filings page and buried on an obscure page on the USPS website. So what exactly is the Post The results are bad  very bad. The APWU has not yet had the chance to fully analyze the official, published reports, but we know fr preliminary results that on-time delivery of first-class mail dropped dramatically in early 2015 compared to the same period in 2014.

 **Associated Press:** Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will test a new unlimited shipping service for online shoppers this summer that will be priced

year Prime service. Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the shipping subscription service will arrive in three days or less.


## **Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC)**


If you missed the Pre-MTAC Mail Prep and Entry and Visibility/Service Performance M Focus Session webinars on May 6 and 7, they are now available on the MTAC page on R [and Presentations, 2015](#). Links to the recordings are available on the title page of the pres


### ***At the Postal Regulatory Commission:***


- RM2015-7 Reply Comments of the Parcel Shippers Association  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92282/PSA Reply RM2015-7.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92282/PSA%20Reply%20RM2015-7.pdf)


### ***International Postal News***

 **MISAsia**: Snail mail in Singapore will soon take a shorter time to be delivered, with Singapore Post's (SingPost) deployment of Toshiba's integrated postal automation system. The new system -- which replaces 26 older machines -- comprises 16 various machines that can read and sort packages and flats such as publications. The machines leverage Toshiba's optical character recognition (OCR) system to identify and read barcodes to process 42,000 letters per hour with high accuracy rate, said Toshiba. - See more at: [http://www.mis-asia.com/tech/industry](http://www.mis-asia.com/tech/industry-news/industry-gets-a-boost-from-toshiba/#sthash.5fEgE7mg.dpuf)

 **Post & Parcel**: Austrian Post has said a "subdued" economy and "intensified" competition is hampering its parcels business. The company's results for the first quarter of 2015 showing that growth in the parcels business is more than counteracting the ongoing decline in the mail volume due to electronic substitution for physical letter volumes. But Austrian Post said high levels of competition, particularly in Germany where 55% of parcels generated, is putting pressure on prices and its market shares and hitting growth despite the boost from the growing e-commerce industry.


 **Wall Street Journal**: One reason Italy's gross domestic product and labor productivity have stalled is the lack of competition. Overregulation, lack of transparency and anachronistic economic rents guaranteed by the law have combined to stifle growth. Barriers to competition hamper growth by reducing incentives to invest in innovation and limiting social mobility. Costs in the Italian service sector, for instance, are significantly higher than in the European Union, and even higher than Italy's own manufacturing sector, which is exposed to the pressures of international trade. Liberalizing the market would free up resources for more productive investments, leading to higher GDP growth, increased investments and more jobs. In the meantime, monopolies still held by Poste Italiane, such as its monopoly in the delivery of judicial notifications, would be eliminated. This is an important step in the privatization of the national postal service through the removal of potentially anticompetitive regulations.

 **Tamebay**: NetDespatch has helped Indigo Herbs of Glastonbury to speed up their order processing and despatch procedures. The company's new web-based solution seamlessly integrates with the company's ecommerce system, XSellco. The solution has eliminated input errors and improved order fulfilment.

 **Reuters**: The chief executive of Portugal's postal service CTT said on Thursday preparations to open a postal banking service are going well and it will be done by the end of 2015.


*May 13, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***


 **Associated Press**: Those birthday cards, bills and other first-class stamped mail often are taking a little longer to get to their destination. Statistics from the U.S. Postal Service show a decline in on-time delivery for first-class stamped mail for the first three months of this year, compared to the same period last year. An independent organization that tests service performance for the Post Office found about 63 percent of first-class mail that would be expected to arrive in three days - a letter sent from Washington to Boston, for example - arrived on time. That's down from about 84 percent during the same period last year. Service says horrible winter weather that grounded flights and disrupted service in many parts of the country was part of the problem.


## **Attention Postal One! Users:**

- **PostalOne!® Release 41.0 Production Deployment- PostalOne! Release 41.0** will deploy on Sunday, May 17, 2015. This release includes new business functionality, updates to existing functionality, and database maintenance activities. This release will require an external client download. The PostalOne! system will not be available from May 17, 2015 12:00 AM CT (midnight) through 10:00 AM CT. There will be a client download required. Release notes for PostalOne! Release 41.0 can be found on [https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail\\_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm).
- **PostalOne! Release 41.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** will occur on Monday, May 18, 2015. The environment will not be available between 6:00AM CT and 4:00PM CT. TEM validation will occur on Monday, May 18, 2015 4:00PM CT.

 **Press Release:** Bell and Howell understands that mailing operations that handle small parcels have different needs than those that manage a company's new Smalls ParcelMgr™ sorting system will help maximize U.S. Postal Service discounts for organizations that routinely mail small parcels (under 5 lbs.) per day. Smalls ParcelMgr support numerous USPS® rate categories including First Class package services, priority mail, and Howel's software suite is evolving to meet future needs of parcel shippers. Smalls ParcelMgr can add speed and value to organization's prescription fulfillment operations, flats mailers and operations that send padded mailers under 16 oz. or polybags in volume. The Smalls ParcelMgr is designed to meet all USPS regulatory requirements for parcels mailing, including the Intelligent Mail® barcode (IMpb). Users can maximize discounts by automating the labeling process to earn even larger postal discounts. For shippers that receive intermixed flats mail and parcels from multiple sources, it automatically processes "on the fly" using the most economical shipping method based on a customer's business rules, and can simultaneously process multiple types of mail and parcels.

**Attention Business Customer Gateway Users** Program Registration Release 14.0.0.0 ' will be deployed from 12:00 am (Midnight) to 10:00 am CDT on Sunday, May 17, 2015. **There will be an outage** and the Online Enrollment Service and Incentive Program Business Customer Gateway will be **unavailable** during that time.


 **Daily Journal:** Federal regulators are criticizing the U.S. Postal Service's decision to close the Yantic Post Office in 2012, saying officials should consider public input. Elisabeth Shellan, a public representative for the Postal Regulatory Commission, issued a seven-page report Monday asking the commission reconsider the closing. The commission is scheduled to vote on the appeal on June 17.


 **Los Angeles Times:** The on-demand pickup, packaging and posting service Shyp launched in Los Angeles on Wednesday, bringing a new packaging and shipping facility in Commerce, and plans to employ dozens of delivery contractors. Founded in San Francisco a year ago, Shyp is what co-founder Kevin Gibbons described as the most "painful" part of shipping an item â€" taking it to the post office.


**INDUSTRY ALERT** Updated USPS Extra Service Forms New and Updated Forms Available Soon. As part of our ongoing efforts to simplify products and services, effective May 31, 2015, several updated and two new Extra Service forms will be implemented. Revised Extra Service forms can either be printed by customers at: <http://about.usps.com/forms-publications/welcome.htm> (PS Forms 3811-A, and 3877) or ordered online at: <https://store.usps.com/store/> (PS Forms 153, 3800, 3811, 3813, 3813-P, and 3816). These Extra Service forms are available for printing or ordering by customers on May 15, 2015, but are not intended for use until May 31, 2015. For mailers who print or order forms, the same certification process as stated in DMM 503.1.7.2 must be followed for the new or revised forms. The available new and updated forms are:


Extra Service PS Form #	Extra Service Form Name	Change Status
153	Signature Confirmation Receipt	Updated
3606	Certificate of Bulk Mailing (International)*	Updated
3606-D	Certificate of Bulk Mailing (Domestic)*	New Form
3665	Certificate of Mailing â€" Firm (Domestic)*	New Form
3800	Certified Mail Receipt	Updated

3804	Return Receipt for Merchandise	Updated
3811	Domestic Return Receipt	Updated
3811-A	Request for Delivery Information/Return Receipt	Updated
3813	Insured Mail Receipt \$500 and Under	Updated
3813-P	Insured Mail Receipt Over \$500	Updated
3816	Collect on Delivery	Updated
3877	Firm Mailing Book for Accountable Mail*	Updated

 [The Hill](#): The Obama administration is threatening to take "alternative options" to close military bases if Congress continues through block the Pentagon from conducting another round of closures. On Wednesday, Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced the Senate's version of the bill would also prohibit base closures. *[EdNote: To anyone attending the HSGAC round table, this should have a familiar ring.]*

 [Wall Street Journal](#): Office space in Silicon Valley isn't the only real estate that's gotten scarce in the booming technology market. The limited supply of new Internet property is running out of inventory. Some savvy companies have been stocking up on ready-made space, but mean headaches and significant costs for U.S. businesses looking to expand on the Internet. The limited supply of new Internet property is gone. Asia essentially ran out in 2011, and Europe a year later. North America's allotment is due to dry up this summer.

 [Direct Marketing News](#): At a Senate committee roundtable convened by postal reform advocate Tom Carper (D-DE) yesterday, a quick-fix solution to the Postal Service's financial ills was offered up by James Sauber, chief of staff of the National Association of Letter Carriers. Sauber is buying government T-bills with the retiree healthcare fund and put it in the hands of private investors instead. On a panel asked by Carper for suggestions for saving the Postal Service, Sauber had but one to offer. "Think about requiring the [Office of Personnel Management] to invest in more sensible. Healthcare costs are growing five to seven percent annually and Treasury securities are yielding two to three percent," Sauber said. "Savings out that both the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and Amtrak had established safeguards to allow them to invest healthcare assets in that provided higher returns. Were the Postal Service to do the same, according to an analysis done at NALC'S behest, the Postal Service's Benefit fund's funding percentage would rise from 94% to 118% over the subsequent decade, Sauber said. "This is a significant policy change for us to reduce pressure on raising postage rates and cutting services. And it just makes good business sense."


 [KSBY](#): The U.S. Postal Service is warning its customers about a scam. Officials there say customers have been receiving bogus emails from the USPS, about a package delivery or online postage charges. The emails contain a link or attachment that can install a virus on your computer. Officials say that virus could steal your personal information. Postal inspectors say, if you get an email like this, just delete it. To report a scam, you can call 1-800-ASK-USPS or send an email to [spam@uspis.gov](mailto:spam@uspis.gov).



**From the Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES New Postal Products , 27352 [2015-11-17]**




[Federal News Radio](#): \$1.5 billion. Let that sink in for a minute. That's how much money the Postal Service lost in just the first ten months of the year. Enough to fund the Internal Revenue Service for more than one entire month. Poof! Gone. Francis Rose Postal Service salvation plan includes cutting delivery days, changing the benefits package, emphasizing services like package delivery and even some ideas that seem far out there, such as data mining and banking services. But even the most radical of these solutions doesn't get at the real problem. America doesn't need as much Postal Service as it used to. It doesn't need as much Postal Service as it has today. And it will need even less Postal Service a decade from now. Around the edges like most postal reform measures do, Congress' efforts should focus on solutions that will make the Postal Service healthy and profitable just in the next few years. True Postal Service reform should include three concepts . . .


 [Sen. Tom Carper](#) (D-Del.), ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, convened a bipartisan roundtable that explored the challenges and opportunities facing the Postal Service in the digital age. Members heard from key stakeholders in the U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Hallmark, as well as the U.S. Postal Service, about the hurdles facing the Postal Service in an era dominated by electronic communications and what tools the agency needs to innovate and thrive in the 21st century. [You can watch a video](#)


[roundtable here](#).


"For years, the Postal Service has worked hard to compete in the digital age â€” keeping prices as low as possible, generating it can, and taking significant steps to reduce its costs. The Postal Service needs to continue to grow through innovation," said J. "Despite its serious financial challenges, the Postal Service is doing what it can to not just remain relevant, but to thrive. It's providing Amazon.com to delivery groceries in some communities and deliver packages overnight in a growing number of zip codes â€” on Sundays. It's helping UPS, FedEx, and other private shippers to grow their businesses by taking packages the last mile. However much within its legislative and financial restraints. The Postal Service needs freedom and flexibility to grow through innovative additional ways to make money in the digital age by leveraging its unique 200-year-old distribution network. As we learned during this discussion, that opportunity can only come through comprehensive reform from Congress. I look forward to continuing this in a constructive conversation on what Congress needs to do to help the Postal Service." Senator Carper held [a bipartisan briefing on the Service's financial status last month](#). **A third roundtable**, which will focus on rural postal issues, **is planned for Tuesday, May 12, 2015.**

### ***International Postal News***

 [Hellenic Shipping News](#): Italy will try to jump-start its privatization plans by providing potential investors with key details of assets and national railways by the end of June, Premier Matteo Renzi's economic adviser said.


 [Post & Parcel](#): People living in rural Estonia can now withdraw cash from their bank accounts through a new service provided by lo Omniva, the state-owned postal operator that still runs its domestic postal services under the name Eesti Post after last year's rebrand, last the end of April. The service sees mail carriers using portable card payment terminals to allow customers to withdraw cash using their ID number. Customers can take out up to EUR 400 each time, but have to submit an order to Eesti Post's customer service centre by phone. The offering improves the availability of cash in rural areas.

 [Post & Parcel](#): Israel Postal Company is cutting back on its national network of mailboxes, in response to a sharp decline in the volume through the red boxes. Local sources report that there are currently about 4,000 mailboxes in Israel and the company plans to prune the network to 2,500. However, many believe that the cuts may go much deeper, judging by the scale of closures in Jerusalem, where the downsizing is ongoing.

 [Wamda](#): The lack of standardized postal addresses means more time spent trying to deliver orders, and in worst case scenarios means a huge challenge for e-shop owners, restaurants and businesses whose business models rely on deliveries. The field should be wide open for entrepreneurs to make locations easily identifiable. In fact, some entrepreneurs have tried to do this over the last few years, but they have failed. Companies, like Aramex and BoxStop, are getting around this problem by having orders delivered to a locker or a convenience store where they do the delivery themselves.

*May 12, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***

 [Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Roundtable](#): "The Challenges and Opportunities for the Postal Service in the Digital Age." The briefing will be a roundtable discussion analyzing the challenges and opportunities facing the Postal Service in the digital age. This briefing to assess the hurdles facing the Postal Service and identify the tools the Postal Service needs to innovate and thrive in the 21st century.

Presenters:


- Donald Hall, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, Hallmark
- Jim Cochrane, Acting Chief Marketing and Sales Officer, U.S. Postal Service
- Tammy Whitcomb, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General
- Lori Rectanus, Director, Physical Infrastructure, U.S. Government Accountability Office
- James W. Sauber, Chief of Staff, National Association of Letter Carriers


PostCom has made available an [extemporaneous recap of comments](#) on this site.


## *At the Postal Regulatory Commission:*

- **Position Available:** The Postal Regulatory Commission has an exciting employment opportunity for a highly motivated, highly experienced Financial Analyst. This Office is responsible for promoting United States Postal Service transparency and accountability and maintaining a modern system to regulate rates, ensuring Postal Service compliance with the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, making recommendations based on the analysis of financial reports from the Postal Service, and preparing annual and periodic reports. The Office of Accountability and Compliance serves the Commission and Commissioners, the Postal Service, mailers, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the American public.
- National Payroll Hours Summary Report Pay Period 10-FY2015  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92259/Letter\\_Payroll\\_PP10FY15\\_20150511161225.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92259/Letter_Payroll_PP10FY15_20150511161225.pdf)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92259/NationalPayrollSummary\\_PP10\\_2015.xlsx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92259/NationalPayrollSummary_PP10_2015.xlsx)
- Revenue, Pieces and Weight by Classes of Mail and Special Services for Quarter 2, Fiscal Year 2015, Compared with the Corresponding Quarter of Year 2014 [http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92258/Fy2015Q2\\_RPWsummaryreport\\_public\\_PRC%20Methodology.xls](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92258/Fy2015Q2_RPWsummaryreport_public_PRC%20Methodology.xls)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92258/Letter%20RPW%20Q2%20FY15\\_20150511161709.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92258/Letter%20RPW%20Q2%20FY15_20150511161709.pdf)
- Quarterly Performance Reports for Quarter 2 of FY 2015  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92257/Letter\\_QuartPerf\\_Q2FY15\\_.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92257/Letter_QuartPerf_Q2FY15_.pdf)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92257/QuarterlyPerfQ2FY15\\_.zip](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92257/QuarterlyPerfQ2FY15_.zip)
- Docket No. R2013-11 -- [Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 17](#)

"To further clarify the amount of exigent surcharge revenue collected, the Postal Service is requested to provide a written response to the request. The Postal Service shall file revised workpapers for its Revenue Collection Report for Quarter 1 FY2015 to reflect any changes to its responses to the following questions. The Postal Service shall also make conforming changes to the workpapers filed with the Commission for Quarter 2 of FY 2014, its Revenue Collection Report for Quarter 3 of FY 2014 and its Revenue Collection Report for Quarter 4 of FY 2014. The quarterly report, the Revenue Collection Report for Quarter 2 of FY 2015, is due on May 15, 2015. The Postal Service should ensure that the corrections the Postal Service makes to previous reports in response to the questions below. The information requested should be filed no later than May 15, 2015."

 **The Hill:** Postal workers are rallying for expanded hours that would lead to more stable jobs. The American Postal Workers Union, behind the scenes postal workers like counter clerks and those who sort through mail but not the letter carriers, is organizing a nationwide protest. Hundreds of postal workers in more than 85 cities will protest in front of local post office buildings. They'll urge customers to sign postcards for postal workers that they'll later deliver to the postmaster general. Actor Danny Glover, who used to work for the post office, will join the protest in Washington, D.C., to call for longer hours.

 **PRNewswire:** Consumers and businesses can now manage their postal mail and packages online, 24/7, from anywhere by signing up for iPostal1 at any shipping store in the iPostal1 network, soon to include all 50 states. With a digital mailbox, also known as a virtual mailbox, customers can manage packages with more control and flexibility, see a scan of mail content, and add a phone or fax line to create a virtual office. Today, individuals who need secure package delivery or the privacy of an alternative address and phone number, students on the go, expats living abroad, frequent travelers, as well as those who spend time at second homes or need to manage mail for elderly parents are all benefiting from the ease, immediacy and security of a digital mailbox. PO Box renters will definitely love the convenience of an online PO Box, which means not having to go to their PO Box to retrieve mail they've received. Customers get a mailbox address at a shipping store that works just like a street address, where their mail is received. The iPostal1 app for Apple and Android, or on any tablet or computer, customers receive a notification when new mail arrives and see an image of their mailbox. With just a tap or click, they can forward mail or packages, scan or store a document, recycle or shred unwanted mail, or more. Digital mailbox prices start at \$9.99.


 **US Court of Appeals, DC Circuit:** The case on price cap implication of Full Service Intelligent Mail barcode has been remanded to the Postal Service to "enunciate an intelligent standard and then reconsider its decision in light of that standard."


"The principal issue in this case is whether the Commission is correct in its view that its rate cap authority extends beyond the regulation of Postal Service operational rules that have "rate effects." The Postal Service contends that the Act and applicable regulations do not authorize the Commission from characterizing mail preparation requirements as "changes in rates." In addition, the Postal Service argues that the Commission's "Changes in Rates" Adjustments is arbitrary and capricious because the standard that it invokes to determine when changes in mail preparation requirements are "changes in rates" is incomprehensible.

"In our view, the Act and applicable regulations are ambiguous with respect to whether the Commission's authority extends to the regulat





that have "rate effects." We therefore reject the Postal Service's claim that the "plain meaning" of the Act and regulations positively for counting an operational change that has rate effects as a "change in rates." The Commission's interpretation of the Act thus does not fail. *U.S.A. Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837 (1984). We agree with the Postal Service, however, that the Commission's interpretation survive arbitrary and capricious review. The standard enunciated by the Commission to determine when requirements changes are "change in rates" is boundless thus, unreasonable; and the Commission's inconsistent application of the standard in this case proves the point."

 **Gizmag:** In an age of Twitter, Facebook, and texting, a physical mailbox may seem like a relic of the dead (letter) past, but postal the people still get annoyed at fruitless journeys to the curb. The Gate smart mailbox is a 21st century variation on the old switch-and-door not only lets you know when the post arrives, but is also intended to combat theft.

 **eCommerceBytes:** The USPS has touted its efforts to cut costs, but it's also getting hammered on the issue of slow and undeliverable mail. Senators told Postmaster General Megan Brennan that slow mail delivery and poor service was hitting rural America hard. And a new report from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) saying the Postal Service is failing to stem the rise in undeliverable mail.

 **Heartland.org:** "Big Government Advocates Say They Want More Competition & Their Solutions' Result in Less"

 **KRMG:** Have you ever moved and not filed a forwarding address with the Postal Service? Or maybe you keep getting letters for someone where you are now? Did you ever send a letter with an error in the address? If you answer 'yes' to any of those, it might make you shake your head, but to the Postal Service it means big money, with figures showing the mail system spent \$1.5 billion in 2014 simply due to wrong addresses. "As many as 40 percent of people who move do not inform the Postal Service," internal investigators reported, which means the Postal Service has to spend money and resources to deal with that undelivered mail.

 **Bidness Etc.:** Bidness Etc estimates that even with the TNT acquisition, FedEx may have a hard time keeping up with UPS. The latter is increasing operations in the region by expanding its fleet. FedEx is currently awaiting approval for the deal from the regulatory authorities as a next step.



**From the Federal Register:** Postal Regulatory Commission *NOTICES* New Postal Products , 27205 [2015&#x2013;11367] [

**Office of the Inspector General:**

- [U.S. Postal Service's Delivering Results, Innovation, Value, and Efficiency Initiative 43 &#x2013; Building a World-Class Package](#) (FY) 2011, the U.S. Postal Service established 36 Delivering Results, Innovation, Value, and Efficiency (DRIVE) initiatives to support its strategy. DRIVE initiatives are to be bold and aggressive and have measurable outcomes. DRIVE Initiative 43 &#x2013; Building a World-Class Package Platform has 10 projects that are supposed to increase cumulative package volume by 35 percent. Our objective was to determine whether Initiative used established DRIVE project management processes. Read our report."
- [Highway Contract Routes &#x2013; Extra Trips in the Greater Indiana District](#) -- The U.S. Postal Service uses highway contract routes between its facilities and other designated points. The Postal Service uses Postal Service (PS) Form 5397, Contract Route Extra Trips, to authorize extra trips and PS Form 5429, Certification of Exceptional Contract Service Performed, to certify trip completion and performance. This is the second in a series of reports on HCR extra trips. Our objective was to assess HCR extra trips in the Greater Indiana District.



[The latest issue of Mailing Systems Technology is now available online.](#)

## **INDUSTRYALERT** *USPS Webinar Schedule Week of May 11, 2015*

**Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

**11:00am EDT *Print and Deliver Shipping Label Service* Attendee Information:** US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: **(866) 381-9870**

**17345128** Attendee Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaea37f39e55e0ab387f690b97de44291>

**1:00pm EDT *May 2015 Price Change (all classes)*** US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (866) 381-9870 Conference ID: 38308730

<https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=edd13c51fc1551adfbce519a79b6f78e7a>

**2:00pm EDT Customer Supplier Agreements Note: Registration is required.** US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (877) 294-2949  
Attendee Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e596db1429162916782b2ebd63122b758>

**Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

**1:00pm EDT May 2015 Price Change (Periodicals only)** US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (866) 381-9870 Conference ID: 38308747  
<https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb03b6d8ead186aa4b93d6b048d32eb1e>

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**



**1:00pm EDT May 2015 Price Change (all classes)** US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (866) 381-9870 Conference ID: 38308747  
<https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=ec1491e0a3588092a123c8ca949daecbc>

[Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#): U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) will hold a bipartisan roundtable titled "The Challenges and Opportunities for the Postal Service in a Digital Age" at 2:30 p.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The briefing will be a roundtable discussion analyzing the challenges and opportunities facing the Postal Service in the digital age. Members will be able to use this briefing to assess the hurdles facing the Postal Service and the tools the Postal Service needs to innovate and thrive in the 21st century. To watch a live stream of the roundtable meeting, please go to <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/minority-media/member-roundtable-the-challenges-and-opportunities-for-the-postal-service-in-a-digital-age>. WHAT U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) hosts roundtable "The Challenges and Opportunities for the Postal Service in a Digital Age." Participants: (1) Donald Hall, Jr. President and Chief Executive Officer Hallmark Mail Products (2) Deputy Inspector General U.S Postal Service Office of Inspector General (3) Lori Rectanus Director, Physical Infrastructure U.S. Government (4) James W. Sauber Chief of Staff National Association of Letter Carriers

**INDUSTRY ALERT** *USPS 2015 Promotion Schedule Emerging and Advanced Technology Promotion Dates*  
Postal Regulatory Commission approved the proposed prices and classifications for Standard Mail and Standard Mail Package Services which include the full 2015 Promotion Calendar. While none of the promotion requirements have changed, the dates for Standard Mail and Advanced Technology Promotion have been revised. All 2015 Promotions will be implemented as follows:

	Earned Value	Emerging & Advanced Technology	Color Transpromo	Mail Drive & Engagement
Registration Period	Closed	March 15 â€" November 30, 2015	April 15 â€" Nov. 30, 2015	May 15 â€" June 30, 2015
Promotion Period	May 1 â€" July 31, 2015	June 1 â€" November 30, 2015	June 1 â€" Nov. 30, 2015	July 1 â€" August 31, 2015
Eligible	First-Class Mail	First-Class Mail and Standard Mail	First Class Mail	Standard Mail


[Federal Times](#): The Postal Service has saved about \$200 million so far this fiscal year as gas prices remain low according to the agency. Joseph Corbett, the chief financial officer at the Postal Service, said in a conference call that if the low gas prices continue the agency could save a total of \$400 million in fiscal 2015. The Postal Service's fleet of 200,000 delivery vehicles, is one of the largest federal fleet owners within government, and so fluctuations in gas prices impact the bottom line.


[WHAU](#): "Stop Postal Executives From Destroying Our Postal Service"


[National Postal Mail Handlers Union](#): Paul V. Hogrogian of Local 300 has taken the oath of office to serve as President of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. On Friday, May 1, 2015, Hogrogian officially began his service.


President. "I am deeply honored to serve as the National President of this great Union," said Hogrogian after his excited about my new job, and looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead."


### ***International Postal News***


 [Kuwait News Agency](#): Chiefs and undersecretaries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) post authorities on a host of topics for promoting services among the member states. On top of the agenda of the two-day 29th meeting of the Committee of Post Authorities Chiefs and Undersecretaries in Doha was preparing an action plan for promoting and opening up fresh prospects for enhancing e-commerce among the member states. Participants also addressed measures to develop products such as Gulf EX service to enhance clients' confidence and secure a better future for the post industry. At the closing session, Qatar Postal Services Company (QPost) Chairman and Managing Director Faleh Al Naemi said he hopes the meeting will lead to developing pan-GCC postal services for the good of the Gulf peoples.

 [Herald Sun](#): In a memo to staff, Australia Post boss Ahmed Fahour has revealed letter volumes have slumped over the last few months but he says the organisation is committed to its post offices and will pump fresh funds into the network. Fahour last week volunteered to forgo a bonus of more than \$2 million, with other executives giving up bonuses worth a total of \$10 million. The postal authority will today announce plans to boost payments to post offices by \$51.4 million over the next three years to the minimum payments it makes to almost 1000 small independent post offices and post offices integrated into small business newsagents 'mostly in rural and remote areas' to ensure they remain viable. Australia Post will also boost payments to office operators to handle parcels. But the higher payments rely on the federal Parliament passing a series of reforms governing the postal service 'including a hike in basic stamp prices from 70c to \$1.


 [Canada NewsWire](#): A disturbingly high number of safety concerns and personal injuries 'some requiring medical attention' are being reported by those who have lost their home delivery and been forced to transition to Canada Post's new mailboxes. Approximately one hundred thousand households lost home mail delivery in 2014. A poll conducted by Stratcon last week found that out of every 5 (21.3%) of respondents reported experiencing an accident, such as a slip or fall, either at the mailbox or the mailbox. 8.5% of those accidents required medical attention. "Our money-making post office needs to consider the impact of its ill-advised plan," said Mike Palecek, National President of CUPW. "Clearly, there are already serious concerns about the number of personal injuries, which warrant further investigation."


 [The New Indian Express](#): In a bid to make the postal service customer-friendly, the Indian postal department has launched the India Post mobile app that would enable one to track speed post, electronic money orders and parcels sent through the app. The citizen-centric Android Mobile application of Department of Posts was developed by Centre for Excellence in Information Technology, postal department official said that through the mobile application, the user can track his mail or parcel besides the app. The tracking facility is made available on this mobile app for speed post, registered letter, insured letter, value insured letter, insured value payable letter, registered packets, registered periodicals, registered parcel, insured parcel, value payable parcel, business parcel, express parcel and electronic Money Order (e-MO) The user can track the parcel by entering the article number and touching the Track button.

 [Telecompaper](#): Lithuanian Post has launched its mobile application for Android devices, reports Vz.lt. The app is available for download on Google Play and enables customers to receive information on services, track postal routes and the location of the nearest post office. Lithuanian Post claims that the monthly audience of its website exceeds 1 million.


 [AFP](#): German postal and logistics giant Deutsche Post (Other OTC: DPSGY - news) said Tuesday it is sticking to its earnings targets despite only a "moderate" start in the first quarter. "Although Deutsche Post DHL expects global growth at best in 2015 and continues to make substantial investments in its long-term success, the group has confirmed its


said in a statement. Underlying or operating profit was projected to increase to between 3.05-3.2 billion euros (\$ it said. And for 2016, the group reconfirmed its forecast of a rise in operating profit to 3.4-3.7 billion euros.

 [Canada NewsWire](#): The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has elected Mike Palecek, a postal worker from V union's new National President. Jan Simpson became 1st National Vice-president - the first black woman to sit on the Executive Board. Palecek is CUPW's youngest national president ever. He promises to bring a new energy and vision to the union in the face of Conservative cuts to the postal service, saying "We are going to bring the fight to the Tories in the run-up to the election. We are going to make sure that every person who loses door to door delivery, every citizen that has to pay higher postage, every person that has their local post office closed or downsized, knows that the blame for this lies squarely with Stephen Harper's government." Palecek promises a more aggressive stance for the union in the fight to protect public services and jobs.

 [Toronto Star](#): New data from Canada Post due to be released Tuesday found that, in 2014, about 76 per cent of Canadians shopped online. Of those figures, about a quarter of Canadians have become "frequent" shoppers, which means they use the Internet four to 10 times per year, the data says.


 [Business Insider](#): "Lloyds Bank just did Royal Mail a huge favour- by killing its competition."

 [Economic Times](#): Underscoring the importance of India Post, Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad today clarified that the government won't target the postal network for the fear of losing people's support. "People of the country still trust the postal network. It tells you a very sensitive thing... there is so much of Maoist violence, but still, the attacks on post is low because they know that if they try to attack it, the people will be unhappy with them," Prasad said.


 [The Hindu Business Line](#): India Post on Monday launched a mobile application and an e-commerce centre at its Delhi headquarters that will handle e-retailing exclusively. Equipped with modern technology, the India Post centre will be capable of handling 100 parcels per day. Online companies such as Amazon, Paytm, Yepme, Snapdeal and the like are already using the e-commerce services for their parcels. The mobile app for India Post is Android-based and includes features such as real-time tracking, parcel search and postage calculator. Through such facilities, the parcels can reach up to far-flung and remote areas of the country. India has over 1.55 lakh post offices, of which more than 1.39 lakh are in rural areas.

May 11, 2015

### ***Domestic Postal News***


 [Utica Observer-Dispatch](#): The U.S. Postal Service is issuing a new stamp to raise awareness of missing children - an idea that was first introduced 20 years ago. The stamps will be available starting Monday, May 18, a few days after the local Ride for Missing and Exploited Children of Mohawk Valley partners together to help find our missing children," said Wendy Fical, program director for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Mohawk Valley Office. "Law enforcement, families and volunteers all unite together to help. We support the stamp 100 percent."

### ***International Postal News***

 [Postal Innovation Platform](#): The latest issue of the Postal Innovation Platform newsletter is available online. In this issue, contributions from Inspector General USPS, Matthias Finger, Professor EPFL/MIR, Arjen Heeres, COO, Quintiq Etay Oren, CEO CommuniThings, Berni Innovation Platform, John Callan and Robert Reisner.

**Deutsche Post DHL**


[Miami Herald](#): "Q&A with Frank Appel of Deutsche Post DHL"


 [BBC](#): Private postal business Whistl - formerly known as TNT - has suspended its door-to-door delivery service in London, Liverpool

consulting 2,000 workers on redundancy. The move follows a decision last month by potential investment partner LDC not to fund its e continue to provide a service, but will revert back to using the Royal Mail for the "final mile". Royal Mail has complained in the past th Whistl operate at an unfair advantage because they do not have to provide delivery to the whole country for a single price.

May 9, 2015

**Domestic Postal News**

 **Washington Post:** Slow mail delivery and poor service are hitting rural America hard, and the U.S. Postal Service needs to pay attention, senators from rural states told Postmaster General Megan Brennan this week. Three months into her new role as leader of the financial side, Brennan heard a long list of service complaints from senators from Vermont to North Dakota. They can be summed up this way: The message is later. "You mail a letter in Helena," said Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), who attended Tuesday's meeting, "and it really has to go 90 miles to the destination a few blocks away. It gets to be a death spiral."


 **Business Newswire:** Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) reacted with alarm after the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) released a report in which it documents a net loss of \$1.5 billion. The results indicate a loss of more \$2.2 billion for the first half of fiscal year (FY) 2015 that has characterized the postal budget continues apace; the agency has lost more than \$50 billion in the last eight years. "USPS officials are running an agency which is not covering its costs," said CAGW President Tom Schatz. "Furthermore, agency executives persist in a misguided belief that lies in starting new non-postal businesses." "The Postal Service's substandard accounting, billion-dollar losses, and declining service quality has led the agency to focus solely on its letter mail products. Straying from its original mission will only compound the USPS's problems and the possibility of a taxpayer bailout," concluded Schatz.

 **At the Postal Regulatory Commission:**


**12-Month Average Change in CPI-U**  
Prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission  
Last Update: 05/07/2015

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
2005	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%
2006	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	3.4%	3.3%
2007	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%
2008	3.0%	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%	3.7%	4.0%	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%
2009	3.5%	3.2%	2.8%	2.4%	1.9%	1.4%	0.8%	0.2%	-0.324%	-0.634%	-0.57%
2010	-0.143%	0.013%	0.236%	0.482%	0.757%	0.968%	1.252%	1.477%	1.685%	1.799%	1.741%
2011	1.559%	1.557%	1.589%	1.668%	1.799%	2.008%	2.208%	2.426% <sup>4/</sup>	2.653%	2.849%	3.036%
2012	3.263%	3.326%	3.322%	3.248%	3.090%	2.930%	2.743%	2.570% <sup>5/</sup>	2.415%	2.303%	2.170%
2013	1.960%	1.887%	1.789% <sup>6/</sup>	1.686%	1.657%	1.664%	1.710%	1.696% <sup>7/</sup>	1.628%	1.528%	1.484%
2014	1.464%	1.393%	1.396%	1.471%	1.535%	1.562%	1.565%	1.580%	1.620%	1.678%	1.685%
2015	1.483%	1.386%	1.253%								

1/ Price cap for Docket No. R2008-1  
 2/ Price cap for Docket No. R2009-2  
 3/ Price cap for Docket No. R2011-2  
 4/ Partial Year Price cap for Docket No. R2012-3 equals 2.133 percent  
 5/ Price cap for Docket No. R2013-1  
 6/ Special Services Partial Year Price cap for Docket No. R2013-7 equals 1.053 percent  
 7/ Price cap for Docket No. R2013-10 for First-Class Mail, Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services equals 1.696 percent  
 Partial Year price cap for Special Services equals 0.636 percent  
 8/ Price cap for Docket No. R2015-4, Interim Unused Rate Adjustment Authority equals 0.281 percent

 **From the Federal Register:** Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES New Postal Products , 26959â€26960 [2015â€11-05]

**International Postal News**

 **Toronto Star:** Canada Post takes the Soviet approach and sees us as 35 million problem customers, I get that. But it has given up, when it abandons the mission. Under FlexDelivery, when you buy something online you "choose when and where to pick up your package" and "buy" them. Canada Post, if I wanted to "pick up" my packages, I might as well go to a "store" and "buy" them. I wrote off the \$47 cutting boards, e unreasonable, and renewed my vows with gentle Amazon Prime, which reassured me I'd get a refund someday, and they alone had my

worries.

May 8, 2015

## **Domestic Postal News**



**Sen. Thomas Carper:** "Today's financial report shows that despite a thriving and growing -- package delivery service, which grows -- long-standing financial burdens and an ongoing decline in First Class mail continue to threaten the Postal Service's long-term sustainability. It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. As I have said before, while Postal Service leadership has done what it can to cut costs, keep prices low, and modernize the enterprise, it is critical that Congress works together to pass a bipartisan and comprehensive bill as soon as possible. I am commending my colleagues in Congress, the Administration, and stakeholders to fix the serious, but solvable challenges facing the Postal Service."

**24/7WallStreet:** Despite growth in shipping and package volume and revenue, the real issue is that total volume and revenue from operations fell. Total mail volume of 37.7 billion pieces was down by 420 million pieces from the 38.2 billion pieces counted for this same quarter last year. Total volume was up 14.4%, while First-Class Mail volume fell by 2.1% and Standard Mail volume fell by 1.1%. The USPS has again said that investments remain a priority. It is hard to consider government agencies, or government-oriented entities, on a non-GAAP basis like the private company.



**National Association of Letter Carriers:** "Today's results show the impressive Postal Service financial turnaround continuing to build momentum. \$313 million operating profit puts black ink for the first half of the year above \$1.4 billion -- surpassing all of last year's operating profits. Encouraging is what produced the operating profit -- continuing revenue growth as an improving economy and rising online mail and package deliveries. Package revenue is up a striking 11.2 percent this year; first-class letters are up 1.1%. "This three-year trend in operating profitability makes clear the need to strengthen -- not degrade -- the now-profitable networks. We urge lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, the administration and the new postmaster general to build on the progress achieved in the last Congress. It is time for industry and among major stakeholders on consensus postal reform that promotes a strong and vibrant Postal Service."

**Government Executive:** For the sixth consecutive quarter, the U.S. Postal Service turned an operational profit when accounting for its operations. The agency still lost a total of \$1.5 billion from January through March due to outstanding liabilities. USPS was profitable by \$313 million in the first quarter of fiscal 2015, and operational revenue was up \$233 million over the same period last year, the agency announced Friday. The growth was due to an emergency rate increase on postal products that took effect last year, but also aided by a 14.4 percent increase in package volume.

**The Chronicle of Philanthropy:** The Postal Regulatory Commission approved higher nonprofit postage rates Thursday that charity nonprofits will have to impose onerous new financial burdens. The new rates take effect May 31. Charities that send out letters and small pieces such as postcards, newsletters, nonprofit standard mail, will pay about 2 percent more in postage under the new rates. However, publishers of well-known magazines such as Time, Newsweek, and National Wildlife will see much higher increases. Charity publishers fought hard to hold down the hike for nonprofit products. They were making headway when the Postal Regulatory Commission sent the proposed rate increases back to the U.S. Postal Service twice -- a move that was unprecedented. But in the end, the Postal Service made only minor adjustments to its initial rate proposal.



## **Attention Postal One! Users:**

- **PostalOne!® Release 41.0 Production Deployment-** PostalOne! Release 41.0 will deploy on Sunday, May 17, 2015. This release includes new functionality, updates to existing functionality, and database maintenance activities. This release will require an extended maintenance window. The PostalOne! system will not be available from May 17, 2015 12:00 AM CT (midnight) through 10:00 AM CT. There will be a network downtime and a download required. Release notes for PostalOne! Release 41.0 can be found on [https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail\\_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2015/releaseoverview2015.cfm).
- **PostalOne! Release 41.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** will occur on Monday, May 18, 2015. The PostalOne! system will not be available between 6:00AM CT and 4:00PM CT. TEM validation will occur on Monday, May 18, 2015 between 11:00AM CT and 4:00PM CT.

**The Hill:** The U.S. Postal Service's package business spiked by more than 10 percent in the first three months of the year, as the rise in revenue offsets increases in the struggling agency's revenues. USPS outlined several successes in its most recent quarterly report, including a \$223 million increase in revenue over the first three months of 2014 and a \$160 million decline in expenses. The Postal Service reported having just 22 days of operating losses in March, far less than it says it needs. Plus, the decline in expenses in the first three months also came largely from a drop in workers' compensation costs, an issue largely out of USPS's control. Postal brass has called on lawmakers to give the the agency more power to grow revenues and cut costs.

momentum for legislation on Capitol Hill.



**Attention Business Customer Gateway Users** In preparation for the new pricing and classification changes to mail classes and competitive products that take effect May 31, 2015 the Postal Service has scheduled two software releases for the Post Office. The first **release is scheduled for May 17, 2015** to allow mailers the opportunity to submit files for mailings scheduled to mail on or after May 17, 2015. The second **release is scheduled for May 31, 2015** to implement the new pricing and classification changes. Between May 17th and May 31st the following file formats are supported for files containing mailing dates prior to May 31, 2015 and for updates to files previously submitted.

- Mail.dat 14-1 Mail.XML 15.0A Beginning May 17th and onward the following file versions will be supported for new file submissions with a mailing date on or after May 31, 2015.
- Mail.dat 14-2 (only if claiming new pricing/products on postage statement)
- Mail.dat 15-1 Mail.XML 16.0 (only if claiming new pricing/products on postage statement)
- Mail.XML 17.0 Plant-Verified Drop Shipment Update With this upcoming price change, plant-verified drop shipment (PVDS) mailings will be supported and accepted as follows:
  - **Current Prices** - PVDS mailings verified and paid for before May 31, 2015, using the current prices, will be accepted at all processing facilities through June 14, 2015, when presented using eInduction or eVs processes or with appropriate documentation (PS Form 3849 or 3850)
  - **New Prices** - PVDS mailings may be verified and paid for beginning May 17, 2015, using the new prices, provided the mailings are presented at destination entry postal facilities until May 31, 2015, or later, when presented using eInduction or eVs processes or with appropriate documentation (PS Form 8125 or 8017)
- For mailings with electronic documentation, mailers must enter a Mail Arrival Date that is on or after May 31, 2015.
- For mailings with hard copy postage statements, USPS acceptance employees must enter a Mail Arrival Date that is on or after May 31, 2015.



USPS has released its [Q2 financials for FY15](#). Quick facts:

- USPS has a net loss of \$1.4 billion for Q2 USPS made \$313 million controllable income
- USPS has 22 days of operating cash on hand For the first six months of FY15,
- USPS has a controllable income of \$1.437, compared to \$1.026 for the same period last year
- For the six months ended March 31, 2015, operating revenue was \$35.7 billion, an increase of \$1.0 billion, or 2.9%, compared to \$34.7 billion for the same period last year. Shipping and Packages revenue was \$7.8 billion for the six months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of \$784 million, or 11.1%, compared to the same period last year. Shipping and Packages volume was 2.3 billion pieces for the six months ended March 31, 2015, an increase of 14.2%, compared to the same period last year, bolstered by the record number of holiday seasonal packages delivered.
- For the first six months of the FY, USPS saw a growth in Standard Mail, International and Shipping Services.

**Washington Examiner:** Cybersecurity weaknesses still leave United States Postal Service employees vulnerable to identity theft, even though a data breach in September resulted in the theft of more than 800,000 workers' personal information. Employees can expose sensitive information, accidentally or intentionally, because they have unnecessary digital access to off-limits areas, according to a Postal Service inspector general report released Monday. The report says the Postal Service doesn't consistently test some components of its cybersecurity. Heavy redactions in the report make it difficult to tell exactly how postal employees' access to sensitive information. Despite such heavy consequences, the Postal Service doesn't regularly ensure its cybersecurity systems are efficient.

**MSN:** Can packages save USPS? CNBC's Morgan Brennan takes a look at the Postal Service's attempt to compete for business with private carriers. The Postal Service's fleet geared toward same-day delivery.

**The Street:** As the big three U.S. airlines seek limits on the three subsidized Middle East carriers' aggressive expansion in the United States, the Postal Service encountered a powerful adversary with seemingly contradictory positions on subsidies for competitors. FedEx (FDX - Get Report), one of the major players in the global oligopoly of overnight package deliverers, is a \$46 billion (revenue) company that likes to play politics, particularly in support of increased restrictions on labor unions. Now it is playing both sides of the fence, supporting the subsidized Gulf carriers but opposing its competitors.

**The Inquirer:** U.S. District Court Judge Sharon Gleason sentenced Amancio Zamora Agcaoili, a U.S. Postal Services employee, to 3 years of supervised probation after he pled guilty to Social Security Disability fraud and other crimes to the tune of \$365,831.50, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Agcaoili, a 57-year-old Alaskan native, faked his injuries, received payments from two different programs, lied about the payments and lack of injuries, and double dipped, among other crimes to which he pled guilty.


 **From the Federal Register:**

<b>Postal Regulatory Commission</b>	
<b>PROPOSED RULES</b>	
Automatic Closure of Inactive Dockets , 26517â€26518 [2015â€11061]	<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
<b>NOTICES</b>	
New Postal Products , 26588 [2015â€11066]	<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
26588â€26589 [2015â€11079]	<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
<b>Postal Service</b>	
<b>RULES</b>	
International Mailing Services:	
Approved Price Changes , 26447 [2015â€11068]	<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>
<b>NOTICES</b>	
Product Changes:	
Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement , 26589 [2015â€11067]	<a href="#">[TEXT]</a> <a href="#">[PDF]</a>


 [Direct Marketing News](#): "What if the Postal Service Reemerged as a Digital Startup?"





[Mailing Systems Technology](#): Does the future of transactional documents include actually printing them? Many companies I heard from recently. An in-house document operation and a service provider both shared their strategy for digital delivery rather than traditional print and mail. For them, printed statements, bills, notices, or other transactional documents are no longer receiving top billing.

 [Press Release](#): Congressmen Jared Huffman (D-CA), Gerald Connolly (D-VA), and Mark Takai (D-HI) yesterday sent a letter to the Postal Service (USPS) urging an investment in a modern and efficient Postal Service fleet as they begin the process of replacing their aging fleet. The USPS recently began a three-year process to procure more than 180,000 new vehicles through the Next Generation Delivery Vehicle program. While this program represents an important step to modernize the fleet and improve fuel economy, more is needed. "We believe strong requirements must be included in the upcoming Request for Proposal to realize the full potential for efficiency, durability, and clean vehicles," the members wrote. "Our nation's largest civilian fleet should serve as a global leader in efficiency and innovation. We therefore urge you to procure a high-efficiency vehicle fleet that will ultimately save money, reduce carbon pollution, and continue to deliver for the American people."

### **International Postal News**

 [Business Standard](#): To cash in on growing online shopping trend, India Post Delhi circle will start its e-commerce centre from Monday. The centre will handle exclusively all the e-commerce business. India Post will also launch a mobile application for android phones that will help customers access a range of accountable articles, post office search, postage calculator, etc through Mobile Phone.

 [CustomsToday](#): Chinese postal and express service companies saw their revenue up 23.1 percent year-on-year in the first quarter, as reported and released by the State Post Bureau on Thursday. Private express firms' market share continued to grow, with their business volume reaching 1.1 trillion yuan in the first quarter, up 4.2 percent year-on-year. Express service in central and western China showed stronger growth rate of more than 30 percent year-on-year. The State Post Bureau has implemented strategic policies to support the development of the region. Meanwhile, express service within cities grew by about 50 percent in business volume, indicating the sector's structural changes due to more expansive stocking stations and more convenient transportation.

 [Post & Parcel](#): Christoph Mueller has stepped down as Chairman of An Post, to concentrate on his new role at Malaysia Airlines.





**Postal Technology International:** DHL Express has introduced a new vehicle to its fleet in the Netherlands to help further carbon efficiency. The Cubicycle is a quadracycle with a removable container with a cargo volume of 1m<sup>3</sup> (35ft<sup>3</sup>). The recumbent bicycle manufacturer Flevobike, based in Dronten, and features electric power assistance allowing for faster acceleration from the first Cubicycle has been deployed in the Dutch city of Almere.



**StarAfrica:** Namibia's Minister of Information and Communication Technology Tjekero Tweya on Thursday urged the new board of Telecommunication Holdings (NPTH) to fast track the implementation of the Cabinet decision to dismantle the company. In July 2014 NPTH and redistribute its properties and liabilities. NPTH was registered in 1992 in terms of the Post and Telecommunications Companies Act as the holding company of the state-owned entities in postal and telecommunication sector - Namibia Post Limited, Telecom Namibia and Telecommunications Ltd.

May 7, 2015

### Domestic Postal News

**INDUSTRYALERT** **USPS Shipping Products and Services Webinar Series May 12, 2015, 11a.m. EDT - Print and Deliver Shipping Label Service** Join us as the Postal Service continues to host its series of informational webinars on shipping products and services. The webinars will focus on service enhancements, features, benefits, how to get started, and onboarding information to gain the knowledge and skills to effectively use the service. Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 11a.m. EDT - Print and Deliver Shipping Label Service (formerly Return Call Tag), provides an option for permit holders to electronically request that a USPS return label be generated by the Postal Service to their customer (the label end-user). Speaker: Sherri Evans, Manager, Shipping Development Participant information is available at <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaea37f39e55e0ab387f690b97de44291> May 12, 2015 (11:00 a.m. EDT) Print and Deliver Shipping Label Service Attendee Information: US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (866) 317-345128 Attendee Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaea37f39e55e0ab387f690b97de44291>

**INDUSTRYALERT** **Postal Service Statement on Postal Regulatory Commission Ruling.** Today's ruling by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) approving the proposed prices and classifications for Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services enables the Postal Service to move forward with a new pricing strategy to capitalize on strong mail and package growth. The new pricing changes for all market-dominant mail classes and competitive products take effect on May 31, 2015. Additionally, the Postal Service is announcing the remaining calendar year 2015 Promotions: Color Transpromo, Emerging and Advanced Technology, and Mail Drives Mobile Engagement. For more information on the new 2015 pricing and the PRC's ruling is available at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov).



### U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS RANKING MEMBER TOM CARPER Roundtable:

"The Challenges and Opportunities for the Postal Service in a Digital Age" -- U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-Del.) will hold a bipartisan roundtable titled "The Challenges and Opportunities for the Postal Service in a Digital Age" on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The briefing will be a roundtable discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing the Postal Service in the digital age. Members will be able to use this briefing to assess the hurdles facing the Postal Service and the tools the Postal Service needs to innovate and thrive in the 21st century. WHO Donald Hall, Jr. President and Chief Executive Officer; James Whitcomb Deputy Inspector General U.S Postal Service Office of Inspector General; Lori Rectanus Director, Physical Infrastructure and Information Technology Accountability Office; James W. Sauber Chief of Staff National Association of Letter Carriers




### At the Postal Regulatory Commission:

- **R2015-4:** The Commission concludes that the proposed prices for Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services, as amended by Order No. 2378 and further amended by the Response to Order No. 2398, do not violate the price cap in 39 U.S.C. Â§ 3622(d) and are justified by an exception to, the workshare discount limitations in 39 U.S.C. Â§ 3622(e). The Commission also concludes that the proposed price changes are consistent with applicable law and regulations.


**PRC Approves USPS Price Adjustments for Certain Market Dominant Products.** Today the Postal Regulatory Commission approved the Postal Service's price adjustments for Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services. The prices are scheduled to take effect on May 31, 2015. In Order Nos. 2378 and 2398, the Commission remanded the price adjustments for Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services for non-compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. In today's order, the Commission approves the price adjustments and classification changes, which now comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. In addition,


directs the Postal Service to propose several methodologies relating to changes approved in Order No. 2472. The Commission workshare discounts and the Mail Classification Schedule in Order No. 2472, some of which necessitate the development of new data reporting. The Commission directs the Postal Service to file the following within 90 days: (1) The Postal Service is directed to **file a proposed methodology for determining the costs avoided for the Presorted FSS workshare discounts.** (2) The Postal Service is directed to **file a proposed methodology for determining the costs avoided for the 5-digit pallet presort Standard Mail Carrier Route flats workshare discounts.** The Postal Service is directed to **file a proposed methodology for determining the bottom-up costs for the new Periodicals Mail Carrier container entry options.** The Commission's regulations require that the Postal Service use accepted analytical principles in its analyses. 39 C.F.R. part 3050. The Commission's complete analyses of the Postal Service's Market Dominant price adjustments are located at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov) in Docket No. R2015-4.


- R2015-4 PRC-LR-R2015-4/11 - Compliance Calculations for Package Services  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/FY%202014%20BPM%20Mail%20Processing\\_.xlsx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/FY%202014%20BPM%20Mail%20Processing_.xlsx)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/FY%202014%20MM-LM%20Mail%20Processing\\_.xlsx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/FY%202014%20MM-LM%20Mail%20Processing_.xlsx)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/Preface\\_.docx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/Preface_.docx)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/R2015-4%20Package%20Services%20Cap%20Calculations\\_.xlsx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/R2015-4%20Package%20Services%20Cap%20Calculations_.xlsx)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/R2015-4%20Package%20Services%20Worksharing\\_.xlsx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92221/R2015-4%20Package%20Services%20Worksharing_.xlsx)
- R2015-4 PRC-LR-R2015-4/10 - Compliance Calculations for Periodicals  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92220/PRC-LR-R2015-4\\_10.zip](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92220/PRC-LR-R2015-4_10.zip)
- R2015-4 Order No. 2472 - Order on Revised Price Adjustments for Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services Product Classification Changes <http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92217/Order%20No.%202472.docx>  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92217/Order No. 2472.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92217/Order%20No.%202472.pdf)

 **TechCrunch:** The folks at Gate want you to know when the postman is coming. Their new product, available now on Kickstarter, is called Gate. It tells you when someone is digging in your post box or dropping off letters. The system, which mounts to both traditional "rural" mailbox models, pings you when the mail is coming and can even estimate an ETA for your next delivery. While I can't imagine wanting to know when the mail is coming with any degree of accuracy, there are plenty of people and places where the mail-person's visit is an important part of their day. Gate is available for \$199 right now and it installs in a few minutes and charges via solar. It ships in December. [EdNote: Heck, PostCom Director Emeritus has done something similar years ago with a bell and a string.]

 **Postalnews.com:** Video: PMG Megan Brennan message for postal employees

 **Dickinson Press:** A bipartisan coalition of U.S. senators met with the U.S. Postmaster General Wednesday to discuss issues of declining service in rural communities across the country. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., brought together the group representing several rural states to speak with Postmaster General Brennan about mail processing facility closures and service standard reductions in areas in states like Texas, Michigan, Maine, Kansas and North Dakota. A report by the Office of Inspector General found that postal service in North Dakota rarely met national service standards in recent years, due to high carrier turnover and increasing rural carrier overtime. Heitkamp has brought attention to rural postal service issues through her Fix My Mail campaign. She highlighted mail delivery times three or four times longer than standards set by the U.S. Postal Service. Heitkamp said in a statement Wednesday that it was the first time the Postal Service committed to working on rural mail issues.


 **DC Velocity:** Has the book been finally closed on a parcel consultant's nearly five-year fight with FedEx Corp. and UPS Inc. over allegedly violated antitrust laws by boycotting the consultant's business? The consultant, Portland, Ore.-based AFMS LLC, considered by many in the industry, has vowed to appeal a federal district court ruling last week throwing out its motion against FedEx and UPS. It may not be easy, though. Judge Jesus G. Bernal dismissed the case "with prejudice," meaning AFMS can never again bring a cause of action based on the same claim. In August 2010, when AFMS sued the carriers on grounds they colluded to boycott third-party consultants who negotiated rate discounts for their clients. AFMS also alleged that FedEx and UPS threatened shippers who continued to use intermediaries with the loss of their rate discounts. The carriers' actions destroyed the ability of consultants to compete in the marketplace, and that many suffered severe drops in revenue and disrupted their carriers' strategies.


 **The Nation:** The digital age offers new business opportunities to the growing number of e-commerce start-ups, but these companies face new rules and restrictions that could derail their businesses, said an executive of FedEx Express.

 **Office of the Inspector General:** ["Have You Ever Needed to Track Down a Lost Mailpiece?"](#)


Have you ever lost an item in the mail? The Mail Recovery Center (MRC), located in Atlanta, GA, is the last place undelivered mail is sent.


prior to final disposition. The MRC will attempt to match the items with lost item claims customers file through their local post office. If staff is able to identify the sender or recipient, staff members repack and ship the mailpiece. If not, the mail content is retained for a 90-day holding period. Once the holding period elapses, the MRC sells, auctions, donates, or discards the items. How was your experience with the MRC? How often are you requesting a search for a lost item? Have you ever interacted with the MRC? What was the process like? Tell us your success story.


 **The Street:** Borderfree stock more than doubled Wednesday after the international e-commerce services provider announced it would acquire the company. Borderfree, headquartered in New York, helps U.S. retailers including Bloomingdales, Sephora, Macy's and Pottery Barn transact with customers across more than 100 countries and territories and north of 60 currencies.


 **Wall Street Journal:** U.S. worker productivity fell in the opening months of 2015, the latest sign of sluggish economic growth at the time. Productivity of nonfarm workers, measured as the output of goods and services per hour worked, decreased at a 1.9% seasonally adjusted rate in the first quarter from the previous period, the Labor Department said Wednesday. From a year earlier, productivity was up 0.6%.


### ***International Postal News***


 **Liberian Observer:** The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MOPT) has disclosed plans to introduce the national postal address program in enhancing internal operations in the country. He explained that the postal address program will ensure that every address is unique for easy contact for the provision of public services. He further noted that the postal financial services or money order program will provide access to remittances through postal facilities around the country.


 **WMPowerUser:** The Snowden revelations has resulted in a great distrust in Germany in service which uses American infrastructure like Facebook Messaging. This has resulted in an attempt to create local services which are secure and do not travel outside of the country. One of the efforts is SIMSme, a secure and private messaging system with true end-to-end encryption â€" guaranteed by Deutsche Post, the German postal service. It offers all the features that you have come to expect from a modern and advanced messaging app.


 **The Baltic Course:** More than a half of incoming postal items in Lithuania is received from China and in total it made 54% of the total in the first-quarter of 2015, states BC Lithuania Post (AB Lietuvos pastas).

 **The Baltic Course:** Recent studies confirm that the cost of delivery is still an obstacle to shopping cross-border. Shipping costs is the main barrier in Europe for not completing an online purchase. Over 60% of companies that are willing to sell online say that too high delivery costs are a barrier (released Eurobarometer on e-commerce). Tariffs for cross-border small parcel delivery charged by postal operators are often two to five times the price. The Commissioner provided an example: it costs â‚¬32.40 to send a 2kg parcel from Belgium to Austria, which is over five times the price of â‚¬4.50 within Austria. Thus, competition appears to be an effective way of addressing today's concerns in terms of affordability. However, for such competition to unfold in a fair and efficient manner, participants â€" retailers, delivery operators as well as consumers â€" need to enjoy a certain degree of price transparency. Price regulation is a last resort, where competition does not bring satisfactory results, and is not considered at this stage. Close monitoring is essential in order to avoid market failures. The Commission will review the situation within the coming two years.

 **Interfax-Ukraine:** Nova Poshta private express delivery operator expanded parcel collection points by 20% in April 2015, opening 360 points of Ukraine, to 2,006 points (including automated parcel terminals), the company's press service has reported.

 **HGV Ireland:** The dramatic rise of online shopping and increase in parcel and packet traffic in Ireland may explain why the proposed limited-claims FTA Ireland today. Neil McDonnell, FTA Ireland General Manager commented: "This is an issue of concern for FTA Ireland. While standard mail volumes are going through a structural and unstoppable decline, parcel volumes are likely to continue to expand for the foreseeable future. E-commerce is the fastest growing retail market in Europe. It is for this reason that a structured postcode is so important for Ireland. A random postcode does not provide the necessary or achievable savings for the distribution sector in delivering sustainable, cost effective solutions." FTAI has been working over the Eircode system outlining the issues that it would raise for the freight and logistics industry, and delivery operations in Ireland.

 **AirCargoNews:** The air cargo industry must "move into the next century" and speed up the process of digitisation or risk losing market share to start-ups. Speaking during a debate on the use of digital technology at the Air Cargo Europe, a panel of industry participants agreed that the industry must make use of e-commerce and digital processes. First up, Lufthansa Cargo Lufthansa Cargo board member products & sales Alexis von der Grinten, from a passenger background, said he was surprised by the lack of digitisation amongst cargo airlines. He also had a stark warning for the industry to keep up with integrators.


 [Wall Street Journal](#): The European Union unveiled a signature plan to unite the region's fragmented online markets and crack down on Internet firms, a move policy makers hope will boost the economy and help spawn Internet giants to rival Google Inc. and Facebook Inc. The plan, in the making, are a cornerstone of efforts by the EU's recently appointed executive arm to jump-start growth. They contain 16 initiatives from the region's telecommunications rules to harmonized copyright and tax regimes, to cybersecurity and even better parcel delivery.

May 6, 2015


## **Domestic Postal News**





[Mailing Systems Technology](#): *Address Management Modernization Strategies for Lower Costs and a Better Customer Experience* webinar sponsored by Pitney Bowes. Thursday, May 7, 2015 2:00 PM ET | 11:00 AM PT. [Register now](#) for information on how to use data for optimized and synchronized delivery of your customer communications.

 [Office of the Inspector General](#): The USPS Office of Inspector General established an "[Audit Asks](#)" web site to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on our projects. Web site visitors can register comments and upload documents related to our project on the Postal Service's Mail Retailer Contract (MRC) at the link below. We will consider and use this information as appropriate during the course of our work. If you have questions or need more information, please contact me at 636-345-9722 or Alma Rodriguez, Auditor-In-Charge, at 703-248-7838.


 **A Presentation:** [The Future of the USPS Ecosystem A Story of Resilience To Now & the Game Changers To Come](#) by Robert G. G. at the Quad Graphics Annual Meeting April 30, 2015


 **Be sure to listen to PostCom's latest webinar: "NPF 2015 Heading to Anaheim - Leave Your Boots Behind"**  
[Recording](#) / [Slides](#)


 **DMM Advisory: Domestic Mailing Price Change** This week, the final rule domestic mailing services (market dominant) Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) Register Notice for the May 2015 price change was posted on the Federal Register web site. New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) On April 16, 2015, the Postal Service filed a notice of mailing services price adjustments with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) for 2015. This final rule contains the revisions to Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) coincident with the price adjustments and other minor DMM changes. See the entire notice at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-16/pdf/2015-04-16.pdf>. It will be posted on Postal Explorer at [pe.usps.com](http://pe.usps.com) on Friday, May 8. The proposed pricing files are posted on Postal Explorer at [pe.usps.com](http://pe.usps.com) at [pe.usps.com](#) 2015 Price Change Information header in the left navigation bar.

 [MyCentralJersey](#): Ten years ago, the U.S. Postal Service rejected North Plainfield's bid to get its own ZIP code. They tried again last month (communities to lobby for a ZIP code change only once every decade), but the Postal Service denied the petition last month. Now a congressional bill is on the cause to Capitol Hill. "I do not believe the residents of North Plainfield can wait another 10 years," said U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance, R-N.J. He introduced a bill that would force the Postal Service to grant the borough its own code.


## **International Postal News**


 [Universal Postal Union](#): **CALL FOR TENDERS** Provision of qualitative, in-depth market research with 25 global merchants to understand e-commerce marketing and direct mail and catalogues in particular are used to drive e-Commerce sales.


 [The Canadian Press](#): Canada Post is launching a new feature that gives online shoppers greater control over their parcels. The postal service will allow customers to decide exactly which post office gets deliveries for their online orders. That means a pair of shoes once mailed from a store in one city but still at work can now be routed to an outlet near your office.


 [Financial Times](#): Brompton, the British fold-up bike manufacturer, recently put the finishing touches to five customised designs to be sold in the UK sporting the colours of the Union Jack; another traditional English racing green, complete with a Brooks leather saddle. The bikes, along with other brands including Clarks shoes, Austin Reed clothing and Cow & Gate baby formula, will be promoted and sold through a Royal Mail online website operated by Chinese ecommerce company, Alibaba. For Britain's recently privatised mail operator, which is under pressure from the parcels market, and an irreversible decline in letters volumes, the tie-up with Tmall is an ambitious move to capture the delivery market.


biggest international buyer of British products online. Postal operators are scrambling to adapt to the rise of ecommerce and China, with overseas purchases bought over the internet from the UK, looks a prize market.


 [MarketWatch](#): Dutch mail company PostNL NV (PNL.AE) said Wednesday it has begun a strategic review of its activities in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. due to "continuous regulatory uncertainties" in the three countries. PostNL said it will give more information around the publication of its third quarter results in November. The review comes a week after PostNL announced that it ended talks on a U.K. postal delivery service joint-venture with Lloyds. PostNL also expanded its Whistl subsidiary in the country. The talks collapsed because of the complexity of the U.K.'s regulatory landscape, the Dutch company said.


 [CBC](#): A 19-year-old man is facing charges following an armed robbery targeting a postal worker on Montreal's West Island. Police said the man was approached on Monday in Pierrefonds-Roxboro by an armed suspect, who tried to steal the mail carrier's keys. Two people were arrested. This is the second such incident to occur in the last few days in the Pierrefonds area. Police say that on Friday afternoon, another mail carrier was robbed from the wall of an apartment. They demanded that the worker hand over his keys, before ripping them off his belt. The two men in their 20s were arrested.

 [DutchNews](#): Dutch postal delivery group PostNL booked turnover of just over â‚¬1bn in the first three months of this year, a 2% rise on 2014. However, net profit was down 37% at â‚¬34m and the volume of letters fell 13% year on year, the company said. The number of parcel deliveries was up 8%, partly due to a rise in international deliveries, particularly in milk powder deliveries to China, PostNL said. This compares with a 1% rise in the previous quarter.

 [Post & Parcel](#): Toll Group said yesterday that it has now received all regulatory approvals needed for its takeover by Japan Post. The company said yesterday that the final approval came from New Zealand's regulator, the Overseas Investment Office. Japan Post made a \$5bn offer for the company in February, a 49% premium on the company's share price on February 17, 2015. The state-owned postal service is looking at the acquisition as a way to enter the international logistics market. The Post wants to considerably expand its international business in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond to its market at home. The Toll business includes large logistics operations for the energy and mining sectors, the government and defense sector. The group also provides services for major corporations. The Group also operates express delivery services, and is growing its business-to-consumer delivery business in the e-commerce market.

 [The Citizen](#): A plan for a turnaround of the South African Post Office (SAPO) â‚¬ including the proposed shedding of more than 50,000 jobs was approved by the Portfolio Committee of Telecommunications and Postal Services on Tuesday.


 [Tame Bay](#): The EU wants a single European delivery network and have proposed a road map to streamline postal delivery. Somehow they want parcel deliveries cheaper, although quite how the carriers will view this seeing as the cost of delivering to say Italy is way more than a postage stamp in Milton Keynes!

 [The New Indian Express](#): More than 300 postal department employees were punished for non-delivery of money orders in 2013-14, today. Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the postal department had received 80,000 complaints out of a total of 10.9 crore money orders sent in 2013-14 through the post offices in the country.

*May 5, 2015*

## ***Domestic Postal News***

***Attention Business Customer Gateway Users*** Program Registration Release 14.0.0.0 â‚¬ will be unavailable from 00:00 am (Midnight) to 10:00 am CDT on Sunday, May 17, 2015. There will be an **outage** and the Online Incentive Program accessible via the Business Customer Gateway will be **unavailable** during that time.

 [Air Cargo World](#): The hazardous cargo committee of the International Civil Aviation Organization, an agency of the United Nations, said in a presentation last week in Montreal about the dangers presented by shipping lithium ion batteries on freighters or in the bellies of passenger aircraft. Manufacturers and members of pilot's unions, presented findings by the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) that found that current aircraft are unable to suppress or extinguish a fire involving a significant load of the batteries. The committee agreed to create a special committee to be developing safer packaging for the batteries. If it can't come up with something, when the committee meets again in October, it will make a proposal to ban shipments from passenger planes. Bulk shipments of the batteries, which are used in cellular phones, laptops and a number of other electronic devices, can number up to tens of thousands of batteries in one shipping container.



Today, Postmaster General Megan Brennan announced two new detail assignments to the Team.

- **Jim Cochrane** will serve as Acting Chief Marketing and Sales Officer (CMSO). With over 40 years of experience, Jim's understanding of the industry, combined with a well-rounded business acumen, will enable him to better position the U.S. Postal Service in today's market.
- **Randy Miskanic** will serve as Acting Chief Information Officer (CIO). Randy will continue the advancement of new mail information technology systems, information technology systems, payment technology, and corporate information security to meet the changing needs of the industry.

These changes will allow us to fully leverage the Postal Service's core strengths and continue our long-term strategies for the future.

**FirstLook:** CBRE, a giant real estate company partially owned by Sen. Dianne Feinstein's husband, Richard Blum, is costing the U.S. Postal Service \$100 million a year in lease overpayments, and its exclusive contract should be immediately canceled, the service's inspector general has found. The USPS made the contract with CBRE in June 2011 for all real estate transactions. Blum chaired CBRE at the time; he stepped down last year and is now a major shareholder. Feinstein, D-Calif., has always denied involvement in the deal, which proved lucrative as the cash-strapped Postal Service used excess real estate to finance operations. The contract enables CBRE to market and sell properties, and conduct negotiations for leases on behalf of the contract, USPS negotiated leases directly with landlords. Now, CBRE often represents both the Postal Service and the landlord in many agency transactions." The inspector general's report described something akin to a shakedown, with a kickback thrown in.

**Government Executive:** For each of the last several sessions of Congress, Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., has committed himself to shepherd legislation to bring relief to the cash-strapped agency. Each effort has fallen short, but his resolve has not waned. In the 114th Congress, Carper is expected to bring relief to the cash-strapped agency. The problems facing the Postal Service remain the same: a combination of liabilities owed to former employees and declining revenue resulting from Americans using the mail less than they have in decades. With limited exceptions, mail delivery is still a costly business while the burden of future expenditures on former and current workers is not lightened. The problems facing a legislative overhaul too often are the parochial interests voiced by labor unions, large-scale mailers and rural customers, leading to a clash -- and if history is any indicator, a clash between lawmakers representing those interests. What differs this time around is the approach. Aides to Carper -- the leading crusader for postal reform -- are Executive the senator is truly trying to give all members an opportunity to offer their perspectives and help craft legislation. Carper Pos as representatives from the USPS inspector general's office, Postal Regulatory Commission and Government Accountability Office, for to educate his fellow senators. Now the ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee after Republican Senate this year, Carper and the new chairman, Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., both attended the meeting, as did other committee members Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. The goal, according to the aides, was to hear the facts on the ground from the same source. Carper recently j caucus, and a majority of Republicans, in supporting an amendment to the budget that advised the Postal Service to delay the facility cl year.

## **Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC)**

**Visibility/Service Performance Measurement/Addressing Focus Session Webinar Wednesday, May 6 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (EDT)** The Visibility/Service Performance Measurement

webinar for MTAC members that will include all of the regular updates normally given during MTAC meetings at MTAC. We look forward to seeing you at the next MTAC meeting at the National Postal Forum on Wednesday, May 20. The meeting at NPF is a condensed meeting. This pre-MTAC webinar is your opportunity to receive the updates normally provided at the quarterly MTAC meetings. Instructions for participating appear at the URL below. Dial-in: (866) 381-9870 Conference ID: 37548896 Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e350e732ad24df3c4490ba457010d68ea>


**PostCom Members!! The latest issue of PostCom's Postal Executive Summary has been published.**


## **At the Postal Regulatory Commission:**


- PI2015-1 Reply Comments Of The National Postal Policy Council  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92206/NPPC\\_Reply\\_Comments\\_PI2015-1.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/92/92206/NPPC_Reply_Comments_PI2015-1.pdf)


**Post & Parcel:** A newly-released industry paper has argued that "employee engagement" and "job flexibility" are key to developing the logistics sector. Published under the auspices of The Work Foundation, a Lancaster University think tank, "The Productivity Imperative: A Model of Postal Service Delivery" is authored by Elmar Toime and Adrian King with Steve Bevan of the Foundation. The report argues that progress has been made in recent years through technology deployment and network rationalisation, "future gains from these sources will be significant."

to realise". "The core issue now is how to align work flow to paid labour hours and that future success will be met by creative solutions," said Toime. "Postal operations are characterised by high fixed cost structures exacerbated by falling mail volume trends. To add to the costs are labour related and these costs are often higher than the market due to the public service heritage of employment conditions. It's a change in this environment." The authors argue that postal companies should now embrace what they call "employee-centric flexibility."

 [Lexington Institute](#): The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) lost \$754 million in Q1 FY 2015 despite an increase in revenue. The loss is more than the \$354 million deficit in Q1 FY 2014. However, it is significantly better than the \$1.3 billion loss posted in the same period two years ago. Revenue grew \$767 million, or 4.3 percent, relative to Q1 FY 2014. The growth was driven by increased holiday season package deliveries. Standard Mail volume was 3.5 percent greater than during the same period last year. Standard Mail and First-Class Mail revenues increased 1.5 percent, respectively.

 [DC Velocity](#): Drones get all the headlines, but there are other ways to get orders into customers' hands quickly without relying on couriers. Drones may be a possibility in the future, I believe they will be only one part of the solution to the last-mile puzzle. Another might be geotargeted delivery by the Postal Service for small-package delivery, as it already delivers to nearly every address in the country daily. Retailers should also encourage customers to visit a store, possibly offering discounts and incentives to do so. Uber-type delivery services will also spring up, with ordinary citizens serving as drivers. I also believe there will be greater use of kiosks, which have been successfully deployed in Europe and Asia. The kiosks are typically located where people gather regularly—transit stations, city centers, supermarkets, big box stores, etc. Customers might be able to place their orders at a kiosk, do their work, and then pick them up at a kiosk on the way home. With a bit of creativity, shippers can meet consumers' demands for same-day delivery that is service affordable for all involved.

 [Direct Marketing News](#): A new report from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Postal Service poses the theory that since 1995, mail volume—which plummeted 61% since 1995 to 23 billion pieces—may have found its base level. What's more, the investigation into the decline is regionally divergent, with some areas still mailing the same amount of letters that they did 20 years ago. "The rate of decline is slowing in many of the areas that have lost the most mail volume. This suggests that there may be a new base level of demand for First Class Mail," the report says.

 [PRNewswire](#): Endicia, the leading provider of online shipping technologies and services, today announced its latest innovation for international shipping: Endicia Global Service™. This new service eliminates the pain points associated with shipping to Latin America, such as delays in customs clearance, lack of tracking visibility and complicated customs forms. A beta release of Endicia Global Service with support to Brazil is available in the United States. Availability for Brazil is scheduled for this summer, with the service expanding to support additional countries in Latin America and the Caribbean by the end of 2015. With Endicia Global Service, packages sent to Brazil from the United States can now clear customs in hours instead of days and reach customers' hands in eight to 10 days.

#### Office of the Inspector General:

- [End User Data Loss Prevention](#)

**What The OIG Found.** We determined the DLP and mobile device management systems do not operate effectively to prevent sensitive information outside the Postal Service network. Sensitive information includes personally identifiable, financial or proprietary information, and other business-sensitive data. Although the DLP system does block some emails based on established rules, it [several words redacted] sensitive information. Current mobile device management security policy does not prevent internal users from accessing [several words redacted] Service mobile devices. This lack of controls exists because the Postal Service has not implemented a solution to [several words redacted] business groups are not aware of all DLP services designed to identify sensitive information in documents. In addition, management has not implemented formal procedures to ensure continuous quality assurance testing of DLP rules or implemented mobile security controls. As a result, there is a risk of internal users compromising sensitive employee, customer, and business information, which could lead to financial and reputational damage.


**What The OIG Recommended.** We recommended management implement procedures to require continuous quality assurance testing of DLP rules, update DLP policies and rules, and a solution to allow the DLP system to [redacted] containing sensitive information. We also recommended management implement DLP procedures and communicate them to employees; and implement a mobile technology solution that [heavily redacted].


- [Getting Closer to Seamless Acceptance](#)


Here's the good news: Mailers accept and support the U.S. Postal Service's Seamless Acceptance (SA) program. And here's the bad news: The program hasn't been very seamless. Ongoing data integrity problems, among other concerns, have delayed full implementation. We found evidence of inaccuracy in the data and mailers raised similar concerns, prompting them to ignore the data, according to


the most auspicious start to a program designed to increase the efficiency of commercial mail entry, verification, and payment wants the program to succeed. SA is expected to make mail acceptance faster and less complex, standardize the acceptance and allow for a trend-based quality measurement system.

### ***International Postal News***

 [Channel News Asia](#): One woman is suing the country's postal agency for gender discrimination after her application for the job of clerk was rejected on her gender. After the two-day trial with China Post, the agency asked Ma Hu to get a medical check-up and return at a later date to sign a contract. The trial never happened. The postal agency decided not to hire her, explaining it was because she was a woman. So she is now suing China Post's Beijing office for gender discrimination, asking for an apology and 50,000 yuan (about US\$8,000) in damages.


 [Post & Parcel](#): Emirates Post has said more than 1.2m customers have been making use of its new online services each month. The post operator in the Arab Emirates said the growth came after a big plan to make its electronic platforms compatible with all types of mobile phone. The growth was sparked by a UAE government initiative aiming to make the public sector more accessible to mobile devices, with the UAE currently having the highest penetrations of mobile phones in the world. The smart government initiative aimed to boost customer satisfaction across various sectors of the economy overall.

 [Caixin](#): The State Council has approved a plan for the state-owned post office to restructure its management and to allow private companies to compete with the country's many private delivery firms. The plan will see China Post Group cancel the registrations of 31 provincial branches in each of the country's provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and transform them into branches, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce said in a notice on April 29. The group will then be responsible for all the assets, debts, personnel, contracts, and other rights and obligations of the companies, an executive of China Post said.

 [Post & Parcel](#): Postal workers in Germany staged another strike on Saturday as part of their ongoing dispute with Deutsche Post, with their counterparts held a 24-hour strike on Monday. In Germany, the labour union Verdi is objecting to Deutsche Post's plans to expand the use of part-time workers who will be on a lower pay scale than other group employees. The Germany postal workers had already staged two strike days in April. Management and the union representatives are scheduled to hold further talks in Berlin on 8-9 May. In Spain, the unions CCOO, UGT, and CCMA organized Monday's action to protest about job losses and the stalemate in their salary negotiations with Correos. According to local sources, more strikes have been planned for May. Most "job losses" have been achieved by not replacing retiring employees, rather than by redundancies.

*May 4, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***

 [National Journal](#): Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders unceremoniously launched his long-shot bid for the presidency on Thursday, becoming the official opponent to Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries. As a self-described socialist-Democrat, Sanders is a staunch advocate of the role of government. In his career in the House and Senate, he has weighed in on an array of issues affecting federal operations, typically coming down favorably on the side of federal employees. Sanders has also played a critical role in reforming or not reforming, as the case may be, the Postal Service. The liberal hero has galvanized left-wing support for several years to ensure postal legislation provides growth opportunities and avoids cuts.



#### **Office of the Inspector General:**

- [Customer Service Operations Efficiency in Chicago District](#)

**What The OIG Found.** Customer service operations in the Postal Service's Chicago District are inefficient. During FY 2014, 12 of 13 facilities had actual workhours in excess of estimated workhours and eight of 13 had lower efficiency rates than the national goal of 82.5 percent. Additionally, in FY 2013, all 13 facilities had actual workhours in excess of estimated workhours and 12 of 13 had lower efficiency rates than the national goal of 87.5 percent. Retail managers did not use reports from the variance model or refer to performance goals to manage their facilities because they were not familiar with the reports or the goals. Additionally, although employees knew they were supposed to clock out when moving from one task to another, they did not always do so because other duties took priority. This distorted the efficiency variance results and made it difficult for managers to be effective. We are not projecting a dollar impact because the variance model was not fully functional during our review due to the Postal Service cyber intrusion reported in November 2014.



**What The OIG Recommended.** We recommended the vice president, Great Lakes Area, train customer service supervisors on a service variance model and its reports and emphasize required time clock procedures. We are not making a recommendation on performance goals because the Great Lakes Area is piloting an effort to post performance goals at all units.

- [Vehicle Maintenance Facility Efficiency Nationwide 'Capping Report](#)

**What The OIG Found.** Vehicle maintenance facilities were not operating at peak efficiency and were not efficient when compared to targets. Specifically, undistributed labor, work order hours that were more than the timecard hours, was 11 percent of total mail hours. This exceeded the established target of 3 percent. Also, overhead (supervisory and support) labor costs were 24 percent, of total mail hours, were lower than the established overhead target of 30 percent. The VMFs had 109 vacant administrative and supervisory positions. This occurred because of management's lack of oversight in monitoring mechanic workhours, as well as not reaching the workhour targets and supervisory vacancies. Improving oversight and right sizing staff at vehicle maintenance facilities would increase overall efficiency. The Postal Service 431,129 workhours at a cost of over \$21.8 million annually.

**What The OIG Recommended.** We recommended management reduce 431,129 undistributed workhours for maintenance and improve operations. We recommended management right size staffing at vehicle maintenance facilities to improve operations.

- [Government Mail - Management Advisory Report.](#)

**What the OIG Found.** The Postal Service has opportunities to increase revenue by enhancing its sales and marketing efforts. Mailers we spoke with identified pricing, product, and service considerations that influenced them to use the Postal Service's products. That the Postal Service has opportunities to gain an advantage in the area of prices, products, and service performance; and could, in certain instances, such as for products weighing less than one pound. The Postal Service may also be able to capture revenue by leveraging partners' capabilities. For example, we found that 72 percent of federal agency mail was presorted. Mailing partners may be able to provide presorting services to lower the cost of government mailings. These partners could also offer more flexible payment options, so long as service was provided. Factoring in mailing partners' capabilities as part of Postal Service marketing efforts could be mutually beneficial. Postal Service retain government mail revenue and lower government mailers' postage costs. We estimate a revenue impact of \$1.2 billion in 2015 from the Postal Service enhancing its sales and marketing efforts toward government mailers.

**What the OIG Recommended.** We recommended the Postal Service enhance sales and marketing efforts toward government mailers. We recommended include more effectively promoting Postal Service prices, products, and service performance and promoting its mailing partners.



**At the Postal Regulatory Commission:** The Postal Regulatory Commission has appointed Anne Siarnacki as a Deputy General Counsel. She joins General Counsel, David Trissell and Deputy General Counsel, Christopher Laver.

**INDUSTRY ALERT** Domestic Mailing Services Products Price Change Federal Register Final Rule Published. The Postal Service published a [Federal Register final rule](#) on New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mail. The rule is effective May 31, 2015. The Postal Service is aware that mailers are interested in the requirements surrounding the price and classification of the proposed rule published February 5, 2015 (80 FR 6573-6615). In the event that the Postal Regulatory Commission does not affirm the rule, the Postal Service will publish a new Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services, an amended final rule will be published at a later date.

**Washington Post:** With first-class mail in a death spiral, the U.S. Postal Service is shrinking post office hours, closing sorting plants. But there's one corner of the country where the mail business has defied expectations, and the Postal Service was woefully unprepared: North Dakota. Where oil was discovered beneath the Bakken Shale formation, the population boomed and the demand for mail service exploded. The state represents one of the biggest challenges for Megan Brennan, who started as postmaster general in February. With more letters and packages, long lines at local post offices that are inadequate to meet a population that has grown 7.6 percent in five years, the Postal Service has rarely had trouble with mail delivery, according to a new report by Inspector General David Williams.

### **International Postal News**

**Mobile World Live:** Japan Post Group is breaking new ground far beyond mail delivery by tapping into its key asset - its ability to reach virtually every citizen. It recently announced it is leveraging its nationwide infrastructure of 24,000 post offices and workforce of 400,000 employees in an in-person monitoring initiative for the elderly from the physical to the virtual world. The country is undergoing a historic generational shift and imbalance in its labour force and putting strain on extended families. At the same time, the nation faces severe depopulation and young people are leaving small towns and villages. The population is forecast to plunge from 127 million to 90 million in 50 years. This would reduce the country's population from 127 million to 46 million, which means that to keep output at the current level workers would have to do the job of 1.3 people, said Shigeki

the Global ICT Strategy Bureau. Japan Post is using its vast network of mail carriers to check on elderly customers and keep families up being. It is now teaming up with IBM and Apple to give senior customers iPads and custom apps from IBM. Its Watch Over service, with a monthly fee, will begin as a pilot project in the second half of the year and aims to reach four million to five million customers in Japan. As the world is decimated by email and digital documentation, government postal services around the world should take notice.

*May 3, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***



[Dead Tree Edition](#): The U.S. Postal Service is pushing its ability to hire low-paid City Carrier Assistants to the limit and is hiring more. The agency had 3,300 more CCAs in April than allowed in its labor contract with the National Association of Letter Carriers, a 10% increase over the week indicated.

*May 2, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***

[L.A. Biz](#): In a city notorious for its urban sprawl and hellish traffic, Angelenos may find that it's not worth the time and energy to run a delivery service. Dotodo has raised \$1.2 million in unusual cross-border financing for an on-demand app for local delivery. "People can send merchandise and items and packages, and messengers can bid for those shipping jobs," founder Andrew Szabo told me this week. "We're creating a free marketplace for these packages." There are already several courier apps on the market, of course, including Nextdoor in San Francisco and Zipments in New York, and Uber has expanded its ridesharing service to include messenger delivery in the Big Apple. But Dotodo is competing with itself with its free marketplace business model.




[From the Federal Register](#): Postal Service RULES Mailing Standards: Domestic Mailing Services Products, 25528-2015-05-01 [TEXT]

[Federal Times](#): The House voted 226 to 197 to pass the budget, with all Democrats and 12 Republicans voting in opposition. House Democrats have been working to reconcile budget proposals that included significant benefit cuts, but the unified version passed by the House and Senate dropped a plan to increase federal employee pension contributions to six percent or more of salaries. The House budget had also included a plan to increase Social Security payroll taxes through attrition and increase Postal Service employee contributions to their health insurance premiums as well as decreases the rate of Social Security's government securities fund (G Fund) and encourages the elimination of the Federal Employee Retirement System annuity supply. The Senate proposals made it into the final version, released by House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, R-Ga., and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Wyo.


[Postalnews.com](#): The Senate approved a motion on S. Con. Res. 11 introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) that instructs budget negotiators to use a deficit-neutral fund to halt mail processing center closures, restore overnight mail delivery, and protect rural services. A deficit-neutral fund would be used to offset the cost of the nation's deficit. The non-binding instructions were approved 85-11 in a resounding bipartisan vote on April 15.


[Democracy Now](#): As independent Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont announces his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, presidential candidate Ralph Nader. "We don't want a coronation of Hillary Clinton," Nader says of Sanders' run. We also talk about his new book, "Unanswered Letters to the President, 2001-2015." The book is dedicated in part to the workers of the U.S. Postal Service.

[Wall Street Journal](#): As e-commerce beats ever-quicker, more efficient routes to customer doorsteps, retailers continue to grapple with the fact that it directly hits their bottom lines: product returns, also known as reverse logistics. Gary Shapiro, chief executive of the Consumer Electronics Association, says product returns are a problem for the association's membership. "Americans think they have a constitutional right to have their products returned," he said in an interview at the Milken Global Conference this week. He said a friendly returns policy is the second most important factor, after price. "But there's an obvious cost associated with it," he said. So companies have employed programs to try to stem the return flow of their goods. "Returns aren't going away, Ms. Roberson said. "The more e-commerce grows, the more returns are going to grow," she said. "It's just that the volume of shipments are growing for the U.S. Postal Service and United Parcel Service Inc. Best Buy Co. recently estimated that returns, replacement and damaged goods represented about 10% of revenue, costing the company \$400 million last year.

 [Government Executive](#): Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., unceremoniously launched his long-shot bid for the presidency on Thursday, becoming an opponent to Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries. Sanders has also played a critical role in reforming -- or not reforming, as the case may be -- the Postal Service. The liberal hero has galvanized left-wing support for several years to ensure postal legislation provides growth opportunities. He introduced a measure last Congress that -- contrary to a committee-backed, bipartisan proposal -- would block the Postal Service from planned facility closures, require Saturday mail delivery and eliminate the agency's mandate to prefund retirees' health benefits. The service is on the side of other lawmakers looking to assuage the various parochial interests of postal management, unions and customers. Sanders says "cutting services and poorer quality is not the way to save the Postal Service," and has spoken out against job cuts at the agency, arguing "good jobs protect the middle-class in local economies."


### ***International Postal News***


 [BT.com](#): The 175th anniversary of the world's first postage stamp is being marked with a new set of stamps. The Penny Black went on sale on 1, 1840, for use on letters being delivered anywhere in the UK, a system that is still in place today through the one-price-goes-anywhere postal service. The stamp would cost Â£3.07 in today's terms. The Penny Black was part of huge changes in the postal service, including charging a flat rate for a letter to go anywhere, as opposed to prices being worked out by distance and number of sheets in a letter. (See also [The Telegraph](#))


 [Economic Times](#): Thousands of workers at Deutsche Post staged another strike on Saturday over the company's plans to expand its staff on lower pay, labour union Verdi said. Deutsche Post said the strike, the third this month, meant that about 2 million letters and 40 million parcels delivered on Saturday, only a tiny fraction of the usual daily volume.

*May 1, 2015*

### ***Domestic Postal News***

 [Direct Marketing News](#): "PRC Chief Tells What Will Keep the Postal Service Going"

 [Postalnews.com](#): The USPS Office of Inspector general has issued a report claiming to show wide geographic variations in the decline in mail volume since 1995. Unfortunately, the report bases that conclusion on data that appears somewhat questionable. Given that the whole point of the report is to document geographic differences in mail volume trends, the unreliability of the geographic breakdown makes it hard to give the conclusion much weight.


 [Washington Post](#): A coalition of civil rights organizations is pushing the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to provide greater workplace accommodations, such as light-duty, for pregnant employees. In a letter to Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Partnership for Women & Families said, "The Postal Service continues to maintain a legally indefensible position that allows for discrimination against its own employees." The Postal Service disagreed. USPS "policy fully complies with existing law related to the accommodation of employees with pregnancy-related limitations, including pregnancy-related limitations," said Darlene Casey, a Postal Service spokeswoman. "Employees with pregnancy-related limitations, if eligible, apply for light-duty assignments under the terms of applicable collective-bargaining agreements and postal policies." Casey said the agency will "fully consider any changes to our policies which may be warranted . . . in cooperation with our unions and employee associations."



[Postal Technology International](#):

- [Amazon has launched its new business-to-business \(B2B\) marketplace](#) called Amazon Business, selling hundreds of millions of products such as signs, industrial deep fryers, 55-gallon steel drums, dent pullers, and IT and lab equipment. Amazon Business customers will be able to ship on tens of millions of eligible items with orders over US\$49, as well as multi-user business accounts, approval workflows, exemptions and dedicated customer support. Businesses will also be able to place orders and finance purchases using a pay-invoice credit line.

### ***International Postal News***


 [City A.M.](#): Royal Mail shares shot up 5.3 per cent yesterday on news Lloyds private equity arm LDC had pulled out of investment in the postal service Whistl. LDC said its decision to end discussions with Dutch postal operator PostNL was due to "ongoing changes in postal service complexity of the regulatory landscape". The investment had been intended to fund the expansion of Buckinghamshire-based Whistl's operations. LDC is part of Lloyds, which is 20 per cent state-owned, while Royal Mail is 30 per cent state-owned. LDC said that after 1

discussions with PostNL "UK postal market dynamics have changed and this has affected the viability of the original business case of t



[Postal Technology International:](#)

- [Australia Post](#) released its Apple Watch app, providing a new way for online shoppers to collect parcels and receive delivery s their watch, shoppers will be able to view parcel delivery information and track their parcel, and customers will also be able to open parcel lockers by scanning their watch.

 [Ecnscn](#): Express delivery services in the world's second largest economy are booming, with private couriers named the major players Thursday. The postal business model has changed over the six years ending 2014, with the number of packages transported by express up 63.9 percent and accounting for the movement of 63.9 percent of all post in the country, according to the State Post Bureau (SPB). Based on data in 2014, the SPB averaged that for every person in China, 10.2 express delivery packages are sent. Private firms hold 85.6 percent of the market and made 154.1 billion yuan (25.2 billion U.S. dollars) in revenues in 2014, 75.3 percent of the whole sector's revenues. Experts attribute the growth of express delivery services to booming e-commerce, led by Alibaba's Taobao, the country's largest online retail marketplace.