



## **Association for Postal Commerce**

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### **Postal News from November 2012:**

*November 30, 2012*

- [\*Latest PostCom Bulletin has been posted.\*](#)
- [\*Latest PostCom report on USPS quarterly service performance has been posted.\*](#)
- [\*Latest This Week in Postal has been posted.\*](#)

[Post & Parcel](#): Swiss Post has called off the launch of its "personalised" newspaper project, after a disappointing response from customers. Swiss Post had been working with 11 national and international publishers on the project, with personalised newspapers digitally printed overnight at the Härkingen Letter Centre and delivered to major urban centres in Switzerland the day after an order is placed. MyNewspaper was one way to combine the physical with the digital communications channel in a hybrid mail product – sending information digitally to be turned into a physical mail delivery. The personalised newspaper was also available in digital form anywhere in the world.

[Industry Today](#): Skillweb has launched a new real-time planning tool to enable courier, parcel and postal organisations to reduce the time required to schedule and manage time-definite and same-day deliveries by as much as 75 per cent. The innovative solution is an extension to the company's end-to-end item tracking solution Houndit Enterprise and will provide the ability to better coordinate

deliveries and collections within strict time windows and service level agreements. The system will provide complete visibility of all incoming orders from in-house and third party websites, so schedulers can quickly and efficiently allocate collections and arrange deliveries wherever they are. It will identify the most appropriate courier or delivery operative based on location, workload and skillset, with a job order sent directly to their handheld terminal which can then be reviewed, accepted or rejected.

[AirWise](#): UPS and its Dutch takeover target TNT Express have submitted plans to meet European anti-trust concerns as they battle to keep the acquisition on track. The two companies said they planned to sell assets and open up their air flight operations, but gave no details, leaving TNT Express shares languishing some 20 percent below the EUR€9.50 (USD\$12.36) offer price as many investors took the view that the deal was unlikely to happen.

[New Jersey Hills](#): Township officials say there is little hope the Whippany Post Office will ever reopen now that it has been designated part of a "discontinuance study" by the US Postal Service. With more than 35 percent of our retail revenue coming from expanded access locations the Postal Service said it has studied nearly 3,500 offices throughout the nation to determine which offices to close. All Whippany mail is now handled through the Morristown Post Office.

[Post & Parcel](#): The International Post Corporation's group of posts collaborating to bring down the environmental impact of their operations has now cut their climate change emissions by more than 1.1m tonnes. The Environmental Measurement and Monitoring System, which includes 25 postal operators, was launched back in 2009 to provide a platform for postal services to share best practice on cutting carbon emissions. The IPC said this week that the posts have now achieved about three quarters of their target to cut emissions by 20% by 2020, compared to a 2008 baseline.

[Postal Technology International](#): Prime Vision has announced it is expanding its Australian operations with the creation of an additional Sydney-based facility that will be used for the design and manufacture of automated systems. The facility will enable Prime Vision to manufacture systems and machinery, commencing with the building of a new line of integrated systems solutions to be ready for export in the first and second quarters of 2013. The machines will use the company's Process-It platform and the initial production run of workstations will be configured as Image Lift Systems (ILS), to be utilised for sorting of registered mail items for a major postal operator.

[From the Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES](#) New International Mail Contract , 71458 [2012-28954] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]

[WREX](#): As the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) sits on the verge of bankruptcy its post master demands Congress act. The postal bill has been before Congress since April and time is running out on it. Though most Republican legislators support the Senate bill, Democrats and the postal unions don't because it would end Saturday service and more easily close post offices and mail-processing plants. According to Manzullo lawmakers are not moving on the bill. "The House and the Senate were working together very closely but I don't think anything is going to happen this year," says Hargadon.

[WMBF](#): It is no secret that the holidays are a busy time for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and this year green is more than just a seasonal color. The USPS is helping shippers go green while saving their own green by sending holiday gifts and shipments in eco-responsible packaging.

[The latest issue of the PostCom Bulletin is available online.](#) In this issue:

- Revised PostCom Standard Mail flat price charts comparison.
- The Postal Regulatory Commission, last week, found that the prices for four market dominant product categories were consistent with US Code and could be put into effect. However, it found the Standard Mail flats prices failed to satisfy the Commission's directives in the FY2010 Annual Compliance Determination. So the PRC remanded the Standard Mail price adjustments to the US to allow them to submitted revised

prices. The Postal Service as filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission its revised Standard Mail flat prices.

- The Postal Service published its unaudited October results with the Postal Regulatory Commission. USPS earned \$61 million in October 2012, which is the first monthly controllable income since October of last year. The Postal Service's controllable operating income for the month was \$286 million. The Postal Service Retiree Health Benefit Fund had a prepayment of \$467 million and a workers compensation adjustment of a negative \$257 million, which help offset the monthly prefunding amount. The month of October is part of the Postal Service's fall mailing season, which traditionally is its highest volume months throughout the year.
- The Postal Service's President of Digital Services, Paul Vogel, this week updated the Mailers Technical Advisory Council with its ongoing digital strategy. With the introduction of the Digital Services Group, the Postal Service plans on establishing a digital relationship with customers by becoming a platform business.
- The Postal Service has filed its 2013 Integrated Financial Plan (IFP), which provides the financial projections for the upcoming fiscal year. The USPS's fiscal year runs from October 1 thru September 30. For FY2013, the Postal Service projected an operating loss of \$2.0 billion, down from the FY2012 actual operating loss of \$2.4 billion. The net loss projection for FY2013 is \$7.6 billion compared to the actual FY2012 net loss of \$15.9 billion.
- The USPS and industry at this week's Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) meeting jointly reviewed the activities taken around Hurricane Sandy, noting lessons learned and improvements that could be made in the disaster recovery process. While industry largely commended the USPS for its handling of the situations that arose during and following the hurricane, there were some lessons learned and recommendations for improvements in the processes, particularly in the area of communications.
- The USPS earlier this week at the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) meeting noted that it has published and posted on its RIBBS web site the list of facility consolidations it has planned for the next phase of its network changes. The USPS cautioned, however, that the list is "dynamic" and changes could be made. USPS chief operating officer Megan Brennan told the MTAC group that the USPS would give mailers at least 30 days notice of changes, noting that the USPS continues to look at opportunities for consolidations. She said the USPS is aggressively preparing for the next round of facility consolidations to begin in January/February 2013 and run through the early spring.
- Ailing USPS tries to avoid Twinkie's fate. USPS requests extension of greeting card market test. USPS and Discover agree on Year 3 penalty for NSA. Postal Service gets anemic response to EAS early retirement offer. Eliminating Postal Service prefunding, not service. Postal chief lays out plan for agency survival. Siemens to divest baggage handling, postal/parcel sorting activities. USPS could be 'stamped out.' USPS re-caps significant improvements in service performance. USPS sustainability update. Looking for more news from MTAC?
- Updates from the USPS.
- Updates from the Domestic Mail Manual.
- Updates from the Federal Register that affect the mailing industry.
- An update from the USPS Office of Inspector General.
- A review of postal news from around the world.
- Postal previews.

Hey! You've not been getting the weekly PostCom Bulletin--the best postal newsletter anywhere...bar none? [Send us by email](#) your name, company, company title, postal and email address. Get a chance to see what you've been missing.

The PostCom Bulletin is distributed via [NetGram](#)

[PostCom Members! The latest issue of PostCom's quarterly review of the USPS' delivery service performance has been posted on this site.](#)

[Courthouse News Service](#): The U.S. Postal Service improperly assessed a \$3.5 million revenue deficiency against a company over nonprofit mailing rates, a federal judge ruled.

[NALC e-Activist Network](#): The NALC opposed both the House and Senate bills (H.R. 2309 and S. 1789) for sacrificing Saturday delivery (and 25,000 city carrier jobs) in order to maintain the destructive pre-funding policy adopted in 2006. We strongly oppose efforts to enact a postal bill during the "lame-duck" session of Congress. Reports are emerging that key House and Senate staffers are meeting this week with a goal of getting by the end of the week an agreement on a compromise bill to present to Senate and House members next week. We must stop this back-room deal before it gets attached to must-pass legislation, such as the "fiscal cliff" law or the Hurricane Sandy relief bill.

*November 29, 2012*

**CQ Roll Call: Connecticut Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman is not optimistic that competing versions of postal overhaul legislation can be reconciled before the 112th Congress ends.** The Governmental Affairs chairman, who has taken the lead in trying to broker a compromise with the House before his retirement at year's end, now puts the odds of sending the measure to President Barack Obama at "less than 50 percent."

[Politico](#): Speaker John Boehner on Thursday said that "no substantive progress has been made" on fiscal cliff negotiations, and warned that if Democrats don't come up with a better compromise on entitlements and spending then "there's a real danger of going off the fiscal cliff."

### *The Passing of Hank Cleffi*

*It's my sad duty to pass along the news that Hank Cleffi, who many of us knew when he worked at the USPS and as a colleague who had handled postal affairs for the Mailing and Fulfillment Service Association (MFSA), passed away this morning at a convalescent facility in New Jersey. Earlier this week, I'd learned that he had suffered a brain injury when he fell at the Newark airport and was beginning what was expected to be a successful rehabilitation, but his condition deteriorated suddenly overnight. Hank had been living in Arizona but traveled to New Jersey frequently to see his mother, who's also not well.*

[Free Webinar from Pitney Bowes: Will your Folded Self Mailers comply with the New US Postal Service requirements in January 2013?](#) Join us on Thursday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. EST to learn about the revised standards that Folded Self-Mailers (FSM) and specific Un-enveloped mailpiece designs must meet to receive automation letter discounts. The revised standards take effect January 05, 2013.

*At the PRC:*

- **Monthly Progress Report on Full-Service Intelligent Mail Participation and Compliance by Commercial First-Class Mail and Standard Mail Customers**  
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85757/Monthly%20Report.pdf>
- **R2012-6 2012 Mobile Commerce and Personalization Promotion Data Collection Report**  
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85760/Data Collection Report.pdf>

[Global Newswire](#): The U.S. Postal Service has awarded Northrop Grumman Corporation a three-year contract to operate its central repair facility in Topeka, Kan. Northrop Grumman has operated the facility continuously since 1978. The program provides repair services for the Postal Service mail processing equipment, including electronic, mechanical and hydraulic equipment as well as reverse engineering and fabrication services. The contract is worth more than \$30 million.

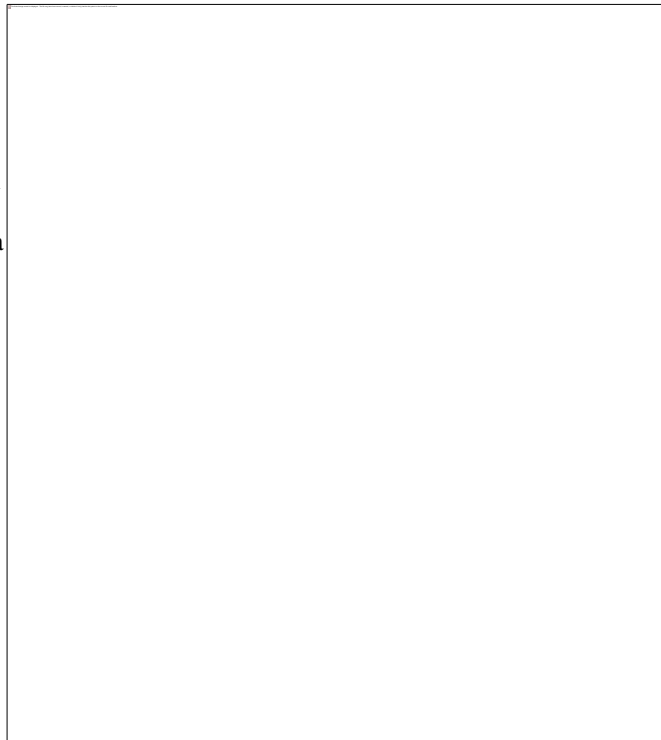
[MyPrintResource](#): Do old-school marketing tactics such as "snail" mail still work? You betcha, according to research gathered by the Direct Marketing Association (DMA) from an online member survey this past spring. Yielding average responses from 34 of every 1,000 pieces distributed, direct mail is nearly 30 times more effective than email and 340 times more effective than web banners, the 2012 study reported.

[Now hear this: "This Week In Postal".....the post-MTAC rap posted now!](#)

[The Hindu Business Line](#): United Parcel Service (UPS), the US-based global courier company, is looking at healthcare sector and contract logistics to drive growth in India. The company sees great potential for movement of critical medical parcels in and out of the country. This is a specialised segment and UPS has expertise in handling sensitive products, according to Mark Martyn-Fisher, Managing Director, UPS India.

[ITV](#): A meeting is taking place to try to avoid a possible postal strike that could disrupt Christmas mail in part of Bristol. Previous talks between the Communication Workers Union and Royal Mail over a dispute at the city's Mead Street depot have so far failed to reach an agreement. It is hoped that today's meeting will resolve the row over working conditions.

[Wall Street Journal](#): United Parcel Service Inc. UPS +0.76% is preparing a set of concessions to win backing from European regulators for its planned purchase of TNT Express NV, though some of its shareholders have warned the company should drop the deal if the conditions become too onerous. UPS would open its European air and truck network to rival express delivery firms to win backing for the planned €1.16 billion (\$1.68 billion) takeover announced in April, according to two people familiar with the situation.



[Gainesville Times](#): As shoppers and stores begin to recover from Black Friday sales, the United States Postal Service is gearing up to handle the swarms of people looking to ship holiday gifts. According to the postal service, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, 17.9 billion letters, cards and packages are delivered. Local post offices are estimated to help more than 240 million people in-store during the holiday period.

[Dead Tree Edition](#): Dead Tree Edition estimates that, if successful, the buyout program could reduce the Postal Service's compensation costs by more than \$1 billion annually. But USPS seems to be doing little to present the buyout package in the best light, for example sending thousands of employees inaccurately low estimates of their retirement benefits.

[MSNBC](#): Quad City Meg agents say sending and receiving illegal drugs through the mail is nothing new, in fact, they say it happens daily here in our area. However, they say since Colorado legalized pot, the number of packages containing the drug has nearly doubled.

[Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal](#): The U.S. Postal Service won a key ruling on Tuesday in its fight with workers over locker sizes at the new St. Paul Processing and Distribution Center in Eagan. A federal judge vacated an arbitrator's order from December that would have forced management to install larger lockers at the new facility.

The lockers were smaller than at the last building, leading workers to file a union grievance after their heavy winter outdoor gear wouldn't fit in the new lockers.

[RIA Novosti](#): It has endured for more than two centuries amid technological revolutions, civil wars, and tectonic shifts in society and geography. But the days may be numbered for America's national postal service if the US Congress doesn't act fast. Conservative-minded critics—including Republican lawmakers—call the agency an unwieldy, inefficient behemoth incapable of competing with private couriers like FedEx and United Parcel Service (UPS). American taxpayers, they say, should not act as a fiscal backstop if it can't survive on the open market. Lorelei St. James, director of physical infrastructure issues at the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) [said] her agency plans to release a report early next month assessing various proposals by US lawmakers to deal with the postal service's retiree benefits funding, said St. James, the GAO's point person for postal issues. But Issa believes there is "a good chance" that Congress will pass "comprehensive postal reform legislation" by the end of the year.

[Ottawa Citizen](#): The Canadian Museum of Civilization is wasting no time in moving ahead with plans for its rebirth as the new Canadian Museum of History. Even before the government's introduction Tuesday of a bill that will give the transition legal force, **officials closed the Canadian Postal Museum**, which had been housed on the second floor of the popular Gatineau museum since 1997. The postal museum's space will be used to display exhibitions on local or provincial history from museums across Canada, said Chantal Schryer, the museum's vice-president of public affairs.

*November 28, 2012*

[Pioneer Press](#): St. Paul's postal headquarters on the market after deal falls through; \$5 million asking price.

[Promotions & Incentive Programs for First-Class & Standard Mail](#)

**The 2013 Mailing Service Promotions Calendar includes:**

**Mobile Coupon/Click-to-Call:** This promotion provides an upfront 2 percent postage discount on the integration of mail with mobile technology and will promote the value of direct mail in two ways. First, it will encourage customers to integrate hard-copy coupons in the mail with mobile platforms for redemption. Second, it will drive consumer awareness and increase usage of mail with mobile barcodes that provide click-to-call functionality. Registration is Jan. 15, 2013, to April 30, 2013.

**Earned Value Reply Mail Promotion:** First-Class Mail Business Reply and Courtesy Reply mailers will receive a \$0.02 postage credit for each Business Reply Mail (BRM) or Courtesy Reply Mail (CRM) piece that is scanned in the postal network. This promotion is designed to encourage mailers to promote First-Class Mail as a primary reply mechanism for their customers and to keep the CRM/BRM envelopes in their outgoing mail pieces by providing a financial benefit when the CRM/BRM envelopes are used. Registration is Jan. 1, 2013, to March 31, 2013.

**Emerging Technologies:** Providing an upfront 2 percent postage discount, this promotion is designed to build on the successes of past mobile barcode promotions in promoting awareness of how innovative technologies, such as Near-Field Communication, Augmented Reality, and Authentication can be integrated with a direct mail strategy to enhance the value of direct mail. Registration is June 15, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2013.

**Picture Permit:** The Picture Permit promotion is designed to promote the use of picture permit imprint indicia, which can improve a mailpiece's visibility and impact as a marketing tool. First-Class Mail letters and cards will be discounted 1 cent per mailpiece, and Standard Mail letters and cards will be discounted 2 cents per mailpiece. Registration is June 15, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2013.

**Product Samples:** Designed to re-invigorate product sampling via the mail, the Product Samples promotion will provide mailers with a 5 percent upfront postage discount on qualifying mail that contains product samples. The promotion will raise awareness of the new "Simple Samples" pricing in Standard Mail, effective Jan. 27. Registration is May 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2013.

**Mobile Buy-it-Now:** This promotion provide mailers with an upfront 2 percent postage discount to encourage them to adopt and invest in technologies that enhance how consumers interact and engage with mail and demonstrate how direct mail combined with mobile technology can be a convenient method for consumers to do their holiday shopping. Registration is Sept. 15, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013.

The revised postal rate charts for [Standard Mail Regular Flats](#) and [Standard Mail Nonprofit Flats](#) have been posted on this site.

**DMM Advisory: New Marking Standards for Parcels Containing Hazardous Materials** Today the Federal Register published our Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) final rule that revises mailing standards to adopt new mandatory marking standards for parcels containing mailable hazardous materials that will align with revised requirements provided by the Department of Transportation (DOT). This [final rule](#) also provides terminology and categorization changes in response to DOT's pending elimination of the "Other Regulated Material" (ORM-D) category and partial elimination of the "Consumer Commodity" category. The effective date is January 1, 2013.

**Post & Parcel:** Swiss Post Group has seen its profits slip by 1% so far this year, compared to the first three quarters of 2011, but insisted it was a "good achievement" given the state of the economy.

[Deutsche Post DHL](#) @DeutschePostDHL **#Video:** "Frank [#Appel](#) and Pankaj [#Ghemawat](#): Why [#global](#) connectedness matters" <http://bit.ly/TID4Wu> [#logistics](#) [#dhl](#) [#globalization](#) [#gci](#)

CNET: Google said today that it has acquired Incentive Targeting, a maker of coupon programs tailored to shoppers based on their individual purchase histories.

**NEW! Quarterly USPS Leadership Forums for Stakeholders: 2013 Dates**

USPS Leadership Forums for Stakeholders are on Tuesdays from 1 to 4:30 pm, immediately followed by Stakeholder Receptions ending at 6:30 pm.

- February 19, 2013
- *Annual National Postal Forum:* March 17-20, 2013 at Moscone Center West, San Francisco, CA
- May 14, 2013
- August 27, 2013
- November 19, 2013

**Fox Business:** "**Siemens to Divest** Baggage Handling, **Postal/Parcel Sorting Activities**"

**Associated Press:** The head of the financially struggling U.S. Postal Service says the agency must be allowed to ease the terms of prepayments into a retiree health care fund and eliminate general mail delivery on Saturday. Patrick Donahoe tells "CBS This Morning" the agency isn't asking Congress for money. He says, "I think most people don't realize, we're 100 percent self-sufficient. We pay our own way." But the postal chief notes the agency is losing \$15.9 billion this year. Donahoe says the post office needs to refinance retirement health fund payments to \$1

billion a year instead of \$5 billion. He says the Postal Service would continue package delivery on Saturday and keep post offices open. In this scenario, he says the agency could be \$8 billion in the black each year.

[Blue plus Brown make green.](#)

[CBS News](#):  ["U.S. Postmaster General: 'We're facing our own fiscal cliff.'"](#)

The USPS has responded to the PRC's remand for new Std Mail flat prices to address the directives laid out by the PRC in the 2010 Annual Compliance Determination. The **new price chart will be included in this week's bulletin**. Prices for all other Std mail categories have remained unchanged (letters, CR, marketing parcels, etc). <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85720/Response%20to%20Order%201541.pdf>

[Dead Tree Edition](#): Bolstered by election-related mailings, the U.S. Postal Service experienced something unusual in October -- profitability.

[PIWorld](#): There has been a lot of talk lately about the "Fiscal Cliff." Many of us lack confidence that our lawmakers will unite to avoid a certain recession trigger. There hasn't been as much talk about our industry's own fiscal cliff: What happens if we don't get postal reform by the end of the year? Like so many in our industry, I'll admit that I've been asleep at the wheel, complacently assuming the problem will get solved. Unfortunately, this is far from assured. If we lack confidence that our lawmakers won't spin us into certain recession (clearly an issue that will generate more press coverage, public outcry and legislative attention), how can we possibly delude ourselves into thinking they will come together on postal reform? The stakes are high for our industry, with 65 percent of ALL print distributed through the USPS system. What would happen if the system shuts down? Within the next year, that is a REAL possibility and we must not continue to ignore it.

[Wall Street Journal](#): The White House and congressional Democrats hardened their budget positions on Tuesday and signaled they are prepared for partisan jockeying before any agreement to block impending spending cuts and tax increases can be reached with Republicans.

[Isle of Wight County Press](#): ROYAL Mail services on the Isle of Wight could be seriously affected if the company closes its Portsmouth mail centre, it has been warned. The firm has announced it will carry out a review of the branch from January, throwing its future into doubt and putting 380 jobs at risk. Royal Mail said it was reviewing services following a drop in the number of letters being sent to Portsmouth but concerns have been raised that no other mail centre in the country has survived a review.

[Washington Examiner](#): *Frederic Rolando, President, NALC* -- With the fate of a venerable American institution older than the country itself likely to be decided by the next Congress, it's important that lawmakers, administration officials and the public understand the actual situation at the United States Postal Service. This is a matter that should unite conservatives, moderates and liberals. There has never been, and shouldn't be, anything partisan here.

[CEP News](#) (Courier-Express-Postal), published by the [MRU Consultancy](#), has reported that:

Over three years after Portugal's public prosecutor's office initiated investigations against former managers of CTT Correios (CEP-News 29/09), proceedings started on Monday this week. The prosecution accuses the 11 suspects, former head of CTT Correios Carlos Horta e Costa among them, of corruption, tax evasion, money laundering and forging documents. Thus, CTT Correios suffered damages of 13.5m euros. The charge is based on five decisions by the management from 2001 to 2003.

44% of the UK's letter mail volume is fed via downstream access into Royal Mail's network by its competitors.

PostNL does not expect the decline in its letter business to slow down. In

In a press release from last Thursday, La Poste calls on enterprises from the 'services and infrastructure segment' to hold 'consultations' concerning a potential co-operation. Under the



heading 'interconnected home (l'Habitat connecté)' La Poste lists 'home and personal security, telemedicine, home care, home automation and energy consumption services'.

The Czech association of alternative postal service providers AAPO (Asociace alternativních postovních operatorů) accused the government of hampering competition by the post's VAT exemption.

The Belgian post announced to extend its 'bpost by appointment' service (CEP-News 08/12) to another province. From now on, goods from retailers or cleaned clothes can be delivered by postmen in Walloon Brabant, too. It is quite remarkable that around 80% of the ordered goods are either fresh or frozen goods.

All of India Post's 155,000 post offices are to be connected via an IT network within the next two years. Additionally, India Post plans to acquire 30,000 netbooks and 100,000 handheld devices.

The Polish post apparently wants to expand its market share in the domestic express market, whatever it takes. Already in September, Poczta Polska cut prices at its express subsidiary Pocztex by 35% on average. The post primarily wanted to benefit from growth in the e-commerce sector with this step.



The [MRU](#), founded in 1992, is the only consultancy in Europe, which has specialised in the market of courier-, express- and parcel services. For large-scale shippers and CEP-services in particular, the MRU provides interdisciplinary advice for all major questions of the market, as there are for example market entry, product design, organisation, and EDP. *To learn more about the stories reported above, contact CEP News. (We appreciate the courtesy extended by CEP News to help whet your appetite for more of what CEP offers.)*

*From the Federal Register: Postal Service RULES New Marking Standards for Parcels Containing Hazardous Materials*, 70895-70902 [2012-28673][[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]

The legal counsel for the [Association for Postal Commerce](#) has communicated the Association's concerns regarding the Postal Service's "Enforcement of Proposed Full Service IMb Standards"

The [Association for Postal Commerce and the Direct Marketing Association](#) have written to the chairman of the Postal Service's Board of Governors express concerns regarding the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) Order No. 1541, in price adjustment Docket No. R2013-1, as it relates to the postage increases in January, 2013. Our members are major customers of the Postal Service and need it to be a vibrant mail delivery service for the foreseeable future.

*At the Postal Regulatory Commission:*

<a href="#">R2013-1</a>	<a href="#">Order No. 1556 - Notice and Order on Planned Rate Adjustments and Classification Changes for Market Dominant Postal</a> <a href="http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85740/Order_1556.docx">http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85740/Order_1556.docx</a> ; <a href="http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85740/Order_1556.pdf">http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85740/Order_1556.pdf</a>
	<a href="#">National Trial Balance, October, 2012, (FY2013); and Statement of Revenue and Expenses, October, 2012 (FY 2013)</a> <a href="http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85742/National_Trial_Balance_-_Redacted_October_2012_(FY_2013).xls">http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85742/National_Trial_Balance_-_Redacted_October_2012_(FY_2013).xls</a> <a href="http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85742/Letter_NTB-SRE_Oct_FY201_20121127162700.pdf">http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85742/Letter_NTB-SRE_Oct_FY201_20121127162700.pdf</a> <a href="http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85742/Statement_of_Revenue_and_Expenses_-_Redacted_October_2012_(FY_2013).xls">http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85742/Statement_of_Revenue_and_Expenses_-_Redacted_October_2012_(FY_2013).xls</a>
	<a href="#">USPS Preliminary Financial Information (Unaudited), October, 2012</a> <a href="http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85741/Letter_PFI_Oct2012_20121127161550.pdf">http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85741/Letter_PFI_Oct2012_20121127161550.pdf</a> <a href="http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85741/USPS_Preliminary_Financial_Information_(unaudited)_October_2012.pdf">http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85741/USPS_Preliminary_Financial_Information_(unaudited)_October_2012.pdf</a>

[http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/Letter\\_RPW\\_FY2012\\_Q1-3REV\\_Q4.pdf](http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/Letter_RPW_FY2012_Q1-3REV_Q4.pdf)  
[http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/REV\\_Fy2012Q1\\_RPWsummaryreport\\_public.xls](http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/REV_Fy2012Q1_RPWsummaryreport_public.xls)  
[http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/REV\\_Fy2012Q2\\_RPWsummaryreport\\_public.xls](http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/REV_Fy2012Q2_RPWsummaryreport_public.xls)  
[http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/REV\\_Fy2012Q3\\_RPWsummaryreport\\_public.xls](http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/REV_Fy2012Q3_RPWsummaryreport_public.xls)  
[http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/Fy2012Q4\\_RPWsummaryreport\\_public.xls](http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/Fy2012Q4_RPWsummaryreport_public.xls)  
[http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/Fy2012\\_RPW\\_summaryreport\\_public.xls](http://prc.gov/Docs/85/85743/Fy2012_RPW_summaryreport_public.xls)

[Federal Times](#): The U.S. Postal Service may have its problems, but they evidently weren't severe enough to persuade many supervisors and administrators to jump at an early retirement offer. Out of 3,594 Executive and Administrative Schedule employees eligible for the package, just 186 signed up by the Nov. 19 deadline, according to Postal Service figures provided today. The package—standard for the federal government—allows employees to retire early if they are at least 50 years old with a minimum of 20 years' service, or any age with at least 25 years' service. Unlike recent early retirement offers to postmasters, mail handlers and clerks, however, this one was not coupled with a cash incentive (i.e., buyout).

**November 27, 2012d**

[Post & Parcel](#): Jersey Post and Guernsey Post are being set targets to deliver 95% of all local mail within one working day, under new joint service standards proposed by regulators. The two Channel Island postal operators are also expected to deliver 99% of local mail within three working days.

[Bloomberg](#): While the Hostess Twinkie may not be as central to the U.S. economy as the mail, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe sees uncomfortable parallels of iconic products within unworkable organizational structures. "Companies and industries have gone over their own fiscal cliff because they can't sit down and work out their differences," Donahoe said in an interview last week. "Like Hostess." Like Hostess Brands Inc., where a labor impasse prompted the snack-food maker's liquidation, the Postal Service, with 28 times Hostess's workforce of 18,000, has been squeezed by labor costs and changing consumer tastes to the brink of extinction. The post office's insolvency is less imminent while no less ominous, with Donahoe projecting that the service expects to run out of cash in October without intervention from Congress. "They're in a box," said Gene Del Polito, president of the Association for Postal Commerce, which represents mailers including Williams-Sonoma Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. "There's no way out unless Congress is willing to get rid of the box. Just about every option they need to explore to reinvigorate themselves as a viable enterprise aren't available to them." Turnaround specialists would be full of easy answers if the service were a private-sector company. The Postal Service is supposed to make a profit while operating as a government agency overseen by lawmakers who derive their authority over postal operations from the U.S. Constitution.

[Attention Postal One! Users](#): With the PostalOne! release on 10/28, an issue was identified that affected provisioning of tray visibility information. This impacted all records from 10/28 to 11/26 for mailers subscribing to Mail.XML push and pull messaging. ETR# 107493 has been logged for this issue and the fix is being deployed on Monday, November 26, 2012. Data provisioning to mailers will resume normal service on Tuesday 11/27. Distribution of tray visibility data for the outage period (10/28 to 11/26) will gradually be replayed starting Wednesday 11/28 and is planned to complete by 12/17. During the investigation, an additional issue was identified, not related to the 10/28 release. The issue involved multiple tray visibility records with the same identifier preventing the data provisioning, which has been resolved allowing the data to be provisioned as stated above. To resolve the issue, the retention period of the tray visibility records was adjusted to match the PostalOne! 45 day retention period and aged records were purged.

[Wall Street Journal](#): "Greece's Creditors Reach Aid Deal" [*EdNote: We're still waiting for Congress to do something about postal reform.*]

[Nikkei Net Interactive](#): The government on Tuesday agreed to approve Japan Post Insurance Co.'s new educational endowment insurance offering, with eight specific conditions, following a meeting of several ministers

to discuss postal reform. Approval will be granted on Friday. One of the eight conditions, set by the government, requires Japan Post Insurance to resolve problems related to its failure to pay claims by policyholders. Educational insurance, one of four new Japan Post Group products under review for government approval, will be sold by as early as April.

[Canada.com](#): The Canada Post Group of Companies reported Monday its sixth consecutive quarter of losses as mail volumes continue to decline amid a consumer shift away from paper-based communication. The company is struggling with an influx of consumers turning to online billing as well as using email for many correspondences. Canada Post said it must secure new collective agreements that will help it to compete.

[Washington Times](#): The Postal Service is coming to grips with its diminished relevance in a digital society. The question is whether Congress will follow suit. Earlier this month, the Postal Regulatory Commission signed off on a test run for Metro Post, a scheme in which government mail would compete head-on with UPS and FedEx in providing same-day delivery service. Congress should cut the strings that tie the hands of the Postal Service, but not without first releasing taxpayers from the obligation of covering for the substantial losses when its operations flop. That means lawmakers should finally repeal the 140-year-old statutes that make it a crime for private companies to deliver first-class mail. Doing so puts consumers in charge of deciding what they're willing to pay for, and at what price. This ensures the public has access to the services they really need, not what Washington politicians think they should want.

*From the Federal Register:*

- **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** International Mail Contracts , 70849–70850 [2012–28659] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70852–70853 [2012–28660] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70850–70852 [2012–28661] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]
- **Postal Service NOTICES** Product Changes: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 70853 [2012–28669] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70854 [2012–28670] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70854 [2012–28671] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70854 [2012–28672] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]

**"2013 USPS Promotions Calendar" Webinar** On November 16, 2012, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) approved the 2013 Promotions Calendar. The calendar features a year-long lineup of Postal Service promotions designed to encourage innovation and use of technologies that can make mail more interactive and add value. The 2013 Promotions Calendar includes:

- Direct Mail Mobile Coupon and Click to Call
- Earned Value Reply Mail
- Picture Permit Promotion
- Product Samples
- Emerging Technology
- Mobile Buy It Now

Moving full speed ahead, the Postal Service will host a webinar on the program overview and offer an in-depth review of the promotions first up on the calendar: **Direct Mail Mobile Coupon/Click-to-Call** and **Earned Value Reply Mail** . So join us! Here are the details: **2013 Promotions Calendar Webinar December 5, 2012 at 12 noon EST** Click [here](https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?d=999662093&t=a) to register or go to: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?d=999662093&t=a> **REGISTRATION REQUIRED\*\*\*** – lines for this webinar are limited, and they will fill quickly!

*November 26, 2012*

*At the Postal Regulatory Commission: [Docket No. R2013-1](#): **United States Postal Service Response To Order No. 1541***

"Although the Postal Service was able to accomplish the Commission's directive to raise prices for Standard Flats without violating the cap or introducing offsetting price reductions for other

products, the Postal Service nevertheless believes that the Commission overstepped its authority in Order No. 1541. As accurately stated in Commissioner Taub's dissent,<sup>14</sup> the intent of the Congress in passing the PAEA was to afford the Postal Service true pricing flexibility, unencumbered by the Commission's own vestigial views on pricing strategy. The Commission's Order here ignores that Congressional intent. Under the PAEA, the Postal Service is primarily responsible for setting prices. Here, the Postal Service proposed prices which it believed reflected an appropriate balance between the need to improve cost coverage for Standard Mail Flats pursuant to the Commission's prior Order, and the need for the Postal Service to increase contribution in order to remain economically viable. The Postal Service fully complied with the Commission's directives concerning the pricing of Standard Mail Flats, and its statutory obligations, and the Commission therefore exceeded its authority when it declined to fully approve the price proposal of the Postal Service."

[Press Release](#): GrayHair Software, a constant innovator in the direct mail industry, is proud to announce the release of their new MailValidator application. This new service allows business mailers and their vendors to provide better postal data communication to GrayHair's current suite of cloud-based solutions. "GrayHair understands the key role of mail preparers in the supply chain. Providing solutions to streamline their processes and facilitate the communication of essential data points strengthens their value to their direct customers," stated Paula Stoskopf, Director of Solution Strategies.

[Post & Parcel](#): The Norwegian government has decided that digital mailbox providers will compete to deliver electronic mail from government agencies from 2014. The Scandinavian country is currently in the process of digitising public services, and as part of the process has promised to switch government communications to a digital channel over the next two years. Although consumers will still be able to choose to stick with paper-based communications, the digital channel will be the default option, with ministers believing it will be "easier, simpler and safer" for government agencies to communicate with consumers electronically.

[Delivering Tomorrow](#): As companies work to enhance the online shopping experience, concerns about privacy are sure to arise. We've seen it already. The reality is that suppliers will know more and more about the individual consumer. Right now the chatter out there is all about "big data" and how to exploit it. Deep down we all know that the advantage of this is seeing the information we want to see – and less spam! Or at least spam will increasingly be one of the deadly sins of cyberspace shopping. The flip side to that coin, of course, is that this will indeed negatively affect privacy. But as someone said recently, "privacy is gone – get over it." Now there's certainly some truth to that, but it will only take a couple of data misuse scandals and we'll find ourselves in a totally new situation. Ironically enough this issue will be much like traditional shopping in that it is basically a matter of trust. And we all know that trust takes a long time to build but only short time to demolish.

[Canada NewsWire](#): Accelerated mail volume declines have resulted in financial losses for a sixth consecutive quarter for the Canada Post Group of Companies. The underlying cause is a historic shift from paper-based to digital communication by consumers, businesses and governments. Canada Post's core Transaction Mail volumes are likely to decline further and rapidly. The Corporation is accelerating the transformation of its business in order to meet the evolving needs of Canadians and avoid becoming a burden on taxpayers. As Canada's preferred home delivery company, the Corporation is meeting high service standards for all its products.

[Haitilibre](#): Régine Godefroy, Director General of the Post Office of Haiti (DPOs) participated to a two-day forum, which was held recently at the Secretariat General of CARICOM, Georgetown [Guyana's capital]. Launched by Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, this forum had as main objective, to address the various challenges faced by the postal network in the region Caribbean and the strategy to adopt in order to operate reforms in this sector. The working sessions made it possible to develop a strategic plan common to all Postal administration of the region, and highlight the key points which must be the subject of an awareness plan national and of a plea to at the highest levels of government.

The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General invites you to comment on the following: This week's "Pushing the Envelope" blog topic: **Shop, Drop, and Mail**. During the holiday season, you may find yourself making many trips and

waiting in many lines to run errands. Wouldn't it be nice to get all your shopping, wrapping, and shipping taken care of in a single trip? With postal counters in strategic locations, all of your needs could be met in one stop. If you could, would you shop and ship at the same location? If Post Office functions could be moved into retail spaces, what areas or types of stores best lend themselves to this effort? Share your ideas on our [blog](#).

New audit projects have been started on the external website. [Assessment of the Viability of the Voyager Card Program for Highway Contractor Routes – 13XG012NO000](#) The Postal Service has been using the fleet transaction card from U.S. Bank Voyager Fleet Systems, Inc. to purchase fuel for its vehicle fleet since around 2000 (known as the Voyager Card Program).

[Stuff](#): Businesses wanting mail delivered with a one day turnaround could be staring at higher charges if NZ Post convinces the Government to accept a raft of changes to its deed of understanding. The changes are part a bid to reshape the state-owned company's business model, which has been trapped between mail volumes declining due to the internet and entrenched service delivery terms keeping costs high. As it stands, NZ Post is required to service 95 per cent of delivery points six days a week, a level it's looking to trim to three days.

[Jersey Evening Post](#): The Channel Islands Competition and Regulatory Authorities have released a draft decision on new postal targets for Jersey Post, with the company being expected to deliver 95% of all local mail within one working day. It also wants Jersey Post to deliver 82% of mail to Guernsey and the UK by the next working day and 97% within three business days.

[Global Times](#): Express companies are responsible for delivering the goods from the country of origin to customs in China, from where they are transferred to local delivery companies. Fedex and UPS are popular delivery services in the US. "Actually, the most expensive, but most reliable, is the US Postal Service, which measures up to the standards set by the Universal Postal Union," added Lin. "However, small companies established by some Chinese Americans are also reliable, such as Global Courier Express and United Courier Service."

[PRNewswire](#): The American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) issued the following statement in response to the November 22 opinion by Japan's Postal Services Privatization Committee (PSPC) recommending approval of a new Japan Post Insurance (JPI) education endowment product: "ACLI is deeply disappointed in the PSPC opinion. The opinion runs counter to Japan's national treatment commitments under the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Specifically, under these commitments, JPI should not introduce any new or modified products until a level playing field is established between JPI and private companies.

**November 25, 2012**

[Huffington Post](#): Finding true "fat" in the government budget proves harder than it appears at first blush. Many commonly cited sources of "waste" like the National Endowment for the Arts, farm subsidies, and even individual weapons programs are just drops in the federal spending bucket. When one gets to the big spending programs, in fact, finding true waste is genuinely hard. But there's a big, big exception: A truly useless government agency with over a half million employees and \$66 billion in annual spending. It has offices in every town -- more, it says, than Starbucks, McDonald's, and Wal-Mart put together -- and it does something that nobody needs. The government agency, of course, is the United States Postal Service. While plenty of reforms seem to be on the table -- the Obama administration has called for the elimination of Saturday mail delivery and many conservatives want to go further -- there's a strong case for simply ending the Postal Service altogether. Rather than tinkering around the edges, Congress and the Obama administration should seriously consider getting rid of the Post Office as it exists altogether by selling its brand and assets to the private sector and repealing its special privileges.

[Associated Press](#): When the next Congress cranks up in January, there will be more women, many new faces and 11 fewer tea party-backed House Republicans from the class of 2010 who sought a second term. Overriding those changes, though, is a thinning of pragmatic, centrist veterans in both parties. Among those leaving are some of the Senate's most pragmatic lawmakers, nearly half the House's centrist Blue Dog Democrats and several moderate House Republicans. That could leave the parties more polarized even as President Barack Obama and congressional

leaders talk up the cooperation needed to tackle complex, vexing problems such as curbing deficits, revamping tax laws and culling savings from Medicare and other costly, popular programs.

[New York Post](#): The USPS is reporting a staggering \$15.9 billion loss for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 — more than triple its loss of the previous year. Indeed, only a late \$500 million influx of election campaign mail will end up saving the USPS from actually running out of cash at year's end. The real problem is that the Postal Service remains under the thumb of Congress — which refuses to act on meaningful, and necessary, reforms. As a short-term measure, Congress needs to reach agreement before the Postal Services falls over its own fiscal cliff. But long-term needs and ever-changing technology suggest more creative approaches are needed. Privatization may not be the answer, but it's time to have the conversation.

[Express](#): The cost of sending a package in the UK is set to shoot up under controversial European Commission proposals. Its internal market commissioner Michel Barnier is poised to launch a consultation into the state of Europe's delivery market which will also look at costs to consumers. It is being hailed as a first step towards creating an EU-wide integrated parcel delivery market.

[Winston-Salem Journal](#): The U.S. Postal Service has lowered its rate for priority mail flat boxes in an effort to help friends and family members of military personnel get their packages in time for holidays. The postal service is offering a discount for its largest Priority Mail Flat Rate Box at a price \$13.45, which includes a \$2 a box discount for military mail being sent to the Air/Army, the (Naval) Fleet and Diplomatic post offices to destinations worldwide, the postal service said. Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are available at no costs at local U.S. Post Offices. They also can be ordered online at shop.usps.com. Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online. Cards and packages to military addresses overseas should be sent Monday to Dec. 17 to ensure that this mail is delivered by Dec. 25, the postal service said.

[Town Hall](#): According to the Hill, policymakers are "scrambling" to do something about the U.S. Postal Service in the current lame-duck session of Congress. The USPS's recently announced \$15.9 billion loss for 2012 apparently inspired policymakers to act. It's hardly a surprise that Congress has waited as long as it can to do something about the USPS. Interest in postal issues for most members probably doesn't go beyond naming post offices and franking. And regardless of whether Congress passes "reform" legislation in the lame-duck or next year, it will end up just kicking the can down the road. (Policy analysts who are frustrated with the inability of Congress to tackle entitlement reform would be wise to stay away from postal policy issue for mental health purposes.)

[Gant Daily](#): People can count on the U.S. Postal Service to deliver the record amount of purchases 130 million Americans are expected to make on Cyber Monday, the biggest online spending day ever. According to the National Retail Federation (NRF), 51.8 percent of people will take advantage of Web-based sales and consumers can take advantage of the Postal Service's products and services.

[Dead Tree Edition](#): Question: When does \$16,638 actually equal nearly \$30,000? Answer: When a U.S. Postal Service employee compares the retirement annuity the USPS says he will receive to the payments he will actually get. Ignorance of the additional payments has hindered employees from accepting early-retirement incentives that are so crucial to the Postal Service's cost-cutting efforts.

*November 24, 2012*

[From the Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES](#) New Postal Products , 70491–70492 [2012–28458] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70489–70490 [2012–28459] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70490–70491 [2012–28460] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 70488–70489 [2012–28461] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]

[Federal Times](#): More than 20,000 U.S. Postal Service employees so far have signed up for the agency's latest early-out offer, an agency spokesman said this week. The offer, unveiled early last month, combines a \$15,000 buyout with an early retirement package for longer-serving workers. The deal is open to almost all of the 187,700 clerks, mechanics and other career employees represented by the American Postal Workers Union. Part-time

employees are eligible for a prorated share of the buyout based on the number of hours worked in the past year. The deadline for acceptance is Dec. 3.

**The Telegraph:** Half of Britons over the age of 50 plan to cut the number of cards they send because of the cost of stamps, according to a poll of 10,000 people for this newspaper by Saga. The average number of cards sent per person will fall by a quarter from 38 last year to 28 this year. Ros Altmann, Saga's director general, said that December will be less festive than usual as people take a red pen to their annual Christmas card list.

**ITV:** The prospect of a postal strike at the Royal Mail depot in Bedminster, Bristol drew closer today after a second meeting between officials from the Communication Workers Union and Royal Mail finished without agreement. Both parties will however meet again next Thursday in a final attempt to reach a joint resolution.

**USPS Begins Global Shipping of Packages Containing Lithium Batteries.** Effective November 15, 2012, Post Offices began accepting packages containing electronic devices in which lithium batteries are installed, bound for many international destinations in addition to Army (APO), Fleet (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) locations. "The Postal Service is pleased to be back in the business of shipping gifts containing lithium batteries internationally and to our service members overseas," said Giselle Valera, vice president, Global Business. "Postal employees are gearing up for a busy holiday season, and we're ready to help customers send care packages to loved ones around the world." Easy, convenient, multi-lingual and always at your fingertips, [usps.com](http://usps.com) has a complete suite of tools to help you ship gifts containing lithium batteries:

- APO/FPO/DPO Mailing Guidelines: [www.usps.com/send/apo.htm](http://www.usps.com/send/apo.htm)
- Preparing International Mail Shipments: [www.usps.com/send/prepare-international-shipments.htm](http://www.usps.com/send/prepare-international-shipments.htm)
- Free Shipping Supplies: [www.prioritymail.com/freesupplies.asp](http://www.prioritymail.com/freesupplies.asp)
- Create Package Labels: [www.cns.usps.com/go](http://www.cns.usps.com/go)
- Fill Out Customs Forms Online: [www.usps.com/ship/customs-forms.htm](http://www.usps.com/ship/customs-forms.htm)
- Pay with Click-N-Ship: [www.reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction!input.action](http://www.reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction!input.action)
- Request Free Package Pickup: [www.tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action](http://www.tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action)
- International Holiday Shipping/Mailing Dates: [www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm](http://www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm)

"The Postal Service is always working to make package shipping more and more convenient," said Valera. "Customers can visit the Post Office that's always open, 24/7, [usps.com](http://usps.com), to ship holiday care packages without ever having to leave the comfort of home or office."

The Postal Service has been recognized for excellence in international package delivery performance and international call center service by the Universal Postal Union's Express Mail Service (EMS) Cooperative Network with the 2011 EMS Performance Award, silver level category, and the 2011 EMS Customer Care Award, large group category. The Postal Service also won the 2010 EMS Performance Award, silver level, and the 2009 EMS Performance Award, bronze level. USPS participates in the International Post Corporation's Environmental Measurement and Monitoring System, the global postal industry's program to reduce its carbon footprint 20 percent by 2020.

**At the Postal Regulatory Commission:** Integrated Financial Plan, Fiscal Year 2013.  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85715/FY2013%20IFP\\_Final\\_PRC%20filing.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85715/FY2013%20IFP_Final_PRC%20filing.pdf)

*November 23, 2012*

**The Financial:** Deutsche Post DHL, the world's leading postal and logistics group, has – for commercial reasons – canceled with immediate effect its long-standing rating agreement with the rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P).

[Morning Sentinel](#): Despite the flood around the holidays, annual catalog circulation by retailers has actually dipped substantially because of a postage increase, a weak economy and more shoppers making purchases online. Nearly a third fewer catalogs are mailed than were four years ago. The precipitous drop in mailings followed a 23 percent average postage increase in 2007 for the category that includes standard-sized catalogs. Some catalog companies have gone out of business. Others drastically cut back on the number of catalogs, or reduced the number of pages, or both.

[Sydney Morning Herald](#): It has been presented as a sort of axis of evil: a media triad - email, mobile phones, Twitter - that will supposedly lead to the death of handwriting. As British author Philip Hensher writes about the act of putting pen to paper in his new book, *The Missing Ink*: "It has started to become just one of many options, and often an unattractive, elaborate one." And yet, among the stories about the decline of personal letters sent with a stamp, and the dominance of electronic messages, a growing number of people are reviving handwriting in ways that are intimate and inventive.

[Casper Star-Tribune](#): Beginning in 2011, 45 post offices faced closure in hamlets that many Wyomingites had never heard of, places like Arvada and Frontier and Otto. Jan. 12 will mark the first day the first group of post offices — Beulah, Hamilton, Slater, Bondurant, Fort Bridger, Fort Laramie, Freedom, Hartville, Robertson and Savery — will have fewer hours. Fewer hours of electricity, heating and cooling will certainly save the Postal Service money, but much of the savings will come through buyouts and early retirements to tens of thousands of employees. The Postal Service offered each postmaster in the country early retirement. The exact number of takers isn't known yet. People who live in affected communities should expect to see new faces at the post office. The Postal Service will hire new or substitute postmasters. Nationwide, the measures could save the Postal Service \$500 million.

[ITV](#): Former High Court judge Sir Gordon Langley has recommended that new legislation should be introduced to provide tougher legal sanctions against owners of dangerous dogs. The report pointed out that action cannot be taken if an attack takes place on private property, limiting legal protection available to postmen and women. Sir Gordon's report called on the Government to repeal current legislation and provide a new statute so that legal action can be taken against dog owners, wherever an attack takes place.

[MediaDailyNews](#): The second half of the year isn't bringing any relief to the newspaper industry, with total advertising revenues falling 5.1% from \$5.56 billion in the third quarter of 2011 to \$5.27 billion in the third quarter of 2012. Revenue declines were spread across all the major newspaper ad categories. National advertising fell 10.4% from \$823 million to \$738 million, retail was down 6% from \$2.8 billion to \$2.64 billion, and classifieds slipped 4.8% from \$1.2 billion to \$1.14 billion. *[EdNote: Ooo! Ooo! I got it! Let's blame direct mail!]*

[Transport Intelligence](#): The United State Postal Service may have lost \$15.9bn in 2012, however there are some companies able to make a profit out of the shrinking postal sector. UK Mail Group, the British private sector postal service and parcel network provider, has announced six month results with year-on-year revenue up 11.9% and profit before tax up 21.4% at £7.3m; although this was flattered by exceptional items, with UK Mail stating that underlying growth was 7.8%. In its core mail business, which represents half of the Group's sales, revenue increased 23.6%, driven-up in part by price increases by Royal Mail. Stripping this out, however, revenue still grew by 17% on mail volumes that grew by 2%. UK Mail has been able to expand its market share by gaining customers from Royal Mail and creating new types of services such as a 'web-to-print' concept. The bad news was that the ability to pass on price increases was limited and this drove down margins, with profits up just 12.9% at £5.7m, whilst margins fell to 4.9% from last year's 5.4%.

[Union Leader](#): The U.S. Postal Service has recorded a \$15.9 billion loss for the past fiscal year. Congress, not surprisingly, continues to compound the problem. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said, "It's critical that Congress do its part and pass comprehensive legislation before they adjourn this year." But he is wrong. This cannot become another taxpayer bailout. The taxpayers cannot be asked to subsidize an agency and workforce that cannot help itself. Congress needs to stop interfering in the process, make clear there will be no further bailouts, and allow the postal service to make the cuts necessary. The level may have to be reduced, but pre-funding for retiree benefits, (pensions and health care), remains essential - to protect the American public and the employees entitled to the benefits.



*November 22, 2012*

[Indianapolis Business Journal](#): Emboldened by rapid growth in e-commerce shipping, the cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service is moving aggressively this holiday season to start a premium service for the Internet shopper seeking the instant gratification of a store purchase: same-day package delivery.

[Washington Post](#): Two international unions say they've filed a complaint with the German government alleging that Deutsche Post's DHL division has attempted to stifle organized labor movements.

[City A.M.](#): FTSE-listed delivery firm UK Mail is snatching market share from Royal Mail and other operators, it said yesterday after posting an 11.9 per cent jump in revenues for the six months to the end of September. The firm said a recent hike in Royal Mail prices has driven customers towards its services. Parcel volumes rose 10 per cent on last year, reflecting a string of client wins and growing business-to-consumer deliveries.

*November 21, 2012*

[At the Postal Regulatory Commission](#): Postal Service Active Employee Statistical Summary (HAT Report), Pay Periods 23-24, FY 2013

- <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85707/HAT%20Report%20Pay%20Period%2023%20FY%202013.pdf>
- <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85707/HAT%20Report%20Pay%20Period%2024%20FY%202013.pdf>
- [http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85707/Letter\\_HAT\\_PP23-24\\_FY201\\_20121121150406.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85707/Letter_HAT_PP23-24_FY201_20121121150406.pdf)

[Computerworld](#): The Royal Mail Group has revealed plans to distribute up to 120,000 mobile devices to its staff under a new managed services deal worth up to £300 million.

[Post & Parcel](#): Lithuania Post has said it has reduced its losses threefold during the first nine months of this year, which offers "grounds for optimism". The national postal service for the Baltic republic sustained losses of just over LTL 1m during the nine months to the end of September 2012, compared to losses of LTL 3.3m (EUR 960,000) during the same period last year, according to unaudited figures. See also [The Baltic Course](#).

[Malta Today](#): Despite registering a €796,000 profit in the first half of their financial year from 1 October 2011 to 31 March 2012, MaltaPost has announced a substantial increase in its postal tariffs. Last week, MaltaPost revised its postal tariffs upwards, insisting that throughout 2012 it was negatively impacted by changes in the framework. Postal rates were raised substantially on Monday, with further increases set to follow in April 2013.

[BBC](#): Workers at a Bristol postal sorting office have voted for a strike in a dispute over their workload. About 80% of workers at the Mead Street depot voted to stage walk outs. A meeting last week between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union (CWU) ended without agreement and more talks will take place on Friday.

The [Association for Postal Commerce \(PostCom\)](#) has responded to the Postal Service's proposed [rulemaking](#) concerning new mailing standards for domestic mailing services products effective with the January 2013 pricing changes, published by the USPS in the Federal Register on October 23, 2012.

[Computerworld](#): Digital Post Australia (DPA) has fired the latest salvo in its battle with Australia Post to attract consumers and business to electronic postal services. The organisation announced Wednesday that its free Digital Postbox service was available to consumers and businesses, following successful beta testing in August with an undisclosed number of customers. While Australians can register for Australia Post's Digital Mailbox, it is believed this competing service won't be available for use until early 2013.

[PRNewswire](#): GrayHair Software, Inc., a constant innovator in the direct mail industry, is proud to announce the release of their new MailValidator application. This new service allows business mailers and their vendors to provide better postal data communication to GrayHair's current suite of cloud-based solutions.

[Glen Falls Post-Star](#): Nostalgia doesn't get the mail delivered, so Congress should allow the Postal Service to enact the painful measures necessary for the service to survive as a business. If survival requires stopping mail delivery on Saturdays, closing and merging small community post offices and cutting hours at service windows, then those steps should be taken. Fewer people send first-class letters now than in the pre-Internet days, but that hasn't eliminated the need for mail services, nor made it impossible to run profitable postal businesses. UPS does it. So does FedEx. The Postal Service has been trimming the size of its workforce in recent years and increasing worker productivity. But congressional oversight has hamstrung its efforts to realize large savings through dramatic changes, such as eliminating Saturday service. Congress cannot demand the Postal Service both run at a profit and operate as a community service. If Congress wants to stop subsidizing billions of dollars in operating losses, then representatives like Bill Owens have to support closing tiny rural post offices, like those in Clemons and Keene Valley.

[Investor Place](#): Black Friday might be making headlines this week, but many shoppers are trading in an early trip to brick-and-mortars for some simple online shopping. In fact, retail revenue on Cyber Monday — the Monday after Thanksgiving — could reach \$2 billion, according to Adobe's Online Shopping Forecast. That would make for growth of 18% year-over-year. That's especially good news for two non-retail names: FedEx and United Parcel Service. Because until someone invents a Star-Trek era transporter, retailers will need shipping companies to move those purchases. Both companies expect to see double-digit growth in terms of packages shipped this holiday season.

[Federal News Radio](#): When Ellis Burgoyne started at the U.S. Postal Service in 1978, the idea of receiving mail online or tracking it via GPS was unimaginable. But today, the mail carrier turned chief information officer is leading a team of technologists and IT specialists making that a reality. At the top of Burgoyne's list is digitization of mail, the idea that every physical piece of mail can also live in some type of electronic format. "We are working very hard to try to get letters and flats and packages and mailing statements, and somehow convert them into digital form so we can apply technology to it," said Burgoyne. "Once you have it in a digital representation, you can do a lot with it. You could get a physical piece of mail and also get a digitized version of it in your smartphone or at your desktop. We actually have that technology available now. Burgoyne said this type of digitization will offer Postal Service customers a type of business intelligence they haven't had before. The Postal Service's Intelligent Mail barcode is the keystone of that effort.

[Marketwatch](#): Postal operator Poste Italiane Wednesday won 1.56 billion euros (\$2 billion) compensation from the Italian government for public services delivered over 2009-2011.

[The Capital Times](#): The U.S. Postal Service is in the midst of a manufactured crisis. It is supposedly broke and headed toward its own version of a fiscal cliff. If it goes over, the likely result is privatization of its profitable enterprises and elimination of the commitment to universal service that has been its promise since the founding of the republic. But that does not have to happen. Congress undermined the financial stability of the Postal Service during a lame-duck session six years ago. It can repair the damage done during this session. The task is not difficult. The lift is not heavy. It is merely a matter of will.

[CEP News](#) (Courier-Express-Postal), published by the [MRU Consultancy](#), has reported that:

Austrian Post was able to improve its results, due to the good development of its Parcel & Logistics division and a stable mail business in the first three quarters of 2012.

Deutsche Post still defends its identity check system against its competitors. After the post already refused to provide its Postident system to service provider United Internet for its De-Mail product, (among others CEP-News 50/10), the company now filed a complaint with the patent office against a patent for web-based identification of persons held by Cybits AG.

Itella Information, the information logistics unit of the Finnish post, plans to increase its activities on the Polish market.

Exactly one year after Canada's Supreme Court imposed a fine of 110m euros on Canada Post (CEP-News 47/11), the persons concerned still wait for their compensations.

The e-commerce market in Austria and Switzerland continued to show dynamic growth and is highly concentrated.

[E-Commerce](#) is set to boom in France in 2012, too.

French La Poste will increase its letter prices at the turn of the year. According to La Poste, prices will rise by 2.8% on average. A standard letter for example will cost 63 cents instead of the current 60 cents from January 1 2013 on. Prices for business clients will climb by 1.8% on average. La Poste increased letter postage in the middle of 2011.

A parcel terminal network will be installed on the Iberian peninsular now, too. CEP service MRW (turnover 2011: 564.7m euros) now wants to install 'at least a few hundred parcel terminals' in Spain and Portugal, after a pilot test in Madrid and Barcelona yielded good results. The terminals will be provided by InPost, a subsidiary of Polish mail service Integer.pl, which receives a fixed leasing fee for each parcel locker.



The [MRU](#), founded in 1992, is the only consultancy in Europe, which has specialised in the market of courier-, express- and parcel services. For large-scale shippers and CEP-services in particular, the MRU provides interdisciplinary advice for all major questions of the market, as there are for example market entry, product design, organisation, and EDP. *To learn more about the stories reported above, contact CEP News. (We appreciate the courtesy extended by CEP News to help whet your appetite for more of what CEP offers.)*

**November 20, 2012**

[People's World](#): While the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) was closed on Veterans Day, a group of Portland, Ore., postal employees used their day off to say that if USPS really wants to honor veterans, it should hire them. Hiring has been frozen for five years at USPS, and that's reducing opportunities for veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[Multichannel Merchant](#): Rates for standard mail flats – the category affecting catalog mailers – could rise even more next year after the Postal Regulatory Commission remanded the proposed 2.57% increase to the U.S. Postal Service for further consideration because the category fails to cover its attributable costs. This directive to the USPS stems from the PRC's Annual Compliance Determination report in 2011 that revealed in fiscal year 2010 standard mail flats failed to comply with the section of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 requiring a fair and equitable apportionment of the cost of postal operations.

[At the Postal Regulatory Commission](#):

- [Docket No. R2013-4](#): Market Dominant Product Prices Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators PostNL – United States Postal Service Bilateral Agreement (MC2010-35) Negotiated Service Agreement
- [Docket No. R2013-2](#): Market Dominant Product Prices Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators China Post Group – United States Postal Service Multi-Product Bilateral Agreement (MC2010-35) Negotiated Service Agreement
- [Docket No. R2013-3](#): Market Dominant Product Prices Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreements with Foreign Postal Operators HongKong Post – United States Postal Service Bilateral Agreement (MC2010-35) Negotiated Service Agreement

[Ohio Newspaper Association](#): Benefits to community newspapers from the U.S. Postal Service's proposed mandatory use of a "full-service" Intelligent Mail Barcode (IMb) are meager and do not justify the substantial investment in the technology, the National Newspaper Association told the Postal Service Monday.

[Post & Parcel](#): Polish Post said today it is lowering prices at its Pocztex courier services by up to 50% as it chases the ecommerce delivery market. The company, which has a small share of the Polish courier market at present, said it has been mounting a big push this autumn to become one of the top five courier firms in Poland, and that

developing its courier and express services is one of the top priorities of its strategy up to 2015. Polish Post is also looking to introduce new services as it looks to attract big new business customers like major ecommerce merchants, including delivery by 8am, online shipment tracking features and text message notification. Prices for Polish Post's individual courier customers should drop by an average of 35%, the company said.

[Indiana Public Media](#): The U.S. Postal Service has partnered with local businesses around the state as a part of its cost-cutting measures. Fourteen so-called Village Post Offices have been created in Indiana, with more expected to open in the coming months. But the managers of some of those post offices have not yet seen the increase in business they were hoping to get out of the partnership.

[Nhan Dan](#): The Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC) will hold the State-owned stake in the Vietnam Post Corporation from 2013, according to a decision by the Prime Minister. The Vietnam Post Corporation is a subsidiary of the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications Group (VNPT) and has charter capital of VND8.122 trillion (nearly US\$390 million). Under the PM's directive, VNPT will complete the transfer of ownership of the Vietnam Post Corporation to the MIC by January 1, 2013. The Vietnam Post Corporation provides mail, newspaper and parcel delivery services through the postal system, as well as telecommunications and financial services.

[Business Daily Africa](#): The Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK) has ordered courier firms to raise their prices to the regulatory minimum in a move seen as meant to protect the troubled State-owned Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK). The industry regulator has established Sh150 as the minimum fee chargeable by courier companies for parcels weighing under 350 grammes.

[Post & Parcel](#): UK postal regulator Ofcom said today that growth in the Downstream Access mail market seems to be slowing, but it is keeping a close eye on the development of new end-to-end competition for Royal Mail.

[Government Executive](#): The Federal-Postal Coalition -- a group representing more than two dozen federal employee unions -- pleaded with Congress on Monday to spare their members in any deal related to the fiscal cliff. Federal workers, the coalition wrote in a letter, have contributed more than their fair share toward reducing the debt and are the only group that has been targeted so heavily. "Federal and postal employees and their families are hardworking, middle-class Americans who are struggling during these tough times just like other Americans," the group wrote. "No other group has been asked to financially contribute the way they have, and it is time our nation's leaders found other ways to reduce the deficit than continually taking from those who have dedicated their lives to public service."

[The Hill](#): The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the National Education Association (NEA) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) will launch a series of radio and television ads on Tuesday that urges lawmakers to let the Bush tax rates for the wealthy expire while preserving entitlement benefits. Most observers in Washington expect a deal on the "fiscal cliff" to require compromise from both sides, but the messaging blitz puts the onus on Republicans to give ground on their signature issues of taxes. *[EdNote: Keep your eye on this issue. If we're not saved from going over the fiscal cliff, don't expect anything to come of postal reform.]*



**The latest issue of the [PostCom Bulletin](#) is available online.** In this issue:

- On November 16, 2012, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) approved the Postal Service's proposal for market dominant mail price changes, with the exception of Standard Mail flats. This decision by the Commission drew a sharp dissent from Commissioner Robert Taub.
- The Postal Service hosted a webinar to address industry concerns on package processing capacity specifically addressing Automated Package Processing System (APPS) and Automated Parcel and Bundle Sorter (APBS) capacity.
- The Association for Postal Commerce (PostCom) responded last week to the Postal Service's proposed rulemaking concerning implementation of Full-Service Intelligent mail required for automation prices, published in the Federal Register on October 17. PostCom supports the use of Full-Service Intelligent Mail

and its barcodes for the benefits they provide to both the USPS and industry. However, there is concern that the Postal Service has yet to articulate a clear intelligent mail development and implementation strategy (including future plans regarding intelligent mail postal rates).

- In comments filed by the office of the general counsel of the Association for Postal Commerce in conjunction with those more general comments noted above, the attorneys for PostCom noted that the association had "concerns with certain aspects of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NOPR") regarding the Implementation of Full Service Intelligent Mail Required for Automation Prices particularly with "the failure of the Postal Service to date to provide any guidance as to how the standards contained in the proposed rule will be enforced."
- The Hill has reported that leaders of the Senate Homeland Security Committee and the House Government Oversight Committee are currently working on a compromise Postal reform bill that could pass in the lame duck session. If the negotiations are successful the next steps in the legislative process will likely be the following . . . .
- An update on USPS published Mailing Industry Alerts.
- An update from the USPS Office of Inspector General.
- A review of postal news from around the world.
- Postal previews.

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[Marketplace](#)  This week marks the semi-official start of the holiday shopping season, but chances are the catalogs have already been piling up at your house. That's right, paper catalogs are still big business in the digital age. The reason is pretty simple, really: "Catalogs work," says Hamilton Davis, president of the American Catalog Mailers Association. He says about two-thirds of catalog orders are placed online, but lots of people still make their choices by flipping through glossy pages. "The internet's a great shopping vehicle if you know what you're looking for, but it's not a great browsing vehicle," he says. It's not just because of the Web. "The catalog business really started to get hit before the digital age by the increasing postal rates," says retail analyst Stephen Platt. Five years ago, catalog rates jumped almost 23 percent. The post office, which just reported a record annual loss, is under pressure to raise rates again next year.

[Dead Tree Edition](#): Word is spreading of a bipartisan, bicameral effort among Congressional leaders to fix the U.S. Postal Service. Before anyone gets too excited, let's remember that "fix" can also mean....

[The Association for Postal Commerce \(PostCom\) has responded](#) to the Postal Service's proposed rulemaking concerning implementation of Full-Service Intelligent mail required for automation prices, published in the Federal Register on October 17. PostCom supports the use of Full-Service Intelligent Mail and its barcodes for the benefits they provide to both the USPS and industry. However, **there is concern that the Postal Service has yet to articulate a clear intelligent mail development and implementation strategy (including future plans regarding intelligent mail postal rates).**

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[Consumer Postal Council](#): As the U.S. Postal Service confronts ever-increasing deficits and faces an uncertain future with a badly broken business model, it is reasonable for Americans to be concerned about what the future of the provision of their mail service will look like. But that is not the only area where their big-picture concerns merit consideration.

*November 19, 2012*

**MEDIA STATEMENT** On Nov. 15, the Postal Service updated international mailing standards concerning international mail shipments containing certain lithium batteries, see links: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-15/pdf/2012-27842.pdf> and <http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22350/pdf/pb22350.pdf> Specific quantities of lithium batteries are now allowed to be mailed when installed in the equipment they are intended to operate. However, some countries may decide to prohibit the acceptance of mail shipments containing any lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries. The postal operator of Germany has notified the Postal Service it will not accept packages containing lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries destined to addresses in Germany. **This does not apply to** shipments to and from **APO** (Army Post Office), **FPO** (Fleet Post Office) and **DPO** (Diplomatic Post Office) locations in Germany. Updates to the Individual Country Listings in the International Mail Manual will be issued with the next scheduled online update. Postal employees will advise customers of this prohibition and will decline any shipments of electronic items containing lithium batteries addressed to Germany.

[Salzburg Times](#): Trade union officials have warned of long queues of people hoping to send parcels and cards this Christmas because of the shortage of staff. They say that postal workers are already overworked and that with Christmas arriving the workload always doubles.

The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General invites you to comment on the following: This week's "Pushing the Envelope" blog topic: **Naming Rights, Retail Ad Space and Other Ideas**. Sports team owners have been selling corporate-sponsored naming rights to their stadiums and arenas for the last two decades and collecting top prices for these deals. Is there an opportunity for the U.S. Postal Service to capitalize on the same concept and sell naming rights to post offices? Or perhaps sell advertising space inside post offices? Read more about this concept and share your thoughts on our [blog](#) this week. New Audit Projects: This week we opened the following new projects:

- [Undeliverable As Addressed Mail \(UAA\) – 13YG008HR000](#) Undeliverable as addressed (UAA) applies to mail which cannot be delivered to the customer due to the following: A customer has moved or is deceased, incorrect or incomplete address data, physical inability to deliver (no mail receptacle, customer refused), or other (unclaimed mail or in dispute).
- [FY 2013 Financial Statements Audit – Eagan Accounting Services – 13BM001FT000](#) This audit is in support of the Independent Public Accountant's audit opinion on the financial statements. The Accounting Services – Eagan is one of three Postal Service Accounting Service Centers and is a large, centralized accounting and disbursement center responsible for payroll, employee accounts receivable, banking, meter, and disbursing activities.

[WHEC](#): A U.S. Postal employee is facing charges after police say he stole items worth \$49,000 and sold half of them on eBay. Brian Gaborski of Newark is charged with grand larceny following an investigation into thefts from a warehouse in Macedon. Police say Garborski, who was assigned to conduct postal business for Wolff SMG, removed items daily from March 2010 through July 2012 and then sold a majority of them on eBay.

[Courier, Express, and Postal Observer](#): The Hill has reported that leaders of the Senate Homeland Security Committee and the House Government Oversight Committee are currently working on a compromise Postal reform bill that could pass in the lame duck session. If the negotiations are successful the next steps in the legislative process will likely be the following....

[Wall Street Journal](#): U.S. companies are scaling back investment plans at the fastest pace since the recession, signaling more trouble for the economic recovery.

[Financial Times](#): Collect Plus does not rely on 24-hour delivery vans or the luck of a customer being home when the driver knocks. Parcels are dropped at, and returns picked up from, a network of 5,000 convenience stores that boast longer hours than most post offices or high street retailers. The company, a joint venture between PayPoint and Yodel, hopes this will not only appeal to a populace that spends increasingly less time at home and more money shopping online, but also that it will help keep down costs.

[The Leaf Chronicle](#): Severely cutting the retail window hours of 13,000 of the least-used post offices is a way for the U.S. Postal Service to address its serious funding shortage. But many Americans no doubt see it as the lesser of two evils. The greater evil, at least to many of the rural and small-town residents who depend on those little outposts of mail and sociability, would be to shut them down completely. A small-town post office can be a center of community life, where residents meet, exchange news and greetings. Even with the retail window closed, under the Postal Service's plan the mailboxes would still be accessible and townspeople could still meet as they do now when picking up their mail.

[GBP News](#): The U.S. Postal Service is planning to close a 100-year-old post office in downtown Albany, a decision locals worry will hurt downtown. Now officials are optimistic mail service could continue in the historic space with a private company taking over. (Photo Courtesy of Mike Sussman via Flickr.) The U.S. Postal Service is planning to close a 100-year-old post office in downtown Albany, a decision locals worry will hurt downtown. Now officials are optimistic mail service could continue in the historic space with a private company taking over. Mail service in the space could continue however, according Frances Krack, the building's property manager. She said private companies have expressed interest in offering mail service in the space, even if the post office closes.

[Melodika](#): IWCO Direct, a leading national provider of direct marketing solutions, has launched a completely revamped website along with its industry-leading SpeakingDIRECT blog. The site helps convey the company's unwavering commitment to enhance their customers' marketing performance across all channels through the use of proven and powerful direct mail programs. The site's innovative responsive design reflects the new reality of when, where and how people work today. It provides customers with easier access to current information about IWCO Direct's postal strategy, creative services, direct mail services and Mail-Gard® critical communications recovery services, whether working from their desktop or from one or more mobile devices.

[TVNZ](#): Top managers of New Zealand Post have touched down in Queenstown in the aftermath of the alleged actions of a postie thought to have hoarded more than 20,000 mail items.

*November 18, 2012*

[Southwest Iowa News](#): With Congress still balking at any serious attempt at a "fix," the struggling U.S. Postal Service last week reported an annual loss of a record \$15.9 billion and forecast more red ink in 2013, capping a tumultuous year in which it was forced to default on billions in payments to avert bankruptcy. The ongoing inability – or unwillingness – of Congress to come to an agreement on Postal Service recommendations needs to be resolved quickly.

[The Hill](#): With six weeks left in the current Congress, lawmakers are racing to finish legislation overhauling how the struggling U.S. Postal Service operates. Top members in both the House and the Senate met to try and carve out a path forward on Thursday, the same day the mail agency announced a record \$15.9 billion loss in fiscal 2012. The hope for those lawmakers is that, after working on shoring up USPS for much of the last two years, they can wrap up the issue before starting a new session. Members working on legislation have yet to spell out compromises on issues like how to fund future retirees' health care, and will also be looking to hammer out a postal agreement at the same time much of Washington is concentrating on the mix of spending cuts and tax hikes known as the fiscal cliff. With all that in mind, Rep. Elijah Cummings (Md.), the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, told The Hill that there was **a "50-50" shot that this Congress would push through postal reform.**

*November 17, 2012*

[New York Times](#): In the past, a spymaster might have placed a flower pot with a red flag on his balcony or drawn a mark on page 20 of his mistress's newspaper. Instead, Mr. Petraeus used Gmail. And he got caught. Granted, most people don't have the Federal Bureau of Investigation sifting through their personal e-mails, but privacy experts say people grossly underestimate how transparent their digital communications have become.

[National Association of Letter Carriers](#): On Thursday, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), the retiring chairman of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, called a bipartisan meeting of House and Senate leaders to discuss his alarming idea to allow the U.S. Postal Service to end Saturday mail delivery service but retain package delivery service on that day. "While I'm sure Senator Lieberman's intentions are good, his notion not only is misguided, it falls into the trap of failing to address the root cause of problems the Postal Service continues to face," NALC President Fredric Rolando said. "In fact, his proposal completely ignores the 2006 congressional mandate to pre-fund 75 years' worth of future retiree health benefits and to do so within just 10 years." "This crisis, manufactured by Congress, is what's creating on Capitol Hill a false sense of urgency to act immediately," Rolando said. "There is no argument that something must be done to solve the Postal Service's financial problems, but Lieberman's so-called compromise would eliminate 25,000 city carrier jobs and drive more business away from the Postal Service by undermining the value of our service."

[Times of Malta](#): Postal rates will rise substantially on Monday, with further increases following on April 1. Domestic registered mail will cost 90c, up from 49c, while international registered mail will increase to €2.25 from €1.40. Advice of delivery on international registered mail will now cost €1.75, an increase of €1.14. Other rates that will change in April include domestic postage, up 6c to 26c for a letter weighing up to 50 grams and 32c for a letter up to 100 grams. Each additional 50g will cost 20c, an increase of 11c.

[New York Times](#): Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress emerged from their first budget meeting with President Obama at the White House at midday Friday and, in a rare show of bipartisan bonhomie, jointly expressed confidence that the two parties will reach an agreement before the end of the year to avert economy-rattling tax increases and across-the-board spending cuts.

[RuralInfo.net](#): The NRLCA is hearing rumors that some congressional members may be willing to give up 6-day mail delivery for letters and flats for negotiating a deal that would get postal legislation passed by the end of the year. The compromise aims at getting some type of postal legislation completed during the Lame Duck Session. Currently postal legislation is not Congress' agenda or expected to-do-lists during the Lame Duck Session, but Lame Duck Sessions are notorious for surprises.

[Courier, Express, and Postal Observer](#): Alan Ota, a senior writer for CQ Roll Call has reported on twitter that Senator Joseph Lieberman has offered a compromise on Postal reform to get the legislative process moving again. As Alan Ota's tweet indicates, Lieberman is willing to give up preservation of 6-day delivery for letters and flats in negotiating a postal reform bill with Congressman Darell Issa.

[Reuters](#): **United Parcel Service is raising net shipping rates by up to 4.9 percent in 2013**, with smaller increases on air express services as it caters to customer demand for slower and cheaper shipping options. UPS next-day and 2nd day air freight rates within and between the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico will also rise 4.9 percent, down from 5.9 percent in 2012. The new rates take effect on December 31, UPS said.

**List of Winter 2013 Network Rationalization Consolidations Available Online.** The Postal Service is proceeding with its two-phased plan to consolidate its network of mail processing locations. Some phase one consolidation activities were completed in July and August 2012. Additional phase one consolidations will begin in January 2013. The second phase of these consolidation efforts is planned for 2014. *A list of the postal facilities currently scheduled for consolidation in Winter 2013 has been posted today on the Information for Mailers web page at <http://about.usps.com/news/facility-studies/welcome.htm>. It is also available at <https://ribbs.usps.gov/importantupdates/NRWinter2013.xls>.*



The Winter 2013 Network Rationalization Consolidations list will be updated every Friday to reflect changes in operational planning, and make sure you are kept informed as they occur. The list may be modified if warranted by operational feasibility considerations. The Winter 2013 list includes 10 facility consolidations continued from Summer 2012, along with 71 other facility consolidations. Fifteen (15) of the facility consolidations originally planned for Winter 2013 will be postponed until 2014, as will 11 facility consolidations that would otherwise have been continuations from Summer 2012. Nine (9) consolidations had previously been advanced to 2012 from the original 2013 list. As a reminder, **no BMEUs will move in the near-term**. Mailers will receive 120-day notice of BMEU moves and consolidations, any changes to BMEU and DMU hours of operation, and DMU transportation. **Please contact your BME or BSN representative with questions.**

*November 16, 2012*

**WTOP:** Two top officials who have taken the lead in cleaning up ethical lapses and mismanagement at the board overseeing the Washington region's two major airports came under fire for their own actions Friday at a House oversight hearing. Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority chairman Michael Curto and CEO **Jack Potter** both "engaged in, shall I say, missteps" during their time at the authority, according to testimony from the Department of Transportation's inspector general, Calvin Scovel III, to the House Transportation Committee. Both faced sharp questioning from lawmakers, including several who questioned whether they should continue to hold their positions. The hearing came after a scathing federal audit released earlier this month that cited lax contracting procedures, nepotism, and board members and senior employees who accepted lavish gifts like Super Bowl tickets from contractors who received work from the authority. Both Curto and Potter say they have taken significant steps to clamp down on abuse, including dismissal of senior officials whose actions were questioned in the audit. But at Friday's hearing, they were questioned about their own actions.

The Postal Service wants to take a minute during this busy mailing season to remind you of an important change to the release cycles for Labeling Lists and Mail Direction files. The 2013 labeling list and mail direction file structured release cycle will go into effect beginning December 15, 2012. Labeling lists changes will be published four times per year to align with Postal Quarters. Mail direction file updates will occur six times a year: four of the updates will be on the same cycle as labeling lists, and two will occur outside of the Postal Quarters (the dates of the two out-of-Quarter updates will be provided at the end of each year for the following year). Mailers will be notified 15 days prior to upcoming labeling lists changes. The effective date of the labeling list will occur on the first day of a Postal Quarter. Mailers will have a 30-day period during which they may use either the old or the new labeling list to pre-sort the mail. Mailers will also have a 30-day period during which they can enter mail at the old or the new re-directed facility per the mail direction file. After the 30-day compliance period ends, mailers will need to use the new labeling list and mail direction file to properly induct the mail into the Postal Service's mail processing network. For more information on the structured release file schedule, please visit,

[https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail\\_schedule2013/facilitiesprofile.cfm](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2013/facilitiesprofile.cfm)

The Postal Regulatory Commission has approved both the competitive and market dominant price change (with one exception).

- **R2013-1 Order No. 1541** - Order on Price Adjustments for Market Dominant Products and Related Mail Classification Changes Link: [http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85662/Order\\_1541.docx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85662/Order_1541.docx)  
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85662/Order\\_1541.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85662/Order_1541.pdf)

"Today the Postal Regulatory Commission approved the U.S. Postal Service's request to raise prices for market dominant products finding that the new prices are at or below the Consumer Price Index (CPI) cap of 2.570 percent and meet all other statutory requirements. **There is one exception.** In reviewing the price proposals for compliance with Commission directives and orders, **the Commission found that the Postal Service's proposed Standard Mail Flats prices fail to satisfy the applicable directives given to the Postal Service in the FY 2010 Annual Compliance Determination. The Commission has**

**remanded the Standard Mail rates to the Postal Service for compliance with its longstanding Order.** The Commission has granted the Service 10 days to decide on its own how to modify its Standard Mail prices. The Commission will also allow an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the revisions the Postal Service proposes."

- Competitive Services: [http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85608/Order\\_1536.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85608/Order_1536.pdf)

[Air Cargo World](#): TNT Express has announced a conditional plan to sell TNT Airways and Spain-based carrier Pan Air Lineas Areas to ASL Aviation Group.

[DMM Advisory](#): **Extension of Deadline for Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Use to January 28, 2013**

The Postal Service™ is extending the deadline for the mandatory use of Intelligent Mail® package barcodes (IMpb) to January 28, 2013, from our previously announced deadline of January 7, 2013. The January 7, 2013, mandatory-use date was first announced in the September 27, 2011, Federal Register final rule ([76 FR 59504-59512](#)) and also in the November 17, 2011, Postal Bulletin ([PB 22324](#)).

[Marketwatch](#): When Stamps.com announced earnings on Oct. 25, the company didn't just deliver a great performance. It delivered a rebuke to a lot of people who think the company is a left-over dot-com dinosaur. As you weigh whether or not Stamps.com is a good investment, consider that until someone invents teleportation of physical goods, no one will be emailing grandma a box of cookies any time soon.

[Washington Times](#): Despite nearly \$16 billion in annual losses announced by the U.S. Postal Service on Thursday, all but one of the top five executives for the nation's mail service had an overall compensation increase this year, records show. Unlike past years, when the Postal Service's politically appointed, bipartisan board of governors awarded executives lucrative deferred compensation deals and incentive bonuses, this year's compensation increases came mostly in the form of pension plan earnings. Total compensation for top postal executives is capped at \$276,840, based on a rule that executives can't earn more than 120 percent of the salary of the vice president of the United States. But the board of governors, which approves executive compensation for the Postal Service, can authorize hundreds of thousands of dollars in deferred compensation payments. In an annual financial report released Thursday, the board noted that no performance awards would be paid in 2012 because of the Postal Service's "dire financial condition."

The [Association for Postal Commerce has filed comments](#) with the U.S. Postal Service regarding the USPS "Proposed Rulemaking, Implementation of Full-Service Intelligent Mail Required for Automation Prices."

[Dead Tree Edition](#): Unless a lot of postal workers get cold feet in the next couple of weeks, more employees will accept a \$15,000 incentive to quit than postal executives had expected.

In case you missed the webinar on "USPS Technology: NEW IMb Planning Tool James (Jim) P. Cochrane Vice President, Product Information" put on by PostCom, have no fear. You can still listen to an audio of the webinar at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/997707841>, and you can get the slides used in the webinar on the [PostCom web site](#).

[Wall Street Journal](#): The U.S. is targeting America's two biggest shipping companies, FedEx Inc. FDX -0.67% and United Parcel Service Inc., UPS +0.86% as part of an expanding crackdown against illegal sales of prescription painkillers.

[Courier, Express, and Postal Observer](#): "If the USPS Is In Trouble, Why Did Mailing Industry Stocks Rise Sharply?"

[Money News](#): As President Barack Obama and congressional leaders prepared for budget and tax talks on Friday aimed at preventing the U.S. economy from falling back into recession next year, Democrats and Republicans dug in on their long-held opposing positions.

[China Daily](#): For Hongkong Post, an organization that earns most of its revenue from traditional postal services, it is facing tough times as fewer people are writing to each other as in the past, and more people are turning to the Internet for their correspondences as well as for paying their bills.

[Post & Parcel](#): Brazil Post has confirmed that it has begun its planned expansion abroad, with its first international office set to open in Miami early next year.

[Easy Reader News](#): The United States Postal Service has been inundated with political mail in the past weeks, forcing mail carriers nationwide to work long hours walking the streets well past dark. Employees see the influx of mailers as a problem, but expanded routes as the real issue. They are worried the problem will persist throughout the high-volume holiday season.

[Federal Times](#): About 20,000 U.S. Postal Service employees have so far signed up for the agency's latest early-out offer, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said Thursday. The offer, announced early last month, combines a \$15,000 buyout with an early retirement package for longer-serving workers. It is open to almost all of the 187,700 clerks, mechanics and other employees represented by the American Postal Workers Union.

[Huffington Post](#): Worried about further pay freezes and pension cuts, the unions representing federal and postal workers have a message for legislators seeking a "grand bargain" on deficit reduction: Don't look to us for more savings. The looming cuts have kept labor unions in full-on campaign mode after the Nov. 6 election. "We're very nervous about Congress sort of zeroing in on postal employees' and federal employees' pensions and health care," said Jim Sauber, chief of staff at the National Association of Letter Carriers, which has nearly 300,000 union members. "It's been an easy target. They've repeatedly gone to that well to pay for things in the past. I guess we're all willing to do our fair share, but so far this community has really been targeted."

[Federal News Radio](#): The Postal Service lost \$15.9 billion in fiscal 2012, in a record-setting loss for the cash-strapped agency. But the troubling financial news began even earlier this week, when it was revealed that surplus payments the Postal Service made to the Federal Employee Retirement System are much smaller than once thought. USPS had wanted to use those overpayments to pay down some of its debts. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said the bad news underscores the urgent need for postal reform legislation and renewed his call for Congress to act in the lame-duck session.

[KAAL](#): A malicious virus email claiming to be from the US Postal Service is attacking computers across the state. The email says there's been an attempted package delivery, by clicking on the link it installs a virus that can steal personal information.

[Washington Post](#): If Congress needs practice on how to avoid the fiscal cliff facing the nation's finances, it can work on pulling the U.S. Postal Service out of a deep canyon of debt. As USPS losses fell to record levels last year, its productivity rose to new heights.

### ***November 15, 2012***

[CNET](#): eBay's same-day delivery service is making a stop in New York, with the e-commerce giant expanding its new program to parts of Manhattan and Brooklyn. And to attract new users, the company plans to take \$15 off shoppers' first order and make the first three deliveries free. eBay noted subsequent deliveries will be \$5 each while eBay now remains in beta.



The latest issue of the [PostCom Bulletin](#) is available online. In this issue:

- The Postal Service filed its 10K report with the Postal Regulatory Commission this week. The Postal Service lost \$15.9 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. The loss, according to the Board of Governors Vice Chairman Mickey Barnett, is from weak economic conditions and declining mail volumes. The USPS saw First-Class Mail, its most profitable product, decline by eight percent. During FY12, the Postal Service defaulted on two retiree health payments totaling \$11.1 billion. In FY2013, the Postal Service faces many challenges, including liquidity.
- According to postal commenter Gene Del Polito, "this is a tough article to write. In October, the editor of this publication had asked me to put together something that would give readers some idea of what the year ahead would mean for the postal world. At the time, the outcome of the election was just about anyone's to predict (i.e., who would be president, who would be in the majority in the House and Senate) and I said I would feel more comfortable taking on the task after the election results were known. Well, now the election results are known, and I still feel no more comfortable than before with taking on the role of postal seer. Simply put, the balance of power in Washington remains unchanged. We still have a Democrat in the White House, a Republican majority in the House, and a Democratic majority in the Senate. Sure, some of the numbers and players for the 113th Congress have changed, but it still may be too soon to discern whether public office holders' attitudes have changed."
- According to the Postal Service, "Tis the season, and for the 237th year the U.S. Postal Service is ready for The Best Holiday Ever! with 365 million packages expected to be delivered this holiday season — a 20 percent increase over 2011. The Postal Service projects the record-breaking increase in its competitive package business due to consumers' growing fondness for shopping online. In total, nearly 18 billion cards, letters and packages will be delivered between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve."
- PRC approves competitive price change. PRC approves Metro Post market test. USPS BOG elects new Chairman and Vice Chairman. USPS files quarterly EDDM report. USPS begins global shipping of packages with lithium batteries. Postal reform bill unlikely to pass this year. Issa holds out hope for postal reform this Congress. Kicking can on Postal Service no option as financial chasm looms. USPS proposes pay cuts, end to layoff protection for mail handlers.
- Updates from the Domestic Mail Manual.
- Updates from the Federal Register that affect the mailing industry.
- An update from the USPS Office of Inspector General.
- A review of postal news from around the world.
- Postal previews.

Hey! You've not been getting the weekly PostCom Bulletin--the best postal newsletter anywhere...bar none? [Send us by email](#) your name, company, company title, postal and email address. Get a chance to see what you've been missing.



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[Multichannel Merchant](#): Online giant Amazon.com launched Amazon Wine on Thursday – a marketplace that offers customers more than 1,000 wines from more than 100 wineries across the country. Amazon spokesperson Grace Chung said that the participating wineries will manage the fulfillment and shipping of orders, and be responsible for the different wine selections offered. Customers can find out more information [here](#) about shipping.

[Alan Robinson @CEP\\_Observer](#) Mail industry stocks [\\$PBI](#) [\\$RRD](#) [\\$squad](#) & [\\$VCI](#) all up on news [#USPS](#) will not run out of cash until October 2013. Short squeeze or good news?

[Postal Regulatory Commission](#): The Postal Service has filed its 10-K with the PRC.

[Postalnews Blog](#): "More on the FERS surplus: do the math!"

[Reuters](#): "We are still walking the financial tight rope," Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe told the agency's board of governors. "Our business model is such that we cannot return to profitability without a legislative solution. We simply cannot

[Fox Business](#): Lawmakers have been working for more than a year on legislation to overhaul the Postal Service but have been unable to agree on how to do it. The U.S. Senate passed a bill in April that would allow the agency to eventually move to five-day mail delivery and spread out the retiree health payments over more years. Leaders in the House of Representatives have said that bill would only postpone the Postal Service's demise, not solve its problems, but they have been unable to pass a bill of their own. Lawmakers and observers have said they hope Congress can address postal legislation during the post-election "lame duck" session, but **tax and spending issues likely will consume lawmakers' attention during that period.**

[Post & Parcel](#): "Calls for "lame duck" reforms as USPS records \$16bn loss"

[Press Release](#): During today's meeting of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, **Mickey D. Barnett was elected chairman and James H. Bilbray was elected vice chairman.** Barnett, the Board's current vice chairman, will succeed Chairman Thurgood Marshall, Jr., who has served as chairman since December 2011 and whose term on the Board ends in December. Barnett and Bilbray will assume their new leadership roles during the Board's next meeting in December. Barnett is an attorney and former New Mexico state senator. He was appointed a governor by President George W. Bush on Aug. 17, 2006 for a term that expires Dec. 8, 2013. He currently serves as a member of the Audit and Finance Committee and the Compensation and Management Resources Committee. Bilbray is an attorney and former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Nevada. He was appointed a governor by President George W. Bush on Aug. 17, 2006 and was reappointed on Dec. 15, 2006 by President Bush to an additional nine-year term that expires Dec. 8, 2015. He currently serves as the chairman of the Governance, Regulatory, and Strategic Planning Committee.

[Washington Post](#): The struggling **U.S. Postal Service on Thursday reported an annual loss of a record \$15.9 billion**, capping a tumultuous year in which it was forced to default for the first time on billions in payments to avert bankruptcy. The financial losses for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30 compared to a \$5.1 billion loss in the previous year. See [USPS Press Release](#).

[BizJournals](#): Postal Service officials disclosed Thursday afternoon that they have about \$1 billion of cash on hand in its balance throughout the first half of the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. That could get even worse by sometime in October 2013. It's going to be down to about \$800 million — 3.5 days of operating cash — and could run out of cash during that month. "We are far short on liquidity," said Postal Service CFO Joseph Corbett.

[Sen. Thomas Carper](#): Today, Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), chairman of the Senate subcommittee that oversees the U.S. Postal Service (and co-author of the 21st Century Postal Act), released the following reaction to the announcement that the U.S. Postal Service lost \$15.9 billion in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2012:

"Since August, the U.S. Postal Service has defaulted on not one but two payments to the U.S. Treasury – a first for this ailing American institution. Furthermore, last month, the Postal Service reached its \$15 billion borrowing limit, and today the U.S. Postal Service's financial situation continued to spiral downward with the announcement that it lost \$15.9 billion in this final quarter of Fiscal Year 2012 – more than the rest of the year's losses combined. Nearly \$5 billion of these losses were operational and not related to the Postal Service's retiree health pre-funding payments. As the nation creeps toward the 'fiscal cliff,' the U.S. Postal Service is clearly marching toward a financial collapse of its own. The Postal Service's financial crisis is growing worse, not better. It is imperative that Congress get to work on this issue and find a solution immediately. I am hopeful that now that the elections are over my colleagues and I can come together and pass postal reform legislation so that a final bill can be signed into law by the end of the year."

[TransWorldNews](#): Global trade boom and sudden upsurge of e-commerce market is significantly boosting the courier market in India. A Courier is essentially a person or company that is engaged in transporting, dispatching and delivering messages, packages and mail at some extra cost. The service is distinctive by its premium services like speed, security, tracking, signature, committed delivery time and specialized & individualized service in comparison normal postal services.

[Federal News Radio](#): Comprehensive cybersecurity legislation in the Senate is dead. Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the majority leader, Wednesday night pronounced the Cybersecurity Act of 2012 ran out of lives after it failed to gain 60 votes to end cloture. The Senate passed the motion to end cloture 51 to 47, but without three-fifths approval the bill cannot move forward to the debate and amendment portion of the process. "The bill that was and is the most important to the intelligence community and the Pentagon was just killed, and that was cybersecurity," Reid said. *[EdNote: And we expect a postal bill to pass?]*

[Postalnews Blog](#): At the hearing on November 9, the Postal Service's lead advocate set forth the general outlines of the USPS arguments and evidence. What follows from these arguments is a series of draconian proposals from the Postal Service, including – for current mail handlers – absolutely no general wage increases, no cost-of-living adjustments, and a drastic increase in employee contributions for health insurance to the current rate paid by federal employees. Another proposal from the Postal Service seeks to substantially modify, and effectively eliminate, the current no lay-off clause. In addition, the Postal Service is seeking the authority to hire and to utilize, without any contractual restrictions on scheduling, use, or retention, a total of 25% non-career casual employees. Finally, for new career mail handlers hired in the future, the Postal Service proposes that their pay rates be 20% lower at the entry level and 20% lower at the maximum level. The bottom line is that the Postal Service seeks to freeze the wages for all current mail handlers, while reducing their take-home pay by approximately 8% to pay for health insurance premiums. For new hires, the USPS proposal would mean a permanent, non-career workforce with low pay and no benefits for one-quarter of employees performing mail handler work, and a reduction of 20% in the wages of newly hired career mail handlers.

[Post & Parcel](#): PostNord has announced plans to reorganise its parcels business in Denmark, moving the activity from its Logistics division into its Danish mail division.

[From the Federal Register: Postal Service](#)

- [RULES](#) Outbound International Mailings of Lithium Batteries , 68069-68070 [2012-27842][[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]
- [NOTICES](#) Meetings; Sunshine Act , 68163 [2012-27840][[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]

[Dead Tree Edition](#): Offering 115,000 APWU-represented employees \$15,000 to quit will clearly be one of the best investments the U.S. Postal Service has ever made. What's not clear is how big the investment and payback will be. In other words, how many eligible employees will take the buyout?

[Wall Street Journal](#): President Barack Obama said he is open to "new ideas" to raise tax dollars from wealthy Americans beyond simply returning to higher tax rates, showing some flexibility as he enters negotiations with Republicans. But he said it will be difficult to find an alternate way.

[NASDAQ](#): World's largest freight forwarding company, United Parcel Service, Inc. ( UPS ) is upgrading its supplier management services by introducing UPS Order Watch. The new addition is a cloud based technology that will facilitate the inbound supply chain of its customers. The new Order Watch technological platform, currently available to existing customers, will be offered to new customers in 2013 as well.

**November 14, 2012**

[Docket No. MT2013-1 Market Test of Experimental Product Metro Post](#)—"Based on a review of the record, including the Postal Service's filing and the Public Representative's comments, the Commission concludes that the proposed market test meets the requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 3641. Accordingly, the market

test may proceed as scheduled."

The following reports have been posted on the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General website (<http://www.uspsoirg.gov>). If you have additional questions concerning a report, please contact Wally Olihovik at 703-248-2201 or Agapi Doulaveris at 703-248-2286.

- [Best Value in the Purchasing Process \(Report Number CA-AR-13-001\)](#) Our audit determined that U.S. Postal Service contracting officials (COs) did not prove they achieved best value when awarding contracts. Specifically, COs did not maintain evidence supporting assessment of supplier past performance, supplier capability, price or cost analysis; did not require review and approval for 60 purchases; or they incorrectly coded contract information in the Contract Authoring Management System for nine purchases.
- [Follow-Up on Financial Accountability Audit Report Recommendations \(Report Number FF-AR-12-009\)](#) Our audit determined that, overall, the Postal Service took timely and effective corrective action in response to recommendations made in our prior reports; however, we identified some areas where management action is still required. The Postal Service has not re-evaluated service standards for Express Mail® deliveries to the Caribbean, units continue to use no-fee money orders to disburse funds outside of prescribed payment methods, and some units did not comply with guidance regarding local purchases.

*Editor's Note: Here's a whale of a fact. "Google generated \$20.8 billion in ad revenue in the first six months of 2012, while the whole U.S. print media industry — newspapers and magazines — made only \$19.2 billion."*

In its reply brief in the matter of "[United States Postal Service v. Postal Regulatory Commission](#)" (No. 12-1221), the Postal Service told the U.S. Court of Appeals:

- The PRC'S application of 39 U.S.C. § 3622(e) to limit the price difference of separate products is arbitrary and capricious.
- the PRC's interpretation of section 3622(e) is inconsistent with the language and structure of the PAEA and with the PRC's previous orders.
- The PRC's overly broad interpretation frustrates Congress's purpose in enacting the PAEA.
- The PRC's suggestion that the Postal Service can reduce the unwarranted effects of its flawed analysis by creating a new "Metered mail" product is inconsistent with the statute and does not solve the problem that its flawed analysis creates.
- Even if the PRC could use this rulemaking to revisit its earlier finding that single piece and presort first-class mail have distinct cost or market characteristics, that finding was correct and confirms that the two products are not in a worksharing relationship.
- The Postal Service is aggrieved by the PRC's arrogation of the Postal Service's authority to set prices, including non- worksharing "discounts" or price differentials.
- The PRC's expansion of worksharing to include non- worksharing characteristics of the mail is contrary to the statute and should be set aside.

[Wall Street Journal](#): President Barack Obama will begin budget negotiations with congressional leaders Friday by calling for \$1.6 trillion in additional tax revenue over the next decade, far more than Republicans are likely to accept and double the \$800 billion discussed in talks with GOP leaders during the summer of 2011. Mr. Obama, in a meeting Tuesday with union leaders and other liberal activists, also pledged to hang tough in seeking tax increases on wealthy Americans. In one sign of conciliation, he made no specific commitment to leave unscathed domestic programs such as Medicare, leaving the door open to spending cuts many fellow Democrats oppose.

[Washington Post](#): Japan Post Holdings Co., the country's biggest deposit holder, said it will soon select an adviser for its initial public offering, a deal that may exceed 4 trillion yen (\$50 billion).

[ThisIsMoney](#): Royal Mail could hike the price of stamps again despite having imposed price rises just seven months ago and despite growing operating profits. A first-class stamp rose from 46p to 60p on April 30 and second

class jumped from 36p to 50p, in one of the biggest rises since the issue of the first stamp, the Penny Black, in 1840. Royal Mail's chief executive Moya Greene yesterday refused to promise customers that prices will not rise again.

[NewKerala](#): The number of people who write letters has fallen by 30 percent in just two years, a new survey has revealed. The study, which attempts to categorise how Britons communicate, reports that 17 percent of those surveyed said that they use email and text messages more than they did in 2010, while 30 percent reported writing fewer letters and posting fewer parcels, the Telegraph reported. Among those communications regulator Ofcom categorised as the most technology savvy, letter writing fell by up to 38 percent.

[Express](#): Royal Mail moved closer to a £2billion float yesterday as it said rises in stamp prices and the online shopping boom had boosted profit. The Government-owned group, which employs 159,000 people, said preparations were now under way for a sale with all options open. It said it needed more cash to continue transforming its business away to parcels from letters, as more people are corresponding by email or text.

[The Independent](#): It's been lost in the post for a while, but Royal Mail's £4bn privatisation project finally looks like an imminent delivery.

[MarketingWeek](#): Royal Mail expects a rise in direct marketing as it looks to increase its share of the advertising market to boost profits.

[BBC](#): Cut price Christmas stamps are being issued by Jersey Post on Thursday. The stamps, which are from the Charles Dickens Christmas issue, cost 50p instead of 55p for the UK stamp, and 40p reduced from 45p for the local postage stamp. The stamps can be used on letter-sized items until Monday 17 December. Andy Jehan, director of postal operations at Jersey Post, said the stamps could be used after that date if additional postage is paid.

[Federal News Radio](#): When Nagisa Manabe arrived at the U.S. Postal Service six months ago, the agency was allocating just 5 percent of its total marketing dollars toward direct mail efforts aimed at promoting the agency's products and services.

[Post & Parcel](#): Malta's postal regular has slapped a EUR 500 fine on local direct marketing company Mailbox Services Group for delivering mail that can only be delivered by MaltaPost under the country's postal monopoly rules. And, the Maltese Communications Authority (MCA) said if its suspicions were correct and the illegal postal delivery captured on camera was not a "one-off", Mailbox Services Group (MSG) could face further EUR 500 fines for every day it operates the service in future.

[Bloomberg](#): Overshadowed by a political battle over year-end tax increases and spending cuts known as the fiscal cliff, the U.S. Postal Service could run out of money to deliver mail next year unless President Barack Obama and Congress act. The service, whose 530,000 employees are more than at any U.S.-based publicly traded company other than Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (WMT), has exhausted its borrowing authority, defaulted on more than \$11 billion of payments to the U.S. Treasury and is operating on cash it generates from selling stamps and package-delivery services. After streamlining delivery routes and cutting work hours, it's running out of money-saving tricks it can use without congressional approval. House and Senate proposals differ on whether to let the service eliminate one day of mail delivery and on how easy it should be to shut post offices and plants.

[CEP News](#) (Courier-Express-Postal), published by the [MRU Consultancy](#), has reported that:

[Post Nord](#), the merger of Post Danmark and Swedish Posten AB, faced a significant loss in operating profit in the first three quarters.

[Swiss Post](#) backpedaled on its planned price hike for the distribution of newspapers and magazines.

Private customers can buy regular stamps at half the price on the website of Dutch CheapSending. First they have to register themselves with this offer, which is funded by the sponsoring of local companies. Afterwards customers can weekly buy either five stamps for standard letters with a rebate of 50% or five parcel stamps (for parcels weighing up to 10



kilograms) at a discount of 25%. The offer is to be launched via the website [cheapsending.nl](http://cheapsending.nl) on December 1.

The Brazilian post will launch its first foreign subsidiary in spring 2013. After the government already paved the way for ECT Correios to expand abroad in 2011, the post now announced to open a subsidiary in Miami.

bpost's pilot project - launched at the beginning of this year - in which's course postmen deliver goods from retailers or cleaned clothes (CEP-News 08/12) apparently develops well.

China's regulatory authority wants to counter the cutthroat price competition in the CEP industry.

The Czech regulatory authority believes that privately run mail services will conquer a market share of around 10% after the full liberalisation of the postal market on January 1 2013.

Pakistan wants to regulate the CEP market in the future.

Japan's leading CEP and logistics service provider Yamato plans to offer a standardised same-day parcel service between three of Japan's largest cities until 2016.

UPS probably has to search for a new service partner in Israel.

A Belgian start-up firm wants to realise parcel delivery to parked cars. The Antwerp based firm Cardrops is currently testing several different technologies, which will enable the deliverers to access car trunks.

Itella further expands its digital mail service NetPosti. In the course of a pilot project in the sparsely populated archipelago in the country's Southwest newspapers, magazines and direct mail will be delivered via the web portal besides letters.



The [MRU](#), founded in 1992, is the only consultancy in Europe, which has specialised in the market of courier-, express- and parcel services. For large-scale shippers and CEP-services in particular, the MRU provides interdisciplinary advice for all major questions of the market, as there are for example market entry, product design, organisation, and EDP. *To learn more about the stories reported above, contact CEP News. (We appreciate the courtesy extended by CEP News to help whet your appetite for more of what CEP offers.)*

[Press Release](#): The focus at 2013's [European Postal Services](#) conference is how innovative Posts are altering their business models and re-aligning their operations to ensure long term profitability. [View the full programme](#). Reserve your place at this event today and save up to €400. This rate is only available for a limited period, so to take advantage [register online](#), or get in touch with my colleague Sean Francis via [email](#) or on +44 (0) 20 7760 8699.

[From the Federal Register](#): **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** New Postal Products , 67840-67841 [2012-27575][[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 67839-67840 [2012-27576][[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]


[Pension & Investments](#): **A pension fund surplus the U.S. Postal Service has been counting on to help dig out of its financial hole is smaller than previously estimated because of lower interest rates. The projected excess** in the \$412 billion Federal Employees Retirement System, Washington, for benefits covering about 471,000 current postal employees **shrank to \$2.6 billion from \$10.9 billion a year earlier** , John Berry, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, said in an Oct. 30 letter to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe. The lower estimated pension surplus adds to the financial woes of the Postal Service, which is scheduled on Thursday to report its loss for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30. The agency has said it might lose \$15 billion in fiscal 2012, during which it exhausted its borrowing authority from the U.S. Treasury. The service skipped two payments due to the U.S. Treasury totaling \$11.2 billion for health benefits of future retirees, saying it couldn't afford them. The personnel management agency has supported returning to the Postal Service some of the surplus paid to FERS. The agency has said it doesn't have the legal authority to refund money paid into the CSRS plan.

*November 13, 2012*

[PostalReporter News Blog](#): A Nov. 9 hearing in federal court in California has prompted the USPS to postpone subcontracting all Postal Vehicle Service operations in the state until early next year, after arbitration on the matter.

[Daily Star](#): Anyone who thinks the Royal Mail Christmas service is bad should probably take a look at these astonishing photos. Chinese postal workers were left struggling by an ever-growing tradition in the country. Singles Day, which was started by students in the 1990s, sees unpartnered youngsters send presents to themselves to celebrate their solo status. But China's postal service was almost brought to a halt, as workers were unable to cope with the huge mountain of packages piled up outside their offices.

[Money UK MSN](#): Royal Mail has reported a huge increase in half-yearly profits, sparking fresh controversy over plans to privatise the postal group.

 The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General invites you to comment on This week's "Pushing the Envelope" blog topic: **Making Voting Quick, Easy and Convenient**. How long did it take you to cast your ballot in last Tuesday's election? Along with the election results, long lines at polling places headlined the news. With post offices at the heart of many local communities and the U.S. Postal Service a trusted government entity, can the Postal Service play a larger role in the voting process? Share your thoughts on our [blog](#). New audit projects have been started on the external website.

[Oversight of Diebold Contract – 13YG007SM000](#) The Postal Service bases sourcing and material management decisions on best value, which is defined as the outcome that provides the optimal combination of elements such as lowest total cost of ownership, cost/benefit analysis and other elements. The Postal Service awarded a contract to Diebold Incorporated for lock changes, miscellaneous repairs, and services on postal-owned equipment. The Postal Service anticipates cost savings related to decreased administrative overhead by implementing this contract. We will conduct a survey to assess the award and administration process of the Diebold Inc. contract.

[Financial Times](#): The Post Office will be thrown a lifeline on Tuesday when the government awards it a £450m contract to continue to provide driving licenses and tax discs for up to a decade. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency had been considering three bids for the seven-year deal, which will start next April. The final shortlist came down to a decision between bill payment service PayPoint and the Post Office.

[The Globe and Mail](#): The poor, pitiable United States Postal Service, suffering from declining mail volumes and burdensome employee benefits. It seems any company that ties its fortunes to the U.S. Mail risks riding into the dark, irrelevant night along with it. This seems an apt description of postage-meter-maker Pitney Bowes Inc., regarded more than a decade ago as one of the best stocks in America, but now badly beaten down after yet another earnings miss a week ago.

[Las Vegas Sun](#): "Petraeus-gate" may have gripped Washington's attention for the long weekend, but it's back to business today as Congress regroups to rehash the business it didn't manage to finish during the past two years. Lawmakers have a habit of turning lame duck sessions, the period between the election and the start of the next Congress in early January, into high-stress marathons, especially during election years. Midnight sessions, working weekends and sky-is-falling sentiments are common. Oftentimes, it happens because lame ducks are the last chance for current congressional leaders to effect legislation before they're sidelined by a change in power. But this year, the election left the balance of power unchanged, meaning there's little hanging over lawmakers' heads in the way of a political deadline.

[Handy Shipping Guide](#): Postal and logistics group Deutsche Post DHL has announced its third quarter results (Full figures [HERE](#)) which saw the company's Earnings Before Interests and Taxes (EBIT) fall 6.5% from €646 million in 2011 to €604 million despite showing an increase of 5.7% to €13.8 billion in revenues during the third quarter compared to the previous year. This news comes as the company's Chief Executive Officer Frank Appel defended the company's decision to dismiss workers in Turkey as the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) released a report of an investigation into what it claims are illegitimate sackings to prevent unionisation of the freight company's workforce.

[Post & Parcel](#): Polish Post and partners including Itella Poland have signed the "biggest contract in the history of the postal services market" in Poland – handling the nation's parking tickets and speeding fines.

[Bloomberg Businessweek](#): United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS)'s 5.16 billion-euro (\$6.6 billion) purchase of TNT Express NV faces growing investor skepticism as the world's largest package-delivery company struggles to win European Union approval.

[Government Executive](#): A top House Republican remains optimistic that the lame-duck session of Congress will approve a comprehensive reform of the U.S. Postal Service. A spokesman for Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., told Government Executive that the Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman is hopeful Congress will work out a major overhaul to the Postal Service before the end of the year. "Chairman Issa is working toward and believes that comprehensive postal reform can be advanced this Congress," said Ali Ahmad, Issa's spokesman. Ahmad pointed to a letter Issa wrote to President Obama in September outlining his vision for the reform. "The postelection lame-duck session will provide a much greater window of opportunity to enact legislation to restore the Postal Service to solvency," Issa wrote. Issa's plan to make USPS -- which is losing billions of dollars each quarter and recently reached its borrowing limit -- solvent involves closing and consolidating postal facilities, reducing delivery days from six a week to five, creating an audit group to recommend savings, prohibiting labor contracts that prevent layoffs, allowing the agency to sell advertising on its facilities and vehicles, and requiring USPS employees to pay the same amount into their health and life insurance as other federal workers.

#### ***November 12, 2012***

[KGW](#): A group of local U.S. Postal Service workers protested proposed cuts Monday, saying they would adversely affect veterans. The group demonstrated in Pioneer Courthouse Square. The USPS is closing 260 mail processing centers around the nation, part of a billion-dollar cost-cutting effort that will slow delivery of first-class mail. The consolidations are expected to result in a loss of roughly 35,000 jobs, which the post office hopes to achieve mainly through attrition. The agency has described the move as a necessary cost-saving measure because of declining mail volume as people and businesses continue switching to the Internet in place of letters and paper bills.

[Wall Street Journal](#): The White House plans an aggressive public campaign to build support for its approach to reduce the deficit through tax increases and spending cuts, a sharp contrast to its private talks with Republicans that faltered last year. President Barack Obama will meet with labor leaders Tuesday and a number of chief executives on Wednesday, in an effort to solidify backing for his proposals.

[Mother Jones](#): So far, the 112th Congress—the group of lawmakers elected in November 2010—has been the least productive in modern history, having passed the fewest number of bills of all Congresses since 1947, when such statistics started being compiled. That means there's still a lot on the legislative to-do list for the last few months before the 113th Congress begins in January—the period of time Washingtonians refer to as the "lame duck" session. Here are a few things Congress has on its plate.

[Washington Post](#): Congress returns to work this week with important pieces of federal employee related legislation on the plate of the lame duck session. Among the measures awaiting action is one affecting federal whistleblowers and a U.S. Postal Service bill that has a government-wide workers' compensation provision. Congress has been trying to figure out how to keep the U.S. Postal Service afloat for years. The Senate passed a bipartisan bill in April. When the Senate acted, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) said "this legislation will change the USPS so it can stay alive throughout the 21st century to serve the people and businesses of this country." But the key sponsor of House legislation, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), has called the Senate bill "wholly unacceptable," because he said the bill does not permit postal officials to quickly close facilities in order to save money.

[Dead Tree Edition](#): "Superstorm Sandy's Seven Lessons About Print Media"

#### ***November 11, 2012***

[Business Insider](#): Royal Mail is set to unveil a sharp jump in profits this week, clearing the way for a sell-off of the business next year. Officials and bankers working on the sale say Tuesday's figures are the crucial test of whether the business will be ready for a float in the third quarter of next year, which could raise £2bn, reports the Sunday Times. The paper reports that the government has already sanctioned a roadshow of prospective investors after Christmas. "That is the absolute key to the privatisation," one banker involved in the process told the Sunday Times.

[Jamaica Gleaner](#): Threats, trickery and a possible explanation for the abduction and murder of two postal services workers have started to emerge as The Sunday Gleaner probes the use of the postal service by scammers. While there is yet no official link between the scammers and the killing of the two workers, officials of the postal service have confirmed that its employees have received threats from the scammers who want to use the mail system to collect the millions of dollars they fleece from foreigners.

### ***November 10, 2012***

[New York Times](#): The United States Postal Service will experiment with same-day delivery of online orders in San Francisco. It sees the new option, called Metro Post, as a way to put its delivery infrastructure to fuller use while developing a new source of revenue — a matter of pressing importance as the service's finances go from bad to worse. The Postal Service proposes once-a-day pickup of goods ordered online from participating retailers in the city before 2 p.m. and delivery to homes between 4 and 8 p.m.

[Intomobile](#): The largest social network in the world is now allowing users to use FedEx to ship items to their friends. The new service is called "Ship to Friends," and it offers shipping via a new Facebook app all within the site's interface. Members will not have to leave the site. The crazy thing is you can ship a package to anyone.

[Xinhua](#): Express delivery firms say they are poised to handle record levels of business, on the back of an upcoming day that has become a shopping phenomenon in China. This Sunday, Nov 11, is Singles' Day - started on Chinese university campuses in the 1990s - when "singles" across the country try to find a partner. It has grown into a cultural event for many.

[Galway Independent](#): A Galway TD has accused watchdog ComReg of pursuing a "neo-liberal, pro-privatisation agenda" towards An Post. Speaking after a meeting of the Joint Committee on Transport Communications yesterday, Labour Deputy Colm Keaveney said the performance of ComReg Chair Alex Chisholm and the substance of the matters in connection with his testimony at the meeting were "deeply worrying". He continuing to accuse ComReg of acting "in a manner that has played fast and loose with the public interest" by pursuing recent legal action against An Post.

[Omaha World Herald](#): Severely cutting the retail window hours of 13,000 of the least-used post offices is a way for the U.S. Postal Service to address its serious funding shortage. But many Americans no doubt see it as the lesser of two evils. The greater evil, at least to many of the rural and small-town residents who depend on those little outposts of mail and sociability, would be to shut them down completely.

[Federal Times](#): Even as the U.S. Postal Service prepares to announce record-setting year-end losses approaching \$15 billion next week, Congress appears unlikely to deliver on a comprehensive rescue bill this year. There are no concrete plans for reaching a final deal in the lame-duck session starting Nov. 13, according to a spokeswoman for Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., the lead sponsor of a Senate-passed measure that would give the Postal Service billions of dollars in financial relief.

*At the Postal Regulatory Commission:*

- [Quarterly Performance Reports for Quarter 4 of Fiscal Year 2012](#)
- [R2013-1 Correct Attachment A Pages for United States Postal Service Notice of Errata to Notice of Market-Dominant Price Adjustment](#)

[The Star-Ledger](#): Mail delivery is back to normal in all but the hardest-hit areas of the Shore, and a key processing center in Kearny will be fully operational this weekend, according to the United States Postal Service.

[DMM Advisory](#): Attention: Drop Ship Mailers: Please note that the address file posted October 15, 2012, has been updated to reflect a change for Lafayette PDC (Drop site Key EX12682) whose address has recently changed to:

3450 SOUTH ST  
LAFAYETTE IN  
47905-9997

To update your system, please download the revised address file dated 11/3/2012. The address file is located within the Dropship Product Download on the Resources section of FAST. Please note that the Mail Direction File (MDF) has not changed as a result of this update.

### **November 9, 2012**

[DMM Advisory](#): **November DMM Update.** Postal Explorer® ([pe.usps.com](http://pe.usps.com)) is your source for up-to-date mailing standards. The Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) is fully searchable on Postal Explorer and features fly-out menus, cross-reference links, and an extensive subject index. On Monday we updated our mailing standards to include the following changes:

- Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials (Hazard Class 9). We revised [601.10.20.5](#) and [601.10.20.6](#). We published this information in the October 31, 2012, Postal Bulletin.
- Foreign Trade Regulations, Electronic Filing for Domestic Mailpieces — Clarification. We revised [608.2.5](#) to better clarify the domestic mailing destinations (as defined under DMM [608.2.0](#)) that are exempted from the U.S. Census Bureau regulations that require electronic filing of export information through the U.S. Census Bureau's Automated Export System. We published this information in the October 18, 2012, Postal Bulletin.
- Reminder: January 28, 2013 is almost here...are you ready? Have you converted from POSTNET® to the Intelligent Mail® barcode (IMb™)? To be eligible for automation discounts you must use the IMb. Contact those who can help speed up the conversion: your software vendor, your mail service provider or your local USPS® manager, Business Mail Entry.

Effective Nov. 15, Post Offices will begin accepting packages containing lithium batteries installed in electronic devices bound for many international destinations, and Army (APO), Fleet (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) locations.

[KMOX](#): Claire McCaskill supporters demonstrated outside her local office, calling on the Senator to vote against any budget-cutting ideas that might endanger their way of life. The crowd of some 50 included labor union members, teachers, U.S. Postal workers and clergy.

[Washington Post](#): The U.S. Postal Service on Thursday predicted big gains in holiday shipments in December, a jump of 20 percent over last year's holiday season. The increase will be driven by online shopping, the agency said. At its annual news conference to mark the onset of the year's busiest mailing season, postal officials forecast that 365 million packages will be shipped through the mail this holiday season. In addition, the Postal Service says it will deliver almost 18 billion cards and letters between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. That's a higher rate of growth than is predicted by the United Parcel Service and FedEx, which have estimated jumps in holiday package shipping volume of 10 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Postal officials declined to discuss their market share vis a vis these competitors.

[Mail Service Update](#): "The Postal Service's RIBBS website is being updated to reflect the following:

- Processing Center Drop Shipments: All mail processing facilities have resumed normal drop shipment schedules. At this time, there are no redirect or restricted conditions.
- Mail Processing Update: With all embargoed trailers released into mail processing, remittance mailers should anticipate approximately 2.5 times the expected volumes.

[Wall Street Journal](#): Postal workers across upstate New York will be collecting contributions of food on Saturday for the Superstorm Sandy relief effort. *[EdNote: You may call them names. You may blame them for some of the Postal Service's troubles. You may not like their politics. But you can't deny this. They're there....they're always there....to help those whose hardships have put them in a state of need.]*



**The latest issue of the [PostCom Bulletin](#) is available online.** In this issue:

- Here are some of the key things mailers believe they need to know whenever mail service has been disrupted by any natural (or other) disaster.
- The U.S. Postal Service wants to remind customers who have evacuated or relocated due to hurricane Sandy to submit a change of address, place mail on hold or request that mail be temporarily forwarded to their new location.
- According to Dead Tree Edition, "the troubled Flats Sequencing System is saving hundreds of millions of dollars annually, according to a U.S. Postal Service claim. Based on information USPS filed recently in a lawsuit, the agency's \$1.3 billion FSS investment will pay for itself after barely three full years of operation."
- Changes coming to key congressional committees despite status-quo election. NBC Universal and American Express try to bring dawn of 'TV Commerce.' USPS: 'Post Plan' will reduce retail hours at 13,000 locations. Staples to have Amazon lockers in US stores. USPS reform possible, Congress must act soon. Postal Service debuts self-service kiosks. No new buyouts on postal horizon.
- Updates from the Domestic Mail Manual.
- Updates from the Federal Register that affect the mailing industry.
- An update from the USPS Office of Inspector General.
- A review of postal news from around the world.
- Postal previews

*Hey! You've not been getting the weekly PostCom Bulletin--the best postal newsletter anywhere...bar none? [Send us by email](#) your name, company, company title, postal and email address. Get a chance to see what you've been missing.*



*The PostCom Bulletin is distributed via [NetGram](#)*

***November 8, 2012***

Please join the USPS on Wednesday, November 14 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Eastern for a presentation by USPS Operations about the package processing capacity at the Postal Service. The webinar will address industry concerns, look at the effect of changing volumes, and discuss plans for the future to ensure successful and timely delivery of all packages and bundle products. (1) [Click here](#) or cut and paste the link below in your browser: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=995498196>; (2) Click "Join Now" (Please note the start time listed for 1:00 pm is for webinar set-up only. The webinar begins at 2:00pm)

[National Association of Postmasters of the U.S.](#): Postal officials notified NAPUS that Delivery Unit Optimization (DUO) implementations and Post Office closures will be suspended temporarily starting Monday, November 19 and continuing through Friday, January 4, 2013. POSiPlan activities will be suspended during Thanksgiving week

Monday, November 19 through Sunday, November 25. No community meetings will be scheduled for that week and there will be no implementation activities. POSTPlan activities will be suspended during the peak Christmas season, starting Saturday, December 8 and continuing through January 6, 2013.

[Reuters](#): Deutsche Post, Europe's biggest express delivery and mail company, said it would need to step up efforts to achieve its mid-term targets after the slowing global economy and the European debt crisis hit its markets. Some of Deutsche Post's competitors have already been forced to lower guidance, with European logistics rivals Kuehne & Nagel and Panalpina reporting weak volumes in air freight and ocean cargo amid reduced trade between Asia and Europe.

*At the Postal Regulatory Commission:*

- [Docket No. 2013-3](#): Order Approving Changes in Rates of General Applicability For Competitive Products
- [Docket No. MC2013-12 and Docket No. CP2013-12](#) Order Adding First-class Package Service Contract 25 To the Competitive Product List

[Urgent Communications](#): As the holidays approach, the nation's package carriers are gearing up for the annual rush. These days, we take it for granted that when we order a gift online, the company that moves the package can show us its progress every step of the way. But, of course, that wasn't always the case.

[Wall Street Journal](#): It is down to the wire for United Parcel Service Inc. and TNT Express NV. The two express-delivery companies are set to press their case that they don't need to make major concessions to address competition concerns about UPS's €5.2 billion (\$6.66 billion) friendly takeover of TNT at a closed-door hearing at the European Commission next week. But given the major antitrust concerns raised by Brussels, UPS is separately working on several possible remedies as the Nov. 29 deadline to offer concessions looms,

[24/7 Wall St](#): The US Postal Service is calling for big gains in holiday shipments this year. You know of course that online shopping is a part of the driving force behind this prediction. This is a big estimate here: 365 million packages are expected to be shipped through the Postal Service this holiday season. If this is hit, then that will be a gain of 20% over the 2011 holiday season.

[Press Release](#): Bell and Howell, a leading provider of solutions and services for paper-based and digital messaging, today announced it will integrate the HP C500 Color Print Module inkjet technology into its inserting and finishing systems as an option for its customers. Under the terms of the new OEM agreement with HP, Bell and Howell will market these fully-integrated systems throughout North America.

[National Journal](#) @nationaljournal Buh-bye: Check out our gallery of the outgoing members of Congress. <http://bit.ly/SON9xa>

[D.Eadward Tree](#) @DeadTreeEdition 9 comments so far on "FSS Is Saving Big Bucks, USPS Claims" and none believe [#USPS](#) estimates. <http://deadtreeedition.blogspot.com/2012/11/fss-is-saving-big-bucks-usps-claims.html#.UJu-8GV9AIw.twitter> ... [#FSS](#)

*Attention Postal One! Users:*

- **PostalOne!® Release 32.0.2 Patch Deployment** — Will occur on Sunday, November 11, 2012, during the normal maintenance window 4-8 am Central Time, and will complete all software updates with no outage. No new Mail.dat® client download is required.
- **PostalOne!® Release 32.0.2 Patch Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** — Will occur on Sunday, November 11, 2012, during the normal maintenance window 4-8 am Central Time, and will complete all software updates with no outage.

[Bloomberg](#): Deutsche Post AG (DPW), Europe's largest postal service, said third-quarter profit fell 6.5 percent as a pay increase caused spending to rise. "We will reach our target for the year," Chief Executive Officer Frank Appel said in the statement. "Our mail division's profitability was impacted by the new wage agreement, the loss of one workday compared with the previous year" and the effects of the bankruptcy of mail-order customer Neckermann.de GmbH.

[AllAfrica](#): Up-coming courier companies have raised concerns over difficulties they encounter in the course of doing their legitimate business. According to them, despite the huge potentials that abound in courier business, the small operators were faced with myriads of challenges, chief among are skewed regulatory practices characterised by bureaucratic bottlenecks. They have complained of increased rate of illegal courier operators in the system, multiple taxations imposed on them by the three tiers of government, dumping of mails, dilapidating infrastructure, among other sharp practices.

[Glasgow Evening Times](#): POSTAL chiefs are to be grilled for the first time over their controversial decision to axe a Royal Mail sorting office in Glasgow's East End. Officials will attend a public meeting being organised by protesters who want them to abandon plans to switch services out of the city to Cambuslang in South Lanarkshire. Royal Mail today admitted the shock switch from Cubie Street in Dalmarnock to a hi-tech hub in a sprawling industrial estate will be made on Monday, January 28, despite an angry backlash from residents and community activists in Bridgeton, Dennistoun, Dalmarnock and the Calton.

[Post & Parcel](#): Major cost-cutting efforts at Scandinavian postal operator PostNord have been eating into profits during the company's third quarter. PostNord – the parent company of Denmark's Post Danmark and Sweden's Posten AB – has been facing up to ongoing letter volume declines while trying to reposition itself to benefit from growth in parcel shipping and logistics services.

[BBC](#): Hundreds of posts are to be axed as Royal Mail has confirmed its Gloucester sorting office will close and be sold. The company, which is to transfer mail processing operations to Bristol, has said it intends to make the changes "without compulsory redundancies". It was announced in August that some 380 jobs at the site were under threat.

[BBC](#): Royal Mail has announced it is to close and sell its processing plant in Cambridge, affecting up to 200 staff. The bulk of its operations are being relocated to Peterborough with the remainder going to Chelmsford. The company said the final decision had been taken after an eight-month consultation with staff and unions.

[4-Traders](#): Austrian Post has acquired the remaining 74% shareholding in the Romanian company Postmaster s.r.l. \*, which is the leading alternative postal services provider in Romania.

[News4JAX](#): United States Postal Inspectors have a warning for small business owners. Authorities say con men are targeting them in a magazine ad scam, and in one particular case, admitted it. "The defendant told us they were just taking the money," said Inspector George Clark. Clark says in this case, the victim gave the con men money in exchange for ad space in what was called a 'Public Safety Magazine'. But this so-called magazine turned out to be a few colored pieces of paper stapled together.

[Wall Street Journal](#): The European Commission cut its growth outlook for the EU amid turmoil spawned by the euro-zone debt crisis, forecasting deeper recessions in austerity-battered nations and lower growth in France and even Germany.

[Wall Street Journal](#): Political leaders vowed to try to avoid the "fiscal cliff" of spending cuts and tax increases that could push the U.S. into another recession.

[Business Recorder](#): National Assembly's Standing Committee on Postal Services discussed a bill relating to establishment of Pakistan Private Courier Services Regulatory Authority and expressed dissatisfaction over the briefing by Postal Services Minister. The Committee met here with Pir Muhammad Aslam Bodla in the chair at parliament House on Wednesday and discussed 'The Pakistan Private Courier Services Regulatory Bill, 2012.'



[Reuters](#): United Parcel Service will seek to convince skeptical EU regulators about its proposed 5.2 billion euros (\$6.7 billion) takeover of TNT Express at a closed-door hearing on November 12.

*November 7, 2012*

[Dead Tree Edition](#): The troubled Flats Sequencing System is saving hundreds of millions of dollars annually, according to a U.S. Postal Service claim. Based on information USPS filed recently in a lawsuit, the agency's \$1.3 billion FSS investment will pay for itself after barely three full years of operation.

[DMM Advisory](#): **Updated Mail Service Information Following Hurricane Sandy.** Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to restore mail service following Hurricane Sandy, which struck some of the most populated areas of our country and impacted a large number of our facilities. We are working to normalize operations as quickly as possible. We will make every effort to keep you informed and will post this information so it can be easily accessed. We have significantly updated the Mail Service Update page <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> to reflect the latest information for plant and DDU dropship impacts, remittance and BME impacts, and a list of impacted 5-Digit delivery zones. The PostalOne!@ contingency plan for BMEs without power is also on the site. When we update the Mail Service Update page we will include the date and time of the update and highlight what has changed. We have also significantly updated the Mail Service Disruption report. The DDU file with the list of delivery units not accepting drop shipments was updated yesterday morning. Please ensure your logistics teams are making appointments at impacted entry points. Even with recurring appointments, mailers must schedule to secure a slot. Please note:

- Dropship mail redirected from Dominic V. Daniels to Northern New Jersey: Appointment window is 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, with 12 appointments accepted daily for 070-073.
- Dropship mail for Northern New Jersey: Appointment window is 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, with 12 appointments accepted daily for 074-076, 078.

Thank you for your patience and thank you to our customers and industry stakeholders for sharing your feedback on what you are seeing and what kind of information would be helpful. If you have any questions, concerns, opinions or ideas on this process, please contact your local BSN Specialist or Representative.

[Federal Times](#): After three separate buyouts in 2012, the U.S. Postal Service says it has no plans for any new offers in the foreseeable future. "Right now, we have all our plans in place," Anthony Vegliante, the agency's chief human resources officer, told Federal News Radio. "So I don't see anything other than to focus on completing, making the transition, and getting our employees in the right place."

[Advertising Age](#): The idea of buying something you see in a TV show by pressing a button on your remote or smartphone has long been the stuff of futurist gabbing or science fiction. Now NBC Universal and American Express are the latest to try to turn the idea into reality.

[Federal News Radio](#):  
With control of the Senate and the House remaining unchanged, both parties will retain leadership of their respective committees.

- Leadership in the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee will change in both parties. Senior committee member Tom Carper (D-Del.), who won his re-election bid, will take over for Chairman Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.), who is set to retire at the end of the year. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) won a three-way race to succeed Lieberman.
- Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) was not up for re-election, but term limits keep her from maintaining her leadership role in the committee. Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) is next in line.
- In the Senate Federal Financial Management Subcommittee, Carper will remain chairman, but Ranking Member Scott Brown (R-Mass.) lost his re-election bid. Coburn will succeed him as the new Ranking Member.

[CEP News](#) (Courier-Express-Postal), published by the [MRU Consultancy](#), has reported that:

A steep decline in addressed mail volume and TNT Express' poor share price spoiled PostNL's third quarter. On Monday this week, the company reported that addressed mail volume dropped by 10.1% year-on-year. While this development could be compensated by an increased pricing and rising parcel volumes.

Itella increased its result on a decreased turnover in the third quarter.

bpost is currently negotiating two acquisitions in North America. Last week, it was revealed that the Belgian post plans to buy into California based Landmark Global Inc. and its Canadian subsidiary Landmark Trade Services.

The provision of the universal service by French La Poste resulted in unpaid costs of 247m euros on last year.

Posten Norge further increased its earnings in the third quarter despite a slight decline in revenues.

The German Federal Cartel Office announced an examination of Deutsche Post's pricing for large scale customers. On Monday, the authority said it initiated so-called abuse proceedings against Deutsche Post due to complaints by competitors.

The parliament passed a new postal law in Hungary. With the repeal of Magyar Posta's monopoly on the 31 December 2012 the country implemented the statutory provisions of the EU-Directive.

Failed start for Australia Post's digital mailbox. On Monday this week, Australia Post had to take the service, which was formally launched last week, offline. This became necessary as customers were redirected to a wrong webpage after the registration process.

This week, Brazilian ECT Correios will officially confirm its acquisition interest in Portuguese CTT Correios.

TNT Post's business in Germany is apparently still sluggish.

Posten Norge took over a Swedish logistics service provider in connection with the announcement to increase its focus on Sweden.

PostNL has launched an extensive pilot test in the framework of the restructuring of its letter mail delivery. Since Monday this week, letters bound for three of the country's regions are centrally sorted in Utrecht and are also delivered from there.

Deutsche Post increased its stake in the online supermarket All you need.



The [MRU](#), founded in 1992, is the only consultancy in Europe, which has specialised in the market of courier-, express- and parcel services. For large-scale shippers and CEP-services in particular, the MRU provides interdisciplinary advice for all major questions of the market, as there are for example market entry, product design, organisation, and EDP. *To learn more about the stories reported above, contact [CEP News](#). (We appreciate the courtesy extended by [CEP News](#) to help whet your appetite for more of what [CEP](#) offers.)*

[MacauHub](#): Brazil's postal service, Correios do Brasil is this week expected to make an official proposal to the Portuguese government to buy the Portuguese postal service, CTT, the Brazilian press reported.

[Best Syndication](#): The US Postal Service (USPS) suggested that residents who were displaced from Hurricane Sandy should consider alternate mail delivery options. Postal customers should consider filing for a change of address, placing a mail delivery hold, or a temporary forwarding address. The three services are all options that would help keep the mail flowing.

[Trib-Review](#): In the region's tiny rural communities, the post office isn't just a place to buy stamps and mail packages. It's where neighbors mingle to share the latest news. But throughout Westmoreland and Fayette counties, the biggest news at many post offices is that shorter business hours may be in the offing.

[McKenzie County Farmer](#): The fact that McKenzie County post offices are serving growing communities that are entrenched in a bustling oil boom should be proof enough that the United States Postal Service would be better off investing in the area, rather than making cuts. However, that is not the case.

*November 6, 2012*

[MSN UK](#): American citizens living in the UK have attacked the US postal voting system after struggling to register for the US election. Around 250,000 US citizens are estimated to live in the UK and their votes could prove crucial with presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney neck-and-neck in the polls. Yet complex state-specific rules and "ridiculous" communication from election officials has led to accusations that the system is fundamentally disenfranchising American voters living abroad, including military personnel.

**Updated Mail Service Information Available.** We want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to restore mail service following Hurricane Sandy. Hurricane Sandy struck some of the most populated areas of our country and impacted a large number of our facilities. We are working to normalize operations as quickly as possible. We will make every effort to keep you informed and post this information so it can be easily accessed.

Last night we significantly updated the Mail Service Update page at <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> to reflect the latest information for plant and DDU dropship impacts, remittance and BME impacts, and a list of impacted 5 Digit delivery zones. The PostalOne contingency plan for BMEs without power is also on the site. When we update this site we will include the date and time of the update highlight what has changed. We have also significantly updated the Mail Service Disruption report. The DDU file with the list of delivery units not accepting dropshipments was updated this morning. We remind everyone to please ensure your logistics teams are making appointments at impacted entry points. Even with recurring appointments, mailers must schedule to secure a slot. Please note:

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[PRNewswire](#): The U.S. Postal Service wants to remind customers who have evacuated or relocated due to hurricane Sandy to submit a change of address, place mail on hold or request that mail be temporarily forwarded to their new location. There are three services that will help customers maintain a continuous flow of mail: A Change of Address, General Delivery or Premium Forwarding Service (PFS).

[Post & Parcel](#): Europe's top competition official said on Friday that "substantial concessions" will be required if the EU Commission is to approve the EUR 5.16bn takeover of TNT Express by rivals UPS. To get EU officials on side, UPS and TNT will have to show that sufficient alternatives exist in the European express market – perhaps showing that other door-to-door European express and parcel networks like DPD and Eurodis also offer competition to the integrators.

[InternetRetailing](#): DPD is to invest £175m in a new parcel hub and 10 regional depots as demand from ecommerce businesses rises. The parcel business says it will create 1,500 jobs as a result of what it terms an 'online retail boom'. DPD today said it would spend £100m on the largest parcel sorting hub in Europe, build 10 new depots and refurbish existing sites. Money will also be spent on upgrading other depots and investing in IT. The investment follows uptake of its one-hour delivery service Predict by online retailers. Contracts worth £70m have been signed for the service since it was launched in March 2010 and 1,000 jobs have been created. DPD says that more than 97% of parcels are now delivered 'right first time' using the service.

[CBC News](#): Mail receiving centres at border towns in Maine are trying to get the word out about stricter enforcement of a United States Postal Service rule affecting New Brunswickers who have their U.S. purchases shipped to them. Canadian shoppers must now have a personal mailbox number attached to purchases, said Crystal Carrier, the assistant manager at Calais Ace Home Center in Calais, Me.

[Human Events](#): Thousands of overseas military voters who requested an absentee ballot may not receive one until after the election due to an archaic system, according to five influential members of the Senate. Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas), Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), John McCain (R-Ariz.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), and Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) wrote to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta today, saying delays in sending ballots through the Military Postal Service Agency may rob thousands of service members of the right to have their ballots counted. The military has long struggled to get timely ballots to deployed troops who move frequently in theater, and MPSA has acknowledged the problem.

[CTPost](#): Postal officials have announced that letter carriers from Inwood, Arverne, Rockaway Beach, Rockaway Park and Breezy Point will attempt to make deliveries in the Rockaways. Officials stress that the Rockaway Main Post Office will provide general delivery services — as it did on Monday — if mail carriers are unable to make a delivery Tuesday due to safety concerns. Customers should look for mail carriers to deliver in the following ZIP codes: 11691, 11692, 11693, 11694, 11697 and 11096. Post offices in Inwood, Arverne, Rockaway Beach and Rockaway Park remain temporarily closed.

[KRZK](#): Officials with the U-S Postal Service say the results of a nationwide survey reveal that most rural communities prefer reduced hours versus the options of closure, relocation or roadside delivery. Richard Watkins is a USPS spokesperson for the Kansas City-based Mid America District. Watkins says in the five-year period between 2006 and 2011, the USPS realized some 200 million fewer visits to traditional post offices. He says the plan is to reduce service hours at 13-thousand post offices nationwide over the next two years.

[AllAfrica](#): Tanzania Postal Bank (TBP) has posted a pre tax profit of 4.24bn/- in cumulative year ending this year's third quarter and putting alive expectation of meeting its annual target.

[Post & Parcel](#): Royal Mail customers will be able to post items like aerosols, nail varnishes, perfumes and aftershaves to UK addresses from next year, after a review of rules banning such items from the postal network. The postal operator has discussed the situation with UK authorities, and looks set to allow the sending of small consignments of some items currently prohibited by dangerous goods regulations. The updated rules will come into affect for contract business customers on 14th January, 2013, and for consumers and smaller businesses on 15th July 2013. Under the new rules, Royal Mail said customers would have to comply with quantity and volume limits, and ensure items are packed and labelled properly.

[The Hill](#): Postal unions have given heavily this campaign season to Democrats who voted this spring for a Senate bill that labor groups have found lacking. The American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) both contributed thousands of dollars to more than a dozen Democratic senators in the 2012 cycle, while giving nothing to any GOP Senate candidates. *[EdNote: I'm shocked! Shocked, I tell you.]*

[Yahoo! News](#): Staples Inc, the largest U.S. office supply retailer, has agreed to install "Amazon Lockers" in its U.S. stores, a Staples spokeswoman said on Monday. The Amazon lockers at Staples will allow online shoppers to have packages sent to the office supply chain's stores. Amazon already has such storage units at grocery, convenience and drug stores, many of which stay open around the clock. Amazon.Com Inc, the world's largest Internet retailer, is trying to let customers avoid having to wait for ordered packages due to a missed delivery. With the service, Amazon sends customers an email with a pickup code, which is entered on a touchscreen to open the locker containing the package. Shoppers have three days from the delivery date to pick up the package. The online giant pays a small fee to the owners of the stores that house its lockers.

[Attention Postal One! Users](#): Although previously notified that the MicroStrategy reports for Mail Data Quality feedback were current, a new issue has surfaced that has delayed the reports by up to 48 hours.

We expect to be caught up to normal delivery by end of day Wednesday, November 7. USPS Teams will continue monitoring around the clock and will provide daily updates until reports resume normal availability, or if additional issues arise.

[Press Release](#): FedEx Corp. has announced an expansion and enhancement of its SenseAwareSM service, providing customers with broader international availability and the ability to use the service with carriers outside the FedEx network. The release of the next generation of the SenseAware device, SenseAware 2000, offers customers more accurate near real-time location information, improved cellular connectivity and longer battery life. These enhancements give the service greater reach and provide customers richer, more customizable information for monitoring critical and high value shipments and inventory.

*November 5, 2012*

The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General invites you to comment on the following: This week's "[Pushing the Envelope](#)" blog topic: Political campaign mail: Does the mailbox influence the ballot box? This week we look at the important role political mail plays in national and local campaigns. This year's boom in political mailings has also helped boost Postal Service volumes. Did you receive a large amount of political campaign mail this election cycle? Did it help to inform you about a candidate or referendum? Let us know on our [blog](#). [New audit projects have been started on the external website](#):

- [Postal Service Conference and Meeting Activities. – 13WG006HR000](#) Many agencies have identified and implemented creative and innovative practices to reduce costs and improve efficiencies in areas such as, travel and conference expenditures. In a recent budget brief, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) stated they are "reducing travel spending by approximately 27 percent (during fiscal year 2013) by using videoconferences, reducing the number of overall meetings and combining meetings; and managing spending on EPA-held conferences by using government-owned space and technology to achieve savings".
- [Network Distribution Center Transportation Operations Realignment: Minneapolis/St. Paul, Des Moines – 13XG009NO000](#) In the 1970s, the Postal Service developed a bulk mail network of 21 bulk mail centers (BMC) to support mail distribution and transportation for surface Parcel Post, Standard Mail, and Periodicals. With mailers entering more mail near final destinations, mail volume declining, and a changing mail mix, much of the mail the BMCs previously processed has gone away. In an effort to reduce costs and excess capacities, management reorganized the 21 facilities into network distribution centers (NDCs) with a 3-Tiered structure.
- [Budget Trends for Maintaining Postal Service Facilities – 13YG005SM000](#) The Office of Inspector General (OIG) Office of Audit (OA) will review the conditions of Postal Service facilities to determine if poor facility conditions are a result of reductions in funding for repairs, alterations, and capital improvements. This survey is a result of a value proposition between the OIG and the Postal Service's Vice President of Facilities.

[BBC](#): Postal workers in Bristol have asked to hold a ballot for strike action. It comes as thousands of items of mail have been left undelivered at a Royal Mail sorting office since last Friday. The Communication Workers Union (CWU) say cuts in staff and an increasing workload in the run-up to Christmas has left the sorting office in "chaos".

[eCommerceBytes](#): Free shipping is all about keeping online shoppers happy. The question however is, "How do small and medium online retailers compete with the big and really big retailers"?

[Anchorage Daily News](#): The Aleutian Island village of Akutan has a new \$75.5 million airport -- on an island six miles across the water. Passengers will take a \$100 hovercraft ride over the Bering Sea to catch their planes. But the new airport has no planes, or at least no scheduled air service. And Akutan finds itself without regular mail.

[DutchNews](#): The shrinking postal market, a difficult reorganisation and the falling stock market price of TNT Express, helped push PostNL into the red in the third quarter of this year.

[Ars Technica](#): If you want to buy a botnet, it'll cost you somewhere in the region of \$700. If you just want to hire someone else's for an hour, though, it can cost as little as \$2—that's long enough to take down, say, a call center, if that's what you were in the mood for. Maybe you'd like to spy on an ex—for \$350 you can purchase a trojan that lets you see all their incoming and outgoing texts. Or maybe you're just in the market for some good, old-fashioned spamming—it'll only cost you \$10 for a million e-mails. This is the current state of Russia's underground market in cybercrime—a vibrant community of ne'er-do-wells offering every conceivable kind of method for compromising computer security. It's been profiled in security firm Trend Micro's report, Russian Underground 101, and its findings are as fascinating as they are alarming. It's an insight into the workings of an entirely hidden economy, but also one that's pretty scary. Some of these things are really, really cheap. Rik Ferguson, Trend Micro's director of security research and communications, explains to [Wired.co.uk](#) that Russia's cybercrime market is "very much a well-established market." He says: "It's very mature. It's been in place for quite some time. There are people offering niche services, and every niche is catered for." Russia is one of the major centers of cybercrime, alongside other nations like China and Brazil ("the spiritual home of banking malware"). *[EdNote: Online crime means someone's stolen your identity. It's time to make the Postal Inspection Service the nation's policeman for online crime.]*

[Federal Times](#): USPS must be streamlined and restructured; it is too large and costly for its current amount of mail. USPS must continue to provide universal service to every American, even while wringing substantial savings out of restructuring. Congress must reform the Postal Service's pension system and return money that USPS has overpaid into the Treasury. The collective-bargaining process between USPS and its unions must be examined and reformed. Compromises on complicated issues, such as the one in the Senate bill concerning Saturday delivery, are essential.

**November 4, 2012**

[Sunday's Zaman](#): According to statistics, while there were around 50,000 personal cards and greetings sent via post throughout Turkey in 2002, this number dropped all the way down to just 6,000 in 2011. At the same time, while postal workers delivered around 27,000 official notifications of all sorts in 2002, this number rose over the years to 52,000 in 2011. Interestingly, the situation nowadays mostly saddens postal workers themselves. One mailman noted: "We never get to bring good news anymore. People tell us 'Bring us something positive just one day please'." He went on: "It used to be that in local neighborhoods, we were almost like family members. There was a sense of closeness, and the excitement of delivering good news was very different. But nowadays we mostly just deliver official notifications. We don't have the old sense of excitement that we used to have in walking around doing our work."

[Bangor Daily News](#): By the end of a long, expensive campaign season, we've all probably experienced every form of political advertising. You can't watch TV for more than a few minutes without seeing an ad, Google now can deliver messages targeted to congressional districts, and my parents and co-workers have been peppered with phone calls. As an unenrolled voter in Bangor, I've been targeted by an old-fashioned type of political advertising: the mailer.

**November 3, 2012**

[Wall Street Journal](#): Three days after superstorm Sandy made landfall, people in some of America's most densely populated neighborhoods remained without wireless service, highlighting new risks as more people drop landline phones. Regulators and phone companies have sparred since Hurricane Katrina over how best to ensure the resiliency of wireless networks. The industry has largely won, for example, fighting back regulations that would have required backup power at cell towers. Widespread cellphone service outages across the region hit by Sandy, with some carriers performing better than others depending on the location, are giving those debates new urgency. *[EdNote: Hmmm. Cell systems down. Postal system up.]*

[Asbury Park Press](#): The U.S. Postal Service had to make several adjustments after Hurricane Sandy left many of its post offices and delivery routes underwater and, in some cases, impossible to reach. For example, some mainland post offices will hold mail for towns with damaged or inaccessible post offices.

[Press Release](#): UPS has pledged \$1.5 million in cash and in-kind support to aid in the recovery efforts following the devastation caused by Superstorm Sandy that struck the northeast corridor of the U.S. earlier this week.

[Federal News Radio](#): Nearly six months ago, Northrop Grumman filed a \$179 million lawsuit against the U.S. Postal Service, alleging the agency delayed and disrupted its work on a multimillion-dollar contract to create and install high-tech mail sorters. Now, USPS has countered those claims, alleging the company actually owes it millions of dollars because the contract ran over schedule, according to documents obtained by Federal News Radio.

[DMM Advisory](#): **IMb™ Services Update. Contingency Plans for Acceptance of Mailings Affected by Hurricane Sandy** Contingency plans for acceptance of mailings are available for mailers who may be affected by Hurricane Sandy. If PostalOne!® is unavailable in hurricane-impacted areas, or mailers are unable to produce/submit their electronic mailing documentation or postage statements, the BMEU, DMU or Post Office will operate under the PostalOne! Contingency Plan. Please consult with your local Manager of Business Mail Entry for possible alternate acceptance locations if the office at which your mailings are normally submitted is closed due to the storm. Below is a brief summary of the PostalOne! Contingency Plan, which will allow mailings to continue to be accepted with as little impact on the mailer as possible:

- Acceptance units will move to a manual process when necessary to record mailings presented if the PostalOne! system is unavailable.
- Acceptance units will complete A Record of Mailings log for each permit holder that presents a mailing if the PostalOne! system is unavailable.
- Mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically, either through the Postal Wizard or through Mail.dat® or Mail.XML®, may submit hardcopy postage statements or provide a hardcopy log with pertinent mailing information.
- The log must include, at a minimum, the following elements: Mailer Name, Permit Holder Name, Permit Number/Type, Processing Category, Class, Total pieces, Total Full Service pieces and Total Postage.
- If a mailer is unable to upload files and PostalOne! is operational, the Full-Service discount will be allowed pending resolution of the problem.
- Mailers will need to submit their Full-Service electronic documentation once the systems are restored.

Mailers who are entering Plant Verified Drop Shipment (PVDS) mailings and cannot reach the intended destinating facility should refer to the Mail Services Update on usps.com at <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> for the latest list of affected postal facilities and redirections. If you have any questions please call the USPS PostalOne! Help Desk at 800-522-9085.

IMb™ Reminder: January 28, 2013 is almost here...are you ready? Have you converted from POSTNET® to the Intelligent Mail® barcode (IMb)? To be eligible for automation discounts you must use the IMb. Contact those who can help speed up the conversion: your software vendor, your mail service provider or your local USPS manager, Business Mail Entry. We are here to help.

*Message from the Postal Service to its customers -- "We want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to restore mail service following Hurricane Sandy. Hurricane Sandy struck some of the most populated areas of our country and impacted a large number of our facilities. In times of crisis, the Postal Service has always risen to the occasion to maintain and resume operations as quickly as possible. Keeping people connected matters and when people see our carriers making deliveries, it makes a difference. We are working quickly to account for all of our employees in the impact zone, assess the damage to facilities to make sure it is safe to resume operations, and develop contingencies for those facilities non-operational. We will make every effort to keep you informed and post this information so it can be easily accessed. For the near future, you can expect two updates a day. One will be available early in the day and the second will be in the late afternoon or evening timeframe. You can expect to see more specific information such as 5 digit listings for the impacted units, redirection of dropships, and moving pick up locations for remittance mail if necessary. As always, the updates can be found on the Mail Service Update page of USPS.com: <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm>.*

you have any questions, concerns, opinions, or ideas on this process, please contact your local BSN Specialist or Representative.

**Government Executive:** The U.S. Postal Service is invoking "emergency operation plans" to ensure every absentee ballot is delivered on time for the election Tuesday, a spokeswoman has confirmed. "We regularly deliver mail in adverse conditions and, therefore, where it's safe to do so, USPS will continue to deliver the mail in areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy," the agency said in a statement.

**Save the Post Office:** Over the last several months the situation surrounding the fate of the Postal Service has become increasingly clear. How can that possibly be the case, when Congress has utterly failed in its efforts to pass postal reform legislation, when mail volumes continue to drop, when troubling news about financial losses continue to appear, and when the agency has now reached its borrowing limit with the Treasury? How can such an unsettled and unsettling situation seem so clear? The situation is clear because no matter what Congress eventually does, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe and the Board of Governors have already won. Their views of what the Postal Service should be, whom it should serve, and how it should serve them have prevailed.

**November 2, 2012**

**DMM Advisory: Retirement of FastForward™ Technology .** This final rule *Federal Register* Notice was published today. We have revised mailing standards in the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) to terminate the use of FastForward™ technology as a Move Update option for commercial First-Class Mail®, First-Class Package Service™, Standard Mail®, and Parcel Select Lightweight®. Mailers may begin to use the NCOALink® MPE (mail processing equipment) licensed software system at any time to meet the Move Update standards. See the entire notice at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-11-02/html/2012-26697.htm>. The effective date is January 27, 2013.

***New York metro and Jersey shore areas quite obviously are having mail service issues. In some instances, post offices are without power. In some instances, manpower is not quite at 100% staffing. The situation is fluid, and will change quickly as each area gets the resources it needs to get service at full strength. A complete list of affected facilities will be available by day's end on RIBBS (<http://ribbs.usps.gov>)***

**Government Executive:** The Postal Service is adding new self-service kiosks as part of an ongoing effort to grow business and increase revenues, the agency has announced. The kiosks will have improved screens and include a self-scanning feature, designed to ease the process for customers waiting in line. USPS will employ lobby assistants trained to help customers opting for the self-service option. The assistants will also help patrons in line to ensure they are prepared for their transactions. The kiosks will be available first in post offices in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City and Washington.

**Politico:** In October, unemployment rose to 7.9 percent, the Labor Department reported Friday.



The following reports have been posted on the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General website (<http://www.uspsoig.gov>). If you have additional questions concerning a report, please contact Wally Olihovik at 703-248-2201 or Agapi Doulaveris at 703-248-2286.

- **[Domestic Air Mail Irregularities \(FT-AR-12-015\)](#)** Our report determined that domestic air mail irregularities processing was not effective because management did not monitor whether recording problems existed or whether claim deductions were calculated accurately and did not accurately calculate domestic air mail irregularity penalty amounts. In addition, U.S. Postal Service personnel did not always record irregularities for adjudication and assess applicable penalties when they occurred. Also, comprehensive written procedures for processing domestic air mail irregularities did not exist and penalty amounts were automatically calculated based on outdated contract data. These issues occurred because



management did not consider this program a high priority and did not obtain data necessary to monitor the process.

- [Officer Compensation for Calendar Year 2011 \(Report Number FT-AR-13-001\)](#) Our audit determined that, although the Postal Service complied with Postal Service policies and guidelines and IRS regulations for calendar year 2011, it did not always comply with annual officer compensation caps as stated in the Postal Act of 2006. We believe failure to comply is a result of its misinterpretation of the relevant statutory authority in the Postal Act of 2006. Our findings are related to this misinterpretation.

[Columbus Dispatch](#): Americans for Limited Government is ratting you out to your neighbors about whether you voted in recent presidential elections. The Ohio Democratic Party warns women that Mitt Romney would threaten their reproductive rights and paints the Republican as a not-to-be-trusted job-outsourcer whose wealth is suspiciously tucked away overseas. Americans for Tax Reform and Restore Our Future would have you believe that Democrats President Barack Obama and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown are the biggest plagues ever visited on the economy. Those are just drops in the ocean of political pitches that have flooded central Ohio mailboxes this fall, with some spin-weary voters receiving up to 10 mailings a day from "super-PACs", the candidates and their parties.



*From the Federal Register:*

- **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** New Postal Products , 66191–66192 [2012–26878] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)  
66192–66193 [2012–26879] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- **Postal Service RULES** Retirement of FASTforward Technology , 66149 [2012–26697] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)  
*MEETINGS*; Sunshine Act , 66193 [2012–26982] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)  
*PRODUCT CHANGES*: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 66193 [2012–26872] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)  
Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreement , 66193 [2012–26873] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

[Stars and Stripes](#): The ban on shipping electronics with rechargeable lithium batteries overseas through the U.S. Postal Service will likely end soon, but not before the holiday season is over.

[Tucson Sentinel](#): Operating more like a business is precisely what the U.S. Postal Service has been directed to do ever since it was turned from a cabinet-level department to an independent federal agency in 1971. As the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service commented in 2003, "The Postal Service should be maintained as a public entity, but refocused and reorganized to enhance its efficiency and adaptability in the face of an uncertain, and ultimately more competitive, future." In looking at the decisions the Postal Service has been forced to make since the early 2000s, however, it is almost as though the Bush Administration and successive Congresses had decided that the task was to make the Postal Service a failed business and a failed public service. The alternative hypothesis? That no one at the wheel knew what he or she was doing.



**The latest issue of the [PostCom Bulletin](#) is available online.** In this issue:

- The Association for Postal Commerce ("PostCom") hereby submits these comments in response to the United States Postal Service's ("Postal Service") Notice of Market-Dominant Price Adjustment, filed October 11, 2012, and Commission Order No. 1501, establishing this docket and requesting comment. PostCom believes that the proposed price adjustments generally comply with the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act ("PAEA"), in that the proposed rate increases appear to be consistent with the Postal Service's price cap authority. At least one party and the Commission have raised, once again, the issue of the rates proposed by the Postal Service for Standard Mail Flats and in particular for the Standard Mail Flats Automation product. For the practical and legal reasons discussed below, PostCom submits that

prudence dictates that the Commission take no action with respect to the Standard Mail Flats proposed rates.

- According to postal commenter Kate Muth, "I am somewhat baffled by the public outrage to the USADA's allegations and witness testimony of Lance Armstrong's use of performance-enhancing drugs during his professional cycling career. The public outcry suggests Americans have a strong distaste for some part of the story, but I'm confused as to which part of the scandal has us all so worked up."
- The Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service will meet Nov. 15 in open session at Postal Service headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC. The public is welcome to observe the meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Ben Franklin Room on the 11th floor.
- USPS shows no mailers doing sample showcase. USPS files monthly Full Service IMb report with PRC. USPS files gift card market test quarterly results. MTAC adds two new task teams and six workgroups. USPS, IG at odds on whether top exec's \$306K compensation package over legal limit. EBay, FedEx team up to compete with Amazon. Innovative solutions to ensure USPS remain competitive. Postal union political spending up this election. PMG urges quick action in lame duck session.
- Updates from the Domestic Mail Manual.
- Updates from the Federal Register that affect the mailing industry.
- An update from the USPS Office of Inspector General.
- A review of postal news from around the world.
- Postal previews.

*Hey! You've not been getting the weekly PostCom Bulletin--the best postal newsletter anywhere...bar none? [Send us by email](#) your name, company, company title, postal and email address. Get a chance to see what you've been missing.*



*The PostCom Bulletin is distributed via [NetGram](#)*

[The Business Farmer](#): Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE) -- Despite the importance of postal service in rural communities, USPS faces significant short- and long-term challenges. New technology has decreased the volume of mail, and USPS does not have the flexibility to adjust to a declining market. As a result, USPS missed a \$5.5 billion retiree health care payment on Aug. 1 and defaulted on a \$5.6 billion obligation on Sept. 30. In the coming months, Congress may consider passing a short-term measure so USPS can pay its bills, but ultimately the Postal Service needs robust reforms to address its long-term solvency. These reforms could include allowing for advertisement sales on postal vehicles and moving to cluster box delivery in both rural and urban communities. Without reform, USPS's debt will balloon to nearly \$100 billion by 2016, and taxpayers will be stuck with the bill.

[Alive and well!](#) @nonprofitpostal

- IMb (Intelligent Mail barcode) really stands for "I'm ballistic" over these new spec's and how they affect smaller nonprofit mailers!
- What will happen when the PostNet barcode used by nonprofit mailers in MS Word is obsolete? Will an IMb barcode wizard replace it? (When!)

[Join UPS & Washington Post Live for Exporting for Growth forum 11/2 at 8am ET.](#) <http://bit.ly/TV9PZs>  
[#exportgrowth](#) [#Smallbiz](#) cc [@postlive](#)

[RuralInfoPostalNews](#): In light of Hurricane Sandy's devastating effects on the Eastern United States, the NRLCA would like put out a call to all rural carriers to help support their postal family by donating to the Postal Employees' Relief Fund. Every year, hundreds of postal employees and retirees are devastated by hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, wildfires or home fires. To help rebuild or repair homes and property following insurance and Federal Emergency Management Agency payments, the Postal Employees' Relief Fund (PERF) — operated jointly

by postal unions, management associations and the Postal Service — helps ease the suffering by administering grants.

[American Postal Workers Union](#): APWU-represented postal employees will receive an increase in their annual salaries effective Nov. 17 — the first in three years. The raise will be reflected in paychecks issued Dec. 7 and will apply to employees covered by the APWU-USPS 2010-2015 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Career employees will receive a raise of 1 percent. Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) will follow in March, and will include increases in the Consumer Price Index for January 2012 and January 2013. The across-the-board raise and cost-of-living adjustments were negotiated during bargaining in 2010 and 2011. Postal Support Employees (PSEs), who are not eligible for the COLAs, will receive an across-the-board increase of 2 percent.

[PRNewswire](#): No matter how much you plan to spend on grandma's or cousin Al's holiday gift this year, the U.S. Postal Service offers you the best deal in shipping, starting with free Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes available on [usps.com](http://usps.com).

*Attention Postal One! Users:*

- **PostalOne!® Release 32.0.2 Patch Deployment** — Will occur on Sunday, November 11, 2012, during the normal maintenance window 4-8 am Central Time, and will complete all software updates with no outage. No new Mail.dat® client download is required.
- **PostalOne!® Release 32.0.2 Patch Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** — Will occur on Sunday, November 11, 2012, during the normal maintenance window 4-8 am Central Time, and will complete all software updates with no outage.

**2013 Pricing Strategy Webinar Recording Available** If you missed the 2013 Pricing Strategy webinar on October 24, 2012, you're in luck! You can access the presentation made by Jeff Williamson, Vice President, Pricing, addressing the business impacts of the proposed 2013 mailing and shipping services prices changes, in either of these ways:

- A recording of the presentation is available at <https://usps.webex.com/usps/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=EC&rID=16100152&rKey=9f8ada3803d44f77>.
- The PowerPoint presentation (only) is posted on the MTAC page of the [RIBBS](http://ribbs.usps.gov) website at <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=mtac>.

**November 1, 2012**

[Post & Parcel](#): Two postal operators in Scandinavia have made acquisitions in the logistics field outside their home countries. Norway Post said on Wednesday it has acquired Swedish logistics company Ekdahls Åkeri. PostNord, the parent company of Sweden's Posten and Denmark's Post Danmark, said today that it has finalised its acquisition of Norwegian logistics company Harlem Transport AS. With letter volumes declining across the Nordic countries, parcels and logistics is seen as a key growth area for postal operators in the region.

[BigPondNews](#): South Australia will save more than \$570,000 over the next three years after striking a better deal for postal services. Finance Minister Michael O'Brien said a whole-of-government contract had been signed with Australia Post for the first time. In the past each government agency or department negotiated its own agreement, diminishing their buying power. 'The new arrangement means that for the first time all 600-plus South Australian government account holders will have access to the best possible rates available from Australia Post,' Mr O'Brien said on Thursday.

[Federal News Radio](#): Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe says his agency's losses for fiscal 2012 will be somewhere near \$15 billion when Q4 numbers are released in November — close to where the Postal Service projected they would be. The news comes a month after USPS hit

its \$15-billion borrowing limit from the Department of the Treasury, which means it's now relying completely on its own cash flow to support operations.

[PRNewswire](#): RR Donnelley will host a conference call and simultaneous webcast to discuss its third-quarter results today, Thursday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time (9:00 a.m. Central Time). The live webcast will be accessible on RR Donnelley's web site: [www.rrdonnelley.com](http://www.rrdonnelley.com). Individuals wishing to participate can join the conference call by dialing 847.413.9014, confirmation number 33486561. A webcast replay will be archived on the Company's web site for 30 days after the call. In addition, a telephonic replay of the call will be available for seven days at 630.652.3042, passcode 9850121#. See also [NBCNews](#).

[Stamford Advocate](#): As the U.S. Postal Service continues to scramble to find ways to balance its budget, Stamford-based Pitney Bowes is developing ways to enhance its revenue base, including services to help clients expand their international markets. The company, which provides business communications software, mailing systems, services that integrate physical and digital communications channels and counts the Postal Service as a major client, has formed a new global e-commerce business group that will focus on growing its international e-commerce products and services. A prime goal will be to enhance cross-border parcel services to help retailers create a seamless online purchasing and shipping experience for consumers.

[Marketwatch](#): Authorities in the Netherlands have extended the offer period for United Parcel Service Inc.'s UPS +0.31% proposed acquisition of Dutch rival TNT Express N.V. to no later than the end of February, the companies said. Under the extension from The Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets, the offer period is extended until one week after clearances from the European Commission and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce have been obtained, but under no circumstances later than Feb. 28.

[Wall Street Journal](#): Greece's Parliament narrowly approved a law Wednesday that gives the government greater flexibility to privatize the country's public utilities, but the fractious vote underscored a widening rift within the ruling coalition a week ahead of a critical debate on a multibillion austerity and reform package -- including Hellenic Petroleum SA, Public Power Corp., the state lottery company OPAP SA, the Athens and Thessaloniki water authorities, **the Greek postal service**, the Piraeus Port Authority SA and other ports around the country.

[Wall Street Journal](#): As next week's election draws near, many Americans living abroad already may have cast their ballots in a new way: email. For the first time in a presidential election, many states this year allow all overseas voters and military personnel to cast ballots by email. The option to cast votes using email, instead of the postal system, is part of a national push to make it easier for citizens living overseas—particularly soldiers—to participate in elections. But critics, who include election officials, voting transparency groups and security researchers, say email voting could allow ballots to be intercepted and altered by hackers. Advocates believe the benefits of helping overseas citizens and soldiers receive and return ballots on time outweigh what they see as the remote risk of widespread tampering.

*[At the Postal Regulatory Commission:](#)*

- [Monthly Progress Report on Full-Service Intelligent Mail Participation and Compliance by Commercial First-Class Mail and Standard Mail Customers](#)
- [Docket No. MC2011-16/CP2011-53](#): "In accordance with Commission Order No. 699, issued on March 18, 2011, the Postal Service hereby reports that there was no Sample Showcase mailing during Fiscal Year 2012, Quarter 4. Thus, there are no volume, revenue, and cost data for Sample Showcase boxes mailed at both Parcel Select rates and the alternative per-piece charge to report."
- [Docket No. MT2011-2](#) "In accordance with Commission Order No. 721, issued April 28, 2011 in Docket No. MT2011-2, the Postal Service presents the following data collection report on the market test for Gift Cards, for Quarters 3 and 4 of FY 2012."

[Federal News Radio](#): Did you miss PMG Donahoe's appearance on Federal News Radio? No

sweat, [you can listen to a recording off the FNR web site.](#)

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#): Households without mail service will be able to pick up Social Security checks beginning Thursday at open post offices nearby, the United States Postal Service said. Where regular mail service has resumed, those checks will be delivered as usual. Other mail will not be available at post office branches for households without normal mail delivery. Mail service has been restored to broad swaths of the region, spokespeople said, but road obstructions and utility outages make some areas inaccessible. People in Philadelphia can go to their local post office to pick up their checks, spokeswoman Cathy Yarosky said.

[Government Executive](#): During a week when many people praised federal employees (e.g., the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Coast Guard and the U.S. Postal Service) for doing their jobs exceptionally well, while others criticized Washington-area federal agencies for closing for two days, it's somewhat fitting that yet another analysis is out commenting on the pay gap between public and private sector workers. The Federal-Postal Coalition released an analysis Friday that criticized a January Congressional Budget Office report concluding federal employees are paid 16 percent more on average in total compensation (including benefits) than workers doing similar jobs in the private sector.

[PostCom Comments to the PRC](#): In comments offered to the Postal Regulatory Commission regarding the "United States Postal Service's Notice of Market-Dominant Price Adjustment," the Association for Postal Commerce (PostCom) said that "the proposed price adjustments generally comply with the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act ("PAEA"), in that the proposed rate increases appear to be consistent with the Postal Service's price cap authority. At least one party and the Commission have raised, once again, the issue of the rates proposed by the Postal Service for Standard Mail Flats and in particular for the Standard Mail Fats Automation product. For the practical and legal reasons discussed below, PostCom submits that prudence dictates that the Commission take no action with respect to the Standard Mail Flats proposed rates."