



Association for Postal Commerce


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


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

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Postal News from December 2012


December 31, 2012


 [The Salem News](#): The cash-strapped US Postal Service would like to see total curbside mail delivery implemented in the future and some rural post offices face reduced window hours. Salem Post Office is no exception. The goal is to eventually be able to deliver mail to all postal customers from a vehicle, saving time and making the USPS run more efficiently. Compliance with the curbside delivery is voluntary, according to an informational letter that will be going to local postal customers.


 [KCRG](#): Evansdale, Iowa has filed a second appeal to reopen its post office.


 [Wall Street Journal](#):


- [Mandatory federal spending cuts](#) designed to be prohibitively drastic will become a reality if negotiators remain unable to reach an agreement to avert the reductions.
- [The risks to the U.S. economy](#) have risen as consumers and investors recoil from Washington's latest budget spectacle.

 [Express & Star](#): Royal Mail has investigated 91 postmen and women in the Black Country and Staffordshire for fraud, theft and hoarding packages in just two years.


 [The Star](#): The Royal Mail tends generally only to get a bad press, with the media only interested when things go wrong as charges increase. In the days of email, and effective deregulation of the postal service with competitors gnawing away at the Royal Mail's profit margins, we have seen a steep increase in the cost of posting a letter. But there are few services today where you can expect speedy delivery without having to pay an exorbitant post and package charge. So a week ago, we decided to put the Royal Mail to the test to see what sort of service they provide.


 [Taipei Times](#): Chunghwa Post's proposal to use its postal savings fund to invest in public infrastructure projects was rejected by the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC), which said the postal service operator is not authorized by law to do so.


 [The Epoch Times](#): As 2012 dawned, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) maintained hopes of a financial turnaround. As the curtains drew on 2011, however, the USPS announced its intentions to eliminate next-day first-class mail delivery by 2013, citing a "dramatic and continual decline" in mail volume. As in recent years, 2012 was another difficult fiscal year for the USPS.

 [Programmable Web](#): USPS Merchant Returns API: The service provides expedited processing of shipping for returns of merchandise delivered via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). Specifically, it augments service to merchants through the provider's Scan Based Payment program by allowing expedited processing of customer product returns with quick refunds of purchase price. By offering merchant-funded USPS return labels, sellers can encourage trial purchases and simplify interactions with customers. Each shipping label generated by the service carries an Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) for automated package tracking. API methods support submission of a return processing request with customer name and address, product specifications, and merchant account ID. The API responds with a fully formatted shipping label, USPS tracking number, and related processing information.


December 30, 2012


 [Wall Street Journal](#): Graphology is an attempt to formalize what we already intuitively know about handwriting—that it forms a direct and intimate bridge between two people. We know, deep down, that there's nothing to match the communication with a pen on paper, and we tend to connect this feeling with our highest intentions. Sales of fountain pens and luxury paper are rising hugely, by 70% in one recent year. We know that a love letter or letter of condolence still needs to be on paper, written by hand, to be worth anything.


 [Washington Post](#): The 112th Congress is limping to a formal close next week with the dubious distinction of passing fewer bills into law than any Congress in decades. Its dismal record will come as no surprise to anyone who's been watching the post-election lame duck session consumed by lawmakers' inability—so far—to craft a deal to avert the year-end “fiscal cliff.” But the number of legislative disputes that they have failed to resolve while they have been failing to craft a budget deal is equally striking. They include reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, renewing a sweeping farm bill and reforming the U.S. Postal Service.


 [EMissourian](#): Six-day mail delivery is going to continue—at least for sometime. That's the word from the National Newspaper Association in Washington, D.C. The failure of Congress to reach an agreement on a broad postal reform bill keeps six-day mail delivery intact for a while longer, according to Tonda Rush, NNA executive director. But the U.S. Postal Service continues to campaign to end Saturday mail deliveries. With no postal reform bill enacted, the prevailing law is the rider on the USPS appropriations bill requiring six-day mail.

December 29, 2012


 [Postalnews Blog](#): Those who blame labor costs for the Postal Service's financial difficulties conveniently overlook the fact that there are 280,000 fewer postal workers today than there were 10 years ago. They also fail to note that postal employees' pension accounts are overfunded by billions of dollars. Those who blame the Internet for the Postal Service's problems ignore the fact that at least a portion of the decline in mail volume is due to the Great Recession. While some first-class mail will never come back (due to electronic bill paying) package delivery is growing at double-digit rates. Standard mail is also making a comeback as the economy improves.


 [Valley News Live](#): Rapid growth in western North Dakota's oil fields has put stress on postal service in the area. The Minot Daily News reports that the U.S. Postal Service has struggled to provide adequate staffing for post office in some oil-boom towns where populations have grown substantially in recent years. That has led to complaints about long lines at post office windows, late mail, returned mail and undelivered mail.


 [Financial Times](#): New Year is, most of all, about gathering the clan (including the great clan that is Japan) at home, over sake and rice cakes. The postal service delivers stacks of cards on New Year's morning to every household, on which every old friend or close colleague sends news from the year just past with a drawing commemorating the new Year of the Dog (or Monkey, or Horse, or whatever).

 [Baltimore Sun](#): In the United States, it became evident nearly a century ago that there was money to be made by delivering packages more quickly and reliably than the U.S. Postal Service. People would pay a premium for faster, more reliable service, and pioneering businesses like UPS and later Federal Express would prosper. The logic followed that if private firms could make money doing what the postal service was doing with a public subsidy, then


the postal services should also, if properly managed, be able to at least break even. It remains to be seen if this is the case, largely because the key words "properly managed" have not applied to the postal service in many years.

 **Minot Daily News:** Snow, rain, heat and gloom of night might not delay postal delivery. But an oil boom is something else again. The U.S. Postal Service has struggled to provide adequate staffing for post offices in some oil-boom towns, where populations have ballooned in recent years. Long lines at postal windows, late mail, returned mail and undelivered mail started to become common complaints. Just when things didn't seem like they could get much worse, along came Christmas.

 **From the Federal Register:** Postal Service NOTICES Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 77121-77122 [2012-31335] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)] 77122 [2012-31338] [[TEXT](#)] [[PDF](#)]

 **Washington Wire:** Congress's low productivity isn't reflected just in the big stuff like keeping America from plunging off the fiscal cliff. The 112th Congress also was unusually sluggish in passing bills to name post offices, previously an area of vigorous activity for lawmakers.

December 28, 2012

 **At the Postal Regulatory Commission:** [EdNote: Heck, the PRC cleans up its end of the year business a lot better than Congress. 😊]

- **ACR2012 United States Postal Service FY 2012 Annual Compliance Report**
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/86/86000/FY2012ACR.pdf>
- **CP2013-29 Order No. 1603** - Order Adding First-Class Package Service Contract 31 to the Competitive Product List
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85997/Order_No_1603.docx
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85997/Order_No_1603.pdf
- **MC2013-21 Order No. 1603** - Order Adding First-Class Package Service Contract 31 to the Competitive Product List
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85997/Order_No_1603.docx
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85997/Order_No_1603.pdf
- **CP2013-3 Competitive Post Office Box Service Fees**
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85919/Notice_of_PO_Box_Fees_Jan_2013.pdf
- **CP2013-27 Order No. 1599** - Order Accepting Price Changes for Inbound Air Parcel Post at UPU Rates
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85991/Order%201599.pdf>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85991/Order%201599.doc>
- **R2013-2 Order No. 1598** - Order Approving an Additional Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreement with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement (with China Post Group)
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85990/Order%201598.docx>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85990/Order%201598.pdf>
- **R2013-3 Order No. 1597** - Order Approving an Additional Inbound Market Dominant Multi-Service Agreement with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement (with Hongkong Post)
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85989/Order_No_1597.docx
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85989/Order_No_1597.pdf
- **CP2013-22 United States Postal Service Response to Order No. 1580 Concerning Effective Dates of an Inbound Competitive Multi-Service Agreement with Foreign Postal Operators 1 Negotiated Service Agreement**

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85993/CP2013-22%20Order%201580%20Response.pdf>


- **CP2013-28 Order No. 1600** - Order Approving Inclusion of Contingency Pricing Arrangement within International Business Reply Service Competitive Contract 1
Product <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85992/Order%201600.docx>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85992/Order%201600.pdf>
- **Monthly Progress Report on Full-Service Intelligent Mail Participation and Compliance by Commercial First-Class Mail and Standard Mail Customers**


"The Postal Service previously updated the Commission on the progress of Full-Service Intelligent Mail participation and certification on November 29, 2012. Between October 1 and December 14, 2012, the Postal Service measured about 2.9 billion First-Class Mail items from 752 active Full Service Intelligent Mail customers. Measured First-Class Mail items with an overnight service standard originated in 66 districts, those with a two-day service standard originated in 62 out of a possible 66 districts, and those with a three-to-five-day service standard originated in 61 districts. For Standard Mail, there were about 3.3 billion items measured with origin data from all districts for Destination Entry letters and flats, 61 districts for End-to-End letters, and 53 districts for End-to-End Flats. There were over 183 million pieces measured for Periodicals delivered between October 1 and December 14, originating from all districts. For Package Services Bound Printed Matter Flats there were about 1.2 million pieces measured quarter-to-date, with origin data for 64 districts."




DMM Advisory: IMb™ Services Update

- **PostalOne! ® Release Webinars** — Two mailer webinars will be held in conjunction with the upcoming PostalOne! ® release. The first webinar will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET. The second will be held on Thursday, January 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. These webinars will cover price changes and enhancements to the PostalOne! system, various reports, and initiatives. Complete webinar log-in information will be provided no later than Wednesday, January 2, 2013, on the RIBBS® Intelligent Mail Education page at <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=intellmailpresentations>.
- **PostalOne! Release 33.0.0 Deployment** — will require an extended maintenance window to complete all software updates. There will be a PostalOne! outage from 8 p.m. Saturday, January 12, 2013, through 9 a.m. CT, Sunday, January 13, 2013. A mandatory Mail.dat® client download will be available immediately following the software update.
- **PostalOne! Release 33.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** — will occur on Monday, January 14, 2013, and PostalOne! TEM will be unavailable from 4 a.m. through 4 p.m. CT.


 **Advanced Direct:** The bottom line is that any marketer will use the communication methods that work best. In a recent Consumer Channel Preference Study, 60% of Americans enjoy checking their physical mailboxes. Companies that periodically reach out to their customers do so because they want to receive those messages and they respond. Simply put, mail delivers results.





REGISTER NOW





Please join the Association for Postal Commerce on **Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 1:00 Eastern** for a **FREE webinar** as **Gary Reblin**, Vice President, New Products and Innovation for the United States Postal Service shares the exciting details for the 2013 programs: (1) Direct Mail Mobile Coupon and Click-to-Call (2) Earned Value Reply Mail (3) Picture Permit Promotion (4) Product Samples (5) Emerging Technology (6) Mobile Buy It Now. <https://www.1gotomeeting.com/register/740076824>


 [FoxKC.com](#): If that Christmas gift you got in the mail arrived in pieces, a Grandview man believes he may know the reason. Harold Nelson was so appalled at the way a U.S. Postal worker was handling packages that he recorded her on his cell phone.

 [GetReading](#): Royal Mail has sold the former mail centre in Caversham Road. The 6.5 acre site to the north of Reading Station has been bought by Hermes Property Unit Trust for a reported £12 million. "Royal Mail has a clear strategy to ensure we derive maximum value from any property we no longer require. This includes selling the freehold or leases which we hold, and, where appropriate, working with planning authorities to ensure that properties we are selling are attractive to new owners. "We have a strong track record in using the proceeds from disposal of surplus property to invest in the mail operation."

 [Financial Times](#): Shutl, an online courier service offering rapid delivery, has signed a major deal with Argos, giving the start-up nationwide coverage for the first time. The deal means that Shutl's service will be available in 291 of Argos's 700 stores, covering an extra 47 towns and cities across the UK. Based in London's start-up hub in east London, Shutl uses an algorithm to match orders with potential couriers, taking account of location, cost and the courier's previous reviews, as well as when the customer wants the product. Customers can choose to have the item delivered as soon as possible – the record is 15 minutes – or at a precise time.

 [KnoxNews](#): Have you ever been down to your local public library only to find that the book you have been waiting on is checked out? Now you are stuck waiting for it to be returned or waiting for another branch to mail it in. But now, thanks to the new Firefly Courier Service developed by the Tennessee State Library and Archives, every rural, suburban and urban public library across the state will be linked and able to loan books throughout the state quicker. The University of Tennessee and other college's libraries will also be included into the system. The courier service will visit each of the 177 public libraries across the Volunteer State twice weekly to pick up and drop off books. "Moving these materials by road is far cheaper than by mail," State Librarian Chuck Sherrill said. "Because of the large volume of loans, we benefit from economies of scale." According to Secretary of State Tre Hargett's office, the cost of the new service is approximately the same cost as what the state currently pays to reimburse the branch's postal costs.


 [Pakistan News Service](#): Pakistan Post Office is suffering a loss of Rs2 billion annually as it has lost most of the money order business after the popularity of online banking and other private competitors, says the chairman.


 [RIA Novosti](#): An illegal banking ring with an annual turnover of 15 billion rubles (\$500 million) that operated through the country's postal service has been uncovered in Russia, police said on Friday. Money was transferred through Russian Post's electronic payment service with the help of numerous fake firms run by the ring's operators, the Interior Ministry said. Clients were able to cash out their illegal money transfers at a commission of 2.5 percent, the ministry said on its website.

 [From the Federal Register](#): **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** New Postal Products ,76571–76572 [2012–31174] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]76570–76571 [2012–31178] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]


The Passing of Robert Sheehan


It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Bob Sheehan, who served as a PostCom board member while employed by Neopost USA. Bob had a long and distinguished career at the U.S. Postal Service prior to joining Neopost.

 [Herald Tribune](#): Amazon, the world's biggest online retailer, has hinted that it will expand its same-day shipping service, giving customers the immediate gratification that has been the biggest advantage of brick-and-mortar stores. Bigger retailers, like Toys "R" Us, Macy's and Target, have worked with eBay to deliver items the same day, as have other old-line stores. Google has begun testing a local delivery service with several chains.

 [Alaska Public Radio](#): The U.S. Postal Service is offering a reward for information about a man who allegedly stole mail collection boxes in Anchorage over the Christmas holiday. The postal boxes around Anchorage were stolen between Dec. 20-25. Michele Logan is a detective in the financial crimes unit of the Anchorage Police Department. She's partnering with the Postal Service on the investigation. She says investigators believe that the suspect, Clifford Earl Dancer, started removing the boxes December 19 or 20.

December 27, 2012

 [TechHive](#): More Americans read e-books in the last year, with 23 percent of those ages 16 and over going digital, compared to 16 percent in the previous survey for the Pew Internet & American Life Project, which released its latest results on e-book readership Thursday. The rise coincided with a larger percentage jump in e-reading device ownership. The survey also found that those who read books in print declined to 67 percent from 72 percent.


 [Direct Marketing News](#): The United States Postal Service kicked off its MetroPost same-day service in San Francisco last week in a test with 1-800 Flowers' gourmet food products. The Post Office's chief competition will come from British import Shurtliff, which currently operates a same-day service for retailers in the UK and is readying a stateside launch for Q1 of 2013. It's already raised \$5 million for its U.S. expansion from an investor pool that includes UPS. The company uses established courier firms to fulfill orders in a point-to-point delivery system in which couriers go straight from collection to delivery.


 [Government Accountability Office](#): "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE Status, Financial Outlook, and Alternative Approaches to Fund Retiree Health Benefits"


"The Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHBF) covered about 49 percent of the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) \$94 billion retiree health benefit liability at fiscal year-end 2012. USPS's deteriorating financial outlook, however, will make it difficult to continue the current prefunding schedule in the short term, and possibly to fully fund the remaining \$48 billion unfunded liability over the remaining 44 years of the schedule on which the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) was based. The liability covers the projected benefits for about 471,000 current postal retirees and a portion of the projected benefits for about 528,000 current employees; it does not cover employees not yet hired.


"GAO's analysis of maintaining current law requirements compared to five alternative approaches showed differing impacts on USPS's future annual payments and unfunded liabilities. For example, three of the approaches—1) the Administration's Approach, 2) Senate Bill (S. 1789) and 3) "Pay-as-You-Go" (no prefunding)—would reduce USPS's annual payments in the short term, thereby easing its immediate cash flow problems and financial losses. However, these approaches would increase USPS's unfunded liability, sometimes substantially, and require larger payments later. Deferring funding could increase costs for future ratepayers and increase the possibility that USPS may not be able to pay for some or all of its liability. Conversely, a fourth approach—the House Bill (H.R. 2309)—and the current law requirement would reduce USPS's unfunded liabilities more aggressively but may result in significantly higher USPS financial losses in the near future. If USPS stopped prefunding and let the existing fund grow with interest, the unfunded liability is projected to significantly increase. Under a fifth approach, if USPS stopped prefunding and used the existing fund to pay current and future premiums, the fund is projected to be exhausted by 2026.


"GAO has testified that USPS should prefund its retiree health benefit liabilities to the maximum extent that its finances permit, but none of the funding approaches may be viable unless USPS has the ability to make the payments. USPS's default on its last two required PSRHBF payments and its inability to borrow further make the need for a comprehensive package of actions to achieve sustainable financial viability even more urgent."

 **Reuters:** Pos Indonesia, the country's biggest postal service firm, aims to raise up to 1.5 trillion rupiah (\$156 million) via initial public offering in 2013 to fund expansion.


 **Anchorage Daily News:** Police and the U.S. Postal Service say four big, blue mail collection boxes, presumably with mail in them, disappeared from four Anchorage post offices in recent days. Two of them were taken on Christmas Day.


 **Delaware Online:** U.S. Sen. Tom Carper has been concerned for years about cyber criminals whom he says have put the nation under "unrelenting attack." Next Congress, the Delaware Democrat will be in a position to do something about hackers who try to steal sensitive information or target critical infrastructure. Carper plans to make cyber security a top priority for the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee when he becomes the panel's chairman in January. *[EdNote: One way to start is by making, by law, the Postal Inspection Service the agency responsible for investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes. At present, virtually NO law enforcement agency is willing to do any of the hard lifting against cybercrime.]*


 **Irish Examiner:** An Post is facing a serious financial crisis after being informed it will not be granted its request for a 10c hike in the cost of the standard 55c postage stamp. The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has signalled it is only prepared to sanction a 3c rise to 58c. However, ComReg also indicated it might consent to approving an increase to 60c per stamp following a public consultation. The regulator has warned An Post that it needs to find an additional €43m in cost savings or extra revenue on top of any increase in the price for delivering standard mail, to compensate for its expected losses of €65m in providing a universal postal service in 2012.

 **ChipChick:** The venerable USPS was already looking a little long in the tooth. Digital Postal Mail isn't going to help. Digital Postal Mail is a new free iOS app that takes exact digital copies of the mail you would normally receive (usually bills), and sends them to you electronically, instead. You can still opt to receive paper copies, as well. DPM works with individual mailers (AT&T, Verizon, and American Express, for example), rather than the post office, so the old USPS really is left out in the cold on this one. To assure safety, DPM has rigged up security measures like VeriSign, which usually handles banking business. All of your digital mail is archived and can be accessed at any time. Plus, those exact copies of the snail mail versions are, in some cases, more detailed. DPM provides a paperless way to keep those records, which is great, because now you won't have to end up on an episode of Hoarders, with paper bills spanning decades, stacked to the ceiling.

Postal Technology International magazine has a digital portal that hosts the latest industry news, blogs, additional features, plus recruitment. It is distributed to almost 35,000 industry professionals worldwide each and every week. And this is your chance to take advantage of our free careers offer - place your recruitment advertisements on www.PostalTechnologyInternational.com for no cost!


 **FedEx BusinessWire:** According to a holiday survey commissioned by FedEx, more than a third of Americans will return gifts after the holidays. To take the headache out of the process, consumers are increasingly choosing to ship gifts back instead of dealing with the crowds at the mall. Simple-to-use FedEx return labels and flexible options like residential pickup or drop-off make the return process easy for both shoppers and web-based retailers during the holiday season and year-round. FedEx has more than 9,000 retail locations ready to handle holiday returns this year, including more than 1,800 FedEx Office stores nationwide. FedEx Office serves as a convenient local resource to drop-off all the holiday returns in one, quick stop. Specially-trained team members can help customers properly pack up unwanted gifts to ensure each arrives expertly packaged, and prices for FedEx Ground delivery are up to 10 percent less than the competition at FedEx Office locations.

 **WTOC:** The US Postal Service, UPS and FedEx are expected to be swamped with returns. During the first week of January, UPS said it expects to handle 2 million packages that are consumers returning gifts they received.

 **Politico:** Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner told Congress in a letter on Wednesday that the nation will hit its statutory borrowing limit on Dec. 31 and Treasury will have to begin "extraordinary measures" to fund the government until the debt ceiling is lifted by Congress. Treasury expects it can avoid default through such measures

at least a few weeks into next year but notes that doing so could be made more difficult if no deal is made to avoid the fiscal cliff. [EdNote: Unfortunately, this cliff makes the postal precipice look like a molehill.]

December 26, 2012

 **Roll Call:** Talk of a comprehensive deal, or grand bargain, has all but ceased, with all parties setting their sights on smaller temporary patches to avoid impending tax increases and spending cuts. On Friday, Obama called on Congress to take up a narrow measure that would extend tax cuts only for those making less than \$250,000 annually, extend unemployment insurance benefits and temporarily put off the \$500 billion in sequestration cuts. Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada could bring such a measure to the Senate floor for a vote this week, but it remains unclear whether Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., or any other Senate Republican would look to block the package.

Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC)


The USPS Marketing Mail Product Development team will present a webinar on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 for mail owners and mail service providers that will include a live demonstration on how to register via the Business Customer Gateway for the programs in the upcoming 2013 Promotions Calendar. This year-long line up of Postal Service promotions is designed to encourage innovation and use of technologies that can make mail more interactive and add value. Additionally, there are promotions that encourage mailers to use more traditional forms of direct mail, namely samples and reply mail envelopes. Register at:


<https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?d=997137719&t=a>




At the Postal Regulatory Commission:


- National Trial Balance, November, 2012 (FY 2013; and Statement of Revenue and Expenses, November 2012 (FY 2013)
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85899/Letter_NTB-SRE_Nov2012_F_20121226143035.pdf
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85899/National%20Trial%20Balance%20-%20Redacted%20%20November%202012%20\(FY%202013\).xls](http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85899/National%20Trial%20Balance%20-%20Redacted%20%20November%202012%20(FY%202013).xls)
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85899/Statement%20of%20Revenue%20and%20Expenses%20-%20Redacted%20%20November%202012%20\(FY%202013\).xls](http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85899/Statement%20of%20Revenue%20and%20Expenses%20-%20Redacted%20%20November%202012%20(FY%202013).xls)
- USPS Preliminary Financial Information (Unaudited), November, 2012
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85898/2012.12.21%20Attachment%20for%20Govs%20re--November%20Report%20to%20PRC.pdf>
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85898/Letter_PFI_Nov2012_20121226142648.pdf
- **January 09, 2013 - Commission Public Meeting, Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at 11a.m., Commission Hearing Room, 901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20268-0001.** Portions Open to the Public (1) Report on legislative activities. (2) Report on communications with the public. (3) Report from the Office of General Counsel on status of Commission dockets. (4) Report from the Office of Accountability and Compliance. (5) Report from the Office of the Secretary and Administration. (6) Presentation from Allen Kane, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum, on the activities of the museum and the establishment of the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery. Chairman's Public Comment Period (opportunity for brief comments or questions from the public) Portion Closed to the Public 7. Discussion of pending litigation. The open portion of the meeting will be audiocast. The audiocast may be accessed via the Commission's website at <http://www.prc.gov>. For more information, please contact: Shoshana M. Grove, Secretary of the Commission, at 202-789-6800 or shoshana.grove@prc.gov


 **Gazette:** One of the biggest employers in America is crashing. And everything the federal government is doing to fix the United States Postal Service (USPS) is just making it worse. A lesson we should learn as we stand on the edge of the real Fiscal Cliff: Obama Care.


 **Swissinfo:** Traditional methods of sending holiday greetings could be making a comeback, as the Swiss post set a package delivery record in 2012 while the country's largest telecom provider said users sent 10 per cent fewer text messages at Christmas. The Swiss post handled 16 million packages in the time period between December 1 and


24, compared with around 15 million in the past few years. On the other hand, Swisscom, the country's leading telecommunications provider, reported that on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Swiss people sent around three million fewer text and picture messages than last year via their mobile phones. In 2012, 24.4 million messages were sent over the Christmas holiday. However, other technologies are likely more responsible for the decline in mobile greetings than this year's popularity of the Post. Swisscom's spokesperson Sepp Huber attributed the downturn in text messages to an increased use of social media outlets like Twitter and Facebook as well as smartphone messaging applications such as Whatsapp, Ping and iMessage. http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/swiss_news/Swiss_send_more_packages_fewer_text_messages.html?cid=34597646&


 [PC Magazine](#): After years of incubation, it has finally become clear that augmented reality (AR) is going to transform our mobile computing experiences. Seeing AR applied to pictures, stories, posters, and other types of print media emphasizes how it truly provides the world of publishing with a richer way to tell stories. I believe it will deliver an innovative angle to centuries-old printed media.

 [Baltimore Sun](#): The new development of Kelly Glen north of Bel Air has single-family homes costing upward of \$500,000 tucked away between the Bel Air Bypass and Route 1 (Conowingo Road), with direct access to the latter, but residents have one major problem: They can't get their mail delivered. Those who moved to the neighborhood said the U.S. Postal Service told them they do not qualify for curbside mail delivery. Residents have been stepping up complaints to the Postal Service, pointing out they have to drive to a post office just to pick up their daily mail. Thus far, however, the Postal Service is sticking to its guns.


 [Wall Street Journal](#): The annual holiday shop-a-thon drew to a muted close for many retailers, according to preliminary data, reflecting what some experts said was the slowest growth in spending since the 2008 recession.


 [Saipan Tribune](#): Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. is further bridging the gap in the delivery not just of cargo but also mail following the signing of a contract that allows for the company to transport mail between the CNMI and Guam, less than two months since it commenced its cargo flights.

 [Business2Community](#): Australia Post recently released its annual results. Revenues from "regulated mail" – standard postage – are \$1924 million and falling, and it made a loss of \$148 million. "Non regulated parcels and retail" revenues were up 8.5% to \$3073 million, returning a profit of \$546 million. An important part of its future will be digital services provided to its commercial customers and Australian consumers. A starting flurry in this new world is the soft launch of MailBox in November 2012 with a full launch to take place early in 2013. Australia Post has announced that several Australian banks, government departments and utilities will use the Digital MailBox. It will be free to all Australians. It will enable consumers to receive and pay bills, track and manage their relationships with their providers and store all of their important documents in one place. It's accessed with one password, from any Internet-enabled device, 24/7, from anywhere in the world. Enter Digital Post Australia (DPA), a joint venture between Computershare Ltd, Fuji Xerox Document Management Solutions Pty Limited and Zinbox Inc.


 [The Guardian](#): Portugal is to embark on a sweeping fire-sale of state companies over the coming months, possibly even privatising state broadcaster RTP, as it bends to the will of the troika of lenders that bailed it out 20 months ago. Oil-rich former colony Angola is one of the countries that Portugal has tried to tap for investors as it aims to sell off everything from public broadcaster RTP to parts of the postal service, water utilities, state banks, the rail service and oil firm Galp.


December 25, 2012


 [The China Post](#): Chinese delivery firms urged to safeguard information in wake of security breaches.


 [The Peninsula](#): The annual Arab postal committee meeting commenced in Doha yesterday to discuss issues related to the postal service of this region. The two-day meeting being held at the St. Reggi's Hotel is a follow up meeting to the recently held International Postal Union meeting and will discuss about several events postponed due to the political developments and unrest in Arab countries.


December 24, 2012


 [Business Times](#): As part of its strategy to grow its self-storage business, postal service provider Singapore Post (SingPost) is acquiring General Storage Company from Asia Pacific Storage Company for \$37 million. General Storage, which operates a self-storage business under the Lock+Store brand, has facilities in Tanjong Pagar and Chai Chee. The acquisition will expand SingPost's existing self-storage business, Self Storage Solutions (S3), which offers warehousing, fulfilment, delivery and distribution services. SingPost expects the acquisition to allow it to serve individual customers and small-and-medium enterprises better.


 [CBC](#): Canada Post workers across the country have kicked it into high gear, working the last three weekends to keep up with the increasing number of parcel, package and Christmas card deliveries leading up to Dec. 25. The postal service broke records after delivering 50 million pieces of mail on Dec. 20 and over one million parcels on Dec. 13 within 24-hour periods.


 [Trend](#): "The Mail Service of Georgia" started a partnership with French insurance broker Gras Savoye Georgia. According to a joint statement, cooperation efforts consist of several stages. "The Mail Service of Georgia" will provide identification of risk and insurance products for the management of business risk-mail. The improvement of relations between the postal service and its customers will be introduced in different ways. Both local and international insurance products will be used in this process, the report said. As noted in the report, the French company is the largest insurance broker in Europe with 105 years of experience in the field.


 [Seeking Alpha](#): Valassis Communications, Inc. (VCI) is a consumer-driven, future-focused media company. Since George Valassis founded the company more than 40 years ago, Valassis Communications' focus is to deliver savings to consumers on behalf of advertisers looking for an exceptional return on investment. Today, VCI delivers through its RedPlum Media Portfolio, including newspaper, in-the-store display, and online. The media sector is not poised for strong growth for 2013, but VCI offers solid fundamentals with improving cost structure and has an edge in Internet media by focusing on delivering savings to users and high investment returns to advertisers.


 [Irish Times](#): The demise of handwriting and "snail mail" has been greatly exaggerated. Or so it would seem, based on the huge amount of Christmas mail being processed and delivered by An Post this year. The internet has not yet killed off traditional methods of communication, it appears. "People who do social media do Christmas as well," a spokeswoman for An Post said. "And you can't put an email on the mantelpiece."


 [Seeking Alpha](#): Pitney Bowes has increased its annualized per share dividend for the last 30 years and although the company is not necessarily guaranteed to increase or maintain its dividends going forward, we believe that there is no fundamental reason for management to cut PBI's per share dividend for the foreseeable future.


 [AntaraNews](#): State-owned postal service company PT Pos Indonesia said it will build two star-rated hotels utilizing its lands in the West Java city of Bandung.

 [Seeking Alpha](#): FedEx Corp. (FDX) reported a 12% year-over-year drop in quarterly profits. This is due to hurricane Sandy and the global economic slowdown, which has changed customer's preferences from high margin overnight delivery service to cheaper alternatives. In short, the fall in air transport was offset by ground operations. This is a trend I expect to continue in the long term as the era of cheap, abundant energy that facilitated the model is over and therefore air freight volume is likely going to drop, but margins may remain as it will weed out all of the price elastic customers, leaving those whose need far outweighs the shipping cost differential.


 [Forbes](#): It's Christmas-time and FedEx shipments are falling faster than GDP according to economic forecaster Lakshman Acuthan, whom I had lunch with today at our favorite place. At least 5% faster than the latest economic statistics for the whole economy. "FedEx shipments track well to GDP," the CEO of ECRIForecasting told me. This latest factoid adds weight to Acuthan's judgement that we are already in a recession, one that, in fact probably began over the summer months.


 [China.org.cn](#): China's postal authorities have ordered an overhaul of the express delivery sector amid growing concerns over personal information being leaked and traded by workers.

 [The Telegraph](#): Ministers discussing the sale of the Royal Mail are understood to be considering whether the sale agreement for the company should make a clear legal provision for changes to the Universal Service Obligation (USO). Under the USO, the company is legally required to deliver post to every address in the UK six days a week at "uniform and affordable prices". The obligation is the basis of the Royal Mail's cherished nationwide service, which means that the cost of posting a letter to any address in the UK is the same everywhere. However, the requirement is extremely costly to fulfil, and some ministers believe that it will become untenable as the number of letters sent falls further. Government sources say that the sale of the Royal Mail will have to address the prospect of future changes in the USO.

 [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#): Why do nonprofits send four, a dozen or more solicitations to one address in a year's time? Professional fundraisers and charity watchdog groups agree that multiple mailings are a manifestation of increasing competition for donors' dollars, especially since the recession. Persuading someone to donate in this economic climate can be a tough sell.

December 23, 2012

 [Melodika.net](#): Postal services have long been considered for shipping materials or documents that took days to reach its destination. However, with the help of couriers you can send your parcels anytime and anywhere much quickly and safely. Compiled here are some reasons to consider courier services instead of postal services.

 [Pocono Record](#): While the post office doesn't know how many catalogs it ships because they are in the same category as other types of mail, including brochures and boxes, the ACMA counted 20 billion catalogs in circulation in 2006 and 12 billion to 13 billion this year. "Volume has fallen 35 percent primarily due to the postal rate increases in 2007 followed by the recession a few years later," Davison said. Postage accounts for about 50 percent of the cost of a catalog. Paper and printing combined make up the other half, he said. Despite postal increases, catalogs generate about \$270 billion in retail sales yearly, according to the ACMA. The holiday season, which has a moving window of October or November through December depending on the retailer, is No. 1.

December 22, 2012




From the Federal Register:


Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES

- International Mail Contracts , 76091–76092 [2012–30942] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]
- New Postal Products , 76092–76093 [2012–30858] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)] 76094–76095 [2012–30859] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)] 76093–76094 [2012–30874] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)] 76095–76096 [2012–30875] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]

Postal Service NOTICES

- Meetings; Sunshine Act , 76096 [2012–31090] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]
- Product Changes: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 76096 [2012–30869] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)] 76097 [2012–30880] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)] 76096 [2012–30883] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]

 [Bangor Daily News](#): Fifty-five small Maine post offices have implemented reduced hours as part of the United States Postal Service's attempt to save money. Nearly 200 more will follow suit by the end of 2014.

 [VoiceOnLine](#): Canada Post, the country's primary postal operator, delivered a record 1 million parcels across the country last Thursday, the company said. This is an 11 per cent increase compared to the previous year's busiest day, according to the company, which operates the country's largest retail network of nearly 6,500 post offices.



PostCom Members! The latest issue of PostCom's "[Into the Postal Weeds](#)" has been posted on this site. In this issue:

- What is the IMb Planning Tool?
- How to Use the Planning Tool.
- How Can it Help Your Business?
- Caution: Some Things to Keep in Mind.
- What Will it be When it Grows Up?
- Summing it All Up.

December 21, 2012



In [a postal perspective to be published in the PostCom Bulletin](#), Grayhair CEO and owner Cameron Bellamy is of the opinion that "the Postal Service should be focusing its attention on improving functionalities that are central to its mission of delivering mail, such as the PostalOne! mail acceptance tool, which is riddled with outages and a constant source of costly, patchwork maintenance. But instead of fixing what mailers already have paid for, USPS wants to throw more mailer money at a new mail tracking tool that adds no real value and absolutely no return on investment to what its private sector 'partners' already can provide today."




The 2013 NPF Promotional Catalog is now available online. This Catalog has


all the details you need to plan your Forum experience in San Francisco, March 17-20th. Early Bird Registration will be closing on January 25, 2013. Register early and save! <http://www.npf.org>.

DMM Advisory: IMb™ Services Update


- **PostalOne! ® Release Webinars** — Two mailer webinars will be held in conjunction with the upcoming PostalOne! ® release. The first webinar will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2013, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. ET. The second will be held on Thursday, January 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET. These webinars will cover price changes and enhancements to the PostalOne! system, various reports, and initiatives. Complete webinar log-in information will be provided when available on the RIBBS® Intelligent Mail Education page at <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=intellmailpresentations>.
- **PostalOne! Release 33.0.0 Deployment** — will require an extended maintenance window to complete all software updates. There will be a PostalOne! outage from 8 p.m. Saturday, January 12, 2013, through 9 a.m. CT, Sunday, January 13, 2013. A mandatory Mail.dat® client download will be available immediately following the software update.
- **PostalOne! Release 33.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** — will occur on Monday, January 14, 2013, and PostalOne! TEM will be unavailable from 4 a.m. through 4 p.m. CT.


Federal Times: The chances of postal legislation passing Congress this year are now nil following the House of Representatives' abrupt decision to quit town Thursday night. A band of five retired and current postal workers nonetheless plans to continue its hunger strike as scheduled through Saturday.

 [Postalmag.com](#): Five postal hunger strikers occupied the office of Representative Darrell Issa Thursday afternoon. Four of the strikers were rejected by Capitol Police while one, John Dennie, a retired mail handler from New York, was arrested.

 [Wall Street Journal](#): U.S. stock futures slumped as part of a global selloff after House Speaker John Boehner ditched his own budget plan amid lack of support, fueling fears that a fiscal crisis couldn't be averted. *[EdNote: What a government. They've gotten so bogged down in position-taking, they've forgotten the art of pragmatics and compromise. Soooo . . . how did you vote when you were in the voting booth? "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's at fault for America's fall?"]*


 [MarketWire](#): Stamps.com®, the leading provider of USPS postage online and shipping software to over 400,000 customers, today announced its inclusion in Software Magazine's ranking of the world's 500 largest software and service providers.


 [KGO-TV](#): In this age of instant gratification, overnight shipping isn't fast enough anymore. That's why a handful of companies, including the Bay Area's own eBay are getting into the business of same-day delivery in big cities like San Francisco.


 [TeleGeography](#): State-run national PTO Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications (VNPT) will separate its postal service from its operations early next year in order to focus on its telecoms business, reports Reuters. The new entity, known as Vietnam Post, gained partial accounting independence from VNPT in 2008, but has made losses every year through 2010. It expects its 2013 gross profit to rise 7% from this year to VND45.5 billion (USD2.2 million).


 [From the Federal Register](#): **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** International Mail Contracts 75678-75679 [2012-30822] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]

December 20, 2012


 [Nonprofit Postal Blogspot](#): A recent letter from Ian Volner on behalf of PostCom to Mary Anne Gibbons of the USPS questions why they are interested in explicitly identifying the "mail owner" as we embark on the new Intelligent Mail barcode. I'm with him, as so many of us mail owners have expert mail service provider (MSP) representation to keep the postal minutiae at bay. After all, mail owners are in "their" business, not the "mailing business."


 [LifeInc.](#): The blizzard that has dumped inches of snow across the Midwest could not have come at a worse time for many travelers trying to get home for Christmas. It's also pretty bad timing for the nation's shipping companies on one of the busiest days of the year. If they don't deliver their packages on time, grandma may not get her scarf for Christmas, or worse, hundreds of companies may not live up to the promise they made to online shoppers to deliver packages in time to go under the tree. Enter the meteorology teams from FedEx and UPS. Each company employs in-house weather experts who examine jet streams, satellite images and temperature trends to make sure trucks and planes have all the information they need when delivering all those packages that need to get there now.


 [Wall Street Journal](#): Rising caution and falling confidence among U.S. businesses and consumers have the economy on track to limp toward the end of this year and not pick up its pace until well into next. Businesses are slowing their investment amid a pile up of unsold goods and uncertainty over the billions of dollars in spending cuts and tax increases known as the fiscal cliff. Consumers are worrying about the prospect of more taxes. Economists in the latest Wall Street Journal survey predict the nation's gross domestic product will grow just 1.3% on an annualized basis in the final three months of 2012 and 1.7% in the first quarter of 2013.


 [DC Velocity](#): The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) said today that florist and giftshop giant 1-800-Flowers.com is the launch customer for the USPS' same-day delivery service, which starts today in pilot form in San Francisco. This service, called "Metropost," will run in test mode for a year and only in a 49-mile radius in and around San


Francisco. After that time, USPS can apply to expand its scope or kill it altogether if demand doesn't meet expectations.


 **CNN:** This Christmas could be the last for the U.S. Postal Service. It is losing \$25 million dollars a day and staring down insolvency -- unless Congress steps in to pass a reform package that reduces its costs. With just a few days left in the congressional calendar, there is still some small hope for a Christmas miracle -- maybe the Postal Service can be saved as part of a deal on the fiscal cliff. But with even Hurricane Sandy relief stalled, skepticism is growing. "As the nation creeps toward the 'fiscal cliff,' the U.S. Postal Service is clearly marching toward a financial collapse of its own," says Carper. "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. Recently key House and Senate leaders on postal reform have had productive discussions on a path forward, and while there may be some differences of opinion in some of the policy approaches needed to save the Postal Service, there is broad agreement that reform needs to happen -- the sooner the better." The urgency couldn't be clearer -- but even at this yuletide 11th hour, signs of progress are slim to none. "Neither rain nor snow nor sleet nor gloom of night" can stop the U.S. Postal Service from making its appointed rounds -- but congressional division and dysfunction apparently can.


 **DMM Advisory: New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products.** Today the Federal Register published a final rule about the Domestic Mailing Services price change. In this final rule, we provide revised mailing standards in the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) to implement Mailing Services price changes, including a summary of comments received and responses to those comments, several mail classification changes, modifications to mailpiece characteristics, and changes in classification terminology. See the entire notice now at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-12-20/html/2012-30256.htm> or later today on Postal Explorer at <http://pe.usps.gov/FederalRegisterNotices.asp>. The effective date is January 27, 2013.

 **WCB D:** A federal grand jury in Tennessee has indicted 15 former FedEx workers, charging them with stealing from U.S. mail. The theft of mail and obstruction of correspondence charges stem from cash, gift cards and drugs being stolen from U.S. Postal Service mail moving through the Memphis FedEx sorting hub.

 **Logistics Manager:** Booming online shopping in the run up to Christmas has resulted in up to a 77 per cent increase in daily parcel traffic according to mobile computing firm Skillweb. Home delivery volumes during the month have been almost 50 per cent higher than average non-peak trading periods.

 **Wort.lu:** Post is to continue to be delivered to homes five days a week despite the privatisation of Luxembourg postal services, a draft law has decreed. The bill, which was almost unanimously approved by members, paves the way for opening up the distribution of shipments weighing below 50 grams to competition from private operators from 2013. Under the law, state-owned operator P&T will continue to operate a universal service for the next seven years, and will have to ensure that mail is delivered five days a week. A sixth day of postal services was ruled out as it would cost an additional 9 million euros per year.

 **Irish Central:** "Mailman gets jail term after robbing \$3 million to feed massive gambling addiction"

 **Gazette:** A visit to the Colesville Post Office highlights why the Postal Service has financial problems. Typically, four service personnel are available at the counter for customers who need personal service, and one automated postal machine is for self-service customers. However, a postal worker often sits on a stool in front of the self-service machine. This worker asks customers for their information and enters it for them. A line forms while this worker slowly enters the information, places the stamp on the item and then carries it to the service counter for mailing. This is self-service?

 **Post & Parcel:** Postal Digest – News from Brazil Post, USPS, Deutsche Post, Latvian Post.




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

- In response to a proposal put forth by the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee ("MTAC") to define the term "mail owner" in the context of completing the "By/For" section of postage statements and in eDocs, the Association for Postal Commerce communicated its concerns over the "By/For" requirement in a letter to the General Counsel of the U.S. Postal Service.
- There quite apparently will be no new postal legislation enacted this year before the 112th Congress adjourns sine die. Any hope for a meaningful postal reform bill will have to be held in abeyance until the 113th Congress comes to town.
- An update on notices published in the Federal Register
- An update on notices regarding changes to the Domestic Mail Manual.
- 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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 **Reason:** Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night could stop these postal employees from stealing checks. Between April and September of this year, 171 Postal Service employees were arrested for theft, willful delay or destruction of mail, according to a new report by the USPS inspector general.


 *From the Federal Register:*

- **Postal Regulatory Commission**
 RULES Product List Updates , 75377–75379 [2012–30605] [\[TEXT\]](#)[\[PDF\]](#)
 NOTICES New International Mail Contracts , 75452–75453 [2012–30607] [\[TEXT\]](#)[\[PDF\]](#)
- **Postal Service**
 RULES **Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products** , 75362–75377 [2012–30256]
[\[TEXT\]](#)[\[PDF\]](#)

 **Forbes:** "United Parcel Service Breaks Above 200-Day Moving Average - Bullish for UPS"

 **New York Times:** The FedEx Corporation said Wednesday that its profit fell 12 percent in the second quarter, less than investors had feared, as it struggled to improve results at its air freight business. FedEx said shipments relating to the holiday shopping season were on track to set a record. See also [Bloomberg](#)


December 19, 2012


 **Advertising Age:** A couple years back I had a conversation with my accountant. He told me "money is dangerous because success can hide failure." This is a good way to describe the conundrum now facing the mobile ad industry. While declarations of growth are abundant, the reality is that most mobile advertising is failing. Large percentage rates of growth look great, but that's coming off a tiny base. The truth is ad dollars are dripping—not flooding—into the mobile, even though nearly 60% of U.S. mobile subscribers now carry a smartphone. This reason for this is not overly cautious marketers, however. It's because the mobile platform simply isn't all it's cracked up to be.





Pushing the Envelope: "Is it Time for a Uniform Approach to Uniforms?"
 Do you think a uniformed shirt for rural carriers would be an overall


positive change for the Postal Service as far as image, branding, marketing, and security? Would a uniformed shirt for rural carriers give employees a larger sense of unity and ownership to the mission of the Postal Service? Or is the idea of a uniform old-fashioned?


 [The Hill](#): Key lawmakers in both parties say the odds of a postal reform measure being enacted this year are growing slimmer and slimmer. With just two weeks left in 2012, congressional negotiators say they are making progress on a range of knotty issues, in their attempts to offer assistance to the cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service (USPS). But Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) is concerned that there's not enough time to deal with postal legislation without an unlikely agreement on unanimous consent, a Democratic leadership aide said. The aide said postal reform was also a long shot to be included in a year-end tax-and-spending agreement. "We're not there yet, and a lot of people outside this group negotiating don't like what they hear our compromises are," Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, told reporters on Tuesday. "And at this stage of the session, if there's any real controversy, there's no time to do it, so I'm pessimistic."


 [eCommerceBytes](#): eBay Canada alerted users to changes coming to the national postal service. In February, Canada Post will introduce two lower-cost trackable services for U.S. and International shipments: Tracked Packet - USA and Tracked Packet - International. At the same time, Canada Post will retire the Small Packet - USA Ground service.


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


 The Belgian post has been hit with a fine yet again for abusing its dominant market position.

 The Dutch government wants to grant regulating authority Opta more powers. Media reports state that business minister Kamp is about to present the parliament an amendment to the postal act, aimed at ensuring fair competition.


 Mail volume in the world's 17 biggest mail markets have dropped by 18% overall between 2006 and 2011. These figures were published by British regulatory authority Ofcom. The biggest decline was seen in Britain, Italy and Spain (all of which lost 25% of mail volume), closely followed by the US (-23%). France and Canada saw a moderate decline of 13%, and Germany's mail volume dropped by 6%. Only emerging markets experienced a growth in volume: Brazil +3%, Russia +12% and China +3%. India as the fourth BRIC country maintained a fairly stable mail volume at -1%.


 Deutsche Post is planning to set up a nationwide long distance coach network. In cooperation with Europe's leading automobile association ADAC, the post intends to 'connect Germany's most important centres nationwide', a company announcement stated last Friday. 'Like no other company in Germany, Deutsche Post stands for nationwide presence and reliability. We also bring our know-how in transportation and fleet management into the market', said Jürgen Gerdes, head of the post's Mail Division. Preliminary launch date is early 2014.


 The Polish post has turned down the sale of the post bank.


 Switzerland's Federal Council has set a date for the reorganisation of the post to a public limited company.


 There appears to be little interest in De-Mail on the part of German private customers.


 Is New Zealand Post undergoing strategic realignment or selling off the family silver?

 The French La Poste and ECT Correios are planning a closer cooperation.


 Digital Post Australia has suffered a setback. After only nine months, Fuji Xerox Document Management Solutions pulled out of the start-up, which uses a digital postbox to compete with the post.


 UPS is currently testing a new delivery concept in the inner city of Hamburg. A container gets loaded up with parcels at a UPS depot and is subsequently taken by lorry and positioned in the exclusive shopping street of "Neuer Wall", from where a number of delivery staff equipped with sack barrows or cargo bicycles carry out deliveries.

 Japan Post and Singapore Post intend to jointly offer fulfilment services to Japanese e-commerce traders in future.

 Could Amazon buy UPS or FedEx? US business magazine Forbes (10.12) speculates on a possible takeover of one of the integrators by the world's leading online trader. However, the

speculation is based only on the estimate that Amazon would thus be able to 'secure the number one position in the same-day delivery market'. Market observers point to the many hurdles that would have to be overcome before a takeover could become reality.

 Poste Italiane and China Post have signed a financial services cooperation agreement. CEO Massimo Sarmi of PI and Li Guohua, China Post's president, put their names under an agreement that will enable clients of both post banks to transfer money directly from an account in one bank to the other.

 TNT Express Australia is currently testing a cooperation concept together with ParcelPoint, a parcel shop network. Parcels that could not be delivered because the addressee was out will over the next three months be dropped off by TNT in those approx. 1,000 retail outlets that offer ParcelPoint services.





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.)


[Postal Technology International](#): DHL Global Forwarding and Freight, the air and ocean freight specialist within Deutsche Post DHL, has announced it will move to the new Airport Business Park development area at Budapest Airport. The company already has its cargo facility at the airport and is moving these two off-airport branches to the Business Park area to save costs and streamline operations in Hungary.


 [From the Federal Register](#): **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** Meetings; Sunshine Act , 75199-75200 [2012-30606] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)] New International Mail Contracts , 75200 [2012-30487] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]


December 18, 2012

 [Mid-Hudson News](#): Monday was the busiest day of the year for the US Postal Service with 17.9 billion cards and letters cancelled nationwide and 700,000 in the Mid-Hudson Valley. On a normal day, about 300,000 cards and letters are processed. In recent years, first class mail has declined all across the system, but package deliveries are up, said Postal Services spokesman George Flood.

 [Slovenian Press Agency](#): Market liberalisation of postal services, competition and the heavy devaluation of the share of the NKBM bank compelled Pošta Slovenije to downgrade its projected 2012 profit from EUR 17.2m to EUR 6.4m, said the postal services operator's general manager Boris Novak.

 [PrintWeek](#): Bosses at the Communication Workers Union (CWU) have reiterated the union's threat to get postal workers to boycott mail from downstream access (DSA) providers ahead of a ballot in the New Year.

 [WLS](#): A former U.S. Postal Service mail carrier was sentenced Tuesday to 21/2 years in federal prison for stealing more than \$275,000 in donations that were mailed to a charity along his route in west suburban Berwyn.

 [Government Executive](#): Unions representing U.S. Postal Service workers are staging a hunger strike this week to urge Congress to avoid dramatic changes to the mail delivery agency as part of any new legislation in the lame-duck session. The six-day hunger strike -- which started Monday and lasts through Saturday -- is meant to symbolize the proposal to eliminate Saturday mail delivery, taking the Postal Service from a six to a five-day schedule. It is the second such strike by USPS advocates this year.



[In a letter to the Postal Service's General Counsel](#), the Association for Postal Commerce said that "a proposal to the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee ("MTAC") to redefine the term 'mail owner' in the context of completing the 'By/For' section of postage statements and in eDocs" was of concern to the Association for Postal Commerce and its members. PostCom noted that its members "seek assurances that however 'mail owner' is defined, the Postal Service will not use information provided regarding the mail owner for proprietary purposes."



DMM Advisory: USPS Introduces SingleSource ACS™. ACS™ is an on-piece address correction service that allows mailers to receive change-of-address (COA) and other reasons for non-delivery electronically and reduces the number of manual (hardcopy) address notifications. Coming in January 2013, SingleSource ACS™ removes the need to handle different ACS notice file formats when dealing with Full Service ACS™, OneCode ACS®, and Traditional ACS™. With SingleSource ACS, all of the ACS notices are combined into a single file format and provided to mailers via Electronic Product Fulfillment (EPF). SingleSource ACS can:

- Provide ACS notices within 24 hours of receipt at USPS National Customer Service Center
- Fulfill and provide monthly billing for non-Full Service qualified records
- Include Full-Service, OneCode, and Traditional ACS in the OneCode ACS format in a single file
- Provide a daily download from Electronic Product Fulfillment.

For more information, please refer to the new SingleSource ACS Technical Guide available on RIBBS at <https://ribbs.usps.gov/acs>

******* There will be no new postal reform law this year. Next year, all will begin anew. *******



Federal News Radio: President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) may be closing in on a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff. It's one sure to make federal retirees frown. The White House's new proposal includes a measure that could reduce future cost-of-living adjustments for federal and military retirees and anyone who gets Social Security. Payments could shrink by 0.3 percent each year.



TechCrunch: Europe is fast approaching a point at which broadband is becoming ubiquitous among consumers, and with it is coming a surge of popularity for online news, social media, and e-commerce. Today the European Commission released details for how European countries have been adopting broadband, and what they are using it for. The top-line figures: in 2012 72% of households now have a broadband connection. And in a survey of what it is that people do online, the most popular activity is newsreading, at 60%.




Smartgrid: Pitney Bowes released a white paper that offers strategies that can help mailers and service bureaus influence the effectiveness of direct mail solutions for Standard Mail. According to a release, the white paper, titled "The Direct Answer," highlights recent changes and solutions in technology and mail operations, and offers insight on how new direct mail techniques and technologies can help organizations affect workflows, increase response rates and lower costs.




Post & Parcel: TNT Post UK has won the chance for a Judicial Review over Royal Mail's exemptions from charging business customers VAT. A High Court Judge decided last week that the subsidiary of Dutch postal service PostNL should be allowed to challenge the protections that Royal Mail has against the 20% sales tax. The challenge refers to both the VAT exemption Royal Mail has on "Downstream Access" mail and when providing end-to-end delivery services.





Daily Mirror: Last-minute festive post could be thrown into chaos by a Royal Mail strike on Friday. Postal engineers - who carry out maintenance and repairs at sites across the UK - are due to take action on what is traditionally one of the busiest days before Christmas. Their strike could delay deliveries of presents from online retailers and hold up ordinary post too. Although postmen and women themselves are not striking, it is understood some are unwilling to cross picket lines. An overwhelming 92% of Communication Workers' Union members who were balloted voted for strike action. And there could be travel misery as rail workers plan a series of stoppages across Britain in the run-up to Christmas.


 [Linex](#): While dozing over some catalogs that had arrived in the mail, I was visited by three Postal Service ghosts: the Ghosts of Postal Past, Postal Present, and Postal Future.


 [The Forecaster](#): A plan to reduce post office hours early next year is generating opposition from some residents, and from Maine's two U.S. representatives. Chebeague is one of several Maine island communities where the U.S. Postal Service, in an effort to reduce costs, has proposed cutting post office hours from eight hours a day to four or even two, according to U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree and Mike Michaud. In a letter to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe, the two Maine Democrats said they are "very concerned that limiting operating hours to such a level threatens the ability of these islands to continue as full-time communities." Besides Chebeague, the lawmakers said post offices on Long and Swans islands, Cranberry Isles, Isleboro and North Haven are at risk.


December 17, 2012

 [Bloomberg Businessweek](#): Russia plans to revamp the postal system next year to boost the country's \$10 billion Internet commerce business and help companies including eBay Inc. (EBAY) and Ozon.ru to improve deliveries. The Telecommunications Ministry plans to submit a draft proposal to the Parliament in the first half of 2013, spokeswoman Ekaterina Osadchaya said by phone today. The Russian Post should improve its distribution network for e-commerce, according to the ministry. "The main problem with the Russian Post is its unpredictability," Vladimir Dolgov, head of eBay for Russia, said in an interview. "Sometimes it delivers in decent time, but there have been cases when deliveries from the U.S. took six to eight weeks."

 [Financial Times](#): The coalition is pressing ahead with plans for Royal Mail's 150,000 staff to own at least 10 percent of the business as it accelerates preparations to privatise the state-owned postal operator.


 [The Moscow News](#): Last year's turnover for Russian post was estimated at 309.4 billion rubles, with 75 percent of deliveries – physical goods, according to a study conducted by the Russian Association of Electronic Communications and Higher School of Economics' Research Institute. Experts predict a 27-percent growth in 2012. However, Pochta Rossii is also seen as hampering online retail market growth by its ineffectiveness, forcing many companies to organize their own delivery services. Last year Russians bought 30-billion-rubles worth of goods from abroad. However, delivery times for Russia are very long. Pochta Rossii's own development strategy for 2012-2016 states that there are fewer post offices in these countries per household, and in Russia 11,000 offices, or a quarter of the total, have to be closed. However, they are still operating according to Soviet norms, and 392,000 people work for Pochta Rossii (most of them members of the All-Russia Front.) The Russian postal service is trying to make money on selling various items in post offices (13 percent of its income) and provide financial services (40 percent), but several months ago they were criticized for offering small loans at a rate of 2,800 percent a year.

 [Plymouth Herald](#): Postal workers afraid of the Royal Mail's privatisation are holding a protest today. Unions are angry that posties already deliver piles of rivals' mail – and are calling for Ofcom to step in. Private postal company mail has rocketed in recent years and now makes up 45 per cent of letter volumes delivered by Royal Mail.


 [BBC](#): About 100 postal workers at a delivery office in south Bristol are staging a second one-day strike. They first walked out for 24 hours on 10 December after talks between Royal Mail and union officials broke down. The Communication Workers Union (CWU) says its members are on strike because they are being asked to do more work with fewer people.





PostCom @PostCom2 #usps Reminder: January 28, 2013, is almost here...are you ready? To be eligible for automation discounts you must use the IMb.


 [Scoop](#): New Zealand Post, the state-owned postal service, agreed to sell its 35 percent stake in Datacom Group to the New Zealand Superannuation Fund for \$142 million to repay debt and bolster its capital.

December 16, 2012


 [Washington Examiner](#): After lots of effort it looked like 2012 might finally be the year Congress passed legislation making major reforms at the U.S. Postal Service, a quasi-private corporation owned by the U.S. government that has been burning through money faster than a clean-energy company with a grant from the Obama Administration. House Oversight chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., has been working for almost two years on a plan for real change at the U.S.P.S. Issa would give the U.S. Postmaster General the authority to make many of the same kind of tough calls a private-sector CEO must make in difficult times. The Issa approach is the right way to go. It may be unhelpful to the postal unions but it's definitely the right approach to "save the company" without triggering another billion dollar taxpayer-funded bailout because of someone's legacy costs. It also would create an important legislative precedent for dealing with other bloated federal agencies and departments.


 [Daily Freeman](#): The old-fashioned custom of sending Christmas cards in an increasingly Digital world just isn't what it used to be — at least, according to industry figures. Last year, U.S. consumers bought 1.5 billion holiday cards, said the Greeting Card Association, a Washington, D.C.-based trade organization. By contrast, 2.7 billion Christmas cards were sold in 1995, according to the group.


 [Washington Post](#): Despite ongoing talks between Senate Democrats and House Republicans, it appears unlikely that lawmakers will strike a deal in the closing weeks of the year to assist the ailing U.S. Postal Service, which is seeking changes to restrictions on its delivery schedule and pension payment schedule.



 [Punch](#): The Nigeria Postal Service has set a 24-hour mail delivery for 80 percent of mails posted within the Lagos zone of the postal organisation.

December 15, 2012


 [The Telegraph](#): The Christmas card may not have realised it yet, but it is dead. Well, dying. Let's just say it is drifting in and out of consciousness while muttering incomprehensibly to itself. The main reason, this year at least, is the dramatic increase in the price of second-class stamps, from 36p to 50p. The average number of cards sent per person is expected to fall by a quarter as a direct consequence. I like you, but not enough to spend 50p on you – 36p, yes, 50p, no. There are ways around stamps, of course. I heard of a gathering the other day at which half the guests brought along Christmas cards to hand deliver, while the other half looked on in slight disapproval, as if this wasn't really playing the game.

 [Financial Times](#): Royal Mail has appointed three investment banks to advise it as preparations to privatise the world's oldest postal service step up a gear. Barclays, which had already been advising the state-owned company, has been confirmed as its adviser, but Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs have been brought in to provide extra support.


 [MSN Money](#): The deliveries of letters, documents, packages and cargo with a destination or origin or both lying outside the U.S. constitute the international delivery segment of United Parcel Service, and we believe this segment will drive the company's long-term growth given the growth of international trade and the quicker economic growth of emerging markets. In contrast, the domestic U.S. delivery segment, which is currently the most valuable segment, will see comparatively lower rates of growth going forward. And due to the very nature of UPS's business, its rate of growth in a region is highly correlated with the rate of growth of that region's economy as higher business activity translates to greater business communication and merchandise transport.


  [Louisville Business Journal](#): The shipping war between United Parcel Service Inc. and FedEx Corp. is heating up this holiday season, the Wall Street Journal reports. According to the newspaper, each company is offering additional services to win over consumers. UPS is pushing its My Choice service, which offers up-to-date shipping alerts. FedEx, in the meantime, is touting its Saturday service.

December 14, 2012


 [DMM Advisory](#): **IMB™ Services Update**. 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.

 [Shanghai Daily](#): There are many signs that traditional media are no longer what they once were. As newspaper sales fall, news stands are being closed, print editions are ending, and those media remaining are forced to aggressively diversify to stay afloat. The most ominous sign is that traditional newspapers are no longer looked up to as a source of information. The cyber world not only outshines traditional media as whistle blowers, but is also taking over the duty traditionally expected of disciplinary authority. While it is yet early to foresee its long term impacts, there are signs this new paradigm shift is already causing considerable damage to traditional media. It already poses a serious challenge to the concept of professional journalism, as practiced by trained reporters, rather than the so-called citizen journalists. As traditional media as a commercial concept has become passe, quality newspapers and magazines can only be sustained by non-commercial considerations. The sooner our politicians wake up to this, the better.


 [Post & Parcel](#): Mail volumes have fallen by 18% in the world's 17 major markets since 2006, most rapidly in the UK, Italy, Spain and North America. While mail volumes grew slightly in recent years within emerging economies of Brazil, Russia and China, among the world's other major mail markets volumes fell by 67bn items between 2006 and 2011. In the UK, Italy and Spain mail volume fell more than 25%, while in North America volumes fell 23% during that time, although as the world's largest market, the United States had the largest volume decline in terms of mailpieces. The UK had the largest absolute volume decline in Europe. Russia has seen the biggest growth in mail volumes in the last few years, up 12%. Mail revenues among the 17 major nations studied fell by an average of 5% since 2006, with the United States worst off with a 12% drop in mail revenue. China, Russia and Brazil were the only major markets where mail revenues grew from 2006 to 2011. China achieved an 86% increase in its mail revenues over the study period, while Brazil saw the largest monetary gain in revenues, of GBP 1.3bn.

 [Post & Parcel](#): PostNL has agreed to join the Sprinter Network, the cross-border overnight road transport network for priority letters, as coordinated by the International Post Corporation.

 [Fiji Broadcasting Corporation](#): There will be an increase in domestic postal rates come Monday. Post Fiji says the postal rate increase is for domestic letters, domestic sea/surface parcels and domestic air parcels. International postal rates for letters and parcels will remain unchanged.

 [The Diplomat](#): January 1, 2013, won't be a symbolic day just as the beginning of the New Year, but for the Romanian postal market as well, as it marks the beginning of liberalization. While other European states, such as Sweden in 1993, and Great Britain in 2005, long ago gave up the monopoly of a state-run postal company, Romania has joined the group of European countries that have opted for a gradual liberalization of the market, which includes Italy, Spain and Greece.

 [Philippine Information Agency](#): The Philippine Postal Corporation (PhilPost) has launched its prepaid postal payment service. In a statement, Postmaster General Ma. Josefina M. Dela Cruz said PhilPost is now involved in cash and parcel deliveries besides the traditional mail.

 [Zambia Daily Mail](#): Professional Life Assurance Limited has partnered with Zambia Postal Services Corporation (ZAMPOST) to offer free life assurance cover to all Swiftcash customers in the country.



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

- The Postal Regulatory Commission has reviewed the revised Standard Mail pricing proposals, submitted by the Postal Service on November 26, 2012. Based on its review of the record, including parties' comments, the Commission finds provisionally that the revised planned price adjustments do not violate the price cap in 39 U.S.C. 3622(d); are consistent with, or justified by an exception to, the workshare discount limitations in

39 U.S.C. 3622(e); establish prices that satisfy 39 U.S.C. 3626; and satisfy applicable Commission directives.

- The Postal Regulatory Commission has approved the mail classification schedule descriptions and prices for nonpostal service products.
- The House Republican Conference votes this week on a slate of new Committee chairs for the 113th Congress, which begins in January 2013.
- David Hendel of Husch Blackwell describes for us the visits he recently received from the Ghosts of Postal Past, Present, and Future.
- Consumers continue to favor offline ads, digital formats lose ground. MTAC presentations now available. 23,600 postal employees take buyout. Postal scam impersonates state government. Officials: USPS's advice for bulk mailers 'ridiculous.' USPS plans to sell magazine subscriptions. Online retailers pay shipping costs to keep sales going. Time's 'Person of the Year': your UPS driver? Catalog mailings increase, provide USPS revenue boost. FedEx overcharged customers for years, sealed e-mail says. Taub to become next PRC vice chair. Carper to be named Chairman of Senate committee on postal issues. Junk mail relief - bad for business.
- Updates from the Federal Register that affect the mailing industry.
- 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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Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC)


Notes from the MTAC Focus Group sessions were posted under the heading "Quarterly MTAC Notes and Slides" on the MTAC page of the Postal Service's RIBBS website: <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=mtac>. They are organized by focus area/track, each of which includes notes for all four class of mail sessions: Mail Preparation & Entry (Operations); Visibility/Service Performance Measurement; Payment & Acceptance, and Product Development.


 Chief Marketing and Sales Officer Nagisa Manabe has announced a restructured Marketing and Sales organization, focused to achieve growth in both the Postal Service and the overall mailing and shipping industry.

- **New Products and Innovation** — **Gary Reblin** will serve as vice president, New Products and Innovation, a role that will include product development for Direct Mail and Periodicals, Emerging Technologies, New Business Opportunities, Product Integration, Shipping Products, Transaction and Correspondence Mail, Product Support, and Innovation.
- **Brand Marketing** — Manabe announced the creation of a new marketing department, which will be led by an **Executive Director of Brand Marketing, Dan Barrett**, currently manager, New Business Opportunities, has agreed to serve as acting director in the short term. This new organization is responsible for marketing USPS products and services with a focus on Small Business, Shipping, Mail, Market Research, Retail and Digital Marketing, and Marketing Services.
- **Sales** — **Cliff Rucker** will continue as vice president, Sales, overseeing functional roles and responsibilities that include Business Customer Intelligence, Field Sales Strategy and Contracts, National Business Alliances, National Operations Integration, National Sales, Sales Operations and Planning, National Strategic Accounts, and Customer Retention.
- **Channel Access** — **Kelly Sigmon** will continue in her role as vice president, Channel Access. The group's key focus will include Retail Alliances, Channel Management and Strategy, Retail Business Technology, and Retail Services.

- **Pricing** — **Jeff Williamson** will continue as vice president, Pricing. This organization consists of Competitive Products Pricing; Pricing and Classification Service Center; Product Classification, Pricing; and, Pricing and Pricing Innovations.
- **Global Business** — **Giselle Valera** will continue as vice president, Global Business, overseeing Global Business Solutions, Global Business Management, International Postal Affairs, International Strategy and Business Development Support, and Asia Pacific Relations.
- **Stamp Services and Corporate Licensing** — Stamp Services and Corporate Licensing have been combined to leverage and drive opportunities for growth of stamps as the Postal Service's most visible brand. **Susan McGowan**, currently senior manager of Public Relations and Promotions, will serve as director, Stamp Services and Corporate Licensing. The new organization consists of Stamp Fulfillment Services, Stamp Manufacturing, Stamp Products and Exhibitions, Stamp Development, and Corporate Licensing. Stephen Kearney is moving to Sales to lead the Customer Retention group.

December 13, 2012


 [BusinessWire](#): Pitney Bowes technology was selected by the U.S. Postal Service® (USPS) to begin providing support and maintenance of its network of postal meters. A 6-year contract valued at up to \$32 million for meters and meter supplies will enable the Postal Service to nationally standardize its meter needs using a single leading edge design. The contract also includes the provision of systems and support to meet the U.S. Joint Military Postal Command's needs nationally and internationally.


 [MyPrintResource](#): Along with competing media platforms and the economy, the graphic arts community is faced with another critical issue; the public perception that the use of paper (vs. digital) is bad for the environment. Paper companies and allied advocacy groups are fighting back, employing a range of tactics to dispel the myth.





PostCom Members!! : The latest issue of the [PostCom Quarterly](#) has been posted online. In this issue:


- The year in review
- Transition from paper to electronic to virtual mail documentation
- The roadmap ahead
- Improving the customer experience
- AN address is not what always meets the eye!
- When the vote counts, mail delivers
- USPS 2013 winter network consolidations
- It fits. It ships. PMOD
- Kathy's Korner


 [UNRIC](#): Private-public partnerships can play an effective part in increasing disaster preparedness and response, according to UN officials and representatives of global corporations who took part in a debate in New York this week. The event was hosted by the missions of Turkey and Germany to the United Nations, with the aim of highlighting the role of the private sector in reducing the suffering caused by natural hazards.


 [Post & Parcel](#): Polish Post said today that its courier division, Pocztex, is now offering free insurance for all parcels.

 [Times of Malta](#): The September 2012 full-year results published by Malta post plc last week may have surprised many investors in more than one way. Pre-tax profits declined by 32 per cent to €2.1 million – but many market participants possibly expected a worse result given the 52 per cent drop in profits in the first half of the financial year and the directors' warning on August 17 that the rate of profitability decline may accelerate until the revised tariffs are reintroduced.


 [Washington Post](#): Sen. Tom Carper, a Delaware Democrat who is among those pressing for legislation to reform the U.S. Postal Service's finances, has launched a website with an eye-catching ticker aimed at pressuring House Republicans to act: It tracks the agency's losses to the dollar.

 [Bloomberg](#): This isn't the kind of help the U.S. Postal Service had in mind when it asked Congress to pass a bill affecting it before adjourning for the year. The House, which hasn't acted on a broad postal reform bill proposed almost a year ago, today ended a requirement that financial institutions send customers a privacy notice each year — via U.S. Mail — unless they have changed privacy policies. "Not only will this legislation end the redundant mailings, but it also will make it more likely that people will pay closer attention to important mailings they receive from their financial institutions because they are receiving fewer," the bill's sponsor, Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, a Missouri Republican, said. Luetkemeyer, in a statement last year, called on the service to "adapt to meet the challenges of the future" while also chiding them not to cut service to his rural Missouri constituents. *[EdNote: This is just another manifestation of that Washington phenomenon called "invincible ignorance."]*

 [South China Morning Post](#): Lance Armstrong resisted turning over records sought by US Postal Service investigators, then tried to keep the inquiry under seal and out of the public eye, according to recently released court documents. Last year, Postal Service officials investigating Armstrong and his teams for doping wanted records from his team management groups, financial statements, training journals and correspondence with former training consultant Michele Ferrari.


 *At the Postal Regulatory Commission*: The [Postal Regulatory Commission has announced](#) that Commissioner Robert G. Taub will succeed Commissioner Nanci Langley in the role of Vice Chairman effective January 1, 2013. Taub was unanimously selected by his colleagues. Under PRC policy, Taub will serve as Vice Chairman for a term of one year.




 [Sen. Tom Carper](#) (D-Del.) has been named the anticipated Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The anticipated committee assignments are subject to approval by the full Democratic caucus and approval of an organizing resolution by the full Senate when the 113th Congress convenes in January.





The deadline for MAILCOM 2013 advanced registration is December 15, 2012. Register by Dec. 15 and save \$150 off the regular rate. MAILCOM 2013 will be held April 28-May 1, 2013 at the Tropicana Grand Exhibition Center in Atlantic City. Over 175 seminars, keynotes, and workshops will be presented. The exhibition will feature 100+ booths of the latest mail systems technology. Super Bowl Champion Joe Namath will be one of four keynotes. He speaks Tuesday, April 30 at 12:00 pm. Plus, over 15 tracks of education will be offered as part of the management certificate program. Sign up today: To register: www.mailcom.org To book your hotel room (recommended): [Tropicana Hotel Room](#) Reservations Questions: Call 1-732-280-8865 or email lance.humphries@mailcom.org The website is being updated daily and will have course descriptions posted shortly.


 [Tampa Bay Times](#): "Post office fails to deliver for Toys for Tots"


December 12, 2012


 [The Botswana Gazette](#): The Botswana Post's workforce transformation drive has seen more than two thirds of its employees applying for the early exit packages as the quasi state enterprise prepares for the merger with the Botswana Savings Bank (BSB).


 [4-Traders](#): Pitney Bowes Inc. (NYSE: PBI) today announced that Debbie Pfeiffer has been appointed president of Pitney Bowes Presort Services. Pfeiffer will be responsible for the Presort Services business within Mail Services and will report to Vicki O'Meara, president of Pitney Bowes Services Solutions. Jay Oxtton, president of Pitney Bowes Mail Services, will retire from the company at the end of February 2013.


 [Post & Parcel](#): Ministers in the Netherlands introduced new postal legislation today that they say will improve competition in the Dutch postal market. Economic affairs minister Henk Kamp said the bill proposes measures that would allow the country's postal regulator, the OPTA, to intervene in the market much earlier in the event that mail businesses face unfair competition. At the moment, the OPTA can only take action against national postal service PostNL when there have been complaints from rivals about an abuse of PostNL's dominant position in the market.

 [Warsaw Business Journal](#): The management board at state-run post office monopoly Poczta Polska has rejected an offer from PKO BP for the purchase of its subsidiary bank, Bank Pocztowy, [ekonomia24.pl](#) reported.


 [Post & Parcel](#): Belgian competition authorities have slapped national postal service bpost with an extra EUR 37.4m fine for abusing its position in the domestic market. The move follows a EUR 2.3m fine imposed by the country's postal regulator back in July 2011, against which bpost is still appealing.


 [Post & Parcel](#): Scandinavian postal operator PostNord is in the hunt for a new chief executive, after Lars Idermark resigned his position. Idermark who has been in charge for two years at the parent group of Sweden's Posten AB and Denmark's Post Danmark, has decided to take the president/CEO role at the forestry group Södra.


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


 The Communication Workers Union (CWU) threatens to radicalise its resistance against the privatisation of Royal Mail.


 A regional manager of the China Post has been executed for corruption.


 Deutsche Post has to pay a fine for the delivery of unrequested advertisements.


 Private postal operator Pin Mail failed with its action for damages against the Federal Republic of Germany.


 Given the full opening of the postal market on January 1 2013, the Romanian post office plans to expand into new business areas. According to CEO Ion Smeeianu, Posta Romana should offer insurance brokerage and financial services. This could be offered in the framework of a partnership with a bank or through an own postal bank.


 Taiwan's government ordered Chunghwa Post's to cut the budget. In the middle of last week, the country's parliament decided to reduce the post's expenses by around 15m euros next year. The decision was triggered by Chunghwa Post's practise to distribute unused funds as bonuses to its employees.

 Yamato, Japan's leading CEP and logistics service provider again recorded growing volumes in its parcel business in November.


 Former parcel service managers want to establish an independent parcel shop network in the UK.

 The Polish post office struggles to meet the quality targets for standard mail. With 70.8% of letters delivered on the next working day, Poczta Polska remained significantly below the quality target (D+1=82%) for its premium product Priority Mail ('Priorytetowe') in the second quarter of the current year.


 It was disclosed now that beside the accession of Spain (CEP-News 49/12) other agreements were also signed on the Postal Euromed conference in Marrakesh. According to these agreements, the Italian and the Moroccan post will establish a money transfer system between the two countries. Poste Italiane already struck similar agreements with the Vatican post and the Maltese post.


 Cameroon's postal operator announced the launch of an e-Post project. In the course of the project, a central data centre will be built and all post offices will be connected with each other inter alia.


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.)

 [At the Postal Regulatory Commission: MC2010-24 Order No. 1575](#) - Order Approving Mail Classification Schedule Descriptions and Prices for Nonpostal Service Products.
http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85824/Order_No_1575.pdf


December 11, 2012


 [Bloomberg](#): FedEx Corp. (FDX) has been "systematically overcharging" customers by billing businesses and government offices at higher residential rates, a company sales executive said in an internal e-mail unsealed in a lawsuit. "I have brought this to attention of many people over the past five or six years, including more than one managing director, and no action has been taken to address it," Alan Elam wrote in an e-mail on Aug. 2, 2011. "My belief is that we are choosing not to fix this issue because it is worth so much money to FedEx," Elam said in a separate e-mail that day. The e-mails were unsealed yesterday in a class-action, or group, lawsuit claiming FedEx Corp. and FedEx Corporate Services Inc. overcharged commercial and government customers as much as \$3 each for millions of packages delivered. The plaintiffs, who claim violations of federal civil racketeering laws, seek three times the amount of the alleged overcharges in their lawsuit.

 [The Record](#): It's supposed to be a time when festive packages are delivered with care and yuletide greeting cards are opened with glee. But for some Canada Post customers — and the postal employees who have to deal with their complaints — it's not exactly the hap-happiest time of the year. As the volume of letters and parcels being delivered by the Crown corporation reaches massive levels over the holidays so, too, does the griping. When Canada Post issued a release on its Facebook page Dec. 3, urging people to check international send-by dates for Christmas packages, there were dozens of not-so-kind responses from people bitterly upset about lost parcels, late deliveries and high postage costs.


 [Nooga](#): An increasing number of young professionals may use catalogs for Christmas shopping, and — aside from helping retail sales — catalog mailings also provide a boost to the United States Postal Service, which has been struggling with budget woes in recent years. "Mail order catalogs bring in much-needed revenue for the Postal Service," USPS spokesman David Walton said via email. CNBC reported that, according to the Direct Marketing Association, companies spent 10.4 billion on direct mail catalogs in 2011. That's an increase of \$9.9 billion in 2010. And more and more young adults who earn more than \$50,000 a year said they will use catalogs for their holiday shopping this year, according to CNBC and the National Retail Federation.


 [At the Postal Regulatory Commission: Docket No. R2013-1: The Postal Regulatory Commission has approved the Postal Service's adjusted Standard Mail flat rates.](#)

 [Forbes](#): TIME's 'Person Of The Year': Your UPS Driver? It's not out of the question, and here's why. Global e-commerce sales may reach \$1 trillion next year, growing at a rate of 19.4% annually. To handle that demand, a Global B2D (Business-To-Doorstep) Supply Chain is growing at breakneck-speed in hopes of meeting every package, logistic, fulfillment, payment, enterprise resource planning (ERP), radio-frequency ID (RFID), and reverse logistic need.


 [Wall Street Journal](#): The U.S. Department of Justice may not be finished with Lance Armstrong. While federal prosecutors dropped a criminal fraud investigation against Mr. Armstrong, DOJ officials in Washington are still considering whether to join a whistleblower lawsuit filed by his former teammate, Floyd Landis. Under the whistleblower law, the government can intervene in Mr. Landis's suit, essentially pursuing the case on its own behalf. According to people with knowledge of the case, the Postal Service's Office of the Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Justice have been investigating Mr. Landis's allegations and continue to weigh whether to join


the case. Though the case is technically convened on behalf of the government, Mr. Landis stands to collect up to 30% of any money the government recovers. If found to have violated the False Claims Act, Mr. Armstrong and others named in the suit would be liable for triple the amount of the sponsorship.


 [Fresh Business Thinking](#): According to a survey from Postcode Anywhere of 3,000 consumers across Canada, the US and the UK, UK consumers are more satisfied with online shopping than our transatlantic cousins. The findings come as no surprise to Guy Mucklow, CEO of Postcode Anywhere, who says that it is reflective of an address infrastructure that is far less evolved than that of the UK, with an alarming lack of attention to the data and the quality of technology used on e-commerce websites: "While the US Postal Service address database gives very comprehensive property level coverage of the country and is easy to license, it's fair to say that most Americans are parochial when it comes to addressing."


 [Sunatimes](#): Although, all infrastructures in Somalia were absolutely grounded during the war, Information, Post and Telecommunication minister Abdullah Elmoge Hirsi remained optimistic that the country's postal service will resume work as soon as possible. Reviving the country's postal service will be of great significance to the local population which has been forced to use old ways to send letters and parcels for the last two decades.


December 10, 2012


 [PRNewswire](#): Direct mail remains a medium of choice for holiday shoppers and marketers alike. And enhanced with mobile and web technologies like QR codes, personalized URLs and augmented reality, it's engaging consumers like never before.


 [AllAfrica](#): As Liberia gradually creeps on the pathway of the technological revolution, Government is endeavoring to digitize its operations at every level of the public sector. The latest is the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication which has announced a move from analog to digital.

 [The Columbus Dispatch](#): "Online retailers pay shipping costs to keep sales going. Shoppers have come to expect postage to be paid."


 [ITV](#): Postal workers at a depot in South Bristol are on strike today in a row over conditions. Staff at the Mead Street sorting office in Bedminster say their workloads are unacceptable. This is the first in a series of strikes before Christmas, and was called after talks between the Communication Workers Union and Royal Mail broke down.

 [The Herald](#): POSTAL workers are preparing for a day of action to highlight fears of the Royal Mail's privatisation. Unions are angry that posties already deliver piles of rivals' mail – and are calling for Ofcom to step in.


 [Post & Parcel](#): John Modd interviews Wagner Pinheiro de Oliveira, president of Brazil Post (Correios), which hosts the next World Mail and Express Americas conference, in February 2013. Brazil is now ranked as one of the most important economies, not just in the Americas, but globally. The national postal operator, Empresa de Correios e Telegrafos (ECT), is also recognised as one of the world's leading posts.

 [WCSI](#): Four additional Village Post Offices will open in the Greater Indiana District in the same week as Shelbyville. Tyner opens on Tuesday, Dugger on Thursday, and Cannelton and Dubois open on Friday. The 100th Village Post Office in the nation opens in Linden on Wednesday, December 19.

December 9, 2012

 [The Financial Express](#): The Department of Posts (India Post), plans to develop a business structure for selling postal and postal financial products online. It also plans to sell non-postal products, particularly village industries and small and medium enterprise products, online. Pegged at an initial cost of around R100 crore, India Post has kept the roll out of e-commerce services as one of the top priorities under the 12th Five Year Plan period. India Post will also


create an e-market place consisting of e-shops setup by suppliers chosen through a comprehensive selection process, involving quality testing. "Tie-ups with one or more e-commerce majors would be put in place, which would help India Post manage the portal on a day-to-day basis and to market the same," a senior official said.


 [Dead Tree Edition](#) The U.S. Postal Service, at the urging of publishers, is planning to sell magazine subscriptions on its web site and to promote them at post offices.


December 8, 2012





[D. Edward Tree](#) @DeadTreeEdition Just joined fairly new Printing Impressions group on LinkedIn -- good discussions and (so far) no spam.



 [Wall Street Journal](#): 'You're looking at the premium package, right?' Companies today are increasingly tying people's real-life identities to their online browsing habits. The widening ability to associate people's real-life identities with their browsing habits marks a privacy milestone, further blurring the already unclear border between our public and private lives. In pursuit of ever more precise and valuable information about potential customers, tracking companies are redefining what it means to be anonymous.


 [The Telegraph](#): Royal Mail plans to cut by more than half the maximum amount of compensation that customers can get for damaged or lost post, just months after raising the price of stamps.

 [Bethel Patch](#): Attorney General George Jepsen and state Department of Social Services Commissioner Roderick Bremby are cautioning consumers about a postal scam involving fraudulent sweepstakes award notifications accompanied by a bogus government check bearing the State of Connecticut seal and purporting to be from the Department of Social Services. The attorney general said his office had received several complaints about the scam. Typically the award notification arrives in an envelope stamped in another state, or another country. The notification instructs the "winner" to deposit the fraudulent check into their bank account and immediately withdraw money to wire under the pretense that the wire transfer will cover administrative fees or taxes on the purported winnings. The "check" eventually bounces and the consumer is out the full amount, including the money wired to the scammers. "While the check may look real, it is fraudulent and should not be deposited," said Attorney General Jepsen. "This scheme is the latest variation on the check overpayment and money-wiring scams that have plagued consumers in recent years."


 [Bluefield Daily Telegraph](#): The U.S. Postal Service is asking local businesses that mail in bulk to consider mailing earlier or driving to Charleston for speedy first-class delivery as part of the second phase of consolidating the Bluefield Mail Processing and Distributing Center. In a letter sent to area businesses, the postal service requested bulk mailing businesses either have their first-class mail received by 3 p.m. or "considering entering your mail at the Charleston facility" on or by Feb. 1, 2013 when the second phase of the consolidation of the facility begins. Mayor Linda Whalen said it is "ludicrous" to expect Bluefield businesses or anyone in the local area to make a four-hour round-trip drive to Charleston to send mail. Delegate-elect John Shotts said he thinks it is "unrealistic" to suggest anyone drive from Bluefield to Charleston for mail delivery. U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., also described asking Mercer County businesses to take their mail to Charleston as "ridiculous." "It underscores just how impractical some of these of these mail facility consolidations are," Rahall said. "I have been pushing back against these closures and consolidations since the beginning and I am somewhat encouraged that, at least for now, the postal service has backed away from closing so many of our post offices as originally proposed. Although, we still must contend with reduced hours and the loss of our mail processing facility in Bluefield. I will keep pushing hard and I encourage residents to do the same in preserving the mail delivery services we are entitled to under the law."


 [Washington Post](#): *From an address by Yahoo! CEO Marissa Mayer to the Corporate Executive Board -- "Great retention metrics could tell us that we've become the Postal Service." [EdNote: I don't think she said that out of admiration of the Postal Service as a corporate model.]*


  **NASDAQ:** United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS) is planning to sell TNT Express' assets to the European Union to meet the antitrust requirements for the completion of the impending acquisition of the latter. The two companies have reportedly decided upon selling TNT business units to 13 countries of the European Union and provide access to UPS' networks in order to secure the \$6.8 billion acquisition deal. The divestiture, which will resolve UPS' acquisition-related concerns, is now subject to customer and competitor feedback. It will also help the European Commission in giving the green signal to the biggest deal in the 105-year history of UPS.


 **Federal Times:** A huge U.S. Postal Service early-out offer is attracting thousands more takers than an identical pitch three years ago. As of Nov. 28, about 23,600 full-time postal workers had signed up for the offer, which combines a \$15,000 buyout with an early retirement package for longer-serving employees, according to a spokeswoman for the American Postal Workers Union. Virtually all of the approximately 188,000 clerks, mechanics and other employees represented by the APWU are eligible.

December 7, 2012

 **Courier, Express, and Postal Observer:** Dan Goodwill, the President of Dan Goodwill & Associates, a leading provider of freight management consulting services to shippers, carriers and 3PL's throughout North America has just posted his list of the top 10 transportation stories of 2012. While a nearly all of them affect the U.S. and Canadian competitors in the courier express and postal (CEP) industry, the following are likely to have the biggest impact on the industry in 2013 and beyond.


 **PostCom** @PostCom2 Presentations from Nov #USPS Leadership Forum and MTAC Focus Group sessions have been posted <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=mtac>


 **PrintInTheMix:** The latest annual AdReaction study, focusing on consumer opinions and perceptions of advertising, finds that even in this digital-centric climate, U.S. consumers are likely to view offline media ads most favorably --with TV viewed positively by 49% of respondents, followed by magazine ads (41%), and newspaper ads (40%). The 2012 study finds the most positive attitudes towards digital ads are for opt-in email ads, which 28% of respondents find very or somewhat favorable. Social media and mobile advertising rank towards the bottom at 13% and 9%, respectively.

 **Post & Parcel:** Finland's businesses could find their postal rates going up by as much as 10% at the start of next year. Postal service Itella is planning on hiking its letter services between 3% and 10%, depending on the customer. Addressed direct mail rates will rise by around 3%, as will non-addressed advertising materials. Rates for addressed periodicals will generally increase by between 1% and 10%, depending on publication, with non-addressed publications seeing a 3-7% price rise. Itella said the price increases will affect businesses only, not consumer postal services, and will apply from 1st January, 2013.

Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) Presentations from the November USPS Leadership Forum and MTAC Focus Group sessions have been posted on the MTAC page of the Postal Service's RIBBS website: <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=mtac>. Additional presentations will be on the page later this evening or tomorrow.

Euroweek: Deutsche Post, the German postal service, raised €1bn in the bond market on Tuesday and €1bn with a convertible bond, in an ambitious and unusual transaction designed to replenish its pension fund.

 **The Day:** The historic U.S. Postal Service building on Masonic Street is now officially "slated for sale," according to a notice posted in the building. But a postal service spokeswoman said Thursday there will be no sale if the price offered for the stately, marble-floored building doesn't more than cover the cost of retrofitting another smaller space in the city where the post office could continue to serve customers.

 **Post & Parcel:** MaltaPost has blamed changes in international mail tariffs made by the Universal Postal Union as it recorded a 32.3% drop in pre-tax profits over the past 12 months.

 [Boston Business Journal](#): As plans to expand South Station get on track, negotiations have resumed to relocate the U.S. Postal Service facility overlooking the Fort Point Channel to Fargo Street and open up a 14-acre waterfront parcel along Dorchester Avenue for development.



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

- According to the USPS OIG, "Hay Group found that the FERS surplus resulted from differences between Postal Service characteristics and the characteristics of the rest of the federal government and recommended using Postal Service-specific assumptions to measure the FERS liability. Hay Group estimated that when Postal Service-specific assumptions were used, the \$11.4 billion FERS surplus projected for fiscal year (FY) 2011 increased to \$24.0 billion. Since the release of the white paper, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued its annual estimate of the FERS surplus. This estimate was based on new economic and demographic assumptions adopted in July by the Board of Actuaries in charge of setting assumptions for FERS. In the new estimate, the surplus that was originally projected to be \$11.4 billion decreased to \$2.6 billion as of FY2011 (\$3.0 billion as of FY 2012)."
- According to the Tax Foundation, "by comparing the U.S. Postal Service to Greece, Postmaster General Donahoe was attempting to lessen the danger that the Service will become like Greece. Ironically, the Service's leaders are sometimes accused of trying to tear down the Service in hopes of eventually privatizing it. Their actions, in fact, go in the other direction. Public sentiment for privatization tends to increase if a government-owned postal service is staring into a deficit abyss or suffers a breakdown in basic mail delivery. That is what has happened, for instance, in the United Kingdom, where Royal Mail, burdened with a massive pension debt and beset by strikes, is in the process of being privatized. The Service's efforts to address its financial imbalances soon rather than later is, in effect, an anti-privatization strategy."
- USPS OIG offers new email updates. USPS submits monthly IMb report to PRC. USPS looks for input on definition of mail owner. FedEx to offer buyouts with up to 2 years' pay. In mail we trust. Snail mail goes high tech in Austin. USPS changing for the better. USPS submits 2012 mobile promotion report to PRC. Number of empty chairs on USPS board increasing. Another view: USPS' financial woes are a problem of politics, not parcels. IMM revision: addressing foreign mail.
- 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](#)

December 6, 2012




[Post & Parcel](#): The world's largest postal service and the world's largest package delivery company have agreed to work more closely on cutting their respective carbon emissions. The US Postal Service and UPS said today they were going to share sustainability data as existing operational partners in the delivery chain, in a "Blue and Brown makes Green" partnership that could also help both companies cut costs and develop new products.





PostCom Members! The latest issue of PostCom's [PostOps Update](#) has been posted on this site. In this issue:

- USPS Moves Closer to Informed Visibility
- eInduction on Track for July 2013
- IMb Planning Tool
- Structured Release Cycle to Bring Labeling List Changes
- USPS Shares More Details on 2013 Promotions
- 2012 Mobile Commerce and Personalization Promotions
- USPS Considers Two Digital Direction Strategies
- Pulse of the Industry
- Standard Mail Volume Decline in FY 2012
- More on the IMb Tech Credit
- POSTCOM'S ONLINE POSTAL OPERATIONS LIBRARY
- More on the IMb Tech Credit
- New FCM Residual Rate – Angst for FCM; Clarification for Standard Mail
- USPS Continues FSS Operation Improvements
- USPS and Mailers Work to Better Manage MTE
- Mail Preparation & Entry Committee Update
- Mailers Urge USPS to Avoid Wood Pallets
- Short Notes from the First Class Mail Focus Group
- Secure Destruction Pilot to Begin
- Short Notes from the Periodicals Focus Group
- Seamless Acceptance Update
- Short Notes from the Package Services Focus Group
- Package Mailers Prepare for Barcoding Requirements
- Temporary Move Identifier in the Works?
- More Package Services Barcoding Requirements to Come?
- Vacant Address Identification
- Single Source ACS
- POB Delivery Only Zone Indicator
- New MTAC Workgroups and Task Teams
- PostCom's Operations Planner


 *EdNote: You find this stuff interesting and you're STILL not a PostCom member? You gotta be kidding. [Join today!](#)*

IMM Revision: Addressing Foreign Mail. Effective January 27, 2013, the Postal Service™ will revise Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual (IMM®) sections 122.1 and 122.2 to stipulate that the addressee's full legal name — defined for international mailing purposes as the addressee's first name, middle initial (if applicable), and last name — and complete address must appear on international mailpieces. Having the full legal name and complete address information enables the Postal Service and other federal agencies to ensure mailers' compliance with federal export requirements. http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22351/html/updt_005.htm


 **PR Newswire:** Valassis, one of the nation's leading media and marketing services companies, announced results from its recent Consumer Print Usage Survey on Facebook®. Results indicate that while digital is key with Millennial shoppers (ages 18-34), traditional print media also plays an important role in the group's shopping routines and are not only instrumental in decision-making, but often serve as a catalyst to online shopping. Findings from the survey speak to the power of print, specifically insert advertising, and how Millennial consumers are combining these advertisements with online searches along their path to purchase.


 **Post & Parcel:** Private sector mail company Integer.pl has criticised legislative proposals it says would see Polish Post retaining an unfair advantage on the delivery of registered mail in Poland next year. Poland is one of 11 European countries that has to open its postal market fully to competition from January, under the terms of the EU Postal Directive. Lawmakers are in the process of passing a law to do so. But Integer.pl says an amendment to


the proposed law, handing state-owned Polish Post an important advantage in the provision of registered mail services for legal documents, is "another barrier" to healthy postal competition and "incompatible" with EU postal rules.


 **The Guardian:** According to a headline in Wednesday's Daily Mail, postal workers are threatening "to ditch half of their deliveries in bid to protect Royal Mail from 'unfair' competition". The Mail makes it clear with those quotation marks exactly where it stands on plans by the Communication Workers' Union (CWU) to ballot its members on whether to boycott letters handled by rival companies. This is what the CWU is talking about when it refers to "unfair competition". As the union says: "CWU is concerned that unfair competition is undermining the sustainability of the universal service ... Private postal company mail makes up 45% of letter volumes delivered by Royal Mail, a figure which has consistently grown under competition arrangements. New end-to-end competition is a worrying expansion, further undermining the USO [universal service obligation]."


 **UPS@UPS** Tired of missed deliveries? Sign up for UPS My Choice. <http://bit.ly/U2zaR7>

 **PRNewswire:** There's plenty of news coverage this week about the wonderful USPS Operation Letters to Santa program, but it can be difficult for volunteers to locate participating postal branches, even at USPS.com. Operation Letters to Santa launches in New York City on December 5th.


 **Romania-Insider:** The state-owned Romanian Post, which has been trying to solve its financial problems and restructure, hopes to keep its level of business intact by entering new service areas in 2013. With its monopoly on small postal deliveries due to end in 2013, the Post needs to cover the lost services with new additions. Its management plans to introduce insurance brokerage services and some banking services in 2013. Its main asset, a large network covering most of rural Romania and small cities, would be the strong point in this addition, as it would allow it to sell financing and insurance services to areas less covered by insurance companies and banks. The Post would either offer its services in partnership with a bank, or via its own bank, that it could set up, according to its management. The Post plans to improve its IT systems and connect each of its units around the country to the system. Mobile telephony is another area where the Post could enter, said its GM Ion Smeianu, who was the head of the telecom authority ANCOM in 2000. The Post submitted a request to launch a new Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO), to re-sell mobile services. The Post already received two offers and will make a decision around December 10. The Post will have two mobile telephony services in its offer, a cheaper one which would allow free calls within a locality, and another one, which is promised to be still cheaper than everything else on the market. The service should be launched in the beginning of 2013 and the Post expects to sell some 30,000 pre-paid cards in a first stage. The aim is to sell mobile services to low income Romanians. The loss posted by the Romanian Post in the last three years adds up to some EUR 89 million. Next year, the company's business is likely to continue its downwards trend, as the state will lift its monopoly on deliveries below 50 grams.


 **Bloomberg:** United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS)'s rivals were asked to examine concessions that the world's biggest parcel company offered European Union regulators probing its 5.16 billion-euro (\$6.75 billion) bid for TNT Express NV. "We have carried out a market test of the remedies proposal," EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia told reporters in Brussels today. He said he'd come back to the two companies "informing them of some of our concerns given the results." The market test process hasn't yet been completed, Almunia's spokesman Antoine Colombani said in an e-mail.


 **Direct Marketing News:** Direct mail is a trusted channel, in every sense of the word. Indeed, four in 10 consumers say they prefer to receive sensitive health information in sealed envelopes from their mailboxes, according to Epsilon's 2012 Channel Preference Study, released today. The reason: Privacy issues with email. [*EdNote: The Postal Service should move swiftly to build on and expand that public trust.*]


 **Trustnet:** Escher, a world leading provider of outsourced point-of-service software to the postal industry, announces that POS Malaysia has selected the Group to deliver its new postal retail system following a rigorous tender process. The contract is an integral part of POS Malaysia's 'Transformation Plan' of enhancing its services to Malaysia's 29 million citizens through its network. Escher's Riposte software is an end-to-end solution for post offices that provides a single platform for the delivery of all services including retail, postal, payments, money transfer, banking and government services. The contract is for the provision of the Riposte licensed software,


customisation, data centre hardware and deployment of the solution across Malaysia's network of postal outlets. Escher expects the contribution made by this contract to have a material effect on the Group's revenues for the year ended 31 December 2012. The contract also makes provision for two years of maintenance.


 [DutchNews](#): Postal workers' unions and PostNL have agreed a 1.7% pay rise after months of difficult talks. The pay deal will be implemented in two stages and runs until April next year. Talks on changes to the pension and early retirement scheme are still continuing.


 [Deccan Chronicle](#): The reported misuse of National Small Savings (NSS) funds is getting murkier with every passing day. The latest addition to the list of culprits is the postal department which collects the funds from depositor through agents who play an active role in deposit mobilisation. According to sources, the postal authorities merely send the list of commission agents with their names and commission payable without verifying the valid list or details of the business carried out by the agent. These lists which barely contain the names in a routine process is endorsed by the NSS tahsildar without checking details or entries either by the DRO or any other official at district-level even though the same runs into lakhs of rupees every year. It is said that with no effective check by superior officers, it left the NSS and postal staff at the helm of affairs, leading to the large scale misuse of funds.

 [Roll Call](#): Much of the rhetoric to date over the fiscal cliff has been on taxes, but lawmakers on Wednesday finally began to zero in on what might be the most difficult piece of the budget puzzle: raising the debt ceiling. *[EdNote: Now you would think amidst all this stalemate Congress would actually want to accomplish something of note, like pass postal reform and get this issue off its plate. But . . . if you had to judge on the basis of what's been seen and said thus far, you'd be wrong. Puhlease! Give us something to celebrate a Merry Christmas.]*

 [Politico](#): Message men, lobbyists, grassroots firms and lawyers are raking in cash as Congress and the White House argue about how to avoid a fiscal calamity at the end of the year — threatening spending cuts, tax hikes and changes to entitlement programs. It's a classic Washington phenomenon. *[EdNote: I know . . . I know. Democracy. The worst form of government except for all others.]*


 [Press Release](#): Satori Software today announced that it has acquired Monticello Software Incorporated and its full suite of post-presort software. The acquisition further enhances the Satori Software line of products into a complete solution set for data quality, presort and post-presort optimization, tracking and dynamic entry planning. "All of us at Monticello Software are excited to become a part of the Satori team. And, it's great news for our customers as well," said Joe Bailey, president of Monticello Software. "We'll continue to provide high-quality software products and excellent customer support, but now our customers gain the ability to tap into the vast mailing knowledge and resources Satori Software has to offer."

 [The Record](#): For \$4.99 a month, Outbox will have one of its "unpostmen" retrieve your mail three times a week and scan each piece into images viewable anywhere in the world via a secure website or iPad app. The service was tested in six Austin zip codes this year and rolled out city-wide about a month ago. "The pain point we solve is for the frequent traveller, those individuals with cluster mailboxes far from their homes and people who want to be better organized," said Will Davis, who co-founded the company with Evan Baehr, a former business school classmate. "There are things in your mailbox you love and we want to give people better access to that."


 [Washington Times](#): Deputy PMG Ron Stroman -- Your editorial "The mailman vs. FedEx" (Nov. 27) mischaracterizes the U.S. Postal Service's ability to compete with the private sector and falsely asserts we are maintaining overly high staffing levels. Your description of the Postal Service's staffing levels as "bloated" is wrong. We have reduced staffing levels by 280,000 positions over the past decade — a 35 percent drop — and the Postal Service will shave an additional 40,000 positions this year alone. These reductions are greater than those of any major private-sector company in America over a similar period.





December 5, 2012


 [Washington Post](#): Two former United States Postal Service workers from Georgia have pleaded guilty for roles in a scheme to steal U.S. Treasury checks worth millions of dollars combined. Gerald Eason, 47, of Stockbridge,


Ga. pleaded guilty today to stealing more than 1,300 Treasury checks worth nearly \$3 million from an Atlanta mail-distribution center where he worked as a supervisor. Another postal worker, Deborah Fambro-Echols, 49, of Hapeville, Ga., pleaded guilty on Nov. 26 to conspiring with Eason to steal and cash additional checks. Atlanta residents Wendy Frasier, 35, and Daralyn M. Weaver, 31, as well as Jabril O. McKee, 25, of Fairburn, Ga. and Ohmar D. Braden, 36, of Lithonia, Ga. have also pleaded guilty for roles in the scheme.


 **Post & Parcel:** The U.S. Postal Service inspector general has come back with a fresh estimate of the USPS federal pension surplus – estimating it to be worth \$12.48 billion. The revised figure comes after the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) suggested back in October that USPS had as much as \$24 billion in surplus cash in its Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS). That particular figure was torpedoed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which issued its own revised estimate based on lower interest rate predictions and different demographic assumptions, putting the figure as low as \$3 billion. This week the OIG came back with a new figure of its own to take account of the OPM's change in assumptions.


 **Union Leader:** *Frederic Rolando, Pres. NALC* -- The Postal Service is a topic that should unite Republicans and Democrats, conservatives, moderates and liberals - and, of course, the independents that abound in New Hampshire. There's never been, and shouldn't be, anything partisan about the post office. The oft-cited multibillion sea of red ink has little to do with the mail; much to do with politics. Rather than rushing through a flawed bill in a lame-duck session, the new Congress should start over in January and fix pre-funding. That would eliminate the biggest drain on postal finances. It also would relieve the crisis atmosphere, letting the postal community focus on developing a forward-looking plan. Opportunities abound. The very Internet that provides challenges also provides opportunities. More folks pay bills online but they're also ordering goods online - packages that require delivery. This exploding e-commerce market already is boosting Postal Service revenue - in fiscal 2012 alone by 8.7 percent - as FedEx and UPS turn to its highly efficient universal network to deliver their packages cost-effectively.


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


 After three quarters, Swiss Post's results are still under pressure.


 PostNL has to make extra payments to the pension fund, due to its low coverage ratio.


 Swiss Post will discontinue its personalised daily My Newspaper at the end of this year.


 The planned VAT exemption for the Polish post stirred protests from privately run postal operators. They fear that Poczta Polska will retain a de facto monopoly despite the market liberalisation on January 1 2013.


 Postal Euromed (CEP-News 12/11) now has fifteen members. Spain joined the club of postal operators from countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea in the course of the last Postal Euromed Conference, held in Marrakesh. Now, Italy, France, Greece, The Principality of Monaco, Malta, Cyprus, Slovenia, Morocco, Turkey, Lebanon, the Palestinian National Authority, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Spain are members of the group.


 Siemens surprisingly announced to divest its divisions Postal Automation and Airport Logistics. The company wanted to focus on its 'core activities' with the sale and exit a 'non-core business with limited synergy potential', Roland Busch, CEO of Siemens Infrastructure & Cities, explained the decision.


 The privatisation of Royal Mail next year is getting more and more likely.

 The Brazilian post apparently is supposed to play an important role in the expansion and modernisation of the country's ailing transport infrastructure.


 While some Chinese CEP-service providers apparently plan to operate their own airlines (see separate news), there are rumours in the industry that the carriers China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines plan to enter the CEP market.

 The EU-Commission has published its green paper on obstacles to the cross-border parcel business. In the paper, the Commission finds that the intra European mail order business develops too slowly. Only 9% of consumers in the EU would buy goods in other countries online.

 The Dutch Association of Gold- and Silversmiths (Vereniging Goud- en Zilversmeden) recommended its member not send their parcels with PostNL, but with other service providers. The reason for this step are repeated thefts of valuable consignments sent with PostNL.

 An acrimonious legal dispute (CEP-News 46/12) apparently doesn't hinder USPS to place an


order with Northrop Grumman Corp.

 Deutsche Post takes advantage of the currently favourable conditions on the capital market to fund its pension obligations in the long-term.





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 Regulatory Commission NOTICES International Mail Contracts](#), 72412–72413 [2012–29287] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]

 [National Association of Major Mail Users](#): 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. Business plans call for increased share of marketing spend on direct mail; increased share of parcel market; and electronic initiatives. More . . .


 [Tax Foundation](#): "Is the Postal Service Like Greece?" By Michael Schuyler, Tax Foundation Fellow.

 [At the Postal Regulatory Commission](#): According to Valpak, "the Postal Service's revised submission pertaining to standard mail flats prices remains out of compliance with the Commission's remedial orders." [EdNote: To Valpak -- "Go sit on a tack!"]

 [Associated Press](#): FedEx said Tuesday that it will be offering some employees up to two years' pay to leave the company starting next year. The voluntary program is part of an effort by the world's second-biggest package delivery company to cut annual costs by \$1.7 billion within three years. The restructuring is a response to a shift by customers away from premium package-delivery services and towards slower, less expensive modes as the global economy struggles to grow. Employees who volunteer for the program will receive four weeks of pay for every year of service, capped at two full years of base pay. FedEx has said previously that the buyouts should reduce "fixed head count by several thousand people."

December 4, 2012

 [PostComMembers!](#) The latest issue of the [PostCom Postal Executive's Summary](#) has been posted on this site.

 [The Independent](#): Postal workers could block the delivery of half the nation's mail in an escalating dispute over the first challenge to the Royal Mail's historic monopoly on home delivery, union leaders are warning tonight. In response to private delivery workers tramping the streets for the first time, the Communication Workers' Union announced it would ballot its 120,000 Royal Mail members in the New Year over whether they should stop handling all private mail. If the boycott is approved, it would affect all of the £1.4bn a year worth of mail passing through Royal Mail – amounting to 44 per cent of all letters in the UK postal system, and three-quarters of all bulk mail.



OnFERS!! USPS Office of Inspector General has issued [a white paper on the FERS Surplus Calculations](#)

The [final report by Hay Associates on this issue](#) is available on this site as well.

Dead Tree Edition: At least 23,000 APWU-represented employees have signed up for incentives to leave the U.S. Postal Service, according to Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe.

B2B Marketing: FedEx Express has launched the next phase of its HALO advertising initiative, started last year, with an international campaign using its employees at the centre. The 'FedEx. Solutions powered by people' campaign is aimed at SMEs in Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Mexico, Japan and South Korea. By using employees in its print and online adverts the logistics company is hoping SMEs, who it says also have committed team members, will relate to it.

Post & Parcel: Britain's major postal union has threatened to block mail from Royal Mail's private sector competitors from reaching UK households, in protest against the continuing liberalisation of the postal market.

Money Saving Expert: Households may not receive bank statements or other bills in the new year, as postal workers are threatening not to deliver letters sent via private firms. Banks, the taxman and communications firms often send mail via a third party. That company will pass the letter or parcel onto Royal Mail to deliver, but staff may not do that if their union takes action. Post from Barclays, Sky, BT and HM Revenue & Customs is sent via TNT, while Vodafone uses UK Mail. Private firms' mail makes up 45% of post delivered by Royal Mail.

eCommerce Bytes: Online sellers favor the U.S. Postal Service, with a recent eCommerce Bytes survey showing an overwhelming number of respondents (91%) using the service most often. However, many respondents reported using multiple carriers; 97% of survey-takers said they had used the USPS in the last year; 40% had used UPS; and 27% had used FedEx over the past year.



From the Federal Register:

- **Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES** Meetings; Sunshine Act , 71844–71845 [2012–29286] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]
- **Postal Service NOTICES** Meetings; Sunshine Act , 71845 [2012–29432] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)] 71845 [2012–29433] [[TEXT](#)][[PDF](#)]




[Alan Robinson](#) @CEP_Observer [#my2k](#) Any progress on tap on fiscal cliff facing the [#USPS](#)? Most Posts worldwide other than USPS are earning profits, can't we do that?


[Alan Robinson](#) @CEP_Observer [#whchat](#) What are you doing to deal with fiscal cliff that could shut down the [#USPS](#) next fall when it runs out of cash?





Courier, Express, and Postal Observer: Southeast Missourian has reported that Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson announced that she will resign from the House of Representatives at the end of February. Congresswoman Emerson has been an outspoken proponent of 6-day delivery and keeping rural post offices open. She served as Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government in the 112th Congress. In that position she was responsible for keeping the language that requires the Postal Service to provide 6-days of delivery in the Appropriations bill for Financial Services and General Government that passed the full Appropriations Committee. Congresswoman Emerson will become president and CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, a not-for-profit organization that represents rural electric cooperatives and public power districts.

Newswise: A new Privacy and Advertising Mail survey by UC Berkeley School of Law finds that a very large majority of Americans, across all ideologies, age groups, and income levels support a Do Not Mail initiative. The national data, released today by the law school's Berkeley Center for Law & Technology (BCLT), shows that an overwhelming 81 percent of respondents support the creation of a service similar to the popular Do Not Call registry.

 **PRNewswire:** The American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) issued the following statement in response to the November 30 provisional approval under the Postal Privatization Law of a new Japan Post Insurance (JPI) education endowment product by the Government of Japan: ACLI strongly criticized today the Government of Japan's decision to provisionally approve Japan Post Insurance (JPI) business expansion under the Postal Privatization Law while JPI continues to benefit from competitive advantages over the private sector. Allowing JPI to expand its product offering runs counter to Japan's national treatment obligations under the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and calls into question Japan's commitment to honoring such obligations.


 **The Inquisitr:** A Rudolph postmark that was the Christmas signature for an Ohio town of the same name was thought to be in danger after postal cuts — but some Christmas spirit from locals has saved the tradition from falling victim to staff downsizing.


 The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General is pleased to announce a new email subscription service. This new service will make it easier for you to learn about USPS OIG topics which interest you. We hope that you will find it useful to have the ability to customize your emails based upon your particular interests. With this new service you can password protect your subscriptions and preferences, change your email address, or remove yourself at any time by accessing your [Subscription Preferences](#) page. You'll need to log in with your email address. Be sure to save your changes, and look for a confirmation via email verifying the updates you make. Please share this new email service with others who may be interested. [Sign-up for USPS OIG email updates.](#)

 ***At the Postal Regulatory Commission: Public Commission Meeting, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 11 a.m.,*** Commission Hearing Room, 901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20268-0001.


- **Portions Open to the Public** 1. Report on legislative activities. 2. Report on communications with the public. 3. Report from the Office of General Counsel on status of Commission dockets. 4. Report from the Office of Accountability and Compliance. 5. Report from the Office of the Secretary and Administration. 6. Selection of Vice Chairman. Chairman's Public Comment Period (opportunity for brief comments or questions from the public, including questions on completed dockets)
- **Portions Closed to the Public** 7. Discussion of pending litigation. The open portion of the meeting will be audiotaped. The audiotape may be accessed via the Commission's website at <http://www.prc.gov>. For more information, please contact: Shoshana M. Grove, Secretary of the Commission, at 202-789-6800 or shoshana.grove@prc.gov
- **National Payroll Hours Summary Report**, Pay Periods 19-20, FY 2012; and Pay Periods 21-23, FY 2013
 - http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85787/Letter_NatlPayrollPP19-23_FY12-13.pdf
 - <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85787/National%20Payroll%20Hours%20Summary%20Report%20P%2019%20FY2012.pdf>
 - <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85787/National%20Payroll%20Hours%20Summary%20Report%20P%2020%20FY2012.pdf>
 - <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85787/National%20Payroll%20Hours%20Summary%20Report%20P%2021%20FY2012.pdf>
 - <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85787/National%20Payroll%20Hours%20Summary%20Report%20P%2022%20FY2012.pdf>
 - <http://www.prc.gov/docs/85/85787/National%20Payroll%20Hours%20Summary%20Report%20P%2023%20FY2012.pdf>


December 3, 2012

 **Equities.com:** For holiday shoppers, free shipping has gone from perk to priority. Shoppers don't just like it. They increasingly expect it. So, at least for the holidays, online retailers are scaling back minimum purchases and other requirements that have accompanied free shipping offers of the past. Nearly a third of online retailers plan to offer free shipping without any conditions at all this holiday season, according to the National Retail Federation.


 **BusinessWire:** Pitney Bowes Inc. today announced that the Pitney Bowes Board of Directors has appointed Marc B. Lautenbach as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Mr. Lautenbach joins Pitney Bowes with nearly 30 years of experience in the technology and business services industry, having served in senior leadership positions at IBM. Mr. Lautenbach succeeds Murray D. Martin, who is retiring as the company's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer and has resigned from the company's board of directors. Mr. Martin will continue to work with Mr. Lautenbach on an effective transition. At different stages of his 27-year career at IBM, Mr. Lautenbach oversaw the small- and medium-size (SMB) customer segment. In addition, as the executive responsible for sales in the Americas, he has had substantial experience in the enterprise and federal government segments. Most recently, Mr. Lautenbach served as Managing Partner of IBM North America Global Business Services. Mr. Lautenbach has served in various senior management positions of increasing responsibility, including General Manager, IBM North America; General Manager, IBM Global Small and Medium Business; and Vice President, IBM Asia-Pacific Small and Medium Business.




 **Toronto Sun:** Postal union members in Brazil for a political conference had the chance to rub elbows this week with supporters of a listed terror group and its leader. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) were in Porto Alegre for the World Social Forum's "Free Palestine" conference, which wrapped up Saturday. Canada Post has said won't pick up the tab for sending CUPW members down south. The union had hoped to pay for the trip through a global solidarity fund negotiated with the Crown corporation through its collective agreement.

 **Charleston Daily Mail:** Imagine Congress forcing McDonald's to open restaurants in 3,700 towns, some of which are so small they have no more than 100 residents. The lack of customers would bankrupt the company. Yet that is what the federal government has done to the U.S. Postal Service. Union lobbying and pressure from people back home have led all too many members of Congress to insist that a Postal Service that is hemorrhaging money must continue to operate in such expensive locations. The same is true with Saturday mail. Although five-day workweeks are the national norm, postal couriers must make the rounds six days a week, regardless of how little mail there is to deliver. That's because Congress blocks fiscally sane changes. The facts about the Postal Service are as dreary as they are in the case of the Twinkie bankruptcy.


December 1, 2012


 **Wall Street Journal:** FedEx Corp. will raise its shipping rates for ground and home delivery by an average of 4.9% in 2013. The new rates, which take effect Jan. 7, reflect higher base rates but lower fuel surcharges. Rates for FedEx's e-commerce-oriented service SmartPost will also change, and the company said in September that it planned to raise its express shipping rates by an average of 3.9% in the new year. Competitor United Parcel Service Inc. also has said it would raise its rates in the new year.


 **Spruce Grove Examiner:** The postal union will deliver a grievance to Canada Post if it refuses to pay for a delegation to attend a conference critics have slammed as anti-Israel. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has sent a five-person delegation to Porto Alegre, Brazil, for the World Social Forum's "Free Palestine" conference. CUPW said it was funding the trip through a \$200,000 international postal fund provided to the union by the Crown corporation under its collective agreement.

 *From the Federal Register:*

Postal Regulatory Commission	
NOTICES	
New International Mail Contracts ,	
71642-71643 [2012-29066]	[TEXT] [PDF]
Standard Mail Pricing ,	
71643-71644 [2012-29067]	[TEXT] [PDF]

 [Courier, Express, and Postal Observer](#): This week the House of Representatives passed six bills renaming Post Offices. These ceremonial bills were all passed under suspension of the rules. Maybe its time for a member of Congress to object to suspension of the rules on each bill that renames of Post Office until the House of Representatives acts on postal reform. It may not move legislation forward faster, but it would raise public awareness as to the failure of the House of Representatives to act.

 [Federal Times](#): As the U.S. Postal Service's problems grow, its governing board is shrinking. The board, which is supposed to have 11 members, currently has eight and will lose another next week when Chairman Thurgood Marshall Jr. steps down, leaving it with just one more member than the six needed for a quorum to conduct business. As of today, however, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hasn't scheduled confirmation votes on three board nominations that have been awaiting action since summer. In an email, committee spokeswoman Leslie Phillips said she did not know the reason for the delay. Although there have been no recent meetings where the lack of a quorum has been an issue, "we look forward to having all the board vacancies filled and hope that happens as soon as possible," USPS spokesman Dave Partenheimer said, also by email.

 [Canada Free Press](#): B'nai Brith Canada is outraged by the Canadian Postal Workers Union (CUPW) misusing taxpayer dollars to single out the Jewish state of Israel for contempt and hatred. The Jewish human rights organization decried the abuse of taxpayer funds to send CUPW members to an anti-Israel propaganda forum in Brazil focusing on boycotting the Jewish state. The union has indicated that it is using money given to it as part of its collective agreement with Canada Post which was earmarked exclusively for solidarity projects with other postal unions.