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October 7, 2021

New for the Holidays: Prices, Shipping Rates, and Dates Plan Ahead with Pricing and Shipping Deadlines for the 2021 Holiday Season

It looks to be another odd year for holiday celebrations. The biggest question likely on most minds is, do we make merry in person or virtually? No matter your plans, the Postal Service is ready to do its part to handle your special holiday greetings and gifts. But we also need you to do your part, and that is to make sure you get those packages and good wishes to your Post Office location on time.

New Pricing

There are plenty of holiday- and winter- themed stamps available to adorn your greeting cards this year. You can find them in our online Postal Store or at any one of our more than 34,000 Post Office locations. As a reminder, on August 29, the cost of a First-Class Forever stamp increased three cents, from 55 cents to 58 cents. There are also temporary price increases in place through December 26, 12:01 AM, CST for both retail and business customers for some of our more popular shipping products, which also includes military shipping — Priority Mail Express (PME), Priority Mail (PM), First-Class Package Service (FCPS), Parcel Select, USPS Retail Ground, and Parcel Return Service. International products are unaffected. These temporary rates will keep the Postal Service competitive while providing the agency with the revenue to cover extra costs in anticipation of peak-season volume surges similar to levels experienced in 2020.

Temporary pricing increases for Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, Parcel Select Ground and USPS Retail Ground are as follows:

- PM and PME Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes - \$0.75
- Zones 1-4, 0-10 lbs. - \$0.25
- Zones 5-9, 0-10 lbs. - \$0.75
- Zones 1-4, 11-20 lbs. - \$1.50
- Zones 5-9, 11-20lbs. - \$3.00
- Zones 1-4, 21-70 lbs. - \$2.50
- Zones 5-9, 21-70 lbs. - \$5.00

All other **retail** shipping services:

- First-Class Package Service - Retail - \$0.30

A zone pricing calculator can be found [online](#). A complete list of **business** products and prices are also available [online](#).

The temporary adjustment is part of “[Delivering for America](#),” the Postal Service’s 10-Year Plan for achieving financial sustainability and service excellence, which calls for appropriate pricing initiatives. Even with the temporary increase, the Postal Service has some of the lowest mail postage rates in the industrialized world and continues to offer great values in shipping.

2021 Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by December 25 to domestic addresses and APO/FPO/DPO (Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office) addresses*:

- Nov. 6 — APO/FPO/DPO (all ZIP Codes) USPS Retail Ground service
- Dec. 9 — APO/FPO/DPO (all ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail
- Dec. 15 — USPS Retail Ground service
- Dec. 16 — APO/FPO/DPO (**except ZIP Code 093**) USPS Priority Mail Express Military service
- Dec. 18 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards)
- Dec. 18 — First-class packages (up to 15.99 ounces)
- Dec. 20 — Priority Mail service
- Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express* service

Alaska

- Dec. 18 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. – First-Class Mail
- Dec. 18 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. – Priority Mail
- Dec. 21 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. – Priority Mail Express

Hawaii

- Dec. 17 — Hawaii to/from mainland – Priority Mail and First-Class Mail
- Dec. 21 — Hawaii to/from mainland – Priority Mail Express

*Not a guarantee, unless otherwise noted. Dates are for estimated delivery before December 25. Actual delivery date may vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office acceptance date and time, and other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express shipments mailed December 22 through December 25, the money-back guarantee applies only if the shipment was not delivered, or delivery was not attempted, within two business days.

Skip the Trip and Ship Online

Consumers don’t even have to leave home to ship their packages, simply visit [usps.com](#). The Postal Service anticipates December 19 will be the Postal Service’s busiest day **online** with 12.5 million consumers predicted to visit [usps.com](#) for help shipping that special holiday gift. And [usps.com](#) is always open.

It’s estimated nearly 500,000 consumers will use the [Click-N-Ship](#) feature and other online services on December 14 to order free Priority Mail boxes, print shipping labels, purchase postage, and even request free next-day Package Pickup.

Busiest Time

The busiest time of the season for the Postal Service begins two weeks before Christmas. It’s expected that customer traffic at all Post Office locations will steadily increase beginning the week of December 6, with the week of December 13-18 anticipated to be the busiest mailing, shipping, and delivery week of the season.

More tips for a successful holiday mailing and shipping season:

- Use free Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes. They are available at local Post Office locations or online at usps.com/freeboxes.
- Make it easy with Click-N-Ship. You can create shipping labels and pay for postage online at usps.com/ship.
- Schedule a free Package Pickup when the carrier delivers your mail. It's free regardless of the number of packages. Or, pickups can be scheduled at usps.com/pickup.*
- Mail and packages that weigh more than 10 ounces and/or are more than a half-inch thick using stamps as postage cannot be dropped into a collection box or left for a carrier to pick up. Instead, take them to a window clerk at a Post Office.

*Boxes are delivered within the U.S. with your regular mail, usually within 7 to 10 business days. Exclusions apply. For details and to order, visit <https://store.usps.com/store>.

Additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines, can be found at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom: usps.com/holidaynews.

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