

RECEIVED
AUG 15 2022

August 10, 2022

Mr. Ivan D. Butts
President
National Association of Postal Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

Dear Mr. Butts:

As a matter of general interest, today, the Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) regarding a temporary price adjustment for key package products for the 2022 peak holiday season. This temporary rate adjustment is similar to ones in the past years that help cover extra handling costs to ensure a successful peak season. 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. Such pricing initiatives further the "Delivering for America" 10-year plan to achieve financial sustainability.

The temporary rates approved by the Governors of the Postal Service, August 9, would take effect 12 a.m. Central on October 2, and remain in place until 12 a.m. Central January 22, 2023, if favorably reviewed by the PRC.

The planned price changes include:

Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express:

- Commercial:
 - \$0.75 increase for PM and PME Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes.
 - \$0.25 increase for Zones 1-4, 0-10 lbs.
 - \$0.80 increase for Zones 5-9, 0-10 lbs.
 - \$0.75 increase for Zones 1-4, 11-25 lbs.
 - \$2.80 increase for Zones 5-9, 11-25 lbs.
 - \$3.00 increase for Zones 1-4, 26-70 lbs.
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- Retail:
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First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select Ground, and USPS Retail Ground:

- Commercial:
 - \$0.25 increase for Zones 1-4, 0-10 lbs.
 - \$0.40 increase for Zones 5-9, 0-10 lbs.

- \$0.75 increase for Zones 1-4, 11-25 lbs.
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Product	Current	Planned Increase
Parcel Select Destination Delivery Unit (DDU)	Starts at \$3.50	25 cents
Parcel Select DSCF	Starts at \$3.77	75 cents
Parcel Select DNDC	Starts at \$4.84	75 cents
USPS Connect Local	Starts at \$3.95	No change
Parcel Select Lightweight (DDU)	Starts at \$2.32	No change
Parcel Select Lightweight (DSCF and DNDC)	Starts at \$2.72	No change
Parcel Return Service	Starts at \$3.37	No change

A full list of commercial and retail pricing can be found on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at <https://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/Notice123.htm>.

We have enclosed the Press Release, Fact Sheet, and "Talking Points and Q&A" relevant to this matter.

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at extension 7773 if you have questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



James Lloyd
 Director (A)
 Labor Relations Policies and Programs

Enclosures



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 10, 2022

Contact: David P. Coleman
david.p.coleman@usps.gov

After Aug. 10 Contact: Albert Ruiz
albert.ruiz@usps.gov



U.S. Postal Service Announces Proposed Temporary Rate Adjustments for 2022 Peak Holiday Season

WASHINGTON — The United States Postal Service filed notice today with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) regarding a temporary price adjustment for key package products for the 2022 peak holiday season. This temporary rate adjustment is similar to ones in past years that help cover extra handling costs to ensure a successful peak season.

The planned peak-season pricing, which was approved by the Governors of the Postal Service on Aug. 9, would affect prices on the following commercial and retail domestic competitive parcels: Priority Mail Express (PME), Priority Mail (PM), First-Class Package Service (FCPS), Parcel Select and USPS Retail Ground. International products would be unaffected. Pending favorable review by the PRC, the temporary rates would go into effect at 12 a.m. Central on Oct. 2, and remain in place until 12 a.m. Central Jan. 22, 2023.

This seasonal adjustment will bring prices for the Postal Service's commercial and retail customers in line with competitive practices. No structural changes are planned as part of this limited pricing initiative.

[*Delivering for America*](#), the Postal Service's 10-year plan for achieving financial sustainability and service excellence, calls for appropriate pricing initiatives. The Postal Service has some of the lowest postage rates in the industrialized world and continues to offer great values in shipping. These temporary rates will keep USPS competitive while providing the agency with the revenue to cover extra costs in anticipation of peak-season volume.

The planned price changes include:

Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express:

- Commercial:
 - \$0.75 increase for PM and PME Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes.
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A full list of commercial and retail pricing can be found on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at <https://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/Notice123.htm>

The PRC will review the proposed prices before they are scheduled to take effect Oct. 2. Complete USPS price filings, with prices for all products, can be found on the PRC website's Daily Listings section at prc.gov/dockets/daily. Price change tables are also available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index.

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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Please Note: For U.S. Postal Service media resources, including broadcast quality video and audio and photo stills, visit the [USPS Newsroom](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Subscribe to the USPS [YouTube Channel](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and enjoy our [Postal Posts blog](#). For more information about the Postal Service, visit usps.com and facts.usps.com.

For reporters interested in speaking with a regional Postal Service public relations professional, please go to about.usps.com/news/media-contacts/usps-local-media-contacts.pdf.

Temporary Price Change for 2022 Peak Holiday Season

Talking Points and Q&A

- The Postal Service is planning a temporary price adjustment on commercial domestic and retail competitive package volume from Oct. 2, 2022 until Jan. 22, 2023.
- The pricing adjustment is similar to ones in years past that help cover extra handling costs to ensure a successful peak season.
- Weight-rated parcels for full-network competitive products will increase between 25 cents and \$6.50, depending on class, weight, and zone of shipment.
- Commercial flat-rate Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express shipments will increase by 75 cents. Retail flat-rate shipments for these products will increase by 95 cents.
- Parcel Select Heavyweight Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rates will increase by 25 cents.
- Parcel Select Heavyweight Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF) and Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC) rates will increase by 75 cents.
- Prices will remain the same for USPS Connect Local, Parcel Select Lightweight, Parcel Return Service, and all extra services and fees.
- “[Delivering for America](#),” the Postal Service’s 10-year plan for achieving financial sustainability and service excellence, calls for appropriate pricing initiatives. 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.
- The Postal Service is self-funded and generally does not receive tax dollars for operating expenses. It relies on the sale of postage, products, and services to fund its operations.
- All new prices are posted on the Postal Explorer website: pe.usps.com.
- The complete Postal Service price filing with the new prices for all products can be found on the PRC website under the Daily Listings section: prc.gov/dockets/daily

Frequently Asked Questions (Both internal and external questions)

1. What is the Postal Service announcing?

The Postal Service is planning a temporary price adjustment on all commercial and retail domestic competitive package volume from Oct. 2, 2022 until Jan. 22, 2023. This change is in response to the anticipated, heightened demand in mail and package volume during the 2022 fall and peak holiday season, resulting in extra handling costs.

2. Why is this necessary?

The price increases are needed to cover the additional handling costs and other expenses that are anticipated as demand for shipping surges during fall and the holiday season.

3. Which products and services will be affected by the temporary price increase?

Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service, USPS Retail Ground, and all Parcel Select Heavyweight parcels except USPS Connect Local parcels will be affected by the price change. USPS Connect Local, Parcel Select Lightweight and Parcel Return Service parcels will remain unaffected by the price change. All mailing services, international services, and extra services will not be affected by the price change.

4. What prices are changing?

The price increases for **competitive** products (retail and commercial) are as follows:

Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express:

- Commercial:
 - \$0.75 increase for PM and PME Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes.
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5. What will be the impact by rate cell?

Each rate cell will be increased as described in Question 4.

6. What are the average percent increases and prices for each Shipping Services product and service?

Service	Percentage Increase
• Priority Mail Express	2.7
• Priority Mail	6.3
• First-Class Package Service	8.3
• USPS Retail Ground	5.8
• Parcel Select Ground	4.2
• Parcel Select Destination Entry	9.8
• USPS Connect Local	none
• Parcel Select Lightweight	none
• Parcel Return Service	none
• Special and Ancillary Services	none

7. How will this affect retail lobby customers?

There will be an increase in prices for **retail** products. See Question 4 for the specific dollar increases.

8. What about consumers ordering products from commercial shippers — will the shippers pass along the price increase to the consumer?

We do not determine the prices that the commercial shippers charge to their customers.

9. How will this increase affect military shipping?

The temporary price increase for shipping to military addresses will be the same as the price increases listed above.

10. Are all domestic shipping service prices going up?

No. USPS Connect Local, Parcel Select Lightweight, Parcel Return Service parcels, and extra domestic shipping services will retain current prices during the temporary price change period.

11. Are fees such as the non-standard fee going up?

No. Fees, including the non-standard service fee, will retain current rates during the temporary price change period.

12. Where can I see all the prices?

All the new prices will be posted on Notice 123 on the Postal Explorer website: pe.usps.com. The complete Postal Service price filings with new prices for those products that are changing can be found on the PRC site under the Daily Listings section at prc.gov/dockets/daily.

13. When will the temporary proposed prices take effect?

Pending favorable review by the PRC, the temporary rates would go into effect at 12 a.m. Central on Oct. 2, and remain in place until 12 a.m. Central Jan. 22, 2023.

14. Does this require approval from the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) before implementation?

After review and approval by the Board of Governors, the Postal Service is required to give notice of its planned price changes to the PRC, which then has an opportunity to review the changes. The PRC is expected to issue an order on the price change in September.

15. What role does the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) play in price adjustments?

The PRC reviews the proposed prices for Mailing Services to determine if they comply with the Consumer Price Index cap and reviews all prices to determine that they comply with other applicable laws and regulations. By law, each Shipping Services product must cover its attributable costs. As a group, Postal Service Shipping Services products must contribute to the Postal Service's institutional costs (infrastructure costs that enable us to fulfill our universal service obligation).

16. What if the PRC denies the increase?

Under the law, the Postal Service has been granted considerable flexibility to adjust the prices of its competitive products and services. We are confident that the planned price changes comply with all legal requirements. However, if during its review, the Commission were to raise concerns regarding the exercise of our pricing discretion, Postal Service management likely would consult with the Board of Governors on next steps based on the feedback provided by the Commission.

17. Do you anticipate any pushback from the industry and general public?

We are committed to working with our retail and commercial partners, to help them plan ahead and be prepared for this temporary price adjustment period. We anticipate that the changes will provide much needed revenue to the Postal Service while delivering the reliable service our industry customers and the American public expect and deserve.

18. Will this require any structural changes from commercial mailers to comply?

No structural changes are proposed as part of this time-limited price increase.

19. What recourse will mailers or shippers have if they oppose the price increase?

Customers may submit comments and other documents on the record with the PRC.

20. What recourse will retail customers have if they opposed the price increase?

The proposed increases are modest and for a limited time only. We offer a number of shipping products for customers to utilize, and with every peak holiday season, we encourage customers to mail and ship holiday mail and packages early in the season.

21. What reaction do you anticipate customers will have to the increase?

Both retail and commercial customers will likely have concerns due to the temporary price changes, but, given the modest amount of each increase, limited time period, and similar competitor actions throughout the marketplace, customer reaction may be considerably less than expected.

22. Is this increase in line with other major competitors' increases?

This temporary time price adjustment is consistent with industry practices during periods of heightened demand.

23. Is the temporary price adjustment a reaction to the high inflation the country's economy has been experiencing?

Unlike mailing services, which are subject to the Consumer Price Index cap, shipping services are in a competitive market and have prices that are adjusted based on shipping demand and in anticipation of actions from our competitors.

24. Does the Postal Service have any future plans to cap volumes?

There are no plans to cap volumes for any product categories during peak season. All entered volumes will be processed within our operating plans.

25. Why do some mailers get discounts on prices?

In part because significant mailing volume can lower per piece postal costs, business shippers may pay rates that differ from the general public. Rates can vary depending on how the mail is sorted, where the mail is deposited, and other preparation arrangements. In other words, if mailers assume a greater share of mail preparation, they may be eligible for savings, called "work-share" discounts. Should you desire to learn more about the Postal Service's business offerings, please visit us at usps.com/business/business-shipping.htm. The site offers tips on saving time and money, calculating postage correctly, receiving volume discounts, how to minimize dimensional weight charges and much more.

26. Will this price change address the Postal Service's financial challenges?

This initiative is part of Delivering for America, our 10-year plan to achieve financial sustainability and deliver service excellence. The Postal Service has taken immediate steps within operations to better adhere to our existing operating plans, which were developed precisely to ensure that we meet our present service standards in an efficient and effective manner. By running our operations on time and on schedule, we will enhance our ability to be sustainable and to be able to continue to provide high-quality, affordable service that meets the needs of our customers.

The Postal Service continues to be on track in its *Delivering for America* plan, having launched USPS Connect in early 2022, having committed to reviewing mailing prices bi-annually, and with the passage of the Postal Service Reform Act, which was signed into law in April 2022.

27. What do I do if my software cannot be updated in time and when will the rate table be available to update my software?

If your mailing is accepted through the Electronic Verification System, the packages will be re-rated with the correct, time-limited price based on the attributes provided in the electronic manifest. If your commercial packages are inducted using a traditional manifest, the short-paid postage will be calculated and assessed at the time of mailing. We expect the preliminary pricing files to be available no later than August 10, 2022.

28. Will this temporary price increase be applied to international products?

No, it will not. This temporary price increase will have no effect on international retail or commercial products (Global Express Guarantee (GXG), Priority Mail Express International (PMEI), Priority Mail International (PMI), First-Class Mail International (FCMI), First-Class Package International Service (FCPIS) International Priority Airmail (IPA), International Surface Air Lift (ISAL), and M-Bag) as it solely applies to commercial and retail domestic competitive packages.

29. Will refunds for Priority Mail Express (PME) packages include the additional fee being charged during this time period?

Verified refunds for PME pieces not meeting service guarantee commitments will be based on the total price paid for services rendered, which will include the time-limited price increase.

30. How do you plan to inform or educate customers about this change?

We have a comprehensive communications plan including press releases, outreach to key industry stakeholders, customer calls, and internal communications to our employees.

31. How will the price increase impact small businesses?

Businesses that use retail rates, such as in a Post Office lobby or on usps.com, will experience an increase as described in the retail sections of Question 4. Those which access commercial prices through partners such as PC Postage, or other marketplace platforms, will likely also experience an increase.

32. How much money will the Postal Service make from this temporary increase?

The additional revenue from the time-limited price increase depends on the volume of packages shipped between October 2 and January 22.

33. How is the time-limited price increase being calculated?

The time-limited price increase is calculated in the same way as the general price increases are calculated, except a fixed amount is added to each competitive domestic price, rather than varied increases for each rate cell.

34. When will the prices be made available publicly?

The prices will be available on the PRC's website shortly after the filing. Additionally, the Price Change page (<https://pe.usps.com/PriceChange>) will be updated on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

35. Will this price change increase prices for consumers who receive pharmaceuticals or other healthcare essentials during the pandemic?

Retail prices will change based on the rates mentioned in Question 4. We do not determine the prices that the commercial shippers charge to their customers.

36. Would these price increases apply to the commercial packages that USPS delivers for Amazon, UPS, or DHL?

The time-limited price change will impact our retail and commercial customers, including some Negotiated Service Agreement (NSA) contract customers, depending on the specific terms of the contracts. However, details regarding specific NSA holders and terms are considered commercially sensitive information that we are obligated to keep confidential.

37. Does this affect Media Mail?

This would not affect Media Mail or Bound Printed Matter. It is possible that books which are shipped via any of the impacted commercial products (PM, PME, Parcel Select Heavyweight, or FCPS) could be affected. The shippers would be the ones who know and decide how their items are sent.

38. Does this price increase affect USPS Connect Local?

No this does not affect USPS Connect Local.

Temporary Rates for 2022 Peak Holiday Season - Fact Sheet

Overview

On Aug. 10, 2022, the United States Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of temporary price changes to key Domestic Shipping Services to take effect beginning Oct. 2, 2022 and ending Jan. 22, 2023.

Key Points

- The temporary rate adjustment is similar to ones in years past that help cover extra handling costs to ensure a successful peak season.
- “[Delivering for America](#),” the Postal Service’s 10-year plan for achieving financial sustainability and service excellence, calls for appropriate pricing initiatives. 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.
- The Postal Service has some of the lowest mail postage rates in the industrialized world and continues to offer great values in shipping.
- Unlike some other shippers, the Postal Service does not add surcharges for fuel, residential delivery, or regular Saturday service.
- The temporary prices, if approved by the PRC, will raise domestic shipping prices as seen below:

Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express:

- Commercial:
 - \$0.75 increase for PM and PME Flat Rate Boxes and Envelopes.
 - \$0.25 increase for Zones 1-4, 0-10 lbs.
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- With favorable review by the PRC, the price change is scheduled to take effect at 12:00 a.m., Central Time, on Oct. 2, 2022, and remain in place until 12:00 a.m., Central Time, Jan. 22, 2023.
- The PRC will review the proposed prices before they are scheduled to take effect Oct. 2. Complete USPS price filings, with prices for all products, can be found on the PRC website's Daily Listings section at prc.gov/dockets/daily.
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