

Rates for Domestic Letters, 1792-1863

Rates listed below were for a "single letter," defined as consisting of one sheet of paper until July 1, 1845, and thereafter as weighing ½ ounce or less, regardless of the number of sheets. "Double letters" were charged double. Not included in this chart are rates for ship and steamboat letters and drop letters (for local delivery), which were assigned different rates. The last rates listed were effective until July 1, 1863.

Effective Date	Distance	Postage, in Cents
June 1, 1792	not over 30 miles	6
	over 30 and not exceeding 60 miles	8
	over 60 and not exceeding 100 miles	10
	over 100 and not exceeding 150 miles	12.5
	over 150 and not exceeding 200 miles	15
	over 200 and not exceeding 250 miles	17
	over 250 and not exceeding 350 miles	20
	over 350 and not exceeding 450 miles	22
May 1, 1799	over 450 miles	25
	not over 40 miles	8
	over 40 and not exceeding 90 miles	10
	over 90 and not exceeding 150 miles	12.5
	over 150 and not exceeding 300 miles	17
	over 300 and not exceeding 500 miles	20
February 1, 1815	over 500 miles	25
	all distances	50 percent increase (revenue for War of 1812)
April 1, 1816	all distances	increase repealed
May 1, 1816	all distances	increase repealed
	not over 30 miles	6
	over 30 and not exceeding 80 miles	10
	80 and not exceeding 150 miles	12.5
	150 and not exceeding 400 miles	18.5 *
July 1, 1845	over 400 miles	25
	not over 300 miles	5
July 1, 1851	over 300 miles	10
	not over 3,000 miles	3 if prepaid, 5 if not prepaid
April 1, 1855	over 3,000 miles	6 if prepaid, 10 if not prepaid
	not over 3,000 miles	3 (prepayment required)
	over 3,000 miles	10 (prepayment required)
* increased to 18.75 by the Act of March 3, 1825		