



POSTAL NEWS

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Contact: Sue Brennan
sue.brennan@usps.gov
202-268-6363
usps.com/news
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U.S. Postal Service Ready for Busiest Mailing Day More Than 800 Million Pieces of Mail Expected Monday

WASHINGTON — Monday, Dec. 20, marks the Postal Service's busiest mailing day of the year with more than 800 million pieces of mail expected to enter the system. This represents a 40 percent increase in the average daily volume of 559 million pieces of mail.

"There's still time to mail greeting cards and ship presents," said Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe. "If customers get their cards and packages to us by Tuesday, Dec. 21, we'll get them delivered by Christmas."

Dec. 20 is the recommended deadline for sending greeting cards and holiday letters to arrive in time for Christmas. Dec. 21 is the recommended deadline for sending packages using Priority Mail. For those last-minute shoppers and procrastinators, the Postal Service recommends Dec. 22 as the last day to ship packages using Express Mail.

Customers can skip the trip to the Post Office altogether and ship online using the Postal Service's website, usps.com. Using Click-N-Ship, customers can print shipping labels and pay for postage. The popular Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes virtually eliminate the need for a scale to weigh the package.

"Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes and usps.com offer the best shipping solutions for the holidays," said Donahoe. "If the gift fits, it ships, for one low rate to anywhere in the country. Go online, create the shipping label and we'll pick up your packages for free. You can even pay for your postage online."

Customers also may request free package pickup online at usps.com. The Postal Service will pick up packages during regular mail delivery the next business day — and, unlike with other shipping companies, there is no fee for this service.

Another way customers can save time during the holiday shipping rush is by using Automated Postal Centers (APCs). Just as an ATM is a virtual bank, the APC is a virtual, stand-alone Post Office. The APC does everything short of face-to-face transactions — dispensing stamps, weighing packages and calculating postage for Express Mail, Priority Mail, First-Class Mail and Parcel Post items.

The Postal Service 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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Note: Soundbites from Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe can be found at usps.com/holidaynewsroom, click on Broadcast Center.

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 150 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With 32,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, *usps.com*, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$67 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 29th in the 2010 Fortune 500. *Black Enterprise* and *Hispanic Business* magazines ranked the Postal Service as a leader in workforce diversity. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency six consecutive years and the sixth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.