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Postal Service is Ready to Deliver More Than 15 Billion Pieces of Cheer This Holiday Season

Including more than 850 million packages

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service will deliver more than 15 billion pieces of mail this holiday season. In the period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the Postal Service also expects to deliver 850 million packages, which is more than a 10 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

"The Postal Service is well prepared to meet our customers' needs during the holiday season, especially as demand for package deliveries continues to grow," said Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General and CEO.

The Postal Service will be expanding its Sunday delivery operations to locations with high package volumes beginning Nov. 26. The Postal Service already delivers packages on Sundays in most major cities, and anticipates delivering more than 6 million packages on Sundays this December. Mail carriers will also deliver packages on Christmas Day in **select** locations.

"America relies on the Postal Service and our 640,000 dedicated employees to deliver the holidays," said Brennan. "We take great pride in our holiday readiness and preparation, and in our ability to offer reliable, predictable and affordable service in every community in America."

Busiest Mailing and Delivery Days

With an increase in early and online shopping for gifts, there is no longer a "busiest day" for holiday shipping. Instead, the Postal Service's busiest time is now two weeks before Christmas. Starting the week of Dec. 11, customer traffic is expected to increase, with the week of Dec. 18 - 24 predicted to be the busiest mailing, shipping, and delivery week. During this week, nearly 3 billion pieces of First Class Mail, including greeting cards, will be processed and delivered. The Postal Service also expects to deliver nearly 200 million packages **per week** during these two weeks.

Skip the Trip and Ship Online

While there may not be a busiest day for shipping this year, the Postal Service anticipates that Dec. 18 will be the Postal Service's busiest day **online** with more than 7 million customers predicted to visit usps.com for help shipping that special holiday gift. Customers can avoid holiday hassles by visiting usps.com — the Postal Service's website that helps make mailing and shipping easier than ever. Millions of customers will skip the trip to the Post Office altogether and take advantage of convenient online shipping this holiday season. Click-N-Ship and other online services allow customers to order free Priority Mail boxes, print shipping labels, purchase postage and even request free next-day Package Pickup from the mail carrier. And usps.com is always open.

The Postal Service offers a new feature this year to help you track and schedule package delivery. Our [Informed Delivery](#) tool not only allows you to see your incoming mail and packages, it also allows you to reschedule delivery of your packages to ensure you're able to be home to receive them.

2017 Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines:

- Nov. 6 – APO/FPO/DPO USPS Retail Ground
- Dec. 11 – APO/FPO/DPO Priority Mail & First Class Mail
- Dec. 14 – USPS Retail Ground
- Dec. 15 – Hawaii to Mainland Priority Mail & First Class
- Dec. 16 – APO/FPO/DPO USPS Priority Mail Express
- Dec. 16 – First Class Packages (up to 15.99 ounces)
- Dec. 19 – First Class Mail (including greeting cards)
- Dec. 20 – Priority Mail
- Dec. 20 – Hawaii to Mainland Priority Mail Express
- Dec. 20 – Alaska to Mainland Priority Mail & First Class
- Dec. 21 – Alaska to Mainland Priority Mail Express
- Dec. 22 – Priority Mail Express

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

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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Please Note: For broadcast quality video and audio, photo stills and other media resources, visit the USPS Newsroom at about.usps.com/news/welcome.htm.

More USPS holiday news, including shipping deadlines and Santa mail, can be found at usps.com/holidaynews.

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. Follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/usps), Instagram (instagram.com/uspostalservice), Pinterest (pinterest.com/uspsstamps), LinkedIn (linkedin.com/company/usps), subscribe to our channel on YouTube (youtube.com/usps), like us on Facebook (facebook.com/usps) and view our Postal Posts blog (uspsblog.com).

For more information about the Postal Service, visit usps.com and usps.com/postalfacts.