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USPS Reports Ongoing Service Performance Improvements Across All Mail Categories

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Postal Service reported fourth-quarter service delivery performance data through the first half of July that showed ongoing improvement across all First-Class, Marketing and Periodical mail categories from the third quarter ended June 30.

Fourth-quarter service performance for July 1 through July 16 included:

- **First-Class Mail:** Delivered 89.3 percent of First-Class Mail on time against the USPS service standard, an improvement of nearly 2 percentage points from the third quarter.
- **Marketing Mail:** Delivered 92.0 percent of Marketing Mail on time against the USPS service standard, an improvement of 1 percentage point from the third quarter.
- **Periodicals:** Delivered 83.0 percent of Periodicals on time against the USPS service standard, an improvement of nearly 4 percentage points from the third quarter.

The Postal Service's continued improvement occurred despite anticipated seasonal effects from the Independence Day federal holiday for the period of July 10 to July 16.

The Postal Service's recent service delivery improvements have been, in part, the result of a strategic shift to more ground deliveries, decreasing the agency's reliance on the limited cargo capacities of third-party air carriers.

"Delivering for America," the Postal Service's 10-year plan for financial sustainability and service excellence, seeks to meet or exceed its goal of 95 percent on-time service performance for all mail and shipping product delivery based on standards as all elements of the plan being implemented.

The Postal Service is preparing for the higher delivery demands of the 2021 holiday peak season through increased hiring of delivery and plant personnel, the leasing of millions of additional square feet of sortation facilities, and the installation of new processing equipment to accommodate higher volumes and customers' evolving mail and package delivery needs. Since April, the Postal Service has installed 36 of 118 new package sorting machines, reflecting infrastructure investments under the Delivering for America plan. Markets that have installed machines include Philadelphia (PA), Traverse City (MI), Teterboro (NJ), and Huntsville (AL). Additional installations are currently underway across the country, as the Postal Service plans to have new equipment running at 118 facilities by the 2021 peak holiday season.

Service performance is defined by the Postal Service from acceptance of a mailpiece into our system through delivery, measured against published service standards.

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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