



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 16, 2022

POSTAL NEWS

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USPS Posts Strong Early Holiday Delivery, Outperforming Previous Season

WASHINGTON — The United States Postal Service reported new delivery performance metrics for the 10th week of the first quarter for fiscal year 2023. For the seventh consecutive week, the average time to deliver a mailpiece or package across the postal network was 2.5 days.

FY23 first quarter service performance scores covering Oct. 1 through Dec. 9 included:

- **First-Class Mail:** 91.7 percent of First-Class Mail delivered on time against the USPS service standard, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points from the fiscal fourth quarter. The current data reflects a year over year increase of one percentage point compared to the same period in the FY22 peak holiday season.
- **Marketing Mail:** 94.1 percent of Marketing Mail delivered on time against the USPS service standard, a slight decrease of 0.7 percentage points from the fiscal fourth quarter. The current data reflects a year over year increase of 1.9 percentage points compared to the same period in the FY22 peak holiday season.
- **Periodicals:** 85.5 percent of Periodicals delivered on time against the USPS service standard, a decrease of 1.3 percentage points from the fiscal fourth quarter. The current data reflects a year over year increase of 3.5 percentage points compared to the same period in the FY22 peak holiday season.

The Postal Service is in a strong position to handle the holiday mailing and shipping rush underway. The organization recently completed the installation of 137 new package sorting machines across its network which will expand daily package processing capacity to 60 million. This brings the organization's total to 249 new processing machines since the launch of the Delivering for America plan in March 2021 and are part of a \$40 billion investment in the postal network.

The Postal Service's preparedness for the holiday season reflects strategic investments and operational precision improvements made as part of the Delivering for America plan. Additional holiday hiring initiatives include stabilizing the USPS permanent workforce by converting 100,000 workers to full time since the beginning of 2021 (with more than 41,000 part time workers converted to full time since January 2022), and actively hiring an additional 20,000 seasonal employees.

Upcoming 2022 Holiday Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to domestic addresses and Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office (APO/FPO/DPO) addresses*:

- Dec. 16 — APO/FPO/DPO (except ZIP Code 093) USPS Priority Mail Express Military service
- Dec. 17 — USPS Retail Ground service
- Dec. 17 — First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards)
- Dec. 17 — First-Class packages (up to 15.99 ounces)
- Dec. 19 — Priority Mail service
- Dec. 23 — Priority Mail Express* service

Alaska

Dec. 17 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. — First-Class Mail and Priority Mail

Dec. 21 — Alaska to/from Continental U.S. — Priority Mail Express

Hawaii

Dec. 17 — Hawaii to/from mainland — First-Class Mail and Priority Mail

Dec. 21 — Hawaii to/from mainland — Priority Mail Express

*Not a guarantee, unless otherwise noted. Dates are for estimated delivery before Dec. 25. Actual delivery date may vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office acceptance date and time and other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express shipments mailed Dec. 22 through Dec. 25, the money-back guarantee applies only if the shipment was not delivered, or delivery was not attempted, within two business days.

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Please Note: The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to more than 163 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, [Delivering for America](#), to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America's most valued and trusted brands.

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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