United States Postal Service®

Quarterly Performance for Periodicals
Service Variance

Overview

Beginning FY2019 Q1, service performance for Periodicals is measured through the USPS® internal measurement system. The system uses documented arrival time at a designated postal facility to start the clock, and an Intelligent Mail® barcode (IMB®) scan by postal personnel at delivery for randomly selected delivery points to stop the clock. Mail piece tracking from IMB® in-process scans is used in conjunction with the sampling data to extrapolate results for the entire volume of measurement eligible Full Service Intelligent Mail. The transit time from the start-the-clock through final automated processing is Leg 2, and the transit time from final automated processing until delivery is Leg 3. Total transit time was calculated for the mail and compared with the appropriate service standard for the product to determine the service performance.

Scores prior to FY2019 Q1 were calculated and compiled by an independent external contractor. The system used for this reporting was called the Intelligent Mail® Accuracy and Performance System (iMAPS). The external contractor determined service performance based on the elapsed time between the start-the-clock event recorded by U.S. Postal Service® and the stop-the-clock event recorded by anonymous households and small businesses that report delivery information directly to the contractor. The service measure consisted of two parts: (1) how long mail pieces take to get through processing, and (2) how long mail takes from the last processing scan to delivery. The second portion was used as a delivery factor differential to determine the percent of all Periodicals delivered on the last processing date versus the percent delivered after the last processing date. Service performance was measured by comparing the transit time to USPS® service standards to determine the percent of mail delivered on time.

Limitations

Sampling occurred within every district at collection and delivery during the quarter in all eligible 3-Digit ZIP Code areas. However, the Puerto Rico District had low volumes during the quarter and limited delivery sampling data available.

Performance Highlights

National Periodicals service performance was 81.6 percent on time, which is 1.7 points higher than the same period last year. Westpac Area led the nation with 87.7 percent on time in FY2026 Quarter 4.

In FY2026 Quarter 4, 90.0 percent of Periodicals were delivered within the service standard plus one day, 93.5 percent within the service standard plus two days, and 95.6 percent within the service standard plus three days. Individual areas achieved at least 85.0 percent delivery within the service standard plus one day, and as much as 97.8 percent within three days.

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Mailpieces Delivered Between 07/01/2026 and 09/30/2026

Area	Percent Within +1-Day	Percent Within +2-Days	Percent Within +3-Days
Atlantic	90.7	94.0	96.1
Central	85.0	90.0	93.0
Southern	91.5	94.7	96.4
Westpac	94.4	96.6	97.8
Nation FY2026 Q4	**90.0**	**93.5**	**95.6**
Nation FY2025 Q4 (SPLY)	**88.7**	**92.3**	**94.5**
Nation FY2009 Annual	**88.2**	**93.0**	**95.5**
Nation FY2010 Annual	**90.2**	**94.4**	**96.5**
Nation FY2011 Annual	**89.8**	**94.7**	**96.6**
Nation FY2012 Annual	**86.1**	**92.4**	**95.4**
Nation FY2013 Annual	**92.6**	**95.9**	**97.4**
Nation FY2014 Annual	**91.2**	**94.8**	**96.7**
Nation FY2015 Annual	**89.3**	**93.5**	**95.7**
Nation FY2016 Annual	**90.7**	**94.4**	**96.2**
Nation FY2017 Annual	**93.8**	**96.4**	**97.7**
Nation FY2018 Annual	**94.0**	**96.7**	**97.9**
Nation FY2019 Annual	**93.9**	**96.6**	**97.9**
Nation FY2020 Annual	**90.9**	**94.4**	**96.2**
Nation FY2021 Annual	**86.6**	**91.0**	**93.4**
Nation FY2022 Annual	**92.5**	**95.7**	**97.2**
Nation FY2023 Annual	**94.0**	**96.7**	**97.9**
Nation FY2024 Annual	**91.3**	**94.5**	**96.2**
Nation FY2025 Annual	**88.0**	**91.8**	**94.0**
Nation FY2026 Annual	**89.2**	**92.8**	**94.9**
Nation FY2026 Q1	**88.9**	**92.4**	**94.5**
Nation FY2026 Q2	**88.1**	**91.9**	**94.2**
Nation FY2026 Q3	**89.9**	**93.4**	**95.4**