



Association For Postal Commerce

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## February 2017 News Archives

### Postal/Industry News

*February 28, 2017*

**Industry Alert: DMM Advisory Pricing — Federal Register: Address Quality Census Measurement and Assessment Process.** The Office of the Federal Register has posted a revised proposed rule on Address Quality Census Measurement and Assessment Process with an additional comment period. SUMMARY: The Postal Service™ is revising its pending proposal to amend *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM®), to introduce a newly proposed measurement and assessment procedure for evaluating address quality for mailers who enter eligible letter- and flat-size pieces of First-Class Mail® (FCM) and USPS Marketing Mail™ (formerly Standard Mail®) that meet the requirements for Basic or Full-Service mailings. In addition, the Postal Service is proposing to extend free Address Change Service (ACS) to mailers who enter qualifying mailpieces. Please submit comments on or before March 29, 2017. Mail or deliver written comments to the manager, Product Classification, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Room 4446, Washington, DC 20260–5015. If sending comments by email, include the name and address of the commenter and send to [ProductClassification@usps.gov](mailto:ProductClassification@usps.gov) with a subject line of “Address Quality Census Measurement and Assessment Process.” For additional information, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/02/27/2017-03723/address-quality-census-measurement-and-assessment-process>.

**Industry Alert: REMINDER: Emerging and Advanced Technology Promotion Starts March 1, 2017** The Emerging and Advanced Technology Promotion encourages mailers to integrate direct mail with advances in mobile technology, allowing recipients to engage in innovative digital experiences triggered by their mailpieces. Eligible mailpieces must incorporate NFC technology, Video in Print (ViP), Beacon technology, “Enhanced” Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality or must have been automatically generated by the recipient’s online activities (also known as Digital to Direct Mail). The promotion starts on March 1, 2017 and runs until August 31, 2017. Registration is currently open and runs until August 31, 2017. This promotion continues to build upon the engagement strategies of past promotions to demonstrate that direct mail continues to be a relevant part of the marketing mix. It also encourages marketers to adopt and invest in technologies and innovations that enhance how consumers interact and engage with mail. New for this year is the inclusion of Virtual Reality to generate opportunities to immerse consumers in a first-hand, virtual experience. Digital to Direct Mail has also been added to this promotion to elicit a higher response from consumers who receive dynamically printed, personalized messaging. Eligible mail includes First-Class Mail presort and automation letters, cards and flats; and USPS Marketing Mail letters and flats (commercial and nonprofit). More information and a full description of the promotion can be found by clicking [here](#) or visiting the URL: <https://postalpro.usps.com/promotions/2017-emerging-advanced-technology-promotion>. If you have any questions, please contact the Program Office at [emergingtechpromo@usps.gov](mailto:emergingtechpromo@usps.gov).

*February 26, 2017*

**Industry Alert:** *Attention Business Customer Gateway and PostalOne!, Users: PostalOne! Release 45.0.3.1* is complete. The attached Release Notes are posted on PostalPro at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3660>.

*February 25, 2017*

**Federal Register: Postal Service:** Address Quality Census Measurement and Assessment Process; Correction,11871-11878 [2017-03723] [\[PDF\]](#)

*February 23, 2017*

**Office of Inspector General: Internal Controls Over Retail Sales Transactions – Norman, OK, Main Office** After discovering that the Main Office in Norman, OK, reported fewer stamp sales than other post offices nationwide, our auditors reviewed the internal controls over retail sales transactions at the Norman Main Office. You can read the findings in our new audit report at <http://go.usa.gov/x9S6h>.

**Federal Register: Postal Service:** Privacy Act; Systems of Records ,11489-11490 [2017-03474] [\[PDF\]](#)

**Industry Alert:** UPDATE. *Attention Business Customer Gateway, PostalOne!, Program Registration, and FAST Users: PostalOne! Release 45.0.3.1* will deploy on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 4:00 AM CT to 10:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system will be available during this time. **Program Registration Release 18.0.2.0** will deploy on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. The Program Registration application will be available during this time. **SASP Release 24.0.3.0** will deploy on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. **FAST Maintenance** will take place on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM CT. The FAST application will not be available during this time.

*February 22, 2017*

**Federal Register: Postal Service:** Mailing Standards: Transport of Lithium Batteries , 11372-11375 [2017-03397] [\[PDF\]](#)

**Industry Alert:** *Attention Business Customer Gateway, PostalOne! and Program Registration Users: PostalOne! Release 45.0.3.1* will deploy on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 4:00 AM CT to 10:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system will be available during this time. **Program Registration Release 18.0.2.0** will deploy on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. The Program Registration application will be available during this time. **SASP Release 24.0.3.0** will deploy on Sunday, February 26, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT.

*February 21, 2017*

**Industry Alert: Winthrop, ME Post Office Destroyed by Fire. Bishopville, SC** – Effective immediately, the Winthrop Main Post Office located at 129 Main Street, Suite A, Winthrop, ME 04364 will be closed due to fire damage until further notice. There is currently no timetable for resuming operations at this location. Alternate retail services and mail service for Post Office Box customers will be conducted at the Manchester Post Office located at 31 Readfield Road, Manchester, ME 04351. The lobby is open from 8 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Customers can call 1-800-ASK-USPS or go to the Postal Service's Website [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) to get the location of other nearby Post Offices and approved postal retail service provide

**Office of the Inspector General: B2C Growing Pains** You can pretty much order anything from nearly anywhere in the world for delivery to your home, or in some cases, to wherever you direct the package, all at a reasonable cost and reliable tracking. This growth in ecommerce provides huge opportunities for the U.S. Postal Service as UPS and FedEx often use USPS for last-mile delivery on some of their ground services. Have you noticed any changes in delivery of your online purchases? When shopping online, do you try to group several orders together for one shipment? Or do you tend to buy more spontaneously and have individual orders shipped separately? Read our blog to learn more about B2C volumes: <http://go.usa.gov/x9JZ7>

*February 18, 2017*

**Federal Register:**

#### **Postal Regulatory Commission**

- New Postal Products: 11246–11247 [2017–03285] [\[PDF\]](#); 11247 [2017–03313] [\[PDF\]](#)

#### **Postal Service**

- Product Changes: Priority Mail Express Negotiated Service Agreement , 11248 [2017–03287] [\[PDF\]](#); Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement , 11247–11248 [2017–03286] [\[PDF\]](#)

*February 17, 2017*

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission:** International Mail Contracts ,11075–11076 [2017–03151] [\[PDF\]](#)

*February 16, 2017*

**Industry Alert: Early Registration Pricing Ends Wednesday, March 1st!** National Postal Forum **early registration discounts are ending on March 1st!** Save \$50 on pre-registration fees and [register today!](#) For an

up-to-date and in-depth description of the workshops, USPS executive sessions, and networking events planned for the 2017 Forum, download the [2017 Promotional Catalog](#). For the most current information on exhibitors confirmed for 2017 visit our [Online Virtual Exhibit Hall](#). If you are in the Business of Mail, you should not miss this opportunity to learn from USPS Executives and Industry Professionals about the future of the mailing and shipping industry! **To REGISTER NOW or for more information on all the National Postal Forum has to offer, please visit [www.npf.org](http://www.npf.org).**

**Office of the Inspector General: [Internal Controls Over Local Purchases and Payments – Pottstown, PA, Post Office](#)** Report Number: FT-FM-17-008. Our most recent audit report details the OIG’s Field Financial Risk Model and our Office of Investigations’ Local Payment Tripwire review of the Pottstown, PA, Post Office. This review focused on whether internal controls were in place and effective for making local purchases and payments at the Pottstown Post Office. Visit our website to read all the findings: <http://go.usa.gov/x9ucY>

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne! Users: MicroStrategy Reports Availability** – MicroStrategy Reports will not be available on Sunday, February 19, 2017 from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT due to BIDS/Oracle maintenance. We apologize for the inconvenience. If you have any questions, please contact the *PostalOne!* Help Desk at 800.522.9085.

**February 15, 2017**

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: International Mail Contracts ,10809–10810 [2017–03051] [\[PDF\]](#); New Postal Products,10810–10811 [2017–02978] [\[PDF\]](#)**

**Industry Alert: UPDATE -- Oroville Dam Evacuations Lifted.** *All mail delivery will resume today.* SACRAMENTO DISTRICT – Late yesterday, the mandatory evacuations of nearly 200,000 residents were lifted. As a result, mail delivery will resume as normal today. “We would like to thank the public for their patience and understanding,” said Ashleigh Rodriguez, Manager of Post Office Operations for Sacramento District. The Sacramento District serves ZIP Codes 936-938, 942, 952, 953 and 956-960 in northern California.

**February 14, 2017**

**Industry Alert: UPDATE -- Oroville Dam Evacuations Continue to Impact Mail Delivery.** *Mail delivery resumes in select areas.* SACRAMENTO DISTRICT – Mandatory evacuations of nearly 200,000 residents were imposed in eight California cities after a hole in an emergency spillway at the Oroville Dam threatened to flood the surrounding area. These evacuations are impacting operations at a number of post offices. Customers whose mail delivery has been affected can pick up their mail with proper identification at the locations listed below. Please note that all alternate pick-up sites will also have retail services available. Until further notice, mail pick up for the following cities will be available at these locations:

Closed Post Offices:	Alternate Pick-Up Sites:	Address for Mail Pick Up
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Marysville Post Office	Yuba City Post Office	761 Plumas St Yuba City, CA 95991
Nicolaus Post Office	Rio Oso Post Office	2156 Rio Oso Road Rio Oso, CA 95674
Olivehurst Post Office	Wheatland Post Office	404 4 <sup>th</sup> St Wheatland, CA 95692
Gridley Post Office	Chico Midtown Post Office	141 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> St Chico, CA 95928
Live Oak Post Office	Chico Midtown Post Office	141 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> St Chico, CA 95928
Palermo Post Office	Chico Midtown Post Office	141 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> St Chico, CA 95928
Oroville Post Office	Chico Midtown Post Office	141 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> St Chico, CA 95928
Berry Creek Post Office	Chico Midtown Post Office	141 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> St Chico, CA 95928

“We apologize for this inconvenience to our customers,” said Ashleigh Rodriguez, Manager of Post Office Operations for Sacramento District. “But we are making every attempt to make mail available for customer pick up where conditions are safe.” The Sacramento District serves ZIP Codes 936-938, 942, 952, 953 and 956-960 in northern California.

**Industry Alert: FAST Message Board Phoenix Power Outage.** Due to necessary maintenance, the power will be shut off at the Phoenix (NASS 852) plant located at 4949 E. Van Buren Street, Phoenix, AZ 85026. The plant will be closed and unable to accept drop shipments on Sunday, February 19, 2017. If at all possible, please schedule your drops for Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> or Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be full appointment availability on Presidents Day (Monday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>). If necessary, mail can be dropped at West Valley P&DC NASS Code 85H, located at 620 N. 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85043 on Sunday, February 19, 2017.

**February 13, 2017**

**Office of the Inspector General:** [Officers’ Travel and Representation Expenses for Fiscal Year 2016](http://go.usa.gov/x9tjK). Our annual audit report of U.S. Postal Service officers’ travel and representation for fiscal year 2016 is now available at <http://go.usa.gov/x9tjK>

**Industry Alert: Oroville Dam Evacuations Impacting Mail Delivery.** *Several Post Offices are closed due to mandatory evacuations.* SACRAMENTO DISTRICT – Mandatory evacuations of nearly 200,000 residents have been imposed in eight California counties after a hole in an emergency spillway at the Oroville Dam threatened to flood the surrounding area. These evacuations are impacting a number of post offices. “We have delivery issues in the area due to the evacuations” said Ashleigh Rodriguez, Manager of Post Office Operations for Sacramento District. “But we are making every attempt to get mail delivered where conditions are safe.” The following post offices are closed due to the mandatory evacuations:

Nicolaus Post Office	95659
Oroville Post Office	95965
Yuba City Post Office	95991

Marysville Post Office	95901
Gridley Post Office	95948
Live Oak Post Office	95953
Biggs Post Office	95917
Olivehurst Post Office	95961
Palermo Post Office	95968
Rio Oso	95674

**Office of the Inspector General: Tuned In: The Brain's Response to Ad Sequencing** A recent neuromarketing study examining the effectiveness of digital and physical advertising media shown in sequences found that physical ads, shown twice, led to better memory of and desirability for advertised products than any other tested sequences, such as back-to-back digital ads and mixed digital-physical sequences. This finding and others have important implications for the U.S. Postal Service, which still generates significant revenue from advertising mail. It is critical to understand the relative strengths of physical and digital advertising, in order to define the role of mail in the Digital Age. Read the details in a new white paper released by the Postal Service Office of Inspector General: *Tuned In: The Brain's Response to Ad Sequencing*: <http://go.usa.gov/x9tq3>

### **February 12, 2017**

**Industry Alert:** Attention PostalOne!® Users. PostalOne!/BIDS Release 45.0.3.0 has successfully completed. Release Notes are posted [here](#) for this release.

As a reminder: Mail.dat Clients:

- Optional Mail.dat Client Download (45.0.3.0\_PROD)- This client will be available for download on Sunday, February 12, 2017. This client is *optional* and will have no functional change for Mailers.
- Retirement of Mail.dat Clients – Mail.dat Client 45.0.0.0 will no longer be supported effective February 19, 2017
- The following Mail.dat clients will be supported effective February 19, 2017: 45.0.1.0\_PROD and 45.0.3.0\_PROD

*FAST Release 35.1.0.0* has successfully completed and the FAST system is available. If you experience any issues, contact the *PostalOne!* Help Desk at 800-522-9085.

### **February 10, 2017**

#### **Federal Register:**

##### **Postal Service**

- First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 10416 [2017-02747] [\[PDF\]](#)

- Parcel Select and Parcel Return Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 10416 [2017-02748] [\[PDF\]](#)
- Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreement, 10416 [2017-02746] [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 10416 [2017-02742] [\[PDF\]](#) 10417 [2017-02743] [\[PDF\]](#) 10416 [2017-02744] [\[PDF\]](#) 10416-10417 [2017-02745] [\[PDF\]](#)

**February 9, 2017**

**Industry Alert: Weather Impacts: Retail and Delivery Operations - Northeast Region Boston-New York-New Jersey Boston** - Retail and delivery operations are being impacted in the Northeast region, as a result of a heavy snow storm moving through the states of Boston, New York, and New Jersey. As a result of the heavy snow and icing, retail operations have been temporarily suspended for some offices. Delivery service will take place where it remains safe to do so. Retail operations have been temporarily suspended as of 3:00 PM Feb. 9, for offices in the ZIP Code range 014-026. Please check back for updates. All Post Offices are expected to resume operations Feb 10.

**New York** - Retail and delivery operations are being impacted in the Northeast region, as a result of a heavy snow storm moving through the states of Boston, New York, and New Jersey. As a result of the heavy snow and icing, retail operations have been temporarily suspended for some offices. Delivery service will take place where it remains safe to do so. **The following offices have temporarily suspended operations:** Retail operations have been temporarily suspended as of 2:00 PM Feb 9, for offices in the Long Island area, with ZIP Code range 115, 117-119. Cadman Plaza PO 11201 – All operations will be suspended early, with a 6:00 PM closing time on Feb 9. Fort George PO, 10040. Long Island City PO, 1110. White Plains PO, 10606. All Post Offices are expected to resume regular operations Feb 10.

**New Jersey** - Retail and delivery operations are being impacted in the Northeast region, as a result of a heavy snow storm moving through the states of Boston, New York, and New Jersey. As a result of the heavy snow and icing, retail operations have been temporarily suspended for some offices. Delivery service will take place where it remains safe to do so. **The following offices have temporarily suspended operations:** Muhlenberg Station, 07060, Netherwood PO, 07062, North Plainfield PO, 07060 Piscataway PO, 08854 Plainfield Finance Station, 07060 Watchung PO, 07069

All Post Offices are expected to resume regular operations Feb 10.

**Office of the Inspector General: [Lessons in Price Regulation from International Posts](#)** The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General recently worked with a leading consulting firm to research on how postal prices are regulated in five countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. This white paper is in response to stakeholder interest in the comparison of price regulation, profitability, and service between the Postal Service and other major posts. Although the Postal Service differs in many respects from other posts, many of the regulatory challenges are the same. To learn what we found, read our full report at: <http://go.usa.gov/x9MPN>

**February 8, 2017**

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 10033-10034 [2017-02676] [\[PDF\]](#)**

**February 7, 2017**

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® Users.** *PostalOne!/BIDS Release 45.0.3.0* will deploy on Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 04:00 AM to 08:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system will be available during this time.

**Mail.dat Clients:**

- **Optional Mail.dat Client Download** (45.0.3.0\_PROD)- This client will be available for download on Sunday, February 12, 2017. This client is *optional* and will have no functional change for Mailers.
- **Retirement of Mail.dat Clients** – Mail.dat Client 45.0.0.0 will no longer be supported effective February 19, 2017
- The following Mail.dat clients will be supported effective February 19, 2017: 45.0.1.0\_PROD and 45.0.3.0\_PROD

**FAST Release 35.1.0.0** will deploy on Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM CT. The FAST system will not be available during this time. **Program Registration Release 18.2.0** will deploy on Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 CT. The Program Registration application will be available during this time.

**Federal Register: Postal Service:** International Product Changes: ADP Contract, 9608 [2017-02439] [[PDF](#)]

**February 6, 2017**

**Office of the Inspector General: [Certainty Beats Speed](#).** Recently, a survey from the International Post Corporation (IPC) on international ecommerce found that customers prefer to know where their package is and a reliable arrival date over how long it will take. IPC consists of postal administrations from developed countries, including the U.S. Postal Service, and conducts this annual survey so posts can better meet customers' needs and promote cross-border growth. We would like to know what matters most to you in ordering an item online from another country. Is certainty of delivery date more important than speed? Would you pay more for tracking? What obstacles do you find when ordering from cross-border sites? Visit our blog and tell us what you think here: <http://go.usa.gov/x96Jd>

**February 4, 2017**

**Federal Register:**

- **Postal Service:** Product Change: Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 9406, [2017-02365] [[PDF](#)]
- **Postal Regulatory Commission:** New Postal Products, 9406 [2017-02406] [[PDF](#)]



*February 3, 2017*

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission:** New Postal Products, 9248-9249 [2017-02253] [[PDF](#)]; 9247-9248 [2017-02306] [[PDF](#)]

*February 2, 2017*

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission:** New Postal Products, 92482-9083 [2017-02163] [[PDF](#)]

*February 1, 2017*

**Federal Register: Postal Service:** Temporary Emergency Committee of the Board of Governors; Sunshine Act Meeting [2017-02256] [[PDF](#)]

## International News

*February 28, 2017*

**FINLAND:** [GlobeNewsWire](#): Posti Group Corporation's Financial Statements Release 2016. The Group's net sales decreased by 2.5% and amounted to EUR 1,607.6 (1,649.1) million. The number of addressed letters decreased by 7%. Measured in waybills, domestic freight grew by 7% excluding the effect of acquisitions and divestments. Parcel volumes grew by 3% in Finland and by 26% in the Baltic countries. B2C parcels grew by 7%. By the parliament's decision in June, the Finnish State can decrease its ownership in Posti Group Corporation. In accordance with Government Resolution on Ownership Steering Policy, 49.9% of the ownership of Posti Group Corporation will be transferred to a new state-owned development company, Vake Oy, which was established in August. The Finnish State's direct holding will remain at 50.1%.

**INDIA:** [VGNews](#): The Indian Railways and the Department of Posts on Monday entered into a partnership for facilitating parcel services utilizing the space in the guard's compartment on selected trains, said an official. The arrangement will help both the postal department and private players transport their parcels, according to an official press release.

**INDIA:** [NewIndianExpress](#): How does a over 160-year-old organisation that delivers letters stay relevant to a generation that is obsessed with emojis? Well, through smileys, says Thimoji Rao, deputy chief postmaster at the General Post Office (GPO) near Vidhana Soudha. Under the consumer redressal forum of the central government, all postal offices were directed to introduce customer-friendly initiatives. The smiley initiative has also increased

interaction prospects between postal department officials and the public. "The Indian postal department has been serving the public for over a century now, but we have always kept to the routine work. Looking up addresses and delivering them. It is only now following the smiley sticker has our interaction with the public improved," says Manjunath G, postaman at GPO.

**SERBIA:** [SeeNews](#): Serbia's state-owned postal operator Posta Srbije said its net profit rose to record-high 3.47 billion dinars (\$29.7 million/28 million euro) in 2016 from 3.13 billion dinars in the previous year. The total revenues of the company stood at 26.63 billion dinars, up 6.9%, and expenses amounted to 22.75 billion dinars, compared with 22.27 billion dinars in 2015. Posta Srbije's operating profit rose by 32.1%, or by 843 million dinars in 2016, and operating revenue rose by 3%, the postal operator said. The operating costs, in turn, were reduced by 9%, as a result of the group's strategy for cost management and optimisation.

**February 27, 2017**

**NETHERLANDS:** [NLTimes](#): In the next four years PostNL will be cutting another 2 thousand jobs while accelerating the company's transformation into a parcel delivery specialist. Up until the end of 2020 between 500 and 600 full time jobs will disappear annually from the Dutch mail division. According to PostNL, the further job cuts are necessary because the postal market keeps shrinking. In the last quarter of 2016 PostNL processed 8 percent less mail than in the same quarter in 2015. This was offset by package delivery increasing by 13 percent. PostNL believes that package delivery will continue to increase in the coming period due to the rise in online shopping.

**February 24, 2017**

**CANADA:** [Post&Parcel](#): Canada Post is introducing a new Smartmail Marketing solution that it says will allow marketers to target at the postal code level by combining existing customer knowledge with address-level data. According to Canada Post: "This level of data-driven targeting empowers marketers to connect with their most receptive audiences, leveraging their own data or selecting the mailing's postal codes by demographic criteria such as income, education, age, location, family composition, interests or lifestyle, and even based on online shopping behaviours."

**UNITED KINGDOM:** [SKYNEWS](#): The price of stamps is to increase next month, Royal Mail has announced. A first class stamp will go up by 1p to 65p and a second class stamp by 1p to 56p. Royal Mail said the changes were needed "to help ensure the sustainability of the universal postal service" but that it had sought to minimise the impact on customers. The changes will take effect from 27 March. It follows a previous 1p rise for both first and second class stamps last March.

**February 23, 2017**

**AUSTRALIA:** [PostalNews](#): Australia Post director Ahmed Fahour has resigned just weeks after his \$5.6 million salary was revealed by a Senate committee, which dismissed calls for it to be concealed from the public. The Government-owned business had attempted to conceal Mr Fahour's salary — which is 10 times more than the \$507,338 Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is paid — because it would result in “unwarranted media attention”. But the Senate committee said his salary was overwhelmingly in the public interest and revealed a \$4.4 million pay packet and a \$1.2 million bonus, taking his total package to \$5.6 million. Minutes after his resignation was publicly announced, the Federal Government ordered the independent remuneration tribunal to oversee the salaries of Australia Post executives.

**AUSTRALIA:** [The Australian](#): Australia Post has reported a sharp jump in first-half earnings as its parcels business continued to expand and its legacy postal business showed signs of stabilisation. In the six months to December 31, the state-owned postal group reported net profit of \$131 million, up eightfold from last year's \$16m result. Australia Post noted domestic parcel volumes rose 5.7 per cent as online shopping gained a greater foothold, dragging that division's pre-tax earnings up 16 per cent to \$189m. The troubled postal operation returned to break-even as cost cutbacks and higher stamp prices overcame an 11 per cent decline in letter volumes.

**MALAYSIA:** [TheEdgeMarkets](#): Pos Malaysia Bhd's net profit soared 55% to RM34.8 million, or 4.45 sen per share, for the third financial quarter ended Dec 31, 2016 (3QFY17), thanks to the courier segment's higher contribution to the postal group's bottomline. According to a filing with Bursa Malaysia today, the group's courier segment registered higher revenue by RM102.7 million compared to RM408 million in 3QFY16, driven by a surge in demand from the e-commerce and online business. Postal services revenue fell due to net drop in traditional mail volume and lower transaction from retail segment from commercial private section for unit trust. International segment revenue slipped because of transshipment revenue decline.

**February 22, 2017**

**CANADA:** [CBCNews](#): Postal unions are pushing Canada Post to bring back postal banking, which hasn't existed in Canada for nearly 50 years. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has argued postal banking would provide financial services to Canadian communities with a post office but without a bank and also cut out predatory payday lenders in those communities. A lobby group representing Canada's big banks is opposed to idea of postal banking, saying 99 percent of Canadians already have a bank account with a financial institution, and should postal banking fail taxpayers would have to cover the losses.

**FRANCE:** [GlobalNewsWire](#): Following a public tender, the French Ministry of Defense has once again selected Sodexo and La Poste to provide international postal services for French military services (*SPID*) for the next four years. Since 2012, both companies have partnered to provide these services, including collection, sorting and delivery of letters and parcels to overseas-based French forces. Backed by four years' experience and a continuous improvement mindset, the La Poste-Sodexo team is in the process of further enhancing its service and customer satisfaction. To better monitor end-user satisfaction, Sodexo will introduce terminals in military post offices abroad to measure what end-users think of service quality. In addition, before starting work, postmen and

women will undergo a training course on the importance of their mission. La Poste will equip them with digital readers to scan letters and parcels so that senders and recipients can track deliveries.

**February 21, 2017**

**BAHRAIN:** [BNA](#): Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications (MTT)'s Bahrain Post Services have won the Universal Postal Union (UPU)'s award in recognition of its precise addresses system and prompt delivery of local and transnational mail. The award is granted to members of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) only after satisfaction of the internationally-recognized standard (S42).

**BANGLADESH:** [The DailyStar](#): The Posts and Telecommunications Division has sought approval from the prime minister to open a postal bank in order to take basic banking services to the remote areas of the country. If the government goes ahead with the proposal already sent to the premier, the postal department will become the country's largest bank with 9,866 offices across Bangladesh. The postal department has set out a plan to restructure its service and targeted banking and e-commerce to generate revenues. Post Offices offer savings instruments that carry interest rate of more than 10 percent, a rate no banks offer at the moment. The post offices also provide financial services such as life insurance, electronic money transfers, ATM services under postal cash cards, money orders and postal orders.

**CANADA:** [Yahoo](#): Canada Post is introducing an innovative new Smartmail Marketing solution that allows marketers to target at the postal code level by combining existing customer knowledge with address-level data, unlocking the power of the postal code. With Postal Code Targeting, marketers can target prospects whose demographics most closely resemble their best customers. This level of data-driven targeting empowers marketers to connect with their most receptive audiences, leveraging their own data or selecting the mailing's postal codes by demographic criteria such as income, education, age, location, family composition, interests or lifestyle, and even based on online shopping behaviours.

**SAUDI ARABIA:** [Reuters](#): Saudi Arabia has invited banks to pitch for an advisory role in the sale of Saudi Postal Corp to investors. The kingdom is launching a privatisation drive as part of wider economic reforms which aim to boost efficiency and ease pressure on state finances in an era of cheap oil. Saudi Postal, the government-owned postal service, sent a request for proposals to local banks last month, according to bankers who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the matter is not public. No decision on which banks will participate has been made.

**February 20, 2017**

**CHINA:** [AirCargoWorld](#): Alibaba Group announced a strategic partnership with Bailian Group, one of China's largest retail conglomerates, in a move to merge online and offline shopping services. The two companies will share consumer data in order to "integrate offline stores, merchandise, logistics and payment tools to deliver a better overall shopping experience." Alibaba and Bailian will co-design brick-and-mortar stores that merge offline and online shopping and services. Data sharing will also allow the companies to combine membership bases to

both target and attend to customers through geo-location, facial recognition and big-data driven sales and customer management systems.

**CHINA:** [Post&Parcel](#): In a statement issued on Friday (17 February) China Post said that it had recently issued a guidance which said the postal company “should combine large postal finance customers and capital flow with rural e-commerce to implement integration and development”. China Post added: “Postal finance will support e-commerce by providing convenient financial service tools and products. “Postal finance will also connect together financial outlets and rural e-commerce supplier sites by carrying out public welfare activities.”

**UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION:** [4-traders](#): Eight designated operators from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have signed a memorandum of understanding on the development of international postal payment services under a single trademark. The collective mark. The memorandum, signed in during a January conference in Tbilisi, Georgia, will have the designated operators of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine begin piloting the UPU's PosTransfer trademark by the end of 2017. Moldova's Post later joined the group in February. 'As we enter a new work cycle, the UPU has made innovation, integration and inclusion the focus of its vision for the postal sector. PosTransfer encapsulates this vision, ensuring that Posts work together to offer the most up-to-date money transfer technologies, increasing the Post's potential to financially include more of the world's population,' said UPU Director General Bishar A. Hussein.

**February 16, 2017**

**ALIBABA:** [thedaily](#): The postal division is going to collaborate with global e-commerce giants Alibaba and Amazon to deliver their products across Bangladesh. They will start the pilot phase with the two global companies in the first week of March. If they get a positive response, they will sign an agreement in April. In November last year, the postal department launched postal e-commerce services in 20 post offices in Dhaka, which was the first such service under any government entity in Bangladesh, said a top official at the programme. Through this initiative, online buyers are now able to receive their products from e-commerce sites, delivered to their doorsteps in Dhaka.

**JAMAICA:** [jis.gov](#): The Government will spend \$46.6 million to upgrade the country's international postal system in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Funding for this initiative will be provided by the Universal Postal Union. The project, which is to be implemented by the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology, will result in the Jamaica Post's ability to control and improve mail processing and handling. As part of the initiative, several computer equipment and pieces of furniture are expected to be delivered to post offices islandwide.

**February 15, 2017**

**DJIBOUTI:** [directionsmag](#): what3words, the multi-award winning addressing system, has been adopted as an addressing standard by La Poste de Djibouti. Located in the Horn of Africa Republic of Djibouti is the fifth country in the world to accept 3 word addresses to improve its national infrastructure. Djibouti occupies a total area of just 23,200 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of approximately 850,000 citizens. With only a few named streets, delivering

mail is a constant struggle for La Poste de Djibouti, the nation's official postal system. Until recently, home delivery was restricted to express mail in Djibouti City, the capital of the Republic.

**FINLAND:** [\*postal&parcel\*](#): Finnish national postal operator Posti has unveiled its plans to build a new flagship sorting center near Helsinki Airport in Vantaa, Finland. The new terminal will be located near Posti's logistics center and service warehouses in Vantaa, helping to direct heavy traffic away from the city center. Jaakko Kaidesoja, head of Posti's transport services, said, "The location of the new terminal is optimal, both from the point of view of Posti and the material flows of our customers. The terminal meets the growing needs arising from higher freight volumes."

**SWITZERLAND:** [\*postal&parcel\*](#): National postal operator Swiss Post has launched a series of inflight options enabling customers to manage their parcels and decide when, where and how they want to receive them. To offer even greater convenience when receiving parcels, Swiss Post is also trialling delivery time notifications. As part of a trial, certain Swiss Post customers will also receive an e-mail or SMS informing them of their delivery window.

*February 13, 2017*

**AUSTRALIA:** [\*themercury\*](#): While the Australia Post CEO Ahmed Fahour's package is worth \$5.6 million, yours is worth just \$50 — and it's shrinking all the time. That's the maximum amount you can claim back from Australia Post for a lost or damaged standard delivery. For registered post you can claim up to \$100, and if you purchase insurance cover you can claim up to \$5000. But the standard \$50 fee has not changed since 1987, meaning the amount of compensation paid has been steadily declining in real terms for three decades — the same \$50 in 1987 would be worth \$117 in today's dollars. That's the maximum amount you can claim back from Australia Post for a lost or damaged standard delivery. For registered post you can claim up to \$100, and if you purchase insurance cover you can claim up to \$5000.

**EGYPT:** [\*africanbusiness\*](#): The National Postal Authority (NPA) and the Commercial International Bank-Egypt (CIB), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the regulation of financial services and the establishment of a financial inclusion base. The protocol also allows the authority to provide financial services to small and micro projects, including collection, notification, and marketing among its clients, as well as providing the payment service of dues to the bank's customers through pre-paid postage cards. The authority would also collect individual dues, including the installment facilities, credit card payments, and smart portfolio services of withdrawal, deposit, and registration in NPA branches across the country. This protocol comes within the CIB's strategy to increase the its banking service outlets for its customers.

**HONGKONG:** [\*Post&Parcel\*](#): NEC has introduced a function for reading and sorting addresses written in traditional Chinese characters to the postal automation systems operated by Hongkong Post. Hongkong Post has witnessed a rise in the number of postal items addressed in traditional Chinese characters. This new function has therefore been introduced to the 15 systems which NEC has delivered to Hongkong Post since 2008.

**TONGA:** [RadionZ](#): Tonga will soon have a new postal system where every house will have an address consisting of three random words. Like much of the Pacific, Tonga doesn't really have a formal address system, which can make things difficult for the country's mail deliverers. Over the next few months, all of Tonga will be divided into nine-square-metre sections which will be assigned a combination of three words.

### ***February 10, 2017***

**ITALY:** [Stattimes](#): FedEx Express has opened its new international gateway to Southern Europe at Milan-Malpensa Airport. The 35,000 square-foot Express Logistics facility is equipped with state-of-the-art technology that increases packet sorting capacity by 25 percent and is more efficient. As a result, [FedEx](#) is able to better manage its growing volume. This expansion is based on an existing presence and a thirty-year company history in Italy. Over the past twelve months, the number of FedEx shipments from Italy to the rest of the world has grown by a double-digit percentage.

**SCANDINAVIA:** [Post&Parcel](#): PostNord has reported that "sharply declining mail volumes" and the "rapid pace of digitization" impacted its performance in 2016. In Denmark, where the Danish government's digitization agenda has made the country into probably the most highly-digitized country in the world, the scale of volume losses in the mail business is continuing to grow. Over 2016, the volume of priority mail fell very sharply and since 2000 has declined by approx. 90 %. The PostNord CEO also outlined how transformation plans are also underway across the group: "The downturn in mail business is common to all national postal corporations. The outcome is that business models must be reviewed from the bottom up in order to adjust to the trend we are seeing in Denmark, where letters are gradually becoming a niche product. This trend means that systems of postal regulation will have to be adapted."

**TUNISIA:** [Post&Parcel](#): The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Tunisian government have unveiled plans to establish a regional e-commerce hub for Northern Africa. As part of the project, Africa will establish hubs located in its Eastern, Southern, Western, Central and Northern regions, from which other spokes can be created to serve the entire continent. The project will later be replicated in other parts of the world. A parcel and goods centre is being established at the Tunis-Carthage Airport, which will include warehouse, sorting, dispatch and customs facilities. The Tunisian Post will facilitate deliveries within the country and abroad.

### ***February 9, 2017***

**CANADA:** [680news](#): The federal government will decide by spring whether to restore door-to-door mail delivery to those who lost it in the last year. Among its many recommendations, the committee's report called on the Liberal government to reinstate door-to-door delivery in those parts of the country where service was converted to community mailboxes after August 2015. It also urged the government to maintain a freeze on the installation of the curbside mail boxes and said Canada Post should raise delivery rates.

**NEW ZEALAND:** [odt](#): A New Zealand Post spokeswoman said eight postboxes would be removed from Dunedin today. Postal Workers Union Southern District president John Maynard said the latest wave of postbox removals

undermined community access to the postal network. The union was preparing a submission to the justice and electoral select committee's inquiry into the conduct of the local authority elections. The submission raised concerns at the removal of essential infrastructure for voter participation in a postal ballot. New Zealand Post had failed to respond to the union proposal for postboxes to be cleared by posties on their rounds to save the company money, he said. The New Zealand Post spokeswoman said NZ Post disagreed the overall number of postboxes had an impact on voter turnout when it came to postal ballots.

### ***February 8, 2017***

**AUSTRALIA:** [quartzmedia](#): A Senate committee in Australia published documents on Feb. 7 showing the salaries of senior executives at Australia Post, a government-owned corporation. The committee decided it was in the public interest to reveal that last year Ahmed Fahour, managing director of Australia Post, raked in A\$5.6 million (US\$4.3 million), receiving a A\$1.2 million bonus and A\$4.4 million in annual salary. By contrast, the nation's prime minister makes just over A\$500,000 per year. The documents showed that five other senior executives at Australia Post also out-earned the prime minister, with each taking in between A\$1.3 million and A\$1.8 million per year. In 2015 Australia Post slashed 1,900 jobs in response to decreasing demand for its traditional letter delivery service. It reported at the time that losses were approaching A\$500 million for the financial year, and that over the past five years they had exceeded A\$1.5 billion.

**INDIA:** [EconomicTimes](#): Revenue deficit of the [Department of Post](#) (DoP) widened to Rs 8,670 crore in the April-December period of this fiscal, but various initiatives - including passport facility and other government services through post - are expected to rake in more revenue. The DoP had registered a revenue deficit of Rs 6,007 crore in the fiscal year 2015-16. Various measures have been taken by the department to boost its revenue - Railway tickets are being sold through post offices under an agreement signed with the Ministry of Railways; that Government of India has introduced Sovereign Gold Bond scheme (SGB) and distribution of sourcing of Gangajal from Gangotri and Rishikesh through Post Offices as well as online through the Post Office has commenced.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** [channelwireless](#): Amazon said on Wednesday it had expanded its AmazonFresh food delivery service in Britain to 260 postal areas, making it available in selected parts of the southern England county of Hampshire for the first time. Amazon launched AmazonFresh in the UK last June, starting with 69 London postcodes and expanding to 190 Greater London and Surrey postcodes last September. AmazonFresh offers same day delivery, with one-hour delivery slots seven days a week. Its launch has increased the pressure on Britain's traditional big supermarkets.

### ***February 7, 2017***

**TAIWAN:** [ChinaPost](#): The national postal service announced Tuesday that most branches would stay open on Saturdays from 9 a.m to noon. Postal staff wages would adhere to new overtime rules, which will cost the postal service an estimated NT\$200 million annually. The increased cost could be offset by revenue generated during weekend operations.



**UNITED KINGDOM: [Post&Parcel](#):** Royal Mail reportedly ran a small-scale pilot late last year providing customers with real-time delivery tracking. Participants in the trial received SMS/email notifications on the day of delivery of Tracked 24 and 48 parcels with 2D barcodes, linking to a live map of their delivery route. A position in the delivery queue was given eg, 'we are 5 deliveries away'. However, no estimated delivery window was provided. Participants could follow their delivery in real time, allowing them to plan their day in the knowledge that they had visibility of when the delivery would be made.

***February 5, 2017***

**NIGERIA: [NationNigeria](#):** The Nigeria Postal Service, NIPOST, has assured Nigerians of its preparedness to provide market-driven postal and people-oriented services through innovation and technology to boost commerce and further diversify the nation's economy. NIPOST promised to accustom Nigerians with the benefit of doing business and commerce with the postal industry considering the existing value-chain that include the network reach, logistic and warehousing, real estate, financial services and financial solutions.

***February 3, 2017***

**TONGA: [DirectionsMagazine](#):** The Kingdom of Tonga is the first nation in the region, and the fourth in the world to adopt 3 word addresses to improve its national infrastructure. With 170 islands scattered over 700,000 square kilometres of ocean, delivering anything to anyone is a challenge. Until recently, home delivery was restricted to express mail in the city of Nuku'alofa, the capital of the Kingdom. Any other post would be delivered to centralised PO Boxes, with the recipient responsible for collection. That resulted in high volumes of undelivered mail, taking up space and incurring extra costs for Tonga Post.

***February 2, 2017***

**SOUTH AFRICA: [IT-ONLINE](#):** The South African Posts Office turnaround plan is behind schedule but will complete its re-organisation to deliver on its aims. SAPO Strategic Turnaround Plan requires that the SA Post Office is modernised to focus on new businesses that are based on courier services, financial services and on the internet economy. The performance of the post office was slightly behind the projections but the focus on generating revenue through new businesses will improve performance going forward.

**TURKEY: [HurriyetDailyNews](#):** Turkey's Social Security Institution (SGK) is planning to distribute imported medicines to patients via the national postal service PTT, as part of austerity measures.

A protocol between SGK and PTT regarding the transfer of imported drugs was signed a few months ago. Previously, the distribution of medicine coming from imports was done by the Turkish Pharmacologists Association (TEB), which was part of a protocol between SGK and TEB. TEB was receiving commission from the distribution. SGK's decision, however, drew criticisms from pharmacists and chambers. The Turkish Employer Pharmacists Union (TEİS) has filed a complaint against the State Council, saying that providing medicine to patients by post without pharmacists' prescriptions would be very costly.

***February 1, 2017***

**OMAN:** [\*Times\*](#): A unified postal address system is coming to Oman. The project aims to establish an integrated system using the latest international tools and technology applied in geographical information systems and digital mapping. Currently individuals and services find it difficult and time consuming to find a certain location. People would direct others to their location by giving them descriptive information of where they are and guide them through the streets.

## **National News**

***February 26, 2017***

[\*TheGuardian\*](#): The USPS delivers to 155m homes from coast to coast, six – and now increasingly seven – days a week as deals such as the one with Amazon are signed. Daily, an average of 3,630 new household, business or organisation addresses are added to the postal delivery network. Twenty thousand letter carriers have been added in the past couple of years to handle the growing number of homes and businesses serviced by USPS as well as the spiralling package deliveries (up 16% last year alone). USPS provides Americans and their businesses with the industrial world's most affordable delivery network, and has been for seven years running the most trusted federal agency. It now delivers 47% of the world's mail. On 9 February USPS announced a \$522m operating profit for fiscal 2017's first quarter, putting postal operations in the black by \$3.7bn since the start of 2014. This is without a dime of taxpayer money; USPS earns its revenue.

***February 23, 2017***

[\*AirCargoNews\*](#): FedEx Express has extended its express air transportation contract with the United States Postal Service (USPS), which dates back to April 2013. The agreement is now extended to September 29, 2024. The modified contract is expected to generate around \$1.5bn per year for FedEx Express, which will provide domestic US airport-to-airport transport of USPS Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express.

***February 22, 2017***

[\*TechCrunch\*](#): On a blueberry farm outside of Tampa, Florida, on Monday, UPS tested the use of drones for residential delivery for the first time. The truck for the test was custom-built to be able to launch the HorseFly drone from its roof, then grab it upon its return with robotic arms. The company's goal is to have drones work off of any type of vehicle, whether gas-powered or electric, to make last-mile deliveries. If the technology shapes up as hoped, one day a UPS driver could push a button on a touchscreen affixed to a truck's dash to send a drone off to complete some deliveries. This would allow drivers to avoid roads that aren't wide enough to accommodate their trucks, for example, and to shave miles off their route in rural areas where homes are far and few between. Drivers would not have to pilot drones, but could push a button to launch and recall them as needed.

**[WSJ](#)**: United Parcel Service Inc. said it would start making ground deliveries on Saturdays. UPS currently delivers some express or airborne packages on Saturdays. The Atlanta-based company will roll out Saturday ground delivery starting in April with plans to cover about half the U.S. population by the end of the year. While the U.S. Postal Service and FedEx Corp. both offer Saturday ground delivery, UPS says it will also pick up and sort packages on Saturday too. That means items picked up on Saturday can be delivered on Monday. The change will also free up network capacity in the early part of each week.

**[eCommerceBytes](#)**: eBay is urging users to sign its petition requesting the Postal Regulatory Commission not to raise shipping costs. eBay sent an email this week to members of its Main Street grassroots lobbying program with the title, "eBay Says Keep USPS Prices Low." In the petition, eBay tells the PRC that the USPS is a "key package delivery service" for eBay's top sellers, and says higher postage results in abandoned online shopping carts.

**[Linns](#)**: Two of the largest makers of computer-generated postage have told the United States Postal Service that proposed rules for what images can be allowed on their products are a mistake and could harm their sales. Both Stamps.com and Zazzle Inc. offered their written reservations in response to the USPS's Jan. 5 notice in the *Federal Register* calling for additional rules on a product initially approved in 2004. If adopted, Stamps.com said a new provision to separate what the Postal Service calls "customized postage products" from its postage stamps could force it to change the company's name. Zazzle, based in Redwood City, Calif., said it feared the proposal "will create broad restrictions on content, will be onerous to comply with and could have unintended consequences." It urged the USPS to put the issue "on hold" until the makers of such postage and the Postal Service can "meet in person" over the issue.

### ***February 21, 2017***

**[FedSmith](#)**: Legislation was recently introduced in the House to extend MSPB appeal rights to certain Postal Service employees. The Postal Employee Appeal Rights Amendments Act ([H.R. 942](#)) was introduced by Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and David McKinley (R-WV). It would extend MSPB appeal rights over adverse personnel actions to any Postal Service employee who is a non-bargaining unit career and non-career employee in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative, or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule; and has completed 1 year of current continuous service in the same or similar positions.

### ***February 20, 2017***

**[Engadget](#)**: When Walmart ditched its Amazon Prime-style subscriptions and offered free two-day shipping for all orders over \$35, it was a shot across the bow -- we might not compete directly, but we can still undercut you. Well, Amazon is responding in kind. Just a year after it hiked its free shipping minimum to \$49, the online shopping giant has lowered that threshold back to \$35. That won't deliver your goods any sooner (you still need Prime for that), but it could tip the balance if you're more interested in avoiding fees than getting your order in a hurry.

**[blog.constitutioncenter](#)**: On February 20, 1792, President George Washington officially created the modern United States Postal Service by signing a sweeping act that promoted a free press and put privacy safeguards in place. Mail delivery and an earlier version of the Service had been in place since 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was named as the first postmaster and the Continental Congress paid him a salary of \$1,000 a year. It was the Postal Act of 1792 that established the foundation of a modern Postal Service. Congress granted the Postmaster General broader powers. And the act addressed issues related to commerce and privacy. The act ensured newspapers could be sent at low mail rates, which facilitated a free press across the new states. The law also protected privacy by making it illegal for postal officials to open mail unless it was undeliverable. Congress also called for more mail routes to service an expanding nation.

***February 16, 2017***

**[brandentonherald](#)**: U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio and other lawmakers Tuesday introduced the newest version of the Synthetics Trafficking & Overdose Prevention, or STOP, Act as part of effort to restrict the flow of powerful synthetic opioids into the country via the U.S. Postal Service. China and India have been identified as primary sources of the fentanyl and carfentanil being trafficked in the United States, according to news release from Rubio's office. Companies in China and India take advantage of the U.S. Postal Service, which unlike UPS or FedEx, does not require advance electronic customs data for the vast majority of incoming international mail. If the new legislation is adopted, it would require information such who and where the package is coming from, who it's going to, where it is going and what's in it before it could be allowed in the country. With that information, Customs and Border Protection, which cannot normally scan all packages because of the volume, will be able target potential illegal packages.

**[federaltimes](#)**: A new bill intends to expand U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board appeals rights to mid-level U.S. Postal Service management. Reps. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., and David McKinley, R-W.Va., introduced HR 942, which, if signed into law, would confer appeal rights to approximately 7,500 Postal Service employees that currently do not possess the right to appeal adverse personnel actions. Those covered are non-bargaining unit career and non-career employees in a supervisory, professional, technical, clerical, administrative or managerial position covered by the Executive and Administrative Schedule; and that have completed one year of current continuous service in the same or similar positions.

**[linns](#)**: A footnote to its latest financial report could place a cloud over one of the United States Postal Service's biggest pending projects and the booming growth of its package business. In bold type on page 29 of the first-quarter report comes the caution that while the USPS has scored big gains in package deliveries "this increase is largely due to significant volume growth from three major customers. And it adds that all three "are building the capacity which would enable them to divert volume away from the Postal Service." What that could threaten is the Postal Service's long-held plans to replace its entire fleet of delivery vehicles with a new generation of trucks made especially for its use. With the anticipated purchase of 180,000 vehicles, the purchase could be the largest fleet sale in the United States, with a price tag "in excess of \$6 billion" according to one estimate. But if those three big shippers vanish as rapidly as first-class letters have, so would the Postal Service's demand for a large, new fleet.

**February 15, 2017**

**CPI:** The latest Consumer Price Index news release has been posted on the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.6 percent in January on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 2.5 percent before seasonal adjustment. The January increase was the largest seasonally adjusted all items increase since February 2013. A sharp rise in the gasoline index accounted for nearly half the increase, and advances in the indexes for shelter, apparel, and new vehicles also were major contributors.

**ecommercebytes:** More than 170,000 attendees from across the globe descended on the CES 2017 trade show in Las Vegas last month. A visually attractive and engaging booth helped the United States Postal Service stand out among the more than 3,800 exhibitors occupying nearly 2.64 million net square feet of exhibit space. While drones, driverless cars and home automation products scored with attendees, a stealth USPS debut product won over its own legion of fans. The new Priority Mail Precious Cargo Boxes pulled in attendees to the USPS booth by the thousands. The box is designed with foam inserts strategically placed to securely hold electronics without adding packing peanuts or air cushioning. This is an exciting innovation for shipping fragile items - particularly laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

**Engadget:** Amazon's much-anticipated (and long time coming) drone deliveries might technically finally be happening, but a new patent spotted by CNN suggests your next book or box-set might actually arrive via parachute. There are many practical, legal and technical challenges that drone deliveries present -- and getting the parcel on the ground is just one of them. So far, deliveries have been carried out in relatively controlled locations where a drone can land to release its cargo. A safe landing isn't possible everywhere, not to mention other environmental hazards such as humans, pets and other obstacles. According to CNN, the patent proposes that Amazon's drones could complete deliveries by releasing the package from the air. The drone would watch from above, and attempt to adjust the package's descent with either a parachute, a burst of compressed air and other such mechanisms.

**WashingtonPost:** A federal judge on Monday rejected cyclist Lance Armstrong's attempt to knock out a U.S. government lawsuit to collect \$100 million it says he owes taxpayers for lost promotional value after he admitted doping while sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service. The decision clears the case to go to trial. The ruling marked a major victory for the government since it joined a 2010 whistleblower lawsuit brought by Armstrong's former teammate Floyd Landis. While generally accepting Armstrong's argument that the Postal Service reaped "substantial" benefits during most of his seven Tour de France wins, U.S. District Judge Christopher R. "Casey" Cooper of Washington wrote that the actual "determination of damages must . . . be left to a jury." The benefit "USPS received is not sufficiently quantifiable to keep any reasonable juror from finding that the agency suffered a net loss," given the negative publicity over Armstrong's doping and doping confession, Cooper wrote in a 37-page opinion.

**February 14, 2017**

**[WashingtonPost](#)**: Fundamentally, the USPS is in a historic squeeze between technological change that has permanently decreased demand for its bread-and-butter product, first-class mail, and a regulatory structure that denies management the flexibility to adjust its operations to the new reality. To cite just one example: Products that account for 74 percent of USPS revenue are covered by a statutory price cap. And interest groups ranging from postal unions to greeting-card makers exert self-interested pressure on the USPS's ultimate overseer — Congress — insisting that whatever else happens to the Postal Service, aspects of the status quo they depend on get protected. This is why repeated attempts at reform legislation have failed in recent years, leaving the Postal Service unable to pay its bills except by deferring vital modernization; the average postal delivery vehicle went into operation around President Bill Clinton's first year in office.

**[pr.com](#)**: Anytime Mailbox, the groundbreaking pioneer of virtual mailbox solutions, is pleased to announce that it has entered a Licensing Agreement with Personal Mail International, Inc. to provide their leading-edge virtual mailbox solutions for expatriates, frequent travelers, corporate enterprises, overseas retirees, snowbirds, and multiple homeowners. Anytime Mailbox's revolutionary technology enables both businesses and consumers to view and manage their postal mail via their mobile device or desktop. Businesses and consumers not only avoid wasting valuable time physically checking their mailboxes, but they now have the competitive advantage of responding to hardcopy mail instantly and efficiently. Thanks to the new partnership with Anytime Mailbox, Personal Mail International clients can now view and manage their mail by simply clicking on the available actions for each piece of mail including shred, recycle, forward or open and scan.

**February 9, 2017**

**[nrtw](#)**: In the culmination of a two year long fight, US Postal Service workers receiving free legal aid from the National Right to Work Foundation have won their battle with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), forcing the union officials to disgorge over one million dollars taken by the union from money intended for the workers. In December 2014, over seven thousand USPS workers were awarded a lump payment of back wages as part of an arbitration award. To the workers this was a windfall victory, but to the officials at the APWU, this was an opportunity to pad union coffers. An APWU national director involved with the arbitration, colluded with the Postal service to divert over one million dollars from the total award of 8.64 million dollars into the coffers of the APWU.

**[manufacturing.net](#)**: UPS this week announced plans to implement solar energy systems in at least eight additional U.S. facilities by the end of the year. The \$18 million initiative will expand the company's solar capacity by nearly 10 megawatts, a five-fold increase from its current capacity. The expansion will include the purchase of more than 26,000 solar panels. Once completed, those facilities will produce half of their daily energy use via solar power. The overall project is expected to curb about 8,200 metric tons of carbon emissions annually, as well as provide additional flexibility to UPS, which will own a significant portion of its long-term power supply.

**[WashingtonPost](#)**: The U.S. Postal Service says it lost \$200 million during the year-end holiday season, despite a strong quarter of package shipping and expanded use of vote-by-mail in the November presidential election. The results also reflect continued erosion in the delivery of first-class mail as well as expensive mandates for funding

of its retiree health care obligations. The post office's Thursday report shows earnings of more than \$1.4 billion between October and December 2016. But when effects of a \$1.7 billion change in workers' compensation liability due to fluctuating interest rates are excluded, the service says it lost money overall. Operating income came to \$522 million, down from \$1.3 billion in the previous year.

**February 8, 2017**

**[nasdaq](#)**: It appears the United States Postal Service is determined not to be the courier of choice for drug dealers any longer. Judging by a recent job listing sent to the information security community, the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) - the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service wants to sniff out users of darknet markets that send their packages by mail. Applicants for the job, listed as "Investigative (Internet) Analyst", are expected to know their way around bitcoin - the currency of choice on the darkweb - as well as other tools typically used by darknets.

**[WashingtonPost](#)**: Members on each side of the aisle went out of their way to praise representatives from both parties for work on legislation designed to save the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from financial ruin. Now, with bipartisan legislation being considered in the infamously partisan House, hopeless no longer describes the USPS's future. It's not fixed yet, but the [Postal Service Reform Act](#) of 2017 provides a degree of optimism that for many years was absent.

**[pymnts](#)**: Small and medium-sized businesses will be able to fulfill orders and track inventory with greater ease with the launch of FedEx Fulfillment, an eCommerce solution that enables merchants to complete orders from multiple channels, as well as manage inventory for their stores. Participating businesses will store their products at FedEx warehouses in the United States and Canada. Once a sale is made, FedEx will then package and ship the products in custom boxes with a brand's logo (rather than with FedEx's own logo). This puts FedEx in direct competition with Amazon, who has allowed third-party sellers to keep merchandise in its warehouses and then ship them for the seller once they're purchased since 2000.

**[timesonline](#)**: Known for his role in developing a system of national security, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge is now looking at a different threat to Americans: illegal drug trafficking through the postal service. With record numbers of overdose deaths plaguing the nation, stopping the flow of illegal drugs into the United States has become the topic de jure for politicians and law enforcement officials alike. Through this has developed a newly formed bipartisan coalition, Americans for Securing All Packages. The group is working to close what they call a loophole in the postal service that allows illicit goods -- including prescription medications, opioids, fentanyl and heroin -- to illegally enter the U.S. as a result of a lack of screening. Ridge, the former Secretary of Homeland Security and once governor, acts as a senior advisor to the organization.

**[fedscoop](#)**: A bipartisan bill proposed to help the U.S. Postal Service back on track financially would add a new leader charged with finding "innovative" products that will help the agency generate revenue. The innovation officer would "manage the Postal Service's development and implementation of innovative postal and nonpostal products and services," according to the bill. The bill calls for the chief innovation officer to specifically develop postal products and services that "utilize emerging information technologies, to maximize revenue to the Postal Service."

**[readingeagle](#)**: For almost more years than can be remembered, the U.S. Postal Service has pleaded with Congress for help with its seemingly futile financial situation. Politicians from both parties, along with postal unions and other interested folks, agreed that the USPS financial picture was bleak, but consensus on getting out of the hole seemed beyond reach. Now, with bipartisan legislation being considered in the infamously partisan House, hopeless no longer describes the Postal Service's future. It's not fixed yet, but the Postal Service Reform Act of 2017 provides a degree of optimism that for many years was absent. In her statement to the committee, Megan J. Brennan, the postmaster general and chief executive, agreed, saying the legislation "would provide the Postal Service with the financial stability to invest in our future and continue to be an engine of growth, to be a strong business partner, to compete for customers with compelling new services and offerings, and to meet the expectations of the American public." "Overall," she added, "our financial situation is very serious but solvable."

**[govexec](#)**: The four major unions representing U.S. Postal Service employees have all thrown their support behind a renewed effort to overhaul the agency, providing what supporters are calling a "watershed event" in the drawn-out battle for reform. Unlike previous attempts at postal reform, the National Association of Letter Carriers, the American Postal Workers Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association and the National Postal Mail Handlers Union all threw their support behind the bill. Art Sackler, head of the Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service -- a group representing dozens of private sector businesses in mailing and other industries -- also announced his association's full backing. Postmaster General Megan Brennan said her agency supported the bill as well.

***February 7, 2017***

**[WashingtonPost](#)**: For almost more years than can be remembered, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has pleaded with Congress for help with its seemingly futile financial situation. Politicians from both parties, along with postal unions and other interested folks, agreed that the USPS financial picture was bleak, but consensus on getting out of the hole seemed beyond reach. It's not fixed yet, but the [Postal Service Reform Act](#) of 2017 provides a degree of optimism that for many years was absent. Much of what the bill would do is in the weeds of postal finances, dealing with the nitty-gritty of health benefits for employees and retirees, pensions, governance and contracting. There is no mention of ending Saturday mail delivery, once strongly advocated by postal officials as a major component of their cost-saving strategy.

***February 6, 2017***

**[WashingtonExaminer](#)**: Overall, the Postal Service delivers to 155 million residences and businesses six and increasingly seven days a week, providing them with the industrial world's most affordable delivery network. Consistently rated the public's most trusted federal agency, the USPS is particularly critical to small towns and rural areas as well as to small businesses. It is also the nation's largest civilian employer of military veterans. USPS revenue exceeded operating expenses by \$610 million in Fiscal Year 2016, bringing its total operating profit the past three years to \$3.2 billion. Bear in mind that this is earned revenue; by law USPS gets no tax dollars. It earns its money by selling stamps and other products and services. Two structural factors account for this impressive performance: As the economy gradually improves from the worst recession in 80 years, letter revenue is stabilizing. And as the Internet drives online shopping, package revenue is rising sharply (up 16 percent in 2016), auguring well for the future. Record worker productivity also contributes.



**[PostalNews](#)**: The House Oversight Committee will hold a hearing on Tuesday, February 7 at 10AM ET to consider the latest postal “reform” bill. From the Committee announcement, the purpose of the meeting is to: to examine the need for timely and comprehensive postal reform legislation and to discuss provisions that stakeholders believe are necessary in a comprehensive reform bill.

**[OpenPR](#)**: The global postal packaging industry is transforming itself in an era of globalization, technological transformation, and innovation. The structural drop in physical letter mail volumes across the globe makes significant challenges for the postal packaging industry. It is expected that the sales in key markets such as the US, China, Japan and France are expected to rise steadily over 2016-2024. Most of the postal packaging operators are participating in environmental sustainability by making environment-friendly mailer packaging products.

**[Abcnews.go.com](#)**: Monday announcement of a new air cargo hub in Kentucky is merely Amazon's latest foray into building out its own shipping and logistics unit. If successful, the move could ultimately mean lower costs for Amazon — and possibly faster delivery and low prices for consumers. But it could also pit Amazon against package deliverers like FedEx and UPS. Amazon has long plowed its profits back into its business investments. In order to speed up its delivery, it has invested in opening new distribution centers and leasing fleets of trucks. In May, Amazon leased 40 Boeing jets from Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings and Air Transport Services Group Inc., a fleet it dubbed "Prime Air." The move comes as e-commerce continues to outpace retail sales.

**[iechpost.com](#)**: FedEx is reportedly investing in self-driving technology, robotics artificial intelligence to better its delivery services. FedEx is looking at the possibility of having driverless delivery trucks take care of business within small neighborhoods. FedEx has also developed an app that integrates Alexa, the popular artificial intelligence from Amazon. The AI-enabled app will allow users to initiate shipments from FedEx by simply talking to a smart device using commands such as "Alexa, prepare a shipment." Instead of drones, FedEx prefers the more energy-efficient robot couriers. Rolling robots can lift heavy loads, travel farther and come to homes and businesses to get packages.

### ***February 3, 2017***

**[PostalNews](#)**: The Coalition for a 21st Century Postal Service (C21) expressed its support for HR 756, the Postal Reform Act of 2017. What is at stake is whether the Postal Service can continue to be wholly funded by user fees: postage. It receives no taxpayer funds. Absent this bill, the result could be major, unaffordable rate increases that would drive large volumes of mail out of the system, damaging businesses and costing jobs around the country. Ultimately, taxpayer funds would be necessary to prop up a failing, but still essential postal system. According to Art Sackler, Manager of C21, "C21 mailers and suppliers, and the industry as a whole, have long supported a universal, self-sustaining postal system, and this bill would keep it that way."

### ***February 2, 2017***

**[PRnewswire](#)**: The American Catalog Mailers Association wholeheartedly endorses the just-released Postal Service Reform Act of 2017, a critical milestone toward resolving the health of our nation's Postal Service, which

drives some 7.5 million jobs and \$1.4 trillion in commerce. The ACMA believes that by gaining bipartisan support from Congress, as well as Postal Service management, its labor unions and the mailing community, this bill can truly make a difference to jobs in America while protecting critical infrastructure that all Americans rely on.

**[PostalNews](#)**: National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) urged members of Congress to oppose the Postal Service Reform Act of 2017, H.R. 756. NARFE President Richard G. Thissen issued the following statement: "There are simple solutions to the financial problems facing the U.S. Postal Service, such as eliminating the prefunding requirement outright, but this bill takes a more complicated route – forcing current postal retirees and survivors who are satisfied with their current health insurance coverage to pay an additional \$134 per month, or more, through Medicare to keep it...NARFE has offered an alternative that is simple, fair and reasonable: maintain automatic enrollment of current postal retirees into Medicare Part B, but provide them with a short opt-out window of 60 or 90 days. Without this option, the bill breaks a promise regarding postal retiree health benefits and replaces the individual postal retiree's choice of health insurance with a paternalistic requirement, at significant cost to the Medicare program."

**[wfmynews2](#)**: Did you know -- every card, letter or parcel you put in the mail will be *scanned*? It's not so you can track your mail if it gets lost, but rather so authorities can track *you* if you're suspected in a crime. Turns out, the US Postal Service scans every piece of mail. Law enforcement agencies can request those scans for persons of interest in felony or fugitive cases. The process is an investigative tool called "mail cover." A [2014 audit report](#) that showed USPS processed about 49,000 mail cover requests the previous year.

**[finance.yahoo](#)**: UPS announced today the addition of origin labeling capability for UPS Trade Direct Air and Ocean services. UPS Trade Direct solution allows importers and manufacturers to bypass distribution centers by adding the final destination label to individual packages for immediate last mile delivery. UPS Trade Direct tools provide consolidation of international freight, air, ocean and ground transportation, customs clearance and direct delivery to multiple addresses within the destination country, all through a single source. This service is initially available on select Asia to US trade lanes. Further capability expansion will be rolled out in the near future according to market demand.

**February 1, 2017**

**[GovExec](#)**: A bipartisan group of House leaders with oversight of the U.S. Postal Service introduced legislation on Tuesday to overhaul the mailing agency, pushing a bill nearly identical to one from last year. The House bill would require postal retirees electing to receive federal health insurance to enroll in Medicare parts A and B as their primary care provider. The bill would phase out the Postal Service's share of retirees' Medicare premiums over four years. The Medicare integration would largely solve the issue of prefunding future retirees' health care, as required by a 2006 law. Another long-popular provision would create postal-specific assumptions about the demographics of the USPS workforce to prevent possible overpayment into the agency's Federal Employees Retirement System account. If any surplus were detected after the new formula was made, it would be gradually refunded to the agency. As the last iteration did, the House bill avoided a previously contentious issue of reducing mail delivery to five days each week.

***GovExec:*** A slew of positions are now exempt from President Trump's governmentwide hiring freeze, according to new guidance from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management. Some agencies have been exempted altogether: positions at the U.S. Postal Service, CIA and Office of the Director of National Intelligence are all exempt. USPS had said it was exempt in previous hiring freezes but was seeking further clarification from the White House.

***dcVelocity:*** A larger proportion of e-commerce traffic pushed more holiday packages from UPS' traditional ground network into its lower-priced service known as "SmartPost," where UPS funnels shipments into the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS') last-mile infrastructure for deliveries from post offices to residences. B2B traffic is more profitable than B2C because of better package density per stop. UPS drivers normally pick up multiple packages per stop. By contrast, B2C deliveries can consist of one package delivered to one residence, which is less cost effective. UPS and FedEx have a virtual duopoly on the U.S. B2B market. In the B2C arena, they compete with USPS and, increasingly, Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc., which has assembled an air and ground fleet to move packages for consumers and merchants relying on its web site and services. Amazon still relies on UPS to move its goods, but the relationship has eroded as UPS grows less tolerant of Amazon's demands to reduce shipping rates. UPS is being pressured by FedEx, which claims its ground delivery times are faster than its rival's, to speed up its own ground transit times. This has meant an increase in UPS' infrastructure and technology investments and a downshift from premium-priced next-day or second-day air services to cheaper ground deliveries.