



Association for Postal Commerce

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Postal News for January 2016

January 31, 2016

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA: ***The Mercury:*** Australian taxpayers are now paying more and more for postage, so why can't Australia Post even deliver a package? That's the message from irate customers, who have flooded the postal service's Facebook page with a litany of complaints about lost letters, long waiting times and package delivery fails. But despite the complaints, Australia Post says its service is actually getting better. The company has also defended the \$2.1 million salary of CEO Ahmed Fahour, saying he turned down a \$2.9 million performance bonus.

January 30, 2016

NATIONAL NEWS

Business Insider: For the first time, Amazon is calling itself a "transportation service provider," as seen in [its annual 10-K filing](#). In last year's report, the [company simply said](#) "inbound and outbound shipping costs, including sortation and delivery centers, and related equipment costs." This change is significant following months of reports [about Amazon taking steps to build its own delivery and logistics business](#) to take full control of its fulfillment process.

January 29, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- **ACR2015 Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 5-7, 9-10, 12, and 17-28 of Chairman's Information Request No. 6**
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94861/CHIR%20No.%206.Resp.5t7.9t10.12.17t28.pdf>
- **On-Roll and Paid Employee Statistics (ORPES), January 2016, FY 2016**
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94857/Letter_ORPES_Jan16_FY16_20160129150857.pdf
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94857/ORPES%20-%20National%20Summary%20and%20All%20Areas%20-%20Jan%202016.pdf>
- **National Payroll Hours Summary Report, Pay Period 02, FY 2016**
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94858/Letter_Payroll_PP02_FY16_20160129150814.pdf
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94858/NationalPayrollSummary_PP022016%20\(2\).xlsx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94858/NationalPayrollSummary_PP022016%20(2).xlsx)
- **ACR2015 Second Motion of the Association for Postal Commerce for Issuance of Information Request**
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94847/PCom2dMotReqACR2015.pdf>
- **RM2016-2 Errata Notice of Amazon Fulfillment Services, Inc.**
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94848/16-01-29%20AFSI%20errata%20notice.pdf>
- **RM2016-2 Declaration of John C. Panzar on Behalf of Amazon Fulfillment Services, Inc.**
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94849/16-01-29%20Panzar%20Decl.%20\(corrected\).pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94849/16-01-29%20Panzar%20Decl.%20(corrected).pdf)

Attention PostalOne!® Users: PostalOne! & BIDS Release 42.0.4.0 – *PostalOne!* & BIDS Release 42.0.4.0 will deploy on Sunday, January 31, 2016 between 12:00 AM to 10:00AM CT. This will be a rolling deployment and the system will remain available.

- **Mail.dat Client Update:** (1) A new Mail.dat® client download 42.0.4.0_PROD will be available after this release. This client is *optional* until **February 28, 2016** at which time it will become *mandatory*. This client resolves Mail Anywhere issues (ALM 8901). (2) Current optional client 42.0.3.0_PROD will be expired on Sunday January 31, 2016. (3) Mail.dat 42.0.0_PROD client will be retired on February 28, 2016..
- **PostalOne! Hardware Upgrade** – the first phase of the upgrade will be implemented immediately prior to the *PostalOne!* & BIDS Release 42.0.4.0. The purpose of the

hardware upgrade is to do a technical refresh of the database servers. During the upgrade, the *PostalOne!* system will remain available.

USPS Office of the Inspector General:

- **How Can the Postal Service Ensure the Success of DRIVE 3?** – The Postal Service wants to use market and customer insights to optimize retail channels and access points, simplify retail offerings, and enhance the customer experience. That's why it established Delivering Results, Innovation, Value, and Efficiency (DRIVE) Initiative 3 – Optimize Retail Platform. Administered by the Postal Service's Strategic Planning group, the DRIVE process is used to strengthen major business strategies. The objective of the audit is to determine whether the DRIVE 3 initiative used established DRIVE project management processes. What can the Postal Service do to ensure the success of this DRIVE initiative process? How can this initiative be better managed in order to leverage market and customer insights that will optimize retail channels and access points, simplify retail products and services, and enhance the customer experience?
- **What Would Make International Money Orders More Convenient?** – The U.S. Postal Service currently offers its international paper money order (IPMO) service to Japan and Caribbean countries as a means for customers to send money abroad. Use of this program has declined in recent years, while the international money transfer market grows stronger in the U.S. and worldwide. We are evaluating the financial aspects of the IPMO program to determine whether it makes economic sense for the Postal Service to continue with the service.
 1. If you have purchased an IPMO in the past: a. What were the main advantages to you? b. What would you change or improve?
 2. If you have not purchased an IPMO, but are interested in transferring money internationally: a. What types of services do you prefer? Paper money order or electronic money transfer? b. What changes would you like to see the Postal Service make, or what new services should it offer?
 3. What are the advantages of paper money orders over electronic money transfers?
 4. What are the disadvantages of paper money orders?

USPS Industry Alert: "Priority Mail Regional Rate Boxes to Return to Click-N-Ship."

USPS Industry Alert: The latest issue of the USPS publication [*Mail Spoken Here*](#) is now available on this site.

Federal Register: Postal Service *NOTICES* Meetings; Sunshine Act, 5027 [2016–01776] [\[TEXT\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

CNET: Amazon has been able to hook you with Prime, its \$99-a-year membership service that offers two-day deliveries at no additional fees. While Prime has been a big success for the company and helped it grow faster than the broader e-commerce market, it's also resulted in big shipping costs that the annual fees don't fully cover. And while Amazon tends to think long term, happily giving up a buck today to keep you happy through tomorrow, the company has a handful of projects that could help ensure it can keep sending those speedy deliveries to you without losing so much money in the process. Amazon will probably keep moving into physical locations to help it cut down on shipping costs. The company already created pickup and return locations in office buildings and retail stores through its Amazon Locker program. It's also been expanding its staffed pickup centers at universities, coming to two more schools this year. It even opened its first bookstore late last year in Seattle. Behind the scenes, Amazon has been building up its delivery infrastructure in hopes of cutting more expenses.

San Francisco Chronicle: Washington is taking another long look at the failing finances of the Postal Service but, once again, it is not doing enough. The problems are monumental: plummeting revenues, resistant politics and a bleak future with quicker rivals and changing habits emptying the mail bag. It's time for a serious switch, one that faces reality and doesn't cave to interest groups or outdated beliefs in public service fading with the time and customs. The mail remains a fact of life, but a much-diminished one. There are serious steps in the works, but **they don't include major fixes**. Other solutions — ones carrying real impacts — are sidestepped in the measure.

January 28, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission: The Postal Regulatory Commission issued Order No. [3047](#) addressing issues on remand that applies to Full Service Intelligent Mail Barcode (IMb) and Flats Sequencing System (FSS) processing. In addition, the Commission also published a notice of proposed rulemaking requesting comments on a procedural rule for motions concerning mail preparation changes that require compliance with price cap

rules. The proposed rulemaking adds section (d) 'Motions concerning mail preparation changes' to the existing 3001.21 rule concerning motions and is intended to standardize the procedure and timeframe by which interested parties must file a motion with the Commission when they contend that a mail preparation change has a rate effect requiring compliance with price cap rules. The proposed timeframe is 30 days after a party has actual or constructive notice of the implementation date of the change. The Commission invites interested parties to provide written comments in Docket No. [RM2016-6](#) concerning the proposed rule no later than 30 days after the date of publication of its notice in the *Federal Register*.

Attention PostalOne!® Users: PostalOne! & BIDS Release 42.0.4.0 – *PostalOne!* & BIDS Release 42.0.4.0 will deploy on Sunday, January 31, 2016 between 12:00 AM to 10:00AM CT. This will be a rolling deployment and the system will remain available.

- A new *optional* Mail.dat® client download 42.0.4.0_PROD will be available after this release. This client resolves Mail Anywhere issues (ALM 8901).

PostalOne! Hardware Upgrade – the first phase of the upgrade will be implemented immediately prior to the *PostalOne!* & BIDS Release 42.0.4.0. The purpose of the hardware upgrade is to do a technical refresh of the database servers. During the upgrade, the *PostalOne!* system will remain available.

NATIONAL NEWS

FreeRepublic: Ever noticed how every UPS or Fed-Ex delivery vehicle you see on the road is exactly the same? No matter what they carry or how far they go to deliver, they're all the same size, shape and appearance? Of course not. No real company that has to defend a real bottom line to real investors would do anything of the sort. A real company would stay as flexible as possible when it comes to delivery vehicles. It would allow for the rapidly changing needs of shippers. It would rely on relatively quick turnover to incorporate new vehicle technology and improved fuel efficiency. But a third competitor, one that doesn't have a real bottom line to defend and has monopoly protection in a huge and critical sector of the shipping market, sees things differently. The U.S. Postal Service is [preparing to buy](#) 180,000 "Next Generation Delivery Vehicles" and to use them for 25 years. The Postal Service, which lost more than \$5 billion last year and has lost nearly \$57 billion since 2007, proposes to spend \$6.3 billion - or between \$25,000 and \$35,000 per vehicle - for the fleet. It would receive the vehicles over seven years beginning in 2018 and use them over 99 percent of its routes for at least the next 20 years. This even though Mary Barra, CEO of General Motors, said at the 2015 Frankfurt International Motor Show, "We

will see more change (in vehicles) in the next five to 10 years than we have in the last 50." The Postal Service's last such purchase should demonstrate the problems with getting locked into huge, custom-made fleets for a quarter-century.

CAGW: "CAGW Reacts to Resignation of USPS Inspector General"

Daily Caller: Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Bernie Sanders may be obstructing oversight, accountability and management of the Postal Service for what appears to be old-fashioned pork barrel politics. The Democratic socialist from Vermont has blocked five appointments to the board that will select the Postal Service's new watchdog, according to the sole remaining presidentially-selected member. Some say this is because Sanders is trying to prevent the closing of a large postal facility in Vermont.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UKRAINE: UKRINFORM: Ukrposhta, national postal operator, on February 1 launches a new service, the delivery of heavy items weighing 30 - 400 kg.

IRELAND: RTE: The cost of setting up the Eircode postal address system was €20 million more than was initially budgeted for in 2009, the Dáil Public Accounts Committee has heard. The final figure stands at €38 million, significantly more than €18m first estimate for the project, Comptroller and Auditor General Seamus McCarthy told the Committee. The costs of consultants and Department staff were also not included in the early estimates for the project, the PAC members heard.

IRELAND: Irish Times: The levels of awareness and usage of Eircodes will increase dramatically this year as the new postal system starts being used by more government departments and private companies, the [Public Accounts Committee](#) (PAC) has been told. The Secretary-General at the Department of Communications Mark Griffin told the committee there had been "a significant increase in activity" since the Eircode system was launched last July and he said he was confident acceptance levels among the general public would rise throughout 2016. Eircode is a seven-digit postcode given to every property in the State.

BELGIUM: Post & Parcel: A survey, looking at cross-border online shopping experiences in 17 countries around the globe has revealed that 84% of cross-border online shoppers are satisfied with their delivery experience. Commenting on the results of the first International Post Corporation (IPC) Online Shopper Survey, Herbert-Michael Zapf, President and CEO of IPC states: "This survey.. provides us with valuable insights to help postal operators understand and meet the evolving needs for cross-border e-Commerce,

and will therefore be repeated annually. Cross-border is continuously growing and for this to continue it is important for postal operators to understand consumers' behaviour in order to meet their need for more convenience and remove remaining obstacles for consumers to embrace cross -border e-Commerce." The survey also revealed that China is the largest export market for global cross-border online shopping and that free shipping is being offered to 59% of cross-border online shoppers.

RUSSIA: Reuters: Russia's second-largest bank VTB on Thursday launched Postal Bank, a joint venture with state-run Russian Post, and said it wanted to start accepting deposits and giving out loans at 3,500 postal branches this year.

January 27, 2016



PostCom Members !! The latest issue of the PostCom Bulletin is now available online. Hey! You've not been getting the weekly PostCom Bulletin—the best postal newsletter anywhere...bar none? Send us by email your name, company, company title, postal and email address. See what you've been missing.

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- **ACR2015 Motion of the Association for Postal Commerce for Issuance of Information Request**

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94813/PCom.Mot.Rqsts.ACR2015.pdf>

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- **RM2016-2 Initial Comments of the American Catalog Mailers Association**

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94819/ACMA%20Initial%20Comments%20RM2016-2.pdf>

- **RM2016-2 Comments of American Catalog Mailers Association, Inc. [and 7 other parties]**

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94803/16-01-25%20ACMA%20et%20al.%20Comments.pdf>

- **RM2016-2** Initial Comments of the United States Postal Service on UPS Proposals One and Two
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94809/Bradley.Analysis.Prop.One.Two.pdf>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94809/Initial.Comments.Prop.1.2.pdf>
- **RM2016-2** Comments of Amazon Fulfillment Services, Inc.
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94808/16-01-25%20AFSI%20comments.pdf>
- **RM2016-2** Declaration of John C. Panzar on Behalf of Amazon Fulfillment Services, Inc.
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94805/16-01-25%20Panzar%20Decl..pdf>
- **RM2016-2** Valpak Direct Marketing Systems, Inc. and Valpak Dealers? Association, Inc. Initial Comments on United Parcel Service, Inc.'s Proposed Changes to Postal Service Costing Methodologies
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94816/VP%20RM2016-2%20Initial%20Comments.pdf>
- **Postal Service Active Employee Statistical Summary (HAT Report), Pay Period 02, FY 2016**
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94822/Letter_HAT_PP2_FY16_20160127131001.pdf
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94822/Report%20HAT274P1%20-%20January%2022,%202016.pdf>

USPS Office of the Inspector General: On Price Changes, Certainty Rules – Mailers have pushed for predictability in postage rates for seemingly as long as there have been postage rates. The market-dominant rate increase of 2015 illustrates the frustration of uncertainty. Customers weren't entirely sure when the new prices would take effect or what exactly those new rates would be, making it hard to budget. In 2015, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), which reviews proposed price increases, twice sent the market-dominant case back to the Postal Service because the PRC could not determine if the filing was legal. (Market-dominant products are essentially the monopoly products, such as First-Class Mail, Standard Mail, and Periodicals.) The Postal Service had to resubmit portions of its proposal and ultimately pushed back implementation of new rates to May 31, 2015. According to our recent [audit report](#), the Postal Service lost out on about \$108 million because the price increases weren't implemented on time. We recommended the Postal Service establish a documented and repeatable process to guide its Pricing group in preparing price change proposals. Such a process could have helped it prevent

the errors the PRC identified. We also suggested the Postal Service limit complex mail classification changes in its proposed price increase filings. While some customers might not complain about a delay in price increases, the uncertainty around the 2015 changes caused a good deal of consternation.

Federal Register: **Postal Regulatory Commission** PROPOSED RULES Procedures Related to the Mail Classification Schedule , 4606–4607 [2016–01407] [\[TEXT\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Washington Post: The Senate could not have chosen a more appropriate title for last week's committee hearing on the nation's troubled postal system: "Laying Out the Reality of the United States Postal Service." Witness after expert witness explained just how desperate that reality is. In the age of email and text messaging, first-class mail, the Postal Service's most profitable product, is in terminal decline: down 35 percent over the past decade, according to Megan J. Brennan, the postmaster general. Package delivery, though growing, is less profitable per piece and not nearly enough to offset the death of first-class. The result, according to James E. Millstein, a former Obama administration Treasury Department official who helped government-led restructurings of AIG and Ally Financial: If the Postal Service were a private company, "it would undoubtedly be viewed as insolvent." Grim as these financial facts were, the most depressing reality to come out of the hearing was a political one: **Fundamental postal reform is moribund.**

eCommerceBytes: Etsy announced on Tuesday it was dealing directly with the USPS to provide online postage for sellers - the marketplace formerly used Endicia. Included in the announcement was the dictate that sellers include package dimensions when using Etsy Shipping Labels.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA: IOL: The SA Post Office's woes are having a negative effect on thousands of residents, businesses and motorists. Poor service, long delays in receiving mail and parcels and posted items going missing are taking their toll. Businessman Bradley Moodie said there were long delays at the SA Post Office Joburg International Mail Centre. He accused the post office of being "completely dishonest" about the state of affairs there. "International parcels are taking in excess of two months to arrive as opposed to before, when they took about three weeks. The tracking indicates that the parcels have arrived in the country and then they just sit there for weeks and weeks with no movement. "This is ruining small businesses and fewer and fewer international suppliers will now ship to South Africa, due to the non-delivery and charge backs they are incurring."

January 26, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS Industry Alert: Capital Metro Area - Winter Storm Jonas Updates

- ***ATLANTA DISTRICT:*** No issues; normal operations.
- ***GREATER SC DISTRICT:*** No issues; normal operations.
- ***GREENSBORO DISTRICT:*** The Greensboro District has resumed normal operations in retail and delivery; plants are open.
- ***MID CAROLINAS DISTRICT:*** The Mid Carolinas District has resumed normal operations in retail and delivery; plants are open.
- ***CAPITAL DISTRICT:*** Capital District remains in the recovery process; digging out facilities and evaluating operations for the safety of our employees and customers. Retail and Delivery will resume but may be limited depending on local closures and accessibility. The following finance locations are closed today: Longworth; Pentagon; U.S. House of Representatives; White House; U.S. Naval Research; U.S. Navy Yard; Fort McNair; Bolling Air Force Base; Techworld; State Department; Kalorama; 22nd St.; and Calvert. **Plants are open.**
- ***BALTIMORE DISTRICT:*** Baltimore District remains in the recovery process; digging out facilities and evaluating delivery and retail operations for the safety of our employees and customers. Retail and Delivery will resume but may be limited depending on local closures and accessibility. **Plants are open.**
- ***NOVA DISTRICT:*** The NoVA District remains in the recovery process; digging out facilities and evaluating delivery and retail operations for the safety of our employees and customers. Retail and delivery will be limited on Tuesday depending on local closures and accessibility. Chantilly, Reston, Herndon/Oakhill Post Offices are not open; retail and delivery at these locations will not be available on Tuesday. Also, Bluemont and Ft. Belvoir (North Station) retail are not open. **Plants are open.**
- ***RICHMOND DISTRICT:*** Richmond District has resumed normal operations. Retail and delivery are resuming normal operations but may be limited on Tuesday depending on local closures and accessibility. **Plants are open.**

USPS Office of the Inspector General: In a letter to his staff, USPS OIG David Williams said:

"I would like to announce a new round of significant operational changes. Actually I can't do that... because I can't think of what another round could possibly look like. You are perfect. And so...I am saying goodbye. My last day is Friday, February 19. You may remember I was eligible to go when my last appointment was renewed, but we were in the midst of a threatening financial storm and I promised to stick with you through it. I will remain on for short time as the Board of Governors name a new Inspector General for the organization."

National News

Association for Postal Commerce: The Association for Postal Commerce (PostCom) has submitted comments to the USPS on the Streamlined Entry draft publication. PostCom believes the USPS is headed in the right direction with the Streamlined Mail Entry initiatives. Our goal is to provide constructive feedback to help ensure the success of these programs for both the USPS and its customers, in order to achieve the goal of lowest combined costs.

Memphis Daily News: The number of voices in the technology world convinced that Amazon has stuck a target on the back of FedEx – as well as its larger competitor, UPS – continues to grow. The latest is Matthew Hertz, director of operations at package shipment startup Shyp. He took to social networking service LinkedIn in recent days to pen a commentary about why Amazon's emergence as a significant logistics alternative appears to be a matter of when, not if.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IRELAND: Irish Examiner: Communications Minister Alex White has defended Eircode, estimated to cost between €38m and €50m, after An Post said fewer than one in 10 letters and parcels use the new postcode. An Post yesterday told RTÉ it believed that Eircode was in "single-digit usage in percentage terms", however a spokesperson for the postal service said that it was not monitoring usage and that the figure it has provided is an estimate. Speaking yesterday with Seán O'Rourke on RTÉ Radio 1, Mr White conceded that integrating the postcode system with Google Maps and satellite navigation systems "didn't happen quickly enough", but he said he was confident use would increase with increased functionality. "I believe this will pick up, it absolutely will pick up when people see a value to it," he said.

January 25, 2016

USPS Industry Alert: Capital Metro Area - Winter Storm Jonas Updates

- ***ATLANTA DISTRICT:*** No issues; normal operations.
- ***GREATER SC DISTRICT:*** No issues; normal operations.
- ***GREENSBORO DISTRICT:*** The Greensboro District has resumed normal operations in retail and delivery; plants are open.
- ***MID CAROLINAS DISTRICT:*** The Mid Carolinas District has resumed normal operations in retail and delivery; plants are open.
- ***CAPITAL DISTRICT:*** The Capital District is in recovery process; digging out facilities and evaluating operations for the safety of employees and customers. Delivery will not occur today. Retail will be limited today depending on local closures and accessibility. **Plants are open but experiencing limited capacity.**
- ***BALTIMORE DISTRICT:*** The Baltimore District is in recovery process; digging out facilities and evaluating delivery and retail operations for the safety of employees and customers. Delivery will be attempted in 3 digit zones 216 and 218. There will be limited delivery in 3 digit zones 210-211, 217 and 219. Retail will be limited today, depending on local closures and accessibility. **Plants are open, but are experiencing limited capacity.** Currently, numerous streets in and around the Baltimore P&DC are not passable. **Mail destined to the Baltimore P&DC is being diverted to the Surface Transportation Center located at: 9201 Edgeworth Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20790.**
- ***NOVA DISTRICT UPDATES:*** The NoVA District is in recovery process; digging out facilities and evaluating delivery and retail operations for the safety of employees and customers. Delivery will not occur today. Retail will be limited today (Monday) depending on local closures and accessibility. **Plants are open but experiencing limited capacity.**
- ***RICHMOND DISTRICT UPDATES:*** The Richmond District has resumed normal operations. Delivery and Retail may be limited today (Monday) depending on local closures and accessibility. **Plants are open but experiencing limited capacity.**

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- **RM2016-2** Comments of the National Postal Policy Council

Link: <http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94802/NPPC-Comments-RM2016-2.pdf>

- **RM2016-2** Comments of the Parcel Shippers Association

Link: <http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94800/PSA%20RM2016-2%20Comments%20FINAL.pdf>

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

U.S. Postal

Owens as
position
for commercial
reporting
financial



Service: PMG Megan J. Brennan has appointed Sharon D. Pricing and Costing vice president. The newly created oversees programs to strengthen the mailing experience customers, as well as the Postal Service's regulatory functions. The position, which reports to the chief officer, was created by combining the Pricing and Regulatory Reporting and Cost Analysis organizations. The PMG said the combination will allow the Postal Service to "maximize our organizational effectiveness by leveraging collaborations between the pricing and costing teams." Brennan also praised Owens, saying her "strong business insights and extensive experience will serve her well in this new role." Owens' previous assignments include serving as Northern Virginia district manager and manager of industry engagement and outreach. She has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in operations research from the College of William and Mary.

USPS Industry Alert: Due to severe weather that struck the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area over the weekend, all headquarters facilities in the Washington, DC area will be closed Monday, January 25, 2016. This policy applies to the following offices: L'Enfant Plaza in Washington, DC; Engineering in Merrifield, Virginia; Judicial Office and Office of Inspector General in Arlington, Virginia; Supply Management in Largo, Maryland; General Counsel in New Carrollton, Maryland; Sales in Gaithersburg, Maryland and Dulles, Virginia; as well as the William F. Bolger Center for Leadership Development in Potomac, Maryland. Specific information regarding delivery and retail services for each office affected by the weekend's blizzard, can be found at [*Service Alerts*](#).

Federal Register:

- ***DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Geological Survey:***

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is conducting a public review of proposed revisions to the United States Thoroughfare, Landmark and Postal Address Data Standard (Address Data Standard). The primary purposes of the Address Data Standard are to develop content specifications for address information, provide

classifications for different types of addresses, establish appropriate standards and measures for evaluation of address data quality, and support exchange of address data. The FGDC endorsed the Address Data Standard in 2011, and numerous federal, state and local government agencies have since used it to manage their address data. Over the last five years, users and the authors identified a number of desirable minor corrections to the Address Data Standard. Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau, as the maintenance authority for the Standard, has proposed adding a new Map Position element. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-25/html/2016-01337.htm>.

- ***Postal Regulatory Commission:***

Income Tax Review ,	
4071–4072 [2016–01335]	[TEXT] [PDF]

USPS Industry Alert: Sunday Update for Impacted Operations in the Northeast, Capital Metro, and Eastern Areas. All postal operations in these areas have started implementing their recovery plans to resume operations. All plants are open and resuming operations. All plants with the exception of the plants in the New York Metro area have resumed accepting dropships. The New York Metro area plants (with exception of Mid-Island P&DC) will start accepting dropships at 8:00 PM tonight. Mid-Island P&DC will start accepting dropshipments at 7:00 AM Monday. Local road conditions will determine ease of access for arriving trucks. All airports in the region impacted by Winter Storm Jonas are reopening today; except for Newark, Baltimore-Washington, and Dulles airports. Baltimore-Washington and Dulles are scheduled to reopen tomorrow. Reopening of the airports will allow First Class and Priority Mail flow into the impacted areas. **We expect all Delivery Units to resume operations Monday;** but deliveries will be limited by local road conditions. Updated information for our delivery operations will be made available tomorrow as the units reopen.

NATIONAL NEWS

The Passing of Michael Shinay: Michael J. Shinay, a long-time member of the U.S. Postal Service, died after a brief battle held the position of until 1992. In March Foley, appointed House Post Office



peacefully with his family on January 23, 2016, with cancer. Mr. Shinay was remembered when he executive assistant to the Postmaster General of 1992, the then-Speaker of the House, Thomas S. him to the temporary duties as postmaster of the until the abolishment of the position in April of

that same year. He then served as director of House Postal Operations from April of 1992, until January of 1995. After leaving the House, he returned to postal headquarters as consumer advocate, and was named a vice president in 1998. He retired from the postal service in 1999 after 30 years of service. He also had worked as a director with PricewaterhouseCoopers, and ended his career with IBM Business Consulting and Global Business Services as an associate partner. He officially retired in 2013.

Direct Marketing News: At the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the state of the Postal Service last Thursday, Chairman Ron Johnson put on his CPA's green eyeshade, said he needed tighter financials before discussion of a postal bill could be enjoined, turned the meeting over to Ranking Member Tom Carper, and left the room. Carper then used the next three hours to make a case for the immediate passage of postal reform, a crusade the former Vietnam fighter pilot and now senator from Delaware has valiantly soldiered for three years now. Gavel in hand, the gentle-mannered Carper wove a clock-ticking sense of urgency around his new iPOST bill. He set the deadline for its passage as the first week of April, the week that the 4.3% emergency postal rate surcharge will have collected sufficient recession-related payback to the USPS and be removed. Carper and several of the witnesses at the hearing—among them Postmaster General Megan Brennan and National Association of Letter Carriers President Fred Rolando—think baking that 4.3% into the base rate is the only way to preserve mail-as-usual. But the other major stakeholders outside of labor and management—the mailers themselves—don't want to be celebrating the passage of a bill on April Fools day. They want to be toasting the first postal rate reduction in recorded time. The chances that it will be they and not Tom Carper popping the cork off a bottle of Dom Perignon, they think, are quite good.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GERMANY: The Voice Observer: Deutsche Post -DHL is forcing postal workers in Germany to accept up to a 30% pay cut and physical segregation from their co-workers who have decent working conditions. The German global delivery multinational has targeted the most vulnerable of workers, those on short-term contracts. They have been promised full-time, permanent and secure employment if they accept a new agreement with "DHL Delivery". They have been threatened with non-renewal of their contracts should they refuse to move. DP-DHL is circumventing the existing strong workplace agreement with Ver.di – the postal workers union – and replacing it with much lower "race to the bottom" conditions via 'DHL Delivery', its newly created subsidiary.

January 24, 2016

NATIONAL NEWS

The Street: United Parcel Service investors aren't happy about **Amazon** developing its own delivery service. In fact, they're very worried about it. Sure another delivery company (no matter how small) is never good for business. But investors are blowing the Amazon threat out of proportion. There's a strong bear case for UPS, but the main drivers revolve around **macroeconomic headwinds**. Amazon's possible transition from customer to competitor is not a real factor.

January 23, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS Industry Alert: **Update: Winter Storm Jonas.** The Postal Service is being impacted by Winter Storm Jonas. Customers can expect suspended/impacted retail and delivery operations. Some specific impacts already identified:

- ***New York District:*** Operations in customer service and delivery suspended at 1100 with the following exceptions: Morgan PDC suspended operations at 1200. James A. Farley Post Office suspended operations at 1200. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges include 090-102 and 104.
- ***Triboro District:*** All operations, including mail processing, delivery and customer service were suspended at 1400. This includes Queens P&DC, Brooklyn P&DC and JFK ISC. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges include 103, 110-114, and 116.
- ***Long Island District:*** All operations in customer service, delivery and mail processing were suspended at 1100. This includes Mid Island P&DC, Western Nassau P&DC and Bethpage P&DC. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges include 005, 115, and 117-119.
- ***Northern New Jersey District:*** All operations in customer service, delivery and mail processing suspended at 1200. This includes DV Daniels P&DC, Northern New Jersey P&DC, Greater Newark P&DC, and New Jersey NDC. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges include 070-076, 078-079, and 088-089.
- ***Westchester District:*** Operations in customer service, delivery in the following ZIP Codes suspended at 1100: 105-109. Westchester P&DC suspended operations at 1100, Mid Hudson P&DC will remain open.
- ***Greensboro District:*** Greensboro has resumed normal operations in retail and delivery, this is being dictated by localized closures and conditions for the safety of

our customers and employees. Plant processing mail still experience some delays due road conditions. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges include 270-279 and 286.

- ***Mid-Carolinas District:*** Mid Carolinas has resumed normal operations in retail and delivery, this is being dictated by localized closures and conditions for the safety of our customers and employees. Mail delivery will be attempted today in ZIP Code areas beginning with: 280-282, 287-289, and 297. This is being dictated by localized closures and conditions for the safety of our customers and employees. Retail services return to regular operating schedules. Plant processing mail still experience some delays due road conditions.
- ***Capital District:*** Postal services have been suspended in the DC metro area, including Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, for Saturday, January 23rd. For the safety of our employees and customers, there will be no deliveries, collections, or retail operations until the severe winter weather subsides. Plants are expected to resume operations at 6:00AM Sunday, January 24th. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges include 200 and 202-209.
- ***Baltimore District:*** Due to Winter Storm Jonas, postal services have been suspended in the Baltimore District (comprised of ZIP Codes beginning with 210 – 219) for Saturday, January 23rd. For the safety of our employees and customers, there will be no deliveries, collections, or retail operations until the severe winter weather subsides. Plants are expected to resume operations at 6:00AM Sunday, January 24th.
- ***Northern Virginia District:*** Postal services have been suspended in the Northern Virginia area for Saturday, January 23rd. For the safety of our employees and customers, there will be no deliveries, collections, or retail operations until the severe winter weather subsides. Plants are expected to resume operations at 6:00AM Sunday, January 24th. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges include 201, 220-223, and 226-227.
- ***Richmond District:*** Curtail all customer Service Operations in the following 3 digit zones: 224-225, 228-229, 230-231, 239-244. Retail operations will be open in larger Post Offices in the following 3 digit zones: 230-231, 238. Plant processing mail still experience some delays due road conditions.
- ***Philadelphia and South Jersey Districts:*** All mail processing, delivery, and retail operations are suspended for Saturday, January 23rd.

- ***Central Pennsylvania District:*** All mail processing, delivery, and retail operations are suspended for Saturday, January 23rd. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges could include 170-176, 178-182, and 195.
- ***Harrisburg District:*** Lancaster and Harrisburg will suspend processing through 1800 today. Scranton is not impacted. LV have limited operations. Retail office closures and/or degraded status: Delivery and Customer Service operations are suspended in the following SCF Service Areas. 170-176, 178-183, and 195-196. This covers the Harrisburg, Lancaster, York, Pottsville, Reading, and Allentown service areas.
- ***Northern New Jersey District:*** All mail processing, delivery, and retail operations was suspended at noon Saturday, January 23rd. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges could include 070-076, 078- 079, and 088- 089.
- ***Tennessee District:*** The Governor has declared a State of Emergency for the entire State of Tennessee. There could be processing and delivery delays throughout eastern Tennessee. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges could include 370-375.
- ***Nashville, TN:*** Due to the impact of the storm, the Nashville P&DC will not be able to accept drops ships until further notice. No redirection information is available at this time.
- ***Appalachian District:*** Significant impacts throughout the District will result in processing and delivery delays. Some retail operations will be impacted as well. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code ranges could include 240-243, 245-258, and 260-268.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as they are available. Due to the intensity and duration of the storm, this disruptions may continue through the weekend.

January 22, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS Industry Alert:

Winter Storm Jonas

The Postal Service is being impacted by Winter Storm Jonas. Customers can expect suspended/impacted retail and delivery operations in the Washington DC Region, along with South and North Carolina. Some specific impacts already identified:

- **Washington DC and Southern MD:** Collection from Collection Boxes will be completed today by 3:00p.m. All Post Offices, stations and branches in the DC Metro Area will be closing between 2:00p.m. and 3:00p.m. This includes all plants and Bulk Mail Acceptance Units. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code areas include 200-209.
- **Northern Virginia:** All operations will be suspended this afternoon in the northern Virginia area including Arlington, Alexandria, Dulles, Loudoun County, and Fairfax County. This will include plant, Bulk Mail Acceptance Units, and delivery/retail operations. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code areas include 201, 220-223, and 226-227.
- **Maryland and Baltimore:** All operations will be suspended at 2:00p.m. in the Baltimore area. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code areas include 210-219, and 254.
- **North Carolina:** With the exception of Rocky Mount plant, all operations have been suspended in the Greensboro area, to include Greensboro P&DC, Greensboro NDC and Raleigh P&DC plants. Impacted 3 digit ZIP Code areas include 270-277, and 286.
- **Washington and Greensboro Network Distribution Centers:** While these plants are closed, any arriving trucks will be unloaded by the limited staff available.

Press Release: Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), the Committee's Ranking Member, is the lead sponsor of the bipartisan *Improving Postal Operations, Service, and Transparency Act of 2015* (S.2051) or "*iPOST*." The measure includes a comprehensive package of reforms that would place the Postal Service on firm financial footing, stabilize and improve service performance, allow for the development of new products and services, and enhance transparency. The bipartisan bill is cosponsored by Sens. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), and Susan Collins (R-Maine). For more information, including a section-by-section summary of iPOST and bill text, please visit: www.carper.senate.gov/postalreform

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- **RM2016-6** Order No. 3048 - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Motions Concerning Mail Preparation Changes

Link: <http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94798/Order3048.docx>

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94798/Order3048.pdf>

- **R2013-10** Order No. 3047 - Order Resolving Issues on Remand
Link: <http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94797/Order%20No.%203047.docx>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94797/Order%20No.%203047.pdf>
- **ACR2015** Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing of USPS-FY15-44 and USPS-FY15-NP33
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94785/Notice.FY15.44.NP33.pdf>
- **ACR2015** USPS-FY15-44 - Public Material Provided in Response to Chairman's Information Request No. 4
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94786/FY15.44.ChIR_4.zip
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94786/USPS-FY15-44.Preface.pdf>
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- **MT2014-1** Notice of the United States Postal Service of Expansion of Customized Delivery Market
Test: <http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94784/Notice.CD.Sacto.Stamford.LV.Exp.pdf>
- **ACR2015** Responses of The United States Postal Service to Questions 1-23 of Chairman's Information Request No. 4
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94799/CHIR_4.Responses.pdf
- **Market Dominant** - United States Postal Service's Demand Equation Estimation and Volume Forecasting Methodologies, January 2016 |
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94740/Letter_DemandAnalyses_FY15.pdf
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94740/Market_Dominant_Demand_Analyses_FY15.zip
- **ACR2015** Notice of The United States Postal Service of Filing of Revised Annual Compliance Report Pages -- Errata
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94759/Notice.Rev.ACR.Text.Pages.1.21.16.pdf>
- **ACR2015** Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing of USPS-FY15-NP32
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94761/Notice.FY15.NP32.pdf>

Federal Register:

- **Postal Regulatory Commission**

New Postal Product, 3840 [2016–01179] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

New Postal Product, 3840–3841 [2016–01180] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

New Postal Product, 3839–3840 [2016–01218] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

New Postal Product, 3841 [2016–01280] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

- **Postal Service**

Semipostal Stamp Program, 3762–3763 [2016–01070] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Courthouse News: The road to a sustainable U.S. Postal Service likely requires keeping a recent emergency surcharge on certain mail classes on the books, the postmaster general told senators Thursday. Brennan laid out a four point request for legislation that would help the Postal Service return to a sustainable business model. She blamed old, outdated postal service legislation for the agency's struggles. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 is based on delivery totals that have since crashed through the floor and requires the postal service to prefund retiree health benefits, a unique set up for government agencies, according to the post service's Inspector General David Williams. But other senators placed the blame for the Postal Service's financial struggles on the agency itself. Sen. Ron Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican and career accountant, couldn't make sense of the agency's balance sheet and lamented the "confusion" in how the postal service's assets work. "If we're going to pass something we need the information and we need it accurate," Johnson said to Brennan. "And so we've got a long way to go."

UPS: Severe winter weather is impacting service in areas of Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. There will be no pickups or deliveries in the affected areas. We will work to ensure the safety of our employees while minimizing effects on service. Contingency plans are in place to ensure that shipments arrive at their final destinations as quickly as conditions permit. [Get more information from [the UPS site.](#)]

Neither Snow nor Rain – A History of the United States Postal Service, By Devin Leonard, Grove Press, 978-0-8021-2458-6 • \$26.00 • Forthcoming in Cloth • May 2016. The United States Postal Service is a wondrous American creation. Seven days a week, its army of 300,000 letter carriers delivers 513 million pieces of mail, 40 percent of the world's volume. It is far more efficient than any other mail service—more than twice as efficient as the Japanese and easily outpacing the Germans and British. And the USPS has a storied history. Founded by Benjamin Franklin, it was the information network that bound far-flung

Americans together, fostered a common culture, and helped American business to prosper. A first-class stamp remains one of the greatest bargains of all time, and yet the USPS is slowly vanishing. Critics say it is slow and archaic. Mail volume is down. The workforce is shrinking. Post offices are closing.

In *Neither Snow Nor Rain*, journalist Devin Leonard tackles the fascinating, centuries-long history of the USPS, from the first letter carriers through Franklin's days, when postmasters worked out of their homes and post roads cut new paths through the wilderness. Under Andrew Jackson, the post office was molded into a vast patronage machine, and by the 1870s, over 70 percent of federal employees were postal workers. As the country boomed, the USPS aggressively developed new technology, from mobile post offices on railroads and airmail service to mechanical sorting machines and optical character readers. An exciting and engrossing read, *Neither Snow Nor Rain* is the first major history of the USPS in over fifty years.

Lawyers.com: Filing for Federal Disability Retirement benefits through the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, whether the Federal or Postal employee is under FERS, CSRS or CSRS Offset, is a difficult approach when the mandates of life's ferocity coalesce in a tripartite convergence: a medical condition; impact upon one's ability to perform the essential elements of one's positional duties with the Federal Agency or the U.S. Postal Service; and the need to secure one's future in order to attain a level of financial stability. The unknown labyrinth of language becomes a maze of confusion when the Federal or Postal employee encounters the legal eligibility requirements mandated by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in order to overcome the obstacles and hurdles in an effort to obtain a Federal Disability Retirement annuity. Throughout life, the Federal or Postal Worker has approached the path of language from one opening; now, he or she must enter the gates of a bureaucracy which requires expertise and knowledge of a completely different sort, and without the assistance of an attorney, you enter the labyrinth of the unknown at your own peril.

eCommerceBytes: Postmaster General Megan Brennan and other senior government officials appeared before a Senate committee on Thursday to discuss the agency's precarious situation, appealing for legislation that would provide relief from its crushing financial obligations and open the door to expand its offerings beyond the traditional delivery of mail and packages. But Brennan and other witnesses struck a note of optimism when asked to imagine what a postal service of the 21st century might look like, one that will be based in large part on expanded ecommerce services delivered through the unrivaled USPS infrastructure that extends to more than 150 million U.S.

households. "When we look beyond the current statute," she said, "fundamentally we're looking for more flexibility in pricing and product."

KSPR: Missouri Senator Claire McCaskill is demanding answers from the U.S. Postal Service. McCaskill wants to know how it will protect mail delivery for rural Missourians. McCaskill recently backed the Rural Postal Act, a bill that aims to improve postal service, delivery times, and standards in rural communities that have been faced the brunt cuts to the Postal Service. The bill aims to restore overnight delivery, return a faster First-Class mail standard, make six-day delivery permanent, and enact strict criteria the Postal Service would have to meet before closing a post office to ensure that rural communities are still able to easily access the mail system.

Direct Marketing News: Sen. Tom Carper's relentless mission to pass postal reform this year appeared to have several backers at today's hearing of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. All senators and witnesses seemed to be in agreement that the Postal Service needed immediate relief from its obligation to pre-pay retiree health benefits. They also seemed united around the belief that the 4.3% exigent surcharge due to expire in April needs to be kept to ensure adequate cash flow for a thriving Postal Services.

KCCI: Mail delivery problems in the Clive area could be part of a bigger issue, officials said Thursday. About 100 people wrote on the KCCI Facebook page about not getting their mail on time. A letter carriers union leader said the root of the problem comes down to workforce numbers. A postal official attributes it to burgeoning suburbs and booming business. "It has been extremely frustrating, probably for the last six months," said Kathy Seward of Clive, who is one of dozens of residents who reached out to KCCI. Seward, who lives in the Stonegate Townhomes, said she receives other people's mail sometimes twice a week. "It just continually is getting worse," Seward said. "We don't get our mail. There's been times we've come home and found our mail, you know, just stacked up on the central boxes, not even put inside." KCCI received a flood of Facebook comments from people facing similar issues.

Triangle Business Journal: Many businesses that depend on reliable mail service are willing to put up with high postage rates if that's what it takes to get their products delivered in a timely fashion. That's the message Chip Hutcheson, publisher of a twice-weekly newspaper in Princeton, Ky., delivered to a Senate committee Thursday at a hearing on the U.S. Postal Service's financial woes.

Federal Times: The need to fix the U.S. Postal Service is no longer in dispute, a sentiment repeatedly expressed at a Jan. 21 Senate hearing on how exactly to reform the ailing service. The question now is how to get stakeholders to come together to address problems that everyone knows about. Some federal employee associations, while acknowledging the need for reform, balked at the iPOST bill. Richard Thissen, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, said in a statement that the bill's forced Medicare enrollment and compensation provisions for injured workers were unacceptable, but he supported removing the pre-funding mandate.

Investor's Business Daily: Declining business and rising expenses are not exactly a recipe for long-term business success, but that is exactly what's going on at the U.S. Postal Service right now, the Government Accountability Office told a congressional panel on Thursday. The GAO found that the volume of mail, particularly First Class, continues to drop as people increasingly migrate to texts and email, paying bills online and going paper-free for bank statements and the like. But it also noted, "Key USPS expenses continue to grow." The expenses include raises for unionized workers that will add almost \$1.1 billion in costs this year.

The Washington Post: For many years, postal reform was the poster child of a do-little Congress. Each U.S. Postal Service (USPS) financial report was bleaker than the last, accompanied by increasingly dire doomsday predictions. Yet pleas for help generated much talk on Capitol Hill and no action. Management and labor had stark differences, controversial plans to end six-day mail delivery sucked much of the energy and the acidic partisan divide always loomed. There's still plenty of talk, as demonstrated at a three-hour [Senate hearing](#) Thursday. But movement now seems more likely than it has in a long time.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GLOBAL ADDRESS DATA ASSOCIATION: GADA Calls on United Nations and Universal Postal Union to (1) Include Addressing in UN Sustainable Development Goals (2) Focus on Geocoding - it's faster and cheaper to implement (3) Establish a New Center of Excellence at the UPU: - To Establish Geocode Advocacy and Education Center - Regional Conferences of Officials and Technical Experts - New Funding Mechanism Experiments To Be Conducted - Private Sector To Be Actively Included

UAE - NEW ZEALAND: Postal Technology International: Dubai-based logistics and delivery provider Aramex has acquired Fastway Limited, a courier service provider headquartered in New Zealand. The deal is Aramex's second acquisition in the Asia-Pacific region to date

and involves a 100% buyout of the company's business in New Zealand and Australia for NZ\$125.3m (US\$80.9m). Established in 1983, Fastway Couriers' global network includes 63 regional depots and 1,500 courier franchisees across Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Northern Ireland and South Africa. The company transports 16 million parcels globally to 75,000 customers each year.

January 21, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: A hearing, "Laying Out the Reality of the U.S. Postal Service," will be held today. This is the first hearing that the Committee has held on the U.S. Postal Service this Congress. The hearing will focus on rates, service, and how the ailing Postal Service can innovate, grow revenue, and adapt to the digital age. Two panels of witnesses, which include Postmaster General Megan Brennan, USPS Inspector General David Williams and representatives from private industry, will discuss those issues and the prospects of reform legislation. The hearing will also provide the first forum for members of the committee and stakeholders to weigh in on the bipartisan Improving Postal Operations, Service, and Transparency Act of 2015 (S. 2051) or "iPOST." The hearing will be webcast starting at 9:30 a.m.. The URL is: <http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/hearings/laying-out-the-reality-of-the-united-states-postal-service>

[Editor's Note: [A synopsis of comments made during testimony and questions and answers](#) is available on this site.]

Witnesses:

Panel I

Megan J. Brennan, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Postal Service
Robert G. Taub, Acting Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission
Lori Rectanus, Director, Physical Infrastructure, U.S. Government Accountability Office
David C. Williams, Inspector General, U.S. Postal Service
James E. Millstein, Former Chief Restructuring Officer at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Millstein & Co.

Panel II

Fredric V. Rolando, President, National Association of Letter Carriers

John “Chip” Hutcheson III, President, National Newspaper Association
Kathy Collins, General Manager, Rothschild Mill, Domtar Paper Company

USPS Industry Alert: The U.S. Postal Service is monitoring the impacts of Winter Storm Jonas as it makes its way across the country. As impacts or disruptions to services are identified and contingency plans are activated, we will issue Industry Alerts and post updates to our USPS Service Alerts webpage. You can find this page at: <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm>.

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- Market Dominant - United States Postal Service's Demand Equation Estimation and Volume Forecasting Methodologies, January 2016 http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94740/Letter_DemandAnalyses_FY15.pdf
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94740/Market_Dominant_Demand_Analyses_FY15.zip

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission

- New Postal Products, 3483 [2016–01087] [[TEXT](#)]
- Postal Service Performance Reports and Performance Plans , 3482–3483 [2016–01086] [[TEXT](#)]

USPS Industry Alert: The U.S. Postal Service is monitoring the impacts of Winter Storm Jonas as it makes its way across the country. As impacts or disruptions to services are identified and contingency plans are activated, we will issue Industry Alerts and post updates to our USPS Service Alerts webpage. You can find this page at: <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm>.

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- Market Dominant - United States Postal Service's Demand Equation Estimation and Volume Forecasting Methodologies, January 2016 http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94740/Letter_DemandAnalyses_FY15.pdf
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94740/Market_Dominant_Demand_Analyses_FY15.zip

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission

- New Postal Products, 3483 [2016–01087] [\[TEXT\]](#)
- Postal Service Performance Reports and Performance Plans , 3482–3483 [2016–01086] [\[TEXT\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

R Street: Reforming the U.S. Postal Service will require making some tough cuts, but is a necessary measure to take sooner rather than later, according to written testimony provided today to the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee by R Street Governance Project Director Kevin Kosar. The service is in danger of going bankrupt and its debt is ever-increasing while its original intended purpose – personal correspondence – has moved almost entirely to other media, Kosar notes. The current system is a medium almost entirely for business marketing, government communication and rural parcel delivery. “The service’s existential crisis goes deeper than finances,” Kosar writes. “It’s very *raison d’être* has disintegrated.”

Lowell Sun: A legislative bid to make purveyors of circulars more accountable butted up Tuesday against the interests of postal workers who rely on the business of direct-mail advertising. Rep. Denise Provost, a Somerville Democrat, unloaded a heap of Globe Direct mailers before the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, saying they had accrued around her doorstep after she attempted to be removed from the distribution list. “I really hope that opponents of this bill will come and take this junk off my hands,” Provost said, before engaging in a brief exchange with the president of a postal worker’s union. “Why would I take that away? You happen to have an irresponsible delivery method in Somerville,” said Scott Hoffman, president of the Boston Metro Area American Postal Workers Union Local 100. While much of the Globe Direct circular is distributed outside the postal service, according to Provost, Hoffman told the News Service that postal workers also distribute the bundles packed with ads and coupons. Hoffman told the committee that as letter writing has given way to email correspondence, direct-mail advertising has become a more important part of financing the U.S. Postal Service. Provost’s bill, which has bipartisan support, requires direct mailers to include contact information where residents can request to stop receiving the deliveries with a \$1,500 fine for violations of that requirement. The bill contains other fines for other violations. Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/breakingnews/ci_29408666/somerville-rep-wants-junk-mail-returned-sender#ixzz3xsfkSbno

eCommerceBytes: The rising cost of shipping is on sellers’ minds as new 2016 postal rates took effect on Sunday. Some sellers fumed over the fact that the US Postal Service

provides special rates to China Post and other Asian postal services that make it cheaper for Chinese sellers to reach US buyers for lightweight packages than for domestic sellers. It's an issue we've been writing about for a long time, and we've been digging into it again this week as we also keep up with Sunday's rate changes. "How much does it cost to send an 12 oz. e-Packet from Beijing to Los Angeles," a seller asked. "I'll bet it cost less then the same package going across the street to my neighbor. This is where I have a problem!"

PRWeb: ShopSocially, a unified marketing platform for social, referral and loyalty solutions reached yet another milestone today. ShopSocially today announced a partnership with United Parcel Service (UPS), the world's largest package delivery company and a provider of supply chain management solutions. UPS has selected ShopSocially as the partner of choice for providing social commerce solutions for UPS customers. Through this partnership, UPS customers can now enjoy the benefits of the innovative and results-driven social commerce solutions provided by the ShopSocially platform. As a part of this partnership, UPS customers will get access to specially designed, discounted ShopSocially packages consisting of ShopSocially's suite of marketing solutions. Marketers can embed these solutions on their websites to maximize word-of-mouth referrals, customer engagement, conversion rate and customer loyalty. ShopSocially's customers typically see a 15% increase in referral traffic, 21% increase in sales conversion rate and a 26% increase in repeat sales. Each solution utilizes the power of social media giving maximum reach and exposure to the referral, loyalty, customer Q & A, social login or visual commerce campaigns run through ShopSocially's platform.

WDAY: The news of a Fargo neighborhood's consistently poor mail delivery is making its way to the postal service's top official. Woodhaven residents are especially worried about their mail like this falling into the wrong hands. On a simple W2 form you can find sensitive information like social security numbers and wages. Tomorrow, Senator Heitkamp promises to bring Woodhaven's concerns to the US Postmaster General. Since September, neighbors in Woodhaven have been missing mail and packages and receiving things postmarked for others. Many have been complaining to the local post master. Some were told a supervisor will start following the mail carrier. The neighborhood qualifies as a rural delivery route. Tomorrow, Senator Heitkamp is talking with the Postmaster General about issues Woodhaven and other rural routes are having across the state. Heitkamp is proposing a Rural Postal Act. Part of that legislation includes creating a committee to oversee rural postal service.

eCommerceBytes: Online sellers who rely on the USPS to ship packages to international customers saw a big rate increase overall with Sunday's postal rate changes. Joseph Amalfitano of global shipping provider Globegistics said the latest rate increase could be

catastrophic to the global sales of many merchants selling on Amazon and eBay if they are in a highly contested category. For example, companies selling lightweight items like cell phone cases, cosmetics, and costume jewelry, will find their postage rates increase by 39.7% to the UK and 21.5% to Canada when using First Class Package International, he said.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SINGAPORE: *Business Asia One:* IN most cases, companies undergo special audits to clear doubts and assure its various stakeholders. But with its recent decision to name PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as its special auditor, SingPost has inadvertently raised more doubts and opened itself to more criticism. Defending the choice of PwC, audit committee chairman Soo Nam Chow said on Tuesday that the board had wanted to "address the matter" of the corporate governance special audit "in the most expeditious way" and was "satisfied with our own internal evaluations". But in tapping PwC without first calling for proposals and thoroughly evaluating them, the board runs straight into the very "perceptual issue" that Mr Soo had said it wanted to avoid, and demonstrates precisely how badly SingPost's board needs a genuine corporate governance overhaul at its core. The move might also naturally lead the market to wonder next: Are there other matters where SingPost's board may have acted in a similarly "expeditious" manner? And if so, what other information might it have neglected to deliver to the investing public? There are several things about the board's poor handling of the special audit thus far that are unlikely to inspire much investor confidence. - See more at: <http://business.asiaone.com/news/singpost-scrutiny-auditor-choice-raises-more-doubts#sthash.bzKnWxgq.dpuf>

UNITED KINGDOM: *Bloomberg:* Royal Mail Plc stock rose as much as 5.2 percent after Britain's 500-year-old postal service said European parcel deliveries grew more than expected in the first nine months of its fiscal year, which included Christmas, while letter volumes were buoyed by the collapse of U.K. rivals. Sales advanced 1 percent from a year earlier, Royal Mail said, without providing a figure, led by an 11 percent boost in European package numbers. Letter volumes, excluding deliveries linked to the U.K. general election, fell 3 percent -- half the possible decline the company had forecast. While Royal Mail has been struggling with a collapsing letters market, an end to deliveries at PostNL NV's U.K. unit Whistl let it pick up business. Faced with the rapid expansion of online retailers led by Amazon.com Inc. in Britain, the company has also targeted parcels markets such as Poland and Italy.

January 20, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS DMM Advisory: DMM Advisory Pricing — keeping you informed about the prices and mailing standards of the United States Postal Service January DMM Update

- **Postal Explorer®** (pe.usps.com) is your source for up-to-date mailing standards. The Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) is fully searchable on Postal Explorer and features fly-out menus, cross-reference links, and an extensive subject index. Sunday, January 17, 2016, we updated our mailing standards to include the following changes:
- **Priority Mail Express®** We revised [110](#), [210](#) and [703.2.6](#) to clarify the standards for the acceptance and deposit of retail and commercial Priority Mail Express items. We published this information in the November 2, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **Competitive Post Office Box™ Services** We revised [508.4.5.4](#) to clarify the maximum weight and dimension standards for private carrier packages addressed to competitive Post Office Box™ customers who are authorized to receive such packages at their Post Office Box address. We published this information in the November 12, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **Meter Provider Update** We revised [604.4.1.3](#) to update the contact information for meter provider, FP Mailing Solutions. We published this information in the November 12, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **No Handwritten Customs Forms May Be Submitted to a Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU)** We revised [608.2.4.6](#) and [608.2.4.7](#) to make mandatory the submission of electronically transmitted customs data for mail that is paid with a permit imprint and entered at a Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU). We published this information in the November 12, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **Priority Mail Express Open and Distribute® and Priority Mail Open and Distribute®** We revised [223](#) and [705.18.5.7](#) to clarify the barcodes and service type codes that must be used on Priority Mail Express Open and Distribute and Priority Mail Open and Distribute address labels. We published this information in the November 26, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **Products Mailable at Nonprofit Standard Mail® Prices** We revised [703.1.6.11](#) to specify that the value of a low-cost item cannot exceed \$10.60. We published this information in the November 26, 2015, Postal Bulletin.

- **Domestic Competitive Products Pricing and Mailing Standards Changes** We revised various sections of the DMM to reflect changes to prices and mailing standards for competitive products. We published this information in the December 10, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **First-Class Package Service® Maximum Dimensions** We revised [201.8.3](#) to list the maximum dimensions for First-Class Package Service as currently stated in the Mail Classification Schedule. We published this information in the December 10, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **New Standards for Domestic Certificates of Mailing** We revised [503](#) to incorporate new standards for domestic Certificates of Mailing. We published this information in the December 24, 2015, Postal Bulletin.
- **Parcel Simplification** We revised various sections of the DMM to clarify that the term "outside parcel" is a "nonmachinable parcel." We published this information in the December 24, 2015, Postal Bulletin. Our next scheduled DMM update is March 7, 2016.

USPS Office of the Inspector General:

- **eMIR, We Have a Problem** -- U.S. Postal Service program of reduced postage rates to mailers that take on mail preparation or distribution tasks it would otherwise have to do – was once an innovative idea; but it is now the norm in postal operations. Indeed, 85 percent of the market-dominant mail volume the Postal Service processes is workshared mail. Mailers perform everything from applying barcodes to entering mail closer to the destination in return for lower rates. With so much mail coming in “automation-ready,” mail quality is important. If a mailer submits mail with unreadable barcodes, broken bundles, pallet irregularities, or other quality problems, it might slow processing or add costs by requiring additional processing or causing delays in delivery. Enter eMIR. The Postal Service designed the Electronic Mail Improvement Reporting System (eMIR) so employees could report mail quality issues in a web-based system and then use that information to reach out to business mailers to fix the problems.

But the adage “no news is good news” might not hold true with eMIR. The system only works if mail quality reports are entered into it. Our recent audit report found that postal employees in the Eastern Area did not use eMIR effectively to report and resolve mail preparation issues. Postal managers reported that the current

system is not “user friendly” because it takes too long to gather and enter data into eMIR. Some employees said they would rather just call or email mailers to discuss preparation concerns. Postal managers we talked to estimated 10 percent of mail preparation issues get reported into eMIR.

We also found eMIR doesn’t always direct issues to the appropriate staff for resolution, or consistently provide feedback to employees on how reported issues were resolved. Nationally, more than half of issues reported in eMIR were listed as unresolved. Our report includes a number of recommendations on how to use the system more efficiently, including how to use it to support the Seamless Acceptance process for business mail verification and payment.

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- The USPS filed its assumed federal income tax on competitive products income. It shows that the USPS made \$16.4 billion in revenue on competitive product out of the \$68.9 billion in revenue it made overall. Minus the \$11.9 billion in expenses and the required institutional cost contribution of \$1.9 billion, the USPS has a competitive product net income before tax of \$2.7 billion. Taxed at 35% this equates to an assumed federal tax income tax of \$931 million.

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94725/FY15.Tax.Calculation.Notice.pdf>

NATIONAL NEWS

National Postal Mail Handlers Union: The National Office is pleased to attach a written resolution of the NPMHU’s National-level grievance over the possible subcontracting of sorting and processing Non-Machinable Outside (NMO) parcels. As set forth in the attached agreement, the NMP pilot test has ended; the NMO parcel operation is back to its normal operating procedures; and the Postal Service has ceased further evaluation of outsourcing for NMO parcels.

Dead Tree Edition: Postal officials are ready to raise the white flag in their six-year battle to end Saturday delivery of letters and flat mail. Congress members made it clear that getting approval for five-day delivery was “a politically difficult hurdle to overcome. Postal officials dropped their Saturday plan in hopes of getting what they really need from Congress -- reform of so-called “prefunding” of retiree health benefits and of postal pensions.

Bloomberg Business: Amazon.com Inc.’s Uber-esque foray into ultra-fast delivery has landed it in court with drivers claiming they’re being exploited. It’s the same claim facing

Uber Technologies Inc. and others using on-demand workers who now insist on being treated like regular employees. The Seattle-based e-commerce pioneer raced ahead anyway, expanding use of independent contractors nationwide to meet a promise to deliver Prime Now orders within two hours. This method of delivery makes sense for Amazon: it helps the company reduce labor costs while also contending with Uber, Google Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in the growing market for gratifying customers who want orders filled instantly. It also carries risks: lawsuits from drivers who say they're mistreated and the ire of regulators seeking to uphold workers' rights. But the gamble could pay off because there's a legal gray area over how to properly classify and compensate workers that'll take years to sort out. So any penalties will likely be written off as a cost of doing business, labor lawyers say.

eCommerceBytes: Amazon told sellers on Monday it had negotiated a deal with the USPS so they will see no rate change on the cost of Priority Mail shipping, which will remain at 2015 rates. The deal is unprecedented, since Priority Mail rates increased 9.8 percent on average as of Sunday (January 17, 2016) retail - and an increase of 9.4 percent for Commercial Base pricing, on average.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AFRICA: IPPMedia: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is no longer a challenge to the postal services in Africa and elsewhere in the world but an opportunity. "ICT has long been perceived as a threat to us from the beginning but we see it as a facilitator to improved postal services, the Secretary General of Pan African Postal Union (Papu) Younouss Djibrine declared here on Monday. Speaking at the 36th anniversary since the agency was established here, the official said many post offices have now digitalised many of their services, implying that the modern technologies have facilitated rather than constrained the sector. He told stakeholders that although the volume of mails have decreased the world over with the coming of new and faster communication technologies, postal services would remain to play their role of linking people and their businesses for generations to come.

IRAN - ARMENIA: Islamic Republic News Agency: Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Mahmoud Vaezi and Armenian Minister of Transportation and Communication Gagik Beglaryan signed two documents here on Tuesday on postal and e-trade cooperation. Iran, Armenia sign documents on postal, e-trade cooperation The signed documents will facilitate cooperation between Iran and Armenia in publishing common stamps and postal exchanges as well as electronic transactions. E-

trade document would create possibility for citizens of both countries to buy their needed goods in each country and deliver them through post.

GERMANY: The Wall Street Journal: DHL this week demonstrated the potential and pitfalls of shipping with drones. The unit of German postal company Deutsche Post AG on Monday presented a new, unmanned aerial vehicle capable of carrying up to two kilograms, or almost 5 pounds, for several kilometers. DHL, which already has used a drone to deliver medicine to a remote North Sea island, convinced German authorities to close local airspace for test flights and invited media to see the aircraft's capabilities. Later, Deutsche Post scrubbed the proposed flight Tuesday, saying the snow and sudden drop in temperature would make flying unreliable. The company had said its drone was well suited to use in mountain regions, where wind, cold and snow are frequent concerns. Despite the setback, Deutsche Post's board member Jürgen Gerdes told a group of international journalists who had traveled to see the flight that "the drone works." He said "in the not-so-distant future, drone deliveries will no longer be a niche business" and the company would operate a fleet of flying DHL drones. Still, DHL's ability even to plan such a flight puts it far ahead of U.S. companies, which are struggling to test commercial drones under tough Federal Aviation Administration restrictions.

January 19, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- **ACR2015** Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 15-26 of Chairman's Information Request No. 2
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94728/CHIR_2.Second.Response.Q.15t26.pdf
-
- **ACR2015** United Parcel Service, Inc.'s Notice of Filing Additional Certifications of Compliance with Protective Conditions in Connection with Motions for Access
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94730/UPS%20Add'l%20Certs.pdf>
-
- **ACR2015** Motion of the United States Postal Service for Late Acceptance of Responses to Questions 15-26 of Chairman's Information Request No. 2
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94727/MLA.Response.ChIR2.2nd.Set.pdf>

- **ACR2015** Response of United States Postal Service to United Parcel Service Inc.'s Second Motion for Access
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94729/USPS Response to UPS 2nd Motion.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94729/USPS%20Response%20to%20UPS%202nd%20Motion.pdf)
- **T2016-1** United States Postal Service Notice of Submission of the Calculation of the FY 2015 Assumed Federal Income Tax on Competitive Products
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94725/FY15.Tax.Calculation.Notice.pdf>

NATIONAL NEWS

Bipartisan Policy Center: Join the Bipartisan Policy Center for an event featuring remarks by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) on the challenges facing the U.S. Postal Service and its future fiscal outlook. Following their remarks a panel of experts will discuss a number of core questions: how should the USPS serve a diverse geographic population, what are the cost issues facing it, and what should its business model look like in the digital economy? Keynote remarks from: Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) @SenatorHeitkamp Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) @RepMarkMeadows **Panel discussion with:** Robert Taub Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission **Jessica Lowrance President-Elect, Association for Postal Commerce** Jim Sauber Chief of Staff, National Association of Letter Carriers Robert Shapiro Chairman, Sonecon LLC Lori Rectanus Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office

Memphis Commercial Appeal: FedEx competitor DHL is moving into a new, larger center next to Memphis International Airport to serve Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi, the international shipping company announced Monday. The German company's existing and forecast shipping growth from Mid-South companies trading internationally and through e-commerce drove the \$2.5 million investment in Memphis, according to a DHL statement.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INDONESIA - SINGAPORE: e27: Singapore-based e-commerce fulfillment company Anchanto today announced a new partnership with Pos Logistik Indonesia, a subsidiary of government-owned postal and logistic service Pos Indonesia, effective March 2016. Anchanto and Pos Logistik Indonesia will work together to couple massive delivery, warehouses, sorting centres and trucking networks with Anchanto's technology. The two companies will set up a dedicated team to offer services including real-time order visibility, efficient picking and packing, channel sales

management, persistent inventory listing across local and regional marketplaces, and customer support.

AUSTRALIA: Government News: All is not well with Australia Post. It is losing money with the death of the stamped letter. It is making money from parcels, but the numbers don't add up. Australia Post recently announced a full-year loss of \$222 million in 2014-15. It is the first time the organisation has been in the red since it was corporatised in 1989. The reason is clear. Hardly anybody sends letters any more. Personal mail hardly exists in the Internet era, except for Christmas cards, and even they are in serious decline. Business mail has been the mainstay of the postal system in recent years, but is also declining quickly with the move to online invoicing and statements. The decline has been obvious for years, but it has been accelerating, not declining. Last year alone addressed letter volumes fell by 7.3 per cent, with ordinary stamped letters falling by 10.3 per cent, off bases that had already declined sharply. Australians now send a billion fewer letters a year than they did in 2008, when mail was already in serious decline. Australia Post would have got out of this loss-making business years ago if it weren't for its Community Service Obligation (CSO), a statutory requirement to deliver mail and keep post offices open.

January 18, 2016

PostCom Members !! The latest issue of the PostCom Bulletin is now available online. Hey! You've not been getting the weekly PostCom Bulletin—the best postal newsletter anywhere...bar none? Send us by email your name, company, company title, postal and email address. See what you've been missing.

NATIONAL NEWS

Save the Post Office: Whenever the Postal Service wants to close a post office, it tells affected customers about all the “alternative access” points in the area where they will continue to be able to do some postal business — like buying stamp booklets at Walmart. The Postal Service usually includes a list and map of all these alternatives in the discontinuance notice (as they appear on the USPS Find Locations page). Now that Walmart has announced that it is closing 154 stores in the U.S., it seems only fair to point out that there's always a post office nearby where one can not only buy stamps but do all sorts of other business, like sending packages and Priority mail, getting a passport, renting a post office box, and so on. The Postal Service encourages people not to use the post office because that's the most expensive way to bring in retail revenues. It's much cheaper to have Walmart sell stamps on consignment or to

have an approved shipper like Staples deal with parcels. But one of the problems with citing alternative access points when the Postal Service wants to close post offices is that private retailers can be closed at a moment's notice, like the 154 Walmarts closing soon or the 225 Staples stores that closed last year. There's no guarantee that a particular alternative will be there tomorrow.

Detroit News: Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan hasn't ruled out expanding banking services after her predecessor dismissed the idea. But she has reservations. "While we currently provide our customers with certain financial services, including money orders, electronic funds transfers and cashing of U.S. Treasury checks, our core function is not banking," the agency said in a written statement. The service said it has an "infrastructure that is not ideal as a banking platform," and cited a decline in visits to post offices. Plus, any investments outside of its core function of mail delivery "will likely be scrutinized from both public policy and regulatory perspectives."

PRWeb: BCC Software™, a leader in postal preparation and data marketing services, is proud to announce that President Chris Lien has been awarded the prestigious Donald A. Mumma award from Idealliance®. The award was presented at the January 2016 Postmaster General's Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) meeting held in Washington, DC. Mr. Lien was recognized for his industry contributions through MTAC and its member associations during his over twenty years of industry participation.

Post & Parcel: "Update on US Senate hearing on USPS:

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SWITZERLAND: LeMatin: Jean Noël Rey, the former Director General of Posts of Switzerland, was one of the victims of the terrorist attack in Ouagadougou last week. He had traveled to Burkina Faso to inaugurate a school canteen.

CHINA - DENMARK: Post & Parcel: PostNord Denmark has announced that it has entered into a new collaboration with Alibaba which it claims will "make it easier and cheaper for Danish and Nordic e-retailers to reach affluent Chinese consumers". The postal operator added that the deal will also mean that "parcel volumes from the Nordic region to China will increase". The agreement has given PostNord the opportunity to establish a Nordic platform on the shopping portal Tmall Global.

January 17, 2016

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INDIA: *International Business Times*: The Department of Posts (DoP) is planning to open 1,000 ATMs by March 2016. It will also bring 25,000 departmental post offices under the core banking system.

January 16, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission *NOTICES* New Postal Products , 2924–2925 [2016–00876] [\[TEXT\]](#)

USPS Office of the Inspector General: [Panama City, FL, Processing and Distribution Facility Consolidation](#)

- **Background.** The U.S. Postal Service uses Area Mail Processing (AMP) guidelines to consolidate mail processing functions and increase productivity through more efficient use of equipment, facilities, staffing, and transportation. These consolidations are intended to reduce costs and maintain quality service. The Postal Service finished consolidating the Panama City, FL, Processing and Distribution Facility (P&DF) into the Pensacola, FL, Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) on April 1, 2013. This report responds to a request from Congresswoman Gwen Graham to review the consolidation. Our objectives were to determine whether a business case existed to consolidate mail processing operations from the Panama City P&DF into the Pensacola P&DC and assess compliance with established AMP guidelines.

What the OIG Found. A business case existed to support consolidating the Panama City, FL, P&DF. We estimated the consolidation should save the Postal Service about \$3.4 million annually, which is \$55,782 more than the Postal Service estimated. We found the Postal Service overestimated mail processing craft workhour savings and underestimated transportation savings. Also, we found the Postal Service underestimated one-time costs by \$55,088. We also found the Pensacola P&DC has adequate machine capacity to process the additional mail from the Panama City P&DF and the Postal Service did not lay off any career employees as a result of the consolidation. In addition, the consolidation did not substantially impact the community and the Postal Service generally complied with established AMP guidelines. We also found that productivity decreased at the Pensacola P&DC. In addition, the consolidation resulted in improved service standards. However, service performance slightly

declined after the consolidation.

What the OIG Recommended. We recommended the vice president, Southern Area, adjust staffing and workhours at the Pensacola P&DC to ensure productivity targets are achieved and adjust transportation and other operational requirements to ensure the Pensacola P&DC meets service commitments.

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: On Thursday, January 21, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing that examines the current financial status of the U.S. Postal Service and options for reform. **The hearing, "Laying Out the Reality of the U.S. Postal Service,"** will include witnesses from the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Postal Service Office of the Inspector General, the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Government Accountability Office, and stakeholders including union leaders and industry executives. The hearing will take place on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. **WHAT** The U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will be hosting a hearing titled, "Laying Out the Reality of the U.S. Postal Service." **WHEN** Thursday, January 21, 2016 9:30 a.m. **WHERE** 342 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. **WITNESS LIST** Panel I **Megan J. Brennan** Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer U.S. Postal Service The Honorable **Robert G. Taub** Acting Chairman Postal Regulatory Commission **Lori Rectanus** Director, Physical Infrastructure U.S. Government Accountability Office The Honorable **David C. Williams** Inspector General U.S. Postal Service **James E. Millstein** Former Chief Restructuring Officer at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Founder and Chief Executive Officer Millstein & Co. Panel II **Jim Sauber** Chief of Staff National Association of Letter Carriers **John "Chip" Hutcheson III** President National Newspaper Association **Kathy Collins** General Manager, Rothschild Mill Domtar Paper Company

Attention Business Customer Gateway and PostalOne! Users: PostalOne!® Release 42.0.3.0 will deploy on Sunday, January 17, 2016 from 3:00 am – 11:00 am CT. This release will be done in a rolling manner and the system will remain available. Mail.dat® client download 42.0.3.0_PROD will be available for optional download. The optional client will resolve the Mail Anywhere defect 8826. Mailers using Mail Anywhere should use the new client. Mail.dat® client download 42.0.0.0_PROD will continue to be supported.

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- **R2013-11** Order No. 3030 - Second Order on Surcharge Revenue Reporting
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94693/Order%20No.%203030.docx>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94693/Order No. 3030.pdf>
- **ACR2015** Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing of USPS-FY15-NP31
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94708/Notice.FY15.NP31.pdf>
- **ACR2015** Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-14 of Chairman's Information Request No. 2
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94705/CHIR_2.First.Response.Set.pdf
- **ACR2015** Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing of Revised Versions of USPS-FY15-28 and USPS-FY15-NP26 -- Errata
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94706/Notice.Rev.FY15.28.NP26.pdf>
- **ACR2015** Chairman's Information Request No. 4
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94702/CHIR_4.docx
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94702/CHIR_4.pdf

NATIONAL NEWS

The American Interest: One of the great paradoxes of the American banking system is that the less money you earn, the more it costs you to get access to it. Up to 90 percent of American citizens today consider themselves middle class, and yet between 20 to 40 percent of the population relies on "alternative" financial institutions—such as payday lenders—to turn checks into cash, pay monthly bills, gain access to credit, or transfer money. In *How The Other Half Banks: Exclusion, Exploitation, and the Threat to Democracy*, Mehrsa Baradaran, professor of law at the University of Georgia, argues that the flourishing of this fringe banking sector illuminates how class-tiered and discriminatory the financial system in the United States presently is. Baradaran posits that this inequality does not operate in tandem with the basic economic laws of supply and demand; neither does the U.S. banking system play according to standard market rules. This is a highly regulated and therefore distorted market; the question is how and for whose benefit the distortions are arrayed.

Courthouse News Service: Chiding the U.S. Postal Service for misapplying its "return to sender" service, a federal judge upheld his September decision overturning an excessive fine against Southern California Edison for abusing bulk-mail privileges.

Precision Media Group: Linda Thomas Brooks has been named President and CEO of MPA - The Association of Magazine Media, it was announced today by Stephen M. Lacy, Chairman of the MPA Board of Directors, and Chairman and CEO of Meredith Corporation. Brooks' appointment is effective immediately. Brooks brings an impressive background to her new role, including serving as the Executive Vice President and Managing Director of GM MediaWorks, where she built the GM Media Lab, and in leadership roles with innovative companies such as GearDigital and The Martin Agency.

San Francisco Business Times: The U.S. Postal Service will officially raise rates for two services on Sunday Jan. 17 in a move that will increase the shipping costs of many small businesses. USPS' 9.8 percent rate hike for its Priority Mail service will cover commercial packages, a change that will mostly affect small businesses, the agency said. The postal service joins many shipping companies raising prices, including FedEx and UPS, which raised their rates 4.9 percent in the last month.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CANADA: CBC: No it's not your imagination: mail coming to new community mailboxes in Stratford and Charlottetown is taking longer to be delivered than it used to. New community mailbox routes are too long and workers are often having to do overtime to finish, said the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, even though the new system was supposed to be quicker. "They're all working overtime and it takes away their quality of life," said Charlottetown local postal union president Pearl Gillis-Palmer.

January 15, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS Office of the Inspector General:

- **Address Management Licensing Agreements**

Background. The U.S. Postal Service's Office of Address Management provides value-added products and services that enable business customers to better manage the quality of their mailing lists while maximizing the Postal Service's ability to deliver mail as addressed. The Office of Address Management's seven address management products generated revenue totaling \$14.3 million in fiscal year 2015. We evaluated six of the seven products. (The seventh product was recently reviewed in a separate audit.) For these products, the Postal Service

executed 421 licenses to customers. Customers that license address management products containing sensitive or critical data are subject to site security reviews to evaluate the physical security of the data. These reviews evaluate physical security controls to protect Postal Service information such as facilities, personnel, hardware, and software. According to Postal Service policy, site security reviews must be conducted at least every 3 years but can be conducted at any time. Our objectives were to determine whether the Postal Service monitors licensee compliance with address management licensing agreements and evaluate whether these agreements adequately protect the Postal Service's interests.

What The OIG Found The Postal Service did not adequately monitor licensee compliance with five of the six address management licensing products reviewed. Additionally, although licensing agreements protected the Postal Service's intellectual property and ability to take legal action, it could improve the language of the agreement template to better protect its interests. The Postal Service did not conduct site security reviews at any of the licensees' locations for the five products that required them. Management considered the reviews unnecessary because Postal Service data were encrypted; however, encryption does not eliminate all security risks. Inadequate physical security controls could affect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Postal Service assets and increase the risk of unauthorized use of address management information. Also, the licensing agreement templates for all six address management products needed updating to ensure the agreements were accurate and protected the Postal Service's interests. The templates contained outdated or inconsistent provisions, such as references to old policies and governing law. The Postal Service did not periodically evaluate and update licensing agreement language and only updated the templates to reflect price changes. Without updated and consistent provisions, there is an increased risk that licensees may misinterpret requirements, resulting in unnecessary expenditures of time and money if the Postal Service needs to enforce provisions within the agreements. The Postal Service was unable to provide us any documentation to support that it had ever enforced an agreement. Finally, during our fieldwork, we identified issues with the maintenance of credit card payment data for address management products. We addressed these concerns in a separate management alert.

What The OIG Recommended. We recommended that management conduct required site security reviews of address management licensees; and periodically

evaluate licensing agreement templates to determine if provisions are up-to-date, include consistent language, and adequately protect Postal Service interests.

- **Market Dominant Price Adjustment Filings**

Background. The U.S. Postal Service Pricing department is responsible for compiling market dominant price adjustment proposals for the five market dominant classes of mail: First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, Package Services, and Special Services. These proposals are filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) for approval. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA), enacted in 2006, limits the price increase for each market dominant class of mail to no more than the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The PAEA also limits the PRC rate setting process to 45 days. To meet this requirement, the PRC allows 20 days for public comment and 14 days for its own ruling on whether a proposed price adjustment complies with applicable laws and regulations. **Our objective was to evaluate the Postal Service's process for compiling market dominant price adjustment proposals filed with the PRC.**

What The OIG Found. Opportunities exist for the Postal Service to improve the price adjustment process. The Pricing department did not have documented and repeatable processes to guide the preparation of price adjustment proposals. According to the Pricing manager, there has not been an opportunity to establish and document the process because of other priorities. Without a comprehensive, documented process, the Pricing department is at increased risk of making errors, failing to meet PRC regulatory requirements and not gaining approval for price adjustments. Specifically, the Pricing department did not always perform comprehensive internal reviews of supporting documentation for the January 2015 price adjustment proposal prior to filing it with the PRC. This occurred because of time constraints and no documented process for ensuring an internal review. The Postal Service moved the date for filing proposed price adjustments from February to January 2015 and some of the primary data needed for computing price adjustments were not available until late December 2014. Proposing complex mail classification changes during the short price adjustment period further complicated the preparation of the proposal and PRC's review. The PRC returned the price adjustment proposal to the Postal Service twice

because the regulatory agency could not determine whether the proposal complied with applicable laws and regulations due to its complexity. Because of these two remands the Postal Service delayed implementing the price changes from April 26 to May 31, 2015, to provide 45 days advanced notice to the mailer community as required. Although the PRC approved price adjustments for Competitive Products, First-Class Mail, and Special Services, management also postponed price adjustments in favor of a single price change on May 31, 2015 to minimize the impact. As a result, the Postal Service has forgone \$108 million in revenue for all mail products. The Postal Service could have prevented errors the PRC identified in the proposal if it had performed comprehensive internal reviews prior to filing and limited the complexity of mail classification changes in the proposal.

What The OIG Recommended. We recommended the executive vice president, chief marketing and sales officer, establish a documented and repeatable process to guide the preparation of price adjustment proposals and to ensure comprehensive internal reviews of price adjustment proposals were performed prior to filing with the PRC; and establish and document internal procedures for filing complex mail classification changes separately from price adjustment filings.

- **How was the Postal Service's package processing performance this peak season?**

Strong consumer demand for goods purchased over the Internet has driven growth in package volume in an otherwise declining mail market. The U.S. Postal Service reported shipping and package volume increased 14.1 percent in fiscal year 2015. For this year's peak season, the Postal Service expected to deliver more than 600 million packages between Black Friday and New Year's Eve. Per public reports, package volume was up by as much as 15 percent during the 2015 peak season compared to the 2014 peak season. To prepare for the increased package volume, the Postal Service extended its holiday hours and extra staffing from November 21, 2015 to January 8, 2016. In addition, it added new package sorting equipment and delivered packages 7 days a week in select major cities beginning in late November. As with any company in the highly competitive shipping package industry, delayed packages and poor package processing could impact the Postal Service's revenues and

image. Further, mailers and other customers could make future decisions based on their experience with the Postal Service's package processing performance during the 2015 peak season.

Please share your experience with the Postal Service to ship packages during the critical peak season: Did you experience any performance issues with package processing between November 21, 2015, and January 8, 2016? Would your experience during the 2015 peak season cause you to change package shippers during next year's peak season – either moving from or to the Postal Service? What changes can the Postal Service implement to improve its package processing performance during the peak season keeping in mind its lower shipping rates compared to the industry?

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- ACR2015 Chairman's Information Request No. 3
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94680/ACR2015_CustomerSurveysRespondents.xls
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94680/CHIR%20No.%203.doc>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94680/CHIR No. 3.pdf>
- ACR2014 United Parcel Service, Inc.'s Notice of Filing Termination Certifications
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94683/UPS%20Term.pdf>
- ACR2015 Order No. 3027 - Notice and Order Regarding the Postal Service FY 2015 Annual Performance Report and FY 2016 Annual Performance Plan
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94684/Order_3027.doc
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94684/Order_3027.pdf

NATIONAL NEWS

DC Velocity: "UPS gets handle on holidays by tweaking network, standing fast against e-tailer demands, onslaught"

Benzinga: An estimated 500 FedEx employees across 10 cities will team up with Stop Hunger Now on Monday, January 18 to package meals for the world's hungry in recognition of the Rev. Martin Luther King Day Jr. of Service. This is the third year FedEx has worked with Stop Hunger now to orchestrate the nationwide event and provide employees with an opportunity to honor Dr. King's legacy through service.

FedEx employees will be packaging meals simultaneously in these cities: Memphis, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Newark, N.J., Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Indianapolis, Houston, and Redmond, Wash.

eCommerceBytes: Ahead of a shipping fee increase taking effect this weekend, the trade group representing mail-order firms is planning to appeal to the U.S. Postal Service for a discounted rate for parcels and catalogs, a move that ecommerce merchants might similarly consider as they try to keep their own shipping rates in check.

Wall Street Journal: It's about to become increasingly costly for retailers to offer free shipping to shoppers. The United States Postal Service (USPS) is set to hike its prices for shipping commercial packages for large volume customers by an average of 9.5% on Jan. 17, while United Parcel Service (UPS) and FedEx already raised their rates for certain services including ground—which e-commerce sites commonly offer for free when consumers spend above a certain amount. Pitney Bowes on Thursday noted that these increases, in addition to "exploding parcel volumes" and "the complexity of managing multiple disparate carrier rate structures and systems," has prompted small retailers and e-tailers to seek out innovative solutions to optimize their shipping operations. In an effort to optimize shipping operations and manage costs, Pitney suggested that retailers match their strategy to their customer and business needs, selecting a mix of carriers that serves different delivery requirements and objectives. "In other words, don't put all of your eggs in one basket," the company said.

Federal Times: The U.S. Postal Service's reaction to a 2014 breach of its networks — in which more than 800,000 personnel records were stolen — largely followed its Mass Data Compromise Response Plan (MDCRP), though the plan itself was insufficient, according to [a new report from the inspector general](#). The plan — created in 2010 — includes six distinct areas for the Postal Service CISO to evaluate in the wake of a breach: command structure, risk assessment, notification, reporting, incident response and assessment. The plan "defines the roles and responsibilities of response team members, specifies incident severity levels, outlines the process flow for incident management and provides methodologies for conducting response activities," the IG report states.

North.Jersey.com: Disabled, elderly and formerly homeless tenants of a housing complex in the City's Lakeview section say they have been subject to a slew of mail delivery issues which remain a thorn in the side of its nonprofit property manager. The Catherine Rowe Commons facility, located on Trenton Avenue and adjacent to Clifton's

public works site, is comprised of five apartment buildings, each containing four two-bedroom units. Residents of the Catherine Rowe Commons facility on Trenton Avenue complain about their mail delivery, and some have reached out to Rep. Bill Pascrell and Sen. Cory Booker. The Paterson Coalition For Housing, formed 30 years ago as an advocacy group that locates housing for the homeless, owns the 20-unit complex. In addition to providing apartments for Paterson's poorest, the coalition has received federal money to assist people with HIV or AIDS who were looking for housing. Ten of the Trenton Avenue apartments are transitional housing units for homeless families. The other 10 are reserved for disabled military veterans as well as the elderly.

January 14, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS Office of the Inspector General:

- [Rock Springs, WY, Customer Service Mail Processing Center Consolidation](#) – This report responds to a request from U.S. Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming to review the consolidation. Our objectives were to determine whether a business case exists to consolidate the Rock Springs CSMPC mail processing operations and assess compliance with established AMP guidelines.

What the OIG Found. A business case exists to support consolidating the Rock Springs CSMPC. We estimated the partial consolidation should save the Postal Service about \$1.6 million annually, which is \$237,122 more in savings than the Postal Service estimated. We found the Postal Service overestimated management workhour and maintenance savings but underestimated transportation savings. In addition, we found the Postal Service did not include the CSMPC's automated flat volume in the AMP feasibility study. This could also impact the savings identified in the AMP feasibility study. Following the partial consolidation, productivity increased at the Salt Lake City facilities and the CSMPC. We also found the Salt Lake City facilities have adequate capacity to process additional mail volume from the CSMPC and no Postal Service career employees lost their jobs due to this partial consolidation. Further, there was no significant impact on carriers returning after 5 p.m. and AMP guidelines were generally followed. However, we found the consolidation did impact the local community in Rock Springs. Specifically, there were changes to collection box times although the AMP feasibility study stated there would be no changes. Collection box times are now up to 2 hours earlier than before the consolidation.

In addition, since the consolidation, service scores have generally remained below the national average in Rock Springs.

What the OIG Recommended. We recommended management re-evaluate management workhour, maintenance, and transportation savings and determine and document the impact from excluding the automated flat volume from the CSMPC AMP feasibility study during the first post-implementation review. We further recommended management ensure collection box times are appropriately analyzed and accurately reflected in all AMP feasibility studies and adjust transportation and other operational requirements to ensure it meets service commitments in Rock Springs.

- **U.S. Postal Service's DRIVE 51 – Leverage Technology and Data to Drive Business Value**

Background. In fiscal year (FY) 2011, the U.S. Postal Service established 36 Delivering Results, Innovation, Value, and Efficiency (DRIVE) initiatives to improve its business strategy. DRIVE was established to reduce a reported \$20 billion gap between revenue and expenses through strategic initiatives with measurable outcomes. DRIVE Initiative 51 – Leverage Technology and Data to Drive Business Value consists of five projects to streamline the development of emerging technologies. The Postal Service's goal is to use technology to meet its revenue, expense, operational efficiency, service, and customer experience goals by FY 2019. **Our objective was to determine whether DRIVE Initiative 51 used established DRIVE project management processes.**

What the OIG Found. DRIVE Initiative 51 managers did not follow established DRIVE project management processes. Specifically, the charter did not identify metrics to measure whether DRIVE Initiative 51 is helping the Postal Service meet its performance and financial goals. We determined that 22 of the 33 charter metrics measured the deployment or implementation of equipment, systems, and processes rather than the performance and savings resulting from those new systems. As an example, DRIVE Initiative 51 managers included a Small Package Sorting System deployment metric to measure progress towards their goal of modernizing package automation, but did not include a metric to monitor performance. We conducted our own performance analysis and determined the labor savings were about \$2 million (29.8 percent) less than the

projected \$6.7 million during the period June 20 through September 30, 2015. DRIVE Initiative 51 managers also did not follow processes for updating the Technology Management Office System and managing milestones. For example, 74 changes to project milestones were made in the system without authorization. We also identified two roadmaps with gaps of more than 2 months between milestone dates. DRIVE guidance requires milestones at 4- to-6-week intervals. These issues occurred because the Strategic Management Office did not ensure DRIVE governance and documentation procedures were followed. As a result, there is an increased risk that DRIVE Initiative 51 will not help the Postal Service meet its business performance goals and the Executive Leadership Team will not be able to accurately evaluate the initiative. We issued a report in 2013 that outlined 34 best practices to institutionalize data governance and a three-phase implementation strategy for the Postal Service. Management agreed with our previous recommendation to implement an enterprise-wide data governance program and indicated that they would address it in a DRIVE initiative. However, management did not implement these practices or the strategy for DRIVE Initiative 51, making it more difficult for the Postal Service to improve management of critical data. That recommendation will remain open until an enterprise-wide data governance program is established.

What The OIG Recommended. We recommended management ensure all DRIVE Initiative 51 metrics measure business performance, include all metrics in the Technology Management Office System, and establish an independent review process to validate the accuracy of system inputs. We also recommended DRIVE managers set milestones at 4- to-6-week intervals, document all necessary approvals when changing initiative and project goals, and establish goals in DRIVE Initiative 51 that will create an enterprise-wide data governance program for the Postal Service.

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- ACR2015 Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-5 of Chairman's Information Request No. 1
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94654/CHIR%20No.%201.Responses.pdf>
- ACR2015 USPS-FY15-43 - Public Material Provided in Response to Chairman's Information Request No. 1
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94662/ChIR.1.Q.2.Productive%20Hourly%20Rates.zip>

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94662/Chlr.1.Q.3.Q.4.zip>

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94662/USPS-FY15-43.Preface.pdf>

- ACR2015 Notice of the United States Postal Service of Filing of USPS-FY15-43 and USPS-FY15-NP30

<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94655/Notice.FY15.43.NP30.pdf>

NATIONAL NEWS

Wall Street Journal: Pitney Bowes Inc. is extending its push into e-commerce and supply chain services with the acquisition of cloud-based software company Enroute Systems Corp., the company said Tuesday. Based in Seattle, Enroute operates a transportation management system that helps retailers manage their growing need for fast, low-cost shipping and better package tracking as online shopping becomes increasingly popular. It also helps shipping and logistics companies manage multiple carriers. The Enroute acquisition comes as Stamford, Conn.-based Pitney Bowes, which traditionally sold products such as mail meters and printers, has expanded its technology services in recent years to offset declines in its mail and documents services business.

Post & Parcel: U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs is set to hold a full committee hearing on the subject of "Laying Out the Reality of the United States Postal Service" on 21 January.

January 13, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Attention Business Customer Gateway and PostalOne! Users: PostalOne!® Release 42.0.3.0 will deploy on Sunday, January 17, 2016 from 3:00 am – 11:00 am CT. This release will be done in a rolling manner and the system will remain available. Mail.dat® client download 42.0.3.0_PROD will be available for optional download. The optional client will resolve the Mail Anywhere defect 8826. See the release notes for additional detail. Mailers using Mail Anywhere should use the new client. Mail.dat® client download 42.0.0.0_PROD will continue to be supported.

NATIONAL NEWS

Center For Research In Regulated Industries: April 1, 2016, K&L Gates, LLP, 1601 K Street NW, Washington DC 20006 – Agenda: **Timothy Brennan**, Univ. of Maryland

Baltimore County, and **Michael Crew**, Rutgers Univ. – Ten-Year Review of Price Caps: What Should Be Reviewed? **Robert G. Taub**, U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission – Postal Regulation 10 years after PAEA View. **David C. Williams**, Inspector General, United States Postal Service – A Tale of Two Versions. **Speaker TBA** – Can a Declining Market Fund Retirement?

Grayhair Software: Yesterday, at the first Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) meeting of the year, Postmaster General Megan Brennan announced that the exigency rate surcharge is scheduled to be rolled back the first week of April. A 45-day notice will be issued in February.

American Postal Workers Union: Arbitration hearings for a new APWU Collective Bargaining Agreement with the U.S. Postal Service will begin on Feb. 17, President Mark Dimondstein has announced. The case will be presented to a three-member panel comprised of a union-appointed advocate, a management-appointed advocate, and a neutral arbitrator, who determines the outcome. Under federal law, the APWU and USPS must mutually agree on the neutral arbitrator. To show solidarity, union members will wear stickers on the opening day of arbitration. Stickers are being mailed to members' homes. Stephen B. Goldberg has been selected as the neutral arbitrator and will preside over the case. Goldberg served as the neutral arbitrator for the 2000-2003 Collective Bargaining Agreement, the last time an APWU contract was decided in arbitration. Since then he has amassed extensive experience as a national-level postal arbitrator. Goldberg will convene a preliminary meeting on Jan. 20 to discuss "ground rules" for the hearing.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INDIA: Business Standard: E-commerce major Amazon is experimenting delivering smaller packages to its customers in major Indian cities by its representatives on bicycles. The company has launched pilot programmes in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai and Hyderabad. Amazon representatives usually deliver packages to its customers on bikes or even in light commercial vehicles. The company, which is also experimenting delivering stuff through unmanned aerial vehicles in the US, is opting for bicycles in select cities and for distances ranging from three to five km.

MEXICO-UNITED STATES: Postal Technology International: Logistics and parcel delivery provider UPS has streamlined its portfolio of delivery options for the USA-Mexican trade lane in an effort to improve cross-border trading between the two countries. The USA is Mexico's largest trading partner and Mexico is the USA's second

biggest export market after Canada. Each day, approximately US\$1.4bn is exchanged in commercial trade between the two countries. UPS established a center of excellence for USA-Mexico trade in 2014, where a team of experts evaluated and improved the carrier's offerings, focusing on shippers' needs. UPS can now offer a new, single national power of attorney in Mexico that covers 27 ports of entry so shippers have less paperwork for more efficient customs clearance into the country. It has also introduced a new delivery guarantee when UPS is the customs broker for less-than-truckload (LTL) freight shipments.

UNITED KINGDOM: [Financial Times](#): UK Mail's troublesome automated sorting hub mercifully functioned properly over the busy Christmas period, helping it to shift greater volumes, but nonetheless the group still suffered a drop in revenue in its mail business. The postal group's new sorting facility, completed last year, has caused it some serious headaches after it proved incapable of handling certain sized parcels. As a result, in the first half its pre-tax profit fell 82 per cent, claiming the scalp of chief executive Guy Buswell in November.

CANADA: [Ottawa Citizen](#): They've tried hot water, heated keys and de-icing solutions, but some increasingly frustrated Ottawa residents say they still can't break into their community mailboxes frozen shut by this week's flash freeze. The problem has vexed dozens of people since Monday's sudden drop in temperature encrusted the city with ice after a weekend of rain. "For this climate, they should have designed the boxes with some kind of cover over the locks — it's not rocket science," said Stuart Nicholson, 65, of Nepean, who has been unable to break into his mailbox for three days. Nicholson said he can look out his window to the community mailbox on Bainbridge Avenue, near Greenbank Road. "There has been a big parade during the last couple of days with people coming back from their boxes with no mail," he said. The problem is not isolated to Ottawa. Similar issues with frozen locks have been reported by postal customers in Charlottetown, Saguenay and Oakville.

January 12, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission: The Postal Regulatory Commission released its [Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report to the President and Congress](#) that highlights its various activities performed throughout the year. By law, the Commission is required to submit an annual report to the President and the Congress concerning the operations of the Commission, including the extent to which regulations are achieving the rate setting

objectives of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. The report also must include an estimate of the costs incurred by the Postal Service to provide certain services. Robert G. Taub, acting chairman of the Commission, said, "The Commission looks forward to building on its Fiscal Year 2015 accomplishments and continuing to fulfill its mission in the most effective and efficient manner possible."

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission *NOTICES* New Postal Products , 1450 [2016–00382] [\[TEXT\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

[Several of the nation's postal-related associations](#) have urged Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Ranking Minority Member Thomas Carper (D-DE) to address the matter of appointing postal governors without further delay.

National Review: "The Postal Service Should Trade-In Its Dinosaur Model for Something Smarter"

Publishing Executive: According to Dead Tree Edition, mailers may have to learn a new word – *Temporarily*: *Publishers who budgeted for a decrease in postal rates may learn this word the hard way. Sure, the 4.3% temporary exigent surcharge is scheduled to expire this spring, but remember that temporary taxes or government fees rarely expire.*

eCommerceBytes: eBay offered advice to sellers who are dealing with higher shipping costs. As the Postal Service rate hike for shipping services takes effect on Sunday, eBay said it has negotiated rates with the USPS that will save sellers up to 25% over retail rates on domestic shipping. However, the marketplace warned, the only way to get the savings is to use eBay labels for printing postage. High-volume sellers (those who ship more than 300 packages per month) and eBay Top Rated sellers will receive greater savings than regular sellers. Readers should note that the USPS offers Commercial Base and Commercial Plus discounts through online shipping services that are lower than the retail rates published in eBay's charts.

Pymnts: It is easy to overlook the problem of the unbanked and underbanked in the United States — if for no other reason than it is far from the endemic problem here that it is in other parts of the world. However, depending upon the exact data set one is using, a full 10 percent of American adults are unbanked, with another 17 percent of them underbanked (meaning they have some basic banking services but are not using

the full suite of financial services available to the average consumer). While having a financial system that is 73 percent inclusive is actually pretty good news, particularly when one looks at the global rankings in this area, it's not great news and means that almost a quarter of the adult population is insufficiently banked. And that literally adds up to tens of millions of people. Some consumers have incomes so low that interacting with financial services is too expensive. Others receive income too irregularly to mesh well with the sort of monthly fee schedule imposed by mainstream financial services. Some lack physical access, while others lack awareness and education about the types of financial services available to them. Then, there are those who just straight up don't like or trust banks.

DC Velocity: UPS Inc. said today it has expanded its transportation and customs brokerage services in the U.S.-Mexican trade, steps that include guaranteeing deliveries of truckload and less-than-truckload (LTL) shipments when the company is the importer of record, and broadening its truckload offerings in the cross-border market. Atlanta-based UPS will also consolidate its power-of-attorney (POA) functions in Mexico, creating one document to cover transactions at all its 27 border entry points. Peggy Gardner, a UPS spokeswoman, said the move would make life easier for customers that ship to multiple locations within Mexico, because in the past they would be required to file a separate document for each delivery point—a time-consuming process.

Investor's Business Daily: All bulked up with three major purchases, Stamps.com is gaining clout in the fast-growing market for Internet-based mailing and shipping services, while sparking investor enthusiasm in the process. After purchasing ShipStation, ShipWorks and Endicia over the last two years, Stamps.com (NASDAQ:STMP) kicked its value quotient up several notches and enhanced its position in the markets it serves. Its buyouts of ShipStation and ShipWorks — in June and October of 2014, respectively — gave Stamps.com two providers of monthly subscription-based e-commerce shipping software. ShipStation's Web-based program is designed to allow online retailers and e-commerce merchants to organize, process, fulfill and ship their orders. ShipWorks provides shipping software to online sellers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FRANCE - GERMANY: Post & Parcel: Deutsche Post DHL Group plans to buy a minority stake in the French e-commerce logistics specialist, Relais Colis. In a statement issued today (11 January), the company said : "With a 27.5% stake in Relais Colis, Deutsche Post DHL Group will support the further development of the French e-commerce

logistics specialist's network of pickup points and its customized delivery solutions for end customers. "This will allow DHL's divisions, primarily DHL Parcel, to open up additional channels and expand its offering of value-added logistics services for e-commerce customers to the French market."

*INDIA: **India Times:*** "India Post Sees A Massive 900% Jump In Profit As The Preferred Partner Of E-Commerce Brands: "

January 11, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- ACR2015 United Parcel Service, Inc.'s Second Motion for Access
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94630/UPS%20d%20MFA.pdf>
- ACR2015 United Parcel Service, Inc.'s First Motion for Access
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94629/UPS%201st%20MFA.pdf>
- Postal Service Active Employee Statistical Summary (HAT Report), Pay Period 1, FY 2016
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94632/Letter_HAT_PP1FY16_20160111150852.pdf
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94632/Report_HAT274P1 - January 8, 2016.pdf

NATIONAL NEWS

R Street.org: The Postal Service Board of Governors is not well-structured to provide competent oversight of USPS executives and the massive USPS apparatus. The agency has a half-million employees and more than 30,000 facilities. Governors are part-timers who rarely have expertise in postal operations or corporate matters. They do not have a squad of permanent professional staff who can school them on postal issues and watch the hen house while they are away. Governors' compensation, notably, is not affected by their performance or by the USPS' financial results. As Congress slogs away at postal reform legislation, one hopes it will rethink the USPS board of governors. It may determine that a board is still needed, but if so, lawmakers should define its purposes, and craft the board in a way that would give its members the ability and incentive to be successful.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM: ***Tamebay:*** At the tail end of 2015, Royal Mail signed a 3 year contract with Neopost to provide managed services, software and systems relating to Dispatch Manager Online (DMO) for Royal Mail and and Worldwide Dispatch Manager Online (WDMO) for Parcelforce. Under the terms of the contract, Neopost will upgrade the support services it currently provides for the two systems, and ensure that the software and hardware is continually upgraded in advance of projected parcel volume increases. Neopost will also work closely with Royal Mail and Parcelforce to enhance the functionality and performance of DMO and WDMO in line with the evolving needs of shippers and their customers for increased flexibility, visibility and processing speed in the future.

INDIA: ***The Financial Express:*** India Post has done well to cash in on the e-commerce boom—in just the first nine months of the year, it has earned nearly Rs 1,000 crore from delivering parcels. Given its extensive network, especially in tier II cities and rural areas, this is only going to grow faster. It is this network that also makes its forthcoming avatar as a payments bank look promising. Given it will handle postal savings of over Rs 47,000 crore in 20 lakh accounts—with 1.55 lakh branches—India Post Bank's operations would receive a major fillip once it becomes completely core banking-enabled; communications and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said that India Post is targeting a March 2017 start for its payments bank operations, though the portion that will be core-banking-enabled by then is not clear. Once the government's direct benefits transfer (DBT) scheme picks up, India Post's bank should be in a good position to make the most of this given the proximity of its branches to most rural households. With over 35 schemes, including subsidy for LPG, coming under the DBT fold, almost Rs 40,000 crore had been paid to beneficiaries by December 27, 2015; this will grow manifold once food and fertilizer subsidies are added to this. It would, however, be unfair if the DBT market is reserved for the postal bank. Other banks, including those backed by mobile phone firms, should be allowed an equal shot at this business.

INDIA: ***IndiaTV News:*** The boom witnessed in the e-commerce industry has disrupted the retail industry as a whole with big retailers crying foul over the absence of a level-playing field. However, there is one unlikely beneficiary which is laughing all the way to the banks. India Post, the country's state-owned postal network, is raking in big money from deliveries of the country's biggest e-commerce players, with cash-on-delivery consignments of companies like Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal and Myntra contributing a whopping Rs 1,000 crore between April and December 2015.

PAKISTAN: *The News Tribe*: The Pakistan Post Office has introduced Urgent Mail-UMS-Cash on Delivery (COD) Service in Islamabad, which is aimed at introducing innovations and laying it at par with the private sector. As Pakistan Post is increasingly moving into the field of electronic services, the launching of UMS-COD is a big step taken by Pakistan Post to compete with the private courier services. The "Cash on Delivery" service is one of the most promising service which is provided by electronic media as well as websites involved in online buying and selling.

ARMENIA: *HETQ*: HayPost, the national postal operator of the Republic of Armenia, and Ria Money Transfer ("Ria"), the third largest money transfer company in the world, have announced a partnership to provide inbound and outbound money transfer services throughout Armenia.

QATAR: *Doha News*: It has now become more expensive to mail letters and packages in Qatar, after the country's state-run postal service raised its service prices for the first time in nearly a decade. Starting Jan. 1, Q-Post increased the cost of all its offerings

LITHUANIA: *Post & Parcel*: Lithuania Post has announced a new electronic self-service system which will enable its business customers to "take care of letter-post items and parcel sending by themselves". According to Mikas Jovaišas, the Head of Business Development Department in Lithuania Post: "The operating principle of e-self service is simple: the business customer has to enter the necessary data online and affix a special printed sticker on the outgoing postal item. Such a postal item only needs to be handed to the postal worker serving the company or organization, or presented to a post office to be sent. It is a more flexible, convenient and faster way to use postal services." Jovaišas added that the service allows customers not only to prepare items for sending but also to track the status of all the sent registered items and order additional postal services while connected to the e-self-service account

January 10, 2016

NATIONAL NEWS

DepositAccounts: "Is a Postal Banking an Answer for the Unbanked?"

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INDIA: *Online Indian News*: Union IT minister has said as many as 40 domestic and multinational financial giants, including Citigroup, Barclays and ICICI Bank, have

sought to partner India Post for its upcoming payments bank. Addressing postal employees in Mumbai yesterday, Mr Prasad said that some of the requests are for selling insurance, while some seek to provide government-to-citizen and company-to-citizen services.

January 9, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS Office of the Inspector General: Has the Postal Service Ever Pilot Tested Your Idea? – Companies and organizations typically have programs in place to spur innovation. And so does the Postal Service. It continually tries to identify new products and services to meet changing customer demands and capture financial opportunities. It even goes so far as to solicit innovative ideas from its stakeholders and customers. The Postal Service then develops pilot programs to test these ideas. We are interested in your thoughts about the process for submitting ideas to the Postal Service. Have you ever submitted any ideas to the Postal Service? If yes, what was your idea(s) and how did you submit it (them)? Please specify. Did the Postal Service ever pilot test your idea(s)? Which one(s)? What did you think of the submission process? For example, was it simple enough or too complex? Please specify. How could the Postal Service improve its process for submitting ideas? Please specify.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission NOTICES New Postal Products , 1238 [2016–243] TEXT

NATIONAL NEWS

Baltimore Sun: More than 25,000 postal support employees in a range of jobs have been converted to permanent career worker status since May 2011, when the classification took effect, according to the American Postal Workers Union, which represents more than 200,000 clerks, custodians and drivers. That's a milestone, say union officials, who advocated for creating a path to career status.

Hood River News: *From a question and answer session with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) --*

Q.: The U.S. Postal Service announced in December the agency will not allow mailing of newspaper or magazine publications that include advertisements for marijuana-related businesses, citing the status of cannabis as a federally controlled substance.

A.: "I'm fighting this every step of the way. I think that for a federal institution — the Postal Service — to say it really doesn't matter what Oregon voters have done on a matter that has historically been left to the state is big a mistake. And I'm going to fight to change that, as I am with the (marijuana) banking rules and the tax rules and postal rules. #In each case, this is a question of whether conduct Oregon has voted to make legal is going to be respected. I (will) stay at it until it is."

[EdNote: Which means the Postal Service had better have an answer that will make Senator Wyden happy by the time discussions in the Senate take place on postal reform.]

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

EUROPE: *[Wall Street Journal](#)*: European Union regulators have unconditionally approved FedEx Corp.'s acquisition of Dutch parcel company TNT Express NV, ending a six-month antitrust investigation that had been one of the biggest hurdles for the nearly \$5 billion deal.

INDIA: *[The Times of India](#)*: Moving away from the classic image of a cycle-riding postman, the district postal department has introduced e-bikes for postal delivery, in a pilot project launched in DLF Phase I on Friday. It has also provided solar energy panels to two post offices in the city. The project has been initiated on experimental basis, and other post offices will be absorbed over time. Senior officials said six rented e-bikes have been introduced as of now, and the average running cost of each comes up to Rs 1.50/km, inclusive of electricity and maintenance. "This initiative has been taken in support of a pollution-free environment. Besides, it will also help in speedy and prompt delivery of mail," said Umesh Verma, post master general. Postmen have welcomed the introduction, though they accept the new mode of transport will take some time getting used to. Officials from the department said the e-bikes have made a postman's job much easier and comfortable, saving close to two hours each day.

PAKISTAN: *[Pakistan Observer](#)*: The Secretary Ministry of Communications, Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar Friday launched UMS-Cash on Delivery (COD) Service at G-8 Markaz Post Office, Islamabad. As Pakistan Post is increasingly moving into the field of electronic services, the launching of UMS-COD is a big step taken by Pakistan Post to compete with the private courier services. Speaking on the occasion, the Director General, Pakistan Post Office reiterated his firm commitment to review Postal Services and products by the use of e-technology. The "Cash on Delivery" service is one of the most promising service which are provided by an electronic media as well as websites

involved in online buying and selling. Provision of such services is becoming more and more important, as we know the concept of electronic media and online shopping websites which have recently introduced "Cash on Delivery" option for online buyers in Pakistan. The competitors of Pakistan Post, including private courier companies are providing Cash on Delivery (COD) service successfully.

January 8, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- RM2016-4 PRC-LR-RM2016-4/1 - PRC Policy: Ex Parte Communications
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94589/PRC Policy on Ex Parte Communications_Final.docx](http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94589/PRC%20Policy%20on%20Ex%20Parte%20Communications_Final.docx)

USPS Office of the Inspector General: The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to initiate a review of U.S. Postal Service's pilot program. Our objective is to **assess the Postal Service's processes for developing and implementing pilot programs related to new products and services**. The OIG established an Audit Asks web site to provide an opportunity for our stakeholders to comment on our projects. Web site visitors can register comments and upload documents related to our project at [the link below](#). We will consider and use this information as appropriate during the course of our work. Audit Asks Link: [Audit Asks - USPS Pilot Program](#). If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at 636-345-9722 or Ron Legarreta, Auditor-In-Charge, at 630-315-2770.

USPS News Link: James P. Cochrane has been appointed as the chief marketing and sales officer for the United States Postal Service (USPS). Cochrane, who has acted in the position since May, oversees the marketing, development and management of all domestic and international products. He also manages the Pricing, Global Business, Sales and Stamp Services organizations. Cochrane has been with the USPS for more than 40 years and his previous assignments included serving as chief information officer, Product Information vice president and Northern Virginia senior plant manager.

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission

- Procedures Related to Commission Views, 869–878 [2016–00036] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

- New Postal Product, 977–978 [2016–00093] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Product, 976 [2016–00129] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Product, 974–975 [2016–00130] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Product, 977 [2016–00131] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Product, 974 [2016–00132] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Product, 976–977 [2016–00133] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Product, 975–976 [2016–00134] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service

- First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 978 [2016–00090] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreement, 978 [2016–00091] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

USPS Office of the Inspector General:

- [Could Postal Service Engineering Improve its Change Management Process?](#) – Software Change Management is the process that controls the life cycle for changes, with minimum disruption to the Postal Service's Engineering Systems products and equipment. The Postal Service's change management process allows the agency to respond to customers' changing business requirements while maximizing value and reducing costs, incidents, disruption, and rework and to respond to business and change requests that align the service with the business needs. Has the change management process affected your organization? If so, how? What best practices has your organization found to ensure effective change management?
- [How Should Postal Service Mineral Rights Be Managed?](#) – Mineral rights are landowners' rights to receive a portion of the profits of any minerals that are extracted from their land. Mineral rights apply to all types of resources, such as oil, gas, ores, or metals. Many landowners let oil or other mineral companies extract the minerals from their property in return for royalty income from the revenue those companies earn by selling the minerals. The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issues leases for oil and gas

exploration and development on federal lands. In addition, DOI's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) keeps statistical data for federal onshore mineral sales volume and reported royalty revenue. ONRR also collects royalty payments for most federal onshore and offshore mineral leases. However, BLM and ONRR do not oversee Postal Service land or property. The Postal Service's Realty Assets Program Office manages Postal Service oil and gas leases (including royalty payments for mineral rights). We are currently assessing the Postal Service's oversight of oil and gas mineral rights. How does your organization manage its oil and gas mineral rights program? What processes and internal controls does your organization have in place? How does your organization track oil and gas royalty payments? Do BLM and ONRR manage your organization's mineral rights and royalty payments?

NATIONAL NEWS

Daily Caller: The U.S. Postal Service is older than the country itself, delivers to 153 million homes and businesses six and increasingly seven days a week, and consistently ranks as the public's most trusted federal agency. Yet misinformation about it abounds. The Postal Service is operationally profitable – \$1.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2015; \$2.9 billion total over the past three years. And the first two months of fiscal 2016 – November and December – already have produced \$772 billion in operating profits. These results are not flukes but rather are based on structural factors that augur well for the future. As the economy improves from the Great Recession, letter revenue has stabilized. Meanwhile, with online shopping growing because of the Internet, package revenue is skyrocketing, up in fiscal 2015 by 11.4 percent over the prior year. There are challenges, but the major one is unrelated to the mail, stemming instead from congressional politics. If lawmakers address the artificial "crisis" they created, the Postal Service can continue to provide Americans and their businesses with the industrial world's most-affordable delivery network.

eCommerceBytes: Online sellers are dealing with increases in shipping costs this year, with the impending January 17th rate hike from the US Postal Service especially worrisome as they contain some big percentage increases across some classes of shipping services. You can download a spreadsheet containing detailed rates from the [USPS website](#). [Stamps.com](#) put together a guide to the changes in October, and Shipping Easy published a guide on how to prepare for the changes released this week. ShipRush offered advice on how sellers could compare rates across carriers by using tools like its own. Tomorrow, [Endicia is hosting a webinar](#) to present an overview of the 2016 USPS changes and what they mean for your business.

The Herald-Tribune: Law enforcement agencies nationwide are confronting an increasingly prevalent threat – a flood of cheap, new synthetic drugs from overseas. They're generally ordered online, arrive by international mail and are delivered to buyers in the United States by the U.S. Postal Service. Frighteningly, they're breaching our shores undetected, and largely uninspected, by federal customs authorities. This security hole must be fixed. Failing to screen packages from foreign postal services threatens public safety and the economy. If U.S. law enforcement is unable to stem the flow of these harmful new drugs, the risks they pose will grow.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NORWAY: News and Views from Norway: Only small fragments remained of a cargo jet that crashed during the night while transporting mail for the Norwegian postal service Posten. Postal officials were expressing shock and sorrow Friday morning after news came that the crash killed the jet's two cockpit crew members on board, and all its mail was lost. They were flying first-class mail (A-post), small packages and express mail from all over southeastern Norway to Northern Norway, on a route from Oslo to Tromsø. Posten Norge suspended another cargo flight that was scheduled to carry mail to Svalbard on Friday.

CANADA: CBC: Rates are going up on both domestic and international parcel shipping on Monday. Shaving costs will be that much more important come Monday, with domestic rates going up an average of four per cent, and international rates an average of two per cent.

GERMANY: Post & Parcel: Amazon has briefed Post&Parcel regarding the media reports that it is building up its own delivery infrastructure in Germany. Post&Parcel asked the Amazon.de press office to comment on the reports and has just received the following reply: "While it is true that we do have a delivery station operation since October 2015, it is important to point out that there a[re] no Amazon trucks or drivers. "For the Olching site, we are working with 6 local or regional delivery service partners: Interkep, Liefery, Rico Logistics, Systemlogistik, Krae Transport und AZ Logistik. "Unlike the Amazon fulfillment centers, the delivery station[s] are not used as warehouses. Olching receives parcels from the European network of 29 fulfillment centers. The parcels are sorted and delivered to the customer by the DSPs. "One thing that is specific to Olching is one of the DSP is already using 4 e-delivery vans. Amazon has built the charging infrastructure on the site.

January 7, 2016

This is the last week for PostCom members to register for PostalVision 2020/6.0 (March 15-16, 2016) at the current \$500 discount rate (\$400 off regular registration through 1/8 + \$100 Association Partner discount!). After January 8, 2016, the price will go up. AND PV2020 just announced its fantastic speaker line-up for the event!

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission: The Postal Regulatory Commission has released the dates for its quarterly public meetings for calendar year 2016. The meetings allow the general public an opportunity to hear from Commission leadership about the activities undertaken by the Commission throughout the year. All portions of the public meetings that are open to the general public are held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on: March 3, 2016 June 2, 2016 September 1, 2016 December 1, 2016 Public meetings are held at Commission offices in the hearing room at: Postal Regulatory Commission 901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20268-0001 Interested parties may also visit www.prc.gov on the date and time of the hearings to listen in via webcast.

USPS Industry Alert: USPS Shipping Products and Services Webinar Certificate of Mailing (COM) – Firm (Domestic) Update on New Procedural Changes Thursday, January 21, 2016, 11a.m. – noon (EST) – Join this informative webinar that will discuss updates to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for official and privately printed facsimiles of PS Form 3665 - Certificate of Mailing (COM) - Firm (Domestic). The speakers will review updates to COM - Firm (Domestic) service procedures that will apply to acceptance of the service at Post Offices, Business Mail Entry Units (BMEUs) and Detached Mail Units (DMUs). If you currently use COM – Firm (Domestic) or plan to use the service in the near future, please join this webinar to learn about the new procedural changes. Speakers: Suzanne Newman Product Development Specialist, Sr. Kelley Selfridge Acting Product Development Specialist Registration Required. Instructions for participating in the webinar appear below: Attendee Information US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (866) 381-9870 Conference ID: 20511222 Attendee Direct

URL:<https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed34d503fbb5767e8a5f4eb9af3b27e86> If you cannot join using the direct link above, please use the alternate logins below: Alternate URL:<https://usps.webex.com> Event Number: 996 594 507

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission *NOTICES* Meetings; Sunshine Act , 815 [2016–00108] [\[TEXT\]](#) New Postal Products , 815–816 [2016–00049] [\[TEXT\]](#) 816 [2016–00050] [\[TEXT\]](#) 815 [2016–00051] [\[TEXT\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Dead Tree Edition: U.S. Postal Service employees were unusually busy during late December, which apparently confirms projections that the agency's package business experienced dramatic growth during the holidays. In the pay period from Dec. 13 to Dec. 26, overtime increased 15% over the same period last year, while total workhours were up more than 6%, according to a USPS report released this week.

National Post: "Quad/Graphics Announces Preliminary 2015 Financial Results and 2016 Financial Guidance:

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FRANCE: M2MWorldNews: SIGFOX, the world leader in Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity, today announced a pilot program with Groupe La Poste, the French postal service company, for an innovative new service that allows businesses and individuals to order a range of postal services with the push of a button. The DOMINO program provides fingertip convenience for ordering parcel pickup and delivery via SIGFOX's dedicated, low-power and low-cost Internet of Things network, and improves efficiency of La Poste's services. Developed by the Digital and Services – Mail – Parcel Division at La Poste, this innovative service allows individuals to place any unpackaged article in their mailbox equipped with a DOMINO button, and trigger the full support of the parcel by La Poste. This includes pickup, boxing, wrapping and shipping.

EUROPE: Post & Parcel:

- The **European Commission has made the findings of an econometric study** on European parcel list prices available on its Europa website. As previously reported, the EC commissioned the study from Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles in support of its drive to harmonize cross-border parcel delivery prices and develop a Digital Single Market Strategy. The EC published a notice on its Digital Agenda webpage on 22 December 2015 with a link to a PDF download of the Econometric study on letter and parcel prices by the Saint-Louis University .
- Local sources report that **An Post has been happy with the initial response to its new Delivery Boxes** in the south east of the country, and the post operator is now preparing to offer them to customers nationwide soon.

- [Poșta Română](#) has announced that it plans to spend around €17m on modernising its IT and telecommunications systems this year. Alexandru Petrescu, the Director General of Poșta Română, said the investment was "essential" for the company's development plans and will double the number of post offices equipped with a VPN connection, up from 1,000 to 2,000.

INDIA: [Bloomberg](#): The world's largest post office network is planning to ramp up its financial services across India, triggering a race among commercial banks to set up partnerships to reach remote areas that have been unprofitable. India Post will start operations as a payments bank around December after receiving central bank approval last year, said M.S. Ramanujan, head of banking services at the country's third-largest employer. About 90 percent of post offices are scattered across the country's 600,000 villages, giving it a reach that no commercial bank can match. "India Post certainly will be a game changer in financial inclusion," Abizer Diwanji, Mumbai-based leader for financial services at EY India, said by phone. "They are in the best position to multiply existing banking services."

January 6, 2016

PostCom Members!! Please join us for this Member-only post MTAC webinar. PostCom's MTAC reps will walk you through all the announcements, developments and updates coming the USPS MTAC meetings. <http://engage.satorisoftware.com/PostCom-January-2016-MTAC-Review.html>

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

USPS Office of the Inspector General:

- The [Approved Shippers Program](#) is one of several Postal Service programs intended to extend the reach of shipping and mailing services so customers can mail letters or ship packages from alternate locations near where they live, work, and shop. Approved shippers are private retailers with packaging and shipping operations. They may offer a variety of shipping services, including products from the Postal Service and competitors such as FedEx® or UPS®. Have you ever used one?
- [Fall 2015 Semiannual Report to Congress Fact Sheet](#)

Federal Register: [FY 2015 Annual Compliance Report](#) , 523–525 [2015–33192]

Postal Regulatory Commission:

- Annual Report to the President and Congress Fiscal Year 2015
[http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94555/PRC Annual Report FY 2015.pdf](http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94555/PRC%20Annual%20Report%20FY%202015.pdf)
- On-Roll and Paid Employee Statistics (ORPES) - October, November, and December 2015, FY 2016
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94533/Letter_ORPES_Oct-DecFY16_20160105165503.pdf
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94533/ORPES%20-%20National%20Summary%20and%20All%20Areas%20-%20Dec%202015.pdf>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94533/ORPES%20-%20National%20Summary%20and%20All%20Areas%20-%20Nov%202015.pdf>
<http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94533/ORPES%20-%20National%20Summary%20and%20All%20Areas%20-%20Oct%202015.pdf>
- First-Class Mail Billing Determinants, FY 2014 - Updated
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94534/FCMFY14BDsRevised12_30_15.xlsx
http://www.prc.gov/docs/94/94534/Letter_FY14FCMail_BillD_20160105165425.pdf

Attention PostalOne!® Users and eInduction Mailers: The PostalOne! application has returned to normal operating condition and is fully functional. We are currently processing through eDoc files that are still in the queue since the period of degraded operations began. eDoc submitters should begin submitting their electronic mailing information immediately and Acceptance Units will begin processing mailings and initiating the reconciliation process described in the PostalOne! Contingency plan. Due to the large volume of file submissions to PostalOne!, mailers and acceptance units may still experience a delay in jobs appearing on the PostalOne! dashboard. If this occurs, we will continue to accept the mailings under the [PostalOne! and eInduction contingency plan](#) for the next 48 hours. The PostalOne! team is continuing to monitor the system and the queue. If you experience any issues, please contact the PostalOne! Help Desk at 800.522.9085.

NATIONAL NEWS

The Nation: "Sanders Promises to Break Up Big Banks, Tax Speculation, and Establish Postal Banking" -- Promising to crack down on pay-day lenders that prey on the most vulnerable families in America, and to offer real alternatives for low-wage workers who do not have easy access to financial services, Sanders said he would fight to "allow

the United States Postal Service to engage in basic banking services." Senator Elizabeth Warren and unions representing postal workers have talked up postal banking for a number of years, just as Congressman Keith Ellison and the National Nurses United union have campaigned for a "Robin Hood Tax" on financial speculation. But the Sanders speech ups the ante by making these challenges to banking as usual part of the presidential race.

January 5, 2016

PostCom Members!! You can find the latest PostCom [postal issues brief on the Postal Service's annual compliance report](#) which was filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission on this web site.

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Attention PostalOne!® Users and eInduction Mailers: The PostalOne! system is continuing to experience a delay in processing files, however, there is an increase in the number of files being processed. We are continuing to monitor and investigate the issue. [See more on the information that's published on this site.](#)

USPS Office of the Inspector General: The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to initiate a review of U.S. Postal Service's retail access points establishment process. Our objective is to evaluate the Postal Service's methodology for establishing new retail access points. The OIG established an Audit Asks web site to provide an opportunity for our stakeholders to comment on our projects. Web site visitors can register comments and upload documents related to our project at the link: <https://www.uspsoig.gov/audit-asks/how-can-postal-service-best-meet-your-needs>. We will consider and use this information as appropriate during the course of our work. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at 636-345-9722 or Peter Sim, Auditor-In-Charge, at 703-248-2163. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please feel free to forward this e-mail to anyone else you think may be interested in our audit. Audit Asks Link: [Retail Access Points-Meeting Your Needs?](#)

Attention PostalOne!® Users and eInduction Mailers: The PostalOne! system is experiencing a delay in processing files which may impact submitted eDoc mailings from displaying on the acceptance unit dashboard, as well as eInduction mailings. The issue is under investigation. Mailings will continue to be accepted under the PostalOne! Contingency Plan posted on RIBBS at https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_latestnews/documents/tech_guides/PostalO

[neExternalContingencyPlan.pdf](#). eInduction mailers should follow the eInduction contingency plan.

For Mail Acceptance: The following instructions are provided for continuation of operations in the event a mailer is not able to submit an electronic postage statement to the USPS due to a USPS outage or mailer issue. BMEU and DMU locations will accept mailings under the following process:

(1) **A USPS Record of Mailings Log will be maintained at USPS acceptance units** for each mailing presented during a PostalOne! or mailer system issue or outage. This log is used to reconcile the mailings accepted during the system delay to postage statements on the dashboard once the outage or issue has been resolved.

(2) **Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers** who normally submit their postage statements electronically must be able to provide, either verbally or in written format, the following information: (a) Permit Holder (b) Total Pieces (An approximate total piece count can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact number of total pieces) (c) Total Postage (An approximate total postage amount can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact total postage for the mailing.) (d) Mailer Job ID · eInduction mailing: Yes or No (If yes, mailers are not required to create hardcopy PS Form 8125(s) or provide any additional documentation).

(3) Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will continue to submit the hardcopy postage statement during a PostalOne! system outage (a) Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will be required to continue providing presort documentation with their mailings.

(4) **Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers** who normally submit their postage statements electronically will not be required to provide presort documentation for any mailing submitted during a USPS or mailer issue/outage.

If you have any issues with mail acceptance during this incident, please contact the PostalOne! Help Desk at 800.522.9085.

eInduction For eInduction mailings presented at the dock, PS Form 8125s are not required to be submitted. Mailers and Dock employees will follow the eInduction Contingency Plan. The instruction below are to be followed for eInduction containers:

(1) Accept and scan all placarded containers NOTE: If the load is a mixed load (containing eInduction containers and regular PVDS Mail) reconcile any containers to 8125 forms. (2) Collect 1 placard from each unloaded container for those not reconciled to 8125 forms (3) In the SV-IMD update all unresolved containers with a 99M barcode to Accept status (4) Release reconciled containers, and containers from which a placard was removed, into operations (5) Retain container placards and, for mixed loads, PS Form 8125s for reconciliation.

If eInduction mailings are held at the dock for any reason, mailers should contact the FAST Help Desk at 877.569.6614. Non-eInduction mailings will continue to submit PS Form 8125

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission

- New Postal Products, 279 [2015–33132] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 278 [2015–33133] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service

- First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 280 [2015–33099] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 279 [2015–33117] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 280–281 [2015–33112] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 279 [2015–33100] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 280 [2015–33101] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 280 [2015–33102] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 280 [2015–33103] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 281 [2015–33104] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 281 [2015–33107] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 281 [2015–33109] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 279–280 [2015–33110] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 280 [2015–33111] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Save the Post Office: Yesterday the Postal Service filed a brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia, arguing that the Postal Regulatory Commission was wrong in its most recent ruling on the exigent rate increase. The Postal Service wants the case remanded to the Commission for further review so that it can renew its arguments for an extension of the 4.3 percent surcharge, which otherwise will come to an end sometime this spring, probably in April.

Post & Parcel: UPS has appointed Norman M. Brothers, Jr. as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. Brothers, who will report directly to UPS Chief Executive Officer David Abney, will join the UPS Management Committee, the company's senior-most leadership group.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM: Post & Parcel: Direct Entry Solutions (D.E.S.), the international mail and parcel delivery specialist, has launched a new version of its PostPort mail solution, in readiness for the Interconnect programme. PostPort enables wholesalers to monitor where their mailings are in the distribution process. The system provides a mail visibility platform on priority, non-priority and customised untracked mail for printers, mailing houses, fulfilment centres, mail consolidators and post rooms. Wholesalers can see when their mail reaches key points in its journey, such as entering the postal system of the destination country. PostPort enables customers multiple-user access to compile, print and archive detailed consignment information without the physical paperwork and repetition usual when distributing mailings.

January 4, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Postal Regulatory Commission: The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) voted unanimously in December to designate Commissioner Nanci E. Langley as vice chairman of the PRC effective January 1, 2016. PRC regulations provide that the

commissioners elect a member to serve as vice chairman for a term of one year. Commissioner Langley succeeds Commissioner Tony Hammond. On December 10, 2014, Commissioner Langley was reappointed commissioner for a second term extending through November 22, 2018. She was first appointed as a commissioner in June 2008, and has served two previous terms as vice chairman. Commissioner Langley has over 30 years of federal public service and has extensive experience with large-scale government transformation including enactment of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 and the reorganization of the U.S. Intelligence Community. She served 24 years as a senior legislative and policy advisor to two United States Senators from her home state of Hawaii, as well as deputy staff director on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security subcommittee on government management and the federal workforce for nearly a decade. A complete copy of Commissioner Langley's biography may be viewed at [Nanci E. Langley biography](#).

Attention PostalOne!® Users:

- **Seamless Acceptance and Service Performance (SASP) Release 21.0.0.0 deployment** is complete. Functional validations are ongoing and expected to continue through the first part of this week. In addition, the following releases scheduled for today have also completed successfully:
- **PostalOne! & BIDS Release 42.0.0.0 Deployment** has successfully completed. The PostalOne! system is now available.
- **PostalOne! Releases 42.0.0.0 Deployment to Test Environment for Mailers (TEM)** - will occur on Monday, January 4, 2016 between 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM.. The PostalOne! TEM environment will not be available during this time.
- **FAST® Release 32.0 has been deployed** to the Production environment.
- **Test Environment for Mailers (TEM) Access: FAST Release 32.0** will be deployed to TEM environment on Monday, January 04, 2016. FAST TEM systems will not be available from 8:00 am CT through 12:00 pm CT on Monday, January 04, 2016.
- **Program Registration Release 15.0.0.0** has successfully completed. The Online Enrollment and Incentives programs accessible via the Business Customer Gateway are now available.

NATIONAL NEWS

The Hill: They call the legislation to tax Internet sales the Marketplace Fairness Act. But if it is marketplace fairness Congress wants, it needs to look at the Universal Postal Union and what its anachronistic rate-setting system is doing to U.S. businesses. Reform, said the Postal Service's Inspector General, should address terminal dues – moving toward a system where remuneration reflects costs. But it also should look at disparities in the services associated with delivering cross-border packages so they meet "customer demands for speed and reliability." To this end, it recommends the U.S. push to separate competitive small packages that contain merchandise from documents and letters. Documents and letters would continue to fall under the terminal dues regime, but packages would move under self-declared rates that reflect costs and are available to posts, competitors and shippers alike. This would strengthen shipping companies in the package sector and the Postal Service on the letters and documents side. "The Postal Service should champion reform to an increasingly anachronistic terminal dues system," the report concluded. "Otherwise, it risks becoming an international ecommerce provider of last resort for a residual product that does not reflect associated costs or provide the speed and quality consumers demand."

The Street: The economy and market forces are merciless when it comes to those who don't adopt a simple maxim: adapt to survive. History has shown us that companies who take heed often enjoy longevity and success, while others fade into our memories. Now the United States Postal Service (USPS), long known for its image of reliably delivering letters and packages across the country and the world, wants to pull itself into the modern age by considering unconventional markets and new investments. But it may be making a mistake.

The Albany Herald: A 20 percent surge in online holiday shopping this year – much of it just days before Christmas – brought the retailing and shipping industries closer to a tipping point many experts think is inevitable. The steady rise in online shopping creates an annual tsunami of deliveries that stretches the system well beyond the normal demand, forcing patchwork solutions.

Small Business Trends: FedEx, headquartered in Memphis TN, has announced a change in shipping rate calculations of freight shipments. Starting January 4, 2016, rates will be based on a zone chart using zip codes as its basis.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CHINA: Post & Parcel: China Post has announced that it is managing a website which aims to promote the growth of e-commerce in rural China. According to a statement issued by China Post on 17 December, the website ule.com has become very popular with farmers, as it provides them with an e-commercial platform for agricultural commodities. The website was jointly established by China Post Group and Anhui Provincial People's Government in May 2014.

January 3, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Attention Business Customer Gateway Users:

- **FAST® Release 32.0 has been deployed** to the Production environment.
- **Test Environment for Mailers (TEM) Access:** FAST Release 32.0 will be deployed to TEM environment on Monday, January 04, 2016. FAST TEM systems will not be available from 8:00 am CT through 12:00 pm CT on Monday, January 04, 2016.
- **Program Registration Release 15.0.0.0 has successfully completed.** The Online Enrollment and Incentives programs accessible via the Business Customer Gateway are now available. If you have any additional questions please contact the help desk at 800-522-9085.

NATIONAL NEWS

Yahoo! News: After a productive and tumultuous 2015, lawmakers begin 2016 with roughly 30 work weeks on the schedule, a lighter load meant to accommodate the presidential conventions in July and reelection races.

Dead Tree Edition: Here we go again: Yet another government study has spurred news stories about how the U.S. Postal Service is on the verge of massive downsizing. But it looks as if the report is based on old data and outdated assumptions.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA: 9News.com.au: The cost of sending a regular letter will rise to one dollar from tomorrow, as Australia Post increases the price from 70 cents. The mail service will charge 40 percent more for slower regular deliveries, with a regular letter set to take three to six days to reach its recipient. If the letter needs to arrive sooner, an additional priority stamp can be purchased for 50 cents.

AUSTRALIA: *Herald Sun:* Customers have slammed Australia Post for closing shop on an unofficial public holiday in an angry response that will only be inflamed as the price of stamps jump to \$1 from Monday. Many customers have taken to the postal service's Facebook page to vent their fury that post-offices were closed on New Year's Eve, while Christmas packages remained undelivered. The Herald Sun understands many staff had a rostered day off last Thursday, the last day of 2015, which was not a public holiday. Australia Post said selected post offices were open but no list of the open stores was made publicly available. "No notice anywhere that anyone is taking an extra day off," one customer wrote.

January 2, 2016

NATIONAL NEWS

Direct Marketing News: Despite delays caused by a record-breaking CyberMonday, FedEx closed out the holiday season with a half-percentage-point improvement over last year for an on-time delivery record of 97.8%. UPS didn't fare as well, meeting one-, two-, and three-day guarantees only 95.5% of the time, according to ShipMatrix. Holiday 2015's opening week proved challenging for shippers as online Christmas shopping continued its upward trend. IBM's Watson measured an 18% increase in CyberMonday sales as compared to last year. "Cyber Monday was more than [the shippers] had planned for," said Robert Pursuit, director of business development for ShipMatrix. "There were a total of 1.2 billion packages delivered this year, so even if all shippers had 98% on-time deliveries, that's still 240,000 that didn't get delivered on time."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM: *Direct Commerce:* Royal Mail predicts that 'Mail-back Monday' – the first Monday in the New Year – will be the busiest day for online returns through the post as shoppers rush to send back unwanted Christmas gifts and online purchases. On Monday 4 January online returns are predicted to jump by more than 50 per cent in a single day, versus the average number of return parcels per day in December.

January 1, 2016

POSTAL/FEDERAL NEWS

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission

- New Postal Products, 103 [2015–32975] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 111 [2015–32976] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 105–106 [2015–32977] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 111–112 [2015–32978] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 114 [2015–32979] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 107–108 [2015–32980] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 107 [2015–32981] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 106 [2015–32982] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 113–114 [2015–32983] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 104 [2015–32984] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 108 [2015–32992] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 112 [2015–32993] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 109–110 [2015–32994] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 102–103 [2015–32995] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 104–105 [2015–32996] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 110–111 [2015–32997] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 108–109 [2015–33076] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- New Postal Products, 105 [2015–33077] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
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- New Postal Products, 113 [2015–33080] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

- New Postal Products, 103–104 [2015–33081] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

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- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 116 [2015–33001] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 115 [2015–33003] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 114 [2015–33005] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 115 [2015–33002] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 114–115 [2015–33004] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Express Negotiated Service Agreement, 115 [2015–33010] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 115 [2015–33000] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 115 [2015–33006] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 116 [2015–33007] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 115–116 [2015–33009] [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

Fox13Now: A state lawmaker is proposing a bill that enlists your local postal worker to help out in the case of a natural disaster or an emergency. "I think it's landmark for the state of Utah," said Karen Mayne, a Democrat who represents District 5 and serves as the Minority Whip in the Utah Senate. Mayne is running a bill that would draft U.S. Postal Service employees to help out in emergency situations and natural disasters, like an earthquake. "They would be support for our first responders, because if there was an earthquake, or anything like that, they know the community," Mayne said.

Mayne says postal workers know the neighborhoods. If there's a problem in one particular area, she said they could call them up by zip code to provide information on who lives where, if a house is vacant, or if someone needs medicine. "They know the community," Mayne said. "They know where Sally lives, they deliver medicine to Sally." The senator says she's been having conversations with Utah Congressman Jason Chaffetz and the Letter Carrier's Union about how to get this program off the ground.

Los Angeles Times: An outgrowth of the financial panic of 1907, the no-frills postal bank surged in popularity during the Great Depression. Now, in the wake of another financial crisis, there's a new push for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver basic banking services again. The effort is led by consumer advocates, financial reform groups, postal labor unions and some leading liberals, such as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). They say that offering services such as paycheck cashing, bill payment and free ATMs would provide cash-strapped consumers with an affordable alternative to payday, auto-title and other short-term loans that have been criticized for high fees. "We can have our Postal Service provide modest banking to low-income people where they can cash their checks and they can do banking," Sanders said. "I think it will help the post office and it will help millions of low-income people." The Postal Service's inspector general's office agrees.