



ProNews Special Edition
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Postal Service Proposes Rate Increase

Snarky Remarks to Follow in Future Edition

ProList, Inc. is an Industry Innovator in data management and direct mail services solutions.



The Postal Service announced today that they will be proposing a rate increase to be effective January 2, 2011. The price for a one ounce First-Class letter is proposed to go from 44 cents to 46 cents. The overall increase will average 5.6%.

First-Class Mail will rise 5.4% on average. The price for retail letters and cards will increase two cents each; presorted letter prices will increase an average of 2.1 cents, with no change in the additional ounce rate. FCM presorted flats will jump about 12%, on average, while a new rate band for FCM parcels will apply the same price through three ounces.

Standard Mail prices will increase an average of 5.6%. The increase for letters and flats will be about 5.0% and 5.1%, respectively, while Carrier Route will go up 4.9%, and HD/Saturation letters and flats/parcels will increase by 4.8% and 4.4%, respectively. STD parcels will jump 23.3%, however, because they currently do not cover their costs. Other classification changes will be proposed as well.

Periodicals will increase by 8%, Package Services by 7%.

The Postal Service acknowledges the price increase will impact customers, but expects the total net benefit of the higher prices to be about \$2.3 billion, an amount that will reduce the agency's anticipated FY2011 loss to about \$4.7 billion.

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The rates will be submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission for review this afternoon, and are expected to be implemented January 2, 2011. This rate case is the generally anticipated "exigent" rate case, where the Postal Service is allowed to increase rates beyond the overall rate of inflation.

Details and smart-alecky comments will follow in future editions of ProNews.

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