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Sailors on the USS Momsen receive mail cargo during a replenishment at sea from the USNS Charles Drew while underway in the Gulf of Oman. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Lily Gebauer)

USPS Announces Holiday Mailing Deadlines To Service Members Abroad

WASHINGTON — As the holidays are fast approaching, so are the mailing deadlines to send presents and merriment to friends and loved ones serving away from home. Be prepared and get your letters and packages in the mail in time to ensure their delight this festive season.

To send packages to military and diplomatic addresses abroad, the Postal Service offers a discounted price of \$20.95 on its largest Priority Mail Flat Rate Box. The price includes a \$1.50 discount per box for mail sent to Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office (APO/FPO/DPO) destinations worldwide.

Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes are available at no cost at Post Office locations and can also be ordered via usps.com. Postage, labels and customs forms can also be printed online anytime using the Click-N-Ship feature. All mailing products can be found at the [Postal Store](#).

The Postal Service is expecting to process more than 10.1 million pounds of mail for APO/FPO/DPO destinations this holiday season.

To ensure timely delivery by Dec. 25, the Postal Service recommends that cards and packages be sent to military APO/FPO/DPO addresses overseas no later than the mailing dates listed below.

Military Mail Addressed To and From	Priority Mail Express Military Service*	First-Class Mail Service	Priority Mail Service	Retail Ground Service
APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec. 16	Dec. 9	Dec. 9	Nov. 5
APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIP 093	N/A	Dec. 9	Dec. 9	Nov. 5
APO/FPO/DPO AE ZIPs 094-099	Dec. 16	Dec. 9	Dec. 9	Nov. 5
APO/FPO/DPO AA ZIP 340	Dec. 16	Dec. 9	Dec. 9	Nov. 5
APO/FPO/DPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec. 16	Dec. 9	Dec. 9	Nov. 5

*Priority Mail Express Military Service is available to select military/diplomatic Post Offices. Check with your local Post Office to determine if this service is available to an APO/FPO/DPO address.

Use the Military Care Kit to Send Presents and Care Packages

The Postal Service has created a free Military Care Kit based on the items most frequently requested by military families. The kit contains:

- Two Priority Mail APO/FPO Flat Rate Boxes
- Four Priority Mail Medium Flat Rate Boxes
- Priority Mail tape
- Priority Mail address labels
- Six custom forms envelopes

To order flat-rate boxes featuring the “America Supports You” logo or a military care kit, call 800-610-8734 or visit the online [Postal Store](#).

Addressing the Package

- Write the service member’s full name and rank.
- Include the unit and APO/FPO/DPO address with the 9-digit ZIP Code (if one is assigned). For example:

Army/Air Post Office (APO)

PFC JANE DOE
PSC 3 BOX 4120
APO AE 09021

Fleet Post Office (FPO)

SEAMAN JOSEPH SMITH
UNIT 100100 BOX 4120
FPO AP 96691

Diplomatic Post Office (DPO)

MELANIE ADAMS
UNIT 8400 BOX 0000
DPO AE 09498-0048

- Always include a return address.
- Do not write the country name where the service member is stationed in the address.
- Inside the box, include the service member’s name and address, as well as the sender’s name and address, on an index card in case the shipping label gets damaged in transit.

Guidelines for packing, addressing and shipping items to U.S. troops can also be found [here](#).

New Pricing Effective Oct. 2

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) approved a temporary price adjustment for key package products for the 2022 peak holiday season which are applicable to APO/FPO/DPO shipments. This temporary rate adjustment is similar to ones in past years that help cover extra handling costs to ensure a successful peak season. The temporary rates will go into effect at 12 a.m. Central on Oct. 2 and remain in place until 12 a.m. Central on Jan. 22, 2023.

The peak-season pricing approved by the PRC affects prices on retail domestic competitive parcels: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select and USPS Retail Ground. International products will be unaffected.

This seasonal adjustment brings prices for the Postal Service's commercial and retail customers in line with competitive practices.

[Delivering for America](#), the Postal Service's 10-year plan for achieving financial sustainability and service excellence, calls for appropriate pricing initiatives. The Postal Service has some of the lowest postage rates in the industrialized world and continues to offer great values in shipping. These temporary rates will keep USPS competitive while providing the agency with the revenue to cover extra costs in anticipation of peak-season volume.

The approved price changes include:

Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express:

- Retail:
 - \$0.95 increase for Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Boxes and Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Envelopes.
 - \$0.30 increase for Zones 1-4, 0-10 lbs.
 - \$1.00 increase for Zones 5-9, 0-10 lbs.
 - \$0.95 increase for Zones 1-4, 11-25 lbs.
 - \$3.20 increase for Zones 5-9, 11-25 lbs.
 - \$3.25 increase for Zones 1-4, 26-70 lbs.
 - \$6.45 increase for Zones 5-9, 26-70 lbs.

First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select Ground and USPS Retail Ground:

- Retail:
 - \$0.30 increase for Zones 1-4, 0-10 lbs.
 - \$0.60 increase for Zones 5-9, 0-10 lbs.
 - \$0.95 increase for Zones 1-4, 11-25 lbs.
 - \$2.70 increase for Zones 5-9, 11-25 lbs.
 - \$3.25 increase for Zones 1-4, 26-70 lbs.
 - \$5.85 increase for Zones 5-9, 26-70 lbs.

A zone pricing calculator can be found [online](#). A complete list of business products and prices is also available [online](#).

The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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More USPS holiday news can be found at usps.com/holidaynews. For reporters interested in speaking with a regional Postal Service public relations professional, please go to about.usps.com/news/media-contacts/usps-local-media-contacts.pdf.