

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE HOLIDAYS BY THE NUMBERS

232	Number of years the U.S. Postal Service has been delivering holiday cheer.
19 billion	Number of cards, letters and packages to be delivered between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
3.4 billion	Number of letters mailed over the holidays.
960 million	Number of pieces of mail processed on Dec. 15, the busiest mailing day of the year.
700 million	Average number of pieces of mail processed daily.
826 million	Average number of pieces of mail processed daily during the holidays.
20 million	In pounds, the amount of mail the Postal Service will process for overseas military installations, including war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.
7,400	Number of Post Offices with expanded hours.
214,500	Number of vehicles used to transport holiday mail, including 188,336 half-ton trucks.
2.17 billion	Number of holiday stamps the Postal Service printed this year.
130 million	Number of customers who visit the Post Office during the holidays.

Mail-by Dates

Dec. 4	Military mail destined for Iraq or Afghanistan
Dec. 11	Military mail to other international destinations
Dec. 16	Parcel Post, the most economical service
Dec. 20	First-Class Mail
Dec. 20	Priority Mail
Dec. 23	Express Mail



ISN'T IT TIME TO RETHINK YOUR SHIPPING?

This holiday, the U.S. Postal Service is giving you something you can really use. More time. Do all your shipping and more online. Pay postage and print shipping labels. Order flat-rate boxes, the ultimate gift box. Check holiday mailing dates. All at a time and day convenient to you. Here are some time-saving tips and free services to help make the holidays a little brighter:

FREE package pickup: Don't fight Mother Nature. Stay inside where it's nice and warm and let the Postal Service do what it does best – pick up and deliver mail. Prepare Priority Mail and Express Mail packages then notify us online at usps.com/pickup that they're ready to be picked up. Free package pickup is available from home or office, regardless of the weather. Unlike other shipping companies, there is no fee for the service.

FREE eco-friendly boxes and envelopes: Send a very "green" holiday message across town or around the world when sending Priority Mail and Express Mail packages and envelopes. The U.S. Postal Service is the only mailing or shipping company in the nation to achieve "Cradle to Cradle"SM Certification for human and environmental health. These supplies are 100-percent recyclable. To make it even easier, the same box can be used for domestic or international mail.

FREE shipping supplies: Tape, labels, international mailing products, even customs forms are available online at usps.com – at no charge. Choose from a variety of Priority Mail and Express Mail envelopes and packages, including the popular flat-rate box, and Priority Mail boxes for mailing videos, DVDs or CDs. Stop wasting time searching for a cardboard box or abandoned shoe box. Everything you need is online and can be shipped to your home or office.

FREE military Care Kits: The Postal Service has created a special mailing and shipping kit designed specifically for military families sending packages overseas. Each Care Kit contains two Priority Mail boxes, six Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes, eight Priority Mail labels, one roll of Priority Mail tape and eight customs forms with envelopes. Call 1-800-610-8734 and ask for the Care Kit.



10 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

1. Don't fight Mother Nature this holiday season. Stay inside where it's nice and warm and let the Postal Service do what it does best — pick up and deliver mail. Free package pickup is available from home or office, regardless of the weather.
2. Unlike other shipping companies, there is no fee for the service. usps.com/pickup
3. The Postal Service will process more than 20 million pounds of mail for delivery to military installations around the world, including war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.
4. Greeting cards, postcards, gift cards from more than 20 national retailers, even year-end letters to family and friends can be created, packaged and mailed through usps.com. Hassle-free shopping at a time that's convenient to you. usps.com/cardstore
5. Santa isn't the only one working on Christmas. The Postal Service will deliver Express Mail in most major cities on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25.
6. Going away for the holidays? Don't worry. Premium Forwarding Service allows you to have all your mail sent to you at your temporary location. Most mail is forwarded once a week by Priority Mail. usps.com/premiumforwarding
7. The Postal Service will deliver 19 billion cards, letters and packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. On average, the Postal Service processes 700 million pieces of mail every day. During the holidays, that volume will increase to 826 million pieces of mail.
8. The Postal Service handles 46 percent of the world's card and letter mail volume — delivering more mail to more addresses in a larger geographical area than any other post in the world.
9. To move all this mail, the Postal Service will increase air cargo lift of mail by almost 32 percent and put 214,500 delivery vehicles on roadways. By Dec. 9, the National Operations Center will be staffed around the clock, seven days a week, to monitor and coordinate mail transportation nationwide.
10. More than 1.4 billion holiday Nutcracker stamps will be printed this year. Stamps recognizing Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Eid, as well as the Madonna and Child image, are available during the holiday season.

Log on to usps.com and step into a Post Office. Ship a package, arrange a free package pickup, purchase stamps, design and print holiday cards, print postage and shipping labels and order specialty philatelic gift products.

