

## July 12, 2026 Proposed USPS® Rate Change – What You Need to Know

USPS® is raising rates on July 12, 2026, for the eighth time in 5 years, with some of the largest increases in history, and at a significantly higher pace than inflation. Over this 5-year period, rates have increased a staggering 42-79%! This is compared to the previous 5 years when the rates went up 0-21%.

Date	First-Class Mail® Retail Letters	Mail® Metered Letters	First-Class Mail® Flats	First-Class Mail® Auto Letters	First-Class Mail® Auto Flats	Marketing-Mail® Letters	Marketing-Mail® Flats
<b>2026-07-12</b>	5.1%	5.4%	3.7%	4.9%	4.8%	7.0%	3.9%
2025-07-13	6.8%	7.2%	8.7%	8.3%	9.9%	7.5%	13.4%
2024-07-14	7.4%	7.8%	10.3%	8.3%	7.6%	4.4%	5.5%
2024-01-21	3.0%	1.6%	3.0%	1.8%	1.2%	1.1%	3.8%
2023-07-09	4.8%	5.0%	5.0%	5.8%	16.7%	6.4%	8.0%
2023-01-22	5.0%	5.3%	4.0%	3.3%	8.0%	3.2%	6.1%
2022-07-10	4.2%	8.1%	10.9%	6.5%	13.0%	6.3%	7.8%
2021-08-29	5.5%	3.9%	16.0%	7.5%	17.3%	8.0%	9.0%
<b>Last 5 Year Increase</b>	<b>41.8%</b>	<b>44.3%</b>	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>46.4%</b>	<b>78.5%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>57.5%</b>

Postal Advocate has been creating comparison charts that go over the changes in rates to show how it will affect budgets. The reason we do this is to provide a true comparison versus the overall average % increase that the postal service discloses. Based on the type of mail you send, the increase could be higher or lower. Also, when you look at the new rate charts provided by the USPS®, they typically will not show the level of detail needed (Previous and new rates, side by side) to see these differences.

Hopefully, this will help you budget by seeing the impact of the most common services that you use today. At the bottom of this article there is a link to an excel tool where you can plug in your mail volumes to see the impact on your organization.

At the time this article was written, these were the rates proposed by the USPS. There are typically minimal changes to the final rates going into effect after they are approved 45 days prior to the actual rate change.

Here is a [link \(https://postaladvocate.com/rate-change-tools/\)](https://postaladvocate.com/rate-change-tools/) to a simple chart of all the rates below



## First-Class Mail® Single Piece – 3% – 7% Increase

First-Class Mail® Retail						
Weight Ounces	Letters			Flats		
	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
1	\$0.78	\$0.82	5.1%	\$1.63	\$1.69	3.7%
2	\$1.07	\$1.11	3.7%	\$1.90	\$1.98	4.2%
3	\$1.36	\$1.40	2.9%	\$2.17	\$2.27	4.6%
6	N/A	N/A		\$3.00	\$3.14	4.7%
13	N/A	N/A		\$5.04	\$5.24	4.0%
Post Card	\$0.61	\$0.65	6.6%			

Metered Letters			
Weight Ounces	Letters		
	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
1	\$0.740	\$0.780	5.4%
2	\$1.030	\$1.070	3.9%
3	\$1.320	\$1.360	3.0%

The price of a stamped First-Class Mail® Single Piece letter and Metered letter are seeing a \$.04 increase to \$0.82 and \$0.78. There is still a \$.04 savings for metered mail making it 5% less than a postage stamp. A single-piece flat is increasing from \$1.63 - \$1.69. The rate for additional ounces does not change for letters at \$.29 but flats see a \$0-.02 increase based on the specific weight. The price for postcards rose to the highest levels at 7%.

## First-Class Mail® Commercial – 2% - 8% Increase

Commercial First-Class Mail®										
	Weight Ounces	Letters			Flats*			Post Cards		
		Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
Automation 5 Digit	1	\$0.593	\$0.621	4.7%	\$0.970	\$1.025	5.7%	\$0.420	\$0.453	7.9%
Automation 3 Digit			\$0.672	4.8%	\$1.235	\$1.264	2.3%		\$0.478	7.4%
Automation AADC	1	\$0.641			\$1.331			\$0.445		
Automation Mixed AADC	1	\$0.672	\$0.707	5.2%	\$1.488	\$1.585	6.5%	\$0.462	\$0.495	7.1%
Presorted (Non Automation)	1				\$1.540	\$1.590	3.2%			

Automation letters are going up 5% and Flats by 2-7%. There is still the same credit for Seamless Acceptance of \$.002 and for Full Service Intelligent Mail at \$.005. The Sectional Center Facility (SCF) Pallet Discount went down from \$.004 to \$.003 for letters but stayed the same for flats at \$.002.

With any increase, it becomes more important to look for ways to reduce costs. These are the options available:

Mail Piece Examples	Single Piece Rates			Automation Mail with Barcodes		
	First-Class Mail® Retail Single Piece	First-Class Mail® Metered Single Piece	Typical Presort Service - First-Class Mail®	First-Class Mail® - Automation	Marketing Mail® - Automation	Marketing Mail® Non Profit-Automation
1 Ounce #10 Envelope	\$0.82	\$0.78	\$0.707	.621-.707	\$.395-.467	\$.185-.257
3 Ounce Newsletter (6x9)	\$1.40	\$1.36	\$0.707	.621-.707	\$.395-.467	\$.185-.257
8 Ounce Flat (9x12)	\$3.72	\$3.72	\$0.362	\$3.055-3.615	\$1.033-1.51	\$.742-1.23
Postcard	\$0.65	\$0.65	\$0.495	.453-.495	N/A	N/A

- Use meters or online postage to save \$.04 on letters.
- Consider presort services if you run over 500 pieces per day or have one-time mailings over 1000 pieces.
- Automating your mailings in house or through third party mail services to have drastic postage savings.
- Presort and automation levels go up to 3.5 ounces for the same base rate.
- Flats and postcards can have the same automation rates as letters.
- Consider moving generic content mail from First Class to Marketing Mail®

### Marketing Mail® – 2-8% Increase

Marketing Mail®							
	Weight Ounces	Letters			Flats		
		Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
Automation 5 Digit	≤3.5	\$0.372	\$0.395	6.2%	\$0.770	\$0.783	1.7%
Automation 3 Digit	≤4		\$0.435	6.9%	\$0.986	\$1.021	3.5%
Automation AADC/ADC	≤3.5	\$0.407			\$1.101		
Automation Mixed AADC/ADC-Origin	≤3.5	\$0.433	\$0.467	7.9%	\$1.185	\$1.260	6.3%
Marketing Mail® Nonprofit							
	Weight Ounces	Letters			Flats		
		Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
Automation 5 Digit	≤3.5	\$0.178	\$0.185	3.9%	\$0.503	\$0.516	2.6%
Automation 3 Digit	≤4		\$0.225	5.6%	\$0.719	\$0.754	4.9%
Automation AADC/ADC	≤3.5	\$0.213			\$0.834		
Automation Mixed AADC/ADC-Origin	≤3.5	\$0.239	\$0.257	7.5%	\$0.918	\$0.993	8.2%

Marketing Mail® Letter rates are increasing at approximately 6-8% while Flats are going up at 2-6%. Nonprofit is seeing a slightly smaller increase in letters at 4-8%, but higher with the flats at 3-8%.



With heavy weight flats over 4 ounces, there is a per piece and per pound rate needed to calculate the total price. As you can see from the chart below, the per piece rate is going up 2-9% and the per pound rate is going up by 7-8%. The biggest change is that these flats can now go up to 20 ounces compared to the current limit of 16 ounces.

Marketing Mail® Commercial Flats > 4 Oz							
		Per Piece			Per Pound		
	Weight Ounces	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
Automation 5 Digit	>4	\$0.624	\$0.634	1.6%	\$0.745	\$0.797	7.0%
Automation 3 Digit	>4	\$0.840	\$0.872	3.8%	\$0.745	\$0.797	7.0%
Automation AADC/ADC	>4	\$0.955			\$0.745		
Automation Mixed AADC/ADC-Origin	>4	\$1.039	\$1.111	6.9%	\$0.745	\$0.797	7.0%

  

Marketing Mail® Nonprofit Flats > 4 Oz							
		Per Piece			Per Pound		
	Weight Ounces	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
Automation 5 Digit	>4	\$0.371	\$0.381	2.7%	\$0.690	\$0.742	7.5%
Automation 3 Digit	>4	\$0.587	\$0.619	5.5%	\$0.690	\$0.742	7.5%
Automation AADC/ADC	>4	\$0.702			\$0.690		
Automation Mixed AADC/ADC-Origin	>4	\$0.786	\$0.858	9.2%	\$0.690	\$0.742	7.5%

The best way to save money on Marketing Mail is to move mail closer to its final location utilizing destination entry level discounts. This area is seeing the biggest changes. The DSCF (Destination sectional center facility) savings have been increased by 8-24%. There are still the \$.003 SCF (Sectional Center Facility) Pallet, \$.005 Full Service Intelligent Mail, and \$.002 Seamless Acceptance discounts available.

Destination Entry Discounts for Marketing Mail									
	Letters			Flats <4 Ounces			Flats >4 Ounces (Off LB Rate)		
	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Change	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Change	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Change
DSCF	\$0.017	\$0.021	23.5%	\$0.038	\$0.041	7.9%	\$0.312	\$0.364	16.7%



## USPS Competitive Services – 8% Increases

While we are not seeing a rate increase in this segment with the July 12, 2026, rate increase, there is an 8% temporary fuel surcharge from April 26, 2026 - January 17, 2027. This is a flat 8% price increase on Priority Mail®, Priority Mail® Express and Ground Advantage™.

## USPS Special Services –1-46% Increases

Special Services	Retail			Electronic			
	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	New Rates 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	
Certificate of Mailing	\$2.40	\$2.45	2.1%				
Registered™ without Insurance	\$19.70	\$20.90	6.1%				
Certified Mail™	\$5.30	\$5.55	4.7%				
Return Receipt	\$4.40	\$4.65	5.7%	\$2.82	\$2.91	3.2%	
Insurance \$100	\$3.40	\$3.50	2.9%				
Insurance \$500	\$7.45	\$7.55	1.3%				
Marketing Mail® parcels Tracking				\$0.34	\$0.36	5.9%	
Signature Confirmation	\$4.95	\$5.15	4.0%	\$3.95	\$4.15	5.1%	
Annual Permit Fees	\$370.00	\$390.00	5.4%				
Business Reply Mail							
Permit Fee	\$370.00	\$390.00	5.4%				
Account Maintenance Fee	\$1,080.00	\$1,130.00	4.6%				
Quarterly Fee	\$3,670	\$3,850	4.9%				
Basic	\$1.23	\$1.31	6.5%				
High Volume	\$0.154	\$0.164	6.5%				
IMbA	\$0.022	\$0.032	45.5%				
QBRM Postage	\$0.755	\$0.794	5.2%				
QBRM Basic	\$0.054	\$0.058	7.4%				
QBRM High Volume	\$0.033	\$0.036	9.1%				

Special Services rates are mostly in line with the 5% overall increase.



## Additional Rate Change Items

First-Class Mail International®									
	1 Ounce			2 Ounce			Post Cards		
Group	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
Canada	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%	\$2.00	\$2.35	17.5%	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%
Mexico (Group 2)	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%	\$2.55	\$2.60	2.0%	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%
Group 3-5	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%	\$3.40	\$3.50	2.9%	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%
Group 6-9	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%	\$3.40	\$3.50	2.9%	\$1.70	\$1.75	2.9%

Library Mail				Media Mail			
	Single Piece				Single Piece		
Weight LB's	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase	Weight LB's	Prior to 07/12/26	New Rates 07/12/26	% Increase
1	\$4.25	\$4.17	-1.9%	1	\$4.47	\$4.39	-1.8%
2	\$4.96	\$4.87	-1.8%	2	\$5.22	\$5.13	-1.7%
5	\$7.10	\$6.97	-1.8%	5	\$7.47	\$7.34	-1.7%
10	\$10.66	\$10.47	-1.8%	10	\$11.22	\$11.02	-1.8%

## Conclusion

42-79% increases in 5 years are unheard of and impacting every organization. Mailers are going to need to look for savings strategies to help offset these changes. Our recommendation is to create visibility to all mailings and look for automation and commercial methods where applicable to reduce the cost and streamline production.

To budget for this increase, you need to look at the type of items you are sending, and the weight and zones that are most common, to truly estimate the impact. We have developed a budget calculator that you can download for free (<https://postaladvocate.com/rate-change-tools/>) that should help you better plan for this year. Some of the most popular USPS classes are going up at the highest rates but luckily there are ways to help mitigate this through automation and technology.



Class	Weight	% Of Class	% Change	Estimated		
				Current Spend	Estimated New Spend	Difference
<b>First-Class Mail® Metered Letters</b>	1	85%	5.4%			
	2	10%	3.9%			
	3	5%	3.0%			
<b>Total</b>			<b>5.1%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>First-Class Mail® Flats</b>			<b>4.2%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>First-Class Mail® Automation Letters</b>			<b>4.9%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>First-Class Mail® Automation Flats</b>			<b>4.8%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Certified with Return Receipt</b>			<b>5.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Priority Mail® Express Retail</b>			<b>8.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Priority Mail® Express Commercial</b>			<b>8.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Priority Mail® Retail</b>			<b>8.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Priority Mail® Commercial</b>			<b>8.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Ground Advantage® Retail</b>			<b>8.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Ground Advantage® Commercial</b>			<b>8.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Marketing Mail®</b>						
Letters			<b>7.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Flats			<b>3.9%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Other Misc Mail</b>			<b>5.0%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Adam Lewenberg**, CMDSS, MDC, President/CEO of [Postal Advocate Inc.](http://Postal Advocate Inc.), runs the largest Mail Audit and Recovery firm in the United States and Canada. They manage the biggest mail software/equipment, postage and mail related services portfolio in the world. Their mission is to help organizations with multi-locations and mail streams reduce expenses, recover lost postage funds, and simplify visibility and oversight. Since 2011, they have helped their clients save an average of 74% and over \$112 million on equipment, postage, shipping and outsourced mail service fees. He can be reached at [adam.lewenberg@postaladvocate.com](mailto:adam.lewenberg@postaladvocate.com).

