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USPS 2026 postage rates

Proposed July 12, 2026

USPS Marketing Mail (Standard) - Commercial letters

3.5 oz or less

	Carrier Route				Automation		
Entry Point	Saturation	High Density Plus	High Density	Basic Carrier Route	5-Digit	3-Digit	Mixed
None	0.255	0.286	0.389	-	0.395	0.435	0.467
DSCF	0.234	0.265	0.368	-	0.374	0.414	-
DDU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Subtract $0.005 for each addressed piece that complies with the requirements for the Full-Service Intelligent Mail option.
Subtract $0.002 for each letter that complies with the Seamless Acceptance option requirements.

First-Class Mail - Commercial letters and postcards

	Automation			Nonautomation Machinable		Residual
Weight Not Over (ounces)	5-Digit	3-Digit	Mixed	3-Digit	Mixed	From Auto or Presort Mailings
1	0.621	0.672	0.707	0.674	0.721	0.820
2	0.621	0.672	0.707	0.674	0.721	0.820
3	0.621	0.672	0.707	0.674	0.721	0.820
3.5	0.621	0.672	0.707	0.674	0.721	0.820
Postcard	0.453	0.478	0.495	-	-	-

Subtract $0.005 for each addressed piece that complies with the requirements for the Full-Service Intelligent Mail option.
Subtract $0.002 for each letter that complies with the Seamless Acceptance option requirements.

USPS Marketing Mail (Standard) - Nonprofit letters

3.5 oz or less

	Carrier Route[1]				Automation[1]		
Entry Point	Saturation	High Density Plus	High Density	Basic Carrier Route	5-Digit	3-Digit	Mixed
None	0.160	0.178	0.181	-	0.185	0.225	0.257
DSCF	0.139	0.157	0.160	-	0.164	0.204	-
DDU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Subtract $0.005 for each addressed piece that complies with the requirements for the Full-Service Intelligent Mail option.
Subtract $0.002 for each letter that complies with the Seamless Acceptance option requirements.

USPS Marketing Mail (Standard) - Flats

4 oz or less

	Carrier Route				Automation		
Entry Point	Saturation	High Density Plus	High Density	Basic Carrier Route	5-Digit	3-Digit	Mixed
None	0.308	0.373	0.404	0.504	0.886	1.090	1.299
DSCF	0.267	0.332	0.363	0.463	0.845	1.049	-
DDU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Subtract $0.005 for each addressed piece that complies with the requirements for the Full-Service Intelligent Mail option.
Subtract $0.002 for each letter that complies with the Seamless Acceptance option requirements.

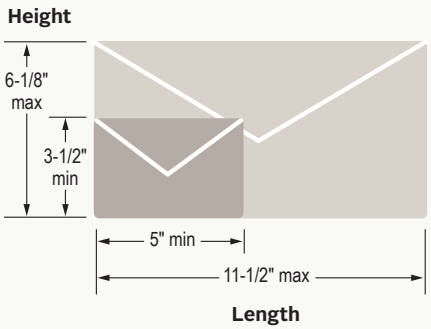
Taming the fractious fraction

Decimal equivalents for quick calculating

1/64 = .015625
1/32 = .03125
3/64 = .046875
1/16 = .0625
5/64 = .078125
3/32 = .09375
7/64 = .109375
1/8 = .125
9/64 = .140625
5/32 = .15625
11/64 = .171875
3/16 = .1875
13/64 = .203125
7/32 = .21875
15/64 = .234375
1/4 = .25
17/64 = .265625
9/32 = .28125
19/64 = .296875
5/16 = .3125
21/64 = .328125
11/32 = .34375
23/64 = .359375
3/8 = .375
25/64 = .390625
13/32 = .40625
27/64 = .421875
7/16 = .4375
29/64 = .453125
15/32 = .46875
31/64 = .484375
1/2 = .50
33/64 = .515625
17/32 = .53125

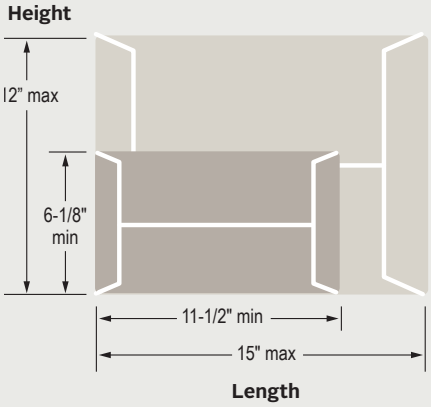
It's a...	If...

Letter



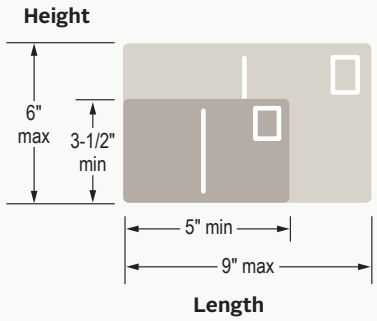
- ✓ It is at least 3 1/2" tall and 5" long.
- ✓ It is no more than 6 1/8" tall and 11 1/2" long.
- ✓ Its thickness is at least .007" but not more than 1/4" thick.
- ✓ Its length divided by its height (aspect ratio) falls between 1.3 and 2.5.
- ✓ Its address is parallel to its length.

Flat



- ✓ It is more than 6 1/8" high, 11 1/2" long or 1/4" thick.
- ✓ It does not exceed 12" high, 15" long or 3/4" thick. Usually pieces that exceed these dimensions will be considered machinable or irregular parcels.
- ✓ Its aspect ratio falls outside of acceptable letter ratios.

Card



- ✓ It is at least 3 1/2" tall and 5" long.
- ✓ It is no more than 6" tall and 9" long.
- ✓ It is a single thickness at least .007" thick and no more than .016" thick.
- ✓ It has an aspect ratio of between 1.3 and 2.5.
- ✓ Double cards may qualify for the card rate if one panel is a business reply or courtesy reply card. Seal with tabs or spot glue. Staples will disqualify for automation discounts.

Postal optimization

We help you reduce postage costs and improve delivery by applying proven optimization strategies across every campaign.

- Optimize mail files for maximum discounts
- Combine drop shipping and commingling to lower costs
- Meet in-home delivery windows
- Consolidate versions into fewer production runs

SCF destination entry

We enter mail deeper in the postal network to lower costs and improve delivery predictability.

- Deliver directly to SCFs
- Increase 5-digit qualification and postal discounts
- Reduce USPS handling
- Improve in-home timing

Commingling

We increase mail density by combining volumes across clients to secure better rates.

- Increase mail density for lower rates
- Pair commingling with drop shipping for added savings
- Support both small and large mail volumes
- Maintain consistent delivery timelines.

Intelligent Mail® barcode (IMb) tracking & reporting

We provide clear visibility into mail performance so you can track, measure, and optimize delivery.

- Track mail movement with full-service IMb
- Report on in-home delivery timing
- View scan and delivery data
- Drill down to individual mail pieces

35/64	= .546875
9/16	= .5625
37/64	= .578125
19/32	= .59375
39/64	= .609375
5/8	**= .625**
41/64	= .640625
21/32	= .65625
43/64	= .671875
11/16	= .6875
45/64	= .703125
23/32	= .71875
47/64	= .734375
3/4	**= .75**
49/64	= .765625
25/32	= .78125
51/64	= .796875
13/16	= .8125
53/64	= .828125
27/32	= .84375
55/64	= .859375
7/8	**= .875**
57/64	= .890625
29/32	= .90625
59/64	= .921875
15/16	= .9375
61/64	= .953125
31/32	= .96875
63/64	= .984375
1	**= 1.0000**

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+

JQ

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We get mail

As a recognized authority in direct mail marketing, DMS delivers more than four decades of expertise rooted in results. By helping brands navigate the complexities of USPS regulations, optimize postage, and deploy high-impact campaigns, we mail more than 1.5 billion pieces annually.

With the addition of Johnson & Quin, a respected leader in data-driven direct mail, DMS has further cemented its position as a trusted partner with unmatched depth in analytics, targeting, and postal strategy. From intelligent mail design and presort optimization to seamless integration with digital channels, DMS provides the guidance, precision, and performance clients need to maximize every dollar and confidently execute in an increasingly complex USPS landscape.

We hope this postal guide serves as a valuable reference when planning your next campaign.

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1-800-578-0848 • teamdms.com

DMS Portland
6400 SE Lake Rd.
Suite 190
Portland, OR 97222

DMS Pittsburgh
155 Commerce Drive
Freedom, PA 15042-9201

Johnson & Quin, Inc.
7460 North Lehigh Ave.
Niles, IL 60714

direct marketing solutions

Intelligent Mail® barcode placement checklist

When barcode is included with address block, it must be in one of these positions:

- ✓ Above the address line containing the recipient's name
- ✓ Below the city, state, and ZIP code line
- ✓ Above or below the keyline information
- ✓ Above or below the optional endorsement line

Barcode position when included with address block:

- ✓ Right bar – at least ½" from right edge of the mail piece
- ✓ Left bar – less than 10 ½" from right edge, and at least ½" from left edge
- ✓ Top of each bar – less than 4" from bottom edge of mail piece
- ✓ Bottom line in address block including barcode – at least 5/8" from bottom edge of the mail piece

Clearance between barcode and address:

- ✓ .028" is the minimum clearance between the IMb and any line above or below the address block
- ✓ 5/8" is the maximum amount of space between the barcode and the top or bottom line of the address block

Envelope window placement:

- ✓ 1/8" (.125") is the minimum clearance between the left and right bars and any printing or window edge
- ✓ 1/28" is the minimum clearance between Intelligent Mail barcode and top and bottom edges of window

Tap-test the envelope and its contents to check for right, left and vertical movement in the window. Barcode clearances must be maintained no matter how much the addressing piece shifts within the envelope.

If the envelope window is covered or patched, does the covering meet the minimum USPS reflectance standards?