

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268B0001

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006B1

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
(OCA/USPS-8-13)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate, filed on July 5, 2006: OCA/USPS-8-13.

Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORY  
OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

**OCA/USPS-8.** This interrogatory concerns the ability of the Postal Service to determine the number of pieces of mail that is entered into the postal system versus the number that is delivered.

- a. Does the Postal Service track the number of pieces of mail that come into its system versus the number that is delivered?
  - i. If a precise number is known, please provide it, and state the source of the figure provided.
  - ii. If a precise number is not known, then please provide a ball park estimate of the number of pieces entered into the postal system and the number of pieces delivered.
- b. Please answer questions a., a.i. and a.ii., separately, for the following classes/subclasses of mail. Include a description of the sources of information used to answer these questions.
  - i. First Class
  - ii. Priority Mail
  - iii. Express Mail
  - iv. Package Services
  - v. Periodicals
  - vi. Standard Mail

**RESPONSE:**

No data system compares the number of mail pieces that enter the postal system with the number of pieces that are delivered.

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**OCA/USPS-9.** What percent of mail is not delivered to the recipient NOR returned to the sender? Also, provide an answer to this question, separately, for the following classes/subclasses of mail:

- a. First Class
- b. Priority Mail
- c. Express Mail
- d. Package Services
- e. Periodicals
- f. Standard Mail

State the source(s) for all answers provided above.

**RESPONSE:**

No estimates of these percentages are available.

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**OCA/USPS-10.** What is that mail called within the Postal Service that has been entered but not delivered? Missing mail? Undelivered mail? If neither of these is the correct term, then please provide the term used by the Postal Service.

**RESPONSE:**

Virtually all mail within the Postal Service has been entered but not delivered. As such, it is typically called "mail." Recipients of mail also typically call mail "mail" after it is delivered.

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**OCA/USPS-11.** List the types, and locations, of all facilities where missing/undeliverable mail is held/processed/disposed of. Specially identify those facilities whose primary function is to hold/process/dispose of missing/undeliverable mail. Include the addresses of the latter facilities.

**RESPONSE:**

Mail Recovery Centers are responsible for final disposition of undeliverable First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, Express Mail, Package Services mail, and loose-in-the-mail articles of value.

These facilities are located at:

5345 Fulton Industrial Boulevard SW, Atlanta, GA 30378-2400

443 Fillmore Avenue E, St. Paul, MN 55107-1206

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**OCA/USPS-12.** Does the Postal Service track WHY mail is not delivered?

- a. If so, list the 15 top reasons (by frequency) that mail is not delivered.
- b. Please break down these reasons by percentage of total.
- c. List the 5 leading reasons mail is not delivered, separately, by class of mail for each of the following classes:
  - i. First Class
  - ii. Priority Mail
  - iii. Express Mail
  - iv. Package Services
  - v. Periodicals
  - vi. Standard Mail

State the source(s) for all answers provided.

**RESPONSE:**

No.

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**OCA/USPS-13.** How many pieces of undeliverable mail does the Postal Service sell each year in total? Also, how many pieces of undeliverable mail does the Postal Service sell each year by class/subclass of mail for the following classes:

- a. First Class
- b. Priority Mail
- c. Express Mail
- d. Package Services
- e. Periodicals
- f. Standard Mail

State the source(s) for all answers provided.

**RESPONSE:**

During FY 2005, 73,442,170 undeliverable letters and flats were shredded and recycled, according to the Mail Condition Reporting System. Undeliverable items that are made available for public auction are sold in large lots rather than individual pieces. Volumes are not tracked by class of mail.