

FACT SHEET

New Strategy Preserves Post Offices in Rural America Modified Retail Window Hours Will Keep Post Offices Open



Reducing retail costs to return to financial stability

With the decline of First-Class Mail volumes and increased alternate access to postal services through usps.com and more than 70,000 locations, the Postal Service is studying its retail network of Post Offices to find cost savings in order to return to financial stability.

New strategy would preserve most rural Post Offices

After feedback from customers and communities, the Postal Service has developed a new path that would keep local Post Offices open, but modify existing operating hours to reflect actual demand. Customers would retain access to lobby and P.O. Boxes as well as their ZIP Code and community identity.

Four paths to preserve access to postal services

Maintain	Maintain the Post Office with reduced retail window service hours to match customer need.	
Deliver	Provide delivery service using either rural carriers or highway contract routes.	
Engage	Engage a local establishment within the community to establish a Village Post Office.	
Merge	Merge with nearby Post Office and provide service from that location.	

Commitment to the American Public

Rural Post Offices will remain open unless a community has a strong preference for one of the alternative options. Community meetings will be scheduled and conducted with all affected locations in the coming months. Communities will be notified of the date, time and location of these meetings by U.S. Mail.

Survey Research – Rural America Supports New Solution

54 percent of surveyed rural customers support the new strategy to maintain their local Post Office with reduced window hours. 46 percent prefer either a Village Post Office, offering services from at a nearby Post Office, or expanding rural delivery.

(Source: Opinion Research Corporation – Feb. 2012)

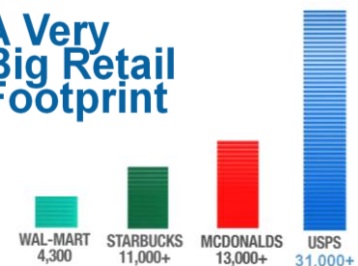
For more information, go to:

<http://about.usps.com/news/electronic-press-kits/our-future-network>

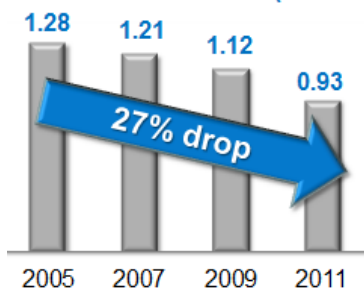


QUICK FACTS

A Very Big Retail Footprint



Customer Retail Visits (billions)



Alternate Access today 70,000 postal providers:

- Wal-Mart
- Walgreens
- Staples
- Office Depot
- Sam's Club
- COSTCO



57% of customers who utilize alternate access buy stamps, ship packages, or order supplies online