

# POSTAL NEWS

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Postal Pointers  
by Mitch Greene  
Palouse Postmaster

## **1. Looking for an easy way to send a package?**

Now all you have to do is “Click-n-Ship.”

With Click-n-Ship from the US Postal Service, you can ship things without leaving your home or office. All you need is a computer, a printer and an internet connection, and you can print labels with or without postage. Click-n-Ship calculates rates, finds a zip code, standardizes and saves addresses, keeps a history of your online shipping and accepts major credit cards – all at one convenient web site location.

What’s more, with online insurance, you can buy coverage of up to \$500 for your packages at the same time you prepare your mailing labels. No extra transactions are required, and no additional forms, labels or stickers are necessary. With just a few extra keystrokes, you get protection and peace of mind for your packages at the same low price you’d get by driving to the Post Office.

With Click-n-Ship, you can use flat-rate Priority Mail boxes – available in several convenient sizes at one consistent shipping rate. Or if you prefer, you can weigh, pay for, and ship your own Priority Mail or Express Mail packages right from your office or home. You even get delivery confirmation service at no extra charge when you arrange for shipment online and use Priority Mail. And if you need global service, Click-n-Ship can help you use Global Express Mail or Global Express Guaranteed.

For more information, just go to [www.usps.com/clicknship](http://www.usps.com/clicknship) and you’ll be clicking and shipping in no time!

## **2. US Postal Service reports losses from economic downturn**

01/07/2009

In a recent news media statement, the U.S. Postal Service said that the 2008 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2007-Sept. 30, 2008) had concluded with a net loss of \$2.8 billion as the national economic slowdown lowered mail volume and as the Postal Service bore additional costs mandated by the Postal Act of 2006. The loss occurred despite more than \$2 billion in cost-cutting measures that included the use of 50 million fewer work hours compared to the previous year. The Postal Service continued to improve national on-time First-Class Mail delivery performance, reaching record highs in FY 2008.

Mail volume in FY 2008 totalled 202.7 billion pieces, a decline of 9.5 billion pieces, or 4.5 percent, compared to the previous fiscal year. Declining mail volume was a symptom of the worsening national economy, particularly related to the financial and housing industries and to trends toward the use of electronic mail.

Total revenue in FY 2008 was \$75 billion, unchanged from last year. Expenses totalled \$77.8 billion.

In their statement USPS management said; "We expect the new fiscal year to be another difficult one for the Postal Service and the entire mailing industry, as economic factors will continue to reduce mail volume and increase expenses," Postmaster General John Potter told the Postal Service Board of Governors. "As we continue to reduce work hours and other costs, our top priority remains providing excellent service to our customers. The combination of excellent service and affordable prices makes Postal products a great value."

In another news story released the same day, the USPS said that reports that they were laying off 40,000 employees were not true. "The Postal Service is not laying off employees. Efforts to match our work force to a reduced workload are focused on voluntary early retirements. Voluntary early retirement has been offered to a number of employees and to date, 3,685 employees have accepted the offer."

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## **3. LEAD: Postal bank joins banks' online fund transfer system+**

(Japan Economic Newswire Via Acquire Media NewsEdge) TOKYO, Jan. 5\_(Kyodo)  
\_ (EDS: UPDATING)

Japan Post Bank said it hooked up its computer system to the online data communications system of the Japanese Bankers Association without any major problems Monday, adding more than 100 million accounts to the nationwide fund transfer program.

The hookup took effect after the postal bank fully suspended the operation of its automated teller machine system for the first three days of the year to ensure there were no glitches in joining the JBA's system, which is used by around 1,500 banks and other financial institutions.

No major system glitches have been reported since the launch of the service, the JBA said.

The latest addition of Japan Post Bank will make it more convenient for customers to transfer money, but will fuel competition with local financial institutions, observers said.

Japan Post Bank, created in October 2007 with the start of the 10-year privatization process for the state-run postal system, requires account holders to use additionally assigned account numbers to receive remittances from accounts at commercial banks.

The postal bank's conventional account numbers cannot be used to receive remittances because they are composed of eight-digit numbers compared with seven digits for accounts at commercial banks.

Experts had warned of initial confusion as many people were likely to send money to postal bank accounts without knowing their new account numbers.

To avoid this, the postal bank answered customers' inquiries regarding the requirements over the counter and at a special phone number and posted related information on its website. Commercial banks, for their part, distributed brochures to their clients.

Remittances from existing accounts at the postal bank to accounts at commercial banks can be transferred using cash cards and passbooks. But cash remittances without cash cards or passbooks are yet to be allowed.

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#### **4. Newly adopted regulation said vital to improve postal services**

Thursday, 01 January 2009

Addis Ababa, January 01 (WIC) – The new regulation adopted to re-structure the Ethiopia Postal Service (EPS) Organization would have a significant contribution to improve the organization's services.

EPS communication and documentation work process officer, Zeyin Gedilu told WIC that the newly adopted regulation aimed at re-structuring the organization will help EPS to expand its services by re-organizing its structure.

She said the regulation has been adopted following the Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) study conducted to identify major bottlenecks in the service delivery of the organization.

The study has also enabled the organization to re-organize its structures as a public development organization.

The newly adopted declaration will have a significant contribution towards enabling EPS exploit modern postal service technologies, she said, adding it will also help to take corrective measures whenever costumers' rights are abused.

She said the major objective of the new regulation is improving the over all postal service delivery and policies of the sector.

Previously, EPS has not been given the necessary attention from the government and its service delivery remained ineffective, she added.

Based on the newly adopted declaration EPS is undertaking various activities to differentiate the supervision bodies and the national operators in an effort to provide speedy services, the officer said.

The new regulation will allow EPS to be administered by a board in line with the strategy of governmental development enterprises, the officer concluded.

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**5. Treasury, BOI ask Israel Postal Company to mediate Gaza cash transfers**  
By JPOST.COM STAFF

The Treasury and the Bank of Israel (BOI) have asked the Israel Postal Company (IPC) to mediate the transfer of funds between Israel and Gaza banks.

On Thursday morning, Bank Hapoalim and Bank Discount ceased cash transfers to the Strip, contrary to BOI Governor Stanley Fischer's advice.

The IPC is demanding that the State bear any future legal costs that arise if it becomes clear that the money transferred to the Strip is used to fund terror, Army Radio reported.

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