

POSTAL NEWS

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1. Postal Service to Close Offices, Seek Retirements (Update2)

By Todd Shields

March 20 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. Postal Service said it will offer early retirement to almost one in four workers, close administrative offices and eliminate more than 3,000 jobs as it grapples with a financial crisis.

The announcement follows the service's statements in January that this year's deficit may dwarf the \$2.8 billion loss in 2008 and may force it to reduce the six-day-a-week delivery schedule.

Mail volume has dropped as economic activity slows and people and businesses turn to e-mail and electronic billing and payment, postal officials have said. The service today said it sees "no signs of economic recovery in sight."

About 150,000 of the service's 646,000 workers will be offered early retirement, the service said in a statement.

The agency also is closing six district offices that together have "a little over 500" positions, spokeswoman Sue Brennan said in an interview. The targeted administrative offices are in Lake Mary, Florida; North Reading, Massachusetts; Manchester, New Hampshire; Edison, New Jersey; Erie, Pennsylvania; and Spokane, Washington, officials said. The closings will not affect customer service, the service said.

An additional 1,400 staff in the remaining 74 district offices will be eliminated, Brennan said. More than 1,400 mail processing supervisory and management jobs also are being eliminated, Brennan said.

'Steady Erosion'

Postmaster General John Potter in January told Congress that the Postal Service has been harmed by a “steady erosion” of profitable first-class mail. Stamped mail volume is down to 1964 levels, Brennan said.

On Feb. 4 the service reported a first-quarter loss of \$384 million on the eighth consecutive quarter of lower mail volume.

In the past year the service has taken “very aggressive cost-cutting actions,” including a nationwide hiring freeze and halting construction of new postal facilities, the statement said.

Potter in January asked Congress to let the Postal Service reduce its six-days-a-week delivery schedule by one day to save money.

Beginning May 11 the price of a first-class stamp is to rise to 44 cents from 42 cents, the Postal Service said Feb 10.

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2. Quad City Postal employees earn OSHA Safety Certification

Posted Online: March 20, 2009, 12:11 pm

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Press release submitted by David Cunningham , Acting Manager, Quad Cities P&DF

Quad City Postal Employees Earn OSHA Safety Certification

OSHA, Postal Officials to Recognize Employees at March 25 Ceremony

MILAN, Ill. – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will join officials of the U.S. Postal Service's Des Moines-based Hawkeye District on Wednesday, March 25 at 3:30 p.m. at the Quad Cities Processing & Distribution Facility (P&DF), to certify STAR status under OSHA's Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP). The Quad Cities P&DF is located at 7700 68th St. in Milan.

The Voluntary Protection Programs recognize and promote outstanding workplace safety and health management. In 2005, the USPS joined Georgia-Pacific Corporation as the first two organizations to be formally accepted in the VPP Corporate pilot program, which streamlines the application and onsite evaluation processes for corporations that have made a commitment to VPP.

The Quad Cities P&DF employs more than 200 full-time employees. The primary work performed consists of the receipt, sortation, and distribution of domestic and

foreign mail. This site provides the primary sortation for about 130 associate Post Offices and stations within the Hawkeye District. Using the latest in processing equipment, the employees of the P&DF process more than 1.5 million pieces of mail daily.

"The qualification for OSHA's premiere recognition program is a testament to the efforts the Quad Cities P&DF employees have made to develop and implement a VPP-quality safety and health management system," said Donald G. Shalhoub, deputy assistant secretary for Occupational Safety and Health.

The Postal Service was a charter "Challenge" participant, and several years ago became the first federal organization to successfully complete an evaluation under the VPP Corporate pilot program. The evaluation included key aspects of USPS' safety and health policies, programs and records, as well as interviews with senior managers and executives, and labor officials.

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Published: March 20, 2009 3:00 a.m.

3. Letter (Web version): Postal Service adapting to poor economy **Advertisement**

The best place to gauge the effect of the recession on the U.S. Postal Service is in your mailbox. An economic decline generally leads to a drop in mail volume, and we are seeing the biggest mail volume decline in history. When big mailers such as the banking, insurance and housing industries struggle, mail volume suffers, too.

Mail volume in Indiana is down 15.2 percent from 2008 figures. Volume fell nationally by 9.5 billion pieces (4.5 percent) in the last year, resulting in a \$2.8 billion net operating loss after paying \$5.6 billion to prefund retiree health benefits, as required under the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006.

The Postal Service is self-supporting, funded by postal products and services, not through tax dollars. Like other businesses, we make changes to match the decline in sales. It's the only fiscally responsible course available as we strive to maintain affordable service and remain viable to best serve our customers.

The Postal Service has offered early retirement to tens of thousands of eligible employees. We're restructuring delivery routes, adjusting post office hours and relocating blue collection boxes to reflect customer demand. We're also adjusting hours in processing plants, consolidating mail processing operations and postponing construction of new post offices.

We're continuing to adapt products and services to contemporary lifestyles and to improve customers' experiences in post offices, on usps.com and by phone. We're launching competitive shipping prices and continue to use our service to every home and business to create value for customers.

These logical business measures will have an effect on employees. Some of the changes will be difficult as people find themselves doing a different job, working different hours or working in a different facility. But they are necessary steps we have to take to prepare for the future.

We will not change our unwavering commitment to service excellence and earning our customers' trust. Our goal is to continue providing quality service at reasonable prices to more than 149 million American homes and businesses, including 2.5 million in Indiana. When the economy rebounds, we'll be ready with more efficient practices and new processes and systems that continue to revolutionize the value of mail and how it is delivered to benefit customers.

E. LYNN SMITH District Manager Customer Service and Sales Greater Indiana District U.S. Postal Service

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4. Postal & Big Express Delivery Firms Won 27.3% Income Rise

Fri. March 20, 2009; Posted: 08:31 AM

Are you looking to increase you ETF knowledge?

BEIJING, Mar 20, 2009 (SinoCast Daily Business Beat via COMTEX) -- PSVGF | Quote | Chart | News | PowerRating -- Postal and sizable express delivery companies in China reaped business revenue of CNY 8.06 billion in 2008, rising 17.2 percent from a year earlier.

The amount excluded the direct operating revenue of the China Postal Savings Bank (CPSB). Due to the financial crisis, the whole industry had a slower growth. Its accumulative business revenue and business volume climbed up 7.8 and 9.4 percent to CNY 15.72 billion and CNY 23.07 billion, respectively.

Aggregately, the industry handled 117 million postal letters and 2.57 billion pieces of newspapers, separately slipping 0.9 and 1.1 percent year on year. It dealt with 170 million magazines and 38.817 million exchange deals, inching up 1.4 and 2.2 percent, respectively.

The express delivery business in eastern, central, and western areas accounted for respectively 79.4, 10.6, and 10 percent of the country's total express delivery revenue, and represented separately 22.6, 71.2, and 6.2 percent of its total express delivery volume.

Source: www.shihua.com.cn (March 20, 2009)

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