



The Jobs Impact of Eliminating Saturday Mail Delivery

Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe is not communicating the true job loss impacts that will result from his plan to end Saturday mail delivery. The Postal Service's public statements and internal materials conflict, and the effects of losing a day of delivery on private sector mailing jobs remain unknown. In their rush to pre-empt Congress, Postal Service leadership either has not conducted a thorough study of the impacts this change will have, or is not being straight with Congress and the American people.

How Many Jobs are at Risk?

In the press conference announcing the elimination of Saturday mail, the postmaster general asserted that 22,500 postal employee jobs would be eliminated. But internal briefing materials obtained by the media said 35,000 jobs would be impacted.

Even this number is likely very low and may reflect only lost city carrier jobs. When it originally proposed a plan to eliminate all Saturday mail and package delivery back in 2010, the Postal Service estimated that 81,786 full and part-time jobs would be cut. This 2010 number included: 25,846 full-time city carriers, 53,240 full- and part-time rural carriers, 2,250 clerks and 450 mail handlers.

In addition, the elimination of Saturday mail could have untold impacts on the private sector. The Postal Service supports eight million private sector mailing industry jobs, and many of those jobs and companies depend on Saturday delivery.

Some Facts about the Postal Service Workforce:

- Postal Service employees understand the challenges facing the organization and have made sacrifices to help move the agency onto more solid financial footing. For example, non-career city letter carriers will earn 33 percent less when they start, and career city letter carriers will earn 25 percent less when they are hired than their counterparts earned in the past. What's more, all city letter carriers are now paying more for their health insurance.
- Postal Service productivity has increased dramatically in recent years. By working together, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the Postal Service have adjusted to lower mail volume by eliminating 15,000 routes while increasing city carriers' average deliveries per route from 492 addresses in 1999 to 616 addresses in 2012, an increase of more than 25 percent.
- The Postal Service already has eliminated more than 193,000 jobs since 2006. These are good jobs that have provided many Americans a path to the middle class. These are jobs that we can ill-afford to lose in the midst of a slow recovery.
- The Postal Service is consistently ranked among America's most trusted companies and best federal agencies, and it was recently rated number one in a study of the G-20 group of nations' postal services. That study noted, "USPS delivers twice the mail volumes per full-time delivery employee of any other [G-20] postal operator."
- USPS employs 108,000 military veterans, more than one-fifth of its career workforce.
- FedEx and UPS use the Postal Service's network and letter carriers to deliver more than 400 million packages the last mile to homes across the country. Neither UPS nor FedEx offer truly universal service – USPS delivers to ten times more addresses each day.