

United States Postal Service

## Quarterly Performance for Standard Mail™

### **Overview**

For Standard Mail™ letters and non-saturation flats, the Postal Service's service performance measurement system uses documented arrival time at a designated postal facility to start-the-clock, and an Intelligent Mail® barcode (IMb™) scan by an external, third-party reporter to stop-the-clock. Mail piece tracking from IMb™ in-process scans is used in conjunction with the external data to extrapolate results for this entire volume of mail. However, data collected by the Postal Service are provided to an independent, external contractor to calculate service measurement and compile the necessary reports. The system used for this reporting is called Intelligent Mail® Accuracy and Performance System (iMAPS).

The external contractor determines service performance based on the elapsed time between the start-the-clock event recorded by the Postal Service and the stop-the-clock event recorded by anonymous households and small businesses that report delivery information directly to the contractor. The service measure consists of two parts: (1) how long mail pieces take to get through processing, and (2) how long mail takes from the last processing scan to delivery. The second portion is used as a delivery factor differential to determine the percent of all Standard Mail™ delivered on the last processing date versus the percent delivered after the last processing date. Service performance is measured by comparing the transit-time to the service standard to determine the percent of mail delivered on time. The results from the pilot mailers and DDU-entry saturation flats are presented with no weighting by geography within shape.

The service performance measure for DDU-entry saturation flats involves the identification of major regular saturation mailings within delivery units. Delivery of these mailings is captured with a scan made by carriers at the completion of delivery of all pieces on the route. Service performance is measured by comparing the delivery date to the end date of the mailer requested in-home window to determine the percent delivered on time. Data from anonymous households reporting the receipt of these saturation mailings are used to validate the accuracy of the carrier scans.

The service performance measure for Standard Mail™ parcels with Delivery Confirmation™ serves as a proxy for measuring service performance for Standard Mail™ parcels.

The following service performance results combine the results for letter and flats performance calculated through the iMAPS system with the proxy data to represent service performance for all Standard Mail™.

### **Limitations**

During Quarter 4, a pilot system captured the information from a limited number of Standard Mail™ mailings testing aspects of Full-Service Intelligent Mail®. Systems were not in place to fully measure end-to-end service performance as is intended when the Full-Service Intelligent Mail® system is implemented. Validity of the start-the-clock event and the scope of system coverage had not met intended rigor.

Processes and systems were not in place to support the intended start-the-clock business rules defined in the Service Performance Measurement plan published in June 2008. For this quarter, the start-the-clock event was based on the very first read on mail processing equipment for a piece of mail within a mailing. To be valid, the first read must have occurred at the expected origin processing facility. No critical entry time comparisons were applied to the data. In cases where the mailing was not processed on mail processing equipment, no data existed upon which to start the clock.

Due to limited pilot mailer participation and to limited automated processing for Standard Mail™ flats, the service performance results are not representative of all Standard Mail™ flats performance. While DDU-entry Saturation Mail has been included this quarter, significant gaps in the coverage of non-Saturation Destination Delivery Unit entry and carrier route presort volumes of Standard Mail™ Flats still remain. There was not sufficient volume of Standard Mail flats mailed end-to-end to reliably report in the results.

In Quarter 4, systems were not fully in place to measure the service performance for Standard Mail™ parcels, which represent a small percent of total Standard Mail™. As a result, the following service performance results are based on the data available which includes both destination entry and end-to-end Standard Mail™ letters as well as destination BMC, SCF, and delivery unit entry Standard Mail™ flats.

Due to the limited system coverage in Quarter 4, there was not sufficient data to reliably report service performance at the postal district level. The results below present the service performance measures for postal administrative areas and the nation. Note that the limited number of mailing locations most significantly impacts the statistical reliability of the end-to-end service performance measures. The mail volumes and the number of mailing dates were also limited in some cases, further impacting the statistical reliability of the results.

**Quarterly Performance for Standard Mail™****Unweighted Results****Mailpieces Delivered Between 07/01/2009 and 09/30/2009**

Area	Destination Entry	End-to-End
	% On-Time	% On-Time
Capital Metro	87.9%	64.7%
Eastern	88.6%	75.9%
Great Lakes	91.4%	62.3%
New York Metro	91.8%	70.1%
Northeast	89.1%	61.1%
Pacific	82.2%	33.4%
Southeast	90.0%	81.6%
Southwest	89.9%	54.9%
Western	90.6%	66.4%
<b>Nation</b>	<b>89.0%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>