

Cutting Saturday Delivery is a Mistake

My dad is a retired 30-year postal clerk and shop steward for the APWU. I am an advocate for the Postal Service with a wide network of contacts in all levels of postal operations that has enabled me to keep my finger on the pulse of postal issues. Like many of my contacts, I want to see a thriving US Postal Service.

On Cutting a Day of Delivery:

For the last 13 years salaries and performance based pay has increased in HQ while services and jobs are cut at the local level. This happens while postmasters plead in vain for more craft hires to meet a still unparalleled service mandate. The result is that salaried front line managers and supervisors spend several hours a day sorting and delivering mail, creating high stress workplaces and expensive grievance settlements. This trend will only worsen if five-day delivery is implemented.

Two days ago, a top USPS sales exec revealed to me another problem with cutting Saturday delivery. The USPS sells a substantial number of packages on Saturday because it costs the same for customers to mail on Saturday as Monday through Friday. Whereas private delivery services, including UPS and FedEx, charge more for Saturday delivery. To give up one of its last niche markets is absurd and self-defeating.

Additionally, the recent staffing cuts in Postal Areas and Districts (15%) are in no way commensurate to address HQ's (unscrutinized) deficit predictions. If saving money is to be taken seriously the amount spent employing people who don't touch the mail must be addressed before any further reduction in service and employed craft workers is approved.

Thank you for inviting public participation in your decision. From reading online comments to recent articles on 5 day delivery, I can imagine the polarized reactions that are coming in. Business is suffering throughout the country and it is strengthening the resolve of a large portion of the misinformed (see the Tea Party movement). I hope that the PRC will not flinch when facing the venomous reactions to government writ large.

Sincerely,  
Jay Galione