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BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MAIL PROCESSING NETWORK RATIONALIZATION  
SERVICE CHANGES, 2011

Docket No. N2012-1

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
WITNESS ELMORE-YALCH TO QUESTION 10  
OF PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 2**

The United States Postal Service hereby files the response of witness Elmore-Yalch to question 10 of Presiding Officer's Information Request No. 2, dated January 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS ELMORE-YALCH  
TO PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

**10** In testimony USPS-T-11, sampling weights are provided for the Small Business Sample in figure 23 on page 34 and are used in calculating the Volume Forecasts presented in figure 45 on page 52.

- a. Please explain why sampling weights are not provided for the Home Business Sample.
- b. Please explain how the results are affected by the lack of sampling weights for the Home Business Sample.

**RESPONSE:**

(a) Sampling weights are generally applied when as a result of the sampling plan (*e.g.*, a stratified sample that affects the selection process) or a review of the data prior to analysis indicates that the sample does not represent the population (based on known population characteristics). Further, there is no reliable source of information about the actual characteristics (*i.e.*, distribution of industries, number of employees, revenue, *etc.*) of the total population of home-based businesses. In this instance, neither the sample plan nor the selection of interviewees suggests any empirical reason for weighting the data. Therefore, no weighting is appropriate or necessary.

Weighting would be appropriate if the data from small and home-based businesses were combined, something we had no need to undertake. Separate estimates of the percentage change in volume as well as estimates of average volume were provided for each segment, and analysis—including that of witness Whiteman--was accomplished at the segment level.

(b) As explained in the response to part (a), no empirical justification for weighting the Home Business segment exists; as such the results are unaffected and therefore accurate as they have been provided.