

12-Month Average Change in CPI-U

Prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission

Last Update: 9/16/2019

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
2006	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.7%	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%
2007	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%	2.9% ^{1/}
2008	3.0%	3.2%	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%	3.7%	4.0%	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	3.8% ^{2/}
2009	3.5%	3.2%	2.8%	2.4%	1.9%	1.4%	0.8%	0.2%	-0.324%	-0.634%	-0.570%	-0.356%
2010	-0.143%	0.013%	0.236%	0.482%	0.757%	0.968%	1.252%	1.477%	1.685%	1.799%	1.741% ^{3/}	1.640%
2011	1.559%	1.557%	1.589%	1.668%	1.799%	2.008%	2.208%	2.426% ^{4/}	2.653%	2.849%	3.036%	3.157%
2012	3.263%	3.326%	3.322%	3.248%	3.090%	2.930%	2.743%	2.570% ^{5/}	2.415%	2.303%	2.170%	2.069%
2013	1.960%	1.887%	1.789% ^{6/}	1.686%	1.657%	1.664%	1.710%	1.696% ^{7/}	1.628%	1.528%	1.484%	1.465%
2014	1.464%	1.393%	1.396%	1.471%	1.535%	1.562%	1.565%	1.580%	1.620%	1.678%	1.685% ^{8/}	1.622%
2015	1.483%	1.386%	1.253%	1.072%	0.891%	0.728%	0.576%	0.451%	0.311% ^{9/}	0.187%	0.120%	0.119%
2016	0.239%	0.325%	0.402% ^{10/}	0.513%	0.602%	0.676%	0.731%	0.804% ^{11/}	0.928%	1.051%	1.150%	1.262%
2017	1.355%	1.498%	1.625%	1.715%	1.786% ^{12/}	1.839%	1.914%	1.987% ^{13/}	2.051%	2.085%	2.127%	2.130%
2018	2.095%	2.052%	2.051%	2.073%	2.151%	2.254%	2.356%	2.419% ^{14/}	2.423%	2.463%	2.460%	2.443%
2019	2.398%	2.340%	2.298%	2.259%	2.174%	2.072%	1.978%	1.900%				

1/ Price Cap for Docket No. R2008-1

2/ Price Cap for Docket No. R2009-2

3/ Price Cap for Docket No. R2011-2

4/ Partial Year Price Cap for Docket No. R2012-3 equals 2.133 percent

5/ Price Cap for Docket No. R2013-1

6/ Partial Year Price Cap for Special Services for Docket No. R2013-7 equals 1.053 percent

7/ Price Cap for First-Class Mail, Standard Mail, Periodicals, and Package Services for Docket

No. R2013-10; Partial Year Price Cap for Special Services equals 0.636 percent

8/ Price Cap for Docket No. R2015-4;

Interim Unused Rate Adjustment Authority equals 0.281 percent

9/ Partial Year Price Cap for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail for Docket No. R2016-2 equals 0.064 percent

10/ Partial Year Price Cap for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail for Docket No. R2016-5 equals 0.384 percent

11/ Price Cap for Periodicals, Package Services, and Special Services for Docket No. R2017-1;

Interim Unused Rate Adjustment Authority equals 0.067 percent (as applicable);

Partial Year Price Cap for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail equals 0.422 percent

12/ Partial Year Price Cap for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, and Special Services for Docket No. R2017-7

equals 1.542 percent

13/ Price Cap for Periodicals and Package Services for Docket No. R2018-1;

Partial Year Price Cap for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, and Special Services equals 0.439 percent

14/ Price Cap for Docket No. R2019-1

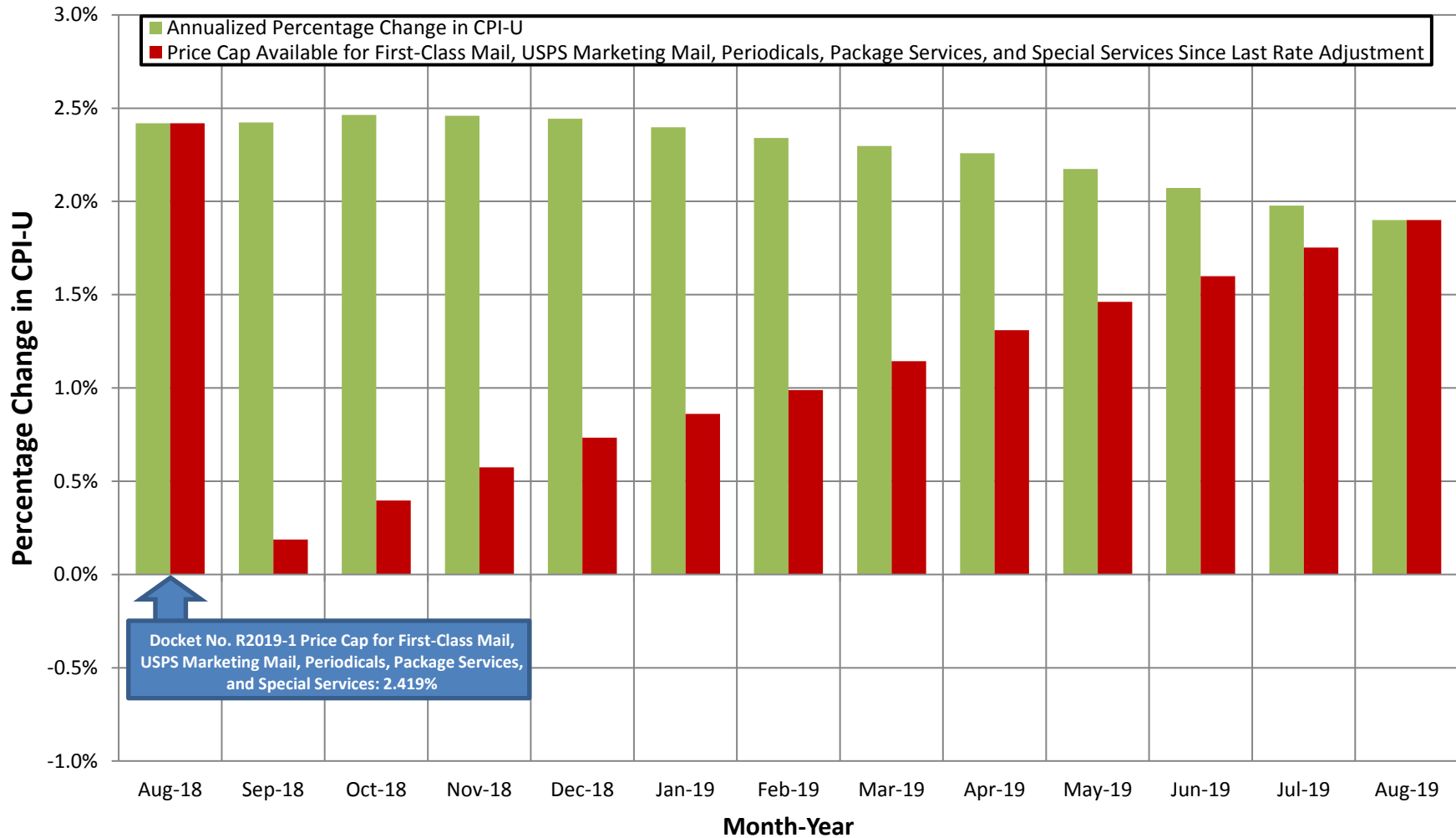
Note: On October 18, 2016, the Bureau of Labor Statistics revised the CPI-U numbers for May 2016, June 2016, July 2016, and August 2016. From September 2016 onwards, the revised numbers will be used to calculate the 12-month average change in CPI-U.

Note: On January 22, 2017, Standard Mail incurred a name change to USPS Marketing Mail.

Explanation of How "Change in CPI-U" is Calculated:

The Commission determines the price cap for any 12-month period by calculating the ratio of two 12-month CPI-U averages that are 12 months apart, subtracting one, and expressing the value as a percentage. For a more detailed explanation of the calculation of the price cap please see 39 CFR §3010.21.

Annualized Percentage Change in CPI-U and Available Price Cap August 2018 - August 2019



CPI-U annualized using a 12-month moving average. For a more detailed explanation of the calculation of the price cap, including partial year cap calculations, please see 39 CFR §3010.21-22.

Explanation of Bar Graph:

Generally, the Postal Service changes market dominant prices annually. To calculate the applicable annual percentage change in rates, the Commission first creates an annualized index that is the average of twelve monthly CPI-U figures. For example, to calculate the annualized index for January 2019, the Commission sums the CPI-U figures for each month beginning with February 2018 and ending with January 2019, and divides that sum by 12 to produce an annualized index for that 12-month period. To calculate the annualized percentage change, the Commission takes the ratio of two annualized indices twelve months apart and subtracts one from the quotient. The remaining amount is the annualized percentage change. The **green bars** on the graphs depict the trend of the ratio of two indices, the annualized percentage change, exactly twelve months apart throughout 2018 and 2019.

On occasion, the Postal Service may decide to change market dominant prices less than annually. In this circumstance the Commission takes the ratio of two annualized indices less than twelve months apart using the annualized index at the time of the last price adjustment as a base. For example, in Docket No. R2017-7 the Postal Service filed a market dominant rate change using the May 2017 index. Because the price adjustment occurs 9 months after the previous adjustment, the Commission uses the ratio of the annualized May 2017 index to the annualized August 2016 index. Simply, it is a ratio of two indices 9 months apart. The closer the Postal Service's partial year price change is to the most recent annual price change the smaller the allowable increase is compared with the annualized percentage change. For this reason, the allowable percentage price change is very small in the first month after a price change, but increases month by month, except under deflation. The **purple bars** and **red bars** on the graph depict the "build up" of the price cap, the allowable percentage price change, throughout the year for each class.

The Postal Service may also decide to change market dominant prices more than twelve months apart. When this happens, the purple and green bars will continue to be of equal height until the Postal Service changes market dominant rates. When rate adjustments are greater than twelve months apart, interim unused rate adjustment authority is generated as depicted by the **orange bars** on the graph.¹

¹ This authority is excluded from the price cap calculation because the Postal Service is not required to use all of its unused rate adjustment authority in traditional rate adjustments.

Unused Rate Adjustment Authority By Class (The Bank)

Docket No. (1)	New Unused Rate Adjustment Authority (2)	Price Adjustment in Excess of Annual Limitation (3)	Amount of Unused Rate Adjustment Authority Used in Subsequent Rate Adjustments (4)	Remaining Unused Rate Adjustment Authority (5)=(2)-(4)	Date Generated (6)	Expiration Date (7)	Docket(s) Used/Remaining Unused Rate Adjustment Authority Status (8)	Final Order No. (9)
FIRST-CLASS MAIL								
R2015-4 (Interim)	0.281%	0.000%	0.281%	0.000%	1/15/2015	1/15/2020	R2015-4/R2017-1/ Depleted	2365 1/ 2/ 5/
R2015-4 (Annual)	0.000%	0.271%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2365 2/
R2016-2	0.064%	0.000%	0.064%	0.000%	11/16/2015	11/16/2020	R2017-1/Depleted	2861 5/
R2016-5	0.308%	0.000%	0.308%	0.000%	5/16/2016	5/16/2021	R2017-1/R2018-1/ Depleted	3373 5/ 6/
R2017-1	0.000%	0.358%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3610 5/
R2017-7	1.542%	0.000%	1.509%	0.033%	7/20/2017	7/20/2022	R2018-1/R2019-1/ Available	4059 6/ 7/
R2018-1	0.000%	1.488%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4215 6/
R2019-1	0.000%	0.045%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4875 7/
PERIODICALS								
R2015-4 (Interim)	0.281%	0.000%	0.281%	0.000%	1/15/2015	1/15/2020	R2015-4/Depleted	2472 1/ 2/
R2015-4 (Annual)	0.000%	0.281%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2472 2/
R2017-1 (Interim)	0.067%	0.000%	0.067%	0.000%	10/12/2016	10/12/2021	R2017-1/R2019-1/ Depleted	3610 3/ 4/ 7/
R2017-1 (Annual)	0.000%	0.029%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3610 4/
R2018-1	0.063%	0.000%	0.063%	0.000%	10/6/2017	10/6/2022	R2019-1/ Depleted	4215 7/
R2019-1	0.000%	0.101%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4875 7/
USPS MARKETING MAIL (FORMERLY STANDARD MAIL)								
R2015-4 (Interim)	0.281%	0.000%	0.281%	0.000%	1/15/2015	1/15/2020	R2015-4/R2017-1/ Depleted	2472 1/ 2/ 5/
R2015-4 (Annual)	0.000%	0.241%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2472 2/
R2016-2	0.064%	0.000%	0.064%	0.000%	11/16/2015	11/16/2020	R2017-1/Depleted	2861 5/
R2016-5	0.403%	0.000%	0.403%	0.000%	5/16/2016	5/16/2021	R2017-1/R2018-1/ Depleted	3373 5/ 6/
R2017-1	0.000%	0.480%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3610 5/
R2017-7	1.542%	0.000%	1.533%	0.009%	7/20/2017	7/20/2022	R2018-1/R2019-1/ Available	4059 6/ 7/
R2018-1	0.000%	1.497%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4215 6/
R2019-1	0.000%	0.063%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4875 7/
PACKAGE SERVICES								
R2015-4 (Interim)	0.281%	0.000%	0.281%	0.000%	1/15/2015	1/15/2020	R2015-4/R2017-1/ R2019-1/Depleted	2472 1/ 2/ 5/ 9/
R2015-4 (Annual)	0.000%	0.102%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2472 2/
R2017-1 (Interim)	0.067%	0.000%	0.067%	0.000%	10/12/2016	10/12/2021	R2019-1/Depleted	3610 3/ 7/
R2017-1 (Annual)	0.000%	0.170%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3610 5/
R2018-1	0.027%	0.000%	0.027%	0.000%	10/6/2017	10/6/2022	R2019-1/Depleted	4215 7/
R2019-1	0.000%	0.103%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4875 7/
SPECIAL SERVICES								
R2015-4 (Interim)	0.281%	0.000%	0.281%	0.000%	1/15/2015	1/15/2020	R2017-1/Depleted	2388 1/ 5/
R2015-4 (Annual)	1.430%	0.000%	1.430%	0.000%	1/15/2015	1/15/2020	R2017-1/Depleted	2388 5/
R2017-1 (Interim)	0.067%	0.000%	0.067%	0.000%	10/12/2016	10/12/2021	R2018-1/Depleted	3670 3/ 6/
R2017-1 (Annual)	0.000%	1.711%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3670 5/
R2017-7	1.585%	0.000%	1.574%	0.011%	7/20/2017	7/20/2022	R2018-1/R2019-1/ Available	4059 6/ 7/
R2018-1	0.000%	1.548%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4215 6/
R2019-1	0.000%	0.093%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4875 7/

Notes:
N/A means Not Applicable

- 1/ Due to filings being more than 12 months apart, upon filing Docket No. R2015-4, interim unused rate adjustment authority was generated for the months not included in the annual limitation calculation (September 2013 - November 2013).
- 2/ A portion or all of the unused rate adjustment authority generated in Docket No. R2015-4 (Interim) was used for the above CPI-U rate adjustment Docket No. R2015-4 (Annual).
- 3/ Due to filings being more than 12 months apart, upon filing Docket No. R2017-1, interim unused rate adjustment authority was generated for the months not included in the annual limitation calculation (December 2014 - August 2015).
- 4/ A portion of the unused rate adjustment authority generated in Docket No. R2017-1 (Interim) was used for the above CPI-U rate adjustment in Docket No. R2017-1 (Annual).
- 5/ A portion or all of the unused rate adjustment authority generated in Docket Nos. R2015-4 (Interim), R2015-4 (Annual), R2016-2 (as applicable), and R2016-5 (as applicable) was used for the above CPI-U rate adjustment approved in Docket No. R2017-1.
- 6/ A portion or all of the unused rate adjustment authority generated in Docket Nos. R2016-5 (as applicable), R2017-1 (Interim), and R2017-7 (as applicable) was used for the above CPI-U rate adjustment approved in Docket No. R2018-1.
- 7/ A portion or all of the unused rate adjustment authority generated in Docket Nos. R2015-4 (Interim), R2017-1 (Interim), R2017-7 (as applicable), and R2018-1 was used for the above CPI-U rate adjustment approved in Docket No. R2019-1.

FY 2019 Market Test Revenue Limitations

Unless the Commission grants an exemption, total revenues anticipated or in fact received by the Postal Service from a market test must not exceed \$10 million in any fiscal year, as adjusted by the change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U index) (\$10 Million Revenue Limitation).¹

If the Commission grants an exemption, total revenues anticipated or in fact received by the Postal Service from a market test must not exceed \$50 million in any fiscal year, as adjusted by the change in the CPI-U index (\$50 Million Revenue Limitation).²

The Commission must publish the \$10 Million Revenue Limitation and \$50 Million Revenue Limitation on its web site.³ The revenue limitations for FY 2019 are:

\$10 Million Revenue Limitation: \$11,641,026

\$50 Million Revenue Limitation: \$58,205,128

These revenue limitations are calculated consistent with the Commission's regulations in 39 C.F.R. §§ 3035.15 and 3035.16.

Explanation of Calculations

Revenue limitations applicable during FY 2019 reflect the average CPI-U change during FY 2018. Calculating the \$10 Million Revenue Limitation and \$50 Million Revenue Limitation involves the following steps. First, a simple average CPI-U index was calculated for FY 2008 by summing the monthly CPI-U values from October 2007 through September 2008 and dividing the sum by 12. The result is 214.5.⁴

Second, another simple average CPI-U index is similarly calculated for FY 2018 by summing the 12 monthly CPI-U values from October 2017 through September 2018 and dividing the sum by 12. The result is 249.7.

Results are rounded to the nearest dollar. The formulas for calculating each revenue limitation are:

$$\text{\$10 Million Revenue Limitation} = \$10,000,000 * (249.7/214.5)$$

$$\text{\$50 Million Revenue Limitation} = \$50,000,000 * (249.7/214.5)$$

¹ 39 U.S.C. §§ 3641(e)(1) and 3641(g); 39 C.F.R. § 3035.15(b).

² 39 U.S.C. §§ 3641(e)(2) and 3641(g); 39 C.F.R. § 3035.16(a).

³ 39 C.F.R. §§ 3035.15(c) and 3035.16(b).

⁴ CPI-U values are rounded to the nearest 0.1.