

A REMINDER:

# 2-cent U.S. Postage Increase Starts on May 11.

The Governors of the U.S. Postal Service have approved new prices for mailing services, including a 2-cent increase in the price of a First-Class Mail stamp to 44 cents. Prices for mailing services are reviewed annually and adjusted each May. The new prices go into effect Monday, May 11.

buy now!



## Forever Stamps Will Save You Money.

You can continue to mail letters at today's lower prices if you purchase the Forever Stamps prior to May 11, 2009.

Forever Stamps were created to help people

ease the transition during price changes. They do not have a denomination and will be honored whenever they are used with no need for additional postage for a 1-ounce letter mailing. Starting May 11, the price of the Forever Stamp will be 44 cents.

## What Will the Increase Cost the Average American Household?

The First-Class Mail stamp price change will represent an additional \$3 for the average American household over the course of the year, according to the U.S. Postal Service. When compared to annual increases in other household expenses, such as groceries, health care and utilities, the Postal Service continues to be an economical choice for shipping and mailing.

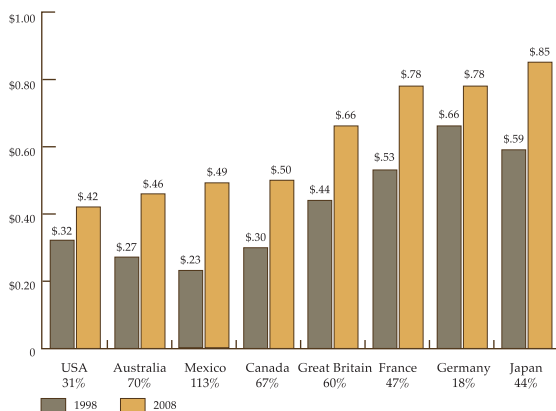
## Here Are Rates You Use Most:

First-Class Mail	Price
Letters—first ounce	\$0.44
Large envelopes—first ounce	\$0.88
Parcels—first ounce	\$1.22
Additional ounces (remains the same)	\$0.17
Postcard	\$0.28
Stamped Card	\$0.31
Stamped Envelope	\$0.54

## Did You Know?

As an independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation—146 million homes and businesses. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

THE NEW POSTAGE PRICES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AT [usps.com/prices](http://usps.com/prices).



## 1998 to 2008 Stamp Prices

First-Class Mail Postage Rates 1998–2008 and Percentage Increase (CPI-U Increase 33%)

## U.S. Postage Increases—An International Bargain.

Rising operational costs make the price adjustments necessary; the increase tracks the 2008 rate of inflation. “The Postal Service is not immune to rising costs, which are affecting homes and businesses across America today,” said Postmaster General John Potter. “Even with the increases, the Postal Service continues to offer some of the lowest postage prices in the world.”