

Number of Stamped Cards and Postcards Sent via First-Class Mail, 1926 to 2010

Postal Service-issued cards imprinted with stamps, called "postal cards" prior to 1999 and now "stamped cards," were first issued in 1873. Privately manufactured mailing cards, called postcards, were used as early as 1870, but initially required the same postage as a letter. A special rate for postcards came in 1898. An Act of February 28, 1925, authorized the Postmaster General to account annually for revenues and costs associated with different types of mail; annual analyses, with detailed estimates of mail volume, are available beginning in 1926. Presorted postcards have been listed as a separate category since 1977. (Large-volume mailers presort postcards to qualify for discounted postage rates.) Since 1997, stamped cards and postcards sent individually by mailers have been counted together as "single-piece cards."

Fiscal Year	Stamped Cards	Postcards	Presorted Postcards
1926	1,323,000,000	206,000,000	
1927	1,422,000,000	184,000,000	
1928	1,507,000,000	172,000,000	
1929	1,417,000,000	283,000,000	
1930	1,325,000,000	298,000,000	
1931	1,322,000,000	278,000,000	
1932	1,188,000,000	260,000,000	
1933	1,200,000,000	253,000,000	
1934	1,328,000,000	309,000,000	
1935	1,495,000,000	295,000,000	
1936	1,622,000,000	367,000,000	
1937	1,736,000,000	448,000,000	
1938	1,877,000,000	468,000,000	
1939	1,887,000,000	464,000,000	
1940	1,953,000,000	525,000,000	
1941	2,107,000,000	633,000,000	
1942	2,083,000,000	595,000,000	
1943	--	--	
1944	1,895,000,000	614,000,000	
1945	2,093,000,000	612,000,000	
1946	2,304,000,000	685,000,000	
1947	2,620,000,000	713,000,000	
1948	2,828,000,000	773,000,000	
1949	3,187,000,000	866,000,000	
1950	3,438,000,000	976,000,000	
1951	3,434,000,000	1,073,000,000	
1952	2,898,000,000	1,148,000,000	
1953	2,206,000,000	1,176,000,000	
1954	2,077,000,000	1,177,000,000	
1955	2,120,000,000	1,163,000,000	
1956	2,049,000,000	1,229,000,000	
1957	2,080,000,000	1,195,000,000	
1958	2,101,000,000	1,135,000,000	
1959	1,746,000,000	1,145,000,000	
1960	1,502,000,000	1,140,000,000	
1961	1,356,000,000	1,114,000,000	
1962	1,324,000,000	1,172,000,000	
1963	1,307,000,000	1,225,000,000	
1964	1,226,000,000	1,382,000,000	
1965	1,095,000,000	1,284,000,000	
1966	1,058,000,000	1,225,000,000	
1967	1,078,184,000	1,500,514,000	
1968	867,491,000	1,494,144,000	
1969	801,730,000	1,589,858,000	

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1970	798,483,000	1,569,263,000	
1971	714,304,000	1,709,006,000	
1972	572,192,000	1,646,070,000	
1973	605,633,000	1,646,825,000	
1974	565,994,000	1,728,145,000	
1975	488,367,000	1,627,228,000	
1976	495,346,000	1,645,133,000	
1977	392,390,000	1,562,961,000	393,581,000
1978	343,133,000	1,525,744,000	507,684,000
1979	333,055,000	1,589,868,000	397,433,000
1980	334,384,000	1,488,934,000	559,131,000
1981	296,851,000	1,563,640,000	595,306,000
1982	348,924,000	1,601,073,000	568,549,000
1983	483,440,000	1,656,390,000	696,777,000
1984	340,442,000	1,799,817,000	710,485,000
1985	347,819,000	2,007,984,000	607,430,000
1986	353,710,000	2,024,326,000	811,496,000
1987	372,667,000	2,119,152,000	838,278,000
1988	506,467,000	2,578,765,000	1,086,563,000
1989	539,415,000	2,434,535,000	1,231,611,000
1990	482,812,000	2,824,264,000	1,590,187,000
1991	497,081,000	2,560,724,000	2,070,419,000
1992	609,834,000	2,506,719,000	1,469,650,000
1993	535,208,000	2,378,412,000	1,401,376,000
1994	437,908,000	2,561,614,000	1,768,583,000
1995	440,529,000	2,576,651,000	1,934,292,000
1996	454,006,000	2,598,099,000	1,956,017,000
1997		3,003,755,000	2,353,333,000
1998		2,971,751,000	2,555,124,000
1999		2,850,770,000	2,442,946,000
2000		2,719,298,000	2,761,407,000
2001		2,653,454,000	2,842,078,000
2002		2,669,202,000	2,798,088,000
2003		2,551,592,000	2,661,507,000
2004		2,525,931,000	2,904,901,000
2005		2,521,714,000	3,107,701,000
2006		2,295,825,000	3,386,571,000
2007		2,141,488,000	3,656,291,000
2008		1,845,860,000	3,555,997,000
2009		1,616,231,000	2,944,297,000
2010		1,436,994,000	2,931,565,000