

Appendix G

United States Postal Rates (simplified), 1816 to 1861

Effective Date	Distance	Rate for single weight letter	Notes and Special Rates
May 1, 1816	not over 30 miles	6 cents	Ship rate: 2 cent fee added to inland postage if transmitted by mail; 6 cents due if delivered at port of entry (any weight) Drop rate: 1 cent to any weight Way letters: 1 cent fee
	30 to 80 miles	10 cents	
	80 to 150 miles	12½ cents	
	150 to 400 miles	18½ cents	
	over 400 miles	25 cents	
May 1, 1825	not over 30 miles	6 cents	New postal Act superceded and replaced all previous postal Acts (postal rates the same except 18½ cents changed to 18¾ cents. Letters received from steamboats to be rated as if carried by mail under contract Ship rate: as previous Drop rate: as previous Way letters: as previous
	30 to 80 miles	10 cents	
	80 to 150 miles	12½ cents	
	150 to 400 miles	18¾ cents	
	over 400 miles	25 cents	
Jul 1, 1845	to 300 miles	5 cents	Ship rate: as previous Drop rate: 2 cents Way letters: as previous
	over 300 miles	10 cents	
Jul 1, 1847	to/from Chagres	20 cents	as well as to / from Pacific Coast within U.S. territory
	to/from Panama	30 cents	
	to from Oregon	40 cents	
Aug 14, 1848	letters conveyed within California	12½ cents	also, letters between the Pacific Coast, within U.S. territory, and the Atlantic Coast, 40 cents
Jul 1, 1851	to 3,000 miles	3 cents if prepaid or 5 cents unpaid	
	over 3,000 miles	6 cents if prepaid or 10 cents unpaid	
Apr 1, 1855	to 3,000 miles	3 cents	prepayment compulsory
	over 3,000 miles	10 cents	
Feb 27, 1861	over the Rockies	10 cents	1855 Act modified to require 10 cent prepaid postal rate on letters from any point east of the Rocky Mountains to any point on the Pacific side and vice versa Ship rate: 2 cent fee added to inland postage if transmitted by mail; 5 cents due if delivered at port of entry (any weight)

