

## **Global Parcel, Letter Volumes Trending upwards.**

Based on analyses of the world postal statistics for 2006 published by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), globally, letter volumes are showing growth that could not truly be stated as a 'surge', but the increase is encouraging. Notably, parcel volumes continue to climb and postal services' revenues are also up.

These three major trends are noteworthy and of value to business interests, as mail communications in a global perspective is a good indicator of the sustained relevance of this communications format, and provides the business world with a tool for estimating the vibrancy of inter-continental, regional and national commerce.

From as early as 1875, the UPU has been gathering postal statistics from the operators designated by UPU members that provide the universal postal service. 163 of the 191 UPU member countries responded to the 2006 questionnaire. The universal postal service provision allows citizens across an entire country to receive mail regardless of their physical proximity to a major urban commercial centre.

Total mail volume was estimated at 433 billion items, and is rising despite competition from electronic communications over recent years. Of note was the fact that parcels traffic was up 4.8% compared to 2005, with a total of 6.2 billion parcels from both domestic and international services combined. Worldwide postal service revenues advanced by 13% compared to 2005. This growth was experienced by three-quarters of UPU member countries.

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## **Postal Service 'StatsTid Bits'**

- Across the world postal services employ over 5.5 million people.
- With 37 employees, Vanuatu Post has the smallest staff and the United States Postal Services (USPS) the largest with almost 800,000 employees.
- The 660,000 post offices form the most extensive single network in the world.
- The Vatican has the lowest number of post offices (4), and India the highest (155,333).
- E-commerce and Internet-based services are offered by only 60% of postal operators around the world (56% in developing countries and 86% in industrialised countries). Jamaica is therefore quite well ahead of numerous countries in this regard.

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Persons interested in examining postal spastically data can visit the following UPU link: <http://www.upu.int/statistics/en/postal-services2006.pdf>, where a booklet outlining the main global developments in 2006 can be downloaded.

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## **About the Universal Postal Union:**

The UPU, a specialised agency within the United Nations (UN) with headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, is the primary forum for international collaboration between postal administrations. Its main focus is to regulate international mail exchange among its 191 members and makes recommendations to stimulate mail volume growth and to improve the quality of service for customers.