

*Press release*

## UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE

### Arcep publishes its opinion on universal postal service prices for 2026

Paris, 29 July 2025

Arcep has issued its opinion on price changes in 2026 for mail and parcel delivery products that are part of the universal postal service.

#### **First year of application for the multiannual price caps that Arcep set for 2026 – 2029**

These changes correspond to the first year of application for the multiannual price caps that Arcep set for 2026 to 2029 in its Decision of 10 June 2025<sup>1</sup>. Regarding the deficit for the universal service mandate account, the decrease in mail and parcel volumes (down an average 8.8%<sup>2</sup> per annum from 2018 to 2023) and the efforts that La Poste has been making for several years to streamline and reduce costs, this Decision caps the average annual price increase for the scope of the universal postal service for 2026 to 2029 at 7.5%. Moreover, increases must not exceed the threshold of 10% during any year in this period.

It is up to La Poste to decide on how its prices will change, within the parameters of this price cap.

#### **La Poste planned price changes are within the caps set by Arcep**

The average 7.4% price increase that La Poste has planned for 2026 falls within this price cap. The increase also differs depending on the product (personal and small business mail, business mail, relational mail, direct marketing, registered mail, universal service parcels, universal service press items and international mail).

Because of users' changing habits, combined with increased prices, the cost to households of sending postal items that are part of the universal service is tending to decrease. As a result, households' basket is expected to be equal to €25.92 in 2026 compared to a forecast of €27.71 in 2025<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [Arcep Decision No. 2025-1143 of 10 June 2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> Annual progression of physical volumes within the scope covered by price supervision

<sup>3</sup> At constant volumes, this will increase households' basket to €29.82 in 2026.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 <sup>4</sup>	2024	2025	2026
Personal and SME mail	10.1%	10.3%	10.0%	8.1%		9.8%	7.7%	9.9%
Business mail	7.0%	5.8%	5.2%	5.2%		10.4%	9.1%	9.6%
Relational mail	2.3%	3.5%	3.9%	4.2%		7.1%	6.1%	6.3%
Direct marketing	1.8%	1.1%	1.4%	2.3%		5.2%	4.2%	5.4%
Registered mail and insured mail	2.1%	1.6%	2.1%	3.6%		8.4%	6.1%	7.3%
Universal service parcels	1.4%	2.0%	3.9%	1.9%		5.6%	5.2%	3.4%
Other (US press, Services, International mail)	5.4%	6.1%	5.4%	5.9%		10.0%	7.1%	8.3%
<b>Total Universal Service</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>5.1%<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>4.9%</b>		<b>8.3%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
Change in economic volume	-8.0%	-18.8%	-2.1%	-7.2%	-10.7%	-10.7%	-9.3%	-10.3%
Inflation	1.1%	0.5%	1.6%	5.9%	5.7%	2.3% <sup>6</sup>	1.0% <sup>6</sup>	1.4% <sup>6</sup>

## Associated documents

- [Arcep Opinion No. 2025-1354 of 22 July 2025 on the La Poste rate proposal received on 17 June 2025 for mail and parcel delivery products in Metropolitan France, in French overseas territories and internationally, that are part of the universal postal service](#)
- [Press release of 24 July 2024: Arcep publishes its opinion on universal postal service prices for 2025](#)
- [Press release of 16 June 2025: Arcep sets the multiannual price caps for the universal postal service for 2026 to 2029](#)

## Arcep at a glance

The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications, Postal Affairs and Print Media Distribution (Arcep), a neutral and expert arbitrator with the status of independent administrative authority (IAA), is the architect and guardian of internet, fixed and mobile electronic communications, postal and press distribution networks in France.

<sup>4</sup> Because of changes to the universal postal service catalogue following La Poste's introduction of a new line of mail products on 1 January 2023, prices in 2023 cannot be compared to those that were in force in 2019-2022: average price increases by product line as of 1 January 2023 are not listed in this table.

<sup>5</sup> Factoring in the price increase for overseas parcels introduced on 6 April 2021

<sup>6</sup> Source: Banque de France (June 2025)