

Economy delivers blow as Postal Service loses \$1.1b

The Postal Service had a net loss of more than a billion dollars in the third quarter of the fiscal year, the agency said. For the quarter ended June 30, the loss was \$1.1 billion, which officials blamed on reduced mail volume in the slowed economy, coupled with rising transport costs because of high fuel prices. Operating revenue for the quarter was \$17.9 billion, down \$437 million, or 2.4 percent, compared with the same period last year. [Total](#) mail volume was 48.5 billion pieces, a 5.5 percent drop from the same period last year. The agency said its fiscal 2008 year-to-date net loss totals \$1.13 billion. The post office is working to deal with its losses by cutting costs. The agency has reduced its staff by about 100,000 since 2000 and is offering early retirement to some clerks, mail handlers, and supervisors. (AP)

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