

On rural routes, accepts and delivers mail, handles special services, sells postage stamps and U.S. savings stamps and arranges for the purchase of money orders.

Provides for transportation of mail in Government-owned vehicles between post offices, and in the intracity mail movement between stations, branches.

Transfers mail to railroad depots, air mail fields, and truck terminals.

Workload—City delivery and special delivery service

Possible deliveries	54,544,000
Possible delivery stops	42,906,000
Square miles served	66,972
Special delivery articles	94,088,000

Workload—Rural delivery service

Number of routes	30,947
Total length of routes June 30	1,972,495
Average length of routes	63.7
Miles traveled annually	600,296,000

C. Financing

Funds for delivery services are provided by an appropriation, "Operations." For 1968 it is estimated that this appropriation will total \$5,495,863,000 of which \$2,092,797,000 will be required to provide delivery services, including transfers and supplementals.

D. Employment

	<i>Number</i>
Grade or level:	
Professional: PFS-14 and above	None
Technical ¹ : PFS-13 and below	271,571

¹ This basically includes city carriers, rural carriers, and special delivery messengers.

E. Statutory authority

Title 39, United States Code.

Category Manager.—Mr. William M. McMillan, Assistant Postmaster General, Bureau of Operations.

EXHIBIT M—SUMMARY OF GAO REPORT—SAVINGS AVAILABLE IF UNIFORM ITEMS ARE FURNISHED TO POSTAL EMPLOYEES IN LIEU OF ALLOWANCES (B-124597, SEPT. 27, 1966)

PROBLEM

GAO expressed the opinion that substantial savings could be achieved if the Department discontinued the uniform allowances granted to window clerks, carriers, and other employees, and entered into procurement contracts for the furnishing of the authorized uniform items.

RECOMMENDATION

GAO proposed that the Department consider furnishing uniforms in lieu of providing uniform allowances after making a detailed study to determine the most practicable and economical means of furnishing and distributing uniform items to employees.

AGENCY RESPONSE

The Postmaster General initially agreed with GAO's proposals, with certain qualifications. Subsequently, however, he advised the Director of the Bureau of the Budget that certain provisions in the Federal Salary and Fringe Benefits Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-504) precluded the Department from making any change in its current system for providing uniforms to postal employees.

GAO has been informed, however, that the Department now believes that it has the authority to discontinue the uniform allowance, but that certain problems, such as fitting, associated with furnishing uniforms in lieu of an employee uniform allowance may render such a plan infeasible.