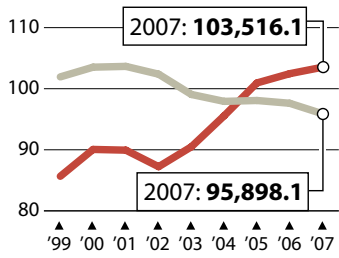


Postage rate increase

First-class postage rates have grown 27 percent since 1999. The number of pieces mailed has decreased, but the use of standard or bulk mail is up.

— Standard
— First class

PIECES OF MAIL (in millions)



Source: U.S. Postal Service

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR