

6 Postal Services

1. Mail Volume

The post office handled 26.1 billion mail items (the total of domestic items handled and international items mailed from Japan) in fiscal 1999, the most numerous ever, up 0.9% year over year (Exhibit 40). Domestic letter-post volume amounted to 25.7 billion items, up 0.9% for the fifth consecutive year of increase, while parcel-post volume stood at 3.19 million, up 1.0%, the first increase in four years.

Whereas the number of international items mailed from Japan declined year over year, the number of items arriving in Japan increased.

2. Services

During the year, the Postal Service completely revised its tables of mail delivery time periods, posting the new tables at post offices in June 1999. Additionally, in February 2000 the Postal Service launched an Internet-based service in which customers can determine the time by which they should mail an item if they want it to arrive at a given destination by a given day and time.

As a once-in-a-millennium service, post offices stamped New Year's postcards mailed by December 20, 1999, with the phrase (in Japanese) "New Year's Greetings, January 1, 2000" in commemoration of the year change from the 1000s to the 2000s.

Exhibit 40. Number of Mail Items Accepted



Source: MPT.