

STATUS

Governmental authority	<i>Ministry of Science and ICT</i> www.msit.go.kr
Regulatory authority	There is no additional regulator.
Designated operator	<i>Korea Post</i> Korea Post comes under the Ministry of Science and ICT. Korea Post functions as the public operator as well as the regulator of postal services. Korea Post consists of four bureaux: Management and Planning Bureau; Bureau of Posts; Postal Savings Bureau; and Postal Insurance Bureau. Korea Post manages postal services, postal savings services and postal life insurance services. www.koreapost.go.kr
Restructuring/postal reform	On 1 July 1997, the Special Act on Postal Business came into force, under the terms of which Korea Post attained some autonomy over its own structure, budget and operations. On 1 July 2000, after one year's preparatory work, the Ministry of Information and Communication established an independent government agency, the Office of Postal Service (Korea Post) to operate the national postal business.

POSTAL FIELD

Universal service	The scope of the universal postal service is defined by the postal legislation. The universal postal service includes the following services: i ordinary postal items weighing up to two kilogrammes per item; ii parcel postal items weighing up to 20 kilogrammes per item; iii special postal items, and other postal items specified by presidential decree.
Monopoly/reserved services	According to the Postal Service Act, a person may engage in a business for the delivery of letters (excluding registered letters dispatched by a state agency or local government) for other persons, if the weight of each letter is more than 350 grammes, or the postage charge for each such letter exceeds 10 times the ordinary postal charge prescribed by presidential decree.
Competition	Except for the above-mentioned reserved services, postal services are open to competition.

ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES AND TARIFFS

Services	Korea Post provides postal services, postal savings services and postal life insurance services provided for in the Postal Service Act and Acts on Postal Savings and Postal Insurance. It also introduces and provides new postal services, postal financial services and value-added services after any necessary consultation with relevant government ministries or other organizations.
Tariffs	In setting postal rates, Korea Post is required to consult the Ministry of Strategy and Finance. However, with regard to the postal rates for domestic and international parcels, EMS and postal money orders, such a consultation process is not required. Korea Post's Postal Service Management Board deliberates on the adjustment of postal rates.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financing methods

Financial management of Korea Post comes under the government budget system. Special accounts for postal services are as follows:

- posts, postal savings: communication business special account;
- postal life insurance: post office insurance special account.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Status of personnel

The majority of postal staff have the same status as other state employees.

Establishment and level of remuneration

Salary scales are decided by the government and are comparable with those in similar sectors.