



[World Post Day](#) is celebrated this week, raising awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives. With the decline of letter-post volumes, financial services offer new growth opportunities for postal services, and they are gaining ground as Posts consider strategies to diversify the business.

Fifty-one postal operators worldwide held 1.6 billion savings and deposit accounts in 2010. With the average postal client holding an estimated 1.5 accounts, this brings the number of people banked through the Post to more than one billion, according to the research presented at the [25th Universal Postal Congress](#) in Doha.

With 660,000 contact points in the world, Posts and their financial subsidiaries come only second to banks in their potential to contribute to financial inclusion. There are 523,000 bank branches and ATMs in the world, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The report recalls that several hundred million people also use the Post to make and receive domestic and international transfers or pay government or utility bills, whether or not they hold a postal savings account.

Additional links:

- [Universal Postal Union \(UPU\)](#) 



- [25th Universal Postal Congress](#)

- [World Post Day](#)

The day celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in the Swiss capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969.

- UPU News – [Pointing to the electronic future](#)

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