

Business News: Carriers Seek Seasonal Workers

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FULL TEXT

United Parcel Service Inc. and the U.S. Postal Service are aiming to hire more than 140,000 workers combined for the busy holiday season as businesses across the country struggle to expand their rosters amid a tight labor market.

Carriers are likely facing a second holiday season affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which last year led to higher shipping volumes as more people shopped online. Deliveries were sometimes delayed.

UPS said Thursday it plans to hire more than 100,000 essential seasonal workers to handle the expected bump in volume that begins in October and lasts through January. Many of those applicants will be offered jobs within a half-hour of applying for them, said Nando Cesarone, president of U.S. operations.

USPS is looking to add more than 40,000 seasonal workers, the company said Wednesday. It is holding nearly 60 job fairs around the country where people can apply for the open positions.

Companies have struggled to find enough workers. The tight labor market has also given lower-wage workers the upper hand, with employers raising wages and offering other incentives.

UPS will give seasonal workers more, and larger, bonuses this year, a spokesman said.

More Americans have turned to online shopping during the pandemic, further pressuring carriers with an onslaught of packages. A total of 13.3% of UPS's 2020 revenue came from Amazon.com Inc., up from 11.6% a year earlier.

Fourth-quarter sales at UPS, which included a big part of last year's holiday season, hit a record.

Carriers also faced challenges making deliveries on time at one point during last year's holiday season. USPS's operations were under extra pressure because of FedEx Corp. and UPS limiting their package volume. The postal service was grappling with both record shipping volume and staffing shortages.

Credit: By Allison Prang

DETAILS

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