



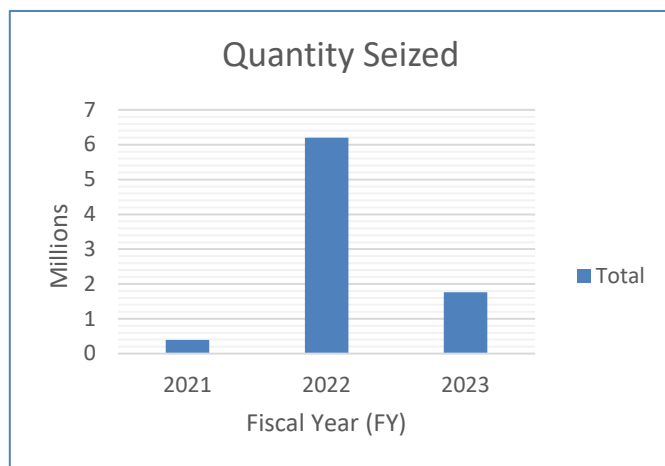
CBP Seizes Over \$1M in Counterfeit U.S. Postage Stamps in FY23 Quarter (Q) 1 and Q2



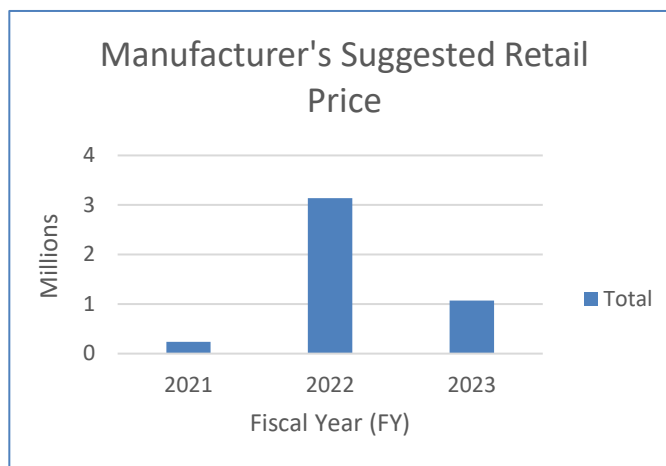
Counterfeit U.S. Postage stamps seized at Port of Louisville

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) work side by side at the International Mail Facilities across the U.S. to interdict illicit goods, which includes counterfeit stamps. Since 2021, CBP has intercepted and seized over 8.3 million counterfeit U.S. postage stamps with a manufacturer’s retail price (MSRP) of over \$4.4 million.

In the first and second quarters of fiscal year 2023, CBP seized a total of over **1.7 million** counterfeit United States Postage Stamps. The seized stamps carry an estimated MSRP of over **\$1 million**.



FY2023= October 2022 through March 2023



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According to the United States Postal Inspection Service, the number of counterfeit stamps has escalated.¹ Postage is considered counterfeit if it is any marking or indicia that is created without authorization from the Postal Service and is printed or applied on an item placed in the mail that indicates valid postage has been paid. U.S. consumers should be aware of the following:

¹ United States Postal Inspection Service, “Counterfeit Stamps” [Counterfeit Stamps - USPIS](#)

- The Flag Stamp is the most frequently encountered counterfeit stamp.
 - The [most recent Flag Stamp editions](#):



- Social media marketplaces, e-commerce sites via third party vendors, and other websites, often sell counterfeit stamps in bulk at a considerable discount, from 20 to 50 percent
- Always purchase from an [Approved Postal Provider](#)™

In addition to CBP’s continuing efforts to stop counterfeit postage crossing United States borders, USPS has filed a federal register notice, [Federal Register : Counterfeit Postage](#), to change the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual, that will allow them to treat items found in the mail stream that bear counterfeit postage as abandoned.

Although the use of the traditional post office is not as robust as it used to be, for many Americans, the neighborhood post office is a place of nostalgia and comfort. They look forward to seeing a familiar face, in familiar surroundings, when dropping off a letter or a package. The Postal Service generally receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.² The increase in and usage of counterfeit stamps results in a significant loss of revenue for the Postal Service that could impact their ability to continue to provide the services that the United States has come to depend on.

For a look at a recent CBP media release on counterfeit stamps, please see [CBP Intercepts Counterfeit Stamps | U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#)

For additional information on the risks associated with violative merchandise, please visit:
[The Truth Behind Counterfeits | U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(cbp.gov\)](#)

If you are aware of, or suspect, a company or individual of infringing upon a trademark or copyright, please report the suspected violation to e-Allegations Online Trade Violation Reporting System at <http://eallegations.cbp.gov> or by calling 1-800-BE-ALERT.

Follow CBP Office of Trade on Twitter [@CBPTradeGov](#)

² United States Postal Service, “Top Facts You Should Know | Postal Facts” [Top facts you should know | Postal Facts - U.S. Postal Service \(usps.com\)](#)