<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Letters (^\text{\textsuperscript{1}})</th>
<th>Drop letters</th>
<th>Postal cards</th>
<th>Ship and steamboat (^\text{\textsuperscript{2}})</th>
<th>Business reply cards and letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters (^\text{\textsuperscript{1}}) (non-local)</td>
<td>Carriage office</td>
<td>Noncarrier office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 cents per ½ ounce (^\text{\textsuperscript{2}})</td>
<td>2 cents per ½ ounce</td>
<td>1 cent each (^\text{\textsuperscript{2}})</td>
<td>1 cent each</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 cents per ounce (^\text{\textsuperscript{2}})</td>
<td>2 cents per ounce</td>
<td>1 cent each</td>
<td>1 cent each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>2 cents per ounce (^\text{\textsuperscript{2}})</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>2 cents per ounce (^\text{\textsuperscript{2}})</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{1}\) Actually first-class mail as a mail category was not officially established until 1863. Ship and steamboat letters were excluded between 1873 and 1892—see Table II.

\(^{2}\) A "single letter" was a communication of one sheet; a "double letter," two sheets; a "triple letter," three sheets. A packet consisted of four or more sheets weighing an ounce or over. Before 1873 it was somewhat doubtful that a single letter weighing over an ounce or a letter of four or more pieces under an ounce could be charged quadruple rates. In 1877 it was provided that one or more pieces of paper mailed as a letter, and weighing over one ounce avoidable, shall be charged with quadruple postage. And this quadruple rate (for packages containing four pieces of paper).

\(^{3}\) Between 1873 and 1892, extra fees, not a part of the postage rate, were charged for every delivery service with the maximum charge of 2 cents (for drop letters—see footnote 4). Patrons could accept the service or not as they saw fit and the proceeds accrued to the carrier. Also in the same period there was a fee for prompt service for delivery to post office, but certain Postmaster General reports indicate that this provision was not enforced.

\(^{4}\) A letter for delivery at office where mailed; carrier delivery extra (the fee going to the carrier), until 1890.

\(^{5}\) In 1885, rate for single letters, 15¢ to 400 miles, increased to 18¢ cents.

\(^{6}\) Letters or parcels not over ½ ounce were single letters—each additional ½ ounce was charged an additional single postage.

\(^{7}\) Various rates between 1887 and 1892 established special rates to and from the western and southwestern United States (Oregon Territory, Territories of Utah and New Mexico, etc.) and to and from Hawaii, Panama, etc.

\(^{8}\) In 1881, letter postage between any point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains and any State or Territory on the Pacific was fixed at 10 cents per ½ ounce.

\(^{9}\) From March 1864 to Sept. 1893, certain mail other than first class was subject to letter postage rates. In 1893, all mail conveyed westward beyond western boundary of Kansas, and eastward from the eastern boundary of California (except newspapers and freight matter) was subject to prepaid letter rates. In 1896 "periodicals, magazines, and exchanges" were also excepted. In 1898 this letter rate extension was repealed.

\(^{10}\) See Table II for rates prior to 1863. These rates applied on letters from one place to another in United States, for delivery in United States, conveyed by ships not regularly employed in carrying mail. They classification is omitted after 1879 because of its diminishing importance, but the double rate is still in effect even though little or no matter is mailed under these rates.

\(^{11}\) In 1882 a uniform rate regardless of distance, a five-cent delivery service (abolishing extra postage or carrier fees for letters collected or delivered, by carriers), and a letter unit of one-half ounce instead of the former "single letter" were inaugurated. First-class mail embraced letters and matter wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proofsheets.

\(^{12}\) Drop letters prior to 1896 were defined as "letters addressed for delivery at office where mailed." In 1895 the designation was divided and separate rates were established for local delivery at letter carrier office and nonlocal carrier office.

\(^{13}\) First-class embraced letters and all correspondence, wholly or partly in writing, except book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets (in 1892).

\(^{14}\) All letters written in point print or raised characters used by the blind, when unsolicited, at third-class rates by Act of March 2, 1896. Extended to letters on sound reproductions in 1894.

\(^{15}\) Drop letters included letters addressed for delivery at office where mailed, and also inclosed, plain local delivery at both letter and non-letter carriers office. In 1895 drop letters for delivery on rural and star routes were eligible for some rates as those applying to letter carrier offices.

\(^{16}\) First-class embraced letters, postal cards, and all matter wholly or partly in writing, except such writing as is authorized to be placed on mail of other classes.

\(^{17}\) Three-cent letter rate not to apply to first-class matter for local delivery or for delivery within a county with population of over one million if county entirely within a corporate city.

\(^{18}\) Three-cent local rate was to apply until 6 months after termination of hostilities of World War II, but was made permanent in 1947.

\(^{19}\) From Jan. 1, 1932, to March 27, 1932, an additional charge of 10% on postal cards sold in quantities of 50 or more. This provision was repealed by Public Law 276, effective March 22, 1932.