

King George VI - New Zealand

New Zealand Inland and Overseas Postal Rates for Conveyance by Ordinary Means

December 1936 to February 1954

by

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King George VI Period - New Zealand

King George VI definitive stamps remained in current use until the end of February 1954 as the first QE II definitive stamps were released for general use on March 1, 1954. The King George VI Period for New Zealand is therefore defined as commencing December 11, 1936, the date he accessed the throne following Edward VIII's abdication, until February 1954.

Inland Airmail Conveyance for Overseas Letters

The 1944 Post Office Guide states that letters and other article dispatched by air services to Overseas countries are given air transport within New Zealand without additional charge ⁽⁹⁾. The 1939 Post Office Guide states that overseas air mail letters could be conveyed by Inland airmail service for an additional fee of 1d. per oz ⁽¹⁰⁾. Similarly, the fee for Inland airmail transport of letters to be sent overseas by surface conveyance changed from 1d. per oz. to 1d. per ½ oz sometime between 1939 and 1944. The precise date these changes took place remains to be determined.

Bibliographic References

Bibliographic references for rates cited in this paper are taken from primary sources, namely, published Post and Telegraph Department Official Guides and Post Office Circulars issued between 1936 to 1954.

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Schedule 1

New Zealand Inland & Overseas Postal Rates - Letter, Lettercards & Postcards

December 1936 to February 1954

Postal Service	Wt. unit	11 Dec 1936 (1)	26 Jul 1938 (2)	1 Oct 1939 (3)	8 Jul 1948 (4)	16 Jul 1950 (5)	1 Mar 1952 (6)	1 Jan 1953 (7)	1 Jul 1953 (8)
Letter – Inland (1 st weight)	1 st oz	1d.	→	2d.	→	→	→	3d.	→
Letter – Inland (2 nd Weight)	ea. add oz	½d.	→		1d.	→	→	→	→
Letter – Inland (2 nd Weight)	ea. add ½ oz			1d.					
Letter – Australia & Territories (1 st weight)	1 st oz	1d.	→		2d.	→	→	3d.	→
Letter – Australia & Territories (2 nd wt)	ea. add oz	1d.	→		1d.	→	→	→	→
Letter – Australia & Territories (1 st weight)	1 st ½ oz			2d.					
Letter – Australia & Territories (2 nd wt)	ea. add ½ oz			1d.					
Letter – British Empire (1 st weight)	1 st oz	1d.			2d.	→	→	3d.	→
Letter – British Empire (2 nd weight)	ea. add oz	1d.			1d.	→	→	→	→
Letter – British Empire (1 st weight)	1 st ½ oz		1½d.	2d.					
Letter – British Empire (2 nd weight)	ea add ½ oz		1½d.	1d.					
Letter – Certain Foreign Countries (1 st wt)	1 st oz	1d.							
Letter – Certain Foreign Countries (2 nd wt)	ea. add oz	1d.							
Letter – Overseas (1 st weight)	1 st oz	2½d.	→		3d.	→	→	4d.	→
Letter – Overseas (2 nd weight)	ea add oz	1½d.	→		1½d.	→	→	2½d.	→
Letter – Overseas (1 st weight)	1 st ½ oz			3d.					
Letter – Overseas (2 nd weight)	ea add ½ oz			1d.					
Lettercards – Inland, Australia & Territories		1d.	→	2d.	→	→	→	3d.	→
Lettercards – British Empire		1d.	1½d.	2d.	→	→	→	3d.	→
Lettercards – Certain Foreign Countries		1d.							
Lettercards - Overseas		2½d.	→	3d.	→	→	→	4d.	→
Postcards – Inland		½d.	→	1d.	→	→	→	2d.	→
Postcards – Inland Reply		1d.	→	2d.	→	→	→	4d.	→
Postcards – British Empire, Australia & Terr.		1d.	→	1½d	→	→	→	2d.	→
Postcards – Br. Empire, Australia Reply		2d.	→	3d.	→	→	→	4d.	→
Postcards – Overseas		1d.	→	1½d	→	→	→	3d.	2½d.
Postcards – Overseas Reply		2d.	→	3d.	→	→	→	6d.	5d.

Schedule 2

New Zealand Inland & Overseas Postal Rates - Commercial & Printed Papers December 1936 to February 1954

Postal Service	Wt. unit	11 Dec 1936 (1)	26 Jul 1938 (2)	1 Oct 1939 (3)	8 Jul 1948 (4)	16 Jul 1950 (5)	1 Mar 1952 (6)	1 Jan 1953 (7)	1 Jul 1953 (8)
Commercial Papers – Inland (1 st weight)	Each 2 oz	½d.	→						
Commercial Papers – Inland (1 st weight)	1 st 4 oz			1d.	→	1½d.	→	2d.	→
Commercial Papers – Inland (2 nd weight)	ea. add 2 oz			½d.	→	→	→	→	→
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Comm. Papers – Br. Emp. & Overseas (1 st wt)	1 st 10 oz	2½d.	→	→	→	→	→		
Comm. Papers – Br. Emp. & Overseas (1 st wt)	1 st 12 oz							4d.	→
Comm. Papers – Br. Emp. & Over. (2 nd wt)	ea. add ½ oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
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Printed Papers – Inland: Group 1 (1 st weight)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→		1d.				
Printed Papers – Inland: Group 1 (1 st weight)	1 st 4 oz			1d.		1d.	→	1½d.	→
Printed Papers – Inland: Group 1 (2 nd wt)	ea. add 2 oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
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Printed Papers – Inland: Group 2 (1 st weight)	1 st 2 oz			½d.					
Printed Papers – Inland: Group 2 (1 st weight)	1 st 4 oz				1d.	→	→	1½d.	→
Printed Papers – Inland: Group 2 (2 nd wt)	ea. add 2 oz			½d.	→	→	→	→	→
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Printed Papers – Br. Emp. & Overseas (1 st wt)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→		1d.	→	→	1½d.	→
Printed Papers – Br. Emp. & Overseas (1 st wt)	1 st 4 oz			1d.					
Printed Papers – Br. Emp. & Over. (2 nd wt)	ea. add ½ oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→

Schedule 3

New Zealand Inland & Overseas Postal Rates - Newspapers & Magazines

December 1936 to February 1954

Postal Service	Wt. unit	11 Dec 1936 (1)	26 Jul 1938 (2)	1 Oct 1939 (3)	8 Jul 1948 (4)	16 Jul 1950 (5)	1 Mar 1952 (6)	1 Jan 1953 (7)	1 Jul 1953 (8)
Newspapers, Registered – Inland (1 st weight)	ea. 4 oz			½d.	→				
Newspapers, Registered – Inland (1 st weight)	ea. 8 oz	½d.	→						
Newspapers, Registered – Inland (1 st weight)	1 st 8 oz					1d.	→	1½d.	→
Newspapers, Reg. – Inland (2 nd weight)	ea. add 4 oz					½d.	→		
Newspapers, Reg. – Inland (2 nd weight)	ea. add 2 oz							½d.	→
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Newspapers Registered – Br. Empire (1 st wt)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→		1d.	→	→		
Newspapers Registered – Br. Empire (1 st wt)	ea. 3 oz			1d.					
Newspapers Registered – Br. Empire (1 st wt)	1 st 6 oz							1½d.	→
Newspapers Reg. – Br. Empire (2 nd wt)	ea. 16 oz	1d.	→						
Newspapers Reg. – Br. Empire (2 nd wt)	ea. add 2 oz				½d.	→	→	→	→
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Newspapers Unregistered – Br. Empire (1 st wt)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→		1d.	→	→	1½d.	→
Newspapers Unregistered – Br. Empire (1 st wt)	1 st 4 oz			1d.					
Newspapers Unreg. – Br. Empire (2 nd wt)	ea. add 2 oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
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Newspapers Registered – Overseas (1 st weight)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→	→	1d.	→	→	1½d.	→
Newspapers Reg. – Overseas (2 nd weight)	ea. add 2 oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
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Newspapers Unregistered – Overseas (1 st wt)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→		1d.	→	→	1½d.	→
Newspapers Unreg. – Overseas (1 st wt)	1 st 4 oz			1d.					
Newspapers Unreg. – Overseas (2 nd wt)	ea. add 2 oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
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Magazines, Registered – Inland (1 st weight)	up to 2 oz	½d.	→	→	→				
Magazines, Reg. – Inland (2 nd weight)	ea. 8 oz	1d.	→	→	→	→	→	1½d.	→
Magazines, Unregistered – Inland (1 st weight)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→	→	→			1½d.	→
Magazines, Unregistered – Inland (1 st weight)	1 st 4 oz					1d.	→		
Magazines, Unreg. – Inland (2 nd weight)	ea. add ½ oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
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Magazines, Reg. – Br. Emp. & Over. (1 st wt)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→	→	1d.	→	→	1½d.	→
Magazines, Unreg. – Br. Emp. & Over. (1 st wt)	1 st 2 oz	½d.	→	→	1d.	→	→	1½d.	→
Magazines, All – Br. Emp. & Over. (2 nd wt)	ea. add ½ oz	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→

Schedule 4

New Zealand Inland & Overseas Postal Rates - Packets, Fees & Inland Airmail December 1936 to February 1954

Postal Service or Fee	Wt. unit	11 Dec 1936 (1)	26 Jul 1938 (2)	1 Oct 1939 (3)	8 Jul 1948 (4)	16 Jul 1950 (5)	1 Mar 1952 (6)	1 Jan 1953 (7)	1 Jul 1953 (8)
Inland Airmail Letter	each oz	2d.	→						
Inland Airmail Letter (1 st weight)	each ½ oz			3d	→	→	4d.	→	→
Inland Airmail Surcharge for:									
Overseas by Air Conveyance	each oz	1d.	→	**					
Overseas by Surface Conveyance	each oz	1d.	→	→**					
Overseas by Surface Conveyance	each ½ oz			**	1d.	→	2d.	→	→
Business Reply Fee	each reply	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Registration Fee	each item	3d.	→	4d.	→	→	→	6d.	→
Advice of Delivery Fee	each item	3d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Late Fee	Each item	1d.	→	2d.	→	→	→	→	→
Express Delivery	1 st mile	6d.	→	→	Service discontinued 15 December 1941				
Express Delivery (2 nd & 3 rd miles)	Each mile	3d.	→	6d.					
Packets – Inland									
Packets – Inland	each 2 oz	½d.	→						
Packets – Inland (1 st weight)	1 st 6 oz			3d.	→	→	→	→	→
Packets – Inland (2 nd weight)	ea add 2 oz			1d.	→	→	→	→	→
Small Packets – Overseas									
Small Packets – Overseas	each 2 oz	1½d.	→						
Small Packets – Overseas (1 st weight)	1 st 4 oz			6d.	→	→	→		
Small Packets – Overseas (1 st weight)	1 st 5 oz							7½d	→
Small Packets – Overseas (2 nd weight)	ea add 2 oz			1½d.	→	→	→	→	→
Sample Packets – Overseas									
Sample Packets – Overseas (1 st weight)	1 st 4 oz	1d.	→	2d.	→	→	→		
Sample Packets – Overseas (1 st weight)	1 st 2 oz							1½d.	→
Sample Packets – Overseas (2 nd weight)	ea add 2 oz	½d.	→	1d.	→	→	→	½d.	→
Library Exchanges – Inland									
Library Exchanges – Inland (1 st weight)	1 st lb.	2d.	→						
Library Exchanges – Inland (2 nd weight)	ea add lb.	1d.	→						
Library Exchanges – Inland (1 st weight)	each 4 oz			½d.	→	→	→		
Library Exchanges – Inland (1 st weight)	each 2 oz							1½d.	→
Literature for the Blind									
Literature for the Blind – Inland		Free	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Literature for the Blind – Overseas	each 4 lbs	½d.	→	→	→	→	→	→	→

Note: The 1944 Post Office Guide states that “correspondence posted in New Zealand for conveyance on overseas air-mail services is given air transit within New Zealand, without additional charge...”. Similarly, the fee for Inland Airmail Conveyance for letters to be sent overseas by surface conveyance changed from 1d. per oz. to 1d. per ½ oz sometime between 1939 and 1944. The precise date these change took place remains to be determined.

Bibliography - Inland and Overseas Surface Postal Rates & Fees

- (1) New Zealand Post & Telegraph Postal Guide No . 159, June 1937 (Government Printer, Wellington) pp 5-34
- (2) P&T Official Circular Vol LV, No. 8 (August 16, 1938) p. 56
- (3) P&T Official Circular Vol LVI, No. 10 (October 16, 1939) p. 70-71
- (4) P&T Official Circular Vol LXV, No. 14 (August 2, 1948) p. 73
- (5) P&T Official Circular Vol LXVII, No. 15 (August 16, 1950) p. 92
- (6) New Zealand Post Office Circular (1952) No. 5 (March 17, 1952) p. 38
- (7) New Zealand Post Office Circular (1953) No. 2 (February 2, 1953) pp. 18, 19
- (8) New Zealand Post Office Circular (1953) No. 12 (June 16, 1953) pp. 101, 102
- (9) The Post Office Guide (New Zealand) (1944) No.161 (September 1944) pp. 7, 27
- (10) The Post Office Guide (New Zealand) (1939) No.160 (June 1939) p. 9,