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United Parcel Service Inc. plans to hire more than 600 seasonal workers in the Memphis area

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United Parcel Service Inc. (UPS) is looking to hire more than 600 seasonal employees at its Memphis-area locations as the holiday season quickly approaches.

The Atlanta-based logistics company said the need to ramp up employment in the Bluff City — and throughout the country — is in anticipation of increased package volume expected to begin next month and last through the start of 2021. Overall, UPS looks to bring on more than 100,000 seasonal workers throughout its companywide locations.

UPS seeks package handlers, drivers, driver helpers, and personal vehicle drivers. According to UPS spokesperson Dan McMackin, package handler positions begin at \$17.50 an hour, while seasonal positions at UPS can range from \$15 an hour to more than \$22 an hour.



UPS

UPS workers sorting packages

"This is one of the most unique labor markets we've experienced. ... Many applicants will have an offer in hand within 30 minutes of applying," McMackin said.

Over the past three years, UPS said about one-third of workers hired for seasonal package handler positions were hired permanently after the holiday season. In addition, about 138,000 current employees — nearly a third of the company's U.S. workforce — began as seasonal workers.

Permanent employee benefits include health care, paid time off, retirement benefits, and up to \$25,000 in tuition assistance.

UPS also offers additional opportunities for workers looking to achieve higher education. Through the company's Earn and Learn program, eligible seasonal employees, who are students, have the chance to earn up to \$1,300 toward college expenses, in addition to their hourly pay, for three months of uninterrupted employment.

McMackin said the company is reviewing the executive order from the Biden administration, which said it will order large employers to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine or require weekly testing for unvaccinated workers.

"We do not have anything [new] to share right now," he said. "UPS continues to urge employees to get vaccinated. Vaccination remains the best way to ensure personal safety, public health, and business continuity."

The company has three major facility locations in the area, including in Bartlett, Memphis, and the Oakhaven area. Globally, UPS has 1,800 facilities.

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