

KEY EXPENSES

TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR TELECOMMUTING EMPLOYEES

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES:

Record separately items having a useful life of more than one year. Normally, the costs of such assets are recovered differently on your tax return than are other recurring, everyday business expenses like business cards, office supplies, etc.

TELEPHONE EXPENSES:

The basic local telephone service costs of the first telephone line provided in your residence are not deductible. However, toll calls from that line are deductible if the calls are business-related. The costs (basic fee and toll calls) of a second line in your home are also deductible if the line is used exclusively for business. When communication equipment, such as a cell phone, is used part for business and part personally the cost of the equipment must be allocated to deductible business use and non-deductible personal use. Keep your bills for cellular phone use and mark all business calls.

PROFESSIONAL FEES & DUES:

Dues paid to professional societies related to your profession are deductible.

SUPPLIES & EXPENSES:

Generally, to be deductible, items must be ordinary and necessary costs in your profession and not reimbursable by your employer.

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Educational expenses are deductible under either of two conditions: (1) your employer requires the education in order for you to keep your job or rate of pay; or (2) the education maintains or improves your skills in your profession. Costs of courses that are taken to meet the minimum requirements of a job, or that qualify you for a new trade or business, are NOT deductible.

AUTO TRAVEL:

Your auto expense is based on the number of qualified business miles you drive. If you qualify for the home office deduction, your home becomes your primary business location, and you will not have any nondeductible commuting travel. Therefore, generally all of your business travel from home to other business locations and meetings will be deductible.

Document business miles in a record book as follows: (1) give the date and business purpose of each trip; (2) note the place to which you traveled; (3) record the number of business miles; and (4) record your car's odometer reading at both the beginning

and end of the tax year. Keep receipts for all car operating expenses – gas, oil, repairs, insurance, etc. – and of any reimbursement you received for your expenses.

HOME OFFICE DEDUCTION:

A home office that is part of a residence is deductible only if used regularly and exclusively as a principal place of business, or as a place to meet or deal with customers or clients in the ordinary course of business. Generally, telecommuting employees would meet the "principal place of business" test, i.e., the location where you spend the majority of your time performing your work activities. Additionally, telecommuting employees must meet the "convenience of the employer" test. That test is met if your employer asks you to work out of your home.

OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL:

Expenses incurred when traveling away from "home" overnight on job-related and continuing education trips that were not reimbursed or reimbursable by your employer are deductible. Your "home" is generally considered to be the entire city or general area where your principal place of employment is located. Out-of-town expenses include transportation, meals, lodging, tips and miscellaneous items like laundry, valet, etc.

Document away-from-home expenses by noting the date, destination and business purpose of your trip. Record business miles if you drove to the out-of-town location. In addition, keep a detailed record of your expenses – lodging, public transportation, meals, etc. Always list meals and lodging separately in your records. Receipts must be retained for each lodging expense. However, if any other business expense is less than \$75, a receipt is not necessary if you record all of the information timely in a diary. You must keep track of the full amount of meal and entertainment expenses, even though only a portion of the amount may be deductible



Occupational Series



Premier Tax and Business Services
11628 Old Ballas Road Suite 218
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
info@premierlbs.com
(314) 669-7300
www.premierlbs.com



INTRODUCTION

In order to deduct expenses in your trade or business, you must show that the expenses are "ordinary and necessary." An ordinary expense is one that is customary in your particular line of work. A necessary expense is one that is appropriate but not necessarily essential in your business. The application of these terms to you relies heavily on the "facts and circumstances" of your unique situation.

IMPORTANT – For Federal purposes, the expenses included in this brochure are no longer deductible after 2017 and generally through 2025 as a result of tax reform (TCJA). However, not all states conformed to TCJA and these items may still be deductible on your state tax return.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES:

Answering Machine	
Calculator	
Cell Phone	
Computer Equipment	
Copy Machine, Printer	
Desk & Chairs	
Fax Machine	
File Cabinets	
Furnishings	
Pager	
Recorder	
Shredder	
Telephone	
Other: _____	

COMMUNICATION EXPENSES:

Cellular Service	
Fax Transmissions/Line	
Internet Service	
Paging Service	
Phone Card	
Second (Business Line)	
Toll Calls	
Other: _____	

OUT-OF-TOWN TRAVEL:

Airfare	
Bridge & Highway Tolls	
Bus & Subway	
Car Rental	
Laundry	
Lodging (do not combine with meals)	
Meals (do not combine with lodging)	
Parking	

Porter, Bell Captain	
Taxi, Uber, Lyft & similar	
Telephone Calls (including home)	
Train	

AUTO TRAVEL:

Meetings (mi)	
Continuing Education (mi)	
Out-of-Town Business Trips (mi)	
Parking Fees (\$)	
Tolls (\$)	

PROFESSIONAL FEES & DUES :

Association Dues	
Credentials	
License	
Professional Associations	
Union Dues	
Other: _____	

SUPPLIES & EXPENSES:

Briefcase	
Business Meals (enter 100% of expense)	
Business Cards	
Clerical Service	
Computer Software	
Computer Supplies	
Customer Lists	
Entertainment (enter 100% of expense)	
Equipment Repair	
Fax Supplies	
Gifts (max. \$25 per person per year)	
Greeting Cards	
Legal & Professional Services	
Office Expenses	
Photocopy, Printing Expenses	
Postage	
Shipping	
Stationery	

Technical Publications	
Other: _____	

HOME OFFICE DEDUCTION:

Total Square Feet of Home	
Business Area of Home	
Business Hours (total for year)	
Home Mortgage Interest	
Property Taxes	
Insurance	
Homeowners/Condo Association	
Rents	

ALLOCATED EXPENSES *: (Read Instruction in opposite page)	Direct	Indirect
Cleaning Service		
Maintenance		
Painting		
Repairs - Exterior		
Repairs - Interior		
Trash Service		
Utilities - Electric		
Gas		
Water		
Other: _____		
Other: _____		

* Expenses related to your home office can either be direct or indirect expenses. Direct expenses are those which can be directly allocated to your business, such as a separate phone line or Internet connection exclusively for your business. Indirect expenses are those that are allocated to the entire house, such as electric, gas and water expenses.

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Correspondence Course Fees	
Course Registration	
Lab Fees	
Materials & Supplies	
Photocopy, Printing Expenses	
Reference Materials	
Research Expenses	
Seminar Fees	
Textbooks	
Other: _____	