

TRUCKERS

1. Vehicle Expenses

Fuel Costs:

- Gas or diesel expenses incurred while driving for business.

Repairs and Maintenance:

- Oil changes, tire replacements, brake repairs, engine work, and routine maintenance.

Truck Insurance:

- Commercial vehicle insurance, liability, and physical damage coverage.

Lease Payments:

- Monthly payments for leased trucks or trailers.

Loan Interest:

- Interest paid on loans used to finance your truck or trailer.

Depreciation:

- Deduct the cost of your truck, trailer, and equipment over time.

Toll Fees:

- Payments for using toll roads while hauling freight.

Parking Fees:

- Costs for overnight parking at truck stops or secure lots.

2. Licensing and Permits

CDL License:

- Costs for obtaining or renewing a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

Permits:

- Expenses for overweight, oversize, or state-specific permits.

Registration Fees:

- Annual truck registration and inspection fees.

Electronic Logging Device (ELD):

- Costs for purchasing and maintaining an ELD for compliance.
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3. Insurance**General Liability Insurance:**

- Coverage for accidents or damages during business operations.

Cargo Insurance:

- Protects freight being transported.

Health Insurance:

- Deductible premiums if self-employed.

Occupational Accident Insurance:

- Covers injuries sustained while working.
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4. Meals and Lodging**Per Diem Meals:**

- IRS-approved per diem rates for meals while traveling away from your tax home.

Hotel Stays:

- Costs for lodging during long-haul trips.

Meal Receipts:

- If not using per diem, track and deduct 50% of actual meal expenses.
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5. Communication and Technology**Cell Phone and Internet:**

- A portion of your phone and internet bills used for business communication.

GPS Devices:

- Costs for purchasing and updating truck-specific GPS systems.

Mobile Apps:

- Subscriptions to trucking apps for routing, load boards, or mileage tracking.

Computer Equipment:

- Laptops, tablets, or other devices used for logging, accounting, or communication.

Satellite Radio:

- Subscription fees for entertainment during long hauls, if used partially for business updates.

6. Supplies and Tools

Truck Supplies:

- Chains, straps, tarps, bungee cords, and load binders.

Personal Supplies:

- Bedding, coolers, and portable stoves for use in the truck.

Safety Gear:

- Gloves, boots, reflective vests, and hard hats.

Cleaning Supplies:

- Costs for keeping the truck interior and exterior clean.

Small Tools:

- Wrenches, hammers, screwdrivers, or other tools for minor repairs.

7. Business Expenses

Accounting and Tax Preparation:

- Fees for hiring a CPA or using tax preparation software.

Bank Fees:

- Monthly charges for a business checking account or credit card.

Credit Card Processing Fees:

- Fees for using services like PayPal or Square for client payments.

Load Board Fees:

- Subscriptions to platforms for finding loads (ex: DAT, Truckstop.com).

Factoring Fees:

- Costs associated with factoring services for faster payment.
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8. Training and Education**Truck Driving School:**

- Tuition fees for training programs or CDL school (if starting out).

Workshops and Seminars:

- Fees for attending trucking industry events or safety training.

Books and Guides:

- Materials on trucking regulations or safety guidelines.
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9. Professional Memberships and Dues**Trucking Associations:**

- Membership fees for organizations like the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA).

Union Dues:

- Payments to professional unions or groups.

Professional Listings:

- Fees for online directories or load boards.
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10. Depreciation**Truck Depreciation:**

- Deduction for the wear and tear of trucks and trailers.

Equipment Depreciation:

- Deduct the cost of tools and safety equipment over their useful life.
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11. Travel Expenses**Airfare:**

- Flights for traveling to pick up a truck or start a contract.

Luggage Fees:

- Costs for transporting personal items for long-term assignments.

Car Rentals:

- Rentals used to travel to trucking assignments.
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12. Health and Wellness**Fitness Equipment:**

- Small portable equipment like resistance bands or weights for staying fit on the road.

Medical Supplies:

- First aid kits, pain relievers, or other health-related items kept in the truck.
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13. Charitable Contributions**Donations:**

- Contributions made on behalf of your business (ex: hauling donated goods for free).

Volunteering Expenses:

- Out-of-pocket costs for charitable events.
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14. Advertising and Branding**Vehicle Decals:**

- Costs for custom truck decals or wraps to advertise your business.

Website:

- Domain registration, hosting, and web design for promoting your trucking services.

Business Cards and Flyers:

- Printed materials for networking and advertising.
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15. Miscellaneous Expenses

Drug Testing:

- Costs for pre-employment or random DOT-mandated drug tests.

Client Gifts:

- Small tokens of appreciation for high-value clients (up to \$25 per person annually).

Emergency Expenses:

- Unexpected costs, such as towing or roadside assistance.