

TAX YEAR
2026

Mileage and Expense Log



Please pass this along to anyone interested
Amy Weed, CPA - Tax & Accounting LLC
www.amyweedcpa.com
P: 507-581-1943
E: amy@amyweedcpa.com

Deductible Expenses

In order to be deductible, business expenses for travel, lodging, and meals must be ordinary and necessary.

An ordinary expense is one that is common and accepted in your trade or business. A necessary expense is one that is helpful and appropriate for your business. An expense does not have to be required to be considered necessary.

Substantiation for Travel, Lodging, and Meals

Special rules apply for substantiation of expenses for travel, lodging, and meals. You must maintain records that include:

- The amount of the expense.
- The time and place of travel.
- The business purpose of the expense.
- The business relationship between you and persons you pay for.

Note: For self-employed individuals, per diem rates for meals (standard meal allowance) may be used in place of actual receipts. Actual receipts must be used for lodging.

Traveling exceptions. Documentary evidence is not needed if any of the following conditions apply.

- The expense, other than lodging, is less than $75.
- You have a transportation expense for which a receipt is not readily available.

Travel and Lodging

Travel expenses include the ordinary and necessary expenses incurred by you (generally for overnight stays) while on temporary travel away from your tax home for business purposes.

Tax home. Generally, your tax home is your regular place of business, regardless of where you maintain your family home. It includes the entire city or general area in which your business is located.

Deductible expenses. Deductible expenses include:

- Air, train, bus, or car travel between your home and the business destination.
- Use of a car for business purposes while at the business destination.
- Transportation (including tips) between the airport or train station and a hotel, between the hotel and a business location, and between business locations or customers.
- Meals, lodging, dry cleaning, and laundry, including tips.

Meals

A deduction for meals is allowed (limited to 50%) if incurred while traveling on business or while meeting a client or customer. The deduction for local meals uses actual costs while the deduction for meals while out of town can use actual costs or the standard meal allowance (per diem rate).

Entertainment. Entertainment expenses are not tax deductible even if directly related to your business. Entertainment includes entertaining guests at nightclubs, at social, athletic, and sporting clubs, on yachts, or on hunting, fishing, vacation, and similar trips.

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Mileage and Expense Log

Make:	Model :	Year:	Starting mileage on Jan. 1:	Ending mileage on Dec. 31:

Date	*Miles*	*Start/End Point or Paid To*	*Reason for Trip/Business Purpose for Expense*	*Amount*