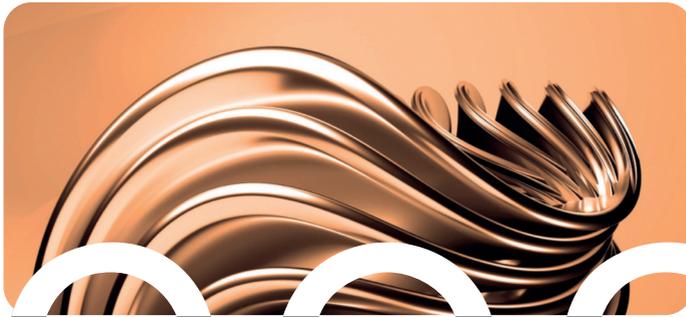




Travel Expenses



2026

TRAVEL EXPENSES

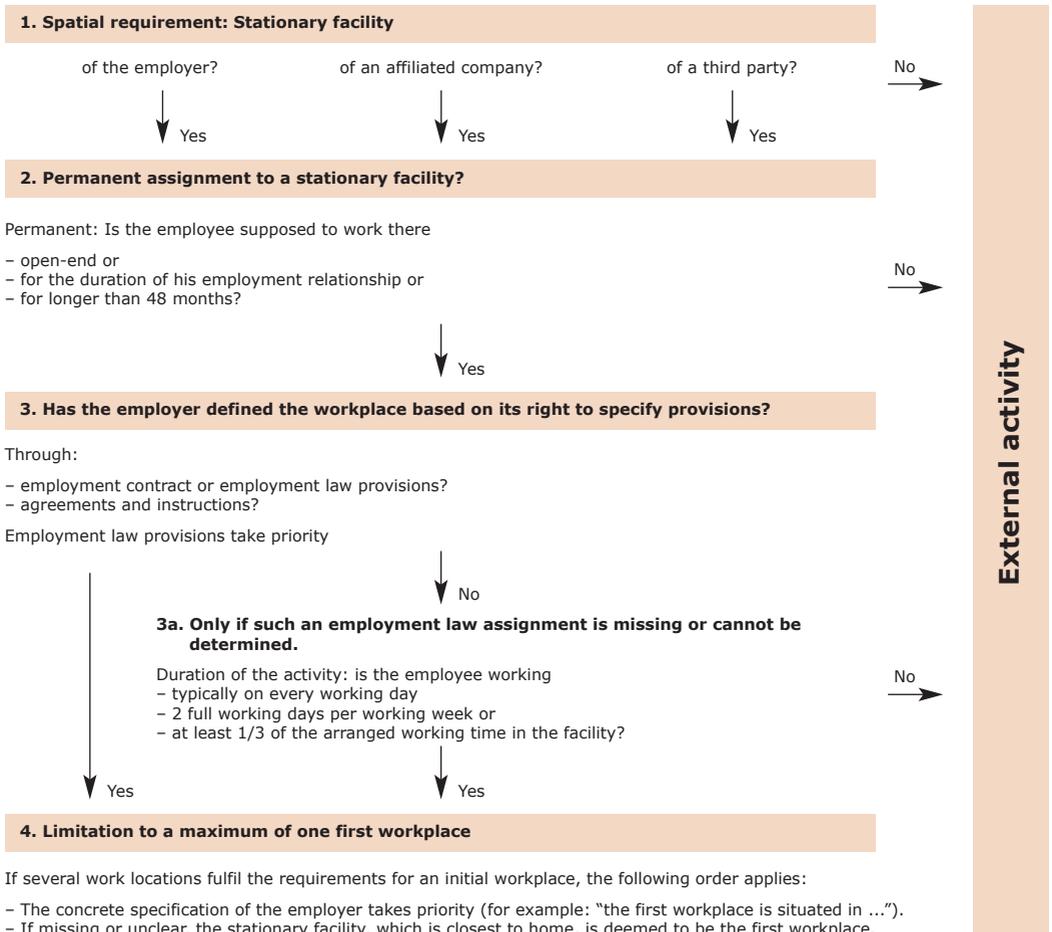
A business trip (external activity for professional reasons) exists, if the employee is working

- for professional reasons,
- temporarily,
- outside of his home and his center of professional activity and
- not at the initial workplace.

The initial workplace replaces the regular place of work. Since 2014, an employee has a maximum of one **initial workplace** per employment relationship, however, by way of derogation from the previous regulation, it may **also be with a customer**.

In principle, the initial workplace may be contractually defined. However, a negative allocation, i.e. the simple information that there is no initial workplace, may not be possible. Either an initial workplace does exist and has been defined or the external circumstances indicate that there is none, for example, assignments as a sales representative or an engineer with constantly changing customer visits.

The following diagram indicates, whether an initial workplace may or may not exist.



Transport costs within the scope of external business activities All journeys due to external business activity, which do not take place between home and the initial workplace, will be considered travel expenses.

Amount of the expenses:

- Actual expenses for transportation
- Fare including surcharges for public transport

When using own vehicle:

- Kilometer rate from annual total costs (individual proof)
- Kilometer allowance:

Vehicle	Kilometer rate (EUR pro km)
Motor vehicles (significant operational interest)	0.30
Motor vehicles or other motorized vehicles	0.20
	max 130.00 EUR

In addition to kilometre rates, extraordinary expenses (e.g. accident, theft, technical wear) must be taken into account. The principles of the initial workplace must also be observed for calculating the non-cash benefit of company cars. However, a differentiation must be made according to the frequency of the visits to the initial workplace. If visited frequently, the factor of 0.03 % is used for the distance between home and initial workplace, when it comes to taxation. If the amount remains below 15 visits per month, taxation with the 0.002 % rule may possibly be expedient. If a company vehicle is only borrowed, e.g. for relocation, the 0.001 % rule applies.

Travel expenses for journeys between home and initial workplace Travel allowances can be paid for journeys between home and the initial workplace. These are tax-free with a flat-rate tax of 15 % if the following formula is maintained: 15 days/month x flat-rate distance allowance x number of kilometres home - first place of work one way. If public transport is used, higher amounts can also be reimbursed tax-free according to the proof of the acquisition costs.

From 01 Jan 2026, the commuter allowance per kilometer will be permanently increased to 0.38 EUR from the first kilometer. The previous split of 0.30 EUR for the first 20 km and 0.38 EUR for the 21st km will no longer apply.

The annual maximum of 4,500.00 EUR remains unchanged.

From 01.01.2019, job tickets for journeys between home and the initial workplace can be provided tax-free as an additional employer's benefit and even for private journeys by employees and their families when using local public transport.

The costs of long-distance and local passenger transport remain tax-free when used for journeys between home and the initial workplace, provided that an active employment relationship exists, the employer pays the costs additionally and no private use is permitted.

The flat-rate reimbursement on the basis of kilometres is, of course, still possible and if the flat-rate income tax of 15 % is used, this remains free of social security contributions, but applies to the distance allowance.

In addition, a flat rate of 25 % is now possible, which also remains free of social security contributions but is not credited against the distance allowance.

When it comes to flights, different rules apply The country can be considered attained when the flight has landed. Until then, the lump-sum amount of the country of departure applies.

Flights over two days

- On the interim days, the lump-sum amount for Austria applies.
- With a stopover, the lump-sum amount is only relevant for overnight accommodation.

With the aid of a travel expense policy, many things can be reduced, for example, the lapse of claims for additional meal expenses for training courses booked by the employer with meals. Travel expense forms, which already calculate the absence, can also lead to a significant reduction of errors in processing the travel expenses. Contact us, we will be pleased to provide you with templates.

Additional meal expenses Since 2014, only two rates have applied for additional meal expenses, which the employer can compensate or the employee can offset as professional expenses. The increases planned in the Growth Opportunities Act will not be implemented as of 01.01.2024 after all.

Duration	per calendar day lump-sum amount in EUR
One-day business trip with an absence of MORE than 8 hours	14.00
Several days' business trip with overnight accommodation , if the employee is absent for a full 24 hours	28.00

Arrival and departure day for several days' business trip: 14.00 EUR, regardless of the duration of absence. The requirement is that the employee stays overnight outside of his home on this particular day, a subsequent day or a prior day.

Note: For several days' business trips with overnight accommodation, the employer may waive the recording of actual absence times in the future, if it can be certain that overnight accommodation existed. For the day of arrival and departure of a multi-day business trip with overnight accommodation, the duration of absence is irrelevant. For a one-day business trip, it is sufficient if a duration of absence of more than eight hours is ensured.

Night rule: Anyone who is travelling for business purposes after midnight on a calendar day and does not stay overnight, is entitled to receive a meal allowance for tax purposes of 14.00 EUR for the calendar day on which he is mainly travelling.

Three-month time limit The tax-exempt compensation of additional meal expenses is limited to the first three months at the same place of work. An interruption of four weeks enables a new three-month time limit to start. The reasons for the interruption – sickness, leave or operational approaches – have been irrelevant since 2014.

Meal provision for employees

... for own business interest	... for external activities	... for a reward
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company event - Business meal - Entertainment (e. g. customers, in the Group ...) 	Meals from the employer or third party. The tax-exempt meal provision is only possible, if it involves a so-called "customary" meal, i.e. it does not exceed the value of 60.00 EUR per person.	Meals provided as consideration for work performance must be applied with the actual value, e. g. if an employee is permitted to go to an expensive restaurant for good work performance.
No non-cash benefit is incurred.	Reduction of the additional meal expenses for breakfast by 5.60 EUR lunch/dinner by 11.20 EUR each.	The exemption limit of 50.00 EUR is applicable, but may not be exceeded and may not be utilized in a different way; otherwise a taxable non-cash benefit is created.

Practical tip

- "Meals" on flights, such as crisps or biscuits, do not count as meals in the fiscal sense and therefore do not reduce the meal allowances.
- Food offerings from the employer, such as pretzels or bread rolls without spread, are also not considered as a meal.

Granting of meals for external activities The employee is provided with meals by the employer or third party on his external activity.

Employee has a meal himself and the employer reimburses the expenses	Meal arranged by employer or third party	External activity with overnight accommodation
Reimbursement only remains tax-exempt within the scope of the known limits, i.e. for one-day absence: 14.00 EUR for more than 8 hours of absence. For several days' absence: 14.00 EUR for the day of arrival and departure, 28.00 EUR for at least 24 hours of absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full cost assumption by employer is permitted. - NO non-cash benefit with the benefit-in-kind can be applied any more. - With additional compensation for additional meal expenses the reduction for breakfast is 5.60 EUR, for lunch/dinner 11.20 EUR each 	Principle: the pure overnight accommodation expenses are reimbursable. Expenses for breakfast = meal must be reduced. For meals, the previous column also applies
Additional reimbursements in the amount of 14.00 EUR/28.00 EUR can be taxed at 25 % on a lump-sum basis.	Professional reasons in the interest of the employer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employer has promised the employee the coverage of the costs under employment law. - Invoice is issued in the employer's name. 	Covered by the employer = Costs for breakfast for additional meal expenses must be reduced by 5.60 EUR

Mandatory declaration of capital letter "M" at meal provision on external activities – mandatory since 2019

If the employer or at his request a third party provide the employee with a meal valued at the official rate for benefits-in-kind on their external activities away from home and their initial workplace (or in case the employee maintains a second household -> doppelte Haushaltsführung), the capital letter "M" has to be recorded in the payroll and declared in the electronic payroll tax statement.

The obligation to record and certify, applies regardless of the number of meals provided in the calendar year.

In the case of meals provided, which do not represent wages or whose amount exceeds 60.00 EUR and which are therefore not to be valued at the official non-monetary remuneration value, there is no obligation in the payroll account to record and certify the capital letter "M".

Overnight accommodation expenses Business-related overnight accommodation expenses can be reimbursed without restriction for 48 months against receipt.

Thereafter, only a maximum of 1,000.00 EUR per month will be reimbursed on a tax-exempt basis. The allowance of 20.00 EUR, each employee may claim without proof, remains unchanged.

Introduction of new lump sum for overnight stays in a car Since January 1, 2024, there is a new lump sum for professional drivers of 9.00 EUR per calendar day. This is intended to provide additional expenses for overnight stays in the vehicle, e. g. fees for sanitary facilities at rest areas and truck stops are paid for as part of a professional activity lasting several days. Furthermore the reimbursement of proven higher additional expenses remains tax-free.

Additional meal expenses abroad For the countries not covered in the notice, the standard amount applicable to Luxembourg is decisive, and for unrecognized overseas and outlying areas of a country the lump sum applicable to the mother country is decisive.

Important:

For one-day trips abroad, the corresponding lump sum of the last place of employment abroad is decisive. For multi-day travel in different states, the following applies to determine the meal allowance on the arrival and departure days as well as on the intermediate days (days with 24 hours absence):

- When traveling from domestic to foreign countries or from abroad to domestic without any action, the corresponding lump sum of the place prevailing before 24 o'clock local time is decisive.
- When departing from foreign countries to domestic or from domestic to foreign countries, the corresponding lump sum of the last place of activity shall prevail.
- As a rule, the corresponding lump sum of the place, which the employee reaches before 24 o'clock local time, is decisive for the intermediate days.

If the day of the return from a multi-day out-of-town activity to the apartment or first place of employment is followed by a further one-day or multi-day out-of-town activity, only the higher meal allowance is to be taken into account for this day.

To reduce the meal allowance, the following applies When providing meals by the employer or at his request by a third party, the reduction of the meal allowance must be made on a daily basis, ie. from the meal allowance for a 24-hour absence relevant for the respective travel day, irrespective of the country in which the particular meal was made available.

In Belgium, for example, more than eight hours absence a day, would amount to 40.00 EUR additional meal expenses, more than 24 hours absence per day would amount to 59.00 EUR. The deduction for a breakfast would be 11.80 EUR (59.00 EUR x 20 %), for a lunch or dinner it would be 23.60 EUR (59.00 EUR x 40 %).

**Overview of the lump sums applicable from 1 January 2026
for additional meal expenses and overnight accommodation abroad.**

(Changes in bold)

Country	Lump-sum amounts for additional meal expenses		Lump-sum amount for overnight accommodation expenses
	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
Egypt	50	33	112
Ethiopia	44	29	159
Equatorial Guinea	42	28	166
Albania	33	22	116
Algeria	47	32	120
Andorra	45	30	135
Angola	40	27	368
Argentina	42	28	119
Armenia	29	20	107
Azerbaijan	44	29	88
Australia			
Canberra	74	49	186
Sydney	57	38	173
as for the rest	57	38	173
Bahrain	48	32	153
Bangladesh	46	31	189
Barbados	54	36	206
Belgium	59	40	141
Benin	40	27	168
Bhutan	27	18	176
Bolivia	46	31	108
Bosnia and Herzegovina	32	21	109
Botswana	40	27	105
Brazil			
Brasilia	51	34	88
Rio de Janeiro	69	46	140
Sao Paulo	46	31	151
as for the rest	46	31	88
Brunei	45	30	110
Bulgaria	38	25	109
Burkina Faso	39	26	230
Burundi	58	39	102

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(Changes in bold)

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	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
Chile	44	29	154
China			
Hongkong	83	56	209
Beijing	57	38	184
Shanghai	48	32	142
as for the rest	48	32	142
Costa Rica	60	40	127
Ivory Coast	60	40	171
Denmark	75	50	183
Dominican Republic	50	33	167
Djibouti	77	52	255
Ecuador	27	18	103
El Salvador	65	44	161
Eritrea	46	31	78
Estonia	39	26	125
Fiji	32	21	183
Finland	54	36	171
France			
Paris as well as the departments 77, 78, 91 to 95"	58	39	159
as for the rest	53	36	105
Gabon	64	43	263
Gambia	40	27	161
Georgia	45	30	87
Ghana	46	31	203
Greece			
Athens	40	27	139
as for the rest	36	24	150
Guatemala	46	31	124
Guinea	59	40	140
Guinea-Bissau	32	21	113
Honduras	57	38	198

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for additional meal expenses and overnight accommodation abroad.**

(Changes in bold)

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	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
India			
Bangalore	42	28	155
Chennai	22	15	80
Calcutta	32	21	167
Mumbai	53	36	218
New Delhi	46	31	211
as for the rest	22	15	80
Indonesia	45	30	179
Iran	33	22	196
Ireland	64	43	164
Iceland	62	41	187
Israel	59	40	268
Italy			
Milan	42	28	191
Rom	48	32	150
as for the rest	42	28	150
Jamaica	39	26	171
Japan			
Tokyo	50	33	285
Osaka	33	22	141
as for the rest	33	22	141
Jordan	57	38	134
Cambodia	42	28	108
Cameroon	56	37	275
Canada			
Ottawa	62	41	214
Toronto	54	36	392
Vancouver	63	42	304
as for the rest	54	36	214
Kap Verde	38	25	90
Kazakhstan	33	22	108
Qatar	81	54	128
Kenya	48	32	217

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(Changes in bold)

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	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
Kyrgyzstan	35	24	80
Colombia	34	23	123
Congo, Republic	53	36	215
Congo, Democratic Republic	65	44	337
Korea, Republic	39	26	130
Kosovo	24	16	71
Croatia	46	31	191
Cuba	51	34	170
Kuwait	63	42	224
Laos	35	24	71
Lesotho	28	19	104
Latvia	46	31	119
Lebanon	69	46	146
Liberia	65	44	173
Liechtenstein	57	38	234
Lithuania	48	32	124
Luxembourg	63	42	139
Madagascar	33	22	116
Malawi	41	28	109
Malaysia	36	24	86
Maldives	70	47	200
Mali	42	28	141
Malta	59	40	191
Morocco	41	28	87
Marshall Islands	45	30	112
Mauritania	35	24	86
Mauritius	44	29	172
Mexico	40	27	337
Moldova, Republic	26	17	73
Monaco	52	35	187
Mongolia	23	16	92
Montenegro	32	21	85
Mozambique	51	34	208

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for additional meal expenses and overnight accommodation abroad.**

(Changes in bold)

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	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
Myanmar	23	16	103
Namibia	28	19	146
Nepal	33	22	125
New Zealand	58	39	148
Nicaragua	46	31	105
Netherlands	58	39	167
Niger	42	28	131
Nigeria	52	35	202
North Macedonia	27	18	89
Norway	75	50	139
Austria	50	33	117
Oman	64	43	141
Pakistan	41	28	199
Palau	51	34	193
Panama	41	28	82
Papua New Guinea	59	40	159
Paraguay	39	26	124
Peru	52	35	128
Philippines	41	28	140
Poland			
Wroclaw	34	23	124
Warsaw	40	27	143
as for the rest	34	23	124
Portugal	32	21	111
Rwanda	44	29	117
Romania	38	25	103
Russian Federation			
Moscow	30	20	235
St Petersburg	28	19	133
as for the rest	28	19	133
Zambia	38	25	105
Samoa	39	26	105

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(Changes in bold)

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	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
San Marino	34	23	79
Sao Tome Principe	36	24	147
Saudi Arabia			
Jeddah	57	38	181
Riyadh	56	37	186
as for the rest	56	37	181
Sweden	66	44	140
Switzerland			
Bern	82	55	195
Geneva	70	47	197
as for the rest	70	47	195
Senegal	48	32	160
Serbia	27	18	97
Sierra Leone	57	38	145
Zimbabwe	63	42	198
Singapore	71	48	277
Slovak Republic	33	22	121
Slovenia	38	25	126
Spain			
Barcelona	34	23	144
Canary Islands	36	24	103
Madrid	42	28	131
Palma de Mallorca	44	29	142
as for the rest	34	23	103
Sri Lanka	36	24	112
South Africa			
Cape Town	33	22	130
Johannesburg	36	24	129
as for the rest	29	20	109
South Sudan	51	34	159
Tajikistan	27	18	85
Taiwan	51	34	174
Tanzania	44	29	97

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(Changes in bold)

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	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
Thailand	36	24	114
Togo	36	24	144
Tonga	29	20	102
Trinidad and Tobago	66	44	203
Chad	42	28	155
Czech Republic	32	21	77
Türkiye			
Ankara	32	21	110
Izmir	44	29	120
as for the rest	24	16	107
Tunisia	40	27	144
Turkmenistan	28	19	135
Uganda	45	30	207
Ukraine	33	22	180
Hungary	32	21	85
Uruguay	40	27	113
Uzbekistan	32	21	133
Vatican City	48	32	150
Venezuela	51	34	178
United Arab Emirates	81	54	169
United States of America (USA)			
Atlanta	77	52	182
Boston	63	42	333
Chicago	65	44	233
Houston	62	41	204
Los Angeles	64	43	262
Miami	65	44	256
New York City	66	44	308
San Francisco	59	40	327
Washington, D. C.	66	44	203
as for the rest	59	40	182

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(Changes in bold)

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	For a duration of absence of at least 24 hours per calendar day	For the day of arrival and departure and for a duration of absence of more than 8 hours per calendar day	
	€	€	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland			
London	66	44	163
as for the rest	52	35	99
Vietnam	36	24	111
Belarus	21	14	148
Central African Republic	53	36	210
Cyprus	42	28	125

Practical note: For trips abroad to other European countries, an A1 must always be requested from the statutory health insurance company or, depending on the insurance status, from the relevant authority. The application can be done electronically since 01.01.2018.