

Government Announces the 2019 Automobile Deduction Limits and Expense Benefit Rates for Businesses

December 27, 2018 – Ottawa, Ontario – Department of Finance Canada

The Department of Finance Canada today announced the income tax deduction limits and expense benefit rates that will apply in 2019 when using an automobile for business purposes.

Most of the limits and rates that applied in 2018 will continue to apply in 2019, with two changes taking effect as of 2019:

1. The limit on the deduction of tax-exempt allowances that are paid by employers to employees who use their personal vehicle for business purposes for 2019 will be increased by 3 cents to 58 cents per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven, and to 52 cents per kilometre for each additional kilometre. For the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon, the tax-exempt allowance is 4 cents higher, and will be increased to 62 cents per kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven, and 56 cents per kilometre for each additional kilometre. These allowances are intended to reflect the main costs of owning and operating an automobile, such as depreciation, financing, insurance, maintenance, and fuel.
2. The general prescribed rate that is used to determine the taxable benefit of employees relating to the personal portion of automobile operating expenses paid by their employers will be increased by 2 cents to 28 cents per kilometre. For taxpayers who are employed principally in selling or leasing automobiles, the prescribed rate used to determine the employee's taxable benefit will be increased by 2 cents to 25 cents per kilometre.

The amount of this benefit is intended to reflect the costs of operating an automobile. The additional benefit of having an employer-provided vehicle available for personal use (i.e., the automobile standby charge) is calculated separately based on capital costs and is also included in the employee's income.

The following limits from 2018 will remain in place for 2019:

- The ceiling on the capital cost of passenger vehicles for capital cost allowance (CCA) purposes will remain at \$30,000 (plus applicable federal and provincial-territorial sales taxes) for purchases after 2018. This ceiling restricts the cost of a vehicle on which CCA may be claimed for business purposes.
- The maximum allowable interest deduction for amounts borrowed to purchase an automobile will remain at \$300 per month for loans related to vehicles acquired after 2018.
- The limit on deductible leasing costs will remain at \$800 per month (plus applicable federal and provincial-territorial sales taxes) for leases entered into after 2018. This

limit is one of two restrictions on the deduction of automobile lease payments. A separate restriction prorates deductible lease costs where the value of the vehicle exceeds the capital cost ceiling.

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