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Hot Topic: Changes in Federal and State Reimbursement Rates for Travel

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Changes in Federal and State Reimbursement Rates for Travel

Federal Rates
For those cities that elected to reimburse for travel using the federal reimbursement rates, the federal government has decreased the vehicle-cents-per-mile reimbursement rate for 1999 to 31 cents per mile. This decrease became effective on April 1, 1999. Any mileage allowances paid to an employee before April 1, 1999, for mileage expenses incurred prior to April 1, 1999, still qualified for the previous rate of 32.5 cents per mile.

The standard federal reimbursement rates for lodging and meals have remained the same. The standard federal rate is $50 per night for lodging and $30 per day for meals and incidentals (M&I). However, there are higher reimbursement rates in some of Tennessee’s larger cities. Please see the chart below for those revised rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Lodging</th>
<th>M &amp; I</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chattanooga</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$34</td>
<td>$84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatlinburg</td>
<td>Sevier</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knoxville</td>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>Shelby</td>
<td>$79</td>
<td>$38</td>
<td>$117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville</td>
<td>Davidson</td>
<td>$72</td>
<td>$42</td>
<td>$114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsend</td>
<td>Blount</td>
<td>$70</td>
<td>$34</td>
<td>$104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These per diem rates apply to all locations within or entirely surrounded by the corporate limits of the key city as well as the boundaries of the county, including other municipalities within the county.

Federal reimbursement rates for out-of-state travel vary from state to state. For a complete listing of federal per diem rates, please reference the IRS publication No. 1542. Or, you can find a complete listing of federal per diem rates on the Internet at:

State Rates
For those cities that elected to reimburse travel expenses using the state rates, the only change for 1999 is an increase in the mileage reimbursement rate from 26 cents a mile to 28 cents a mile effective July 1, 1999. A complete summary of the current state travel reimbursement rates for all allowable expenses can be found in MTAS’ Hot Topic No. 38, issued July 31, 1998.

For more information, please contact your MTAS management consultant or finance consultant in your area.
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