

2009 IRS Standard Mileage Reimbursement Rates Released

Business Travelers' Rate Drops 3.5 Cents to 55 Cents Per Mile

On November 25, the [IRS released](#) the **standard mileage reimbursement rates for 2009**. **Beginning January 1, 2009**, the **standard mileage reimbursement rate** for **business** travelers will drop from 58.5 cents per mile down to **55 cents per mile**. As I reported last summer, the

IRS raised the standard mileage reimbursement rate 8 cents to help offset the high cost of gas. The 3.5 cent drop still would leave the rate higher than originally set for 2008.

IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate for 2009 for medical and moving expenses also lower

Business travelers are not the only ones affected by the drop in the IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate schedule released. According to the IRS site, the mileage reimbursement rate for Americans who seek reimbursement for **medical and/or moving related expenses** will drop 3 cents from 27 cents for the remainder of 2008 to just **24 cents for 2009**. This information is useful for those who are eligible to enroll in a flexible spending account (FSA) as money is deducted pre-tax and set aside for future medical expenses, including mileage for some plans. Knowing this rate allows FSA participants to better determine how much money they should plan to set aside in the coming year. For many companies and the federal government, it is "**open season**" where employees must select a health insurance and/or dental insurance plan for the coming year. The release of the IRS' standard mileage reimbursement rate for medical expenses is a helpful planning tool for deciding how much to have set aside in a FSA for 2009.

Charitable workers still left behind; the 2009 standard mileage reimbursement rate changes do not affect them

Those Americans who seek reimbursement for mileage related to charitable works are not affected by the new 2009 IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate schedule. Unfortunately, Congress is responsible for determining the rate of reimbursement for this group. **The current mileage reimbursement rate for charity related travel is just 14 cents per mile, far below the reimbursement rate for business travelers.**

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November 28, 2008 by

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