

Common deductible income tax and VAT costs

	Income tax (2026 assessment year)	VAT
1. Car costs - costs of passenger cars		
General rule	▶ Introduction of a formula for determining the deduction limitation: $120\% - (0.5\% \times \text{coefficient} \times \text{CO}_2 \text{ emissions})$. This coefficient equals 1 for cars with a diesel engine, 0.95 for petrol cars and 0.90 for natural gas cars; ▶ For plug-in hybrids ordered as from 1/1/2018 with a battery capacity of < 0.5 kWh per 100 kg of car weight or an emission exceeding 50 g/km, the deduction limitation is calculated based on the CO₂ emissions of a corresponding model with an internal combustion engine or the CO₂ emissions multiplied by a coefficient of 2.5; ▶ Tax deduction limitation up to 100% for electric cars; ▶ Increased cost deduction for depreciation relating to investments in publicly accessible charging stations (under certain conditions) of: • 200% during the period from 01/09/2021 to 31/03/2023 inclusive; • 150% during the period from 01/04/2023 to 31/08/2024 inclusive. ▶ Tax deduction limitation up to 100% for electric cars; ▶ Tax deduction limited to at least 50%, except for cars with a CO₂ emission of 200 g/km (at least 40% deduction). From assessment year 2026, this will only apply to cars purchased before July 2023. For cars purchased between July 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025 the maximum will be 75%, the limitation of the deduction to 50% or 40% no longer applies and the deduction is determined on the basis of the formula only; ▶ 1 July 2023: taxes on fossil fuel vehicles (including plug-in hybrids and full hybrids) purchased, leased or rented from this date (the date of the order being decisive) will be gradually reduced from fiscal year 2026. ▶ Vehicles purchased or leased from January 1, 2026 (assessment year 2027) with CO₂ emissions in excess of 0 g/km will no longer qualify for the deduction. ▶ Read the rules	▶ New cars as from 1/1/2013: VAT max. 50% deductible (and limited to the portion for professional use); ▶ For mixed use, 3 methods are possible (AAFisc Circular no. 36/2015 dated 23/11/2015): 1) Actual professional use: $\left[\frac{\text{Total number of km} - \text{commuting (x2)} - \text{private km}}{\text{Total number of km}} \right] \times 100 = \% \text{VAT deduction}$ 2) Semi-fixed amount % private: $1 - \left[\frac{200 \text{ days} \times \text{commuting (x2)} + \text{flat rate of 6,000 private km}}{\text{Total number of km on an annual basis}} \right] \times 100 = \% \text{VAT deduction}$ 3) General fixed amount of 35% (for at least current year + next 3 calendar years).
	▶ Deduction limitation according to CO₂ emissions as from assessment year 2019 also applies to personal income tax for cars purchased (ordered) as from 1/1/2018. There is a choice for cars purchased before this date. Deductible for at least 75% for car costs (and fuel costs).	
Exceptions		
Fuel costs	▶ Tax deduction depending on CO₂ emissions (general rule). ▶ From 1 January 2023, application of a 50% ceiling on petrol or diesel costs relating to the use of a plug-in hybrid vehicle. This ceiling does not apply to electricity costs which remain 100% deductible.	▶ VAT deductible for professional use (see general rule) with a max. of 50%.
Interest charges	▶ 100% deductible (if separate on invoice and contract of at least 24 months); see general rule for rental fees.	▶ VAT deductible for professional use (see general rule) with a max. of 50%.
Taxi costs	▶ General rule, but tolerance: 75% deduction.	▶ VAT 100% deductible (if professionally-related).
Car costs passed on	▶ Deductible to a limited extent on the part of the party issuing the invoice (100% deductible on the part of the receiver). As from assessment year 2019, deduction limitation based on CO₂ emissions of the end-user if passed on by third party and costs mentioned separately on invoice. ▶ Recharging fees must be done "strictly without modification and without profit margin".	▶ For the issuer of the invoice: VAT 50% deductible (except for limited exceptions) ▶ For the recipient: • Passed-on cost as part of the main transaction: deductibility is determined by the main transaction; • Charging the cost per se: deductible according to professional use with a maximum of 50% (general rule); • Passed-cost as an advanced cost: this cost does not belong to the taxable base and is therefore not subject to VAT.
Reimbursement of car costs to employees/directors	▶ Tax deduction depending on CO₂ emissions (general rule). Reimbursement commuting travel on pay slip 281.10: 100% deductible.	/
If fuel costs are paid either in	▶ 100% non-deductible (not to be included in car costs).	/
2. Reception and reception costs		
General rule	▶ 50% deductible (including non-deductible VAT).	▶ VAT non-deductible.
Exceptions		
Promotional events, product launches, open house days and demonstrations (PR-related)	▶ In principle, general rule. Costs relating to premises, depreciation, staff, furniture, etc.: 100% deductible + 100% deduction for the costs of goods and promotional items.	▶ Court of Cassation dated 8/04/2005 and 15/06/2012 and decision E.T. 124.247 dated 13/03/2015: • Costs that only create overall positive conditions: VAT non-deductible; • Costs that promote direct sales and publicity for certain products and services (= often a question of facts): VAT 100% deductible.

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3. Corporate gifts		
General rule	► In case the value is lower than EUR 250: 50% deductible (including on the non-deductible VAT).	► VAT deductible for a single trade gift per business relation per calendar year of which purchase or cost price < EUR 50 (excl. VAT). Purchase or cost price > EUR 50 (excl. VAT) per gift or multiple low value trade gifts during a calendar year to one single business relation: VAT is non-deductible.
Exceptions		
Sponsoring	► Compensation is effectively 'advertising': 100% deductible.	► Sponsoring via payment: if advertisement 'received' as a consideration: VAT deductible, if there is receipt of compliant invoice (unless the sponsored party is not subject to VAT); if no advertisement 'received', no VAT repercussions; ► Sponsoring via exchange of benefits (sponsoring in exchange for advertisement): VAT deductible, if there is mutual invoicing with VAT of every transaction (unless the sponsored party is not subject to VAT); ► Sponsoring without consideration: VAT on the sponsored good must be corrected.
Gifts	► Gift > EUR 250. ► 100% deductible on condition that it is reported on the 281.50 form, namely represents BIK for acquirer.	► Commercial gifts are VAT deductible provided that: • The gifts are granted to a business relation (for a single gift per business relation per calendar year); • The gifts are not tobacco or spirits; • The purchase value is < EUR 50, VAT excl.; • The gifts are not a promotional item.
Promotional items	► 100% deductible on condition that the name of the benefactor remains permanently and noticeably on the object that is furthermore also widely distributed.	► VAT 100% deductible (except for reception costs) if: • The articles are intended for a large-scale distribution i.e., not only for a limited category of customers or business relations); • The articles have a low value for those who receive them; • The articles obviously and permanently bear the name of the gifting company (i.e., no consumables).
Commercial samples	► Products that the company itself sells: 100% deductible.	► VAT 100% deductible on condition that the costs are deductible in the income tax.
4. Social benefits		
General rule	► 100% non-deductible.	► Benefit granted of personal nature: VAT non-deductible. ► Benefit granted of group-nature: VAT deductible.
Exceptions		
Free distribution of soup, coffee, soft drinks and/or fruit to staff during working hours	► 100% deductible.	► VAT 100% deductible.
Vocational training for staff for specific vocational training sessions	► 100% deductible.	► VAT 100% deductible.
Meal Vouchers	► Employer contribution deductible for EUR 2/voucher distributed on condition that a maximum employer contribution amounts to a voucher amount of EUR 6.91, the employee contribution comprising a minimum of EUR 1.09.	► VAT on transactions of the company issuing the meal vouchers: 100% deductible.
Eco vouchers, sports and culture vouchers	► Under certain conditions, they are treated as an exempt benefit on the part of the beneficiary. However, cost is 100% non-deductible for issuing company.	► VAT on transactions of the company issuing the eco-vouchers: 100% deductible.
Gifts to staff	► 100% non-deductible for the employer unless gifts are for ALL employees and: • Max. EUR 40/year/employee on the occasion of an annual event (e.g., Christmas, birthday) and 40 EUR/year/ dependent child for Saint-Nicolas; • Max. EUR 120/year/employee on the occasion of a commendation for good service; • A minimum total amount of 120 EUR and maximum EUR 40 per full-service year upon retirement of employee (however, for social security a maximum of EUR 1000 applies); • Marriage or legal cohabitation: EUR 245.	► VAT non-deductible, unless the following conditions are met: • The gifts are distributed to ALL staff members (or children of staff members who meet a predetermined age category); • The purchase price (or normal value) is < than EUR 50 excl. VAT; • The gifts are not tobacco products or spirits. Please note: VAT deduction only permitted on one single occasion-related gift per beneficiary per calendar year.

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5. Restaurant costs		
General rule	▶ 69% deductible (including on the non-deductible VAT).	▶ VAT is non-deductible.
Exceptions		
Restaurant costs for staff tasked with providing goods or services outside the company	▶ General rule. Deduction of meal allowance included in daily allowances: see point 6. Costs included in fixed allowances.	▶ VAT 100% deductible if a correct invoice has been issued in the name of the purchaser (a simple VAT receipt is not sufficient).
Passing on of restaurant costs	▶ For the issuer of the invoice: 69% deductible. ▶ Exception: costs passed on separately on the invoice: 69% deductible for the recipient and 100% deductible as a professional cost for the issuer of the invoice, provided that the cost is mentioned explicitly and separately on the invoice.	▶ Passing on of the cost as part of the main transaction: follows the VAT scheme of the main transaction. ▶ Passing on of the cost per se: non-deductible for recipient; deductible however for the issuer of the invoice.
Restaurant costs related to seminars on training day	▶ 69% deductible if broken down by invoice, if not there is a risk that full invoice will be subject to deduction limitation.	▶ VAT on meal cost non-deductible.
Restaurant costs included in hotel bill		▶ VAT on the costs of seminar/training deductible, however, if appended separately. ▶ VAT non-deductible unless: - Restaurant costs for staff tasked with providing goods or services outside the company; - Passing on of restaurant costs per se.
6. Costs included in fixed allowances		
General rule ▶ Employer costs considered as a disallowed expense included in fixed allowances. ▶ Meal allowance included in daily allowances.	▶ These costs follow the deduction regime of the disallowed expense concerned. ▶ 100% deductible if cost incurred by staff delivering specific goods or providing a specific service outside the company (the assignment lasts at least 6 hours - lump sum for 'business trip').	/
7. Unreasonable (professional) expenses		
General rule	▶ Non-deductible (always to be assessed on a case-by-case basis as this is a question of facts).	▶ VAT non-deductible (always to be assessed on a case-by-case basis as this is a question of facts).
8. Taxes		
General rule	▶ Non-deductible (if they have negatively influenced the taxable income).	/
Exceptions		
Immovable withholding tax	▶ 100% deductible.	/
Municipal and provincial taxes	▶ 100% deductible (most regional taxes are non-deductible).	/
Main exceptions: ▶ Excise and customs duties; ▶ Regional taxes on gambling and entertainment equipment; ▶ Foreign taxes withheld or paid on foreign professional income*. * Non-exhaustive list	▶ 100% deductible.	/

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