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Food Truck Expense Tracker

Pick a category and the sheet fills in the Schedule C line and the deductible amount for you.

Truck name: **Tax year:**

Owner: **Prepared for:**

How to use it:

1) One row per receipt. 2) Pick the Category from the dropdown. 3) The Schedule C line and the Deductible amount fill in automatically.

Business % = the share you used for the business (100% for a pure business cost; less for a phone you also use personally). Meals are auto-cut to the 50% the IRS allows.

Total deductible: **$1,619.50**

Date	Vendor	Description	Category	Sched C	Amount	Business %	Method	Deductible
2026-01-09	Restaurant Depot	Weekly ingredient run	Ingredients & food (COGS)	Line 4	$412.18	100%	Card	$412.18
2026-01-09	AmeriGas	Two propane tank swaps	Propane & generator fuel	Line 22	$58.00	100%	Card	$58.00
2026-01-12	City health department	Mobile vendor permit renewal	Permits, licenses & health fees	Line 23	$285.00	100%	Check	$285.00
2026-01-15	Hill Country BBQ Festival	Weekend booth fee	Event, festival & booth fees	Line 27b	$250.00	100%	Transfer	$250.00
2026-01-31	Square	January card processing fees	POS & card processing fees	Line 10	$164.32	100%	Transfer	$164.32
2026-02-01	Downtown prep kitchen	February rent	Prep kitchen rent	Line 20b	$450.00	100%	Transfer	$450.00

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Hand the Schedule C Summary tab to your accountant. Every category total is already lined up with its Schedule C line.

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Food Truck Startup Cost Worksheet

Plan with the Low and High columns, then fill in What you paid as the real bills arrive. The example numbers are placeholders — overwrite them with quotes from your city and your builder.

Startup cost	Low estimate	High estimate	What you paid
Truck (used) — or swap in a new-build quote	$40,000	$80,000	
Kitchen build-out & equipment	$15,000	$50,000	
Truck wrap & branding	$2,500	$6,000	
Initial ingredient inventory	$1,500	$3,000	
Permits & licenses (first year)	$800	$5,000	
Insurance (first-year premium)	$2,000	$5,000	
POS hardware & first month	$300	$1,200	
Prep kitchen deposit + first month	$800	$2,400	
Generator	$1,000	$4,000	
Website, menus & launch marketing	$500	$3,000	
Working capital cushion (2-3 slow months)	$5,000	$15,000	
Total	**$69,400**	**$174,600**	**$0**

Tax note: most of these aren't deducted the day you pay them. The truck and equipment depreciate (often deductible in full the first year under Section 179), and costs you pay before opening day are "startup costs" with their own first-year rules. Two minutes with a CPA before you file is worth it here. Keep every receipt either way.

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Schedule C Summary

Your deductible totals, rolled up by Schedule C line. This is the page y

Category	chedule C lin	Total deductible
Ingredients & food (COGS)	Line 4	$412.18
Packaging & serveware	Line 22	$0.00
Propane & generator fuel	Line 22	$58.00
Prep kitchen rent	Line 20b	$450.00
Truck fuel & oil	Line 9	$0.00
Truck repairs & maintenance	Line 9	$0.00
Equipment repairs	Line 21	$0.00
Permits, licenses & health fees	Line 23	$285.00
Event, festival & booth fees	Line 27b	$250.00
POS & card processing fees	Line 10	$164.32
Insurance	Line 15	$0.00
Advertising & truck wrap	Line 8	$0.00
Phone & internet	Line 25	$0.00
Wages	Line 26	$0.00
Contract labor	Line 11	$0.00
Equipment / Section 179	Line 13	$0.00
Truck loan interest	Line 16	$0.00
Legal & professional	Line 17	$0.00
Office & software	Line 18	$0.00
Meals (50%)	Line 24b	$0.00
Home office	Line 30	$0.00
Other	Line 27b	$0.00
Total deductible expenses:		**$1,619.50**

Lines follow the IRS Schedule C (Form 1040). Ingredients flow through Part III (cost of goods sold) into Line 4. The IRS renumbers a line now and then, so check yours against the Schedule C for your filing year.

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Thanks for grabbing the template.

Here's a little something extra, just for downloading it.

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How to redeem:

1. Visit shoeboxed.com/templatedeal
2. Pick a plan on the pricing page that loads
3. Your 25% off for 3 months is applied at checkout, on any plan

If that link doesn't auto-apply, enter this code at checkout:

TEMPLATEDEAL

What is Shoeboxed?

We're a 20-year-old small-business app that turns paper and email receipts into a clean tax-ready database. Snap a receipt with the iPhone or Android app, forward an email, or ship us a shoebox in our Magic Envelope. Our team in Durham scans the paper, and our software pulls out the date, total, vendor, and category, so the totals are ready at tax time. The template you just downloaded works great. The app saves

Risk-free: 30-day money-back guarantee on every plan.

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Bonus tab: 25% off Shoeboxed (see the 'BONUS - 25% off Shoeboxed' tab for details)

Home Office Deduction Log

Your truck is the kitchen, but the books, the event calendar, and the payroll probably happen at home. First check that the space qualifies, then pick the bigger deduction.

Qualifies (exclusive and regular business use):

- ✓ A spare room or marked-off area used only for the business
- ✓ Where you do the books, schedule events, and run payroll, with no other fixed office
- ✓ A separate structure (garage office, studio) used regularly for work
- ✓ An area used regularly to store dry goods, serveware, or equipment

Does NOT qualify:

- ✗ The kitchen table or family den you also use personally (fails exclusive use)
- ✗ A guest room that's an office sometimes and a bedroom other times
- ✗ A space you use only now and then (fails the regular-use test)

How you lose the deduction: using the office for anything personal. One family movie night in the home office and the whole room fails the exclusive-use test. Keep it business-only.

Method 1 - Simplified (no receipts needed)

IRS Publication 587. $5 per square foot, up to 300 sq ft. Maximum $1,500.

Square feet of your home office (cap at 300):	150
Simplified deduction (sq ft x $5, capped at $1,500):	$750.00

Method 2 - Actual expenses (usually the bigger deduction)

Enter home and office square footage. The sheet calculates business-use % and applies it to every line. No cap.

Home sq ft (total):	2,000
Office sq ft (used only for business):	150
Business use % (auto = office / home):	7.50%

Expense category	Annual cost	Office use %	Deduction
Mortgage interest (or rent)	$21,000	7.50%	$1,575.00
Property taxes	$7,000	7.50%	$525.00
Home insurance	$1,600	7.50%	$120.00
Utilities (electric, gas, water)	$2,400	7.50%	$180.00
Home internet	$1,200	7.50%	$90.00
Repairs & maintenance	$4,000	7.50%	$300.00
Depreciation (consult CPA)	$21,528	7.50%	$1,614.60
		Total deduction (no cap):	**$4,404.60**

Full automated calculator at shoeboxed.com/home-office-calculator - pulls your home's square footage from your address and computes the tax savings at your bracket.

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Business Mileage Log

IRS Publication 463. Four fields per trip is all the IRS needs. 2026 business rate: 72.5¢ a mile before July 1 and 76¢ a mile

Counts as business miles (deductible at the standard rate):

- ✓ Personal car or van runs to the prep kitchen, Restaurant Depot, or the bank
- ✓ Driving your car to scout an event site or meet an event organizer
- ✓ Supply runs between the prep kitchen and the truck's parking spot
- ✓ Picking up ingredients, propane, or packaging in your personal vehicle

Does NOT go in this log:

- ✗ The food truck itself, if you deduct its actual costs (fuel, repairs, insurance) on the tracker
- ✗ Personal errands, even in a vehicle you also use for work
- ✗ The personal share of a trip that mixed business and personal stops

One vehicle, one method: for each vehicle you pick either the standard mileage rate OR actual expenses, not both. Most food trucks run actual expenses on the truck (it's a rolling kitchen with real repair bills) and the standard rate on the personal car doing supply runs.

		Year-to-date miles:	45	
		Mileage deduction (72.5¢ before July 1, 76¢ from July 1):		$32.63

Date	Destination (name + address)	Business Purpose	Miles	Deduction
2026-01-09	Restaurant Depot, Austin TX	Weekly ingredient run	22	$15.95
2026-01-11	Zilker Park event office, Austin TX	Meet organizer, walk the site	14	$10.15
2026-01-14	First National Bank, Austin TX	Weekend cash deposit	9	$6.53

	Hate typing trips? The Shoeboxed app tracks every drive on GPS in the background, texts you the list at end of day, and you reply with which were business. The mileage log fills itself.				