

FAQ for Working from Home Expenses

Q1 What are the home office expenses that I can claim if I am required to work from home?

A1 You can only claim the additional running expenses incurred for work purposes. These expenses may include electricity, telecommunication and WiFi charges. You cannot claim expenses that are incurred for private purposes, for example, water and gas. You also cannot claim capital expenditure such as installation or connection fee paid for setting up fibre broadband; and purchase of furniture, computer and other peripherals.

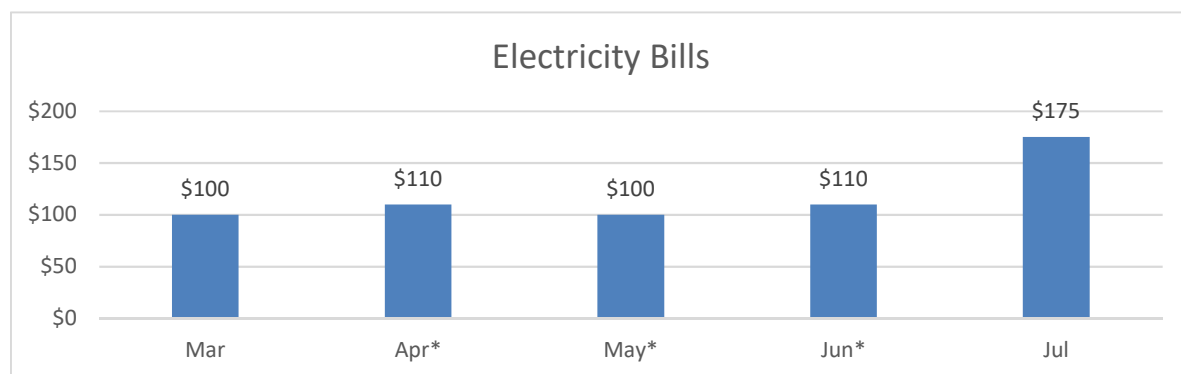
Q2 The government has provided U-Save rebate to offset household utilities bills for some months. Do I calculate the allowable electricity expense based on the gross electricity charges or net electricity charges after the U-Save rebate?

A2 You would need to take into account the U-Save rebate and compute the net electricity charges after the proportionate U-Save rebate for the relevant month before working out what is the amount of additional electricity charges incurred as a result of working from home. Please see example 3 in our website under

Home > Locals > Working Out Your Taxes > Deductions for Individuals (Reliefs, Expenses, Donations) > Deductions on Employment Expenses

Q3 During the period when I was working from home, the utility bills were issued to me based on estimated usage as there was no meter reading service for that period. How do I work out the additional electricity charges for the months where the amount of actual electricity usage is unavailable?

A3 You may work out the additional charges for the relevant months based on the difference between the 2 bills that were issued based on actual readings. Below is an illustration:



*Estimated

In order to work out the additional electricity charges incurred for April, May and June, you may use the electricity charges for July to less out the charges for March to arrive at the additional amount incurred for the period from April to Jun 2020. This will work out to be \$75 (\$175 - \$100).

The total additional electricity bill of \$75 is then divided by the 3 months you worked from home to arrive at the average additional charges per month which is: $\$75/3 = \25 . The claimable amount for each month from Apr 2020 to Jun 2020 is as follows:

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Month	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Electricity charges on utility bill	\$100	\$110	\$100	\$110
Add: Average additional charges	NA	\$25	\$25	\$25
Total Charges for the month	\$100	\$135	\$125	\$135
Less: Proportionate U-Save Rebate	NA	\$210	\$75 [^]	NA
Total charges after U-Save rebate	\$100	\$0	\$50	\$135
Additional electricity charges claimable (compared with charges for March)	NA	\$0 - \$100 = \$0	\$50 - \$100 = \$0	\$135 - \$100 = \$35
[^] There is an unutilised rebate brought forward from April i.e. \$210 - \$135 = \$75				

Q4 I set up the WiFi to work from home but I also use it for my own personal matters, can I claim the WiFi subscription fees?

A4 If the WiFi is set up to enable you to work from home, you may claim the subscription fees even though you may also use it for personal purposes. However, if the WiFi is no longer required for work from home purpose and you choose to continue to subscribe to the service, the subscription fees incurred thereafter would not be deductible.