

PCS Move Costs

A PCS move requires a lot of planning which includes creating a spending plan. Your type of move, family size, planned route, method of travel, and “extras” will all impact your total costs and the amount you will pay out of pocket. Completing the calculations below will help you plan and hopefully avoid surprises.



Driving Costs

Allow an average of \$25 per 100 miles (\$0.25 per mile) for fuel and maintenance.

$$\text{Step 1. } \frac{\text{Total Miles}}{\text{Total Miles}} \times \$0.25 = \$ \frac{\text{Mileage Cost}}{\text{Mileage Cost}}$$

$$\text{Step 2. } \$ \frac{\text{Mileage Cost}}{\text{Mileage Cost}} + \$ \frac{\text{Expected Tolls}}{\text{Expected Tolls}} = \$ \frac{\text{Total Driving Costs}}{\text{Total Driving Costs}}$$

Overnight Accommodations

Assuming 350 miles of travel per day, estimate daily hotel costs using \$120 per night (plus \$20 per night for pets).

$$\text{Step 1. } \frac{\text{Total Miles}}{\text{Total Miles}} \div 350 \text{ miles} = \frac{\text{\# of Travel Days}}{\text{\# of Travel Days}}$$

$$\text{Step 2. } \frac{\text{\# of Travel Days}}{\text{\# of Travel Days}} \times \$ \frac{\text{Room Cost per Night}}{\text{Room Cost per Night}} = \$ \frac{\text{Total Accommodation Costs}}{\text{Total Accommodation Costs}}$$



Food and Other Costs

Plan on food costs of \$50 per person per day.

$$\text{Step 1. } \frac{\text{\# of People}}{\text{\# of People}} \times \frac{\text{\# of Days}}{\text{\# of Days}} \times \$50 = \$ \frac{\text{Food Costs}}{\text{Food Costs}}$$

$$\text{Step 2. } \$ \frac{\text{Food Costs}}{\text{Food Costs}} + \$ \frac{\text{Extras (souvenirs, tickets, etc.)}}{\text{Extras (souvenirs, tickets, etc.)}} = \$ \frac{\text{Total Food/Other Costs}}{\text{Total Food/Other Costs}}$$

$$\$ \frac{\text{Total Driving Costs}}{\text{Total Driving Costs}} + \$ \frac{\text{Total Accommodation Costs}}{\text{Total Accommodation Costs}} + \$ \frac{\text{Total Food/Other Costs}}{\text{Total Food/Other Costs}} = \$ \frac{\text{TOTAL}}{\text{TOTAL}}$$

Estimated Reimbursements

- Reimbursements include mileage and per diem allowances and are based on whether you are traveling with or without dependents or with other travelers.
- Reimbursements may not cover all costs but save all receipts, just in case.
- The administrative officer at your new duty station will decide whether the regulations permit reimbursement of certain items and how much is paid.
- Marine Corps Community Service PCS resources are available at <https://usmc-mccs.org/cycle/pcs/>.