

**EINFACH.
FÜR ALLE.**
DER NEUE RUNDFUNKBEITRAG



The new licence fee for business enterprises and institutions

What is changing

SIMPLE AND IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

The new licence fee for radio and TV comes into force on 1 January 2013. It replaces the old licence fees, puts the funding of public service broadcasting on a modern footing – and ensures that rules are clear-cut. Companies and institutions such as public authorities or associations will pay the fee in accordance with the number of permanent sites, employees and vehicles that they have. How many radios or TVs they have will no longer matter. Public interest bodies such as schools or the police will benefit from a capped fee (see Public interest bodies).



The new licence fee is in tune with the times. It is increasingly difficult to distinguish between device categories. Today you can listen to the radio on a smartphone or watch TV on a computer. The new licence fee covers all services on all platforms. It also ensures the continued existence of a wide range of public service broadcasting.

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Licence fee facts and figures

Example 1: Licence fee paid by a small business enterprise

A craft enterprise has one permanent site with nine employees, including one apprentice. The apprentice is not included in the fee calculation, so the number of employees liable for social insurance contributions is eight. The company falls into fee category 1. In addition, the company will pay a fee for four motor vehicles used for business purposes. One vehicle is exempt, and the monthly fee for the others is €5.99 each. So the total licence fee payable is €23.96 per month.

	Licence fee 2012	Licence fee from 2013
Permanent site 	1 radio €5.76	8 employees (apprentice is not included) €5.99
Motor vehicles 	4 vehicles with radios €23.04	3 vehicles liable for fees (one vehicle per permanent site is exempt) €17.97
Total	€28.80	€23.96

To calculate your fee online and for further information

You can use the fee calculator at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de to calculate your licence fee very easily. The information portal also gives details of and background to the reform of public service broadcasting funding in Germany along with answers to frequently asked questions. If you require further information you can fill in the contact form at www.rundfunkbeitrag.de or call the hotline on 0185 9995 0100 (6.5 cents per minute from German landlines, mobile phone prices vary).

Licence fee facts and figures

Example 2: Licence fee for companies with more than one permanent site

A company has three permanent sites. The monthly fee for permanent site 1, which has 17 employees liable for social insurance contributions, is €17.98 per month. The other two sites both have three employees and each site pays one third of the full fee, i.e. €5.99 per month.

The company also runs five motor vehicles for business purposes. Since one vehicle at each permanent site is exempt, the company only pays for two vehicles. The company's total licence fee is €41.94 per month.

	Licence fee 2012	Licence fee from 2013
Permanent site 1 	1 radio €5.76	17 employees €17.98
Permanent site 2 	1 radio €5.76	3 employees €5.99
Permanent site 3 	1 radio €5.76	3 employees €5.99
Motor vehicles 	5 vehicles with radios €28.80	2 vehicles liable for fees (One vehicle per permanent site is exempt) €11.98
Total	€46.08	€41.94

Companies and institutions

THE PROVISIONS IN DETAIL



Small and micro-enterprises

For a permanent site with up to eight employees, business enterprises pay only one third of the full fee, that is €5.99 per month. Business enterprises with up to 19 employees pay €17.98 per month. Overall, 90% of permanent sites fall into these two fee categories.



Seasonal businesses

Anyone who shuts down his or her enterprise completely for longer than three months on seasonal grounds can apply for exemption. This arrangement supports seasonal tourism.



Self-employed persons working from home

Self-employed persons working from home who already pay a domestic licence fee need not pay a separate permanent establishment fee. However, they must pay a fee for motor vehicles used for business purposes, at €5.99 per month and vehicle.

Public interest bodies

A FAIR ARRANGEMENT

Public interest bodies profit from reliefs. They pay a maximum licence fee of €17.98 per month per permanent site. For permanent sites with up to a maximum of eight employees they pay only one third of the full fee, i.e. €5.99 per month. This covers all motor vehicles licensed in the public interest body's name.

This special dispensation applies to:

- Charitable bodies for disabled people, in particular homes, training establishments or workshops,
- Charitable bodies engaged in youth work in accordance with the German Child and Youth Services Act (Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz) (Eighth book of the German Social Security Code),
- Charitable bodies for services to the elderly and to addiction sufferers,
- Charitable bodies for persons of no fixed abode and homes for vagrants,
- Registered friendly societies and charitable trusts,
- State schools providing general education or vocational education, state-approved or state-recognised alternative schools or supplementary schools provided they operate on a charitable basis,
- Higher education facilities according to the German Framework Act for Higher Education (Hochschulrahmengesetz),
- The fire and rescue service, police, armed forces, civil defence and emergency services.

If guest rooms are let, the licence fee must be paid for them, too, at the rate of €5.99 per room and month. Exemption from payment is granted for the first room at each location.

For further information on this, please visit: www.rundfunkbeitrag.de

Your licence fee

1. Employees per permanent site

The number of employees per permanent site is the deciding factor. All full-time and part-time staff liable for social insurance, as well as public service workers, must be counted. Proprietors, trainees and marginally employed part-time staff are not included.

Category	Employees per permanent site*	Number of fees	Monthly fee payable in euros
1	0 to 8	1/3	5.99
2	9 to 19	1	17.98
3	20 to 49	2	35.96
4	50 to 249	5	89.90
5	250 to 499	10	179.80
6	500 to 999	20	359.60
7	1,000 to 4,999	40	719.20
8	5,000 to 9,999	80	1,438.40
9	10,000 to 19,999	120	2,157.60
10	From 20,000	180	3,236.40

* A permanent site is any fixed space unit that is not used exclusively for private purposes, e.g. a production facility, office, shop or hospital.

2. Number of vehicles

One motor vehicle used for business purposes per permanent site that is liable for fees is exempt. One third of the fee, that is €5.99 per month, is payable for each further vehicle.

3. Number of hotel and guest rooms or holiday apartments

Anyone who lets hotel or guest rooms or holiday apartments must pay a licence fee of €5.99 per month for each room or apartment. The first room or first apartment at each permanent site is exempt.

Public service broadcasting

Independence – For democracy and a variety of views

Public service broadcasting in Germany is an independent and reliable medium for everyone. Established as an alternative to what had been the Nazi propaganda media, it provides independent news coverage and supports democracy and modern society. It guarantees freedom of access to information and provides space for social debate.

Quality – Up-to-the-minute, comprehensive, reliable

ARD and ZDF transmit programmes of special value: the comprehensive, up-to-the-minute news coverage provided by "Tagesschau" and "heute" and the background, analysis and information supplied in magazine programmes and political talk shows. They also stand for exciting and relaxing entertainment in TV plays, serials, sports programmes and variety shows. Moreover, quality and viewing figures are not mutually exclusive, as many media awards have shown.

Diversity – Topics to suit all tastes

ARD and ZDF provide more than the two main TV channels. On a variety of channels and platforms they provide a wide range of programmes with topics to suit all tastes and all manner of interests. They do so on the ARD's Third Programmes, on 3Sat, ARTE and PHOENIX, on Ki.KA and the additional digital channels and, of course, on radio and the Internet.

For more about public service broadcasting in Germany, visit www.ardzdf.de

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