

**Office of Personnel Management**

**§ 591.208**

the time the rate is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER for comment.

[59 FR 43705, Aug. 25, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 46750, Sept. 8, 1995; 63 FR 56431, Oct. 21, 1998; 65 FR 44102, July 17, 2000]

**§ 591.206 Establishment of allowance rates.**

(a) OPM uses the comparative cost indexes for each allowance area to determine the allowance rates for that area. The range of values within which the index value falls determines the appropriate allowance rate, expressed as a percentage of the rate of basic pay for that category of eligible employee.

(b) The following table shows the comparative index range and corresponding allowance rate to be established for an allowance category under § 591.207 of this part:

COMPARATIVE INDEX AND ALLOWANCE RATE TABLE

Index range	Allowance rate (percent)
Less than 105.0 .....	0
105.0 to 106.2 .....	5
106.3 to 108.7 .....	7.5
108.8 to 111.2 .....	10
111.3 to 113.7 .....	12.5
113.8 to 116.2 .....	15
116.3 to 118.7 .....	17.5
118.8 to 121.2 .....	20
121.3 to 123.7 .....	22.5
123.8 and over .....	25

(c) Allowance area survey summaries, category indexes, and allowance rates are published as notices in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

**§ 591.207 Allowance categories, eligibility, and adjustments.**

(a) Section 205(b) of Executive Order 10,000, as amended, requires adjustments to allowance payments where warranted because of Federal quarters or special purchasing privileges. These adjustments occur only when the quarters or purchasing privileges are made available as a result of Federal civilian employment and result in substantially lower costs when compared to local area costs.

(1) *Special purchasing privileges.* Adjustments for access to commissaries and exchanges are incorporated into the comparative index calculations and the resulting allowance rates.

(2) *Federal quarters.* If the rent charged an employee by an agency for quarters is less than the net reasonable value rent, after appropriate adjustments, established as prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget, the difference between the rent charged and the reasonable value rent will be deducted from the allowance paid by the employing agency up to, but not exceeding, the amount of the allowance.

(b) The allowance categories that are established in each area are—

(1) “Local Retail,” which applies to those Federal employees who purchase goods and services from private retail establishments.

(2) “Commissary/Exchange,” which applies to those Federal employees who shop at private retail establishments, but who, as a result of their Federal civilian employment, also have unlimited access to commissary and exchange facilities. This category is established only in those allowance areas that have these facilities.

(c) Eligibility for access to commissary and exchange facilities is determined by the appropriate military department. Agencies shall obtain the information needed from employees to determine the applicable allowance category.

**§ 591.208 Post differential.**

(a) The post differential is based on:

- (1) Extraordinarily difficult living conditions;
- (2) Excessive physical hardship; or
- (3) Notably unhealthful conditions.

(b) The places at which differentials are paid are—

- (1) American Samoa (including the island of Tutuila, the Manua Islands, and all other islands of the Samoa group east of longitude 171 degrees west of Greenwich, together with Swains Island);
- (2) Guam;
- (3) The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- (4) Johnston Island and Sand Island; and
- (5) Midway Islands and Wake Island.