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## STATE TAX COMMISSION OF MISSOURI

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TO: All Missouri Assessors  
RE: Use of NADA guide to value vehicles  
DATE: January 3, 2022

Dear Assessors:

Recently, we have received questions about the potential impact on assessments due to increases in the values of used motor vehicles as shown in the National Automobile Dealers' Association (NADA) Official Used Car Guide. Please remember that the assessment of motor vehicles is mandated by Section 137.115.9, which provides:

The assessor of each county and each city not within a county shall use the trade-in value published in the October issue of the National Automobile Dealers' Association Official Used Car Guide, or its successor publication, as the recommended guide of information for determining the true value of motor vehicles described in such publication. The assessor shall not use a value that is greater than the average trade-in value in determining the true value of the motor vehicle without performing a physical inspection of the motor vehicle. For vehicles two years old or newer from a vehicle's model year, the assessor may use a value other than average without performing a physical inspection of the motor vehicle. In the absence of a listing for a particular motor vehicle in such publication, the assessor shall use such information or publications which in the assessor's judgment will fairly estimate the true value in money of the motor vehicle.

At the 2021 Missouri State Assessors' Association conference in October 2021, we addressed this topic during our presentation and panel discussion on personal property law and assessment practices. The PDF version of the presentation is located on our website at <https://stc.mo.gov/resources/>. The valuation and assessment of property generally is within an Assessor's discretion; however, the current version of Section 137.115.9 requires the use of only the methodologies described in the statute for valuing motor vehicles. Historically, the STC has advised that the value should be adjusted if the vehicle has characteristics existing on January 1 that would make the book value inaccurate. Examples of such characteristics could be high mileage or salvage title.

Please do not hesitate to contact your Local Assistance Representative if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Amy S. Westermann in black ink.

Amy S. Westermann  
Chief Counsel

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeff Schmidt in black ink.

Jeff Schmidt  
Local Assistance Manager