Iowa Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/iowa/ · Rates checked October 17, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Iowa? The yearly registration fee is 1% of the car's original list price plus 40 cents per 100 lbs, so about $314 for a $30,000, 3,500-lb car, and it drops as the car ages (a flat $50 from 12 model years). Electric cars add $130 a year and plug-in hybrids $65. When you buy, add the $30 title fee, a $5 title surcharge and Iowa's fee for new registration: $10 plus 5% of the price less any trade-in. Iowa charges that fee instead of sales tax.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, passenger car	1% of list price + 40c per 100 lbs a year
Older cars	List-price part 75% after 7 model years, 50% after 9 (min $50); $50 from 12
Electric / plug-in hybrid	+$130 / +$65 a year
Title fee	$30 + $5 surcharge
Fee for new registration (instead of sales tax)	$10 + 5% of price
Local tax on vehicles	None

Starting example

Example for a $30,000 car. Change the inputs on the calculator page for your own figures.

Registration (1 yr) 1% of list price + 40c per 100 lbs	$314.00
Title fee	$30.00
Title surcharge	$5.00
Fee for new registration $10 + 5% of price	$1,510.00
Estimated total	**$1,859.00**

What this estimate does and does not include

• Registration is 1% of the value the Iowa DOT fixes for the model, which is its retail list price, plus 40 cents for each 100 lbs or part of 100 lbs (Iowa Code 321.109; IAC 761—400.22). After 7 model years the list-price part is cut to 75%, after 9 model years to 50%, with a minimum of $50; at 12 model years or older the fee is $50 (321.113). Owners who have renewed the same car since before 2009 never pay more than the year before.

• When you buy, the county treasurer charges the yearly fee only for the months left in your registration year, and you get a credit for unexpired months on a car you sold or traded within the last six months (credits under $10 aren't given). Both depend on dates, so the calculator shows a full year.

• The fee for new registration is $10 plus 5% of the purchase price (Iowa Code 321.105A). It replaces sales tax on vehicles and applies to private sales too. A trade-in titled in the same name and a manufacturer's cash rebate are not charged. There is no local add-on.

• No fee for new registration on a gift with no money paid, on inheritance, or for new residents whose car was bought for use in the state they moved from. If you paid sales tax to another state on a car bought for use in Iowa, you pay only the

difference.

• Register within 30 days of buying the car or moving to Iowa. Late filing adds 10% to the fee for new registration; late renewals add 5% of the yearly fee each month (minimum $5).

• Standard plates have no separate fee in the Iowa Code; specialty and personalized plates cost extra. A plate mailing fee and any lien notation fee are not included. Trucks, motorcycles and motor homes use different fee schedules and aren't covered.

Official sources

Iowa Code 321.109 – annual registration fee: 1% of the value fixed by the DOT plus 40 cents per 100 lbs
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/321.109.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Code 321.113 – automatic reduction: value part 75% after 7 model years, 50% after 9 (minimum $50); $50 at 12 model years or older
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/321.113.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Code 321.116 – electric $130 and plug-in hybrid $65 a year on top of registration
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/321.116.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Code 321.46 – register within 30 days of purchase; $30 title fee; prorated registration and credit for the car you sold
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/321.46.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Code 321.52A – $5 certificate of title surcharge
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/321.52A.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Code 321.105A – fee for new registration: $10 plus 5% of the purchase price; trade-in and manufacturer rebate excluded; exemptions (gifts, new residents, inheritance); 10% late penalty
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/321.105A.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Code 321.134 – late renewal penalty: 5% of the annual fee a month (minimum $5)
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/321.134.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Administrative Code 761—400.22 – the DOT uses the retail list price and weight of the model
https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/chapter/761.400.pdf
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa DOT – Register a Vehicle (30 days after moving to Iowa; electric vehicle fees $130 / $65)
https://iowadot.gov/registration-plates/vehicle-registration-titles/register-vehicle
Checked October 17, 2026

Iowa Department of Revenue – Tax/Fee Descriptions and Rates (fee for new registration: ten dollars plus 5%, private sales included)
https://revenue.iowa.gov/taxes/tax-guidance/general/iowa-taxfee-descriptions-and-rates
Checked October 17, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Iowa Department of Transportation (through your county treasurer). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/iowa/