North Carolina Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/north-carolina/ · Rates checked October 20, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in North Carolina? Registration is $46.25 a year for a car or a light truck, $29.50 for a motorcycle, and more for heavier trucks by weight. A new North Carolina title costs $66.75 plus the 3% Highway Use Tax on the price (there is no sales tax on vehicles). Plug-in electric cars add $214.50 a year and plug-in hybrids $107.25. Wake, Durham and Orange Counties add $17. Your county and city property tax is billed with the registration every year.

Fees at a glance (2026)

Registration, passenger car	$46.25/yr
Truck (by registered gross weight)	$46.25 (4,000 lbs) – $2,205 (80,000 lbs) a year
Motorcycle or moped	$29.50/yr
Plug-in electric / plug-in hybrid fee	$214.50 / $107.25 a year
Title fee	$66.75
Highway Use Tax	3% of price ($250 max for new residents); no sales tax
Wake, Durham, Orange add-on	$17/yr (Randolph $1)
Vehicle property tax	County + city rate, billed with renewal

Starting example

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

Registration (1 yr) Private passenger vehicle	$46.25
Title fee	$66.75
Highway Use Tax 3% of price	$900.00
Vehicle property tax (1 yr) County + city rate; enter it from your notice. Not in this total	not available
Estimated total	**$1,013.00**

The total leaves out items marked "not available".

What this estimate does and does not include

• Fees are from the NCDMV fee schedule (MVR-94) effective July 1, 2024, when DMV fees rose 19.18% under the four-year inflation adjustment. Older pages still show $38.75 registration and a $56 title fee: those are out of date. The next adjustment is due in 2028.

• Highway Use Tax: 3% of the price (minus a trade-in on a dealer sale), paid once when the vehicle is titled in North Carolina. New residents whose vehicle was titled in their name in another state for at least 90 days pay at most $250. Gifts between spouses, parents and children or stepparents and stepchildren are exempt (form MVR-613). Trucks registered at 30,000 lbs or more are capped at $2,000 as commercial vehicles. Leased vehicles are taxed on lease payments instead and are not covered.

• Property tax (Tag & Tax Together): the NCDMV collects your county and city vehicle property tax with each registration renewal. The county sets the value and the rate, so we don't include it in the total. Enter the value and combined rate from your notice to see an estimate. New owners can defer it for about 60 days with a limited registration.

• Some cities and towns add a municipal vehicle tax (up to $30 a year). There is no official statewide list, so it is not included: check your renewal notice.

• Inspection: a safety inspection ($13.60) is needed every year before renewal; in 19 counties it is a safety + emissions inspection (up to $30; stations may charge less). A vehicle registered in North Carolina for the first time doesn't need one until its first renewal. We show the inspection on renewals only.

• Trucks: registration follows the registered gross weight, from $46.25 at 4,000 lbs to $2,205 at 80,000 lbs. Weights between the steps we list are not in our table, so they show as not available. Electric motorcycles: the fee schedule doesn't say whether the electric vehicle fee applies, so it shows as not available.

• Not included: plate transfer ($25.50), personalized plates, card payment fees, notary fees and dealer documentation fees. From October 1, 2026 the NCDMV no longer mails registration cards and stickers.

Official sources

NCDMV Fee Schedule MVR-94 (effective July 1, 2024): private passenger vehicle $46.25 a year, motorcycle $29.50, private trucks by gross weight ($46.25 at 4,000 lbs to $2,205 at 80,000 lbs), electric vehicle $214.50, plug-in hybrid $107.25, certificate of title $66.75, lien recording $25.50, plate transfer $25.50, late title transfer $20; Regional Transit Authority $10 + county registration tax $7 in Wake, Durham and Orange, PART $1 in Randolph (read by the site owner, figures cross-checked)
https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/downloads/Documents/MVR-94.pdf
Checked October 20, 2026

NCDOT news release – NCDMV fees to increase July 1, per state law (quadrennial CPI adjustment of 19.18%; private passenger registration $38.75 to $46.25)
https://www.ncdot.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/2024/2024-04-02-ncdmv-fee-increase-state-law.aspx
Checked October 20, 2026

N.C. General Statutes 20-87 (passenger vehicle registration fees; electric and plug-in hybrid additional fees)
https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_20/GS_20-87.pdf
Checked October 20, 2026

N.C. General Statutes 20-88 (property-hauling vehicles: registration fees by gross weight)
https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_20/GS_20-88.pdf
Checked October 20, 2026

N.C. General Statutes 105-187.3 (Highway Use Tax: 3% of the sum of the vehicle's retail value, less a dealer trade-in; $2,000 maximum for Class A and B commercial vehicles and recreational vehicles; $250 maximum for a new resident's vehicle titled in another state)
https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_105/GS_105-187.3.pdf
Checked October 20, 2026

N.C. General Statutes 105-187.6 (Highway Use Tax exemptions: gifts between spouses, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren; inheritance; divorce; credit for tax paid to another state)
https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_105/GS_105-187.6.pdf
Checked October 20, 2026

N.C. General Statutes 20-183.7 (inspection fees: safety $13.60, safety + emissions up to $30.00, each including the electronic authorization fee)
https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_20/GS_20-183.7.pdf
Checked October 20, 2026

N.C. General Statutes 20-88.03 (late registration renewal fee: $15 under one month, $20 one to two months, $25 two months or more)

https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_20/GS_20-88.03.pdf
Checked October 20, 2026

NCDMV – Vehicle Emissions & Safety Inspections (emissions testing in 19 counties; exemptions: less than 3 years old or under 70,000 miles, 20 years or older, diesel, farm vehicles; first North Carolina registration without an inspection)
https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/title-registration/emissions-safety/Pages/default.aspx
Checked October 20, 2026

NCDMV – Vehicle Property Taxes (Tag & Tax Together: the county property tax is billed and paid with the registration renewal; the county sets the value and rate)
https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/title-registration/Pages/vehicle-property-tax.aspx
Checked October 20, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV), part of NCDOT. The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/north-carolina/