# Rhode Island Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/rhode-island/ · Rates checked October 21, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Rhode Island? Passenger registrations run two years: a car under 4,000 lbs pays $103.50 ($60 weight fee, $40 DOT surcharge and $3.50 technology surcharge). Buying a car adds the $53.50 title and 7% sales tax: $2,257 on a $30,000 car. Since January 2026 electric cars pay $200 a year more ($400 per registration), plug-in hybrids $100 and hybrids $50. The town car tax has been eliminated.

## Fees at a glance (2026)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Passenger registration (2 years)** | $60 weight fee (under 4,000 lbs) + $40 DOT surcharge + $3.50 = $103.50 |
| **Motorcycle (2 years)** | $47.50 |
| **Commercial truck (1 year)** | $34 weight fee (under 4,000 lbs) + $20 DOT + $3.50 |
| **Electric / plug-in / hybrid fee** | $200 / $100 / $50 a year (from 2026) |
| **Title fee** | $53.50 |
| **Sales tax** | 7%; dealer trade-in deducted for passenger vehicles |
| **Car excise tax** | Eliminated (none since fiscal year 2024) |
| **Inspection** | $55 every 2 years, paid to the station |

## Starting example

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Registration (2 yrs)<br>Weight fee, $30 a year | $60.00 |
| DOT surcharge<br>$20 a year | $40.00 |
| Technology surcharge | $3.50 |
| Safety and emissions inspection<br>Every 2 years, paid to the station | $55.00 |
| Title fee | $53.50 |
| Sales tax<br>7% of price | $2,100.00 |
| **Estimated total** | **$2,257.00** |

## What this estimate does and does not include

• All passenger and motorcycle totals here cover a two-year registration; commercial trucks register for one year. A new registration is prorated by date, so a first registration for less than the full term costs less.

• Registration is by gross weight from the DMV table ($30 a year to 4,000 lbs for passenger vehicles, $34 commercial, then a shared table up to 100,000 lbs), plus the DOT surcharge ($20 a year since January 1, 2026) and the $3.50 technology surcharge.

• Electric and hybrid fees started January 1, 2026: $200 battery electric, $100 plug-in hybrid, $50 hybrid (including mild

hybrids) for each registration year.

• Sales tax is 7%, paid at the DMV. Dealer sales: price minus trade-in, but the trade-in allowance applies only to passenger vehicles, motorcycles and motor homes. Private sales: vehicles 7 years old or less are taxed on the greater of NADA clean retail value and the price (enter the NADA value; without it the tax shows as not available); 8-29 years old on the price.

• The municipal motor vehicle excise tax was phased out: no tax has been levied since fiscal year 2024.

• The safety and emissions inspection ($55, sticker good for 2 years) is paid to the station and shown separately. No late renewal or late title fee is on the DMV schedule (not available); driving with an expired registration is an $85 fine. Not included: plate changes ($23.50 / $43.50), temporary registration ($13.50).

## Official sources

RI DMV - Registration and title fees (title $53.50; passenger new and 2-year renewal = weight fee + $3.50 + $20 DOT surcharge per year + EV fee; commercial 1 year; motorcycle renewal $47.50; all fees include the $3.50 technology surcharge)
https://dmv.ri.gov/registrations-plates-titles/registration/registration-title-fees
Checked October 21, 2026

RI DMV - Registration weight fee table (passenger 0-4,000 lbs $30 a year, commercial $34; shared rows above 4,000 lbs; DOT surcharge $20 a year)
https://dmv.ri.gov/media/561/download
Checked October 21, 2026

RI DMV - Electric and hybrid registration fees from January 1, 2026 (BEV $200, plug-in hybrid $100, hybrid incl. mild hybrid $50 a year)
https://dmv.ri.gov/node/1741
Checked October 21, 2026

RI DMV - Sales tax (7%; dealer: price minus trade-in for passenger vehicles, motorcycles and motor homes only; private: vehicles 7 years old or less on the greater of NADA clean retail or sale price, 8-29 years on the sale price)
https://dmv.ri.gov/registrations-plates-titles/sales-tax
Checked October 21, 2026

RI General Laws 44-34.1-2 (motor vehicle excise tax: no tax levied from fiscal year 2024)
http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE44/44-34.1/44-34.1-2.htm
Checked October 21, 2026

RI DMV - Fine schedule (driving with an expired registration $85, RIGL 31-3-32)
https://dmv.ri.gov/node/1371
Checked October 21, 2026

## Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/rhode-island/