

# Ranking US Jurisdictions on Vehicle Registration Fees

Note: This comparison follows up a study completed in February 2003 of registration fees in US jurisdictions. While that study in 2003 did not include excise taxes or local assessments, this time they have been included wherever possible.

Rank by Cost in 2008	State	Cost in 2003 (One Year Old Passenger Vehicle Base Price \$24,000 & 3,400 lbs.)	Cost in 2008 (One Year Old Passenger Vehicle Base Price \$24,000 & 3,400 lbs.)	Additional Considerations
1	Wyoming	---	\$375	WY charges a \$15 base fee plus the local county charges. This county charge is based upon 3% of the Manufacturer's base list price. The first year the pct is 60%. Then it decreases 10% per year thereafter until it locks in at 15%. For this example, the second year county tax would be \$360.
2	Arizona	---	\$344.50	AZ charges an \$8 service fee plus \$1.50 for Air Quality. There is also an annual Vehicle License Tax. It is 60% of the Manufacturer's base list price the first year and it then decreases by .1625% per year thereafter. For this example the second year VLT would be \$335.
3	Nebraska	---	\$340.50 (est.)	Nebraska has \$40.50 in base taxes plus local motor vehicle taxes assessed by the county. In most counties these taxes (which fund education) are several hundred dollars; \$300 to \$450 or more is common. \$300 is used in this example. In some cities there is also a separate wheel tax of \$10 to \$49 for local transportation.
4	Indiana	--	\$270.75	\$20.75 plus the annual excise tax. In 2008, this would be \$250 for a one-year old car with an initial purchase price of \$24,000.
5	Iowa	\$140	\$254	40¢ per hundred pounds plus one percent of the current value as determined by the state's formula. Like Michigan, there are no toll roads in Iowa.
6	California	\$41	\$229	Fee includes \$28 in extra assessments plus .065% of the assessed value. Fee shown is for a one-year old vehicle valued at \$24,000 housed in Sacramento County. Assessed value tax was lowered from .25%
7	Montana	\$15	\$217	Fee includes \$5 for the State Patrol. Fee is for the first four years. In fifth year, the registration fee drops to \$92. In 11 <sup>th</sup> year the fee drops to \$33.
8	Hawaii	\$91	\$186.75	Includes a \$105 county tax; in this case, Honolulu County.
9	Mississippi	--	\$158	\$27.75 in base fees plus local property taxes for county, municipal and school district. Generally this tax is 27% of the vehicle's value times the county millage rate minus a state credit. Jackson County was used here.
10	Utah	--	\$153.50	Fee for first two years is \$150, years three thru five is \$110, years six thru eight is \$80, years nine thru twelve is \$50, years 12 yrs plus is \$10. Service fee is \$3.50.
11	Alaska	\$34	\$130	Not included is the first time plate fee of \$50. Municipalities assess another fee that ranges from \$30 to \$152. \$30 is included here.
12	Georgia	--	\$120	GA has a 464 page book establishing vehicle values by model and year for tax assessments that are determined at the county level. A six-digit tracking number is assigned to track each vehicle. After the initial value is established, depreciation tables determine the annual tax. For a new vehicle the Ad Valorem rate may be up to .385%, it decreases a few pct. points for 16 years until the Ad Valorem rate is 4%. The minimum assessment is \$100 which is shown here.
13	Michigan	\$116	\$119	For the second year, .005 ad valorem fee minus 10% + \$8.
14	Minnesota	--	\$103.50	\$99 maximum fee for a one-year old vehicle plus a \$4.50 renewal fee.
15	Oklahoma	--	\$93	Fee shown is for the 1 <sup>st</sup> thru 4 <sup>th</sup> years, there is a \$10 decrease in the 5 <sup>th</sup> thru 8 <sup>th</sup> years. Fee shown includes a \$2 processing fee.
16	Rhode Island	\$30	\$90.75	Mandatory fee is \$180 for two years plus a \$1.50 processing fee.

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17	North Dakota	\$79	\$90	Fee is based upon age and weight of the vehicle. The fee shown is for the first 6 years.
18	Illinois	\$78	\$78	
19	Wisconsin	\$45	\$75	Annual fee increased \$20 on January 1, 2008
20	District of Columbia	\$65	\$72	
21	Maryland	\$25	\$69	Fees increased in 2004. Two-year registration is \$128. Included is an EMS assessment of \$13.50 per year.
22	Texas	\$41	\$68.80	300 jurisdictions charge a local assessment ranging from \$5 to \$11.50 with most being \$10. The fee shown here includes a \$10 local assessment.
23	Vermont	\$44	\$60	
24	New Jersey	\$74	\$59	Fee shown is for first three years 3,500 pounds or less, fee is \$84 for vehicles weighing more than 3,500 pounds.
25	New Mexico	\$45	\$57.50	Includes an annual \$1.50 tire recycling fee
26	Missouri	\$51	\$54.75	Based upon Horsepower, more than 72 HP in MO is \$51.25. Processing fee is \$3.50 per year. MO offers an optional biennial registration.
27	Ohio	\$24	\$54.50	In Ohio, local authorities can impose a tax of up to \$20. The fee shown for OH includes a \$20 local assessment.
28	Oregon	\$32	\$54	Mandatory two-year plate for \$108
29	Washington	\$36	\$50.25	Includes a \$6.50 trauma fee on all powered vehicles. Not included is the annual 3% Transit Excise Tax collected in the three counties surrounding Seattle.
30	Idaho	\$48	\$48	Fee is for all passenger vehicles under 8,000 lbs
31	South Dakota	\$29	\$47	Fee shown includes a \$4 processing (mail) fee and a \$1 solid waste fee. Not included in the fee is the wheel tax. 40 of the 66 SD counties collect an annual assessment of \$2 to \$4 per wheel.
32	Nevada	\$33	\$46	Included is \$13 in processing fees.
33	Virginia	\$27	\$45.50	If the registration fee is paid at a branch office there is an additional \$5 fee; it is not included here
34	Connecticut	\$35	\$42.50	Fee increase includes a new \$5 for Greenhouse Gas Reduction. Two year fee is mandatory. \$80 + \$5. Senior citizens can pay \$43 for one year.
35	Massachusetts	\$15	\$41	Biennial renewal available for \$81
36	Delaware	\$20	\$40	
37	Pennsylvania	\$36	\$36	
38	Florida	\$46	\$35.60	Florida also imposes a \$100 "new-wheels" fee when a vehicle (new or used) titled there for the first time.
39 T	Kansas	\$28	\$35	
39 T	Maine	\$25	\$35	Increased on 9/1/2008
41	New York	\$28	\$32	Two-year registration base is \$44. An additional county tax of \$5 to \$15 per year \$10 to \$30 for two years) is added. \$10 is added here.
42	New Hampshire	--	\$31.20	Base fees plus a county assessment based upon the ad valorem.
43	West Virginia	\$30	\$30	
44 T	North Carolina	\$20	\$28	There is also an annual \$5 Regional Transportation fee in the three counties surrounding Raleigh and Durham.

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44 T	Louisiana	\$24	\$28	It appears some local parishes assess an added vehicle tax, but unable to determine the rate or the parishes involved.
46	Arkansas	\$26	\$27.50	
47	Tennessee	\$23	\$25	Not included: Local counties can assess a privilege tax. Some counties do not assess this privilege tax while other counties charge from \$20 to \$30 annually. A few counties assess \$50 up to \$80.
48	South Carolina	\$12	\$24	
49	Alabama	\$23	\$23	There is a \$21 base fee plus KY county clerks collect local property taxes based upon the current value of the vehicle.
50	Kentucky	\$16	\$21 plus property tax	
---	Colorado		See specifics	Colorado has a Specific Ownership Tax assessed at the county level. It is based upon the vehicle type, the weight, year of manufacture, and original taxable value. The basis of this tax is 85% of the Manufacturer's Suggested Base Price before depreciation for years of service. In some counties, the plate fee for a one-year old vehicle with a \$24,000 MSBP could be \$350 or more.