

REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
TAX AND CUSTOMS BOARD

Motor vehicle tax handbook

Table of contents

Payers **3**
Tax notice **3**
Issuing a tax notice **4**
Revocation of a tax notice **6**
Challenging a tax notice **8**
Questions and answers **9**
Payment **10**
Payment dates in 2026 ..... **11**
In case of payment difficulties **12**
Questions and answers **13**
Tax rates and calculation of tax **16**
Calculation of the age of a vehicle **17**
Examples of tax formation by vehicle category and type **19**
Taxation period and incurrence of tax liability **20**
As at 1 January, vehicle is registered in the motor register **20**
Vehicle is registered in the motor register during the year **21**
Motor vehicle with temporarily deleted or suspended registration **22**
Vehicle deleted from the motor register **23**
Vehicle declared wanted **24**
Transfer of a vehicle **25**
Inheriting a vehicle **26**
Examples of shortening the period of taxation **26**
Questions and answers **27**
Reduction of tax liability of families with children **29**
Examples of tax reduction for families with children **32**
Questions and answers **33**
Tax exemptions **37**
Vehicle data from the Motor Register of the Transport Administration **38**
Questions and answers **39**
Definitions **41**

Payers

Motor vehicle tax is to be paid by:

1. **owners of motor vehicles registered in the motor register**:

- ✓ natural persons
- ✓ legal persons
- ✓ public legal persons
- ✓ state, rural municipality or city authorities

2. **authorised users**, if the owner of the vehicle is a **lessor**, a non-resident natural person or a legal person.

- ※ According to the **Credit Institutions Act**, leasing transactions are financial services. The concepts of leasing contract and lessor are explained in the **Law of Obligations Act**.

- ※ Where the owner of a motor vehicle or its trailer is a natural person who does not have an Estonian residence permit or a legal person who is not registered in Estonia in accordance with legislation, a natural person who has Estonian citizenship or a residence permit or right in Estonia and permanent residence in Estonia or a legal person registered in Estonia who is authorised by the owner of the motor vehicle or trailer is entered into the motor register as the authorised user (**subsection 4 of § 76 of the Road Traffic Act**).

Last updated on 30.10.2025

Tax notice

A motor vehicle tax notice is an administrative act on the basis of which a tax liability arises for a taxpayer. You can view your tax notice in the **e-services environment e-MTA** by 15 February at the

latest.

View tax notice

NB! The motor vehicle tax notice must be downloaded from the e-services environment before using the e-services.

The Taxation Act allows the Tax and Customs Board to deliver documents electronically. The Motor Vehicle Tax Act also imposes an additional obligation on the Tax and Customs Board to ensure that the motor vehicle tax notice has been received and reviewed by the addressee.

Therefore, when logging into e-MTA, you must first open and download the motor vehicle tax notice before using other e-services. After that, you can use the e-services as usual.

This solution helps ensure that important information – such as the amount of the tax liability, due dates, and other obligations – is not overlooked.

Last updated on 23.01.2026

Issuing a tax notice

Pursuant to **§ 5 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**, the Tax and Customs Board issues a tax notice to a person who, according to the data in the motor register of the Transport Administration, is the owner or authorised user (if the owner of the vehicle is a lessor) of a motor vehicle as of 1 January.

- A **tax notice is not issued and there is no tax liability** where the amount of tax is less than 10 euros (subsection 1 of § 100 of the Taxation Act).
- We will issue the tax notice and the notification regarding the non-assessment of tax in the e-services environment e-MTA by **15 February** at the latest.

- If you would like to receive your tax notice
  - **by email**, please send a request to **eraklient@emta.ee**.
  - **by post**, please send a request to **emta@emta.ee**.

SPECIAL CASES

A motor vehicle tax notice is issued **within 15 working days** after an entry is made in the motor register in the following cases:

- a vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register for the first time, as of the day following the entry in the motor register;
- if, during the taxable period, the temporary deletion of a motor vehicle is terminated, the term for the temporary deletion expires or the entry in the register is restored;
- if a vehicle is deleted from the motor register within the meaning of **subsection 5 of § 77 of the Road Traffic Act**;
- during the taxable period, an entry is made in the population register concerning the right of custody of a child (**clause 3 of subsection 1 of § 15^2 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**).

Notification of the issuance of a tax notice

We will send a notification of the issuance of a tax notice to your national mailbox in the **State Portal eesti.ee**. To read the notification, click the button "**Log into self-service**" on the home page of the State Portal, log in and select "**Mailbox**" from the menu.

- If you have redirected your national mailbox to your personal e-mail address (e.g. @gmail.com), you will receive a notification there as well. The e-mail address of the Tax and Customs Board in the national mailbox is **70000349@eesti.ee.**
- **For security reasons, links, information subject to tax secrecy, and other high-risk personal data have been removed from notifications sent via the national mailbox.**
  This has been done to reduce the risk of clients falling victim to fraud and suffering potential harm.

※ **In order for national mailbox notifications to reach your personal e-mail address, we strongly recommend that you check whether and to which personal e-mail address your national mailbox messages are directed.** To check and change the address, select “Contact details” from the national mailbox menu.

You can always check whether a tax notice has been issued to you **in the e-services environment e-MTA**.

Last updated on 18.03.2026

Revocation of a tax notice

If new circumstances arising from the Motor Vehicle Tax Act become evident during the tax period (year), the Tax and Customs Board will **revoke the earlier tax notice and recalculate the tax amount**.

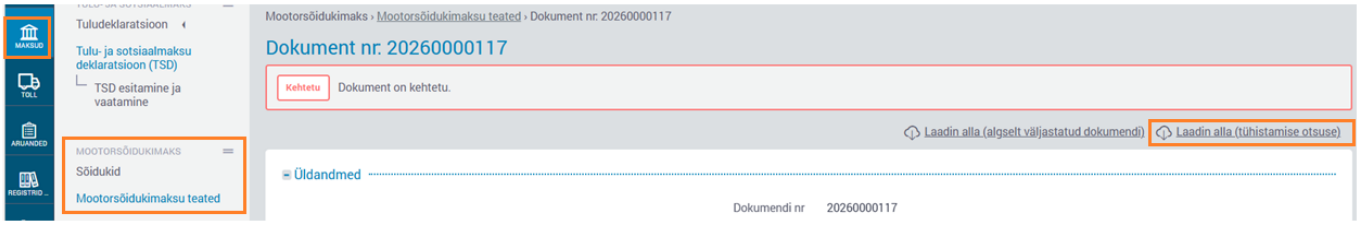
A new circumstance could be, for example:

Birth of a child / acquisition of full legal custody of a child Deletion of a vehicle from the motor register Declaration of a vehicle as wanted by the Police and Border Guard Board

We will send a notification to your **national mailbox eesti.ee** regarding the revocation of an earlier tax notice and the issue of a new one. You can view the revocation decision and the new tax notice issued in the **e-services environment e-MTA**.

To **download** the tax notice revocation decision to your computer or smart device:

1. On the **Motor vehicle tax notices** page, click on the document number of the invalid tax notice or the “**View details**” icon at the end of the row.
2. A new page displaying the tax notice will open.
3. Click the “**Download (voiding decision)**” button in the upper-right corner of the page.



Additional payment and refund of tax

The recalculated annual motor vehicle tax amount can be found on your **new valid tax notice**.

NB! If motor vehicle tax is recalculated after the due date(s) for the instalment payment(s), the entire amount of tax paid under your previous tax notice will be transferred to your prepayment account in the e-services environment. Any amount paid under a previously valid tax notice before the due date may also appear in your prepayment account.

If the new amount of the annual tax is

- **smaller** than the amount in your prepayment account, the amount required for payment is available in the prepayment account. You can request a refund of the overpaid amount to your **bank account** or leave it in the prepayment account for future tax obligations;

- **equal** to the amount in your prepayment account, the amount required for payment is available in the prepayment account;

- **greater** than the amount in your prepayment account, you must transfer additional funds to your prepayment account by the due date.

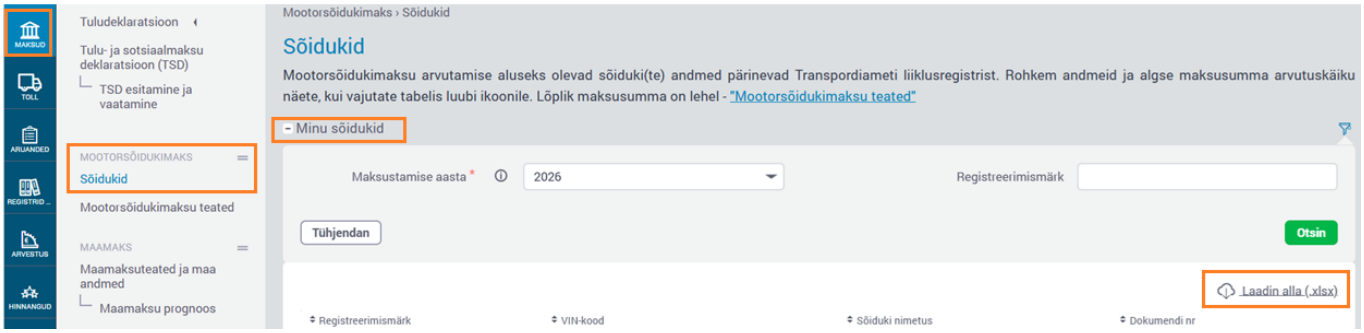
You can find an overview of claims and the status of your prepayment account under "**Accounting**" – **"Overview of claims"** in the e-services environment.

NB! If your previous motor vehicle tax notice(s) has/have been revoked and you had an outstanding amount included in a **tax debt payment schedule**, the **payment schedule will also be adjusted**.
Additional information on compliance with payment schedule

Overview of vehicles and tax notices

To view **changes made to tax notices** during the tax period (addition of vehicles, shortening of the tax period, etc.), download the **table showing your vehicles** in the e-services environment e-MTA:

1. In the e-services menu, select **Taxes – Motor vehicle tax – Vehicles.**
2. To download the overview, click the "**Download**" button in the upper right corner of the **My vehicles** page.



The downloaded table contains two sheets:

- "Vehicle data" sheet provides information on vehicle taxation and changes.
- "Tax notices" sheet provides an overview of all valid and invalid tax notices for the tax period.

Last updated on 18.03.2026

Challenging a tax notice

If you find that the motor vehicle tax notice prepared by the Tax and Customs Board violates your rights or restricts your freedoms, you can, within 30 days of the day of delivery of the tax notice (**§§ 52–55 of the Taxation Act**):

- **file a challenge** with the Tax and Customs Board (**subsections 1 and 3 of § 137** and **subsection 1 of § 138 of the Taxation Act**), or
- take the **complaint to court** (**subsection 1 of § 151 of the Taxation Act** and **subsection 6 of § 8**, **§ 40** and **subsections 1 and 2 of § 46 of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure**).

More information about filing a challenge for **private customers** and **economic operators** (in Estonian).

Last updated on 18.03.2026

Questions and answers

1. Can the motor vehicle tax notice be printed or sent to an e-mail address?

The tax notice can be downloaded as a PDF document from the e-services environment e-MTA, saved on your computer or smart device and attached to an e-mail.

2. I have not received an email or a message about a motor vehicle tax notice. How can I find out if a notice has been issued to me?

An e-mail or text message is sent to inform you when a tax notice is issued.

The ETCB sends a notification about the tax notice to your national mailbox on the eesti.ee website. The notification is sent to the e-mail address personalidentificationcode@eesti.ee or registrycode@eesti.ee.

Please log in to the self-service portal for citizens or entrepreneurs at **eesti.ee** and open “Mailbox” from the menu on the left.

If you have forwarded messages from your national mailbox to your other email address (e.g., @gmail.com), you will also receive notifications there.

We strongly recommend that you check and, if necessary, update the email address to which your national mailbox messages are forwarded.

Whether a tax notice has been issued can be checked in the **e-services environment e-MTA**.

3. I have been asked to pay motor vehicle tax, but I have not received an "official" invoice for it. Am I obliged to pay without a proper invoice?

The tax authority is not required to issue an invoice in order to submit a tax claim. The obligation to pay motor vehicle tax (as well as other taxes) arises from the Motor Vehicle Tax Act and the Taxation Act and not from the invoice. All tax notices, including the amount to be paid, due date and the reference number, are made available in the e-services environment of the ETCB, which is the official notification channel prescribed by law.

4. I informed the ETCB that I was filing a challenge against the motor vehicle tax notice. Does that mean that I do not have to make a payment until I get an answer?

If a taxable person files a challenge pursuant to the Taxation Act, the tax authority will verify the submitted information and make a decision on the challenge. As long as the challenge has not been satisfied, the tax liability will remain in force and the tax must be paid in accordance with the law in force.

Last updated on 30.10.2025

Payment

- Motor vehicle tax can be paid in the **e-services environment e-MTA**.

  Pay tax in e-MTA

  You can also pay the tax by bank transfer and at the service bureaus of the Estonian Tax and Customs Board (ETCB). Find out more about payment options for **private customers** and **economic operators**.

- The tax can be paid **in full** into the **prepayment account** as soon as the tax liability arises. In order to make the payment of tax more flexible, a **standing order** can be made at an online bank to transfer smaller amounts to the prepayment account each month.

- Each person and economic operator has a **prepayment account** with a personal reference number in the e-services environment e-MTA of the ETCB, on which all amounts transferred to the ETCB are received and from which claims are paid. The prepayment account is **created automatically** and its balance and overview of operations performed is available in the e-services environment e-MTA. More information about the prepayment account for **private customers** and **economic operators**.

- Payment of motor vehicle tax **before the due date**:

  - the amount paid is in the prepayment account until the due date,

  - the amount of tax is transferred from the prepayment account automatically early in the morning following the due date for payment to cover the claim,

  - the amounts of tax are transferred from the prepayment account to cover tax claims in the order of the due dates for payment. Claims with the same due date are paid in the order set out in **subsection 6 of § 105 of the Taxation Act**.

Example

The due date for payment of motor vehicle tax is 15 June.

If you pay the tax on 1 March, the amount will remain on the prepayment account until the early morning of 16 June.

※ Payment of motor vehicle tax if the **due date has passed**:

- ※ the amounts received on the prepayment account are automatically transferred three times a day to cover any claims – at 01:00, 10:30 and 18:30, i.e. not immediately after the receipt of the amount;
- ※ if several claims have not been paid, the claim with the earliest due date will be paid first.

Example

The due date for payment of motor vehicle tax is 15 December

If you pay the tax on 20 December at 12:00, the amount received on the prepayment account will be transferred to cover the motor vehicle tax on 20 December at 18:30.

Last updated on 29.10.2025

Payment dates in 2026

Vehicle in the motor register	Estonian Tax and Customs Board issues tax notice	Due dates for payment of tax
as at 1 January	by 15 February	15 June and 15 December*
NB! In the case of a purchase/sale of a used vehicle, the full annual tax is paid by the person who owned the vehicle on 1 January. The tax liability of the buyer of the vehicle begins on 1 January of the new year.		

* Mootor vehicle tax must be paid in two instalments during the year:

- ✓ half of the amount of tax by **15 June** and

- ✓ the remaining by **15 December**.

The tax amount can be paid in full by 15 June.

Vehicle is registered for the first time in Estonian motor register	Estonian Tax and Customs Board issues tax notice	Due dates for payment of tax
1 January – 30 September	within 15 working days of registration	15 December
1 October – 31 December	within 15 working days of registration	15 June 2027
NB! If a vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register for the first time after 1 January, the amount of motor vehicle tax will be calculated in proportion to the days remaining until the end of the year.		

Last updated on 22.01.2026

In case of payment difficulties

PAYMENT IN INSTALMENTS

If it is not possible to pay motor vehicle tax by the due date or tax arrears have arisen, it is possible to apply for a deferral and pay the tax liability in instalments. The application for payment in instalments can be submitted in the e-services environment e-MTA.

Submit application

NB! From the due date for payment of the tax until full payment of the tax arrears, interest on the arrears are calculated at 0.06% per day, or 21.9% per year. Upon payment in instalments, it is possible to apply for a reduction of the interest rate by up to 50% as of the approval of the decision on payment in instalments.

For more information on payment in instalments, see the webpage **Payment of tax liabilities in instalments**.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH TAX OBLIGATIONS

If motor vehicle tax is not paid by the due date or not deferred, the tax arrears will be collected in accordance with the usual procedure. For more information, see the webpage **Payment, arrears**.

Last updated on 29.10.2025

Questions and answers

1. Who should I contact if the tax has been calculated incorrectly?

Please contact the customer support of the Estonian Tax and Customs Board (ETCB).

Consultation to private customers Consultation to business customers

2. If I pay motor vehicle tax before the due date, when will the claim be paid?

The amount paid before the due date of payment of the tax will remain on the prepayment account until the due date. You can see it in the **e-services environment e-MTA** under “Balance of claims and liabilities” (“Payment due date in the future”) on your e-services dashboard. The amount of tax is transferred automatically early in the morning following the due date for payment to cover the claims.

3. If I sell my car at the end of the year, but the change of ownership is still pending at the Transport Administration on 1 January, who will have to pay the annual fee?

The motor vehicle tax notice is issued to and the tax is paid by the person who is registered in the motor register as the vehicle’s owner or authorised user (if the owner of the vehicle is a lessor) on 1 January. This means that if the change of ownership has not been finished by 1 January, the tax is to be paid by the previous owner of the vehicle. If the change of ownership takes place at the end of the year, we recommend that the change of ownership is registered in the motor register within the same year to avoid any misunderstandings. The motor vehicle tax paid will not be refunded to the former owner.

4. I sold my car after 1 January, and it is no longer in my name. Do I still have to pay motor vehicle tax for the whole year?

Yes. Motor vehicle tax must be paid by the person who, according to the motor register, is the vehicle’s owner or authorised user (if the owner of the vehicle is a lessor) on 1 January.

If the vehicle is transferred to Estonia, the tax liability remains in full with the former owner. The tax liability of the new owner arises as of 1 January of the new year.

If a vehicle is sold abroad and is deleted from the Estonian motor register, the period of taxation is

shortened. The tax liability decreases, and a new tax notice is issued.

5. If an employer pays a passenger car fringe benefit because work and private trips are made with the employer's passenger car, how does it impact the motor vehicle tax? Is this a cost for the employer as the owner/authorised user of the car? Or does the employer also grant the employee a benefit (fringe benefit) by paying the motor vehicle tax (100%)?

Motor vehicle tax is the expense of the employer as the owner/authorised user of a passenger car and the payment of motor vehicle tax does not create any additional tax liability on the fringe benefit.

The employer is liable for the fringe benefit only under subsection 8 of § 48 of the Income Tax Act, which is based on the engine power and age of the passenger car. This means that the tax liability on the fringe benefit does not depend on the actual work-related and non-work-related proportion of the use of the passenger car, the mileage or the actual amount of expenses incurred for the use of the passenger car.

Subsection 8 of § 48 of the Income Tax Act: "The price of a fringe benefit for enabling the use of an automobile in the ownership or possession of the employer for activities not related to employment, official or service duties or to the employer's business is 1.96 euros a month per engine power unit (kW) of the automobile as indicated in the motor register. In the event of an automobile older than five years, the price of a fringe benefit is 1.47 euros per engine power unit (kW) of the automobile. No fringe benefit arises during the tax period when the automobile has been deleted from the motor register temporarily or the register entry has been suspended."

6. If motor vehicle tax has been imposed on a lessor, can it be compensated by the lessee as tax-exempt compensation?

No.

7. Does a company have to pay motor vehicle tax if it rents out a vehicle of which it is the owner or authorised user? How is VAT calculated and paid in the case of vehicle rental service?

More information: **Motor vehicle tax and VAT**.

8. I tried to pay motor vehicle tax for a vehicle owned by a company (OÜ) from the company's prepayment account in the e-services environment of the ETCB, but did not succeed. Can the ETCB itself make this payment?

The ETCB does not independently initiate payments on behalf of companies, but if the entire amount needed is available on the prepayment account by the due date of the tax, the claim is deemed to have been paid by automatic set-off. This means that if a sufficient amount of tax is available on the prepayment account on the due date, the payment will be made automatically, i.e. the system will make a set-off. If the amount does not cover the entire claim or is received after the deadline, part of the claim will not be covered and interest may arise.

9. I have already paid the motor vehicle tax, but the claim is still displayed in the e-services environment e-MTA. Is something wrong?

If the payment has been made to the correct reference number and the amount is available on the prepayment account before the due date, there is no reason for concern. The ETCB system automatically considers the claim to be paid on the due date.

Until the due date arrives, the claim will be displayed in the e-services environment e-MTA. You may also receive reminders before the due date, even if the amount required for the payment is already on the prepayment account.

10. I sold a vehicle after 1 January. I have already paid the annual fee for it. Can I get a refund?

Motor vehicle tax is paid by the person who, according to the motor register, is the owner or authorised user of the motor vehicle on 1 January.

If the vehicle is transferred to Estonia, the tax liability remains in full with the former owner. The tax liability of the new owner arises as of 1 January of the new year.

If a vehicle is sold **abroad and is deleted from the Estonian motor register**, the period of taxation is shortened. The tax liability for a vehicle is reduced until the date of deletion from the motor register. The amount previously paid in advance will be transferred to the prepayment account in the e-services environment e-MTA. To get a refund, please submit a refund application. **Instructions on how to submit the request**

11. I live abroad, but I own a vehicle registered in the Estonian motor register. Do I have to pay motor vehicle tax?

The obligation to pay motor vehicle tax does not depend on whether you live abroad or not. If the vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register, the tax must be paid, regardless of your place of living.

12. I have a car with a Finnish license plate leased in Finland and for which I pay all taxes (including vehicle tax) in Finland. I work both in Estonia and Finland and therefore come to Estonia every month by car. Do I have to pay motor vehicle tax on this car in Estonia, too?

If the vehicle is registered in the register of Finland, you do not have to pay motor vehicle tax in Estonia for that car.

13. In my opinion, motor vehicle tax does not comply with the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia. Do I have the right to refuse to pay?

The tax liability arises under applicable law. **The Motor Vehicle Tax Act** is in force and binding on both the Estonian Tax and Customs Board (ETCB) and taxpayers.

If you find that the motor vehicle tax notice prepared by the ETCB violates your rights or restricts your freedoms, you can file a challenge with the ETCB (§ 52–55, subsections 1 and 4 of § 137, and subsection 1 of § 138 of the Taxation Act) or take the complaint to court. More information about filing a challenge for **private customers** and **economic operators**. The challenge must be filed within 30 days of the day of delivery of the tax notice.

Tax rates and calculation of tax

NB: From 1 January 2026, **minibuses with more than seven seats** (8 or 9 seats) are taxed at the category N motor vehicle tax rate in accordance with **subsection 10 of § 12 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**.

While the M1 category tax rate consists of three components, the N1 rate has two components:

- ✓ the components for calculating the **M1 category** tax rate are the **base amount** (50 euros), the **CO_2 emission component**, and the **mass component**;
- ✓ the **N1 category** tax rate is based on the **base amount** (50 euros) and the **CO_2 emission** component.

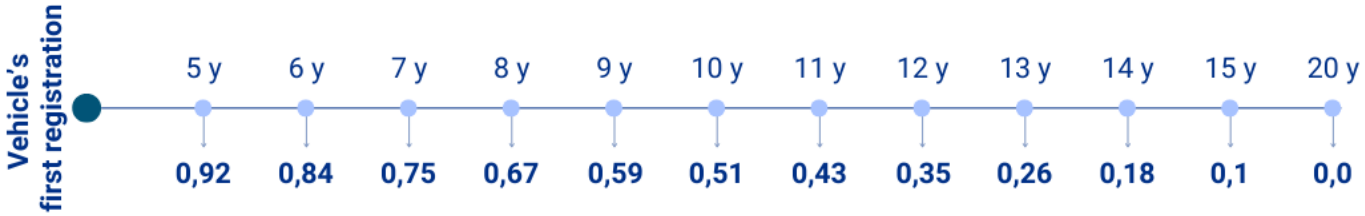
Please note that the change in the tax rate calculation is not retroactive.

Motor vehicle tax is calculated the same way for both legal and natural persons based on data from the motor register.

The motor vehicle tax is calculated by the ETCB on the basis of the data in the motor register of the Transport Administration and according to the tax rates specified in **§§ 11–14 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**.

- ※ The tax is calculated in advance for one calendar year.
- ※ The calculation of motor vehicle tax and tax notices will be available in the e-services environment e-MTA of the ETCB by 15 February at the latest.
- ※ The amount of tax levied on each vehicle is individual and depends on different types of factors (basic component, CO_2 component and vehicle's maximum mass).
- ※ In determining the tax on motor vehicles of categories M1 and N1 older than five years, the age of the motor vehicle will also be taken into account. **Coefficient depending on the age of the motor vehicle is applied to the amount of the motor vehicle tax less the base amount**. The age coefficient

※ applies to vehicles of both private and legal persons. The graph below illustrates how the age coefficient of motor vehicle tax decreases as the vehicle ages.



Last updated on 30.10.2025

Calculation of the age of a vehicle

The age of all taxable vehicles is calculated by taking into account the date of first registration of the vehicle (in the world) indicated in the motor register and the age of the vehicle on the start date of a taxable period.

Pursuant to subsection 2 of § 136 and subsection 1 of § 137 of the Act on the General Part of the Civil Code, a year is deemed to have been completed at 24:00 at the end of the day corresponding to the date of registration of the vehicle in the world.

Examples on how category L motorcycle with different dates of first registration is taxed in 2026 and onwards

EXAMPLE A

The date of **first registration** of the vehicle is **15 May 2014.**

※ The vehicle turned 10 years old on 15 May 2024 at 24:00.

※ The vehicle turned 11 years old on 15 May 2025 at 24:00.

※ The vehicle turns 12 on 15 May 2026 at 24:00.

On 1 January 2026, the age of the vehicle is **11 years**.

※ If the vehicle is registered in Estonia for the first time on 12 February 2026, the age of the vehicle is 11 years.

※ If the vehicle is registered in Estonia for the first time on 12 September 2026, the age of the vehicle is 12 years.

On 1 January 2027, the age of the vehicle is 12 years and the tax is determined pursuant to subsection 2 of § 11 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act.

Date of first registration in the world	**15 May 2014**
10 years reached	15 May 2024
20 years reached	15 May 2034

Entry	**Age**	**Compilation of a tax notice**
Tax assessment on 1 January 2026	11 years	Yes (subsection 2 of § 11 of Motor Vehicle Tax Act)
Vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register for the first time on 12 February 2026	11 years	Yes (subsection 2 of § 11 of Motor Vehicle Tax Act)
Vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register for the first time on 12 September 2026	12 years	Yes (subsection 2 of § 11 of Motor Vehicle Tax Act)
Tax assessment on 1 January 2034	19 years	Yes (subsection 2 of § 11 of Motor Vehicle Tax Act)
Tax assessment on 1 January 2035	20 years	No

EXAMPLE B

The date of **first registration** of the vehicle is **15 May 2006.**

※ The vehicle turns 20 on 15 May 2026 at 24:00.

On 1 January 2026, the age of the vehicle is **19 years** and the tax is determined pursuant to subsection 2 of § 11 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act.

- If the vehicle is registered in Estonia for the first time on 12 February 2026, the age of the vehicle is 19 years and the tax is determined pursuant to subsection 2 of § 11 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act.

- If the vehicle is registered in Estonia for the first time on 12 September 2026, the age of the vehicle is 20 years and no tax is imposed on the vehicle, i.e. subsection 2 of § 11 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act does not apply.

On 1 January 2027, the vehicle is over 20 years old and will not be taxed.

Date of first registration in the world	**15 May 2006**
10 years reached	15 May 2016
20 years reached	15 May 2026

Entry	**Age**	**Compilation of a tax notice**
Tax assessment on 1 January 2026	19 years	Yes (subsection 2 of § 11 of Motor Vehicle Tax Act)
Vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register for the first time on 12 February 2026	19 years	Yes (subsection 2 of § 11 of Motor Vehicle Tax Act)
Vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register for the first time on 12 September 2026	20 years	No
Tax assessment on 1 January 2027	20 years	No

The Tax and Customs Board prepares and revokes tax notices on the basis of the Act in force and the guidelines of the legislator.

Last updated on 21.01.2026

Examples of tax formation by vehicle category and type

Tax formation by categories of motor vehicles
Audi Q7BMW 320D XDRIVE Honda Jazz Kia Ceed Mercedes-Benz EQS 580 Porsche Cayenne GTS
Porsche Taycan
RAM 1500Škoda EnyaqŠkoda Octavia Škoda Rapid Toyota Corolla Volkswagen e-Up

Last updated on 30.10.2025

Taxation period and incurrence of tax liability

The period of taxation of motor vehicle tax is one year and the tax liability arises:

- ✓ on 1 January of the current year, or
- ✓ upon the first registration of a vehicle in the motor register, or
- ✓ upon expiry or termination of temporary deletion of a vehicle from the motor register, or
- ✓ upon termination of suspension of a vehicle in the motor register.

※ **On 1 January 2027**, a provision of the Act enters into force according to which motor vehicles with a register entry that has been **suspended** from the motor register are also subject to motor vehicle tax.

Last updated on 17.11.2025

As at 1 January, vehicle is registered in the motor register

The Estonian Tax and Customs Board (ETCB) will issue a tax notice for payment of motor vehicle tax to a person who is the owner or authorised user of a motor vehicle **as at 1 January**.

The tax notice will be issued by **15 February** at the latest in the e-services environment e-MTA, where the calculation of the tax is available as well.

Motor vehicle tax must be paid in two instalments during the year:

- ✓ half of the amount of tax by **15 June** and
- ✓ the remaining by **15 December**.

The tax amount can be paid in full by 15 June.

Last updated on 29.10.2025

Vehicle is registered in the motor register during the year

If a **vehicle is registered in the motor register for the first time during a taxable period (year)**, the obligation to pay motor vehicle tax also arises, but at a lower rate. In such a case, the tax will be calculated proportionally for the days remaining until the end of the current year and the tax notice will be issued within 15 working days after the registration of the vehicle in the motor register.

Example

A vehicle is registered in the motor register on 10 December 2025.
The ETCB calculates motor vehicle tax for the vehicle as follows:

- ✓ **for the year 2025** from the day following the date of registration of the vehicle (21 days in total) and the tax is due by **15 June 2026**;

- ✓ **for the year 2026** on the basis of the data in the motor register on **1 January 2026**, and the tax must be paid in two instalments: by **15 June 2026** and **15 December 2026**.

Last updated on 29.10.2025

Motor vehicle with temporarily deleted or suspended registration

If a vehicle is, on 1 January:

- ※ temporarily deleted or suspended from the motor register, motor vehicle tax will not be imposed, and no tax notice will be issued.

  If the temporary deletion of a motor vehicle is terminated, the deadline for the temporary deletion expires, or the suspended registration is restored, the vehicle will be subject to motor vehicle tax in accordance with **clause 3 of subsection 1 of § 6 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**.

  The tax liability is calculated proportionally for the days remaining until the end of the current tax period, starting from the day following registration entry.

  Example

  If a vehicle is temporarily deleted from the motor register on 25 December and the entry is restored on 20 January of the following calendar year, the motor vehicle tax is not calculated for the entire period of taxation, but rather for a period that is 20 days shorter, i.e. from 21 January until the end of the year.

- ※ suspended from the motor register, and during the year the **suspended registration entry is replaced by a temporary deletion entry** which remains valid until the end of the year, then no tax liability will arise on that vehicle during the current year.

- ※ registered in the motor register but **is temporarily deleted or the registration is suspended during the year**, the law stipulates that this does not affect the amount of tax, and the tax will not be

- refunded.

NB! The Transport Administration points out that if a vehicle has been temporarily deleted from the motor register and vehicle owner **does not want to put it back into use yet**, the vehicle's existing temporary deletion must be extended before it expires. Otherwise, the Tax and Customs Board will calculate motor vehicle tax from the day following the end of the temporary deletion until the end of the current year. You can check your vehicle's details and extend temporary deletion in the **e-services environment of the Transport Administration**.

> **NB!** On **1 January 2027**, a provision of the Act enters into force under which **motor vehicles with suspended registration in the motor register are also subject to motor vehicle tax**.
>
> The Transport Administration news "Delaying Vehicle Dereistration May Lead to Significant Cost Increases"

Transfer of ownership of a vehicle with temporarily deleted registration

If, during a calendar year, a vehicle that has been temporarily deleted from the motor register is transferred in Estonia and no tax has been imposed on it at the start of the tax period (as of 1 January), and the vehicle's registration is restored after the transfer of ownership, a tax liability arises:

- for the person who was listed in the motor register as the owner of the vehicle on the day the temporary deletion was terminated, if the change of ownership is not registered on the same day;

- for the **new owner**, if the end of the temporary deletion and the change of ownership are registered in the motor register **on the same day**.

Last updated on 04.08.2026

Vehicle deleted from the motor register

When a vehicle is deleted from the register within the meaning of **subsection 6 of § 77 of the Road Traffic Act** (destroyed, demolished, transferred abroad, etc.), the tax liability is automatically recalculated based on data from the Transport Administration's motor register. You do not need to contact the Tax and Customs Board separately or submit any additional documents.

Pursuant to **subsection 2 of § 7^1 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**, the tax period for the current year for such vehicles is shortened until the vehicle is deleted from the register, i.e. until the date of the entry in the motor register. The tax is calculated for the time the vehicle was registered in the motor register.

The previous tax notice is revoked and a **new tax notice** is issued.

Example

A vehicle was demolished on 15 May and deleted from the motor register on 28 May.

The tax liability is recalculated, and the tax is payable for the period from 1 January to 28 May.

If you have already paid your motor vehicle tax and your tax liability is subsequently reduced, the overpaid amount will be transferred to your **prepayment account** in the e-services environment.

To receive a refund to your bank account, please submit an **application for refund of the available funds of the prepayment account** in the e-services environment. For more information, see the **instructions for submitting the application.**

Last updated on 02.12.2025

Vehicle declared wanted

If a vehicle is **temporarily deleted from the motor register due to being declared wanted** based on **clause 2 of subsection 8 of § 77 of the Road Traffic Act**, the tax liability is suspended for the period during which the vehicle is declared wanted by the Police and Border Guard Board **due to theft**.

If a vehicle is temporarily deleted from the motor register due to theft, then:

- **the tax period for the current year is shortened**, and the tax is calculated up to the date of the

- vehicle's deletion, i.e. the date of the entry in the motor register, and a new tax notice is issued;

- **the tax is calculated only for the time the vehicle was registered in the motor register**, that is, there is no tax liability for the period during which the vehicle was temporarily deleted from the register due to theft;

- **when the vehicle is found, a new tax amount is calculated for the vehicle** from the date of entry in the motor register until the end of the tax period, and a new tax notice is issued.

Example

A vehicle is subject to tax for the period from 1 January to 31 December.

The vehicle is stolen on 5 June. Based on the information provided by the Police and Border Guard Board, the Transport Administration submits to the Tax and Customs Board information on the temporary deletion of the vehicle due to theft on 12 June. The tax period is shortened, and the owner is issued a new tax notice covering the period from 1 January to 12 June.

If, based on information from the Police and Border Guard Board regarding the termination of search, the Transport Administration forwards information about the vehicle being found to the Tax and Customs Board on 20 July, the Tax and Customs Board issues a new tax notice for the period from 21 July to 31 December.

If you have already paid your motor vehicle tax and your tax liability is subsequently reduced, the overpaid amount will be transferred to your **prepayment account** in the e-services environment e-MTA.

To receive a refund to your bank account, please submit an **application for refund of the available funds of the prepayment account** in the e-services environment. For more information, see the **instructions for submitting the application.**

Last updated on 26.03.2026

Transfer of a vehicle

The Tax and Customs Board issues a tax notice for payment of motor vehicle tax to a person who, according to the records of the Transport Administration as of 1 January, is the motor vehicle's owner or

authorised user (if the owner of the vehicle is a non-resident or a lessor).

Pursuant to **subsection 2 of § 10 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act** upon the transfer of a vehicle (sale, gift, exchange) or transfer of the right of use, the tax liability remains **in full with the former owner**.

The tax liability arises in advance for the current year, and the annual tax amount must be paid in full and on time.

The new owner or authorised user (if the vehicle owner is a non-resident or a lessor) becomes liable for the tax as of 1 January of the new tax period.

If a vehicle is sold abroad and is deleted from the Estonian motor register, the period of taxation is shortened. The tax liability decreases and a new tax notice is issued.

More information about deleting a vehicle from the register

Last updated on 31.03.2026

Inheriting a vehicle

Within five working days of a change in the personal data related to the vehicle, the successor must formalise the changes either in the **e-service of the Transport Administration** or in **a service bureau**.

In the event of inheriting a vehicle during a tax year, the successor must pay motor vehicle tax **as of 1 January of the new tax year.**

If a tax notice has been issued to an owner or authorised user entered in the motor register before their death, the motor vehicle tax liability is transferred to the successor (**§ 35 of the Taxation Act**).

For more information on inherited tax liabilities, see the web page „**Estate**".

If you have any questions regarding a deceased person's tax liability, please send an email to **emta@emta.ee** along with a succession certificate. Based on the succession certificate, the Tax and Customs Board reviews the deceased person's claims and, if necessary, recalculates the tax liability.

Last updated on 31.03.2026

Examples of shortening the period of taxation

Examples (in Estonian)

Destruction of a vehicle during the period of taxationDestruction of a vehicle during the period of taxation (recalculation of tax reduction) Declaration of a vehicle as wanted by the Police and Border Guard Board and finding it Transfer of a vehicle abroad

Last updated on 04.12.2025

Questions and answers

1. Vehicle was sold abroad a long time ago. Will there be a recalculation in this regard?

If the vehicle has been sold to a foreign country, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board (ETCB) will recalculate the tax liability and issue a new tax notice. The tax liability is recalculated on the basis of the data in the Transport Administration's motor register. The tax liability is reduced until the date of entry in the motor register that indicates that the vehicle has been transferred to a foreign country.

2. My car was destroyed in a traffic accident, has been written off, and is no longer registered. Do I still have to pay the second instalment in December?

The ETCB will recalculate the tax liability on the basis of the data in the motor register of the Transport Administration and issue a new tax notice. The tax liability for the vehicle will be reduced until the date of the corresponding entry in the motor register. If, as a result of the recalculation, a claim is still outstanding, it must be paid on time.

3. I sold my vehicle to a car demolition company in the summer, which deleted it from the register, but the obligation to pay the second instalment of motor vehicle tax remains. Does this mean that the obligation to pay the second instalment is cancelled?

If the vehicle has been deleted from the motor register of the Transport Administration, the tax liability will be recalculated. The tax liability for the vehicle will be reduced until the date of the corresponding entry in the motor register.

4. How can I apply for a refund of motor vehicle tax on a vehicle that has been deleted from the register as a dismantled vehicle?

The tax liability is recalculated automatically based on the data in the Transport Administration's motor register and the tax liability is reduced until the corresponding entry in the motor register. No request has to be submitted to the ETCB.

The overpaid tax amount will be transferred to your prepayment account in the e-services environment. To receive the amount in your bank account, please submit a request in the e-services environment. **Instructions on how to submit the request**

5. I sold a vehicle for which part of the tax is still unpaid. In this case, does the tax liability automatically transfer to the buyer of the vehicle?

The tax liability is not transferred.

If the vehicle remains in Estonia, the tax liability remains in full with the former owner (**§ 10 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**).

If the vehicle is sold abroad and is deleted from the Estonian motor register, the period of taxation is shortened. The tax liability decreases and a new tax notice is issued.

6. If I bought or ordered a car in 2025, but it is delivered in 2026, when is the motor vehicle tax due?

If a motor vehicle is registered in the Estonian motor register for the first time in 2026 (i.e. the vehicle is not yet registered in the motor register on 1 January 2026), the due dates for payment of motor vehicle tax are as follows:

- ✓ 15 December 2026, if the vehicle is registered in the motor register from 1 January to 31 September 2026;

- ✓ 15 June 2027, if the vehicle is registered in the motor register from 1 October to 31 December 2026.

If the vehicle is not in use in Estonia and is not registered in the motor register, no tax is payable.

7. My vehicle was destroyed as a result of an accident. Do I have to pay the annual fee and can I get my prepaid money back?

Motor vehicle tax is paid by the person who, according to the motor register, is the owner or authorised user of the motor vehicle on 1 January.

In the event of destruction of a vehicle, the ETCB recalculates the tax liability based on the data in the Transport Administration's motor register and issues a new tax notice. The tax liability for the vehicle is reduced until the date of deletion from the motor register.

The amount previously paid in advance will be transferred to the prepayment account in the e-services environment e-MTA. To get a refund, please submit a refund request. **Instructions on how to submit the request**

8. If a vehicle has been temporarily deleted from the motor register or its registration has been suspended for a period of the year (i.e. the vehicle is used from time to time during the tax period), how is the tax calculated?

Motor vehicle tax is essentially a property tax, not a consumption tax. If the vehicle registration is active

in the motor register (status: registered) on 1 January, the tax is calculated in advance for the whole year. The temporary deletion of the vehicle from the motor register or the suspension of the entry has no effect on taxation. The tax is not calculated proportionately to the number of days of active use of the vehicle. The tax must be paid in full and will not be refunded.

Last updated on 04.12.2025

Reduction of tax liability of families with children

The motor vehicle tax payable by a parent, i.e. an eligible person, is reduced **by up to 100 euros per each child**.

To be eligible for the reduction, the parent must meet **two conditions:**

1. They have **full legal custody** of at least one child aged 18 or younger;
2. They are the owner or authorised user (if the owner of the vehicle is a lessor or non-resident) of at least one passenger car or minibus (category M1 or N1). The reduction does not apply to the categories specified in **§ 11 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act** (motorcycles, ATVs, etc.).

Pursuant to **subsection 7 of § 15[1] of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**, legal custody for the purposes of this Act means sole custody or joint custody of a child which has not been suspended, restricted, transferred, or withdrawn. In other words, a parent or **natural person guardian** has **full legal custody, regardless of the type of custody**.

Full legal custody is:

- ✓ full property guardianship over the property of a child and physical custody of a child, or
- ✓ full property guardianship over the property of a child, or
- ✓ full physical custody of a child.

Restricted, suspended, transferred, or withdrawn custody does not give a right to a reduction.

NB! The existence and validity of legal custody can be checked in the **population register**.

On the population register homepage, click the link "**My data in the population register**" and sign in to the portal. If you have not used the services of the e-population register for some time, you will first be asked to review your data and edit it if necessary. Confirm your data by clicking on the "Confirm data" button at the bottom of the page.

You can view your legal custody data on the "**My data**" page under "**Children**".

The Tax and Customs Board calculates tax reductions automatically based on the data in the population register. You do not need to contact us separately or submit any additional documents to get a tax reduction.

We calculate the reduction of the liability to pay motor vehicle tax for parents or natural person guardians who have full legal custody:

- ✓ as of 1 January;
- ✓ as of the date of the first registration of the motor vehicle in the Estonian motor register;
- ✓ during the tax period, at the time of the entry of the child's legal custody in the population register.

The amount reducing the tax liability is **divided equally between the parents**.

The right to a tax reduction ends on the day before the child turns 19.

If a child is born to a family during the year, we will recalculate the tax liability for M1 or N1 category vehicles after the parents have acquired full custody of the child according to the population register. We will revoke the previous tax notice(s) and issue a new tax notice within 15 working days.

Additional information on issuing a tax notice

If the tax liability is reduced after the motor vehicle tax has been paid in full or in part, the overpaid amount will be transferred to the person's **prepayment account** in the e-services environment e-MTA. To receive a refund from the prepayment account to your bank account, please submit an **application for refund of the available funds of the prepayment account** in the e-services environment. **Instructions for submitting the application**

Balance of tax liability reduction

If the full amount of the reduction of the tax liability is not used during the tax period, a tax reduction balance will be created. The balance of the tax reduction can **only** be used to reduce the motor vehicle tax liability arising during the **same** tax period from the **purchase of a new vehicle registered for the first time** in Estonia.

Example

The family has one child, and each parent is entitled to a tax reduction of 50 euros.

One parent's tax liability is 30 euros, and the other parent's tax liability is 46 euros.

Both parents' tax liabilities are less than the amount of the tax reduction.
One parent has a tax reduction balance of 20 euros (50 euros – 30 euros).
The other parent has a tax reduction balance of 4 euros (50 euros – 46 euros).

Both parents are entitled to use the resulting tax reduction balance of 24 euros when purchasing a new vehicle registered in Estonia for the first time.

NB! The tax reduction balance created during the tax period

- **will not be carried over** to the next tax period,
- can **only** be used to reduce the motor vehicle tax liability,
- **will not be refunded** via the prepayment account in the e-services environment e-MTA or in any other way.

If the tax liability of one parent is less than the amount reducing their tax liability, the balance is automatically divided between the parents (**subsection 3 of § 15[1] of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**).

Example

The family has one child, and each parent is entitled to a tax reduction of 50 euros.

One parent's tax liability is 30 euros, and the other parent's tax liability is 150 euros.

Since one parent's tax liability is less than the amount of the tax reduction, the tax reduction balance of that parent is 20 euros (50 euros – 30 euros), which is automatically transferred to the other parent.

The other parent receives a total tax reduction of 70 euros (50 euros + 20 euros) and owes 80 euros (150 euros – 70 euros).

The tax reduction received for the children has been fully utilised (50 euros + 50 euros), and no balance arises.

End of legal custody of a child

If the legal custody of a child ends during the tax period (year), the reduction of the tax liability will not be recalculated, and the balance will not be increased (**subsection 5 of § 15^2 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**).

Legal custody of a child may end due to

- the child reaching 19 years of age;
- a change in custody (restricted, suspended, transferred, or withdrawn);
- the death of the child.

Example

There is one child in the family and two eligible parents. A tax reduction of 50 euros is calculated for each parent at the beginning of the year.

During the year, one parent's custody of the child was withdrawn. The tax reduction calculated for that parent at the beginning of the year is not revoked.

If that parent's tax liability was less than the amount reducing their tax liability and an unused tax reduction balance arose, that balance is not automatically transferred to the other parent.

Last updated on 16.04.2026

Examples of tax reduction for families with children

One child, two parentsOne child, two parents, one parent owns two vehicles One child, parent also has a vehicle not subject to tax reduction One child, two parents, acquisition of a new vehicle during period of taxation One child, two parents, acquisition of a new vehicle and addition of custody rights during the period of taxation Blended family with vehicles that are not subject to tax reduction Family without joint custody of some of the children Family, where a child has three persons who have legal custodyThree

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children, two parents, two vehicles Three children, two parents, three vehiclesThree children, two parents, two vehicles. Automatic use of the calculated balance upon acquiring a vehicle. One child reaches 19 years of age during period of taxationTaxation period reduction in connection with the destruction of a vehicleTaxation period reduction in connection with the transfer of a vehicle abroad NB! Transfer in Estonia does not affect tax liability

Last updated on 02.12.2025

Questions and answers

1. To whom and how will the motor vehicle tax reduction be applied?

The Estonian Tax and Customs Board (ETCB) calculates the tax liability reduction on the basis provided for in the Motor Vehicle Tax Act, i.e. on the basis of data from the population register, equally between parents or natural persons that have legal custody.

The actual use and amount of the tax reduction depends on whether all or only one parent has an M1 or N1 category taxable vehicle for which the tax liability must be recalculated, as well as on when the vehicle was purchased and how old the children are.

2. The tax reduction covers the entire annual motor vehicle tax liability. Do I need to contact the Tax and Customs Board before tax notices are issued so that the reduction can be applied?

No, the tax reduction is applied automatically based on data from the population register. The motor vehicle tax liability is reduced depending on the number of children and the size of the tax liability on vehicles of categories M1 and N1, but not more than the total tax liability of M1 and N1 category vehicles.

Example 1

A parent has full custody of one minor child and owns a vehicle subject to an annual fee of 100 euros.

The parent is entitled to a tax reduction of 100 euros. No tax liability arises and no tax notice is issued.

The notice of non-assessment of tax can be viewed in the e-services environment e-MTA.

Example 2

A parent has full custody of one minor child and owns a vehicle subject to an annual fee of 85 euros.

The parent is entitled to a tax reduction of 85 euros. No tax liability arises and no tax notice is issued.

Since this parent is entitled to a tax exemption of 100 euros during the period of taxation, of which 85 euros will be used, the balance of the tax exemption will be 15 euros, which will be automatically taken into account upon the acquisition of a new vehicle first registered in Estonia.

3. If, formally, the parents have equal rights of custody, but the children are raised 100% by the mother, is the tax reduction then shared between the two parents?

Yes. Both parents are entitled to a reduction in tax liability if they have legal custody of the children. The actual use and amount of the tax reduction depends on whether all or only one parent has an M1 or N1 category taxable vehicle for which the tax liability must be recalculated.

4. If my children are residents of a foreign country, is it possible to receive a reduction in motor vehicle tax?

The ETCB calculates the reduction in motor vehicle tax liability based on the data from the Estonian population register. If the taxpayer has legal custody of non-resident children as indicated in the population register, they are also entitled to a tax reduction.

5. My child will turn 19 on 1 May. Am I entitled to a 100 euro reduction in motor vehicle tax?

Yes, you are.

In order to qualify for the tax reduction, three conditions must be met:

1. the taxpayer is the owner or authorised user of a vehicle of category M1 or N1;
2. the vehicle is purchased before the child turnes 19;
3. the taxpayer had full custody of the child on the day before the child reached the age of 18.

Example

If a child turns 19 on 1 May and the family buys a new vehicle on 28 May (i.e. after the child turns 19), the reduction does not apply to the new vehicle acquired (and registered in Estonia for the first time), as the child has reached the age of 19.

The family is entitled to use the tax reduction until 30 April. This means that the family receives the tax reduction for the vehicle that was in the parents' name at the beginning of the year (1 January).

6. A child was born on 1 January, 2006. Are the parents eligible for a motor vehicle tax reduction?

If the child was born on 1 January, 2006, the parents are not eligible for a tax reduction, as the child is 19 years old as of 1 January, 2025.

The right to a tax reduction ends on the day before the child turns 19, i.e. on 31 December, 2024.

7. A family has one minor child. Both of the family's cars are registered in the name of one parent. In this case, does the entire tax exemption of 100 euros go to one parent?

Yes, the general principle is that the tax reduction for minor children applies in full even if the family has two or more M1 or N1 category motor vehicles registered in the name of only one parent.

Example

A father has two cars in his name and there is a minor child in the family. The father has legal custody of the child.

The father receives a tax reduction of 100 euros, which is divided between the two cars to reduce the tax amount.

8. A family has two minor children and both parents have an M1 or N1 category motor vehicle. Are both parents eligible for a tax reduction?

Yes. The family is entitled to a total tax reduction of 200 euros for the two minor children. If both parents have a car and have custody rights, both parents are entitled to a tax reduction of 100 euros.

9. A family has two minor children. They have two vehicles, which are owned by one of the parents. The other parent is the user of the vehicles. Who gets a tax reduction and how much?

The owner of the vehicles is entitled to a total tax reduction of 200 euros for the two minor children.

10. Does the tax reduction also apply to M1G category vehicles? Or is it specifically intended for M1 and N1 category vehicles?

Yes, it does. The tax liability will also be reduced for vehicles in the M1 and N1 subcategories.

11. On 1 January, one parent had a car. That parent received a tax reduction of 200 euros for two children. During the year, the other parent also purchased a vehicle and became liable for motor vehicle tax of 150 euros. How is the tax reduction taken into account?

There are various possible situations here:

- ✓ if only one parent had a vehicle in January, the tax reduction of 200 euros was applied. Therefore, the family's tax reduction has been used up and the other parent will not receive a tax reduction upon purchasing a new vehicle (first registration in Estonia).

- ✓ if, in January, one parent had a tax liability of less than 200 euros and there is a balance that can be divided, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board will reduce the tax liability for the newly registered vehicle by the amount of the balance.

Example

As of January, the tax liability is 150 euros and a tax reduction balance of 50 euros is created. This balance can be used by the other parent to reduce the tax liability incurred when purchasing a new

vehicle registered in Estonia for the first time. In this case, the tax liability of the parent who purchased the vehicle is 100 euros.

12. I have a minor child, but I don't have a vehicle. Am I also eligible for a tax reduction of 100 euros? Will you transfer this amount to my prepayment account?

The reduction in motor vehicle tax liability for children applies only to owners of M1 or N1 category vehicles or authorised users of leased vehicles of M1 or N1 category (basis: **§ 15[1] of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**).

This has been provided **only** for reducing motor vehicle tax liability and can not be used to reduce other tax liabilities or be refunded to anyone. The amount will not be refunded to parents via prepayment account in the e-services environment or in any other way.

If you do not have an M1 or N1 category vehicle or a tax liability to reduce, this tax reduction does not apply to you.

13. A family has two minor children and a parent received a tax reduction of 200 euros. The tax liability for the vehicle is 50 euros. The other parent does not have a vehicle of category M1 or N1. 150 euros is not used. Do parents get the 150 euros back?

The reduction in motor vehicle tax liability for children applies only to owners of vehicles of M1 or N1 category or authorised users of leased vehicles of M1 or N1 category (basis: **§ 15[1] of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**).

This has been provided **only** for reducing motor vehicle tax liability and can not be used to reduce other tax liabilities or be refunded to anyone. The amount will not be refunded to the parent via the prepayment account in the e-services environment or in any other way.

In this case, the tax reduction balance is 150 euros, which can be used to reduce the tax liability arising from the purchase of a new vehicle registered for the first time in Estonia during the tax period.

14. There are two parents in the family, one minor child, and one M1 or N1 category vehicle. Both parents have full legal custody of the child. To whom and how will the motor vehicle tax reduction be applied?

Having one minor child in the family entitles the parent who is listed in the motor register as the vehicle's owner or authorised user (if the owner of the vehicle is a lessor) to a tax reduction of 100 euros.

The general principle is that the tax reduction for minor children applies in full to the parent who has full custody of the child, even if the family owns one or more M1 or N1 category motor vehicles registered in the name of only one parent.

15. If spouses have made an entry of common ownership in the motor register, does it affect the obligation to pay motor vehicle tax, including the tax reduction for the child?

If a vehicle is in common ownership, only one person is indicated as the owner in the motor register.

The calculation of the tax reduction is linked to the owner or authorised user (in the case of a leased vehicle) of the vehicle. Two conditions must be fulfilled:

1. the person must have legal custody of at least one child up to 18 years of age (included);
2. the person is the owner or authorised user (if the owner of the vehicle is a lessor) of at least one motor vehicle of category M1 or N1.

Additional information and explanations can be found on the Transport Adminisration's web page **"Amending register data"**.

Last updated on 29.12.2025

Tax exemptions

- **The vehicles of vital service providers** (e.g. rescue service, ambulance and police vehicles) and vehicles benefiting from tax exemption provided for in an international treaty **are exempt from the motor vehicle tax**.

- **No exemption from motor vehicle tax** is provided for persons **with disabilities** or for vehicles converted for them.

- **Pensioners are not exempt** from payment of motor vehicle tax, nor are they eligible for a more favourable payment arrangement.

EXEMPT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE TAX

Vehicle	Explanation
Emergency response vehicles	The tax exemption arises on the basis of the identifier "emergency vehicle" in the data of the owner and vehicle in the motor register. The list of emergency vehicles is derived from Government of the Republic Regulation No 77 of 16 June 2011 **"The list of emergency response vehicles, the procedure for their identification and the applicable traffic rules"**. According to the Road Traffic Act, an emergency response vehicle is a vehicle and off-road vehicle used to perform urgent functions or official duties or duties whereby it is necessary to warn other road users of the presence of such vehicles.

Vehicle	Explanation
Vehicles in cases provided for in international treaties	At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (**submitted to the Transport Administration**): motor vehicles belonging to a diplomatic representation and consular post of a foreign country, a special mission, a representation or headquarters of an international organisation recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, an institution of the European Union or an agency or institution established under the law of the European Union, a diplomatic representative of a foreign country and a consular officer accredited to Estonia, except for an honorary consul, a representative of a special mission and an international organisation, and an administrative staff of a diplomatic mission, consular post and special mission; At the request of the Ministry of Defence (**submitted to the Transport Administration**): upon application of the tax incentive provided for in an international agreement, motor vehicles belonging to the military headquarters and the armed forces and civilian staff of a NATO Member State or a Member State of the European Union participating in the implementation of the measures of the common security and defence policy, and their dependants, members of foreign armed forces and civilian staff and their dependants, employees of the contractual partner of foreign armed forces, members of international military headquarters and their dependants, and employees of the contractual partner of the headquarters and their dependants, and the armed forces and civilian staff of a foreign country which is not a Member State of the European Union or a Member State of NATO and an international military educational institution.

Last updated on 16.04.2026

Vehicle data from the Motor Register of the Transport Administration

The Transport Administration submits to the ETCB the information necessary for calculating the tax rates and exemptions provided for in **§§ 11–15 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act**:

1. General data of the owner or authorised user of a motor vehicle

The data relating to the owner or authorised user (name, personal identification code, date of birth) help to link the person with a vehicle to determine the amount of tax.

2. Data to identify a motor vehicle

Such data is, for example, the VIN and registration number of a vehicle.

3. Technical data of motor vehicle

The technical data required to calculate the motor vehicle tax are the age of a vehicle, engine capacity, specific emissions of CO_2 and the methodology for measuring it, mass, kilowatts, the indication "NOVC-HEV" (Not-Off-Vehicle Charging Hybrid Electric vehicle) or "OVC-HEV" (Off-Vehicle Charging Hybrid Electric Vehicle), the indication of special conditions (motor caravan).

Check your vehicle data in the motor register so that the data on which the tax calculation is based is correct.

Vehicle data in the motor register

If you have any questions about your vehicle details or would like to correct them, please contact the **Transport Administration**:

info@transpordiamet.ee

+372 620 1200

Last updated on 30.10.2025

Questions and answers

1. How is it possible that the calculator gives a completely different amount of tax for seemingly similar category N1 vehicles?

In the case of an N1 vehicle, the specific power (specific power = engine power ÷ (maximum mass – unladen mass)) is always checked first and it is determined whether it is subject to the tax formula for an M1 or N1 passenger car.

A motor vehicle of **category N1** the specific power of which, according to the data in the motor register, exceeds 0.20 kilowatts per kilogram of payload will be subject to the tax rate applicable to motor vehicles of category M1 (**subsection 10 of § 13 of Motor Vehicle Tax Act**). Therefore, the annual fee for two vehicles of the N1 category, which are completely similar in appearance, may turn out to be different.

2. Does the amount of the tax depend on whether the owner of the vehicle is a legal person or a natural person?

No, it does not. Motor vehicle tax is calculated for both legal and natural persons using the same tax

formula.

3. According to the calculator, the annual tax for my wheeled tractor (T5) is 0 euros, while it is said that motor vehicle tax applies to wheeled tractors (including T5) as well. Is the tax calculation of the Tax and Customs Board and the Transport Administration correct?

Motor vehicle tax is levied on wheeled tractors of categories T1b and T5 equipped with internal combustion engines and with an unladen mass not exceeding 1,000 kg. If the unladen mass of such a wheeled tractor exceeds 1,000 kg, it is not subject to motor vehicle tax.

4. How is the vehicle tax calculated when two vehicles with the same data are compared, but one belongs to category M1 and the other to category N1?

In the case of N1 vehicles, the tax is generally calculated on the basis of two components: a base amount (50 euros) and CO_2 emissions, and the age of the vehicle is taken into account as well.

In the case of M1 vehicles, the tax is generally calculated on the basis of three components: a base amount (50 euros), CO_2 emissions and vehicle mass. The age of the vehicle is taken into account as well.

The amount of the tax is affected by the difference in the calculation formula resulting from the law.

5. How is the annual tax calculated for a vehicle that uses two fuels (e.g. petrol and natural gas) if the CO_2 emissions of the fuels in the register are different?

If two values are available, the lower CO_2 value will be used to calculate the tax.

6. I would like to calculate the tax myself. The vehicle has both WLTP and NEDC values in the motor register of the Transport Administration. Which one should I use?

Where two values are available, the WLTP must always be used to calculate the tax. Until 1 September 2017, the NEDC method was used, but since 2017 the WLTP system has been used.

7. If a vehicle is fitted with an LPG system in addition to a petrol engine, will this be taken into account in the calculation of the motor vehicle tax?

The impact of the LPG system installed on a vehicle is taken into account when the LPG system has been subjected to vehicle-specific type approval tests for the determination of the CO_2 quantity and the CO_2 data are entered in the motor register.

Many LPG systems don't have measured vehicle-based CO_2 indicators, which is why there's no reliable data to draw from. In these cases, there are no CO_2 values regarding LPG fuel available in the motor register.

We ask you to review the type approval documents for the LPG system. If these documents specify the CO_2 values of the engine of the vehicle, please submit them to the Transport Administration so that the vehicle data can be corrected in the motor register, if necessary.

8. At the beginning of the year I changed the registration plate on my vehicle, the technical data of the

vehicle did not change. Motor vehicle tax has been imposed on the vehicle on the basis of the old registration plate. Do I need to request an amendment of the tax notice?

You do not need to request an amendment to the tax notice. The Estonian Tax and Customs Board calculates motor vehicle tax on 1 January on the basis of the technical data, including the registration plate valid at the time.

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Definitions

VEHICLE CATEGORIES

A taxable motor vehicle is defined by the type of vehicle, i.e. the group of the right to drive, and specified by category.

Motor vehicle tax is levied on:

1. passenger cars – M1 and M1G
2. vans, pickup trucks – N1 and N1G
3. motorcycles – L3e, L4e, L5e, L6e and L7e
4. off-road vehicles – MS2
5. wheeled tractors – T1b, T3 and T5

In case of categories L, T3, M1 and N1, their **subcategories are also included**.

Read more about vehicle categories on the website of the **Transport Administration**.

Table 1 More detailed category descriptions of the object of taxation. Source: **Explanatory memorandum to the draft Motor Vehicle Tax Act**

M1 / M1G	Vehicles used for the carriage of passengers	
	• special purpose vehicle • ambulance • truck station wagon • coupé • convertible • limousine • hatchback • minivan	• hearse • multi-purpose vehicle • pickup • saloon • special use • armoured vehicle • station wagon • racing vehicle
N1 / N1G	Vehicles used for the carriage of goods (lorry with a maximum mass not exceeding 3,500 kilograms)	
	• livestock carrier • special purpose vehicle • lorry • isothermal vehicle • retail/exhibition • tipper • van • glazing transporter • aerial work platform vehicle • refrigerator truck	• drop-side • tank • pickup • recovery vehicle • digger derrick vehicle • fire engine • chassis • tractor unit for semi-trailer • special use • armoured vehicle
L	**L3e** – two-wheeled without a sidecar, with a maximum design speed exceeding 45 km/h and/or internal combustion engine with a capacity exceeding 50 cm^3 **L4e** – two-wheeled with a sidecar, with a maximum design speed exceeding 45 km/h or an internal combustion engine with a capacity exceeding 50 cm^3 **L5e** – a three-wheeled motor vehicle that has a symmetric placement of the wheels, maximum design speed exceeding 45 km/h or an internal combustion engine with a capacity exceeding 50 cm^3 **L7e** – four-wheeled vehicle, other than a motor vehicle of category L6e, with an unladen mass, excluding the mass of the batteries, of not more than 400 kg (550 kg in the case of a vehicle intended for the carriage of goods) and an engine power of not more than 15 kW	
MS2	A three-wheeled off-road vehicle with an internal combustion engine with a capacity of more than 90 cm^3, the wheels are replaceable or replaced by tracks. A motor vehicle intended not only for off-road use but also for on-road use is not considered to be a vehicle of category MS2.	
T1b, T3 and T5	**T1b** – a wheeled tractor, the design speed of which exceeds 40 kilometres per hour and the minimum track on the axle nearest to the driver is at least 1,150 millimetres, the unladen mass of which, in running order, exceeds 600 kilograms and the clearance of which does not exceed 1,000 millimetres **T3** – a wheeled tractor with an unladen mass, in running order, is not exceeding 600 kilograms **T5** – a wheeled tractor with a design speed exceeding 40 kilometres per hour	

OVC-HEV

Off-vehicle charging hybrid electric vehicle.

Source: Transport Administration

NOVC-HEV

Not off-vehicle charging hybrid electric vehicle.

Source: Transport Administration

LESSOR

Lessors within the meaning of **subsection 2 of § 5 of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act** are:

1. credit institutions, i.e. banks, who may lease on the basis of a **license** issued to them;
2. leasing companies belonging to the same group as a credit institution which do not require a separate activity licence and which must comply with the requirements under **subsection 8 of § 2 of the Creditors and Credit Intermediaries Act** and for which the Financial Supervision Authority maintains a **separate list**;
3. other companies providing leasing to consumers which do not fall under the categories of points 1 and 2 and which operate on the basis of a **creditor's license** issued by the Financial Supervision Authority;
4. savings and loan associations (from 01.01.2026) and other leasing companies – classified as financial institutions under the Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Prevention Act and subject to the supervision of the Financial Intelligence Unit. A company must hold a valid activity licence “Operating as a financial institution” in the register of economic activities, with the activity type “Savings and loan associations” or “Leasing transactions”.

Cross-border providers of banking services and credit intermediaries are not deemed to be lessors for the purposes of motor vehicle tax.

AUTHORISED USER

Authorised user, i.e. the holder of the registration certificate, is:

- ✓ a natural person who is an Estonian citizen or who has been granted a residence permit or right of residence in Estonia, or

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- ✓ a legal person registered in Estonia who uses the vehicle under a contract for use or a sales contract with reservation of title of ownership and has been entered in the motor register as the authorised user of the vehicle.

Source: Transport Administration, **Road Traffic Act**

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is paid for the registration of cars and vans in the motor register or for changing their ownership. The payment of the **registration fee** is a prerequisite for register entry. The fee is administered by the Estonian Transport Administration.

ANNUAL MOTOR VEHICLE TAX

The annual tax that the owner of a motor vehicle must pay on vehicles registered in the motor register and, as of 1 January 2027, also on vehicles temporarily deleted or suspended from the register. The tax is administered by the Tax and Customs Board.

CHILD

A person up to 18 years of age (inclusive). The right to receive a tax reduction ends on the day before the child turns 19.

PARENT

The Motor Vehicle Tax Act uses the term “parent”, which means a person who is the parent of a child or a natural person having legal custody of that child (**subsection 1 of § 15[1]**).

Therefore, within the scope of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act, the term “parent” is interpreted more broadly than in the Family Law Act, with custody rights clarifying this interpretation. The term is used solely in the context of calculating the reduction.

LEGAL CUSTODY

For the purposes of the Motor Vehicle Tax Act, legal custody means sole legal custody or joint legal custody of a child which has not been suspended, restricted, transferred or withdrawn.

Legal custody is divided into joint custody and sole custody.

Joint custody means that parents share decisions and responsibilities related to the care and upbringing of their child equally.

Sole custody is the right and obligation of one parent to care for the child, and the other parent has no decision-making rights in matters relating to the child. Sole custody applies in cases where one parent is unable or unwilling to participate in legal custody.

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