

Facts and Information

DRIVER'S LICENSE

North Carolina

All new residents who plan to operate motor vehicles must obtain an N.C. driver's license within 60 days of establishing a permanent residence here. Most newcomers, unless they drive commercial vehicles, will want a Class C license, which permits operation of passenger cars and small trucks. If you drive a motorcycle, you'll also need a motorcycle endorsement shown on your driver's license or possess a motorcycle learner permit. You must pass an additional fee and pass a motorcycle knowledge test and road skills test on your motorcycle to receive the endorsement. Licensed drivers who are 16 or 17 years old must present proof of completion of a state-approved driver education course in their former state.

For more information on N.C. driver's license and motor vehicle registration rules, call DMV directAccess at 919.715.7000. You can access recorded information 24 hours a day using a touch-tone telephone by following the prompts. Or check the DMV Web site www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us.

- Driver's License Offices
6407 Idlewild Road, Ste. 3,
Room 112, Charlotte..... 704.531.5563
- 3704 Central Ave. Ste, 1,
Charlotte 704.392.3266
- 8446 N. Tryon St., Charlotte..... 704.547.5787
- 201-A W. Arrowood Road,
Charlotte 704.527.2563
- 6016 Brookshire Blvd.,
Charlotte 704.392.3267
- 2192 Kannapolis Hwy.,
Concord 704.782.7214
- 905 Carolina Ave. N.,
Statesville..... 704.878.4220
- 533 Patterson Ave., Ste. 100,
 Mooresville 704.664.3344

- 3122 U.S. 74 W., Monroe 704.283.4264
- 2560 W. Franklin Ave.,
Gastonia 704.853.5372
- 785 W. Charlotte Ave., Unit 2,
Mount Holly 704.827.9486

South Carolina

Newcomers who plan to operate motor vehicles must obtain an S.C. driver's license within 90 days of becoming a permanent resident. Most newcomers, unless they drive commercial vehicles, will need a class D license, which allows the operation of passenger cars and small trucks.

If you hold a commercial license, you must obtain an S.C. commercial license within 30 days. If you operate a motorcycle, you'll also need a motorcycle endorsement. Additionally, newcomers who operate motorcycles or mopeds exclusively may obtain licenses covering only those vehicles. A conditional license allows residents 15 years old to drive alone during daylight hours or at night under adult supervision until they reach the age of 16.

For more information, call the DMV Call Center at 803.896.5000, or check the Web site at www.scdmvonline.com.

- Driver's License Offices
305 Hands Mill Road,
Rock Hill 803.329.6332
- 1070 Heckle Blvd., Ste. 100,
RockHill 803.909.7161

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

North Carolina

You must register your vehicle before the reciprocity agreement between North Carolina and your former state expires (usually 30 days). Registration is renewed annually.

To register your vehicle, apply in person at a license plate agency and present your title (unless title is held by a lienholder) and a valid registration card from your former state. If your title is held by a lienholder, you must provide the lienholder's name and address on a state form for

title release. You also must present proof of vehicle liability insurance at or above minimum standards (see driver's license information for the list of acceptable documents).

Fees due when you receive N.C. registration include certificate of title, \$40; license plate registration fee, \$28; and highway use tax, which is three percent of the value of your vehicle. DMV registration offices accept checks.

You also must get a vehicle safety inspection within 10 days of receiving your N.C. license plate. This can be done at any state-authorized inspection station and is required annually. Some counties also require an emissions inspection, which is conducted at the same time as the safety inspection.

Although the state does not levy sales tax on motor vehicles, N.C. counties assess property taxes annually. Your car will be registered when you receive your license plate, and you'll receive a bill in about three months.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION OFFICES

- 6016 Brookshire Blvd.
Charlotte 704.399.8306
- 6058 E. Independence Blvd.
Charlotte 704.535.2525
- 4200-H South Blvd.
Charlotte 704.525.3832
- 1509 Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
Kannapolis..... 704.932.3146
- 4612 Hwy. 49 S.
Harrisburg..... 704.455.9517
- 121 W. Water St.
Statesville..... 704.873.3185
- 125-3 N. Main St.
 Mooresville 704.663.5472
- 622E W. Roosevelt Blvd.
Monroe 704.283.4113

1471 E. Franklin Blvd.
 Gastonia 704.864.4856

South Carolina

You can register your motor vehicles at any of the driver's license offices listed in the Driver's License section.

You must register your car or truck within 45 days of moving to South Carolina. To obtain a license plate, you will need your vehicle's title or current registration and proof that you have liability insurance. Additionally, you will have to pay the property taxes on your vehicle and furnish the registration office with a receipt issued by the tax office in the county where you live. After this initial registration, the county auditor will mail you a tax notice each year about a month before your registration expires.

The registration fee is \$24 (\$20 if you are 65 or older or if you are disabled). The fee covers two years, but validation stickers for your license plate must be obtained each year.

South Carolina has no mandatory annual vehicle safety inspection law. However, the state still has minimum standards for safety-related equipment, such as tires, lights and glazing, and these standards are enforced by state troopers.

PROPERTY TAXES

North Carolina

Rates for fiscal 2007-08 (ended June 30, 2008). All rates per \$100 assessed valuation. 2008-2009 rates unavailable at time of publication.

Mecklenburg County.....	\$0.8387
Cabarrus County.....	\$0.63
Cleveland County.....	\$0.73
Gaston County.....	\$0.84
Iredell County.....	\$0.445
Lincoln County.....	\$0.61
Rowan County.....	\$0.5950
Union County.....	\$0.7111
Belmont.....	\$0.475
Bessemer City.....	\$0.41
Charlotte.....	\$0.4586
Cherryville.....	\$0.44
China Grove.....	\$0.38
Concord.....	\$0.4475
Cornelius.....	\$0.275
Cramerton.....	\$0.425

Dallas.....	\$0.38
Davidson.....	\$0.345
Gastonia.....	\$0.53
Harmony.....	\$0.10
Harrisburg.....	\$0.135
Hemby Bridge.....	\$0.03
High Shoals.....	\$0.40
Huntersville.....	\$0.29
Indian Trail.....	\$0.15
Kannapolis.....	\$0.497
Kings Mountain.....	\$0.40
Lake Park.....	\$0.23
Lincolnton.....	\$0.56
Locust.....	\$0.36
Love Valley.....	\$0.25
Lowell.....	\$0.40
Marvin.....	\$0.05
Matthews.....	\$0.3075
McAdenville.....	\$0.30
Midland.....	\$0.15
Mineral Springs.....	\$0.027
Mint Hill.....	\$0.275
Monroe.....	\$0.55
Mooresville.....	\$0.55
Mount Holly.....	\$0.54
Mount Pleasant.....	\$0.44
Pineville.....	\$0.30
Ranlo.....	\$0.37
Salisbury.....	\$0.59
Shelby.....	\$0.42
Spencer Mountain.....	\$0.13
Stallings.....	\$0.25
Stanley.....	\$0.54
Statesville.....	\$0.38
Troutman.....	\$0.48
Unionville.....	\$0.02
Waxhaw.....	\$0.34
Weddington.....	\$0.03
Wesley Chapel.....	\$0.02

South Carolina

Millage rates for fiscal year 2007; 2008 rates unavailable at time of publication. Rates include city, county and school district levies.

Clover.....	379.0
Fort Mill.....	348.6
Rock Hill.....	370.0
Tega Cay.....	350.6
York.....	431.6

Rates are established in May or June of each year in conjunction with annual budget preparation. Depending on where you live, you may owe taxes to a combination of governments – for example, both Mecklenburg County and the city where you live. The list above doesn't include some extra taxes and fees you may have to pay, such as fire districts, special development districts and solid-waste fees. So your total tax rate may be higher than the figures listed above.

Local property taxes are assessed annually on real property, including homes, cars and boats. Bills for homes, land and the like are mailed in September and payable without penalty by the date specified in early January. Cars are handled differently. The state generates a list of motorists who receive motor vehicle licenses and forwards that information to the county, which generates property tax bills on the vehicles a few weeks later.

For further tax information, call the tax office in your county:

Mecklenburg	704.336.7600
Cabarrus	704.920.2166
Cleveland	704.484.4911
Gaston	704.866.3158
Iredell	704.878.3010
Lincoln	704.736.8542
Rowan	704.261.8544
Union	704.283.3848
York	803.684.8527

Business Climate

The influx of new, skilled workers to the area and partnership between the private sector and public agencies ensure that Charlotte will continue to be a great place to do business.



YALONDA M. JAMES/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Uptown Charlotte.

THE QUEEN CITY PRIDES ITSELF ON its supportive business attitude and the vital, growing firms that benefit from it. In return, businesses and the services that support them have helped shape the city and the region – an area with a strong and diverse economy, high-quality expanding workforce, solid technical, educational and transportation resources, vibrant communities and diverse lifestyles. The influx of new, skilled workers to the area and partnership between the private sector and public agencies ensure that Charlotte will continue to be a great place to do business.

Finance is a major player here; with more than \$2 trillion in assets, Charlotte is second only to New York City. Charlotte is home to 20 banks with 229 local branches, including a Federal Reserve Branch. Two of the largest banks in the country in terms of deposits – Bank of America and Wachovia Corporation – are based here. Both institutions have branches throughout the nation

and provide specialty banking services worldwide.

Uptown's skyline has been influenced by these and other banks, whose growth is reflected in skyscrapers such as Bank of America Corporate Center, The Hearst Tower, the IJL Financial Center and One Wachovia Center. Beyond its financial prowess, Charlotte is also home to eight Fortune 500 companies including Duke Energy, Bank of America, Nucor Corp., Goodrich Corp., SPX and Sonic Automotive. The headquarters for Family Dollar, Food Lion and Lowe's are located in nearby suburbs. Additionally, more than 328 Fortune 500 businesses operate facilities in Charlotte.

Small businesses flourish in the area as well. In the past 10 years, over 8,000 firms have opened in Charlotte, investing \$12.5 billion and offering more than 74,000 new jobs.

As a manufacturing center, Charlotte is home to almost 2,000 manufacturers that employ over 70,000



DIEDRA LARBO/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Charlotte/Douglas International Airport.

workers in textiles, electronics, printing, plastics, industrial machinery and other industries.

UNC Charlotte has partnered with the public and private sectors to create the Charlotte Research Institute, an umbrella organization of businesses and government entities that fosters research and collaboration. The 1.2-million-square-foot facility is located on the campus of UNC Charlotte.

Charlotte's status as a transportation hub significantly facilitates economic growth. Served by a superb network of highways and as the center of the country's largest consolidated rail system, Charlotte continues to be a focal point for development in the Southeast. The developing LYNX light rail and the ever-expanding outer belt, I-485, has helped to increase development along Charlotte's outskirts.

If you flew in for a job interview or a house-hunting trip, you've already seen Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, the nation's 10th-largest airport based on total operations. The facility, on the city's west side, averages 640 flights daily and enplanes nearly 30 million passengers each year. Charlotte is the largest hub for US Airways, which offers flights to points all over the United States and internationally, including non-stop service to 167 destinations.

In 2004, Johnson & Wales University dissolved its Norfolk and Charleston locations and moved to Gateway Village in Uptown Charlotte. The school, which focuses on business, hospitality, culinary arts and technology, brings more than 2,500 students to Uptown as well as a full campus, an addition that significantly enhances

business and hospitality prospects in the Center City.

The Charlotte Bobcats became the NBA's 30th team and are owned by Black Entertainment Television founder Robert Johnson, bringing considerable economic growth to the Charlotte region. After playing their first season in the Charlotte Coliseum, the Bobcats moved to Time Warner Cable Arena in First Ward for the 2005-2006 season, bolstering commercial and residential development in Uptown.


Another new business is the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association headquarters, which moved from Minneapolis to Charlotte in 2003 – Billy Graham's hometown. The headquarters adds hundreds of new jobs and draws thousands of tourists.

In 2006, the U.S. National Whitewater Center opened as the world's largest artificial whitewater river and an official U.S. Olympic training site. Located near the I-85/I-485 interchange, the U.S. National Whitewater Center brings in tourists, outdoor sports enthusiasts and professional athletes from across the country.

According to the Charlotte Chamber, almost 1,000 foreign-owned companies perform business in Charlotte's 16-county region, representing half of all foreign companies in the state. Countries with the greatest representation include Germany and the United Kingdom and, with Canadian, Swiss, French and Italian firms on the rise. Charlotte's banking industry has been extremely accommodating to start-up firms and minority businesses.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame, currently under construction, is slated to open early 2010 and is expected to bring hundreds of jobs and thousands of tourists to Charlotte. The complex includes the Hall of Fame and NASCAR Plaza Office Tower, a 19-story office building that will house the Hall of Fame administrative offices as well as NASCAR Images and NASCAR Licensing.

All this business has given Charlotte an extremely healthy economy. The city has an exceptionally low unemployment rate and has continued to grow steadily.

Business doesn't stop at the county line, either. Other counties in the Charlotte metro region have equally healthy economies, thanks to their proximity to Charlotte's amenities, as well as their own aggressive recruiting efforts and, in some cases, incentives to relocating businesses. 

The NASCAR Hall of Fame, currently under construction, is slated to open early 2010 and is expected to bring hundreds of jobs and thousands of tourists to Charlotte.

Newcomer Connections

MECKLENBURG

ELECTRICITY	
Duke Energy.....	800.777.9898
Energy United.....	800.522.3793
Union Power Co-op.....	704.289.3145
Electricities.....	704.948.0550
Pineville Electric Company.....	704.889.2291
WATER	
City of Charlotte.....	704.336.7600
Carolina Water.....	704.495.9715
GAS	
Piedmont Natural Gas.....	800.752.7504
PSNC Energy.....	877.776.2427
PHONE	
BellSouthAT&T.....	888.757.6500
Pineville Telephone Company.....	704.889.2001
Windstream.....	704.847.4828
TRASH	
Charlotte Solid Waste Services.....	704.336.2673
Town of Pineville.....	704.889.2291
Town of Matthews.....	704.847.4411
Town of Huntersville (Waste Management ...)	1800.972.8362
Allied Waste Services.....	704.393.6900
CABLE	
Time Warner Cable.....	704.377.9600
Adelphia Cable.....	888.683.1000

GASTON

ELECTRICITY	
Duke Energy.....	800.777.9898
City of Gastonia Electric Dept.....	704.866.6714
WATER	
City of Gastonia.....	704.866.6043
City of Belmont.....	704.825.5586
GAS	
PSNC.....	877.776.2427
PHONE	
BellSouth.....	888.757.6500
TRASH	
City of Gastonia.....	704.866.6894
CABLE	
Time Warner Cable.....	704.864.8327

CABARRUS

ELECTRICITY	
Duke Energy.....	800.777.9898
Energy United.....	800.522.3793
Union Power Co-op.....	800.922.6840

WATER	
City of Concord.....	704.920.5341
GAS	
Piedmont Natural Gas.....	800.752.7504
PSNC Energy.....	877.776.2427
PHONE	
BellSouthAT&T.....	888.757.6500
Windstream.....	800.560.8007
TRASH	
Cabarrus.....	704.920.EARTH
City of Concord.....	704.920.5555
Allied Waste Services.....	704.394.1353
CABLE	
Time Warner Cable.....	877.566.4892

IREDELL

ELECTRICITY	
Duke Power.....	800.777.9898
Energy United.....	800.522.3793
WATER	
Town of Mooresville.....	704.663.3800
GAS	
PSNC Energy.....	877.776.2427
PHONE	
AT&T.....	888.757.6500
TRASH	
Town of Mooresville.....	704.664.4278
CABLE	
Time Warner Cable.....	877.566.4892
Adelphia.....	888.683.1000

UNION

ELECTRICITY	
Duke Energy.....	800.777.9898
Union Power Co-op.....	704.794.4423
City of Monroe.....	704.282.4511
WATER	
Union County Public Works.....	704.296.4210
City of Monroe.....	704.282.4511
GAS	
Piedmont Natural Gas.....	800.752.7504
PSNC Energy.....	877.776.2427
City of Monroe.....	704.282.4511
PHONE	
BellSouthAT&T.....	888.757.6500
Windstream.....	704.847.4828
Verizon.....	800.483.4300
TRASH	
City of Monroe.....	704.282.4551
CABLE	
Time Warner Cable.....	704.377.6900

YORK

ELECTRICITY	
Duke Energy.....	800.777.9898
York Electric Co-op.....	803.648.4248
City of Rock Hill.....	803.329.5500
WATER	
Carolina Water.....	803.548.0821
City of Tega Cay.....	803.548.0821
City of Rock Hill.....	803.329.5500
Town of Clover.....	803.222.9495
Town of Fort Mill.....	803.547.2116
GAS	
York County Natural Gas.....	803.329.5255
PHONE	
BellSouthAT&T.....	888.757.6500
Comporium Communications.....	803.548.9011
TRASH	
York County.....	803.628.3181
City of Tega Cay (Signature Waste).....	704.714.9400
City of Rock Hill.....	803.329.5600
Town of Clover.....	803.222.9495
Town of Fort Mill.....	803.547.7158
CABLE	
Comporium Communications.....	803.548.9011