

TAIWAN FACTSHEET

Vehicle Ownership

Taiwan is a dynamic, convenient and beautiful place to visit or live in. For many, ownership of a car is a must, and for some, just a consideration. This article attempts to deal with some of the common questions on vehicle ownership in Taiwan, as well as recommendations and specifics based on the region.



Auto Checkers – Jamie Alton

Jamie Alton is a British trained, and fully qualified, level 3 technician, from the U.K. Jamie has lived in Taiwan for over twenty years and started in the motor industry. He has been servicing the needs of foreign expats in Taiwan for over a decade, and founded Auto Checkers as a means to satisfy the needs of the expat community as well as introduce western standards to Taiwan.

*For more information on car ownership or purchasing in Taiwan, visit the Auto Checkers website
<http://www.actaiwan.org>*

Foreigners Toll Free Hotline 0800-024111 (English)



Car Cost

Taiwan's used vehicles are relatively expensive compared to European or North American markets. Labor is relatively inexpensive, coupled with the additional reliability of the most common, Japanese car brands. As cars last a lot longer in Taiwan, they retain their value for far longer. A typical, basic, reliable, comfortable vehicle for Taiwan is typically found in the range of around NT\$150,000.



Taxes

There are two government taxes on vehicles, which are calculated from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. These taxes are engine size dependent. For example, a typical 1.6 or 1.8-liter engine vehicle will cost under NT\$15,000 per full year in taxes.



Insurance Costs

Mandatory insurance only covers third party personal injury and costs around NT\$1,400 per 365 days. Additional coverage includes payouts for third party property, as well as an increased payout for third party personal injury. These packages are very competitively priced, typical policy will cost around NT\$5,400 / year, and usually covers up to NT\$20,000,000 in injuries and NT\$500,000 to third party property, and free towing up to 20KM.



Fuel

Driving around town in a reasonably efficient car, one can expect around 9KM per liter and around 10-16KM per liter on highway. At this time, petrol is priced at around NT\$27 per liter.



Best advice on brands

Japanese brand models are by far the most reliable, as they cope way better with the heat, and generally speaking aren't comprised of biodegradable rubbers and plastics. The modern Japanese car is relatively safe, has excellent air-conditioning, and due to popularity have the most abundant, inexpensive spares and are relatively easy and convenient to service and repair anywhere on the island. Brand such as Lexus and late Mazda and Suzuki models are exclusively imported, and not produced locally, so expect a higher price point. Spares can be more expensive too. Toyota and Nissan models are the mainstays in Taiwan.



Be aware!

Vehicle prices online in Taiwan are notoriously inaccurate. Private sales are very rare and dealerships often post false information and prices, using bait and switch techniques in an attempt to lure potential buyers. Always check the contract fine print too, as at least a few dealers have been known to confiscate deposits after the buyer has later realized they've signed for some condition or price they didn't want to accept.