

North Carolina Sales Tax Info Sheet

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State Sales Tax

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North Carolina has a statewide sales tax rate of **4.75%**, which was introduced in 1933. This data sheet was last updated in November 2021 by SalesTaxHandbook.com.

What is exempt from sales taxes in North Carolina?

Many states have special sales tax rates that apply to the purchase of certain types of goods, or fully exempt them from the sales tax altogether. Here's how North Carolina taxes five types of commonly-exempted goods:

Clothing



4.75%

Groceries



2%

Prepared Food



9%

Prescription Drugs



EXEMPT

OTC Drugs



4.75%

Are services subject to sales tax in North Carolina?

"Goods" refers to the sale of tangible personal property, which are generally taxable. "Services" refers to the sale of labor or non-tangibles. In North Carolina, specified services are taxable. To learn more, see salestaxhandbook.com/north-carolina/sales-tax-taxability#services.

Local Sales Taxes in North Carolina

Municipal governments in North Carolina are also allowed to collect a **local-option sales tax** that ranges from 2% to 2.75% across the state, with an average local tax of 2.188% (for a total of 6.938% when combined with the state sales tax). The maximum local tax rate allowed by North Carolina law is 2.75%. Below are listed local sales tax rates for the five largest cities in North Carolina. You can find other North Carolina city and county sales tax rates at salestaxhandbook.com/north-carolina/rates.

City Name	State Rate	County Rate	City Rate	Special Rate	Combined Rate
* Charlotte, NC	4.75%	2%	N/A	0.5%	7.25%
* Raleigh, NC	4.75%	2%	N/A	0.5%	7.25%
* Greensboro, NC	4.75%	2%	N/A	N/A	6.75%
Winston Salem, NC	4.75%	2.25%	N/A	N/A	7%
* Durham, NC	4.75%	2.25%	N/A	0.5%	7.5%

To learn more, visit the North Carolina Sales Tax Handbook at SalesTaxHandbook.com/NorthCarolina