

COE Results May 2026: What The Latest Bidding Means For Car Buyers

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COE results May 2026 matter because every bidding round resets the mood for Singapore car buyers, even when you are not bidding directly yourself. The official OneMotoring COE open bidding page remains the source to check for the latest premiums and category results, and the Thursday after bidding is when buyers should slow down and read the numbers before reacting to dealer messages.

The certificate of entitlement is the single biggest reason a Singapore car purchase feels different from buying in most other cities. It affects new-car packages, used-car asking prices, trade-in conversations and the confidence dealers have when they quote a guaranteed or non-guaranteed COE deal. A fresh result does not tell you everything, but it gives you the marketâ??s latest clearing point.

The latest result should also be read against your own timing. A buyer whose current car is near expiry has a different problem from a household casually considering a second car. A business replacing a van faces another set of costs again. The same COE premium can therefore be urgent, acceptable or simply too expensive depending on the use case.

Current COE Premiums And Trend

The May 2026 first bidding exercise ended on 6 May 2026 with COE prices higher across all five categories. The current premiums are: Category A at S$124,790, Category B at S$126,236, Category C at S$87,479, Category D at S$9,452 and Category E at S$127,700.

Category	6 May 2026 COE premium	Change from 22 April 2026	Trend to read
Cat A: smaller cars and lower-powered EVs	S$124,790	Up S$1,780 from S$123,010	Still rising. Cat A has climbed sharply from S$102,009 in the first January round and is now close to its recent high.
Cat B: larger cars and higher-powered EVs	S$126,236	Up S$5,235 from S$121,001	Rebounded strongly. Cat B dipped in February, but has moved back above S$126,000 after Aprilâ??s S$121,000 range.

Category	6 May 2026 COE premium	Change from22 April 2026	Trend to read
Cat C: goods vehicles and buses	S$87,479	Up S$3,978 from S$83,501	Clear upward trend. Cat C has moved from the mid-S$70,000s in January and February to the high-S$80,000s in May.
Cat D: motorcycles	S$9,452	Up S$162 from S$9,290	Slightly firmer this round, but still below the S$10,000 level seen in early April.
Cat E: open category, except motorcycles	S$127,700	Up S$2,698 from S$125,002	Still climbing. Open Category is again the highest car-linked premium and keeps pressure on larger-car packages.

The broad trend is upward, not sideways. Cat A, Cat B, Cat C and Cat E all moved higher from the previous bidding round, while Cat D edged up only slightly. For car buyers, the important signal is that May did not bring relief after Aprilâ??s already-high levels. Mass-market car buyers are looking at Cat A near S$125,000, while larger-car and open-category buyers are dealing with premiums above S$126,000.

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Against the 2026 path so far, Cat A and Cat C show the cleanest climb. Cat B is more uneven because it fell in February before recovering, but the May result puts it back at the top end of this yearâ??s range. That means showroom quotes built on hopes of a quick COE pullback need to be checked carefully against the official 6 May clearing prices.

Start With The Correct Category

The first mistake is reading one COE number as the whole market. Category A, Category B, Category C, Category D and Open Category serve different buyer groups, and a movement in one category may not map neatly onto the car you are considering.

If you are comparing a mass-market car, focus on the category that applies to that vehicleâ??s power and classification. If you are looking at a larger or more powerful model, Category B or Open Category may be more relevant. Motorcyclists and commercial vehicle owners have their own category pressures.

The practical step is to ask the dealer which category your quote depends on, then compare that against the official OneMotoring result. Do not let a broad comment about COE rising or falling replace the exact category.

Dealer Packages Need A Second Read



Singapore road traffic gives readers a direct visual reference for the car market affected by COE premiums.

After a bidding round, dealers may adjust packages quickly. The headline monthly instalment can hide changes in loan assumptions, trade-in value, guaranteed COE terms, freebies or delivery timing.

A guaranteed COE package and a non-guaranteed package are not the same product. If the price looks attractive, check how many bids are included, what happens if the dealer does not secure the COE, and whether top-ups are possible.

Buyers should also compare the package against total ownership costs: insurance, road tax, servicing, parking, ERP, petrol or charging, and the opportunity cost of tying up cash in a depreciating asset.

Used Cars React Too

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Cars on a Singapore expressway reflect the ownership market behind Category A, Category B and Open Category bidding.

Fresh COE results can influence used-car pricing because sellers and dealers read the same market. If new-car replacement costs rise, some used cars may look more attractive. If premiums soften, buyers may become more willing to wait for a new-car package.

That does not mean every used listing should move immediately. Remaining COE life, mileage, condition, loan eligibility and depreciation per year still matter. A used car with a lower sticker price can be expensive if the remaining lifespan is short.

The most useful comparison is annual depreciation, not only the advertised price. That gives you a cleaner way to compare a new car, a nearly new car and an older COE car.

Vanessa Kohâ??s Auto Read

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The latest COE result should be treated as a checkpoint, not a command. Buyers get into trouble when they turn one bidding round into a fear-of-missing-out decision and sign before checking the package mechanics.

If you need a car for caregiving, children, shift work or business operations, the decision may still make sense even in a high-premium environment. If the car is mainly a lifestyle upgrade, the hurdle should be higher because Singaporeâ??s ownership costs do not forgive casual decisions.

My rule for this round is simple: use OneMotoring for the official number, use dealers for itemised quotes, and use your household budget for the final answer.

Before You Sign A Car Package

Check the exact COE category, ask whether the package is guaranteed, calculate annual depreciation, and compare the official result against the assumptions in the quote. Those four steps will tell you more than a rushed showroom conversation.

The May 2026 COE result is useful because it gives buyers a fresh market reference: this round is an across-the-board increase, with car-linked categories still sitting at very high levels. It should make the decision clearer, not more emotional.

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