EDUCATION

Nintendo 64 Console Price Guide

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Introduction

For many gamers, the Nintendo 64 (N64) represents the golden age of 3D gaming. It introduced iconic titles like *Super Mario 64*, *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time*, and *GoldenEye 007*, and its unique three-handled controller is instantly recognizable. Today, collecting retro consoles has surged in popularity, and the N64 is one of the most sought-after systems. However, prices vary wildly—from a bargain bundle at a garage sale to a premium-priced, boxed unit on eBay. This comprehensive **Nintendo 64 Console Price Guide** will help you understand what influences cost, how to evaluate different models and conditions, and where to find the best deals. Whether you’re a nostalgic gamer looking to relive your childhood or a savvy collector, knowing the current market value is essential before you make a purchase.

Why N64 Prices Vary So Much

The price of an N64 console is not a single number. Several key factors drive the cost up or down. Understanding these will prevent you from overpaying and help you spot a genuine bargain.

Console Model & Region

Nintendo produced several variations of the N64 during its lifespan. The original Japanese launch model (gray with a Nintendo logo on the left) and the North American launch model (gray with a Nintendo logo on the right) are the most common. However, special editions like the **Pikachu N64**, the **Funtastic Series** (transparent colors such as Grape Purple, Jungle Green, Fire Orange, Ice Blue, Watermelon Red, and Smoke Black), and the **Gold Zelda Ocarina of Time edition** command significantly higher prices. Region also matters: PAL (European) consoles typically sell for less than NTSC (American/Japanese) consoles in global markets, though some rare PAL variants are valuable.

Condition & Completeness

Condition is everything in retro collecting. A loose, dirty console with scratches and a missing expansion pack cover will sell for a fraction of a pristine, complete-in-box (CIB) unit. Collectors use a grading scale like this:

- Loose (console only): The most affordable option. Average price is between $50 and $70 for a standard gray console in good working condition.
- Loose with accessories: Console plus one controller, AV/power cables, and perhaps a game. Adds $10–$30 to the base price.
- Boxed (console with box but no inserts): Adds a premium of $30–$60.
- Complete in Box (CIB): Console, controller(s), cables, manuals, inserts, styrofoam, and original box. Prices jump to $150–$300+ for standard colors, and even higher for special editions.
- Sealed/New: Extremely rare. Expect to pay $500–$1,500+ depending on the model.

Included Accessories

Original Rumble Pak, Transfer Pak, Expansion Pak (the red RAM upgrade) can increase value. A console with the Expansion Pak pre-installed is more desirable than one without, adding roughly $15–$25 to the price. Original cables, especially the AV cable, can degrade over time, but having the originals adds to authenticity.

Market Trends & Demand

The retro gaming market is cyclical. During the pandemic, prices skyrocketed as people sought nostalgic hobbies. While they have stabilized, some models remain hot. Games like *Super Smash Bros.* and *Mario Kart 64*drive demand for the console itself. Also, recent YouTube videos or influencer mentions of a specific color can cause a temporary spike.

Current Price Guide by Model (2025)

Below is a detailed breakdown of typical prices you can expect to pay for various N64 consoles in good working condition. These are averages from completed eBay listings, local marketplaces, and retro game stores. Prices can vary by $10–$20 depending on your location and timing.

Standard Gray N64 (NTSC-U/C)

- Loose: $45–$65
- Loose with 1 controller + cables: $60–$80
- Complete in Box: $150–$220
- New/Sealed: $800–$1,200

Standard Gray N64 (PAL)

- Loose: $35–$55
- Complete in Box: $100–$160

Funtastic Series (All Colors)

Prices depend heavily on color rarity. Ice Blue and Smoke Black are more common; Jungle Green and Grape Purple are mid-tier; Fire Orange and Watermelon Red are rarer. All values below are for loose consoles.

- Ice Blue / Smoke Black (loose): $90–$130
- Jungle Green / Grape Purple (loose): $120–$180
- Fire Orange / Watermelon Red (loose): $200–$350
- Complete in Box (all Funtastic): $350–$800+, with Fire Orange reaching $1,000+

Pikachu N64

This adorable yellow-and-blue edition is a fan favorite. It exists in both Japanese (cartridge top loading) and North American (standard top loading) versions.

- Loose (NA): $130–$190
- Loose (Japanese): $100–$150 (Japanese hardware is often cheaper)
- Complete in Box (NA): $300–$450

Zelda Gold Ocarina of Time Edition

This console was bundled with the legendary game and is highly collectible. The gold paint is prone to chipping, so condition is paramount.

- Loose (good condition): $180–$280
- Loose (with scratches/paint wear): $120–$170
- Complete in Box: $400–$700

Japanese Exclusive Models

Japan received several unique variants, such as the **Daiei Hawks** (white), **JUSCO 30th Anniversary**(clear

blue), and a few others. These are rare outside of Japan and can fetch high prices from collectors.

- Daiei Hawks (loose): $200–$350
- JUSCO 30th (loose): $300–$500

Where to Buy and How to Avoid Scams

Knowing the price is only half the battle. You also need to know where to find legitimate deals and avoid common pitfalls.

Best Places to Shop

- eBay: The largest marketplace, but prices tend to be higher due to fees. Use advanced search to filter by “Sold Items” to see real market prices.
- Facebook Marketplace / OfferUp: Local sellers often have lower prices and bundle deals. Always meet in a public place and test the console if possible.
- Retro Game Stores: You pay a premium for the convenience of a warranty and a tested console. But you can see the condition in person. Prices are typically $10–$30 higher than eBay.
- Garage Sales / Estate Sales: The holy grail for bargain hunters. You might find a boxed N64 for $20. However, this requires patience and luck.
- Online Forums (Reddit r/GameSale, NintendoAge): Knowledgeable communities with fair prices. Always use PayPal Goods and Services for protection.

Red Flags to Watch For

- Untested consoles: Many sellers claim they don’t have the cables to test. This could be a sign of a faulty unit. Only buy “untested” if the price is very low ($10–$20) and you are willing to risk repairs.
- Broken expansion pack covers: The small cover on the front of the console breaks easily. A missing cover can be replaced (costs about $10 on eBay), but it should lower the price.
- Yellowed plastic: Some N64 consoles (especially early models) develop a yellow tinge due to flame retardant chemicals. This can be reversed with a “retrobright” process, but a severely yellowed console should be discounted 30–50%.
- Fake controllers or cables: Look for the Nintendo logo on the controller. Replacement third-party controllers are cheap and degrade the value of a bundle.

Factors That Lower the Price

Not every N64 console is a treasure. Some factors can actually reduce the price, making them great for budget buyers who just want to play.

- Region: PAL consoles (especially UK) are often cheaper than NTSC US consoles. However, note that game compatibility is region-locked unless modded.
- Missing expansion pack cover: As mentioned, this is a common flaw. You can buy a replacement lid for a few dollars, so the console price should reflect that.
- No original cables: Original power and AV cables are not necessarily better than modern replacements. Many sellers swap in generic cables, which lowers the price by $10–$15.
- Heavy use / scratches: A console that looks like it was dragged behind a truck is not a collector’s piece. It’s a “player” console. Expect to pay 30% less than average.
- Modded consoles: While some mods (like an RGB mod or UltraHDMI) add value, others like a region mod or a poorly done shell swap can reduce collectibility. Modded consoles are a niche market.

Is the N64 a Good Investment?

Retro game collecting has seen incredible appreciation over the past decade, but the N64 market has not

grown as explosively as, say, the NES or SNES. Why? Because the N64 was produced in large quantities (over 32 million units worldwide) in box condition. The real standard gray N64 is unlikely to double in value in the next five years, but a CIB Funtastic console could appreciate moderately. That said, buying a console purely for investment is risky. The most reliable way to get value is to buy what you love, keep it in great condition, and enjoy playing it.

Conclusion

The Nintendo 64 remains a beloved console, and its pricing is surprisingly nuanced. From the ubiquitous gray model that can be found for under $60 to the elusive Fire Orange Funtastic that commands over $300 loose, there is an N64 for every budget. Whether you are hunting for a bargain on a local marketplace or paying a premium for a pristine collection piece, this **Nintendo 64 Console Price Guide**equips you with the knowledge to make a smart purchase. Remember to factor in condition, included accessories, and regional variations. Do your research, check sold prices online, and never be afraid to negotiate. Happy gaming!

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