



**American Automobile
Association**
Association Communication
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YOUR DRIVING COSTS



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DRIVING COSTS

How much does it cost to drive? Here are the national average per-mile costs and the composite national average for three different cars:

	Miles Per Year		
	10,000	15,000	20,000
1997 Chevrolet Cavalier LS 4-cyl. (2.2 liter) 4-door sedan	45.2 cents	38.4 cents	34.8 cents
1997 Ford Taurus GL 6-cyl. (3.0 liter) 4-door sedan	53.2 cents	44.7 cents	40.1 cents
1997 Mercury Grand Marquis GS 8-cyl. (4.6 liter) 4-door sedan	66.6 cents	51.3 cents	45.4 cents
Composite cost	55.0 cents	44.8 cents	40.1 cents

Detailed driving costs can be found on pages 4 and 5.

AAA's analysis covers vehicles equipped with standard and optional accessories including automatic transmission, air conditioning, power steering, power disc brakes, AM/FM stereo, driver- and passenger-side air bag, anti-lock brakes, cruise control, tilt steering wheel, tinted glass, emission equipment and rear-window defogger.

Fuel costs were based on an average price of \$1.34 per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline, weighted 20 percent full-serve and 80 percent self-serve.

Insurance figures were based on personal use of vehicles driven less than 10 miles to or from work, with no young drivers.

Normal depreciation costs were based on the vehicle's trade-in value at the end of four years or at 60,000 miles. For vehicles driven 10,000 miles per year, depreciation was based on six years or 60,000 miles.

The American Automobile Association acknowledges Runzheimer International for help in preparing the automotive costs presented in this booklet.

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Driving costs for a 1997 Chevrolet Blazer and a 1997 Dodge Caravan SE are listed on Page 6. Costs for these two vehicles are not part of the composite national average. They are included as information to help car buyers estimate operating costs for these two vehicles only.

YOUR EXPENSES

How can you figure your own expenses?

Vehicle costs fall into two categories: operating and ownership. (See pages 4-6.)

OPERATING COSTS — Gas, oil, maintenance and tire expenditures are operating costs related to the number of miles you drive.

OWNERSHIP COSTS — Taxes, depreciation, finance charges, registration, insurance and license fees are ownership costs. These costs are incurred even if you keep your vehicle parked in the garage.

To determine vehicle costs accurately, keep personal records.

GAS AND OIL — Begin with a full tank of gasoline. Record the mileage on the odometer. Each time you buy gasoline, note the number of gallons, how much you pay and the odometer reading.

Tank filled.....	odometer 8850
Buy 9.3 gallons..... cost \$12.46.....	odometer 9062
Buy 9.5 gallons..... cost \$12.73.....	odometer 9280
Buy 7.6 gallons..... cost \$10.18.....	odometer 9456
Total: 26.4 gallons.. cost \$35.37.....	miles 9456
	-8850
	606
Miles per gallon: $606 \div 26.4 = 23$ mpg	
Cost of gas per mile: $\$35.37 \div 606 = 5.8$ cents	

Figure oil consumption the same way. Remember to add the cost of every oil change.

MAINTENANCE AND TIRES — Jot down what you spend for tune-ups, repairs and tires.

INSURANCE — Total the premiums of property damage and liability, comprehensive and collision policies that directly relate to your vehicle's operation.

LICENSE, REGISTRATION FEES AND PROPERTY OR USE TAXES — Record these as once-a-year costs. Don't include sales or excise taxes paid — they are part of the vehicle's purchase price.

DEPRECIATION — To calculate depreciation — the difference between what you pay for your vehicle and what you sell it for — subtract the projected trade-in value from its purchase price. Divide the difference by the number of years you plan to keep the vehicle.

FINANCE CHARGE — Note interest charges if you borrowed money to buy the vehicle.

At the end of the year, total all costs. Divide by the number of miles you drove during the year. The following computation sheet may be helpful:

OPERATING COSTS	YEARLY TOTALS
Gas and oil per mile	_____
Number of miles driven	_____
Cost per year (multiply miles driven by gas and oil per mile)	_____
Maintenance	_____
Tires	_____
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	_____
OWNERSHIP COSTS	
Depreciation (divide by number of years of vehicle ownership)	_____
Insurance	_____
Taxes	_____
License and registration	_____
Finance charge	_____
TOTAL OWNERSHIP COSTS	_____
OTHER COSTS	
(washes, repairs and accessories)	_____
TOTAL DRIVING COSTS PER YEAR	_____
COST PER MILE	_____
(divide total costs by total miles driven)	_____

YOUR DRIVING COSTS

4-year/60,000-mile cycle	1997 Chevrolet Cavalier LS 4-cyl. (2.2 liter) 4-door sedan	1997 Ford Taurus GL 6-cyl. (3.0 liter) 4-door sedan	1997 Mercury Grand Marquis GS 8-cyl. (4.6 liter) 4-door sedan	Average cost
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DETAILS OF CAR COSTS

OPERATING COSTS	COST PER MILE	COST PER MILE	COST PER MILE	COST PER MILE
Gasoline and oil	5.6 cents	6.6 cents	7.7 cents	6.6 cents
Maintenance	2.6 cents	2.8 cents	3.0 cents	2.8 cents
Tires	1.3 cents	1.4 cents	1.4 cents	1.4 cents
	9.5 cents	10.8 cents	12.1 cents	10.8 cents

OWNERSHIP COSTS	COST PER YEAR	COST PER YEAR	COST PER YEAR	COST PER YEAR
Comprehensive insurance (\$250 deductible).....	\$114	\$106	\$140	\$120
Collision insurance (\$500 deductible).....	317	302	360	326
Bodily injury and property damage (\$100,000, \$300,000, \$50,000).....	401	401	401	401
License, registration, taxes	170	220	255	216
Depreciation	2,761	3,268	3,788	3,272
Finance charge (20% down; loan @ 9.0%/4 yrs.)	574	793	938	768
	\$4,337	\$5,090	\$5,882	\$5,103
	(or \$11.88 per day)	(or \$13.95 per day)	(or \$16.12 per day)	(or \$13.98 per day)
Depreciation for excess mileage per 1,000 miles over 15,000 miles annually	\$143	\$153	\$157	\$151

COST PER MILE

Based on the above figures, the motorist driving 15,000 miles a year would pay:

15,000 miles	@9.5¢	\$1,425	@10.8¢	\$1,620	@12.1¢	\$1,815	@10.8¢	\$1,620
*365 days	@\$11.88	4,337	@\$13.95	5,090	@\$16.12	5,882	@\$13.98	5,103
		\$5,762		\$6,710		\$7,697		\$6,723
COST PER MILE	38.4 cents		44.7 cents		51.3 cents		44.8 cents	

The same person driving 20,000 miles a year would pay:

20,000 miles	@9.5¢	\$1,900	@10.8¢	\$2,160	@12.1¢	\$2,420	@10.8¢	\$2,160
*365 days	@\$11.88	4,337	@\$13.95	5,090	@\$16.12	5,882	@\$13.98	5,103
Added depreciation per 1,000 miles over 15,000 miles	@\$143	715	@\$153	765	@\$157	785	@\$151	755
		\$6,952		\$8,015		\$9,087		\$8,018
COST PER MILE	34.8 cents		40.1 cents		45.4 cents		40.1 cents	

The same person driving 10,000 miles a year would pay:

10,000 miles	@9.6¢	\$960	@10.9¢	\$1,090	@12.2¢	\$1,220	@10.9¢	\$1,090
**365	@\$9.75	3,560	@\$11.58	4,228	@\$14.89	5,435	@\$12.07	4,406
		\$4,520		\$5,318		\$6,655		\$5,496
COST PER MILE	45.2 cents		53.2 cents		66.6 cents		55.0 cents	

*Ownership costs based on a 4-year/60,000-mile retention cycle

**Ownership costs based on a 6-year/60,000-mile retention cycle

	★1997	★1997
	Chevrolet Blazer	Dodge Caravan SE
4-year/ 60,000-mile cycle	6-cyl. (4.3 liter) 2WD 2-door sport utility	6-cyl. (3.0 liter) passenger van

DETAILS OF VEHICLE COSTS

OPERATING COSTS	COST PER MILE	COST PER MILE
Gasoline and Oil	7.6 cents	7.2 cents
Maintenance	3.1 cents	2.9 cents
Tires	1.4 cents	1.3 cents
	12.1 cents	11.4 cents

OWNERSHIP COSTS	COST PER YEAR	COST PER YEAR
Comprehensive insurance (\$250 deductible)	\$287	\$131
Collision insurance (\$500 deductible)	526	344
Bodily injury and property damage (\$100,000, \$300,000, \$50,000)	401	401
License, registration, taxes	366	348
Depreciation	3,501	3,351
Finance charge (20% down; loan @ 9.0%/4 yrs.)	914	865
	\$5,995	\$5,440
	(or \$16.42 per day)	(or \$14.90 per day)
Depreciation for excess mileage per 1,000 miles over 15,000 miles annually... \$124	\$124	\$152

COST PER MILE

Based on the above figures, the motorist driving 15,000 miles a year would pay:

15,000 miles	@12.1¢	\$1,830	.....	@11.4¢	\$1,710
*365 days	@\$16.42	5,995	.....	@\$14.90	5,440
		\$7,825			\$7,150
COST PER MILE		52.2 cents			47.7 cents

The same person driving 20,000 miles a year would pay:

20,000 miles	@12.1¢	\$2,440	.....	@11.4¢	\$2,280
*365 days	@\$16.42	5,995	.....	@\$14.90	5,440
Added depreciation per 1,000 miles over 15,000 miles	@\$124	620	.....	@\$152	760
		\$9,055			\$8,480
COST PER MILE		45.3 cents			42.4 cents

The same person driving 10,000 miles a year would pay:

10,000 miles	@12.1¢	\$1,220	.....	@11.5¢	\$1,150
**365 days	@\$13.61	4,968	.....	@\$12.25	4,471
		\$6,188			\$5,621
COST PER MILE		61.9 cents			56.2 cents

*Ownership costs based on a 4-year/60,000-mile retention cycle
 **Ownership costs based on a 6-year/60,000-mile retention cycle
 ★ Costs for sport utility and passenger van are not part of the composite national average. They are included as information to help buyers estimate operating costs for these two vehicles.

VACATION PLANNING

Realistic budgeting can make the difference between a great vacation and one cut short for lack of funds.

AAA's suggested budget for a family of four — two adults and two children — is at least \$195 per day for lodging and meals, plus \$10.80 per 100 miles for gas, oil, tires and maintenance with the car averaging 21 miles per gallon.

The average cost for lodging is \$95 a night, based on rates charged by approved accommodations listed in AAA TourBook® guides. This rate includes \$6 nightly per child. However, if children are within an age limit set by management — usually up to 14 — there may not be an extra charge.

Vacation spending depends on a family's preferences and means, but costs vary by area. Higher rates can be expected in large metropolitan areas and at resorts in season.

To save on lodging, it's best to make reservations. If that is not possible, plan to arrive early to have a wider selection of accommodations at a price you want to pay without sacrificing quality.

AAA suggests that a family plan to spend at least \$100 a day for meals, not including tips and cocktails.

Meal costs can be reduced by having the main meal at midday, to take advantage of lower lunch prices at restaurants. An increasing number of restaurants offer children's menus and "early bird" dinner specials at reduced prices. Eating at fast-food restaurants and picnicking also offer savings.

In addition to lodging, food and driving costs, a family should budget for amusements, admission fees, road and bridge tolls, recreation and shopping. If you do not carry credit cards, include an emergency fund in your vacation budget. For added security, you may wish to carry travelers cheques.

BUSINESS TRAVEL

What about business travel?

Although some firms continue to provide vehicles to full-time business travelers, a growing number let employees use personally owned vehicles for company business.

Companies use three primary methods to reimburse employees for the business use of their personal vehicles.

FLAT MILEAGE ALLOWANCE — Many companies give a flat allowance per mile, plus allowances for such charges as tolls and parking. The system involves a minimum of bookkeeping and office control, but it can result in overpayment or underpayment when compared to actual driving costs.

FIXED PERIODIC REIMBURSEMENT — Some companies give a flat dollar reimbursement per day, week or month to cover business use of a personal vehicle. This, too, may result in overpayment or underpayment when compared to actual driving costs.

FIXED PERIODIC AND A FLAT MILEAGE RATE — Many companies realize that some automobile costs relate to miles driven (fuel, oil, tires and maintenance), and some relate to time (insurance, taxes, interest and depreciation). These companies provide a periodic fixed rate to cover time-related factors and a per-mile rate to cover business miles reported.

The per-mile rates listed in this pamphlet represent the national average of owning and operating a vehicle for a year. Because employees who use their own vehicles for company business also use their vehicles for personal driving, reimbursement should not amount to 100 percent of the total costs.

AAA

The American Automobile Association is a federation of motor clubs serving nearly 40 million members in the United States and Canada through more than 1,000 offices.

Founded in 1902, AAA is a not-for-profit, fully tax-paying corporation. Its purpose is two-fold: to give members a full range of auto and travel-related services, and to promote the interests of motorists and travelers through legislative and educational activities.

AAA has published *Your Driving Costs* since 1950. That year, driving a car 10,000 miles a year cost 9 cents a mile, and gasoline sold for 27 cents per gallon.

AAA's National Office is located at 1000 AAA Drive, Heathrow, FL 32746-5063, telephone: (407) 444-7000. Local AAA clubs are listed in telephone directories under "AAA."

RUNZHEIMER INTERNATIONAL

Runzheimer International is a management consulting firm that specializes in travel and living costs.

Founded in 1933, the firm serves more than 2,000 businesses and government agencies worldwide. The Runzheimer Plan of Automobile Standard Costs forms the basis for the reimbursement of car expenses to 260,000 client employees.

Organizations that operate fleets of 10 or more vehicles can contact Runzheimer directly to learn about individual schedules. Firms with fewer than 10 vehicles may find the national averages in the cost charts helpful.

Runzheimer International is located at Runzheimer Park, Rochester, WI 53167; telephone: (800) 558-1702.