



your
driving
c o s t s
2001



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figuring
it out

h o w m u c h d o e s i t c o s t t o d r i v e ?

Following are national average per-mile costs and the composite national average for three different cars:

national average costs per mile

	miles per year		
	10,000	15,000	20,000
2001 Chevrolet Cavalier LS 4-cyl. (2.2 liter) 4-door sedan	55.1 cents	44.3 cents	40.1 cents
2001 Ford Taurus SEL 6-cyl. (3.0 liter) 4-door sedan	61.7 cents	49.7 cents	44.8 cents
2001 Mercury Grand Marquis LS 8-cyl. (4.6 liter) 4-door sedan	76.8 cents	59.2 cents	52.5 cents
composite national average	64.5 cents	51.0 cents	45.8 cents

Detailed driving costs can be found on pages 6 and 7. Driving costs for a 2001 Chevrolet Blazer and a 2001 Dodge Caravan SE are listed on Page 8. Costs for these two vehicles are not part of the composite national average.



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 bags, anti-lock brakes, cruise control, tilt steering wheel, tinted glass, emission equipment and rear-window defogger.

All figures reflect the average cost of operating a vehicle primarily under stop-and-go driving conditions.

Fuel costs are based on a fourth quarter 2000 average price of \$1.595 per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline, weighted 20 percent full-serve and 80 percent self-serve.

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

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

Driving costs for a 2001 Chevrolet Blazer and a 2001 Dodge Caravan SE are listed on Page 8. 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 vehicle types only.

Vehicle costs fall into two categories:

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 regardless of how often you drive your vehicle.

To determine vehicle costs accurately, keep personal records on the following:

gas and oil • Begin with a full tank of gasoline and write down the current odometer reading. Each time you buy gasoline, note the number of gallons, how much you pay and the odometer reading. These figures can then be used to calculate average miles per gallon and cost of gas per mile, as follows:

gas cost per mile

gallons	cost	odometer
beginning		8,850
9.3	\$14.83	9,062
9.5	\$15.15	9,280
7.6	\$12.12	9,456
26.4	\$42.10	9,456
		- 8,850

miles driven = 606

miles per gallon: $606 \div 26.4 = 23$ mpg
 gas cost per mile: $\$42.10 \div 606 = 6.9$ cents

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

maintenance and tires • Jot down what you spend for routine maintenance, 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 charges • Note interest charges if you borrowed money to buy the vehicle.

annual cost per mile

operating costs	yearly totals
gas and oil per mile	x _____
total miles driven	_____
total gas and oil	+ _____
maintenance	+ _____
tires	+ _____
total operating costs	+ _____
ownership costs	
depreciation	+ _____
insurance	+ _____
taxes	+ _____
license and registration	+ _____
finance charges	+ _____
total ownership costs	+ _____
other costs	
(washes, accessories, etc.)	+ _____
total driving costs	+ _____
total miles driven	÷ _____
cost per mile	_____

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driving costs

	2001 Chevrolet Cavalier LS 4-cyl. (2.2 liter) 4-door sedan	2001 Ford Taurus SEL 6-cyl. (3.0 liter) 4-door sedan	2001 Mercury Grand Marquis LS 8-cyl. (4.6 liter) 4-door sedan	Average
operating costs				
gas and oil	per mile 6.9 cents	per mile 7.8 cents	per mile 9.1 cents	per mile 7.9 cents
maintenance	3.7 cents	3.9 cents	4.1 cents	3.9 cents
tires	1.5 cents	1.7 cents	2.2 cents	1.8 cents
cost per mile	12.1 cents	13.4 cents	15.4 cents	13.6 cents
ownership costs				
comprehensive insurance (\$250 deductible)	per year \$196	per year \$129	per year \$177	per year \$167
collision insurance (\$500 deductible)	\$380	\$299	\$356	\$345
bodily injury and property damage (\$100,000, \$300,000, \$50,000)	\$479	\$479	\$479	\$479
license, registration, taxes	\$166	\$207	\$251	\$208
depreciation (15,000 miles annually)	\$2,980	\$3,470	\$4,194	\$3,548
finance charge (20% down; loan @ 9.0%/4 yrs.)	\$632	\$861	\$1,104	\$866
cost per year	\$4,833	\$5,446	\$6,561	\$5,614
cost per day	\$13.24	\$14.92	\$17.98	\$15.38
added depreciation costs (per 1,000 miles over 15,000 miles annually)	\$155	\$165	\$173	\$164
total cost per mile				
15,000 total miles per year				
cost per mile x 15,000 miles	per year \$1,815	per year \$2,010	per year \$2,310	per year \$2,040
cost per day x 365 days ***	\$4,833	\$5,446	\$6,563	\$5,614
total cost per year	\$6,648	\$7,456	\$8,873	\$7,654
total cost per mile*	44.3 cents	49.7 cents	59.2 cents	51.0 cents
20,000 total miles per year				
cost per mile x 20,000 miles	per year \$2,420	per year \$2,680	per year \$3,080	per year \$2,720
cost per day x 365 days ***	\$4,833	\$5,446	\$6,563	\$5,614
depreciation cost x 5 **	\$775	\$825	\$865	\$820
total cost per year	\$8,028	\$8,951	\$10,508	\$9,154
total cost per mile*	40.1 cents	44.8 cents	52.5 cents	45.8 cents
10,000 total miles per year				
cost per mile x 10,000 miles	per year \$1,210	per year \$1,340	per year \$1,540	per year \$1,360
cost per day x 365 days ****	\$4,300	\$4,829	\$6,139	\$5,089
total cost per year	\$5,510	\$6,169	\$7,679	\$6,449
total cost per mile*	55.1 cents	61.7 cents	76.8 cents	64.5 cents

* total cost per year ÷ total miles per year
** excess mileage over 15,000 miles annually (in thousands)

*** ownership costs based on a 4-year/60,000-mile retention cycle
**** ownership costs based on a 6-year/60,000-mile retention cycle

	2001 Chevrolet Blazer LS 6-cyl. (4.3 liter) 2WD 4-door sport utility	2001 Dodge Caravan SE 6-cyl. (3.0 liter) passenger van
operating costs	per mile	per mile
gas and oil	8.5 cents	7.6 cents
maintenance	4.0 cents	4.0 cents
tires	1.7 cents	1.5 cents
cost per mile	14.2 cents	13.1 cents
ownership costs	per year	per year
comprehensive insurance (\$250 deductible)	\$214	\$149
collision insurance (\$500 deductible)	\$461	\$384
bodily injury and property damage (\$100,000, \$300,000, \$50,000)	\$389	\$389
license, registration, taxes	\$300	\$269
depreciation (15,000 miles annually)	\$3,829	\$3,611
finance charge (20% down; loan @ 9.0%/4 yrs.)	\$1,045	\$914
cost per year	\$6,238	\$5,716
cost per day	\$17.09	\$15.66
added depreciation costs (per 1,000 miles over 15,000 miles annually)	\$151	\$161
total cost per mile		
15,000 miles a year		
cost per mile x 15,000 miles	\$2,130	\$1,965
cost per day x 365 days ***	\$6,238	\$5,716
total cost per year	\$8,368	\$7,681
total cost per mile *	55.8 cents	51.2 cents
20,000 miles a year		
cost per mile x 20,000 miles	\$2,840	\$2,620
cost per day x 365 days ***	\$6,238	\$5,716
depreciation cost x 5 **	\$755	\$805
total cost per year	\$9,833	\$9,141
total cost per mile *	49.2 cents	45.7 cents
10,000 miles a year		
cost per mile x 10,000 miles	\$1,420	\$1,310
cost per day x 365 days ****	\$5,101	\$4,681
total cost per year	\$6,521	\$5,991
total cost per mile *	65.2 cents	59.9 cents

* ** *** ***** see pages 6 and 7

AAA's suggested budget for a family of four — two adults and two children — is at least \$225 per day for lodging and meals, plus \$12.20 per 100 miles for gas, oil, tires and maintenance with the car averaging 23 miles per gallon.

L o d g i n g

The average cost for lodging is \$115 a night, based on rates charged by approved accommodations listed in AAA TourBook® guides. This rate includes \$7 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 also vary by area. Expect higher lodging rates in large metropolitan areas and at resorts in season.

To save on lodging, it's best to make advance reservations. If that's not possible, plan to arrive early for a wider selection of accommodations.

m e a l s

AAA suggests that a family plan to spend at least \$110 a day for meals, not including tips or cocktails.

Meal costs can be reduced by eating 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.

a d d i t i o n a l c o s t s

In addition to lodging, food and driving costs, a family should budget for 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, AAA suggests carrying travelers cheques. AAA members can obtain fee-free American Express® Travelers Cheques through any AAA office.

Although some firms continue to provide vehicles to full-time business travelers, a growing number of employees use their own vehicles for company business.

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

g e t t i n g r e i m b u r s e d

flat mileage allowance • Many companies provide a flat allowance per mile, plus allowances for such charges as tolls and parking. This system minimizes bookkeeping but can result in overpayment or underpayment when compared to actual driving costs.

fixed periodic reimbursement • Some companies provide 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.

combined fixed and mileage rate • Many companies realize that some automobile costs relate to miles driven (fuel, oil, tires and maintenance) and some 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 is a federation of motor clubs serving 44 million members in the United States and Canada through more than 1,100 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 annually 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," and can be found on the Internet at www.aaa.com.

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: (414) 767-2200.