

By PDF2PNG / May 5, 2025

Auto Loan Calculator

Vehicle Price (\$):

Down Payment (\$):

Trade-in Value (\$):

Loan Term (months):

48

Interest Rate (%):

Sales Tax (%):

Calculate

Loan Summary

Monthly Payment:	\$498.83
Total Interest:	\$2,068.66
Total Cost:	\$28,943.66
Loan Amount:	\$21,875.00



Amortization Schedule

Show Full Schedule

Jump to Year:Year 1

Payment #	Payment Date	Payment	Principal	Interest	Remaini Balanc
1	Jun 5, 2025	\$498.83	\$416.80	\$82.03	\$21,4
2	Jul 5, 2025	\$498.83	\$418.36	\$80.47	\$21,0
3	Aug 5, 2025	\$498.83	\$419.93	\$78.90	\$20,6
4	Sep 5, 2025	\$498.83	\$421.50	\$77.32	\$20,1
5	Oct 5, 2025	\$498.83	\$423.08	\$75.74	\$19,7
6	Nov 5, 2025	\$498.83	\$424.67	\$74.16	\$19,3
7	Dec 5, 2025	\$498.83	\$426.26	\$72.57	\$18,9
8	Jan 5, 2026	\$498.83	\$427.86	\$70.97	\$18,4
9	Feb 5, 2026	\$498.83	\$429.46	\$69.36	\$18,0
10	Mar 5, 2026	\$498.83	\$431.07	\$67.75	\$17,6
11	Apr 5, 2026	\$498.83	\$432.69	\$66.14	\$17,2
12	May 5, 2026	\$498.83	\$434.31	\$64.51	\$16,7

Understanding Auto Loans: A Comprehensive Guide

How to Use Our Auto Loan Calculator

Our auto loan calculator helps you estimate your monthly car payments based on the vehicle price, down payment, loan term, and interest rate. Simply enter:

- **Vehicle Price:** The total cost of the car before any discounts
- **Down Payment:** The amount you'll pay upfront
- **Trade-in Value:** The value of your current vehicle if trading in

- **Loan Term:** Duration of the loan (typically 36-72 months)
- **Interest Rate:** The annual percentage rate (APR) of your loan
- **Sales Tax:** Your local sales tax rate

Understanding the Amortization Schedule

The amortization schedule shows how each payment is split between principal and interest over the life of your loan. Key features:

- **Early Payments:** More of your payment goes toward interest at the beginning
- **Principal Builds:** As you pay down the loan, more goes toward the principal
- **Payment Dates:** See when each payment is due
- **Remaining Balance:** Track how much you still owe after each payment

Key Factors Affecting Your Auto Loan

Several elements influence your car loan terms and monthly payments:

1. Credit Score Impact

Your credit score significantly affects the interest rate you qualify for. Borrowers with excellent credit (720+) typically receive rates 3-5% lower than those with poor credit (below 600).

2. Loan Term Considerations

While longer terms (72-84 months) reduce monthly payments, they increase total interest paid. Shorter terms (36-48 months) save money overall but require higher monthly payments.

3. Down Payment Advantages

A larger down payment (20% or more) reduces your loan amount, potentially qualifying you for better rates and avoiding being "upside-down" on your loan.

Tips for Getting the Best Auto Loan

1. Check your credit report and score before applying
2. Get pre-approved from multiple lenders
3. Compare total loan costs, not just monthly payments
4. Consider shorter loan terms when possible
5. Negotiate the car price separately from financing
6. Avoid extended warranties that roll into your loan

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a good interest rate for a car loan?

As of 2023, rates average 4-6% for excellent credit, 6-10% for good credit, and 10-20% for poor credit. Credit union rates are typically 1-2% lower than banks.

How much car can I afford?

Financial experts recommend keeping total vehicle expenses (payment, insurance, maintenance) below 15-20% of your monthly take-home pay.

Should I finance through a dealer or bank?

Dealers may offer manufacturer-subsidized rates on new cars, but banks/credit unions often have better rates for used cars. Always compare multiple options.

How does refinancing work?

Refinancing replaces your current auto loan with a new one at a lower rate, potentially saving hundreds in interest. Consider refinancing if rates have dropped or your credit improved.

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