



<b>SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE</b>	<b>J1555™</b>	<b>OCT2019</b>
	Issued 1985-11 Revised 2016-02 Stabilized 2019-10	
Superseding J1555 MAY2011		
Recommended Practice for Optimizing Automobile Damageability and Repairability		

#### RATIONALE

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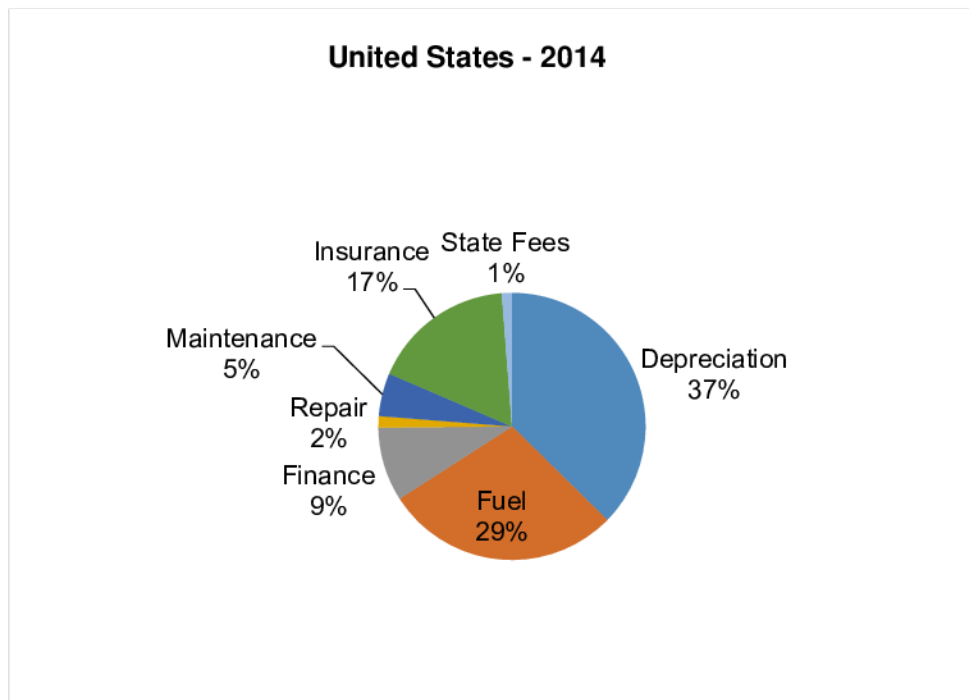
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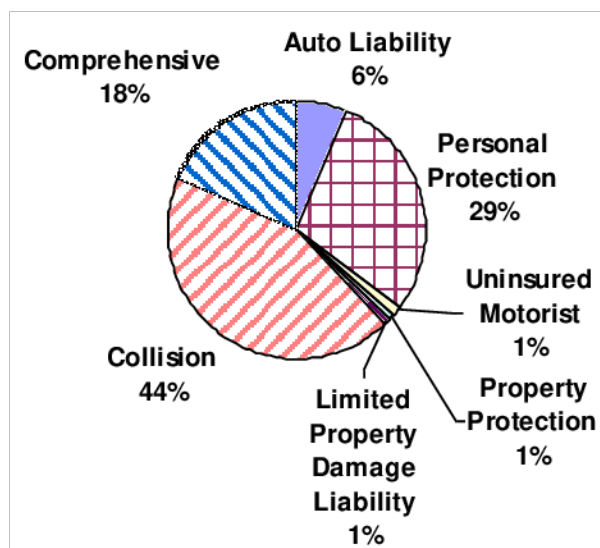
## FOREWORD

The cost of vehicle ownership has developed into a major interest for vehicle manufacturers. During the 1970s, fuel economy was a primary concern in the vehicle buyer's purchasing decision and in vehicle design. Through the 1990s, the steadily rising cost of vehicle insurance in the U.S. surpassed fuel costs, to become the second highest element of the cost of ownership. Since at least 2006 in the U.S., insurance costs have been the third largest contributor to total cost of vehicle ownership (Figure 1). Insurance costs globally tend to be highest in the wealthiest countries. The top five countries with the highest insurance rates are the United States, Austria, Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia (4autoinsurancequote.com, 2015).

In addition to medical and litigation costs, two major elements of these rising customer insurance costs are collision repair and comprehensive costs, of which theft is the major contributor (Figure 2).



**Figure 1 - U.S. average cost of vehicle ownership**



**Figure 2 - Typical U.S. auto insurance cost elements - 2010**