

MONTANA



AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE 2021 RATE COMPARISON GUIDE



COMMISSIONER OF SECURITIES & INSURANCE

MATT M. ROSENDALE
COMMISSIONER



OFFICE OF THE
MONTANA STATE AUDITOR



As Commissioner of Securities & Insurance, I'm here to serve you. Please let my office know if you need anything.

Dear Fellow Montanan:

The Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Office of the Montana State Auditor, is pleased to provide you with the Montana *2021 Automobile Insurance Rate Comparison Guide*.

This guide gives you a general idea of the premium rates charged in Montana. *For more specific information, you must contact the individual insurance companies.*

Comparison shopping takes time but can save you money. Use this guide to narrow the choice of insurers or agents you may want to contact. Shop carefully and contact the CSI if you have any questions or need additional assistance. Our knowledgeable staff is available to help you with a wide range of insurance issues. Please call the consumer hotline at 1-800-332-6148 or from Helena at 444-2040. You can also find additional information and resources on the CSI website at www.csimt.gov.

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Rosendale, Sr.
Commissioner of Securities & Insurance
Montana State Auditor

About this guide

This guide compares how much a Montana driver **might** pay for auto liability insurance coverage in nine different geographic areas: Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, Scobey and Thompson Falls.

Top selling companies that sell auto liability insurance in Montana were invited to participate in our survey. Sample rates from the companies that chose to participate are featured on the following charts.

For further information, please refer to the CSI publication **Montana Consumer Guide to Auto Insurance** at www.csimt.gov/your-insurance/auto. (Or request a hard copy by calling 1-800-332-6148.)

How to use this guide

The premium quotes from the insurance companies listed in this guide are:

- Based on the amount you pay every six months.
- Based on the most recent three years of driving experience.
- Based on rates in effect as of January 1, 2021. If a company's rates have changed since then, these quotes may no longer be accurate. (Please keep in mind the premiums quoted are *only examples*. Your individual situation may include other factors that will be reflected in the premiums quoted to you.)
- Based on the assumption that you are new to the company and not renewing an existing policy.
- Based on a standard performance vehicle.
- Based on the minimum required liability limits set by Montana law. (\$25,000 bodily injury coverage for one person, \$50,000 bodily injury coverage for two or more people and \$20,000 property damage coverage; \$25,000 bodily injury coverage for one uninsured motorist person and \$50,000 bodily injury coverage for two or more uninsured motorists is included.)
- Based on the area for which they are written.

Coverage

State law sets **minimum** liability requirements for auto insurance. As previously noted, these limits are \$25,000 bodily injury coverage for one person, \$50,000 for coverage of bodily injury for 2 or more people, and \$20,000 for property damage coverage. Liability insurance covers you against damages you cause to others if you are at fault in an accident. It does NOT protect you against your own losses.

Also, it is mandatory for the companies to offer uninsured motorist coverage, but you, the consumer, may reject this coverage. Consumers may want to consider higher liability limits than the state minimum, because the minimums may not cover your exposure to lawsuits.

If you own a newer car, your bank will probably require you to buy Comprehensive and Collision coverage. However, the state's minimum requirements do NOT include such coverage. There may also be other coverage you wish to consider that is not mandatory.

Insurers

Not every insurer will offer you coverage because different insurers have different requirements that must be met in order to become insured. Insurers set target "markets" that help them select the types of drivers they want to insure. There are three basic markets: non-standard, standard, and preferred.

1. *Non-standard markets* (highest premiums) include drivers with less experience and numerous tickets or accidents.
2. The *standard* market is for the average driver.
3. The *preferred* market (lowest premiums) is available to low-risk drivers.

Need More Help?

Professional consumer advocates are available to assist you on a wide-range of insurance issues.

Call the Montana State Auditor Insurance Hotline
1-800-332-6148

How to Shop for Auto Insurance

Before buying insurance, consider contacting several insurance agents or companies to find the best combination of quality and price. Know what you want before you shop; you will be less likely to buy something you don't need. And finally, ask several agents or companies for an annual premium quote for your auto.

Shopping Tips

- Be sure to tell your company or agent if the following information applies to you. You may be entitled to a lower premium.
 - Your vehicle has an anti-theft device, automatic seatbelts, and/or airbags.
 - Your vehicle is used for pleasure driving only and you do not drive it to work.
 - You are in a car pool and drive to work an average of no more than two days per week.
 - You drive a short distance to work.
 - You drive fewer than 7,500 miles per year.
 - You have had no accidents or violations.
 - You have successfully completed a driver education course.
 - You are a full-time student and your grade point average is 3.0 or above.
- Many mutual companies pay dividends to their policyholders at the end of the year. However, dividend amounts are not guaranteed.
- Do your shopping as far in advance as possible. This gives you time to consider more companies and prevents a hasty decision. Remember, if you change companies at a time other than the policy renewal date, you will be charged for the administrative costs of canceling the policy.
- If you have been denied coverage by an insurance company due to an auto accident or traffic violation, try another company. Do not assume that you will be turned down by all companies. Different companies use different underwriting standards. If several companies turn you down, try some companies that have higher premiums.

What to do if you are unable to obtain auto insurance

A licensed agent can help you get insurance through the *Montana Automobile Insurance Plan* administered by the Western Association of Automobile Insurance Plans. However, this Plan should be a last resort because the premiums are generally higher than those sold by private companies.

7 different insurance scenarios are outlined on the following pages.

The following pages outline the rate quotes received from insurers who chose to respond to our survey. Read through the different examples and find the one that best matches your situation. Refer to that chart and find your geographic region.

Please note: The plans included in this guide ***are examples only.***

Technical Note

- **United Casualty Insurance Company and USAA Indemnity Company.**

USAA Group Property & Casualty products are generally available to active duty U.S. military personnel and their families, National Guard, Selected Reserve, and recently retired or separated personnel.

Consumer Contacts for Participating Companies

Company Name	Phone Number	Website
Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company	800-255-7828	http://www.allstate.com/
Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company	800-531-8722	www.usaa.com
Government Employees Insurance Company	800-207-7847	www.geico.com
Mid-Century Insurance Company	818-965-0719	www.farmers.com
Mountain West Farm Bureau	877-742-991	www.mwfbic.com
Progressive Direct Insurance Company	800-776-4737	www.progressive.com
Progressive Northwestern insurance Company	800-776-4737	www.progressive.com
Safeco Insurance Company of Illinois	888-332-3226	www.safeco.com
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company	Your local State Farm agent	www.statefarm.com
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company	Your local State Farm agent	www.statefarm.com
The Standard Fire Insurance Company	800-842-5075	www.travelers.com
United Services Automobiles Association	800-531-8722	www.usaa.com
USAA Casualty Insurance Company	800-531-8722	www.usaa.com
USAA General Indemnity Company	800-531-8722	www.usaa.com

Compare Insurance Rates Online

If you prefer, use the Commissioner of Securities & Insurance website for quick and easy comparisons of auto, homeowners, Medicare supplements, and long-term care insurance rates.

www.csimt.gov/your-insurance



CONTACT US

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Consumer Hotline

406-444-2040

Or

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