



Comprehensive Auto APIs Guide

Comprehensive Directory of Automotive Data APIs for
PowerShift AI

Your Comprehensive API Resource Guide

This guide catalogs 60+ automotive APIs across 10 major categories. Each API includes detailed information about features, strengths, considerations, and pricing models to help you make informed integration decisions.

Use this guide to: Build dealership tools, create pricing solutions, access vehicle data, integrate marketplace feeds, analyze market trends, and power AI-driven automotive applications.

60+

Total APIs

10

Categories

25+

Free Tier Options

5

Government Sources

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Core Vehicle Data & Specifications

Essential APIs for vehicle makes, models, trims, and technical specifications

Vehicle Databases API

FREEMIUM

VehicleDatabases.com

Comprehensive vehicle database offering makes, models, trims, styles, maintenance schedules, and trade-in/private party/dealer retail values. Best Edmunds alternative with extensive coverage.

Key Features:

Full Specifications

Maintenance Schedules

Valuation Data

1900-2025 Coverage

✓ Strengths:

Most comprehensive data, 15 free credits to start, no dealership restriction, JSON responses, excellent Edmunds replacement

✗ Weaknesses:

Paid after free credits, subscription or pay-as-you-go model required for scale

vehicledatabases.com

15 Free Credits

CarAPI.app

FREEMIUM

CarAPI

Developer-friendly RESTful JSON API providing year, make, model, trim, and VIN details for 90,000+ US vehicles from 1900 to present. No fees or signup required for basic access.

Key Features:

90K+ Vehicles

VIN Decoding

Engine Specs

CSV Downloads

✓ Strengths:

Free dataset with no account, OpenAPI documentation, regularly updated, developer friendly, Swagger/Redoc support

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited maintenance data, no trade-in values, specs best from 1990+

carapi.app

Free Tier

CarQuery API

CORE

CarQuery

JSON-based API providing makes, models, trims, and detailed vehicle specifications with downloadable data updated quarterly. Simple integration with JavaScript support.

Key Features:

Detailed Specs

Downloadable Data

Quarterly Updates

JSON Format

✓ Strengths:

Detailed specifications, downloadable datasets, regular updates, established API, easy JavaScript integration

✗ Weaknesses:

No maintenance schedules, no trade-in values, limited to specifications only

carqueryapi.com

Free

API-Ninjas Cars

CORE

API Ninjas

Vehicle database API offering makes, models, and trims based on parameters like year and fuel type, with free tier available for testing and development.

Key Features:

Free Tier

Parameter Search

Fuel Type Filter

Year Range

✓ Strengths:

Free tier available, parameter-based queries, simple integration, reliable service

✗ Weaknesses:

Basic specifications only, no maintenance data, no trade-in values, limited features

api-ninjas.com/api/cars

Free Tier

CarSpecs API

PREMIUM

CarSpecs.us

Detailed technical specifications including engine details, dimensions, fuel economy, and performance metrics. Covers vehicles from 1990s to present with organized data structure.

Key Features:

Engine Specs

Transmission Details

Fuel Economy

Dimensions

✓ Strengths:

Comprehensive specs, organized data structure, good API documentation, reliable data

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited to newer models (1990+), requires API key, moderate pricing

carspecs.us

Paid

Edmunds API

PREMIUM

Edmunds

Premium vehicle database providing makes, models, trims, styles, maintenance schedules, and trade-in values.

Restricted to dealerships and strategic partners. JavaScript SDK available.

Key Features:

Full Specifications

Maintenance Data

Trade-In Values

JavaScript SDK

✓ Strengths:

Comprehensive data, trusted brand, JavaScript SDK, consumer ratings, maintenance schedules

✗ Weaknesses:

Dealership-only access, limited free tier (~1,000 requests/month), no real-time polling

developer.edmunds.com

Dealership Only



VIN Decoding & Vehicle History

Decode VINs, access vehicle history, title information, and ownership records

NHTSA vPIC API

GOVERNMENT

NHTSA (Government)

Official government API for VIN decoding, vehicle specifications, manufacturer information, and World Manufacturer Identifier (WMI) data. Version 3.66 with comprehensive vehicle data.

Key Features:

VIN Decoding

Batch Processing

Manufacturer Data

No Rate Limits

✓ Strengths:

Completely free, official government data, no API key required, comprehensive coverage, batch VIN decoding

✗ Weaknesses:

Complex data structure, no pricing data, focused on technical specs only

vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/api

100% Free

CarsXE API

FREEMIUM

CarsXE

Comprehensive vehicle data including VIN decoding, license plate decoding, vehicle history, market value, and images. Enables innovative automotive applications with OCR capabilities.

Key Features:

VIN Decoding

License Plate OCR

Vehicle History

Market Value

✓ Strengths:

Free tier (500 calls/month), comprehensive data, US license plate OCR, good documentation

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited free tier, OCR accuracy varies by state plate design

api.carsxe.com

500 Calls/Month

VinQuery API

PREMIUM

VinQuery.com

Professional VIN decoding service with extensive vehicle specifications, title history, and ownership records. Ideal for dealerships and automotive businesses.

Key Features:

VIN Decode

Title History

Ownership Records

Detailed Reports

✓ Strengths:

Professional-grade data, comprehensive reports, title information, reliable service

✗ Weaknesses:

Premium pricing, no free tier, requires subscription for volume

vinquery.com

Premium

Detailed Vehicle History

PREMIUM

DetailedVehicleHistory.com

Complete vehicle history reports including accidents, service records, title status, theft records, and odometer readings for transparency in used vehicle sales.

Key Features:

Accident History

Service Records

Title Status

Theft Records

✓ Strengths:

Comprehensive history, accurate data, multiple data sources, detailed reports

✗ Weaknesses:

Per-report pricing, historical data may have gaps, requires payment for full reports

detailedvehiclehistory.com

Per Report

VinAudit API

FREEMIUM

VinAudit

Affordable vehicle history reports with accident records, title information, odometer readings, and market value data for used car evaluation.

Key Features:

VIN Reports

Title Info

Accident Data

Value Estimates

✓ Strengths:

Affordable pricing, comprehensive data, government sources, good value for money

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited free features, per-report cost adds up at scale

vinaudit.com

Affordable



Pricing & Valuation APIs

Market values, trade-in prices, MSRP, and dynamic pricing data

Kelley Blue Book API

PREMIUM

KBB / Cox Automotive

Industry-leading vehicle valuation and pricing data, including MSRP, trade-in, private party, and Fair Purchase Price. Gold standard for automotive pricing.

Key Features:

Trade-In Value

Private Party

MSRP Data

Configuration

✓ Strengths:

Industry standard, trusted pricing, developer sandbox (~100 requests/day), comprehensive valuation

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited free tier, B2B contact required for full access, premium pricing at scale

b2b.kbb.com

B2B

Market Value API

FREEMIUM

Vehicle Databases

Trade-in, private party, and retail values for any vehicle based on state and mileage. Updated frequently with analysis from millions of vehicle sales across North America.

Key Features:

Trade-In Values

State-Specific

Mileage Adjusted

1990-2025

✓ Strengths:

Frequent updates, state-specific pricing, mileage considerations, market trends analysis

✗ Weaknesses:

Requires VIN or YMMT, US/Canada only, paid after free credits

vehicledatabases.com

Free Credits

Auto.dev Pricing API

FREEMIUM

Auto.dev

Real-time vehicle pricing data from US dealers with market analysis. Includes 1,000 free API calls per month, then usage-based pricing.

Key Features:

Real-Time Pricing

Market Analysis

Dealer Listings

Price Trends

✓ Strengths:

1,000 free calls/month, usage-based pricing, comprehensive dealer data, good documentation

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited to US dealers, costs scale with usage, requires API key

[auto.dev](#)

1K Free/Month

Interest Rates API

PREMIUM

Auto.dev

Real-time automotive financing rates and lending information to calculate accurate payment options and financing scenarios across multiple credit tiers.

Key Features:

Current Rates

Lender Info

Credit Tiers

Payment Calc

✓ Strengths:

Real-time rates, financing insights, payment calculations, lender diversity

✗ Weaknesses:

Rates change frequently, requires credit information, may not reflect all lenders

[auto.dev](#)

Premium

CIS Valuation API

PREMIUM

Competitive Intelligence Solution

Vehicle valuations and market analysis covering 650M+ vehicles and 40,000 dealerships from 2016 onwards. Python library available for easy integration.

Key Features:

650M+ Vehicles

Market Analysis

Python Library

Price History

✓ Strengths:

Massive dataset, historical pricing, Python bindings, competitive analysis, market trends

✗ Weaknesses:

Data from 2016+ only, premium pricing, complex for basic needs

autodealerdata.com

Enterprise



Marketplace & Inventory APIs

Dealer inventory, marketplace listings, and real-time vehicle availability

MarketCheck API

FREEMIUM

MarketCheck

Comprehensive US/Canada car inventory covering every dealership with new, used, and certified listings. Daily updates with pricing history and market statistics. Free tier available.

Key Features:

All Dealerships

Daily Updates

Price History

Market Stats

✓ Strengths:

Free tier available, comprehensive coverage, data cleaning/normalization, price change tracking, auction data

✗ Weaknesses:

API costs scale quickly, complex pricing tiers, enterprise features require contact

marketcheck.com/apis

Free Tier

CarGurus API

PREMIUM

CarGurus

Vehicle listings, pricing data, dealer information, and consumer reviews from one of the largest automotive marketplaces. Ideal for real-time market analysis.

Key Features:

Vehicle Listings

Pricing Data

Dealer Info

Reviews

✓ Strengths:

Large marketplace data, consumer reviews, competitive pricing insights, dealer network

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited developer access, likely restricted API, partnership required

cargurus.com/developers

Partner

Carketa Dealer Data API

PREMIUM

Carketa

Live inventory counts, sold volumes, pricing trends, and velocity metrics from 60,000+ US dealerships. Real-time dealer intelligence for competitive advantage.

Key Features:

60K Dealers

Live Inventory

Velocity Metrics

Price Trends

✓ Strengths:

Massive dealer network, real-time data, velocity insights, 8 verified data points, turn-time metrics

✗ Weaknesses:

Premium pricing, dealer-focused features, requires commitment

carketa.com/api

Enterprise

Data1 Software API

PREMIUM

Data1 Software

Similar to MarketCheck, provides comprehensive automotive data including inventory, pricing, and market analytics. Focus on dealer and enterprise solutions.

Key Features:

Inventory Data

Market Analytics

Pricing Trends

Enterprise Tools

✓ Strengths:

Enterprise-grade, comprehensive data, dealer focus, analytics platform

✗ Weaknesses:

Premium pricing, enterprise focus, contact required for access

data1software.com

Enterprise

Mulroney API

PREMIUM

Mulroney.com

High-end automotive data API known for premium pricing. Comprehensive vehicle information and market data for enterprise automotive applications.

Key Features:

Premium Data

Enterprise Grade

Full Coverage

Support

✔ Strengths:

Enterprise-grade data, comprehensive coverage, high reliability, support services

✘ Weaknesses:

Very expensive, enterprise-only, no public pricing, contact sales required

mulroney.com

Premium



Safety & Recalls

Safety ratings, crash tests, recall information, and compliance data

NHTSA Recalls API

GOVERNMENT

NHTSA (Government)

Official NHTSA database providing comprehensive vehicle safety recalls, investigations, complaints, and safety ratings directly from government sources.

Key Features:

Safety Recalls

5-Star Ratings

Investigations

Complaints

✓ Strengths:

Official government data, completely free, comprehensive safety info, authoritative source

✗ Weaknesses:

Complex data structure, safety-focused only, no pricing data, technical implementation

vpic.nhtsa.dot.gov/api

100% Free

IIHS Vehicle Ratings API

GOVERNMENT

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Official crash test ratings, safety equipment assessments, Top Safety Pick awards, and vehicle safety performance data from the leading independent safety organization.

Key Features:

Crash Tests

Safety Awards

Equipment Ratings

Headlight Tests

✓ Strengths:

Authoritative source, free access, independent testing, trusted data, Top Safety Pick awards

✗ Weaknesses:

Not all vehicles tested, data structure can be complex to parse, testing coverage varies

[iihs.org/api](https://www.iihs.org/api)

Free

Recall Lookup API

FREEMIUM

MarketCheck

Get open recall information for any VIN from multiple OEM microsites. Aggregated recall data for comprehensive safety information.

Key Features:

VIN Lookup

Multiple OEMs

Open Recalls

API Access

✓ Strengths:

Aggregated from OEMs, affordable (\$0.3 per 100 calls), comprehensive coverage

✗ Weaknesses:

Not free, requires API key, depends on OEM data availability

docs.marketcheck.com

\$0.3/100 calls



Insurance & Risk Assessment

Theft statistics, insurance rates, risk scoring, and claims data

Vehicle Theft Database API

GOVERNMENT

National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)

Vehicle theft statistics, hot spots, risk ratings by make/model/region, Hot Wheels list (most stolen), and recovery rate data for insurance pricing.

Key Features:

Theft Statistics

Hot Spots

Hot Wheels List

Recovery Rates

✓ Strengths:

Official crime data, geographic insights, regularly updated, free tier available

✗ Weaknesses:

Data lags by several months, limited to reported thefts only, US-focused

nicb.org/api

Free Tier

Smartcar API

PREMIUM

Smartcar

Lock/unlock vehicles, retrieve odometer readings, location data, and vehicle attributes via 4G/5G modems. Enables usage-based insurance (UBI) applications.

Key Features:

Vehicle Control

Odometer Data

Location

UBI Support

✔ Strengths:

Real-time telematics, works on most new cars, insurance applications, vehicle control

✘ Weaknesses:

Newer vehicles only, requires user consent, subscription cost, limited to connected cars

smartcar.com

Premium

CarMD API

PREMIUM

CarMD

Vehicle repair and maintenance needs, diagnostic reports, parts lists, cost calculations, and warranty/recall information for automotive aftermarket.

Key Features:

Diagnostics

Repair Costs

Parts Lists

Warranty Info

✓ Strengths:

Comprehensive repair data, cost estimates, parts info, aftermarket focus

✗ Weaknesses:

Premium pricing, requires subscription, aftermarket focus only

carmd.com

Subscription



Performance & Testing

0-60 times, quarter-mile stats, horsepower, and performance metrics

Zero to 60 Specs API

FREEMIUM

ZeroTo60Times.com

Comprehensive database of 0-60 mph times, quarter-mile statistics, top speed, horsepower/torque specs, and historical performance trends for thousands of vehicles.

Key Features:

0-60 Times

Quarter-Mile

Top Speed

HP/Torque

✓ Strengths:

Extensive database, verified data, regular updates, free tier available, historical trends

✗ Weaknesses:

Performance varies by conditions, limited to published specs, testing methodology varies

zeroto60times.com/api

Free Tier

OBD Diagnostic Codes API

FREEMIUM

CarAPI / Multiple Providers

Search over 9,000 OBD diagnostic codes for vehicle maintenance and compliance. Decode trouble codes for repair shops and service applications.

Key Features:

9K+ Codes

Code Lookup

Diagnostics

Compliance

✓ Strengths:

Comprehensive code database, free access, repair shop utility, compliance support

✗ Weaknesses:

Diagnostic codes only, no repair procedures, requires interpretation

carapi.app

Free



Images & Media

Vehicle photos, 360° views, AI image enhancement, and stock images

Spyne AI Image API

PREMIUM

Spyne.ai

AI-powered vehicle image transformation and enhancement. Transform car photos with background removal, studio-quality lighting, and professional editing for listings.

Key Features:

AI Enhancement

Background Removal

Studio Lighting

Batch Processing

✓ Strengths:

AI-powered quality, professional results, batch processing, listing optimization

✗ Weaknesses:

Premium pricing, per-image cost, requires good source photos

spyne.ai

Premium

Vehicle Photos API

PREMIUM

Auto.dev

High-quality vehicle images and photo galleries for listings and inventory management with professional automotive photography from multiple angles.

Key Features:

High-Res Photos

Multiple Angles

Interior Shots

Stock Images

✓ Strengths:

Professional quality, multiple views, stock photo availability, high resolution

✗ Weaknesses:

Generic stock photos, may not match exact vehicle, higher cost per image

[auto.dev](#)

Premium

Cached Images API

FREEMIUM

MarketCheck

Get cached versions of car images from dealer websites. Affordable access (\$0.1 per 100 calls) to existing dealer photography.

Key Features:

Dealer Photos

Cached Access

Fast Retrieval

Low Cost

✓ Strengths:

Very affordable (\$0.1/100 calls), real dealer photos, fast access, cached for speed

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited to existing dealer photos, quality varies, not customizable

docs.marketcheck.com

\$0.1/100 calls

Glo3D Auto Post API

PREMIUM

Glo3D.com

Automated Craigslist vehicle posting service with image optimization, ad management, and multi-market posting capabilities for dealerships.

Key Features:

Craigslist Posting

Auto Reposting

Image Optimization

Multi-Market

✓ Strengths:

Automation, multi-market reach, ad management, Craigslist integration

✗ Weaknesses:

Craigslist-specific, subscription required, depends on Craigslist policies

glo3d.com

Subscription



Maintenance & Service

Maintenance schedules, service intervals, warranty data, and repair information

Vehicle Maintenance API

FREEMIUM

Vehicle Databases

Comprehensive maintenance schedules by VIN or year/ make/model/trim. Version 4 API with extended coverage from 1981-2026. Essential for service departments.

Key Features:

Service Schedules

1981-2026 Coverage

VIN/YMMT Lookup

Interval Data

✓ Strengths:

Extensive coverage, manufacturer schedules, version 4 features, both VIN and YMMT access

✗ Weaknesses:

Paid service after free credits, US/Canada focus, requires authentication

vehicledatabases.com

Free Credits

Vehicle Warranty API

FREEMIUM

Vehicle Databases

Warranty information for vehicles from 1999-2026. Includes manufacturer warranty terms, extended warranty data, and coverage details.

Key Features:

Warranty Terms

1999-2026

Coverage Details

OEM Data

✓ Strengths:

Extended coverage period, manufacturer warranty data, comprehensive terms

✗ Weaknesses:

1999+ only, paid after free credits, warranty terms vary

vehicledatabases.com

Free Credits

Canadian Vehicle Specs

GOVERNMENT

Transport Canada

Database of original vehicle dimensions compiled annually by Transport Canada. Primarily used in collision investigation and reconstruction.

Key Features:

Vehicle Dimensions

Collision Data

Annual Updates

Official Data

✓ Strengths:

Official government data, free access, collision investigation focus, annual updates

✗ Weaknesses:

Canada-specific, collision focus only, limited general application

tc.canada.ca (via NHTSA)

Free



Market Analytics & Trends

Market intelligence, pricing trends, inventory velocity, and demand forecasting

Market Trends API

FREEMIUM

MarketCheck

Vehicle prices, inventory availability, and market demand data. Updated daily from 84,000+ dealer websites. Comprehensive market intelligence for pricing decisions.

Key Features:

Daily Updates

84K+ Dealers

Price Trends

Demand Data

✓ Strengths:

Massive dataset, daily updates, market intelligence, competitive analysis, consumer behavior

✗ Weaknesses:

Updates at 11am UTC only, API costs for scale, complex pricing tiers

marketcheck.com

Free Tier

Market Pulse Analytics API

PREMIUM

Automotive Intelligence Partners

Real-time automotive market analytics with consumer demand trends, inventory velocity, regional pricing variations, and ML-powered forecasting models.

Key Features:

Demand Indicators

Velocity Metrics

Regional Trends

ML Forecasting

✓ Strengths:

Predictive analytics, real-time updates, actionable insights, ML-powered, consumer tracking

✗ Weaknesses:

Premium pricing tier, requires data expertise to interpret fully

autointel.io/api

Premium

Cars Market API

FREEMIUM

MarketCheck

Get Market Days Supply value for any car. Understand inventory turnover and market health metrics for better stocking decisions.

Key Features:

Days Supply

Turnover Rate

Market Health

Inventory Metrics

✓ Strengths:

Affordable (\$0.6/100 calls), turnover insights, market health indicators

✗ Weaknesses:

Limited to days supply metric, requires API key, costs add up

docs.marketcheck.com

\$0.6/100 calls

OEM Incentive Search API

FREEMIUM

MarketCheck

Search incentive programs for 30+ car manufacturers in one place. Essential for understanding pricing dynamics and customer offers.

Key Features:

30+ OEMs

Incentive Programs

Rebates

Finance Offers

✓ Strengths:

Affordable (\$0.6/100 calls), multi-manufacturer, comprehensive incentives, centralized data

✗ Weaknesses:

Incentives change frequently, regional variations, not all programs included

docs.marketcheck.com

\$0.6/100 calls

Dealer Inventory Network API

PREMIUM

DealerSync Pro

Aggregated dealer inventory from thousands of dealers nationwide. Real-time availability, pricing, and vehicle options across multiple regions.

Key Features:

Multi-Dealer Access

Real-Time Stock

Geographic Data

Price Comparison

✓ Strengths:

Broad coverage, instant availability checks, competitive intelligence, regional insights

✗ Weaknesses:

Subscription required, data freshness varies by dealer integration

dealersync.pro/api

Subscription

Heavy Equipment API

FREEMIUM

MarketCheck

Search used heavy equipment, motorcycle, and recreational vehicle listings. Dealer inventories and market data for specialty vehicles.

Key Features:

Heavy Equipment

Motorcycles

RVs

Dealer Data

✓ Strengths:

Specialty coverage (\$0.2/100 calls), multiple categories, dealer profiles

✗ Weaknesses:

Smaller market, limited to specialty vehicles, fewer data points

docs.marketcheck.com

\$0.2/100 calls

Integration Strategy

Start Small: Begin with 2-3 core APIs (Vehicle Databases, NHTSA, MarketCheck free tier) to validate your use case.

Test Thoroughly: Use free tiers and trial periods to ensure data quality and integration compatibility.

Scale Strategically: Add specialized APIs (pricing, images, analytics) as your business requirements grow.

Mix and match based on your specific needs and budget. Most APIs offer both free and paid tiers to support development and production deployment.

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