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## 2001 Pontiac Firebird Full Review

Date Published: 10/31/07

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### 2001 Pontiac Firebird Review

Firebird comes in base, Formula, and Trans Am hatchback coupes, and base and Trans Am convertibles. Coupes offer optional removable roof panels, convertibles come with a power top and glass rear window. Base models have a V6 with 5-speed manual or automatic transmission; Formula/Trans Am have a V8 with 6-speed manual or automatic. WS6 Ram Air option for Trans Am boosts hp by 15; SLP Firehawk package adds five more. ABS 4-wheel disc brakes are standard; traction control is optional. Options added at midyear are 75th Anniversary and NHRA special-edition packages. Firebird is similar in design to the Chevrolet Camaro and its performance and accommodations mirror those of like-equipped Camaros.

#### Competition

The current Honda Prelude has been around for a few years but it has plenty of power, excellent road manners, and gets reasonable fuel economy. If Prelude is a little too expensive, take a look at our other Best Buy the Volkswagen New Beetle. It offers interesting styling and a nice mix of comfort, performance, and economy.

If raw performance is what you are after we Recommend the Chevrolet Camaro, Ford Mustang, and Pontiac Firebird. Not as pleasant to live with on a daily basis, these cars offer a lot of bang for your buck. New last year, the fun-to-drive Toyota Celica also earns the Recommended nod with its reputation for reliability.

#### News

This performance icon passes into history after the 2002 models and too many years of underperforming on the sales charts. Sister Chevrolet Camaro dies at the same time. Interestingly, Firebird enjoyed a modest 6-percent year-to-year sales spurt for calendar 1999, only to fall back 8.4 percent in 2000 to just over 31,000. Camaro managed about 42,000 last year. At those levels, General Motors' accountants can't justify continuing either car, let alone a complete redesign. Quite simply, the performance-car action has long since moved from burly iron like Firebird to sporty subcompacts like the Honda Civic Si and Ford Focus ZX3. Only Ford's still-popular Mustang seems able to survive as a traditional Detroit "ponycar."

Speaking of tradition, Pontiac is almost sure to mark Firebird's farewell with a limited-edition "instant collectible," one of the oldest marketing ploys in the book. Chevy is bound to do likewise with Camaro. In each case, the goodbye model is likely to amount to little more than a pricey option package, and mostly cosmetic at that, so beware. Historically, such cars aren't worth any more down the road than their less special siblings, even though fewer may have been built to begin with.

#### 2001 Pontiac Firebird Road Test

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## Pros

Acceleration

Handling

## Cons

Fuel economy (V8 models)

Ride (V8 models)

Rear-seat room

Rear visibility

Wet-weather traction (without traction control)












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## Consumer Guide® Road Test Ratings

### Acceleration

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
5	8	9	5.7

V8 versions deliver fierce acceleration yet are docile in traffic. V6 Camaros and Firebirds have spirited pick up and are cheaper to insure than V8 models.

### Fuel Economy

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
5	4	4	6.1

In our tests, we averaged 18.6 mpg with V6/5-speed, 15.1 with V8/automatic, 14.7-16.2 with V8/6-speed. V6s use regular fuel; GM recommends 91-octane premium fuel for the V8s, but says 87-octane regular is acceptable.

### Ride Quality

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
4	3	3	3.5

Not designed for comfort. V8 models, with their lower-profile tires, ride more stiffly over bumps than the firm but relatively compliant V6 versions.

### Steering/Handling/Braking

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
6	8	8	6.8

All have sporty, responsive steering and handling, though their stiffly sprung tail can skip around on rough pavement. Traction control is an essential safety feature on slippery surfaces.

### Quietness

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
2	3	3	3.2

We expect lots of mechanical ruckus in "muscle" cars, but V8 Camaros and Firebirds have a tiresome exhaust rumble, plus noisy high performance tires.

### Controls

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Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
5	5	5	5.6

Firebird's dashboard is unnecessarily over-styled but controls and gauges are easy to locate and decipher. Plastic and unpadded vinyl abound in old-school-think cabin.

#### Room/Comfort/Driver Seating (front)

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
4	4	4	4.3

OK for two adults, but low roof, high door sills, and "bathtub" seating result in cramped feeling, poor rear vision. Long, heavy doors aggravate entry/exit.

#### Room/Comfort (rear)

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
2	2	2	1.5

Fit only for kids.

#### Cargo Room

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
1	3	3	3

Concentrated in a rectangular rear well big enough to swallow two golf bags. Coupes' seatback folds for extra versatility. Both body styles suffer high rear liftover.

#### Value within Class

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
4	6	5	4.6

V8 models are among the world's best high-performance values, but Camaro/Firebird design is out of step with today's tastes and trends.

#### Total Score

Base conv, auto.	Formula, auto.	Trans Am hatch w/WS6, man.	Class Average
38	46	46	44.3

#### Scores for all Sporty/performance Cars

Low Score	<input type="text"/>	37
Average Score	<input type="text"/>	44
High Score	<input type="text"/>	60

## 2001 Pontiac Firebird Prices & Equipment

### Model Prices

Prices Updated: 07/21/2000

Trim Name	Retail Price	Dealer Invoice	Destination Charge
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Base 2-door hatchback	\$18,855	\$17,252	\$575
Base 2-door convertible	\$25,475	\$23,310	\$575
Formula 2-door hatchback	\$24,035	\$21,992	\$575
Trans Am 2-door hatchback	\$27,145	\$24,838	\$575
Trans Am 2-door convertible	\$31,215	\$28,562	\$575

*Pricing Key: Retail prices listed with each report are set by the vehicle's manufacturer. These figures appear on each car's federally mandated window sticker. Most price lists also include dealer-invoice prices. Dealer-invoice prices are what the dealer pays the manufacturer for the car and its factory-installed options. The destination charge is not included in the suggested-retail or dealer-invoice price and must be added to the cost of the vehicle. Car companies change prices frequently throughout the year. If the prices published do not match those on the vehicle's window sticker, the manufacturer has probably altered the price recently.*

NA = price note available, NC = no charge.

## Rebates and Incentives

**There are no rebates or incentives at this time.**

*Consumer Guide®'s Rebates and Incentives represent a summary of national manufacturer programs available. Regional restrictions may apply, and offerings may vary by model. For a complete list of Rebate & Incentive programs [click here](#).*

## Standard Equipment

### Base hatchback

#### Powertrain

3.8-liter V6 engine, 5-speed manual transmission.

#### Safety

Dual front airbags, antilock 4-wheel disc brakes, daytime running lights.

#### Comfort and Convenience Features

Air conditioning, power steering, tilt steering wheel, cruise control, cloth upholstery, front bucket seats, folding rear seat, center console, cupholders, AM/FM/CD player, digital clock, tachometer, intermittent wipers, map lights, visor mirrors, remote hatch release, rear defogger, automatic headlights, floor mats.

#### Appearance and Miscellaneous

Left remote and right manual mirrors, theft-deterrent system, fog lights, rear spoiler, 215/60R16 tires, alloy wheels.

### Base convertible adds to Base hatchback:

#### Comfort and Convenience Features

Power mirrors, power windows, power door locks, remote keyless entry, leather-wrapped steering wheel w/radio controls, leather-wrapped shifter and handbrake, 6-way power driver seat, Monsoon sound system, power antenna, rear decklid release, power convertible top.

#### Appearance and Miscellaneous

Theft-deterrent system w/alarm.

### Formula adds to Base hatchback:

#### Powertrain

5.7-liter V8 310-horsepower engine, 4-speed automatic transmission, limited-slip differential.

#### Comfort and Convenience Features

Power mirrors, power windows, power door locks, leather-wrapped steering wheel w/radio controls, leather-wrapped shifter and parking brake, Monsoon sound system, power antenna.

**Appearance and Miscellaneous**  
Performance suspension, 245/50ZR16 tires.

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**Trans Am hatchback adds to Formula:**

**Comfort and Convenience Features**  
6-way power driver seat, leather upholstery, remote keyless entry.

**Appearance and Miscellaneous**  
Removable hatch roof, theft-deterrent system w/alarm.

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**Trans Am convertible adds to Trans Am hatchback:**

**Comfort and Convenience Features**  
Power convertible top, rear decklid release.

**Appearance and Miscellaneous**  
Deletes: removable hatch roof.

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**Optional Equipment**

<b>Major Packages</b>	<b>Retail Price</b>	<b>Invoice Price</b>
<b>Option Group 1SB</b>		
Formula	\$1,505	\$1,339
<i>Removable hatch roof, 6-way power driver seat, remote keyless entry, power antenna, theft-deterrent system w/alarm.</i>		
<b>Option Group 1SC</b>		
Base hatchback	\$2,450	\$2,181
<i>Group 1SB plus Monsoon sound system, leather-wrapped steering wheel w/radio controls, 6-way power driver seat, remote keyless entry, theft-deterrent system w/alarm.</i>		
<b>3800 Performance Pkg.</b>		
Base	\$490	\$436
<i>Limited-slip differential, faster ratio steering gear, dual exhaust, 3.42 rear axle ratio (with automatic transmission), 235/55R16 tires.</i>		
<b>SLP Firehawk Pkg.</b>		
Formula, Trans Am	\$3,999	\$3,439
<i>Forced-air induction system, hood-mounted heat extractors, special hood w/scoops, 330-horsepower engine, special key fobs and dash plaque, upgraded suspension, 275/40ZR17 tires, painted alloy wheels.</i>		
<b>WS6 Ram Air Performance and Handling Pkg.</b>		
Trans Am	\$3,390	\$3,017
<i>Ram air induction system, functional hood scoops, 325-horsepower engine, upgraded suspension, power steering fluid cooler, bright exhaust outlets, 275/40ZR17 tires, high-polished alloy wheels.</i>		
<b>Pontiac 75th Anniversary Pkg.</b>		
Base hatchback	\$4,530	\$4,032
Formula w/automatic	\$2,850	\$2,537
Formula w/6-speed	\$2,875	\$2,559
<i>4-speed automatic transmission, 6-way power driver seat, power mirrors and windows, power door locks, remote keyless entry, hatch roof, Monsoon sound system, power antenna, 3800 Performance Pkg., theft-deterrent system w/alarm, chrome alloy wheels.</i>		
<b>NHRA Special Edition Pkg.</b>		
Formula/Trans Am w/automatic	\$1,170	\$1,041

Formula/Trans Am w/6-speed	\$1,195	\$1,064
<i>Power steering cooler, Hurst shifter (6-speed), special axle ratio, performance tires, chrome alloy wheels.</i>		
<b>Sport Appearance Pkg.</b>		
Base	\$1,040	\$926
<i>Specific Aero Appearance Pkg., dual exhaust. Requires automatic transmission. Hatchback requires option group. Convertible requires 235/55R16 tires.</i>		
<b>Security Pkg.</b>		
Base hatchback, Formula	\$240	\$214
<i>Remote keyless entry, theft-deterrent system w/alarm. Base requires Group 1SB.</i>		
<b>Powertrain</b>		
<b>5-speed manual transmission</b>		
Base hatchback, (credit)	\$-815	\$-725
<i>Requires option group.</i>		
<b>6-speed manual transmission</b>		
Formula, Trans Am	\$0	\$0
<b>Hurst shifter</b>		
Formula, Trans Am	\$325	\$289
<i>Requires 6-speed manual transmission.</i>		
<b>4-speed automatic transmission</b>		
Base	\$815	\$725
<b>Traction control</b>		
Base	\$250	\$223
Formula, Trans Am	\$450	\$401
<b>Rear performance axle</b>		
Formula, Trans Am	\$300	\$267
<i>Includes 3.23 axle ratio, performance tires.</i>		
<b>Comfort and Convenience Features</b>		
<b>Monsoon AM/FM/cassette</b>		
Base hatchback w/Group 1SB.	\$330	\$294
Base hatchback w/Group 1SC, Base convertible, Formula, Trans Am (credit)	\$-100	\$-89
<i>Base hatchback includes leather-wrapped steering wheel with radio controls.</i>		
<b>Monsoon sound system</b>		
Base hatchback w/Group 1SB	\$430	\$383
<i>Includes leather-wrapped steering with radio controls.</i>		
<b>12-disc CD changer</b>		
Base convertible, Base hatchback, Formula, Trans Am convertible, Trans Am hatchback	\$595	\$530
<i>Base requires Group 1SC.</i>		
<b>Leather upholstery</b>		
Base, Formula	\$575	\$512
<i>Base hatchback requires Group 1SC. Formula requires Group 1SB.</i>		

<b>Articulating bucket seats</b>		
Trans Am	\$185	\$165
<b>6-way power driver seat</b>		
Base hatchback, Formula	\$270	\$240
<b>Appearance and Miscellaneous</b>		
<b>Removable locking hatch roof</b>		
Base hatchback, Formula	\$995	\$886
<i>Includes sunshades, lock, and stowage.</i>		
<b>Power steering oil cooler</b>		
Trans Am	\$100	\$89
<b>235/55R16 tires</b>		
Base	\$135	\$120
<b>Chromed alloy wheels</b>		
Base convertible, Base hatchback, Formula, Trans Am convertible, Trans Am hatchback	\$595	\$530
<i>Base hatchback and Formula require option group. NA with Ram Air Performance and Handling Pkg.</i>		

## 2001 Pontiac Firebird Specs & Safety

### Vehicle Dimensions

Specification	Pontiac Firebird 2-door hatchback	Pontiac Firebird 2-door convertible
Wheelbase, in.	101.1	101.1
Overall Length, in.	193.3	193.3
Overall Width, in.	74.4	74.4
Overall Height, in.	51.2	51.8
Curb Weight, lbs.	3323	3402
Cargo Volume, cu. ft.	33.7	12.9
Standard Payload, lbs.	--	--
Fuel Capacity, gals.	16.8	16.8
Seating Capacity	4	4
Front Head Room, in.	37.2	38.7
Max. Front Leg Room, in.	43.0	43.0
Rear Head Room, in.	35.2	39.4
Max. Rear Leg Room, in.	28.8	28.8

*Specifications Key: NA = not available; "--" = measurement does not exist.*

## Engines

	ohv V6	ohv V8	ohv V8
Size, liters/cu. in.	3.8 /231	5.7 /346	5.7 /346
Horsepower @ rpm.	200 @ 5200	310 @ 5200	325 @ 5200
Torque (lb-ft) @ rpm.	225 @ 4000	340 @ 4000	350 @ 4400
Availability	Standard	Standard	Optional
<b>EPA City / highway mpg</b>			
5-speed manual	19/31	--/--	--/--
6-speed manual	--/--	19/28	19/28
4-speed automatic	19/31	18/26	18/26

*Engine Key: l/cu in. = liters/cubic inches; ohv = overhead valve; ohc = overhead camshaft; dohc = dual overhead camshaft; I = inline cylinders; H = horizontally opposed cylinders; V = cylinders in a V configuration; W = cylinders in a W configuration; rpm = revolutions per minute; CVT = continuously variable (automatic) transmission; NA = not available; "--" = measurement does not exist.*

## Safety Features

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antilock Brakes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Front Side Airbags   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traction Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Curtain Side Airbags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antiskid System  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rear Side Airbags    |

## NHTSA Crash-Test Results

Test	Pontiac Firebird 2-door hatchback	Pontiac Firebird 2-door convertible
Collision	1	NA
Collision (HLDI)	167	NA
Front Impact, Driver	4	NA
Front Impact, Passenger	5	NA
Injury	3	NA
Injury (HLDI)	102	NA
Side Impact, Driver	3	NA
Side Impact, Rear Passenger	4	NA
Theft	2	NA
Theft (HLDI)	142	NA

*The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) tests a vehicle's worthiness in front- and side-impact collisions and rates its resistance to rollovers. Front-impact crash-test numbers indicate the chance of serious injury: 5 = 10% or less; 4 = 10-20%; 3 = 20-35%; 2 = 35-45%; 1 = More than 45%. Side-impact crash-test*



numbers indicate: 5 = 5% or less; 4 = 6-10%; 3 = 11-20%; 2 = 21-25%; 1 = More than 26%. Rollover resistance numbers indicate the chance for rollover when the vehicle leaves the roadway: 5 = Less than 10%; 4 = 10-20%; 3 = 20-30%; 2 = 30-40%; 1 = More than 40%.

## Manufacturer's Warranty

Class	Years/Miles	Comments
Powertrain	None/--	--
Bumper-to-bumper	3/36,000	--
Corrosion	6/100,000	--
Free roadside assistance	3/36,000	--
Free scheduled maintenance	None/--	--

Manufacturers may periodically offer additional coverage as a purchase incentive. There offers are not reflected on this chart. The federal government requires two other warranties. The Exhaust Emission Warranty covers corrosion-related parts for 2 years/24,000 miles, plus 8 years/80,000 miles on the catalytic converter and any on-board diagnostic device. The Passenger Restraint Warranty covers seat belts and airbags for 5 years/50,000 miles.

**Built in:** Canada

**Drivewheels:** rear-wheel drive

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