

# 1979 Pontiac Firebird Esprit

2dr Hardtop Coupe · 8-cyl. 301cid/135hp 2bbl

#1 Concours condition

**\$20,900**

▾ -0.9%

#2 Excellent condition

**\$14,200**

▾ -0.7%

#3 Good condition

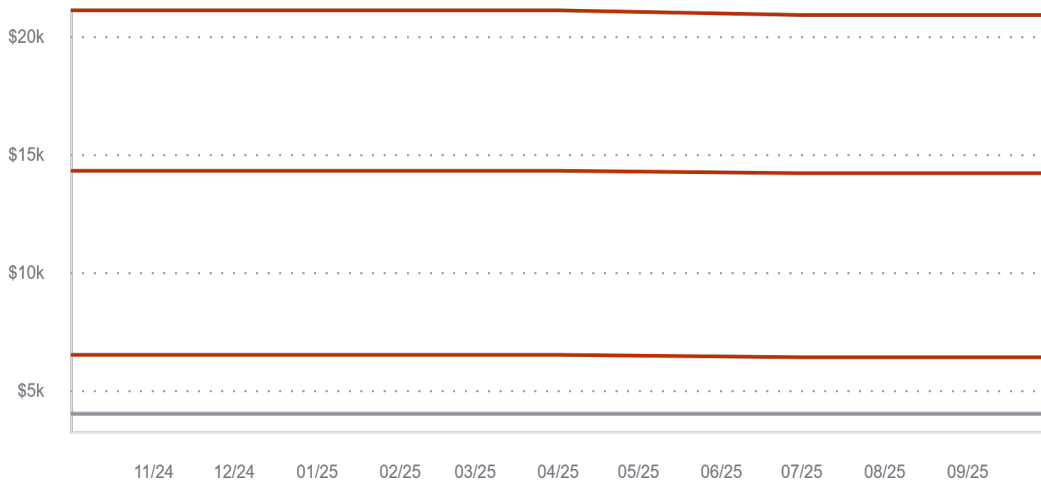
**\$6,400\***

▾ -1.5%

#4 Fair condition

**\$4,000**

○ 0%



NOTE: The chart displays price changes for the last year.

## Value adjustments

**-30%**  
for 6-cyl.

## Model description

The final redesign of the original F-Body Firebird took place in 1979. The split grille reduced to a gently sloping, contoured urethane nose with four inset headlights as the dominant features. The bumper came to a central prow with air intakes beneath it on each side and a recessed licensed plate in the middle. Trans Am and Formula taillights were covered with dark lenses while base Firebirds and Esprits had full-width red lights.

Except for the base Firebird, interiors were redesigned with hobnail cloth custom options. Special packages remained popular with the Red Bird, Formula and a new Black Bird option. The latter presented the Trans Am appearance including optional T-tops without the flares, spoilers, and performance package.

The Red Bird model featured two-tone red paint, vinyl or cloth custom interiors, red steering wheel, grille liners, and taillight frames, plus red-trimmed snowflake wheels. A Silver-over-Charcoal 10th Anniversary package was launched on February 15 to coincide with the Daytona 500 stock car race and attracted 7500 orders, despite the eye-watering price of \$10,619.

\*Please note: All prices shown here are based on various data sources, as detailed in [About Our Prices](#). For all Hagerty clients: The values shown do not imply coverage in this amount. In the event of a claim, the Guaranteed Value(s)<sup>®</sup> on your policy declarations page is the amount your vehicle(s) is covered for, even if the value displayed here is different. If you would like to discuss your policy, please call us at 877-922-3391.

The Firebird smashed sales records this year with 211,453 sales, and an astonishing 55 percent were Trans Ams. It was a far cry from the 1262 sales in 1972. Base Firebirds accounted for 38,642 sales and prices began at \$5076. The luxury Esprit notched up 30,953 sales and was priced from \$5454, while Formula sales totaled 24,851, from \$6380. Comparatively speaking, the Trans Am was attractively priced at \$6699, which is why so many were sold.

On the engine front, the 2-barrel 135-bhp 301 Pontiac V-8 returned as an option on the base 1979 Firebird, Esprit, and Formula (\$270). It was rated at 150 bhp with a 4-barrel carburetor. Also available was the 145-bhp 305-cid Chevrolet V8 engine (\$270). All three models also offered a 170-bhp Chevrolet-built 350 as an option. Both V-8s lost 10 bhp if coupled with an automatic transmission. An optional 180-bhp 400 L78 engine cost \$370. Base gearbox on all models was a floor-shift 3-speed with a 4-speed manual and Turbo Hydra-Matic optional. Meanwhile, Trans Am offered the 150-bhp 301 L37 V-8 as a base engine, along with the 185-bhp 403 Oldsmobile and the 400-cid "6.6 liter" V-8 in L78 or high power W72 configuration.

All 3345 Trans Am Special Edition Y82 hardtop buyers got the 400 V-8. T-Top could choose from the 403 (all automatics), the W72, or the 150-bhp 301. The 7500 Trans Am 10th Anniversary X87 buyers chose from the W72 unit or the 403.

There were a total of 13 available paint colors for the 1979 Pontiac Firebird, including Cameo White (11), Platinum (15), Starlight Black (19), Atlantis Blue (24), Nocturne Blue (29), Solar Gold (50), Sundance Yellow (51), Gold Metallic (55), Sierra Copper (63), Heritage Brown (69), Mayan Red (75), Carmine (77), and Redbird Red (80).

*Road Test* magazine drove a 1979 Firebird Trans Am with the 220-bhp W72 engine and managed a quarter-mile in 15.3 seconds at 96.6 mph. Pontiac maintained fourth position in the U.S. market, increasing its sales total to 903,484 units.

**Body styles**

2dr Hardtop Coupe

**Engine types**

8-cyl. 301cid/135hp 2bbl

8-cyl. 301cid/150hp 4bbl

8-cyl. 350cid/165hp 4bbl

**1970-1981 Pontiac Firebird stats**

Highest sale	Lowest sale	Most recent sale	Sales
<b>\$495,000</b>	<b>\$451</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>	<b>3880</b>

**Equipment**

**Standard Equipment**

3-Speed Manual Transmission

Bucket Seats

Front Disc Brakes

Heater/Defroster

**Optional Equipment**

Air Conditioning

Power Front Disc Brakes

Power Steering

Power Windows

Speed Control

Tachometer

**Additional Info**

Vehicle Length: 196.8 in

Wheelbase - Inches: 108.2 in

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## Vehicle's condition classification

### #1. Concours

#1 vehicles are the best in the world. Imagine the best vehicle, in the right colors, driving onto the lawn at the finest concours. Perfectly clean, the vehicle has been groomed down to the tire treads. Painted and chromed surfaces are mirror-like. Dust and dirt are banned, and materials used are correct and superbly fitted.

### #3. Good

#3 vehicles drive and run well but are not used for daily transportation. The casual passerby will not find any visual flaws, but these vehicles might have some incorrect parts. #3 vehicles could possess some, but not all, of the issues of a #4 vehicle, but they will be balanced by other factors such as fresh paint or a new, correct interior.

### #2. Excellent

#2 vehicles could win a local or regional show. They might even be former #1 vehicles that have been driven or have aged. Seasoned observers will have to look closely for flaws but will be able to find some. The paint, chrome, glass and finishes will all appear as excellent. The vehicle drives as a new vehicle of its era would.

### #4. Fair

#4 vehicles are daily drivers, with flaws visible to the naked eye. The chrome might have pitting, the windshield might be chipped and perhaps the body has a minor dent. Imperfect paintwork, split seams or a cracked dash might be present. No major parts are missing, but there might be non-stock additions. A #4 vehicle can also be a deteriorated restoration.