# Article information:

The Capitalization of Consumer Financing into Durable Goods Prices - ARGYLE - 2021 - The Journal of Finance - Wiley Online Library
<https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.virtual.anu.edu.au/doi/10.1111/jofi.12977>

# Article summary:

1. The paper investigates how durable goods markets capitalize credit terms at the individual borrower level, using disaggregated data on auto prices and loans.

2. The study finds significant heterogeneity in transaction prices across borrowers that is driven by differences in borrowers' access to credit, which isolates credit terms as a key channel through which credit impacts prices.

3. Plausibly exogenous changes in the monthly cost of debt service arising from lender maturity policies in the auto loan market are used to estimate the effect of credit terms more broadly, finding that maturity accounts for 70% to 80% of the impact of credit supply shocks.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "The Capitalization of Consumer Financing into Durable Goods Prices" by Argyle (2021) investigates how credit terms impact prices in the durable goods market, specifically in the auto industry. The study uses disaggregated data on auto prices and loans to examine how individual borrowers' access to credit affects transaction prices. The author finds significant heterogeneity in transaction prices across borrowers that is driven by differences in their access to credit, which isolates credit terms as a key channel through which credit impacts prices.

Overall, the article provides valuable insights into the relationship between credit and asset prices at the individual borrower level. However, there are some potential biases and limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

One potential bias is that the study only focuses on the auto industry, which may limit its generalizability to other durable goods markets. Additionally, the study only examines plausibly exogenous changes in monthly cost of debt service arising from lender maturity policies in the auto loan market. While this approach allows for causal inference in a difference-in-differences framework, it may not capture all relevant factors that could impact consumer behavior and pricing decisions.

Another limitation is that the study does not consider potential risks associated with increased access to credit. For example, easier access to credit could lead to higher levels of household debt and financial instability if borrowers take on more debt than they can afford to repay.

Furthermore, while the study finds that borrowers with decreased access to credit pay lower prices holding quality fixed, it does not explore potential counterarguments or alternative explanations for this finding. For example, it is possible that lenders may offer lower prices to borrowers with decreased access to credit as a way of incentivizing them to take out loans.

In terms of promotional content or partiality, there does not appear to be any overt bias or promotion of a particular agenda in this article. However, it is important to note that the author has previously published research on related topics (e.g., Argyle et al., 2020), which could potentially influence their perspective or interpretation of the results.

Overall, while this article provides valuable insights into how credit terms impact pricing decisions at the individual borrower level in the auto industry, there are some potential biases and limitations that should be considered when interpreting its findings. Future research could build on these findings by examining similar relationships in other durable goods markets and considering potential risks associated with increased access to credit.

# Topics for further research:

* Risks associated with increased access to credit and household debt
* Impact of credit terms on pricing decisions in other durable goods markets
* Alternative explanations for the finding that borrowers with decreased access to credit pay lower prices
* Factors beyond credit terms that could impact consumer behavior and pricing decisions
* Long-term effects of credit access on financial stability and economic growth
* Role of lenders in incentivizing borrowers with decreased access to credit to take out loans

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