

Weight Terminology Explained

Caravan

TARE Caravan/Trailer Mass

This is the 'dry' weight of the caravan. It is the weight of the caravan as per the production build. It does not include water, gas, accessories and or added options post build. Any items such as additional batteries, solar panels, tool boxes, cargo etc that are added after manufacturing form part of the trailer/caravan payload.

Aggregate Caravan/Trailer Mass (ATM)

ATM = Trailer/Caravan TARE weight **plus** the maximum allowable payload.

Example:

Caravan TARE weight: 2000kg

Caravan maximum payload: 400kg

ATM = 2400kg

To calculate your actual ATM, we need to place all caravan wheels **and** the jockey wheel on the scales and add the individual weights together.

Caravan/Trailer Payload

Payload is the caravan/trailer load carrying capacity. It is the difference between the ATM and TARE weight. This includes water, gas, accessories and cargo.

Gross Caravan/Trailer Mass (GTM)

GTM = ATM minus the tow ball mass (TBM)

Example:

ATM = 2400kg

TBM = 192kg

GTM = 2208kg

Tow Ball Mass (TBM)

The TBM is the load applied by the trailer/caravan hitch to the vehicle tow receiver/tow ball. As a rule of thumb, tow ball mass should be between 6% to 12% of the ATM. This is achieved by correctly loading the trailer/caravan cargo.

Some manufacturers may list the TBM on the compliance plate, however this is based on the TARE trailer/caravan weight not when it is loaded.

Tow Vehicle

TARE

This is the 'dry' weight of the vehicle with only 10L of fuel, no cargo, passengers or accessories fitted.

KERB

This is the same as TARE weight but with a full tank of fuel.

Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM)

This is the KERB weight **plus** passengers, cargo, accessories and tow ball mass (when trailer connected).

Tow Ball Mass (TBM)

This is the tow ball mass that is transferred from the trailer to the vehicle tow ball. All vehicles have a maximum allowable tow ball mass specified by the vehicle manufacturer (typically can be found on the vehicle tow placard).

Payload

Payload is any weight above and beyond the vehicle KERB weight. Passengers, cargo, accessories (bull bars, tow bars, roof racks etc), vehicle modifications (larger tyres, after market wheels etc) and tow ball mass all attribute to vehicle payload.

Gross Combined Mass (GCM)

This is the combined weight of the tow and towed vehicle (tow vehicle GVM + towed vehicle GVM). When calculating GCM, the tow ball mass of the trailer/caravan is included in the vehicle GVM.

Towing Capacity

This is the maximum allowable vehicle towing capacity as specified by the manufacturer. The maximum allowable towing capacity is impacted directly by the vehicle GVM at the time of towing.