



1959 Production Facts

The 1959 Corvette was mechanically unchanged from the 1958. It did have the new reverse lockout t-handle on the 4-speed shifter as well as the first optional black interior. The fake hood louvers and chrome spears on the trunk were removed this year as well. The seats and door panels were re-designed, and a shelf was added under the dash. A new instrument panel with concave instruments to reduce glare was introduced. The tachometer, seat belts, outside rear-view mirrors, electric clock, and dual exhaust were now standard equipment. Sunvisors were offered as optional equipment. Interestingly the seat pleats on the 1959 run from side to side where the 1958 and 1960 run up and down. This was also the only year the turquoise soft top was available.

Production Options and Build Statistics

Total 1959 Corvettes Built - 9,670

Serial Numbers	
Convertible	J59S100001 - J59S109670

The serial number (Vehicle Identification Number -- VIN) is located on a plate on the left front door hinge pillar.

Position	Character	Description
1	J	Corvette
2-3	59	1959
4	S	Assembled in St. Louis, MO
5 to 10	100001 to 109670	production sequence

Engine Serial Number

Position	Value	Description
1 to 7	0001001 and up	Sequential Production Number
8	F or T	Flint, MI or Tonawanda, NY
9 to 10	Carburetion & Transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQ: Three or Four-speed manual transmission • CR: Three or Four-speed manual transmission with fuel injection • CS: Three or Four-speed manual transmission, high lift camshaft, and fuel injection • CT: Three or Four-speed manual transmission and dual four-barrel carburetors • CU: Three or Four-speed manual transmission, high-lift camshaft and dual four-barrel carburetors • DG: Powerglide automatic transmission • DH: Powerglide automatic transmission and fuel injection • DJ: Powerglide automatic transmission and dual four-barrel carburetors

Cars with optional four-speed manual transmissions used the same engine code suffixes as cars with three-speed manual transmissions. The body number plate is located on the engine side of the cowl. Fisher Body Style Number 59-867 identifies a Corvette.

Production Options

RPO	Description	Cost	Total	
			Prod.	%
867	Base Convertible	\$3,875.00	9,670	100.0%
101	Heater Deluxe	\$102.25	8,909	92.1%
102	AM Radio, Signal Seeking	\$149.80	7,001	72.4%
107	Parking Brake Alarm	\$5.40	3,601	37.2%
108	Courtesy Lights	\$6.50	3,601	37.2%
109	Windshield Washers	\$16.15	7,929	82.0%
261	Sunshades (right and left)	\$10.80	N/A	N/A
276	Wheels, Five 15"x5.5" (provides hubcaps in place of wheel discs)	\$0.00	214	2.2%
290	Whitewall Tires, 6.70x15	\$31.55	8,173	84.5%
313	Powerglide Automatic Trans. (with 230/245 or 250hp engine only)	\$199.10	1,878	19.4%
419	Auxiliary Hardtop in place of folding top (production number is for all shipped)	\$0.00	5,481	56.7%
419	Auxiliary Hardtop in addition to folding top (production number is for all shipped)	\$236.75	5,481	56.7%
426	Power Windows	\$59.20	587	6.1%
440	Two-Tone Paint Combination	\$16.15	2,931	30.3%
469	283ci, 245hp Engine (2x4 carbs, regular cam)	\$150.65	1,417	14.7%
469C	283ci, 270hp Engine (2x4 carbs, high-lift cam)	\$182.95	1,846	19.1%
470	Top, Folding, Optional fabric colors	\$0.00	N/A	N/A
473	Power Operated Folding Top	\$139.90	661	6.8%
579	283ci, 250hp Engine (fuel injected, regular cam)	\$484.20	175	1.8%
579D	283ci, 290hp Engine (fuel injected, high-lift cam)	\$484.20	745	7.7%
675	Positraction Rear Axle (3.70:1)	\$48.45	1,362	14.1%
675	Positraction Rear Axle (4.11:1)	\$48.45	2,523	26.1%
675	Positraction Rear Axle (4.56:1)	\$48.45	285	2.9%
684	Heavy Duty Racing Suspension - includes heavy duty brakes (with 3&4-speed trans and 270 or 290 HP engine only)	\$425.05	142	1.5%
685	4-Speed Close Ratio Synchromesh Manual Trans. (replaces standard 3-speed close-ratio trans.)	\$188.30	4,175	43.2%
686	Metallic Brakes - Heavy-duty Metallic facings (with 3&4-speed trans and 270 or 290 HP engine only)	\$26.90	333	3.4%
1408	Blackwall Tires, 6.70x15	N/A	1,497	15.5%
1625	24 Gallon Fuel Tank (Special fiber glass fuel tank offering greater mileage without refueling. Replaces standard tank. Available only with the removable hardtop (RPO #419))	N/A	N/A	N/A

1959 Corvette Specifications

Mechanical Dimensions

Feature	Dimensions
Wheelbase	102 in.
Track Front/Rear	57 in. / 59 in.
Length	177.2 in.
Width	72.8 in.
Height	51.6 in.
Frontal Area	N/A
Ground Clearance	N/A
Curb Weight	3,092 lbs.
Weight Distribution Front/Rear	53%/47%
Fuel Capacity	16.4 gal.
Coolant Capacity	16.5 qt*

Interior Dimensions

Feature	Dimensions
Headroom	34.7 in.
Hip Room	21.5 in. per bucket 59.6 in. total
Leg Room	46.5 in.
Shoulder Room	49.4 in.

Engine Specifications

Feature	Base	469	469C	579	579D
Bore	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.875 in.	N/A
Stroke	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.00 in.	N/A
Displacement	283 ci	283 ci	283 ci	283 ci	283 ci
Compression Ratio	N/A	9.5:1	9.5:1	9.5:1	10.5:1
Horsepower	230 bhp	245 bhp	270 bhp	250 bhp @ 5,000 RPM	290 bhp
Torque	N/A	N/A	N/A	305 lbs.-ft. @ 3,800 RPM	N/A
Redline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carburetion	Carter four-barrel Type WCFB Model 2816	2x4 bbl	2x4 bbl	Rochester Fuel Injection	Fuel Inj.
Oil Capacity	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Valvetrain	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Color Options for 1959 - Acrylic Lacquer or Nitrocellulose Lacquer

RPO	Color	Cost	Ditzler	Dupont	RMNumber	Soft Top Color	Interior Color	Total	
								Prod.	%
N/A	Inca Silver	\$0.00	N/A			White/Black	Black/Red	957	9.9%
N/A	Tuxedo Black	\$0.00	DDL-9300	88-L	A-496	White/Black	Red/Black/Blue	1,594	16.5%
502A	Frost Blue	\$0.00	N/A			White/Blue/Black	Blue/Red	1,024	10.6%
504A	Crown Sapphire	\$0.00	DDL-12001	2930-L	A-1137	White/Black/Turquoise	Turquoise	888	9.2%
506A	Roman Red	\$0.00	70961	2931	1138	White/Black	Black/Red	1,542	15.9%
508A	Classic Cream	\$0.00	N/A			White/Black	Black	223	2.3%
510A	Snowcrest White	\$0.00	N/A			White/Turquoise	Red/Turquoise	3,354	34.7%

Interior Colors

RPO	Color	Cost	Total	
			Prod.	%
Black	N/A	\$0.00	N/A	N/A
Blue	N/A	\$0.00	N/A	N/A
Red	N/A	\$0.00	N/A	N/A
Turquoise	59C24	\$0.00	N/A	N/A