

HOME

SEARCH [Go to Advanced Search/Archive](#)[Symbol Lookup](#)▶ [JOB MARKET](#)▶ [REAL ESTATE](#)▶ [ALL ABOUT](#)

NEWS

International
 National
 Washington
 Business
 - [Media & Advertising](#)
 - [World Business](#)
 - [Your Money](#)
 - [Markets](#)
 - [Company Research](#)
 - [Mutual Funds](#)
 - [Stock Portfolio](#)
 - [Columns](#)
 Technology
 Science
 Health
 Sports
 New York Region
 Education
 Weather
 Obituaries
 NYT Front Page
 Corrections

OPINION

[Editorials/Op-Ed](#)
[Readers' Opinions](#)

>> [CLICK HERE](#)

FEATURES

[Arts](#)
[Books](#)
[Movies](#)
[Travel](#)
[NYC Guide](#)
[Dining & Wine](#)
[Home & Garden](#)
[Fashion & Style](#)
[Crossword/Games](#)
[Cartoons](#)
[Magazine](#)
[Week in Review](#)
[Multimedia/Photos](#)
[College](#)
[Learning Network](#)

SERVICES

[Archive](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Book a Trip](#)
[Personals](#)
[Theater Tickets](#)
[NYT Store](#)
[NYT Mobile](#)
[E-Cards & More](#)
[About NYTDigital](#)
[Jobs at NYTDigital](#)
[Online Media Kit](#)
[Our Advertisers](#)

MEMBER CENTER

Past 30 Days

QUOTES [GO TO MEMBER CENTER](#)Welcome, [clintwatkins](#)

[E-Mail This Article](#)
[Printer-Friendly Form](#)
[Most E-Mailed Articles](#)

ARTICLE TOOLS
SPONSORED BY

STARBUCK

The New York Times **JobMarket** [nytimes.com](#) Put your company in a better position.

Nissan Proposes Discrimination Settlement

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filed at 9:17 p.m. ET

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- [Nissan's](#) financing arm has agreed to stop marking up loan rates offered to qualified minority buyers under a proposed settlement of a class-action federal discrimination lawsuit.

Nissan Motor Acceptance Corp. also agreed to tell car buyers their interest rate may be negotiable.

The agreement, filed Tuesday, seeks to settle a 1998 lawsuit by 10 black and Hispanic car buyers from Tennessee and Florida who said NMAC charged them higher interest rates on car loans than whites with similar credit ratings.

Under the deal, NMAC would also pay \$5,000 to \$20,000 to each plaintiff named in the suit plus \$1 million to America Saves, a Washington-based consumer agency. Lawyers said the suit involved about 125,000 plaintiffs.

The case was the first in a series of recent lawsuits against automobile financing companies and banks. Plaintiffs' lawyers have estimated tens of thousands of black consumers were overcharged \$100 million or more by the automotive financing companies.

Under the settlement, NMAC agreed to institute a credit pre-approval program offering "no markup" rates to black and Hispanic buyers who have never declared bankruptcy or had cars repossessed. The company said it will make 675,000 such offers over five years.

The "markup" is a percentage in addition to the minimum percentage rate at which NMAC approves credit. It usually is split between the dealer and NMAC.

For nonqualifying minority buyers, NMAC agreed to keep its markup below 3 percent for each credit classification. The agreement did not address credit terms for non-minority buyers.

NMAC has denied all claims by the plaintiffs, saying it does not collect

- [Your Profile](#)
- [E-Mail](#)
- [Preferences](#)
- [News Tracker](#)
- [Premium Account](#)
- [Site Help](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)

NEWSPAPER

- [Home Delivery](#)
- [Customer Service](#)
- [Electronic Edition](#)
- [Media Kit](#)
- [Community Affairs](#)
- [Text Version](#)

race or ethnicity information when credit is sought and that all people are treated equally.

Studies prepared for the plaintiffs by researchers from Yale and Vanderbilt showed that rates for minorities could be 30 percent to 50 percent higher than what whites paid. Nissan called the research flawed.

Attorneys on both sides said they agreed not to comment on the settlement, which applies to borrowers at Nissan and Infiniti dealers, until it is approved by U.S. District Judge Todd Campbell.

Advertiser Links:

- [Get 25 commission-free trades from Ameritrade.](#)

On the Net:

Nissan: <http://www.nissan-usa.com>

America Saves: <http://www.americasaves.org>

National Consumer Law Center: <http://www.consumerlaw.org>

Doing research? Search the archive for more than 500,000 articles:

 Since 1996  

-  [E-Mail This Article](#)
-  [Printer-Friendly Format](#)
-  [Most E-Mailed Articles](#)



Expect the World every morning with home delivery of The New York Times newspaper.
[Click Here](#) for 50% off.


[Home](#) | [Back to A.P.](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Help](#) | [Back to Top](#)

The New York Times **JobMarket** nytimes.com Put your company in a better position.

Copyright 2003 The Associated Press | [Privacy Policy](#)

Plan your next trip to the world's most popular locations

Only at NYTimes.com /travel

TRIP BOOKING POWERED BY 

TIMES NEWS TRACK

Track news that interests you

- [Create Your Own](#) | [Manage](#)
- [Take a Tour](#)

[Sign Up for Newsletter](#)