

NEW CARS



Best and Worst Car Brands

Our exclusive Report Card shows who makes the most reliable, best-driving vehicles

THINK OF RELIABILITY and road-test performance as a dating couple: often seen together, but not always. That's the way it can be with cars, too: A top score in our tests doesn't mean a car will be reliable; conversely, reliable cars can—and do—score poorly in our road tests.

To take full measure of how the automakers stack up, our brand Report Cards provide a composite of the average road-test score and predicted reliability across their lineup. The overall scores show which automakers get it right in performance and reliability.

This year Lexus again topped our list, thanks to very good road-test performance and solid reliability across the board. Next up was Mazda, which is all the more impressive because half of its models have been introduced or redesigned within the past three years. Rounding out the top five were Toyota, Audi, and Subaru.

Buick's improved reliability helped it take top honors among all domestic brands for the second year running. In addition, it moved up several spots in our overall rankings, even passing Honda.

Our Annual Reliability Surveys have found that redesigned models often come with teething problems. Mercedes-Benz was the biggest loser, taking a major hit due to a drop in reliability from several models and the low-scoring and unreliable new CLA. Acura and Infiniti also fell from grace. Acura's once-stellar reliability has declined in recent years, and the unimpressive RLX redesign fell short in our tests. Infiniti is an example of how one low-scoring and unreliable model—here, the new Q50—can hurt a carmaker with a small lineup.

The Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Fiat brands all scored near or at the bottom, the result of poor reliability and a variety of new or redesigned models with low road-test scores.

NO ONE ELSE DOES WHAT CONSUMER REPORTS DOES

Here's what makes our Brand Report Card different:

- Reliability is based on owner experiences with about 1.1 million vehicles.
- Road-test scores comprise more than 50 tests.
- To be recommended, a vehicle must perform well in government and insurance-industry crash tests, if tested.

BRAND REPORT CARDS

Our rankings of car brands are calculated by factoring vehicle road-test scores and predicted reliability. The percentage of vehicles we recommend is listed as well.



RANK	MAKE	OVERALL SCORE*	ROAD-TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY	RECOMMENDED TEST VEHICLES
1	Lexus	78	76	●	78%
2	Mazda	75	76	●	67%
3	Toyota	74	72	●	68%
4	Audi	73	81	●	56%
5	Subaru	73	80	●	80%
6	Porsche	70	84	○	60%
7	Buick	69	76	●	83%
8	Honda	69	71	●	58%
9	Kia	68	73	●	78%
10	BMW	66	82	○	50%
11	Acura	65	78	○	40%
12	Volvo	65	76	○	67%
13	Hyundai	64	73	○	36%
14	GMC	61	71	○	17%
15	Volkswagen	60	76	○	46%
16	Lincoln	59	74	○	40%
17	Infiniti	59	76	○	29%
18	Nissan	59	70	○	25%
19	Chevrolet	59	71	○	36%
20	Cadillac	58	77	●	25%
21	Mercedes-Benz	56	81	●	20%
22	Scion	54	57	○	25%
23	Chrysler	54	73	●	None
24	Ford	53	72	●	19%
25	Dodge	52	71	●	33%
26	Mini	46	72	●	None
27	Jeep	39	59	●	None
28	Fiat	32	55	●	None

*Overall scores are rounded from decimal points and do not indicate ties between brands.

HOW TO READ THE CHART

You can use this information to first look for the areas that concern you most. The brands are listed in order of an overall score that combines two factors. Or you can focus on either performance or reliability attributes.

- 1. Overall score.** Look to see who excels. We combine each brand's average road-test score with its average reliability score.
- 2. Road-Test Score.** This will tell you how well the brands' models perform in our tests overall. This score is an average of all of the models CR has currently tested.
- 3. Predicted reliability.** This column provides a guide to how, on average, new cars from that automaker are likely to hold up.
- 4. To be included.** A brand must have at least two models with test and reliability data to be included. Brands that did not have sufficient data to rate are Jaguar, Land Rover, Maserati, Mitsubishi, Ram, Smart, and Tesla.

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