

Which Car Brands Make the Best Vehicles?

We ranked 32 brands based on the Overall Scores of their models, which include road tests, reliability, satisfaction, and safety

By Jeff S. Bartlett and Anita Lam
February 16, 2023

The best cars brands have model lineups that excel in our evaluations of road-test performance, reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety. They earn the highest Overall Scores based on the average from all current tested models.

BMW, Subaru, Lexus, and Honda routinely land in the top ranks by delivering on these virtues, from their base models to their high-end vehicles. BMW claimed the top spot this year thanks to especially strong road-test performances and solid owner survey results.

Genesis made the biggest leap in rank this year, rising 12 positions due to improved reliability. Lincoln climbed 10 places on the strength of reliability and added safety systems. But Chrysler dropped a dozen spots, dragged down by the well-below-average reliability of the Pacifica Hybrid minivan. Brands with few models, like Chrysler, are subject to significant year-to-year shifts.

The rankings can be helpful to shoppers by indicating brands that shine and those that should be approached with more caution. The brands that land at the bottom are those that tend to fall short in our road tests and/or with reliability. They may still offer good cars but not consistently across their model range, and buyers should be wary.

To be included in the brand ranking, CR must have tested at least two current models from a brand. Fiat, Maserati, Polestar, Ram, and Rivian aren't included in our rankings this year for that reason.

How We Rank the Car Brands

The **Overall Score** for individual models is based on four key factors: the road test, reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety.

For the **road-test score**, we put vehicles through more than 50 tests and evaluations.

Predicted reliability ratings are based on problems reported by members in 17 trouble areas in CR's Annual Auto Surveys.

Owner satisfaction predictions are based on whether CR members said in our surveys that they'd buy the same vehicle again if given the chance.

Safety includes an assessment of any available crash-test results and extra points assigned to vehicles that come standard with crash-prevention systems.

Green Choices reflect how many of a brand's CR-tested vehicles earned the designation for being in the top 20 percent of vehicles with the cleanest emissions, according to the EPA.

Rank/Change	Overall Score	Predicted Reliability	Owner Satisfaction	Road-Test Score	Models Tested/Recommended/Green Choices
1 ▲2	BMW 81	↓	↑	88	9 • 9 • 1
2 ▼1	Subaru 79	↓	↑	87	9 • 8 • 0
3 ▲5	Mini 79	↑	↑	81	2 • 2 • 0
4 ▲1	Lexus 77	↑	↑	77	8 • 7 • 3
5 ▼1	Honda 77	↑	↑	79	6 • 6 • 0
6 ▲3	Toyota 76	↑	↑	77	18 • 15 • 9
7 ▲12	Genesis 76	↓	↑	81	5 • 4 • 1
8 ▼6	Mazda 75	↑	↓	76	6 • 5 • 0
9 ▼3	Audi 74	↓	↓	87	10 • 8 • 2
10 ▲8	Kia 73	↓	↓	80	14 • 11 • 4
11 ▲1	Acura 72	↑	↑	74	4 • 3 • 0
12 ▼1	Buick 71	↓	↓	76	3 • 3 • 0
13 ▲1	Hyundai 71	↓	↓	81	14 • 9 • 6
14 ▼7	Porsche 70	↓	↑	86	4 • 3 • 1
15 ▲1	Dodge 68	↓	↑	76	3 • 1 • 0
16 ▲10	Lincoln 66	↓	↓	73	4 • 2 • 0
17 ▲6	Tesla 66	↓	↑	83	4 • 1 • 4
18 ▼8	Infiniti 65	↓	↓	75	4 • 2 • 0
19 ▼2	Volkswagen 64	↓	↓	82	8 • 4 • 2
20 -	Volvo 64	↓	↓	74	5 • 2 • 0
21 ▼6	Nissan 63	↓	↓	74	12 • 6 • 3
22 -	Ford 63	↓	↑	75	15 • 4 • 4
23 ▲1	Chevrolet 62	↓	↓	79	12 • 5 • 2
24 ▼3	Cadillac 62	↓	↓	75	6 • 1 • 0
25 ▼12	Chrysler 62	↓	↑	83	3 • 1 • 1
26 ▼1	Mercedes-Benz 56	↓	↓	79	8 • 0 • 1
27 ▲4	GMC 55	↓	↓	72	4 • 1 • 0
28 ▲2	Mitsubishi 54	↓	↓	56	3 • 1 • 0
29 ▼1	Alfa Romeo 53	↓	↑	72	2 • 0 • 0
30 ▼3	Jaguar 52	↓	↓	72	3 • 0 • 1
31 ▲1	Jeep 46	↓	↓	60	7 • 0 • 0
32 ▼3	Land Rover 45	↓	↓	62	5 • 0 • 0

Luxury & Mainstream Brands Ranked

Rank	Luxury Brands	Mainstream Brands
1	BMW	Subaru
2	Lexus	Mini
3	Genesis	Honda
4	Audi	Toyota
5	Acura	Mazda
6	Buick	Kia
7	Porsche	Hyundai
8	Lincoln	Dodge
9	Tesla	Volkswagen
10	Infiniti	Nissan
11	Volvo	Ford
12	Cadillac	Chevrolet
13	Mercedes-Benz	Chrysler
14	Alfa Romeo	GMC
15	Jaguar	Mitsubishi
16	Land Rover	Jeep