

Which Brands Make the Best Cars?

We tabulate our exclusive data across the model lines

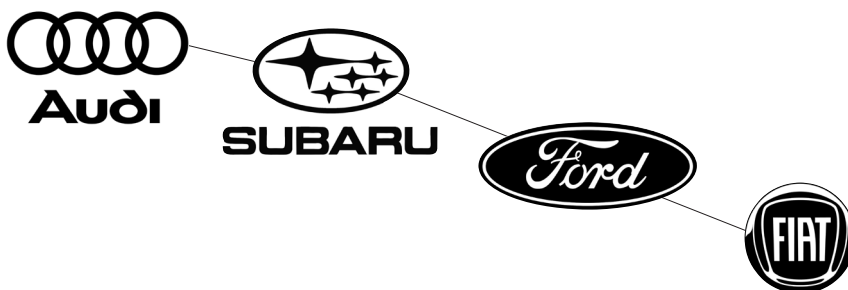
One great car—or clunker—doesn't define a whole brand. Neither does its reputation (good or bad) relieve you of the need to examine a vehicle carefully. But our long-standing and comprehensive analysis of cars and brands reveals that you can glean important information by knowing a brand's output over time.

To determine which brands consistently deliver cars that serve consumers well, we tabulate the overall score, road-test score, and predicted reliability results for each tested model of a brand. We then average those scores at the brand level. This average overall score is used to rank the brands as an indicator of who makes the best cars. Topping our Ratings are the luxury brand Audi and mainstream marque Subaru. Only vehicles that are on the market and that we tested factor into the equation. The rankings don't account for corporate practices or brand perceptions.

Hence, Audi and VW diesel vehicles that have been pulled from dealerships—following their recall and stop-sale last year for cheating on EPA emissions tests—are not included in our scoring. Consumer Reports strongly believes that Volkswagen AG, the maker of VW and Audi vehicles, should be held accountable for manipulating emissions testing with its vehicles.

In creating the Report Card, we aggregate road-test performance, reliability, safety performance and active safety aids, and owner satisfaction. Brands with a lineup of mature, incrementally updated vehicles tended to rise to the top.

For instance, Toyota's middling road-test score was balanced by strong reliability; Mercedes-Benz's strong road tests were offset by below par reliability. And Honda, Nissan, and Chrysler suffered due to problematic new transmissions.



RANK	MAKE	OVERALL SCORE*	ROAD-TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY	% RECOMMENDED TESTED MODELS
1	Audi	80	83	⊖	100%
2	Subaru	78	80	⊖	100%
3	Lexus	76	74	●	88%
4	Porsche	76	84	○	60%
5	BMW	76	85	○	50%
6	Mazda	74	74	⊖	100%
7	Buick	74	76	⊖	80%
8	Toyota	72	69	●	62%
9	Kia	72	75	⊖	67%
10	Honda	71	73	○	88%
11	Hyundai	70	76	○	60%
12	Volvo	69	77	○	25%
13	Mini	68	71	○	50%
14	Mercedes-Benz	67	80	⊖	29%
15	Volkswagen	67	76	○	71%
16	Ford	66	74	○	38%
17	Lincoln	65	73	○	25%
18	Scion	65	62	⊖	75%
19	Acura	64	73	⊖	40%
20	Chevrolet	64	75	⊖	27%
21	Nissan	63	71	○	33%
22	Infiniti	63	76	⊖	20%
23	GMC	60	71	⊖	17%
24	Cadillac	58	76	●	25%
25	Dodge	58	73	⊖	17%
26	Chrysler	58	73	⊖	0%
27	Land Rover	55	71	●	0%
28	Mitsubishi	51	46	○	0%
29	Jeep	43	55	●	0%
30	Fiat	38	52	●	0%

* A brand must have at least two models with test and reliability data to be included. Alfa Romeo, Jaguar, Maserati, Ram, Smart, and Tesla lack sufficient data.

● Better ← Avg. → Worse