

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

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