



# 2026: Which Brands Make the Best Cars?

Consumer Reports rated cars from 31 brands on reliability, owner satisfaction, safety, and road-test scores. Here's how the manufacturers rank, based on their vehicles' Overall Scores.

December 4, 2025

By Jeff S. Bartlett

Data analysis by Anita Lam | Data visualizations by Evan O'Neil

This list ranks car manufacturers from best to worst, based on the quality of their vehicles. To assess this, we calculated the averages of their new vehicles' Overall Score, a combination of the results from our road tests, safety assessments, and reliability and owner satisfaction surveys. If you're shopping for a new car, this list is the place to start your research.

This year, Subaru again earned the top spot as the best car brand. "While Subaru models provide good performance and comfort, they also excel in areas that may not be immediately apparent during a test drive," says Jake Fisher, CR's senior director of auto testing. "They share proven parts that help assure consistently great reliability. They also use cutting-edge safety systems and perform well in our emergency handling and braking tests."

BMW was a close second, holding its title as the benchmark luxury brand. Fisher says, "BMW has made very highly desirable models for years, and their reliability easily outshines all of their European rivals."

Lexus slid back to sixth place due to models like the GX SUV dropping to average reliability, and the absence of the strong-performing ES sedan, which is being replaced with a new version.

Lincoln was the biggest mover, climbing 17 positions, partly because its aging product line has become more reliable. For the same reason, Tesla gained eight positions. For any brand, entirely new models tend to bring reliability risks. We saw this with fresh electric vehicles like the Audi Q4 E-Tron, which, along with discontinuing the reliable A4, caused Audi to drop 10 spots. And brands with only a few vehicles in their lineup are especially vulnerable to score changes when reliability dips. Chrysler, for example, produces one minivan in three iterations. Predicted reliability for all three is below average, which pulled down the brand's Overall Score, nine spots down from last year.

Car buyers should look for brands that rank high in our ratings over multiple years, but it's also important to look at the Overall Score—and predicted reliability—of the specific vehicle you're considering. Even companies known for high quality can produce bad cars.

We include an automaker in our brand rankings only if we've tested at least two of its current models. For this reason, you won't see ratings here for Fiat, Infiniti, Jaguar, Lucid, Maserati, Polestar, or Ram.

## All Brands Ranked

Overall Rank	Brand	Overall Score	Road-Test Score	Predicted Reliability	Owner Satisfaction	
1	-	Subaru	82	88	↑	↑
2	-	BMW	82	89	↓	↑
3	▲1	Porsche	79	84	↑	↑
4	▲1	Honda	76	83	↑	↑
5	▲4	Toyota	75	77	↑	↑
6	▼3	Lexus	75	80	↑	↑
7	▲17	Lincoln	75	82	↓	↓
8	-	Hyundai	74	85	↓	↑
9	▲3	Acura	73	80	↓	↑
10	▲8	Tesla	72	81	↓	↑
11	-	Mini	72	77	↓	↑
12	▼5	Kia	72	83	↓	↑
13	▲2	Nissan	70	73	↓	↓
14	-	Mazda	69	81	↓	↓
15	▼2	Genesis	69	83	↓	↑
16	▼10	Audi	69	86	↓	↓
17	▲4	Cadillac	68	79	↓	↑
18	▲1	Ford	67	74	↓	↑
19	▲1	Mitsubishi	67	72	↓	↓
20	▼2	Buick	65	71	↓	↓
21	▲1	Volvo	65	80	↓	↓
22	▲4	Volkswagen	65	80	↓	↓
23	-	Mercedes-Benz	64	81	↓	↓
24	▲1	Chevrolet	62	75	↓	↑
25	▼9	Chrysler	61	83	↓	↓
26	▲5	Rivian	58	79	↓	↑
27	-	Alfa Romeo	55	73	↓	↑
28	-	Dodge	55	67	↓	↑
29	-	GMC	55	72	↓	↑
30	-	Land Rover	52	67	↓	↑
31	▲1	Jeep	48	64	↓	↓

## How We Rank the Car Brands

Consumer Reports bases the Overall Score for a car on four key factors: road-test performance, reliability, owner satisfaction, and safety. For the road-test score, our experts put vehicles through more than 50 tests. The predicted reliability ratings are based on our auto surveys, where thousands of CR members report the problems they've had with their cars in 20 possible trouble areas. CR's owner satisfaction predictions are based on whether members said in our surveys that they would buy the same vehicle again if given the chance. Safety (which isn't shown) includes an assessment of available crash test results from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, with points awarded or deducted depending on the results. Our safety ratings also depend on whether vehicles come standard with a proven crash-prevention system, or whether the manufacturer sells safety technology only as an upgrade.

## Mainstream Brands Ranked

MAINSTREAM RANK	BRAND	OVERALL SCORE
1	Subaru	82
2	Honda	76
3	Toyota	75
4	Hyundai	74
5	Tesla	72
6	Kia	72
7	Nissan	70
8	Mazda	69
9	Ford	67
10	Mitsubishi	67
11	Buick	65
12	Volkswagen	65
13	Chevrolet	62
14	Chrysler	61
15	Dodge	55
16	GMC	55
17	Jeep	48

# 2025: Which Brands Make the Best Cars?

Consumer Reports rated cars from 32 brands on reliability, owner satisfaction, safety, and road-test scores. Here's how the brands rank, based on their vehicles' Overall Scores.

December 5, 2024

By Jeff S. Bartlett | Data analysis by Anita Lam | Data visualizations by Andy Bergmann

Every year, Consumer Reports publishes a car brand report card. We rank automakers based on their vehicles' average Overall Score—a combination of our road-test scores, safety ratings, and predicted reliability and owner satisfaction data. This provides a definitive number to help consumers see which brands shine and which might be best avoided.

We also present separate ratings specifically for each brand's average road-test, reliability, and owner satisfaction scores for new models. And we rank brands based on their used-car reliability.

Among the 32 brands featured in the 2025 report card, the top five remain unchanged from last year's results, aside from one significant shift: Subaru claims the top spot from BMW, edging out last year's highest-ranked brand by a single point in its average Overall Score.

Lexus moves from fifth to third place, not through its own improvements but because Porsche and Honda slid slightly.

Audi was a big mover this year, climbing six spots to be ranked sixth. Mini and Acura lost positions due to lower predicted reliability scores.

Other brands that saw significant movement included Buick, which slid four places to 17th because of lower road-test scores. The score for the new Envista was only adequate. Cadillac tumbled seven spots to land at 21st due partly to the well-below-average reliability of its Lyriq EV.

There's a certain amount of shuffling every year, particularly among brands where we've tested only some of its models. Because the rankings are based on averages, small product lines mean that each model has an outsized impact on its brand's score.

Car buyers should look for consistent performance, as we've seen with the top five brands. The same attention should be given to avoiding the lowest-rated brands. That section of our list tends to include GMC, Land Rover, Rivian, and Stellantis brands Alfa Romeo, Dodge, and Jeep.

Keep in mind that even high-scoring brands can have low-scoring models. Be sure to check the ratings of the specific models you're interested in. This is especially true for bigger brands like Toyota. Some models achieve high scores (Camry), while others get poor scores (Tacoma) for road tests and predicted reliability.

Of the 32 brands Consumer Reports rated this year, only four manufacturers managed to earn recommendations for every model we tested: Porsche, Infiniti, Mini, and Buick. But don't read too deeply into that. These are brands with small product lines and few tested models. For example, Chrysler is the highest-ranked domestic brand, in 16th place. But that score is based on its small product line: the Pacifica, Pacifica Hybrid, and the new-for-2025 Voyager.

## All Brands Ranked

Overall Rank	Brand	Overall Score	Road-Test Score	Predicted Reliability	Owner Satisfaction	
1	▲1	Subaru	79	84	▲	↓
2	▼2	BMW	78	89	↓	▲
3	▲2	Lexus	77	80	▲	↓
4	▼1	Porsche	77	86	↓	▲
5	▼1	Honda	75	82	↓	↓
6	▲6	Audi	74	86	↓	▼
7	-	Kia	73	83	↓	↓
8	▲2	Hyunda	73	82	↓	↓
9	-	Toyota	73	78	↓	↓
10	▲6	Infiniti	71	78	↓	▼
11	▼5	Mini	71	76	↓	▲
12	▼1	Acura	68	76	↓	↓
13	▲2	Genesis	67	80	↓	↓
14	▼6	Mazda	67	78	↓	↓
15	▲4	Nissan	67	74	↓	▼
16	▲8	Chrysler	66	83	↓	▼
17	▼4	Buick	65	71	↓	↓
18	-	Tesla	65	83	↓	▲
19	▼2	Ford	65	74	↓	↓
20	-	Mitsubishi	63	71	↓	↓
21	▼7	Cadilla	63	77	▼	↓
22	▲1	Volvo	62	74	↓	↓
23	▲5	Mercedes-Benz	61	80	▼	▼
24	▼3	Lincoln	61	79	▼	↓
25	▼3	Chevrolet	60	74	↓	↓
26	-	Volkswagen	57	78	▼	▼
27	-	Alfa Romeo	56	72	▼	↓
28	▼3	Dodge	55	69	▼	↓
29	▲1	GMC	55	71	▼	↓
30	▲1	Land Rover	51	65	▼	▼
31	▼3	Rivian	48	78	▼	▲
32	-	Jeep	46	63	▼	▼

There are seven brands that don't have a single model recommended by Consumer Reports: Lincoln, Alfa Romeo, Dodge, GMC, Land Rover, Rivian, and Jeep. They are also among the bottom-ranked brands. Consider carefully before buying from those manufacturers.

To be included in the brand ranking, CR has to have tested at least two current models from a company. For that reason, we didn't include Fiat, Jaguar, Lucid, Maserati, Polestar, and Ram.

In the charts, you can see the full brand ranking, or you can see how the brands look when split into mainstream and luxury groups, which may better reflect how you shop. These distinctions are made at the brand level, reflecting car prices and market position, rather than the attributes of individual cars. For both mainstream and luxury vehicles, the Overall Scores are calculated in the same manner and can be compared directly against each other.

## Luxury Brands Ranked

LUXURY RANK	BRAND	OVERALL SCORE
1	BMW	78
2	Lexus	77
3	Porsche	77
4	Audi	74
5	Infiniti	71
6	Mini	71
7	Acura	68
8	Genesis	67
9	Cadillac	63
10	Volvo	62
11	Mercedes-Benz	61
12	Lincoln	61
13	Alfa Romeo	56
14	Land Rover	51
15	Rivian	48

# 2024: Which Car Brands Make the Best Vehicles?

We ranked 34 brands based on the Overall Scores of their models, which include road tests, reliability, satisfaction, and safety

February 27, 2024  
By Jeff S. Bartlett  
Data analysis by Anita Lam.

Our annual rankings of 34 automakers can steer you in the right direction when making a new-car purchase. These rankings are based on the average Overall Score, a combination of our road-test scores, predicted reliability and owner satisfaction data, and safety for all of the models from each automaker.

The top two brands this year are the same ones as 2023, with BMW leading the pack with an 82 point score, followed by Subaru—the leading mainstream brand—at 80. The key for both companies is their consistent combination of high road-test scores and very good predicted reliability. Porsche takes the third position with a score of 80. Both Porsche and Cadillac moved up 10 positions this year due to their improved reliability.

Keep in mind that even high-scoring brands can have some lower-performing models, so be sure to check the ratings (see page 36) for the autos you're interested in. This is especially true for bigger brands like Ford and Toyota, which have some models that performed far better than others in our tests.

Of the 34 brands CR ranked this year, we're recommending every model tested from seven: BMW, Porsche, Honda, Mini, Kia, Mazda, and Acura. Simply put: You can buy any tested model from those companies with confidence. (There are nine brands that don't have a single model recommended by CR, including Dodge, Maserati, Alfa Romeo, Mercedes-Benz, Rivian, GMC, Jaguar, Land Rover, and Jeep. Consider carefully when buying one of those.)

To be included in the brand ranking, CR has to have tested at least two current models from a company. We've tested only one model from Lucid, Polestar, and Ram, so they aren't included this year.

## 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.
- **Predicted reliability** ratings are based on problems reported by members from 20 possible 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 key 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.

## All Brands Ranked

Overall Rank/ Change	Brand/Overall Score	Road-Test Score	Predicted Reliability	Owner Satisfaction	Models Tested	Recom- mended	Green Choices
1 -	BMW 82	88	↑	↑	12	12	4
2 -	Subaru 80	84	↑	↓	9	8	1
3 ▲11	Porsche 80	84	↑	↑	4	4	1
4 ▲1	Honda 78	83	↓	↓	10	10	1
5 ▼1	Lexus 78	78	↑	↓	10	9	2
6 ▼3	Mini 78	81	↑	↑	2	2	0
7 ▲3	Kia 77	83	↓	↓	15	15	5
8 -	Mazda 77	78	↑	↓	7	7	1
9 ▼3	Toyota 77	78	↑	↓	24	20	7
10 ▲3	Hyundai 76	83	↓	↓	12	11	5
11 -	Acura 73	74	↑	↓	4	4	0
12 ▼3	Audi 72	85	↓	↓	9	8	2
13 ▼1	Buick 69	76	↓	↓	3	2	0
14 ▲11	Cadillac 68	75	↓	↓	6	4	0
15 ▼8	Genesis 68	80	↓	↑	6	3	2
16 ▲2	Infiniti 67	75	↓	↓	4	2	0
17 ▲6	Ford 65	75	↓	↓	14	6	3
18 ▼1	Tesla 65	82	↓	↑	4	2	4
19 ▲2	Nissan 64	72	↓	↓	13	7	2
20 ▲9	Mitsubishi 64	62	↑	↓	4	2	1
21 ▼5	Lincoln 63	72	↓	↓	3	1	0
22 ▲2	Chevrolet 62	75	↓	↓	12	2	2
23 ▼3	Volvo 62	76	↓	↓	6	1	1
24 ▲2	Chrysler 62	83	↓	↓	2	1	1
25 ▼10	Dodge 61	69	↓	↓	3	1	0
26 ▼7	Volkswagen 60	81	↓	↓	8	1	1
27 NA	Maserati 56	74	↓	↓	2	0	0
28 ▲2	Alfa Romeo 56	71	↓	↑	3	0	0
29 ▼2	Mercedes-Benz 55	79	↓	↓	11	0	4
30 NA	Rivian 55	78	↓	↑	2	0	2
31 ▼3	GMC 53	71	↓	↓	3	0	0
32 ▼3	Jaguar 52	69	↓	↓	3	0	1
33 ▲1	Land Rover 50	65	↓	↓	6	0	0
34 ▼1	Jeep 46	61	↓	↓	7	0	1



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: CHRIS GRIGGS/CONSUMER REPORTS, SUBARU

## Luxury Brands Ranked

Luxury Rank	Overall Rank/ Change	Brand/Overall Score
1	1 -	BMW 82
2	3 ▲11	Porsche 80
3	5 ▼1	Lexus 78
4	6 ▼3	Mini 78
5	11 -	Acura 73
6	12 ▼3	Audi 72
7	13 ▼1	Buick 69
8	14 ▲11	Cadillac 68
9	15 ▼8	Genesis 68
10	16 ▲2	Infiniti 67
11	18 ▼1	Tesla 65
12	21 ▼5	Lincoln 63
13	23 ▼3	Volvo 62
14	27 NA	Maserati 56
15	28 ▲2	Alfa Romeo 56
16	29 ▼2	Mercedes-Benz 55
17	30 NA	Rivian 55
18	32 ▼1	Jaguar 52
19	33 ▲1	Land Rover 50

# 2023: 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	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