

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

Mainstream Brands Ranked

Mainstream Rank	Overall Rank/ Change	Brand/Overall Score
1	2 -	Subaru 80
2	4 ▲1	Honda 78
3	7 ▲3	Kia 77
4	8 -	Mazda 77
5	9 ▼3	Toyota 77
6	10 ▲3	Hyundai 76
7	17 ▲6	Ford 65
8	19 ▲2	Nissan 64
9	20 ▲9	Mitsubishi 64
10	22 ▲2	Chevrolet 62
11	24 ▲2	Chrysler 62
12	25 ▼10	Dodge 61
13	26 ▼7	Volkswagen 60
14	31 ▼3	GMC 53
15	34 ▼1	Jeep 46