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

## Mainstream Brands Ranked

MAINSTREAM RANK	BRAND	OVERALL SCORE
1	Subaru	79
2	Honda	75
3	Kia	73
4	Hyundai	73
5	Toyota	73
6	Mazda	67
7	Nissan	67
8	Chrysler	66
9	Buick	66
10	Tesla	65
11	Ford	65
12	Mitsubishi	63
13	Chevrolet	60
14	Volkswagen	57
15	Dodge	55
16	GMC	55
17	Jeep	46