

# Best new-car values

Our scores reveal which cars deliver the biggest bang for your buck

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Some cars might be inexpensive but leave you feeling unsatisfied. They might not be good values, leaving you feeling as if you have overloaded on junk food. To help you steer clear of those empty calories, we compiled Consumer Reports' best-value scores. They make it easy to identify which cars provide the most for your money and which ones could leave you feeling ripped off down the road.

To calculate our value Ratings, we analyzed more than 200 recently tested vehicles, focusing on road-test scores, predicted reliability, and five-year owner-cost estimates. The better a car performs in our tests and reliability Ratings, and the less it costs to own over time, the better its value. The best car represents about twice the value as the average car.

Hybrids generally did well in our analysis, especially the Toyota and Lexus hybrids and the Lincoln MKZ. None of them are a bargain, but they're good values because they delight you with luxury or convenience at every turn, don't require frequent trips to the dealer, and won't soak your bank account every month.

This year's best value is the Toyota Camry Hybrid. Smooth and capable—but not exciting—our model's \$29,000 as-tested price is affordable for the roominess, comfort, and all-around functionality it delivers. Its 38 mpg overall is impressive for a midsize sedan. And it's stone-cold reliable. Which means that your dollar goes about twice as far with a Camry Hybrid as with the average-value car, according to our analysis.

Sure, you could buy the comparable Hyundai Sonata Hybrid for about \$2,300 less than the Camry Hybrid XLE. But the Sonata's jerky transitions from gas to electric irritated our testers. Its predicted reliability is less stellar than that of the Camry Hybrid. And its 33-mpg overall barely surpasses the best nonhybrid sedans, which cost less. In the end, the Sonata Hybrid represents merely an average value.

The bottom of the pack has a mix of expensive, unreliable German luxury sedans, big SUVs with voracious fuel appetites, and outdated and noncompetitive small Jeeps. The worst car is the hard-riding, ponderous, uncomfortable, and unreliable Jeep Wrangler.

But not all SUVs are poor values. If you're looking for a small one, the Subaru Forester is a best value, with excellent reliability and very low ownership costs of just 58 cents per mile over the first five years. And small SUVs as a class deliver more value for your dollar than larger or more expensive SUVs. Large SUVs and pickups had the worst values overall.

Rather than a midsize SUV, consider an all-wheel-drive wagon. The Subaru Outback costs as little as 61 cents per mile to drive for five years, compared with 80 cents per mile for the V6-equipped Ford Edge. Yet it does the same job, with a backseat sized to fit NBA power forwards and as much cargo space as many SUVs.

The best values are found among mainstream midsize sedans, followed by compact cars and wagons. Other



**Toyota Camry Hybrid**

Photo: David Dewhurst Photography

factors being equal, higher prices make for worse values, even when you get a little something in return. Large, expensive luxury vehicles with gluttonous fuel appetites and high depreciation are some of the worst values in our study. Very few large or luxury vehicles rate above average, and many of those that did are hybrids.

## Best and worst for the money

Here are the models with the highest and lowest value scores overall. Value scores are calculated based on a model's five-year cost per mile, road-test score, and predicted-reliability score.



Subaru Forester 2.5i

Best	Worst
Toyota Camry Hybrid	Jeep Wrangler Unlimited
Honda Accord (4-cyl.)	Fiat 500L
Toyota Camry (4-cyl.)	Mercedes-Benz S550
Subaru Legacy 2.5i	BMW 750Li
Subaru Forester 2.5i	Toyota Tacoma (V6)

## How to read our value charts

Real value is about what you get for your money. Here's what went into our charts:

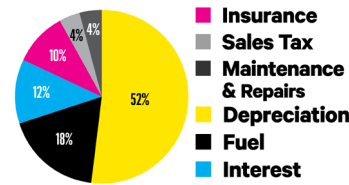
**Value Score** ranks cars in order, by category. The average value is represented by 1.0. Models below the horizontal line have worse-than-average values. The car with the best value, the Toyota Camry Hybrid, got a score of 2.01, representing twice that of the average car. The worst, the Jeep Wrangler Unlimited, got 0.07, just above zero. Despite the lower score, many Wrangler owners find reasons to love their Jeeps.

**Cost Per Mile** factors in all major expenses incurred in a car's first five years, a common period of ownership. That includes depreciation, fuel, insurance premiums, interest on financing, sales tax, and maintenance and repairs. Because we consider depreciation, our analysis assumes the cars will be traded in after five years. Interest is calculated at prevailing rates based on a five-year loan. We use the national average of 12,000 miles per year to calculate costs.

**Test Scores** are the road-test scores compiled at Consumer Reports' test track. They're based on more than 50 tests and evaluations, including performance, comfort, convenience, fuel economy, fit and finish, and cargo space.

**Predicted Reliability** is determined from the results of our Annual Auto Survey, which covers about 1.1 million cars. The Ratings are based on how models held up over the past three years. Redesigned models for which we don't yet have survey data, such as the Honda Fit, are not included in our analysis.

Five-Year Owner Costs Breakdown



## Subcompact cars

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>SUBCOMPACT CARS</b>					
		WORSE AVERAGE BETTER 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0			
<b>Hyundai Accent Sport</b> (hatchback, MT)	\$16,695		\$0.48	68	○
<b>Hyundai Accent GLS</b>	16,050		0.48	65	○
<b>Toyota Prius C Two</b>	20,850		0.40	55	●
<b>Kia Rio EX</b>	17,275		0.50	64	◐
<b>Kia Rio EX (hatchback)</b>	17,475		0.51	62	◐
<b>Chevrolet Sonic LT (1.8L)</b>	17,290		0.47	66	◐
<b>Hyundai Veloster</b> (base, MT)	20,340		0.53	67	◐
<b>Nissan Versa Note SV</b>	17,495		0.48	61	○
<b>Nissan Versa SV (sedan)</b>	15,490		0.45	56	○
<b>Ford Fiesta SES</b> (hatchback, MT)	17,795		0.48	67	●
<b>Ford Fiesta SE</b>	16,595		0.46	65	●
<b>Chevrolet Sonic LTZ</b> (hatchback, 1.4T, MT)	19,870		0.50	60	◐
<b>Toyota Yaris LE</b>	17,290		0.44	47	●
<b>Fiat 500 Sport (MT)</b>	18,600		0.48	54	●
<b>Fiat 500C Pop (MT)</b>	21,000		0.51	52	●

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Compact cars

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>COMPACT CARS</b>					
		WORSE 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 AVERAGE BETTER			
Toyota Prius Four	\$29,230		\$0.49	75	●
Toyota Prius V Three	28,217		0.48	73	●
Subaru Impreza Premium	21,345		0.54	79	○
Hyundai Elantra SE (1.8L)	19,410		0.51	75	○
Honda Civic EX	21,880		0.49	71	●
Toyota Corolla LE Plus	20,652		0.47	71	○
Subaru Impreza Sport Premium (hatchback)	22,345		0.53	76	○
Kia Forte LX (1.8L)	19,570		0.55	78	○
Mazda3 i Touring (2.0L)	21,740		0.52	72	○
Scion xB	18,360		0.49	68	●
Volkswagen Jetta TDI*	25,100		0.49	72	○
Mazda3 i Grand Touring (hatchback, 2.0L, MT)	24,040		0.55	73	○
Honda Civic Hybrid	25,140		0.47	65	○
Toyota Prius Plug-in Advanced	35,890		0.56	69	●
Kia Soul Plus	24,115		0.63	74	○
Hyundai Elantra GT*	20,445		0.55	68	○
Ford C-Max Hybrid SE	26,685		0.53	77	●
Ford Focus SE SFE	21,650		0.54	76	●
Chevrolet Cruze LS (1.8L)	18,375		0.54	69	○
Volkswagen Jetta SE (1.8T)	22,610		0.53	70	●
Ford Focus SE	20,280		0.53	72	●
Ford Focus SE (hatchback)	22,185		0.56	71	●
Nissan Sentra SV	20,570		0.55	65	●
Chevrolet Cruze Eco	21,775		0.59	71	●
Chevrolet Cruze 1LT (1.4T)	20,530		0.57	70	●
Fiat 500L Easy	24,595		0.59	50	●

\*powertrain has changed since last test.

Luxury compacts

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>LUXURY COMPACT CARS</b>					
		WORSE 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 AVERAGE BETTER			
<b>Buick Regal Premium I</b>	\$34,485		\$0.71	83	●
<b>Buick Verano Leather (2.4)</b>	27,750		0.61	73	●
<b>Acura ILX (2.0L)</b>	30,095		0.64	72	●
<b>BMW 328d xDrive</b>	50,475		0.85	86	○
<b>Audi A4 Premium Quattro</b>	35,895		0.73	74	●
<b>BMW 328i</b>	43,195		0.80	84	●
<b>Lexus CT 200h Premium</b>	32,012		0.62	65	●
<b>Volkswagen CC Sport (2.0T)</b>	32,800		0.71	78	●
<b>Cadillac ATS Luxury (turbo)</b>	43,295		0.87	79	●
<b>Infiniti Q50 Premium (AWD)</b>	44,855		0.87	75	●
<b>Lexus IS250 (AWD)</b>	43,823		0.89	58	○
<b>Mercedes-Benz CLA250</b>	36,500		0.75	64	●

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### Luxury midsize/large cars

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>LUXURY MIDSIZED/LARGE CARS</b>					
		WORSE 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 AVERAGE BETTER			
<b>Lexus ES 300h</b>	\$44,017		\$0.69	77	●
<b>Lincoln MKZ Hybrid</b>	41,915		0.78	83	○
<b>Lincoln MKZ 2.0 EcoBoost</b>	41,365		0.82	84	○
<b>Lexus ES 350</b>	43,702		0.81	78	●
<b>Infiniti Q70 (V6)</b>	53,825		1.01	90	●
<b>Audi A6 3.0 Premium Plus Quattro</b>	56,295		1.05	90	○
<b>Mercedes-Benz E350</b>	57,965		1.11	86	●
<b>Lexus GS 350</b>	58,858		1.10	83	●
<b>Audi A7 3.0 TDI</b>	70,895		1.22	90	○
<b>Lexus LS 460L</b>	82,504		1.30	89	●
<b>Cadillac CTS Luxury (V6, AWD)</b>	58,780		1.10	81	●
<b>BMW 535i</b>	58,375		1.06	81	○
<b>Hyundai Equus Signature*</b>	58,900		1.12	80	●
<b>Acura RLX Tech</b>	55,345		1.03	75	○
<b>Cadillac XTS Premium</b>	57,200		1.12	82	●
<b>Lincoln MKS (base, 3.7)</b>	50,070		0.98	65	●
<b>BMW 750Li*</b>	97,525		1.75	80	○
<b>Mercedes-Benz S550 (AWD)</b>	114,475		2.01	96	●

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### Large cars

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>LARGE CARS</b>					
		WORSE 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 AVERAGE BETTER			
<b>Chevrolet Impala 2LTZ (3.6)</b>	\$39,110		\$0.79	91	○
<b>Toyota Avalon Hybrid Limited</b>	42,501		0.68	80	◐
<b>Nissan Maxima 3.5 SV</b>	33,700		0.75	82	◐
<b>Buick LaCrosse (Leather, eAssist)</b>	34,935		0.71	80	◐
<b>Kia Cadenza</b>	39,030		0.83	83	◐
<b>Hyundai Azera</b>	37,185		0.78	80	◐
<b>Toyota Avalon Limited (V6)</b>	40,670		0.78	81	○
<b>Chrysler 300 Limited (V6)</b>	38,335		0.79	83	◐
<b>Buick LaCrosse Premium I (V6)</b>	37,555		0.78	76	○
<b>Chrysler 300 C*</b>	44,730		0.92	82	◐
<b>Dodge Charger SXT Plus (V6)</b>	34,510		0.77	78	●
<b>Ford Taurus Limited (3.5, V6)</b>	37,885		0.78	68	○

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### Sports cars/convertibles

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>SPORTS CARS/CONVERTIBLES</b>					
		WORSE 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 AVERAGE BETTER			
<b>Mazda MX-5 Miata Grand Touring</b>	\$31,150		\$0.60	85	◐
<b>Scion FR-S</b>	25,025		0.60	78	●
<b>Subaru BRZ Premium</b>	27,117		0.65	79	●
<b>Honda Civic Si</b>	23,175		0.57	60	◐
<b>Volkswagen Eos</b>	35,829		0.74	72	○
<b>Ford Focus ST</b>	28,270		0.67	72	◐
<b>Porsche Boxster 2.7</b>	59,600		1.06	83	◐
<b>Hyundai Genesis Coupe Grand Touring*</b>	28,375		0.64	64	◐
<b>Chevrolet Corvette Stingray 3LT</b>	73,260		1.27	92	○
<b>Chevrolet Camaro coupe 2SS (V8)</b>	35,425		0.76	66	○
<b>Chevrolet Camaro coupe 2LT (V6)</b>	28,195		0.63	55	○
<b>Audi A5 Premium Plus convertible (2.0T)*</b>	49,300		0.94	67	◐
<b>Dodge Challenger R/T (V8)</b>	35,015		0.80	63	○
<b>Chevrolet Camaro convertible 2SS (V8, AT)</b>	43,510		0.88	64	○
<b>Porsche 911 Carrera S</b>	110,630		1.78	95	○
<b>Infiniti Q60 convertible (base)</b>	48,715		0.95	66	○

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### Midsized cars

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
MIDSIZED CARS					
		WORSE AVERAGE BETTER 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0			
Toyota Camry Hybrid XLE	\$29,052		\$0.52	86	●
Honda Accord LX (4-cyl.)	23,270		0.53	85	●
Toyota Camry LE (4-cyl.)	23,830		0.53	84	●
Subaru Legacy 2.5 Premium	24,837		0.58	89	●
Mazda6 Sport	23,590		0.55	79	●
Honda Accord Hybrid	29,945		0.53	77	●
Toyota Camry XLE (V6)	32,603		0.65	85	●
Volkswagen Passat SE (1.8T)	27,485		0.62	82	●
Ford Fusion SE Hybrid	28,290		0.55	80	○
Chevrolet Malibu 1LT (2.5L)	26,030		0.58	81	○
Honda Accord EX-L (V6)	30,860		0.65	84	○
Volkswagen Passat TDI SE*	28,665		0.52	77	○
Ford Fusion SE (1.5T)	27,720		0.63	81	●
Kia Optima LX (2.4)	21,885		0.58	77	○
Nissan Altima 2.5 S	23,410		0.54	77	●
Chevrolet Malibu 2LTZ (2.0T)	33,865		0.70	85	○
Kia Optima SX (2.0T)	29,050		0.69	78	○
Ford Fusion Titanium (2.0T)	33,180		0.72	78	○
Hyundai Sonata Hybrid	26,695		0.54	65	○
Nissan Altima 3.5 SL (V6)	31,610		0.69	80	●

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## Wagons (AWD)

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
WAGONS (AWD)					
		WORSE AVERAGE BETTER 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0			
Subaru Outback 2.5i Premium	\$28,852		\$0.61	82	●
Toyota Venza (V6)	34,209		0.68	74	●
Audi Allroad 2.0T Premium	43,570		0.86	82	●
Volvo XC70	42,560		0.86	78	○
Honda Crosstour EX-L (V6)	34,730		0.74	65	○

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## Small SUVs

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>SMALL SUVs</b>					
		WORSE AVERAGE BETTER 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0			
Subaru Forester 2.5i Premium	\$26,814		\$0.58	86	●
Subaru XV Crosstrek Premium	24,215		0.56	74	●
Toyota RAV4 XLE	26,802		0.56	75	●
Honda CR-V EX*	26,455		0.58	76	●
Subaru XV Crosstrek Hybrid	27,132		0.59	74	●
Mazda CX-5 Touring (2.5L)	28,090		0.62	74	●
Hyundai Tucson GLS	24,920		0.59	71	●
Kia Sportage LX	24,400		0.60	70	●
Nissan Rogue SV	29,920		0.66	74	○
Mitsubishi Outlander Sport SE	24,520		0.60	65	●
Buick Encore Leather	30,555		0.64	69	○
Nissan Juke SV	24,840		0.58	66	○
Ford Escape Titanium (2.0T)	36,600		0.74	78	●
Kia Sportage SX (2.0T)	31,440		0.73	68	●
Ford Escape SE (1.6T)	28,040		0.62	75	●
Mini Cooper Countryman S	32,500		0.62	68	●
Jeep Patriot Latitude*	24,440		0.61	56	○
Jeep Cherokee Limited (V6)	37,525		0.78	71	●
Jeep Compass Latitude*	24,985		0.61	52	●
Jeep Cherokee Latitude (4-cyl.)	27,490		0.63	58	●

\*Powertrain has changed since last test.



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### Large SUVs

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>LARGE SUVs</b>					
		WORSE AVERAGE BETTER 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0			
Chevrolet Traverse LT	\$39,920		\$0.83	77	●
Dodge Durango Limited (V6)	43,525		0.96	83	○
GMC Acadia SLT2	41,315		0.85	77	○
Ford Flex SEL	38,460		0.86	71	○
Chevrolet Tahoe LT	60,100		1.21	67	○
Toyota Sequoia Limited	54,005		1.05	60	●
GMC Yukon SLT	62,125		1.24	67	○



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### Luxury midsize/large SUVs



MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>LUXURY MIDSIZED/LARGE SUVs</b>					
		WORSE 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 AVERAGE BETTER			
Lexus RX 450h	\$53,576		\$0.94	88	●
Lexus RX 350	47,381		0.90	80	●
Acura MDX Tech	49,460		0.95	81	○
Buick Enclave CXL	43,260		0.89	77	○
Volkswagen Touareg TDI Sport	49,505		0.98	79	○
BMW X5 xDrive35i	70,050		1.19	84	○
Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited (V6)	41,375		0.93	78	●
Porsche Cayenne (V6)*	63,805		1.23	78	◐
Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited (diesel)	49,780		0.96	82	●
Lexus GX 460	58,428		1.12	70	●
Lincoln MKX (3.7)	50,235		0.98	67	○
Infiniti QX60 (3.5L)	51,920		0.98	79	●
Mercedes-Benz ML350	56,960		1.15	75	◐
Infiniti QX80	63,395		1.24	68	◐
Mercedes-Benz GL350 Blue-Tec	73,020		1.28	82	●

\*Powertrain has changed since last test.

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Midsized SUVs

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>MIDSIZED SUVs</b>					
		WORSE AVERAGE BETTER 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0			
Toyota Highlander XLE (V6)	\$38,941		\$0.76	84	●
Toyota Highlander Hybrid Limited	50,875		0.86	85	●
Hyundai Santa Fe GLS (V6)	36,290		0.77	81	○
Hyundai Santa Fe Sport (4-cyl.)	28,370		0.64	73	○
Chevrolet Equinox 1LT (4-cyl.)	26,350		0.63	68	●
GMC Terrain SLE1 (4-cyl.)	26,745		0.63	68	●
Mazda CX-9 Grand Touring	38,615		0.84	77	●
Kia Sorento EX (V6)	37,950		0.82	77	○
Honda Pilot EX-L	36,980		0.75	71	○
Chevrolet Equinox LTZ (V6)	36,925		0.81	69	●
GMC Terrain SLT2 (V6)	36,675		0.81	69	●
Nissan Xterra S	28,000		0.68	61	●
Ford Edge SEL (3.5, V6)	37,625		0.80	66	○
Ford Edge SEL (FWD, 2.0 EcoBoost)	36,910		0.76	69	●
Ford Explorer XLT (V6)	39,275		0.89	67	○
Toyota 4Runner SR5 (V6)	37,425		0.76	55	●
Nissan Pathfinder SL	40,470		0.86	72	●
Dodge Journey Limited (V6)	36,975		0.85	64	●
Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara	36,340		0.77	20	●

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### Luxury compact SUVs

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY
<b>LUXURY COMPACT SUVs</b>					
		WORSE AVERAGE BETTER 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0			
BMW X3 xDrive28i (2.0T)	\$44,595		\$0.83	82	○
Acura RDX	36,605		0.77	77	○
BMW X1 xDrive28i (2.0T)	38,795		0.78	77	○
Audi Q5 Premium Plus (2.0T)	41,075		0.83	78	○
Mercedes-Benz GLK350	44,995		0.93	79	●
Volkswagen Tiguan SEL	37,020		0.78	74	○
Volvo XC60 T6	42,245		0.90	71	○
Cadillac SRX Luxury	43,085		0.93	67	○

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### Pickup trucks

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY	
<b>PICKUP TRUCKS</b>						
		WORSE	AVERAGE	BETTER		
		0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0
Nissan Frontier SV (V6)	\$30,110			\$0.73	71	○
Ram 1500 Big Horn (5.7L V8)	42,810			0.92	81	◐
GMC Sierra 1500 SLT (5.3L V8)	43,200			0.88	80	●
Toyota Tundra SR5 (5.7L V8)	34,738			0.81	63	◐
Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT (5.3L V8)	42,070			0.91	80	●
Toyota Tacoma (V6)	33,119			0.77	49	○

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## Minivans

MAKE & MODEL	PRICE	VALUE SCORE	COST PER MILE	TEST SCORE	PREDICTED RELIABILITY	
<b>MINIVANS</b>						
		WORSE	AVERAGE	BETTER		
		0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0
Mazda5 Grand Touring	\$24,820			\$0.61	83	◐
Toyota Sienna XLE (FWD)	35,810			0.74	79	◐
Honda Odyssey EX-L	38,055			0.77	84	○
Toyota Sienna XLE (AWD)	38,201			0.78	76	◐
Nissan Quest SL	39,040			0.84	79	○
Dodge Grand Caravan R/T	37,295			0.80	72	◐
Chrysler Town & Country Touring-L	37,505			0.85	72	◐

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Editor's Note: This article also appeared in the [February 2015 issue of Consumer Reports magazine](#).

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