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CarMD® 2018 Vehicle Health Index™ Finds Toyota Most Reliable, Mazda Most Affordable Brand to Repair

2017 Hyundai Tucson costs least to fix, 2016 Audi Q5 least likely to need check engine repairs

IRVINE, Calif. (Dec. 12, 2018) – CarMD.com Corp., a leading provider of car repair data and automotive diagnostic solutions, today released its 2018 CarMD® Vehicle Health Index™ Make and Model Reliability Rankings. Published annually since 2011, this Index analyzes check engine repairs and costs to rank the 10 brands and 100 vehicles least likely to have a check engine light on; 10 makes and 100 vehicles with the lowest average repair costs; and top three vehicles by category. CarMD analyzed data from over 5.6 million in-use vehicles, model year 1996 to 2018, reporting check engine health from Oct. 1, 2017 – Sept. 30, 2018.

Toyota was the brand least likely to need check engine repairs over the past year, edging out Acura and Hyundai, which rank no. 2 and no. 3 respectively. Mazda, which ranked second last year, is now the brand with the lowest average repair cost (\$286), followed by Kia (\$320), Dodge (\$326) and Hyundai (\$328). Honda and Toyota are the only two brands to rank in the top 10 on both lists. The 2016 Audi Q5 is least likely to need a check engine light-related repair. The 2017 Hyundai Tucson costs the least on average (\$67) to repair when the light is on, with a loose gas cap or an improperly installed intake air duct the two most common reasons the Tucson’s check engine light illuminates.

The full detailed report with year-over-year scores and top 100 vehicle rankings is available at <https://www.carmd.com/wp/vehicle-health-index-introduction/2018-carmd-manufacturer-vehicle-rankings/>.

“The CarMD Vehicle Health Index Make and Model Reliability Ranking is the only report that statistically measures check engine failures and repair costs,” said David Rich, CarMD’s technical director. “Understanding which makes and models have which kinds of problems, how frequently they occur and what those repairs cost can be useful to vehicle owners, used car buyers, as well as repair professionals looking to increase their knowledge of trends within the industry.”

10 Most Reliable Brands

At least 10 percent of the cars and trucks on the road in the U.S. have a check engine light on at any given time, and a pilot test of the new [CarMD® PRO SCAN™](#) repair shop solution found that as many as 25 percent of vehicles brought to the repair shop have a check engine light on. Because it is likely that every vehicle owner will eventually have to address a check engine light, CarMD studied data from more than 5.6 million vehicles from many sources to help identify the makes least likely to need check engine repairs. To rank these makes, CarMD developed a formula that accounts for those with the lowest percentage of repair incidents per percentage of vehicle population. Based on this data, an Index frequency score is assigned. The lower the score the higher the vehicle make ranking. CarMD found the following brands were least likely to need a check engine repair over the past year:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Toyota | 6. Subaru |
| 2. Acura | 7. Buick |
| 3. Hyundai | 8. Mercedes |
| 4. Honda | 9. Lexus |
| 5. Mitsubishi | 10. Nissan |

10 Brands with the Lowest Average Repair Costs

CarMD found the following 10 vehicle makes with the lowest average check engine light-related repair costs in 2018 were:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Mazda (\$286) | 6. Jeep (\$339) |
| 2. Kia (\$320) | 7. Chevrolet (\$341) |
| 3. Dodge (\$326) | 8. Volkswagen (\$358) |
| 4. Hyundai (\$328) | 9. Honda (\$427) |
| 5. Chrysler (\$329) | 10. Toyota (\$462) |

10 Most Reliable Vehicles

Any given brand can have a mix of reliable vehicles along with some that have more frequent issues. For this reason, the CarMD Vehicle Health Index drills down to rank vehicles by year, make and model. The following 10 vehicles had the lowest check engine light-related repair frequency, resulting in fewer trips to the repair shop, parts store or dealership this past year:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 2016 Audi Q5 | 6. 2017 GMC Acadia |
| 2. 2017 Honda Civic | 7. 2015 Subaru Forester |
| 3. 2017 Subaru Crosstrek | 8. 2016 Honda CR-V |
| 4. 2017 Honda CR-V | 9. 2016 Honda Civic |
| 5. 2017 Honda HR-V | 10. 2016 Volvo XC-90 |

10 Vehicles with the Lowest Average Repair Costs

When the check engine light comes on, here are the 10 vehicles that CarMD found to have the lowest average repair cost among the more than 9,030 different year, make and model vehicles on the road today:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. 2017 Hyundai Tucson (\$67) | 6. 2017 Kia Soul (\$88) |
| 2. 2017 Hyundai Accent (\$69) | 7. 2016 Kia Forte (\$90) |
| 3. 2016 Kia Rio (\$70) | 8. 2016 Hyundai Tucson (\$91) |
| 4. 2014 Toyota Prius C (\$83) | 9. 2017 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport (\$92) |
| 5. 2017 Mitsubishi Mirage (\$84) | 10. 2017 Toyota 4Runner (\$107) |

The most common and affordable repair on 9 out of 10 of the most affordable vehicles is to inspect or replace a loose, damage or missing gas cap. The exception is the 2017 Mitsubishi Mirage that is most frequently diagnosed with a faulty or incorrectly installed vacuum hose, which is also one of the most common and affordable repairs. Those whose vehicles have a high percentage of finicky gas caps often have lower average repair costs, but still waste time getting it diagnosed. Details on the most common repair for each of these vehicles as well as the best vehicles in each category, and vehicles with the most frequent/most expensive repairs are available in the full [2018 report](#).

About CarMD

Headquartered in Irvine, Calif., CarMD.com Corporation is a leading provider of automotive diagnostic business solutions, digital automotive aftermarket platform services and vehicle data licensing. CarMD specializes in automotive technology solutions that leverage and empower the capabilities of the on-board diagnostics (OBD) port. Published tri-annually, the CarMD® Vehicle Health Index™ reports on automotive repair and maintenance trends. For more information about CarMD's automotive aftermarket solutions, including current and archived Vehicle Health Index reports, visit www.carmd.com.

CarMD[®] Vehicle Health Index™

MAKE & MODEL RELIABILITY RANKINGS: HIGHLIGHTS

LOWEST AVERAGE REPAIR COST FOR CHECK ENGINE LIGHT



The vehicle brand with the **lowest average repair cost** for CHECK ENGINE problems in 2018 is **Mazda**, which had an average recommended parts & labor estimate of \$286.



The **2017 Hyundai Tucson** has the lowest average car repair costs (vehicles must meet minimum vehicle population and data requirements of 1% to qualify for CarMD's top 10 ranking).

LOWEST AVERAGE REPAIR COST FOR CHECK ENGINE LIGHT BY BRAND

mazda	#1	\$286	
KIA	#2	\$320	
Dodge	#3	\$326	
HYUNDAI	#4	\$328	
CHRYSLER	#5	\$329	
Jeep	#6	\$339	
CHEVROLET	#7	\$341	
	#8	\$358	
HONDA	#9	\$427	
TOYOTA	#10	\$462	

LOWEST REPAIR FREQUENCY FOR CHECK ENGINE LIGHT



CarMD found that over the past year, **Toyota** ranked no. 1 as the brand **least likely to have a check engine light on**. Toyota is followed by *Acura* (no. 2) and *Hyundai* (no. 3).



The **2016 Audi Q5** is the vehicle least likely to have a check engine light on among the 9,130 different model year 1996 to 2018 vehicles analyzed by CarMD in 2018.

TOP VEHICLE BY CATEGORY

LOWEST REPAIR FREQUENCY



LOWEST AVERAGE REPAIR COST

COMPACT
2016 Honda Civic



COMPACT
2017 Hyundai Accent (\$69)

MINIVAN
2017 Toyota Sienna



MINIVAN
2016 Honda Odyssey (\$147)

MIDSIZE
2017 Honda Accord



MIDSIZE
2017 Hyundai Sonata (\$115)

FULL-SIZED SUV
2017 GMC Acadia



FULL-SIZED SUV
2017 Toyota 4Runner (\$107)

WAGON/CROSSOVER SUV
2017 Subaru Crosstrek



WAGON/CROSSOVER SUV
2016 Honda CR-V (\$136)

TRUCK
2017 Ford F-150



TRUCK
2017 RAM 2500 (\$166)