

Press Release

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Euro NCAP's Best in Class Cars of 2012

Euro NCAP is announcing the top choices for safety and the recommended vehicles in their class.

In 2012, Euro NCAP published the results for 36 vehicles available on the European market. Six five-star vehicles performed highly in each of the four individual marking criteria: adult occupant protection, child occupant protection, pedestrian protection and safety assist systems. The best in class of 2012, recommended for their outstanding safety performance are:

Renault Clio – Supermini
Volvo V40 – Small Family
BMW 3 Series – Large Family
FIAT 500L and Ford B-MAX – Small MPV
Ford Kuga – Small Off-Road 4x4
Hyundai Santa Fe - Large Off-Road 4x4
Ford Transit – Business and Family Vans

The **FIAT 500L** and **Ford B-MAX** are sharing the Best in Class honour in the Small MPV category. The **Volvo V40** reached the highest combined score of any car previously tested by Euro NCAP. Whilst 26 five-star cars were released, one model achieved four stars and 8 received three stars. Last year's underperformers were the **Jeep Compass** and **Renault Traffic**, each of which was only able to score two stars against the latest set of requirements.

The runners-up of 2012 are the **Ford Fiesta** in the Supermini category; the **Opel Mokka** in the Small Family category; the **Volvo V60 Plug-In Hybrid** in the Large Family category; the **Subaru Forester** in the Small Off-Road 4x4 category, and the **Range Rover** in the Large Off-Road 4x4.

For the first time, Euro NCAP released comparative tests results in the popular category of Business and Family vans. The **Ford Transit** is the first van to achieve a Euro NCAP five star overall rating and to receive the best in class honour. The runners-up in this new category are the **FIAT Scudo** and its twins, the **Citroen Jumpy** and **Peugeot Expert**, all of which received three stars.

With manufacturers offering new safety technology and continuously improving designs, further updates to the Euro NCAP star rating are scheduled. In June 2012, Euro NCAP announced its decision to include Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) systems in the star rating in an effort to promote wider fitment of this life saving technology in Europe.

With only a limited number of car makers offering AEB on today's vehicles, the stricter requirements and increasing consumer demand will challenge car makers. Michiel van Ratingen, Euro NCAP Secretary General, says: 'Euro NCAP is recognizing the efforts of some manufacturers already offering a higher level of occupant protection in their cars, but today safety means more than protecting occupants in a crash. Through the expansion of our tests and the assessment of important active safety systems, our aim is to inform and allow all road users to benefit from safe cars with advanced systems in the most affordable way, and to contribute in reducing the number of road accidents.'

Already from this year, Euro NCAP includes Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) in its safety rating, building on the previous protocol for driver set speed limitation devices. Euro NCAP has also broadened its assessment of child safety by adding an extensive evaluation of how well cars accommodate many of the most popular child restraints.



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More details on the top achievers vehicles of 2012 can be found on the [website](#). Next results will be released on 5th March 2013. For media information, please contact Marie Brasseur, Euro NCAP Communications Manager at marie.brasseur@euroncap.com or +32 2 4007746.

About Euro NCAP

Euro NCAP organizes crash tests on new vehicles and provides motoring consumers with a realistic and independent assessment of the safety performance of some of the most popular cars sold in Europe. Established in 1997 and backed by several European Governments, motoring, consumer and insurance organizations, Euro NCAP has rapidly become a catalyst for encouraging significant safety improvements to new car design. Visit our website: www.euroncap.com