



2020

The year in numbers

FOR SAFER CARS
EURO NCAP
★★★★★
TEST 2020

Star Facts

Assisted Driving

New Car Sales



Star Facts

SAFETY RATINGS

2020 was characterized by lockdowns and pandemic-related restrictions, causing test laboratories to temporarily halt operations and vehicle manufacturers to postpone new models. Despite all the disruptions, Euro NCAP released 23 safety ratings, of which 11 were new cars. These were tested against renewed requirements that include compatibility in front crashes, far-side protection, post-crash requirements and more ADAS functions. In addition, Euro NCAP published its first Assisted Driving grades, evaluated ADAS on commercial vans and launched the Euro Rescue app for first responders.



BEV, PHEV & HEV

Two thirds of new cars were battery electric or (plug-in) hybrid. In addition, ratings for 12 new hybrid variants of previously tested cars were released.



CENTER AIRBAGS

Among new safety features that made their debut this year are center airbags to mitigate injuries in far-side crashes. Eight out of 11 new cars tested offered front-seat center airbags as standard.



POST-CRASH RESCUE

From 2020 onwards, Rescue sheet and Emergency Response Guide complying to ISO 17840 can be freely downloaded by first responders. The new Euro Rescue app already contains over 1345 cars.



CRS

All new cars can accommodate i-Size seats, but the Britax-Roemer KidFix remained the vehicle manufacturers' child restraint system of choice in Euro NCAP crash tests. Several versions of the highback booster were used.



INTERSECTION AEB

2020 showcased further advances in crash avoidance technology. Nine new models come equipped with an intersection AEB system, preventing turn across path crashes with oncoming cars.



STARS

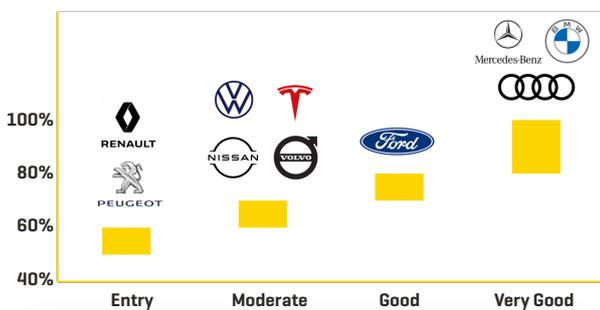
Overall, the latest models scored very well against the 2020 criteria. 9 cars rated 5 stars (82%), one car achieved 4 stars (9%) and one got 3 stars (9%). There were no cars lower than 3 stars.



Assisted Driving

BALANCING DRIVER ENGAGEMENT AND VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

Euro NCAP launched a unique grading system to help the safe adoption of assisted driving technologies by consumers. Ten cars offering Highway Assist as an option were put to the test. The best systems offered a good balance between the assistance they provide and the level of driver engagement and were supported by an effective safety backup. The test results demonstrate that assisted driving technology is fast becoming better and more readily available, but until driver monitoring is significantly improved, the driver always needs to remain alert and focussed.



The stay-at-home economy has created a surge in demand for delivery services and, with more commercial vans on city roads, the number of crashes involving vans has gone up. For years, the safety of commercial vans has been lagging behind that of passenger cars, both in terms of system fitment and performance. This is particularly true for driver assistance systems. In 2020, nineteen vans, covering 98 percent of European sales, were tested in accordance with Euro NCAP 2018 Safety Assist protocols. The best vans tested were the Volkswagen Transporter, Ford Transit and Mercedes-Benz Vito. The FIAT Talento, Renault Trafic, Renault Master, Opel Movano and Nissan NV400 were not recommended, as they are very poorly equipped or have no driver support systems available.



The new electric VW ID.3 achieved the best overall score in Euro NCAP safety tests in 2020

NEW CAR SALES

The global pandemic has caused consumer confidence to plummet to levels not seen since the last recession. European new passenger sales are expected to be down by almost 25 percent compared to 2019. Of new cars sold in 2020, an estimated 98% have a valid Euro NCAP safety rating, while 2% hold an expired rating or were never rated. In the first three quarters of the calendar year, 8.5 million passenger cars were sold in the EU, 75% of those were 5-star cars, 16% were rated 4 stars and 7% 3 stars or less. This confirms that most new car models today substantially exceed legal safety requirements and already offer more and better ADAS than will be required by law from 2022 onwards.

Best practice standards such as Euro NCAP's star ratings have increasingly become recognized across Europe. Star ratings help consumers and businesses compare the safety potential of different models, enabling safety to be included in their purchasing decision. In addition, they advance the regulatory framework to continuously drive improvements in vehicle safety standards. In 2020 both Swedish and UK Governments updated their buying standards for transport, setting out new mandatory requirements for vehicle safety based on valid Euro NCAP ratings.

