Best and worst cars to buy and own – depreciation-wise

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When buying a new car, it's always worth thinking about the potential resale value and how much it will depreciate over time. Robin Roberts (and WheelsWithinWales) reports…

Some cars can prove to be very worthy investments, with their value increasing over time, while others may drop quickly in value as soon as they leave the forecourt.

Elements such as age, condition, mileage and number of owners are all influencing factors, and there are many things that you can do to minimise the effects of depreciation, but choosing a vehicle that holds its value well is always a good place to start. Scrap Car Comparison's new analysis highlights the worst and best buys for your money.

Which Car Models Depreciate the Quickest?

With this in mind, they've looked at some of the UK's top-selling vehicles and calculated their average depreciation over the average ownership period for a car in the UK (four years) to try and help give an idea of how different car's values can decline quicker than others.

The Renault Zoe tops the tables as the car with the highest average four-year depreciation rate, with the £31,195 average selling price dropping down to just £10,238 after four years, with 67% of the vehicle's value lost as a result. The Peugeot 2008 follows in second with an average depreciation rate of 66%, with the Audi A3 rounding off the top three at 65%.

Rank	Car Model	Base Price	Average value after 4 years	Value lost (after 4 years)	Average 4-year depreciation rate (%)
1	Renault Zoe	£31,195	£10,238	£20,957	67.20%
2	Peugeot 2008	£23,005	£7,768	£15,237	66.20%
3	Audi A3	£26,660	£9,254	£17,406	65.30%
4	LR Defender	£55,265	£19,701	£35,564	64.30%
5	BMW 7 Series	£102,990	£41,462	£61,528	59.70%
6	Audi A8	£76,225	£31,379	£44,846	58.80%
7	Peugeot 5008	£35,585	£15,290	£20,295	57%
8	Nissan Leaf	£28,495	£12,499	£15,996	56.10%
9	Peugeot 3008	£31,620	£13,870	£17,750	56.10%
10	Peugeot 508	£32,960	£14,751	£18,209	55.30%
11	MB E-Class	£54,185	£24,730	£29,455	54.40%
12	Kia Sportage	£27,950	£13,003	£14,947	53.50%
13	Audi A6	£42,605	£20,196	£22,409	52.60%
14	Hyundai i30	£22,700	£10,760	£11,940	52.60%
15	Ford S-Max	£38,565	£18,618	£19,947	51.70%

Rank	Car Model	Base Price	Average value after 4 years	Value lost (after 4 years)	Average 4-year depreciation rate (%)
16	Kia Sorento	£43,205	£20,858	£22,347	51.70%
17	Vauxhall Astra	£25,795	£12,453	£13,342	51.70%
18	BMW X5	£66,230	£33,127	£33,103	50%
19	Vauxhall Mokka	£23,495	£11,752	£11,743	50%
20	Audi Q5	£45,425	£23,113	£22,312	49.10%

Which Car Models Depreciate the Slowest?

For those looking for a vehicle that holds its value, the Volvo V90 fits the bill, as the car that depreciates the slowest according to our data.

With only 7.9% of the vehicle’s value lost after four years, this model is definitely a sounder investment than others. The Volvo XC60 follows closely in second place, losing just 11.5% of its value in four years.

The Mercedes Benz A-Class (14.4%), Jeep Wrangler (17.5%) and Volkswagen Polo (18.3%) complete the top five, with any one of them likely to hold their value well over the first few years of ownership.

Rank	Car Model	Base model price	Average value after 4 years	Value lost (after 4 years)	Average 4 year depreciation rate (%)
1	Volvo V90	£48,825	£44,955	£3,870	7.9%
2	Volvo XC60	£45,675	£40,425	£5,250	11.5%
3	MBenz A-Class	£30,800	£26,351	£4,449	14.4%
4	Jeep Wrangler	£57,810	£47,692	£10,118	17.5%
5	VW Polo	£19,640	£16,051	£3,589	18.3%
6	Range Rover	£102,100	£82,658	£19,442	19%
7	Volkswagen Golf	£25,615	£20,737	£4,878	19%
8	MBenz C-Class	£44,060	£35,330	£8,730	19.8%
9	Porsche 718	£51,800	£41,536	£10,264	19.8%
10	Toyota C-HR	£29,920	£23,760	£6,160	20.6%