

Kelley Blue Book Analysts Recommend Consumers Wait to Replace Current Vehicle Until Gas Prices Drop

Kbb.com Suggests 30 Vehicles Offering Roughly 30 Miles per Gallon for Those in Need of a New Ride Now

IRVINE, Calif., March 21, 2011 [PRNewswire/](#) -- Kelley Blue Book www.kbb.com, the leading provider of [new car](#) and [used car](#) information, today recommends that consumers who do not have a pressing need to replace their current vehicle wait for gas prices to come back down. Since the beginning of the year, fuel prices have spiked 15.3 percent, primarily due to instability in the Middle East that has sparked fears of production halts. With gas prices on the rise, Kelley Blue Book anticipates that [fuel-efficient vehicle](#) values will increase, while values for [trucks](#) and [SUVs](#) are expected to stabilize.

In 2008, gas prices hit \$4.00 per gallon and many consumers reacted by selling their trucks and SUVs in a panic and taking a significant loss, only to spend a premium for a new or used fuel-efficient car. After it became apparent that this appreciation was largely driven by speculation rather than market fundamentals, gas prices came down sharply and values eventually leveled off. With this in mind, consumers should be cautious as they decide whether or not to sell their vehicle for something more fuel efficient.

Gas prices are expected to eventually drop; however, in the short term, consumers should prepare to continue to pay a premium at the pump at least through 2011.

Gas prices will remain high until the situation in the Middle East is resolved, but consumers should only sell their current vehicle if their budget forces them to do so.

In the event that drivers need to switch to a more fuel-efficient vehicle, Kelley Blue Book analysts have provided a list of 30 new vehicles offering roughly 30 miles per gallon or greater.

30 New Vehicles Offering (roughly) 30 MPG or Greater - MY2011								
Model	Kbb.com MSRP	Kbb.com FPP	MPG	Cash Incentive	Mo. APR	60 Annual Fuel Expense @ \$3.57/gallon	Annual Finance Expense	5-Year Fuel & Finance Expenses
Subcompact & Compact								
Nissan Versa	\$12,010	\$11,650	30	-	1.9%	\$1,785	\$2,689	\$22,368
Toyota Yaris	\$13,615	\$13,343	32	\$500	1.9%	\$1,673	\$2,964	\$23,187
Ford Fiesta	\$13,995	\$13,785	33	\$500	5.2%	\$1,623	\$3,325	\$24,741
Hyundai Elantra	\$14,865	\$14,716	33	-	3.9%	\$1,623	\$3,569	\$25,957
Honda Insight	\$18,950	\$18,666	41	\$1,250	0.9%	\$1,306	\$3,920	\$26,129
Kia Soul	\$13,995	\$13,715	28	-	5.2%	\$1,913	\$3,433	\$26,728
Honda Fit	\$15,850	\$15,612	29	-	0.9%	\$1,847	\$3,514	\$26,802
Nissan cube	\$15,040	\$15,040	28	-	1.9%	\$1,913	\$3,471	\$26,918
Chevrolet Cruze	\$16,995	\$16,485	33	-	2.9%	\$1,623	\$3,900	\$27,616
Ford Focus	\$17,365	\$16,931	29	-	0.0%	\$1,847	\$3,725	\$27,857

Scion xD	\$15,765	\$15,765	29	-	5.2%	\$1,847	\$3,946	\$28,964
Toyota								
Prius	\$22,410	\$22,186	50	\$500	2.9%	\$1,071	\$5,131	\$31,009
Honda Civic	\$24,700	\$23,342	41	\$1,500	0.9%	\$1,306	\$4,916	\$31,110
Honda CR-								
Z	\$20,095	\$20,095	37	-	5.2%	\$1,447	\$5,030	\$32,387
Mini Cooper	\$20,100	\$20,100	32	-	5.2%	\$1,673	\$5,031	\$33,524
Nissan								
LEAF	\$33,630	\$33,630	99	-	5.2%	\$541	\$8,418	\$37,294
Volkswagen								
Jetta	\$23,765	\$23,765	34	-	5.2%	\$1,725	\$5,949	\$38,368
Volkswagen								
Golf	\$24,295	\$24,052	34	-	5.2%	\$1,725	\$6,021	\$38,728
Chevrolet								
Volt	\$41,000	\$41,000	93	-	5.2%	\$576	\$10,263	\$46,693

Model	Kbb.com		MPG	Cash Incentive	60 Mo. APR	Annual Fuel Expense @ \$3.57/gallon	Annual Finance Expense	5-Year Fuel & Finance Expenses
	MSRP	FPP						
Mid-Size & Crossover								
Hyundai								
Sonata	\$19,915	\$19,915	28	-	3.9%	\$1,913	\$4,829	\$33,710
Nissan								
JUKE	\$19,760	\$19,760	29	-	5.2%	\$1,847	\$4,946	\$33,964
Kia								
Optima	\$19,690	\$19,690	28	-	5.2%	\$1,913	\$4,929	\$34,206
Toyota								
Camry	\$27,435	\$26,612	33	\$2,000	0.0%	\$1,623	\$5,415	\$35,187
Ford								
Fusion	\$29,100	\$28,518	39	\$500	0.0%	\$1,373	\$6,164	\$37,685
Nissan								
Altima	\$27,530	\$27,530	33	-	1.9%	\$1,623	\$6,354	\$39,882
Ford								
Escape	\$30,825	\$29,900	32	\$500	0.0%	\$1,673	\$6,468	\$40,707

Model	Kbb.com		MPG	Cash Incentive	60 Mo. APR	Annual Fuel Expense @ \$3.57/gallon	Annual Finance Expense	5-Year Fuel & Finance Expenses
	MSRP	FPP						
Luxury								
Lexus								
CT 200h	\$29,995	\$29,995	42	-	5.2%	\$1,275	\$7,508	\$43,915
Lincoln								
MKZ	\$35,455	\$34,746	39	-	5.2%	\$1,373	\$8,697	\$50,352
Lexus								
HS 250h	\$36,475	\$36,475	35	-	5.2%	\$1,530	\$9,130	\$53,301
LexusRX								
450h	\$44,110	\$44,110	30	-	2.9%	\$1,785	\$10,436	\$61,107

*Annual and 5-year costs assume 15,000 miles driven per year Color Key

**5-Year APR finance incentives provided where available, otherwise average rate of 5.2% is used Hybrid

***Volt & LEAF include \$7,500 tax credit which is deducted from 5-year vehicle cost total Electric
****MPG reflects combined fuel economy calculated by the EPA Diesel
*****Finance expense includes 10% tax & license charge and assumed \$0 down payment Gasoline
*****Diesel fuel price for VW TDI assumes \$3.91/gallon
*****Kbb.com's Fair Purchase Price (FPP) is the amount consumers typically are paying for a vehicle. It is based on actual new-vehicle transactions from across the country and adjusted regularly as market conditions change.

"For those in the market to switch to a more fuel-efficient car, we suggest looking at subcompact vehicles to get the most bang for your buck," said Alec Gutierrez, manager of vehicle valuation for Kelley Blue Book. "While they are not necessarily the most amenity-laden cars on the market, the [Nissan Versa](#), [Toyota Yaris](#) and [Ford Fiesta](#) offer competitive fuel economy in an affordable package."

Hybrid and [electric vehicles](#) may offer the best raw fuel-economy figures, but based on their high upfront cost, they become more expensive in the long run. For example, a new [Toyota Prius](#) will cost a consumer more than \$32,000 during five years of ownership, based on fuel and financing costs. Conversely, a gasoline-powered highly fuel-efficient vehicle like the [2011 Hyundai Elantra](#) will only cost \$28,000 during the same period.

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