

Press Release

Results of the DEKRA Used Car Report 2016

Long Live Niche Vehicles: Used Car Market Becoming Increasingly More Diverse

- Audi A6 receives the title for "Best of All Classes"
- Evaluation according to mileage – ignoring problems caused by owner
- New "Vintage Car" special evaluation for historic vehicle candidates
- Report available as a free app and online, also in a special edition of *ams*

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The used car market in Germany is booming – and also becoming increasingly diverse. "After the corresponding time lag, we are seeing the trend for vehicle manufacturers to produce new models to fulfill increasingly smaller niches appearing on the used car market," says Dr. Gerd Neumann, Chairman of the Management Board of DEKRA Automobil GmbH. As a consequence, the DEKRA Used Car Report 2016, which was released today by the expert organization, again sees a larger number of vehicle models. A total of 474 models are listed this year whereas, five years ago, this number stood at 232. In addition, new special evaluations and vehicle classes are being added on a regular basis. The latest addition for 2016 is the special evaluation "Vintage Cars." As a result, the report, which gives used car buyers information about the reliability of individual vehicle models, gives an increasingly sophisticated view of the diversity that characterizes the market.

For the used car report, DEKRA experts evaluate the results of a total of around 15 million main inspections conducted over two years. Only faults that are relevant for evaluating vehicle models are included in the statistics. Typical maintenance faults that can more likely be attributed to the owner than the vehicle itself are not taken into account.

"In our report, potential buyers of used cars will find detailed information about the typical faults of a particular vehicle model. Each model is also compared with other models from the same market segment," says Dr. Gerd Neumann. "This allows us to provide specific and neutral assistance when a purchase decision is being made.

The DEKRA Used Car Report contains valuable statistical information thanks to the minimum threshold for the number of units. "Figures for a particular model are only displayed in the report if we have checked at least 1,000 vehicles of this model within a specific mileage range over the evaluation period," says the DEKRA Managing Director.

The DEKRA Fault Index (DFI) has been the key figure for the holistic evaluation for many years now. It calculates the percentage of vehicles without relevant faults as well as the percentage of vehicles with significant faults. To calculate the DFI, the “without relevant faults” percentage value is deducted from the “with significant faults” value. This gives the faults classed as “significant” a greater weighting in the evaluation.

Evaluation According to Vehicle Class and Mileage Category

An effective comparison is made possible through a total of nine different vehicle classes, from small cars to vans. "For the used car buyer, it is essential to see comparable models in relation to each other as, generally, a purchase decision is made within a vehicle class. It does not make sense to compare the fault index of a vehicle in the luxury class with a small car," says the DEKRA Managing Director. Furthermore, the vehicle tests for the DEKRA Used Car Report have always been evaluated in terms of mileage, as according to the experts mileage has more of an effect on a vehicle's susceptibility to faults than its age. The nine vehicle classes are differentiated into three mileage categories (0 to 50,000 km, 50,001 to 100,000 km and 100,001 to 150,000 km).

Best Rankings in the Individual Vehicle Classes

The vehicles with the best DEKRA Fault Index in the individual vehicle classes (normally in the 0 to 50,000 km mileage range):

Vehicle Class (Number of Models in Report)	Winner	DFI
Minis / Small Cars (56)	Toyota Yaris	92.7
Compact Class (45)	Honda Civic	94.8
Medium-sized Class (33)	Volvo S60 / V60	96.6
Upper Medium Class / Upper Class (16)	Mercedes-Benz CLS	98.3
Sports Cars / Cabrio (17)	Mercedes-Benz SLK	98.3
Off-roaders / SUV (53)	Mercedes-Benz M-Class	98.5
Hatchbacks (47)	Mercedes-Benz B-Class	98.5
Small Vans (23)	Opel Combo	84.8
Vans (15)	Renault Master	80.4

"Best of All Classes"

The vehicle that achieves the best evaluation results on average across all vehicle classes and all three mileage categories receives the title “Best of All Classes”. This year, the title went to the Audi A6 (DFI: 94.4), beating the Mercedes-Benz E-Class (93.0) and the Audi Q5 (89.0). "The basis for evaluation in this category is a comprehensive usage period from 0 to 150,000 km. This allows us to provide reliable information over longer mileages," says Dr. Gerd Neumann.

Best Rankings by Country of Origin

Cars produced by German manufacturers figure among the winners in five of the nine vehicle classes. Two first places also go to Japan and one each to Sweden and France. If we also take into account the best vehicles in the higher mileage ranges, German manufacturers achieve 18 out of a total of 27 best rankings. Of the remaining best rankings, four were achieved by Japan, three by France and two by Sweden.

Special Evaluation "Classic Cars" Appears in Report for the First Time

New for this year is the "Classic Cars" special evaluation. The special evaluation lists vehicle models, which were released onto the market over 30 years ago and are therefore eligible to be registered as historic vehicles, but large numbers of which are still sold on the used car market. "This segment of the used car market has its own unique characteristics and can only be compared with other segments to a limited extent. Creating a separate special evaluation as part of the DEKRA Used Car Report is therefore a logical step for us," explains Dr. Gerd Neumann.

For a vintage car model to appear in the report, the same minimum threshold of 1,000 vehicles within a specific mileage range also applies. In comparison with the regular vehicle classes, the mileage categories are adapted and cover a range between 50,001 and 200,000 km.

Established Special Evaluation "Discontinued Popular Models"

The aforementioned classification of mileage ranges also applies to the firmly established special evaluation "Discontinued Popular Models", included in the DEKRA Used Car Report for the fourth time. The focus here is on vehicle models that have not been sold as new cars for some time but feature prominently on the used car market. These vehicles are particularly interesting to potential buyers with a small budget. This year's special evaluation includes 131 models. The decline in numbers compared to last year is due to the creation of a separate special evaluation for vintage cars.

No Ranking for "Newcomer" Category

Also in 2016, the DEKRA Used Car Report included vehicle models, which have been available on the market for less than three years, in the separate "Newcomer" category with no rankings. With these vehicles, different influencing factors come into play, which make it difficult to perform the evaluation as we would normally for the report, because owners and workshops often treat new cars differently to older used cars. In addition, manufacturers are increasingly running campaigns for their contracted workshops with the aim of reducing the fault rate. This limits the value of

the main inspection statistics about the quality of the vehicle. An effective way to compare these vehicle models does not exist. For this reason, the DEKRA Used Car Report has deliberately limited these vehicles to their own vehicle class with no ranking.

The DEKRA Used Car Report available online, as an app and in a special edition of *ams*

The results of the DEKRA Used Car Report 2016 are now available online at www.gebrauchtwagenreport.com. The free app for iPhone and iPad as well as for Android devices is also available in the new version on the appropriate platforms. To mark the publication, a special edition of the magazine *auto motor und sport* devoted to the DEKRA Used Car Report is on sale in Germany from today.

About DEKRA

DEKRA has been active in the field of safety for 90 years. Founded in 1925 in Berlin as Deutscher Kraftfahrzeug-Überwachungs-Verein e.V., it is today one of the world's leading expert organizations. DEKRA SE is a subsidiary of DEKRA e.V. and manages the Group's operating business. In 2015, DEKRA will generate sales totalling approximately 2.7 billion Euros. The company currently employs more than 37,000 people in more than 50 countries on all five continents. With qualified and independent expert services, they work for safety on the road, at work and at home. These services range from vehicle inspection and expert appraisals to claims services, industrial and building inspections, safety consultancy, testing and certification of products and systems, as well as training courses and temporary work. The vision for the company's 100th birthday in 2025 is that DEKRA will be the global partner for a safe world.