

## Autos

# 2007 Cars: Our Slide Show Gallery of Top Picks

By Mark Solheim and Jessica Anderson

The 2007s are rolling into the showrooms, but it's hard to discern overriding trends among the hundreds of new models. The market is a mixed bag as carmakers hedge their bets, trying to appeal to as many niches as possible.

Need help narrowing the choices? We evaluated nearly 500 new models and picked winners in various categories, from small economy cars to crossovers, large SUVs and luxury sedans. We also gathered sticker and dealer prices, projected resale values and fuel costs.

Prices in the slide shows come from Kelley Blue Book; its

New Car Blue Book Value represents the most common selling price for the vehicle. Resale values, also from Kelley, are the estimated price a dealer would pay if you traded in the vehicle in three or five years, expressed as a percentage of the sticker price.

Service cost is an estimate of the cost of maintenance and unscheduled repairs over five years. Insurance cost is an estimate of the annual premium for each vehicle for a middle-aged driver with a clean driving record. Both figures were supplied by Vincentric, a Bloomfield Hills, Mich., automotive research firm.

## KIPLINGER 2007 PICKS: SEDANS FROM \$25,000 TO \$30,000

This price category is the sweet spot for value because you get a cross-section of midsize and large sedans with premium features. Most have six-cylinder engines with plenty of horsepower, standard anti-lock brakes and head-protection airbags. Many also have stability control, which uses the anti-lock braking system to help prevent skids.

### FIRST FOR SAFETY SAAB 9-3 2.0T

**Sticker price/dealer cost:** \$26,915/\$25,423

**New Car Blue Book Value:** \$26,567

**Resale value (3-year/5-year):** 48%/31%

**Service cost (5-year):** \$3,147

**Insurance cost (1-year):** \$1,393

**Miles per gallon (city/highway):** 22/30



The Saab 9-3 sports an interior face-lift and new dash design as well as a full complement of standard safety features. With top crash scores, the 9-3 also earns the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's highest award for safety.

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