



**J.D. Power and Associates and *What Car?* Report:
Lexus 4x4 is Britain's Most Satisfying Car Hybrid Toyota Prius Ranks Second**

Lexus Most Satisfying Brand for a Ninth Consecutive Year

5 June 2009 – The Lexus RX and Toyota's hybrid car, the Prius, are the highest-ranking models in the J.D. Power and Associates/*What Car?* 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM released today.

The Lexus RX earns a score of 853 on a 1,000-point scale, with owners reporting particularly high satisfaction with the model's quality/reliability and appeal as well as servicing at the dealership. Second-highest-ranked model, the Toyota Prius, performs well on running costs and vehicle quality/reliability.

"Sales of SUVs may be on the slide, but it's clear that owners of the Lexus RX 4x4 would gladly recommend their car to others," said Steve Fowler, editor of *What Car?* "Many of the RXs in the survey were hybrid models, and with the hybrid Toyota Prius in second place, it's clear that environmentally friendly cars are hugely satisfying to own."

In the manufacturer rankings, Lexus ranks highest for a ninth consecutive year, receiving a customer satisfaction score of 833. Lexus performs particularly well in two of four key measures: service satisfaction and vehicle appeal. Rounding out the top five nameplates are Honda (817), Mercedes-Benz (807), Škoda and Toyota (805 each).

At model level, Toyota captures two awards—more than any other manufacturer included in the 2009 study. The Toyota Prius (upper medium car) and Aygo (city car) each rank highest in their respective segments. Also receiving segment-level awards are the Honda Jazz (small car), Škoda Octavia (lower medium car), Audi A6 (executive/luxury car), Mercedes-Benz CLK-Class (sports car), Citroën Grand C4 Picasso (MPV) and Lexus RX (SUV).

"Lexus consistently delivers an exceptional ownership experience for customers in the UK," said Susan Barnes, European automotive director at J.D. Power and Associates. "In these challenging times, satisfaction programmes could be well worth the investment. Incentive schemes for the automotive sector, such as the recently introduced scrappage programme, might boost vehicle sales in the short term, but a vehicle purchase which is made as a result of an exceptional experience should be the longer-term goal, especially when the incentive schemes come to an end."

The study finds that satisfaction levels and brand loyalty are strongly linked, with more than 59% of highly satisfied customers reporting they "definitely will" consider buying the same vehicle make in the future. Conversely, only 18 percent of customers who report having a less satisfying experience intend to do the same.

"In a declining automotive market, keeping existing customers and gaining new ones becomes ever-more challenging," said Barnes. "Providing an outstanding experience can make all the difference in keeping customers with the brand and helping towards a brand's future economic success."

The redesigned 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS) is the successor study to the UK Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) and is based on the evaluations of more than 15,600 online interviews from UK car owners after an average of two years of ownership. The study includes 29 brands and 101 models.

Owners provide detailed evaluations of their vehicles and dealers, which cover 67 attributes grouped in four measurements of satisfaction. In order of importance, they are: vehicle appeal (37%), which includes performance, design, comfort and features; vehicle quality and reliability (24%); ownership costs (22%), which includes fuel consumption, insurance and costs of service/repair; and dealer service satisfaction (17%).

J.D. Power and Associates conducts studies around the world, including Europe (France, Germany, United Kingdom); North America (Canada, Mexico, United States); Asia Pacific (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand); and Africa (South Africa).

The annual J.D. Power and Associates/*What Car?* study gives consumers access to reliable and accurate information about many vehicle models, and helps manufacturers provide high levels of satisfaction to their customers. More comprehensive study results are published exclusively in the July issue of *What Car?* on sale Thursday, June 11, 2009.¹

About J.D. Power and Associates

Headquartered in Westlake Village, California, U.S.A., J.D. Power and Associates is a global marketing information services company operating in key business sectors including market research, forecasting, performance improvement, Web intelligence and customer satisfaction. The company's quality and satisfaction measurements are based on responses from millions of consumers annually. For more information on [car reviews and ratings](#), [car insurance](#), [health insurance](#), [cell phone ratings](#), and more, please visit JDPower.com. J.D. Power and Associates is a business unit of The McGraw-Hill Companies.

About The McGraw-Hill Companies:

Founded in 1888, The McGraw-Hill Companies (NYSE: MHP) is a leading global information services provider meeting worldwide needs in the financial services, education and business information markets through leading brands such as Standard & Poor's, McGraw-Hill Education, *BusinessWeek* and J.D. Power and Associates. The Corporation has more than 280 offices in 40 countries. Sales in 2008 were \$6.4 billion. Additional information is available at <http://www.mcgraw-hill.com>.

About *What Car?*

What Car? has been Britain's best guide to buying a car for more than 30 years. Its blend of authoritative road tests, ground-breaking investigations, consumer surveys, money-saving advice and comprehensive data are referred to by more new and used car buyers than any other magazine. Over a quarter of UK car buyers consult *What Car?* before making a decision.

Media Relations Contacts:

John Tews; J.D. Power and Associates; Director, Media Relations; 5435 Corporate Drive, Suite 300; Troy, MI 48098, USA; Tel: +1 (248) 312-4119; media.relations@jdpa.com

Susan Barnes; J.D. Power and Associates; Director, European Automotive; 10-12 Frederick Sanger Road; Guildford, Surrey UK; Tel: 01483 207600; susan_barnes@jdpa.com

Karen Parry; *What Car?* Magazine; Tel: +44 (0)1784 456 526; Mob: +44 (0)7903 955696; karen.parry@haymarket.com; karen@prandmediaworks.com

This press release is provided for editorial use only. No advertising or other promotional use can be made of the information in this release without the express prior written consent of J.D. Power and Associates. J.D. Power and Associates press releases and media information can also be accessed at www.jdpower.com

###

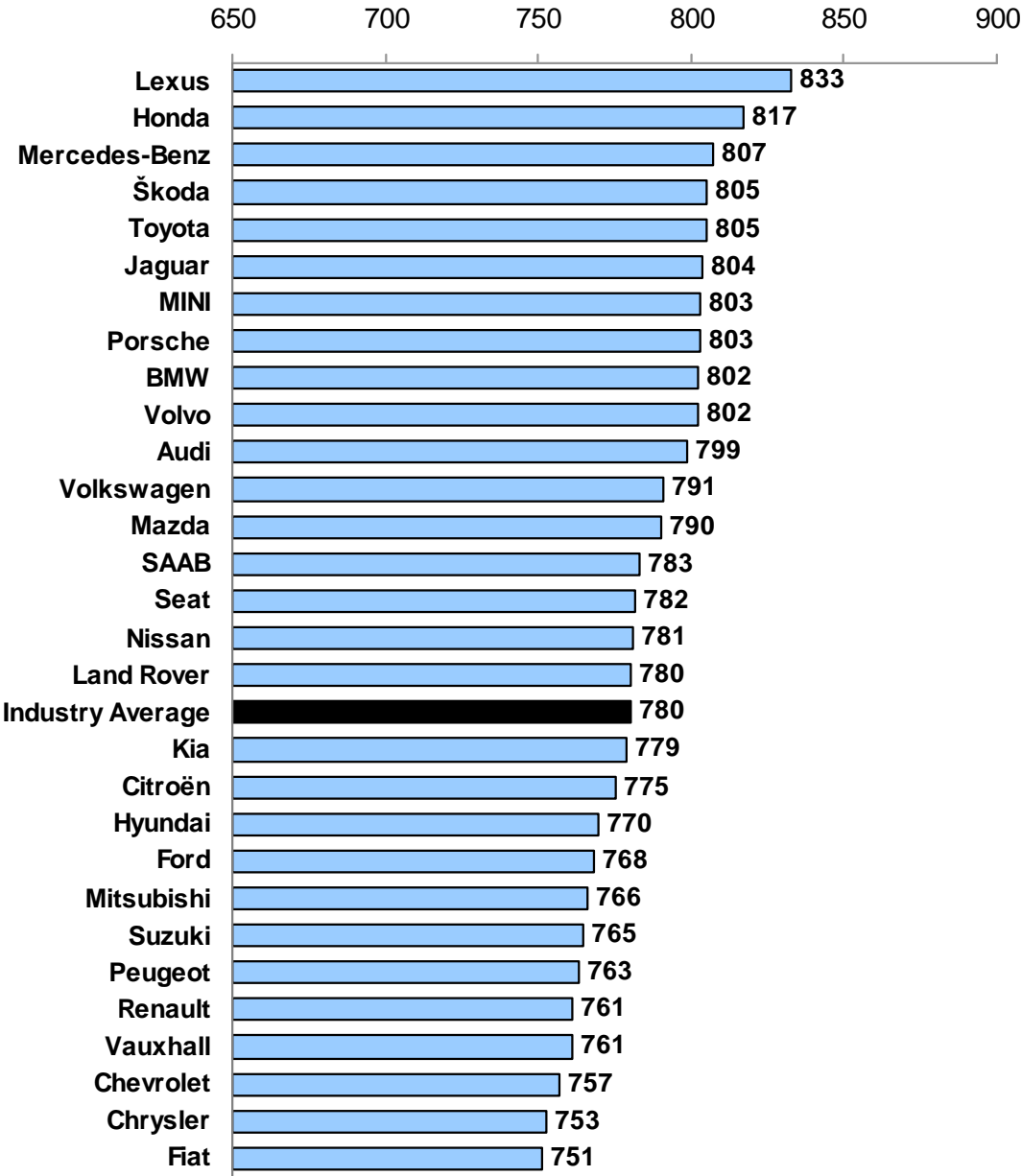
(Page 3 of 3)

NOTE: Three charts follow.

¹Study results published in *What Car?* use some segment names and definitions that differ from J.D. Power and Associates' segmentation. These include: supermini (for small car segment), small family car (for lower medium car segment); family car (for upper medium car segment) and compact executive (for selected premium models in the upper medium car segment).

J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM

VOSS Manufacturer Index Ranking (Based on a 1,000-point scale)



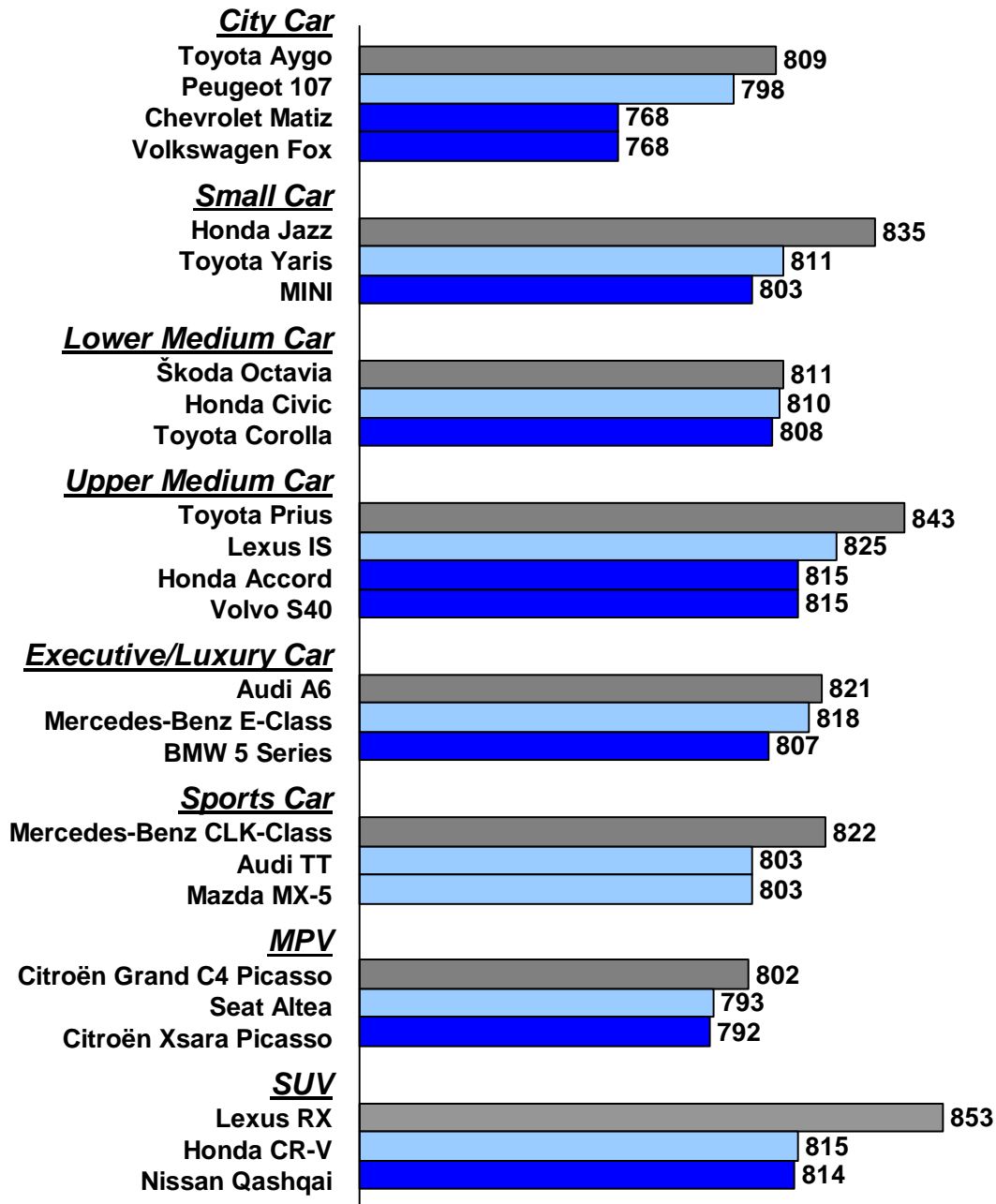
Included in the study, but not ranked due to small sample size are: Alfa Romeo, Daihatsu, Jeep, smart and Subaru.

Source: J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM

Charts and graphs extracted from this press release must be accompanied by a statement identifying J.D. Power and Associates as the publisher and the J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM as the source. Rankings are based on numerical scores, and not necessarily on statistical significance. No advertising or other promotional use can be made of the information in this release or J.D. Power and Associates survey results without the express prior written consent of J.D. Power and Associates.

J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM

Top Three Models per Segment Overall VOSS

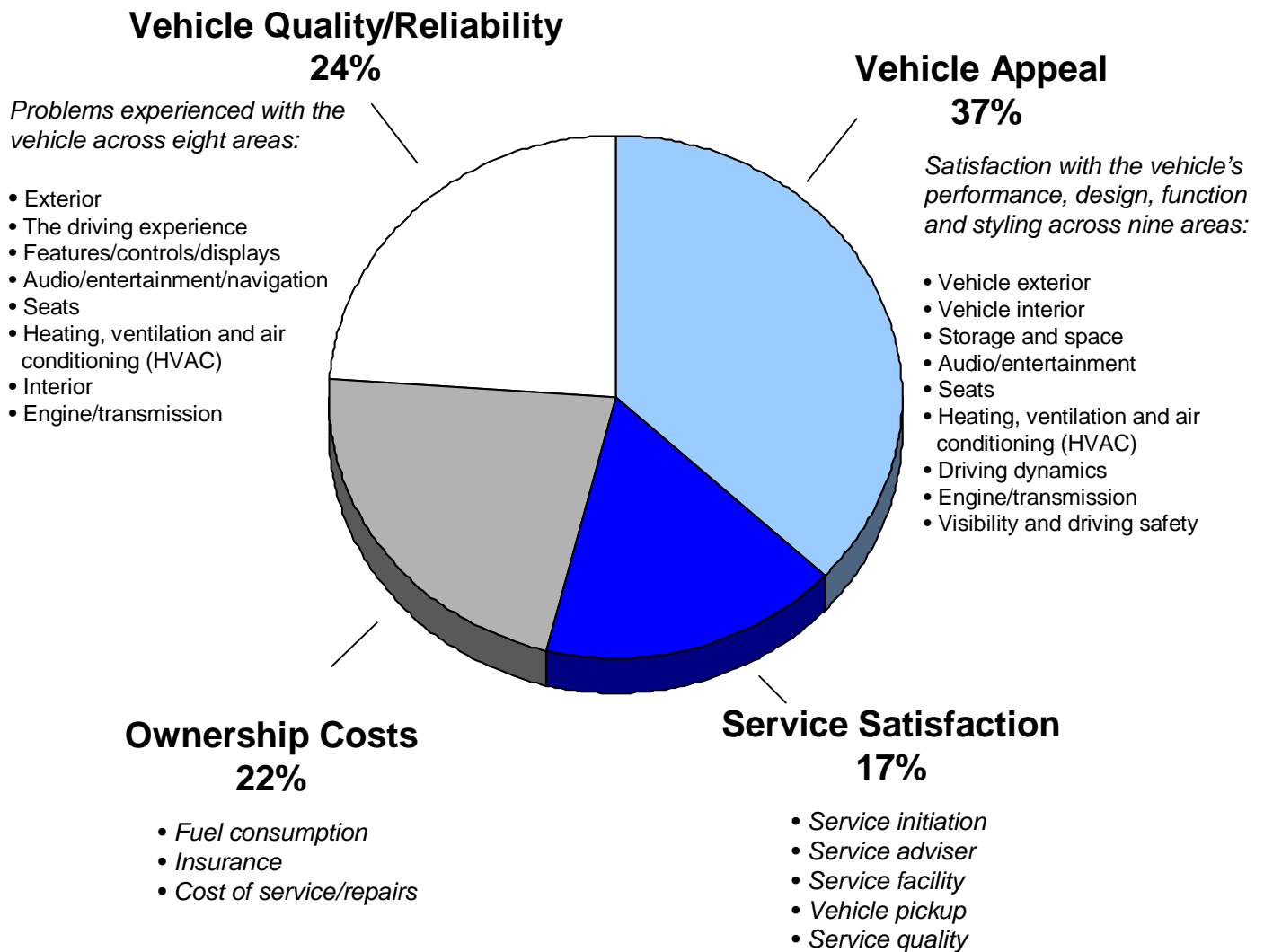


Source: J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM

Charts and graphs extracted from this press release must be accompanied by a statement identifying J.D. Power and Associates as the publisher and the J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM as the source. Rankings are based on numerical scores, and not necessarily on statistical significance. No advertising or other promotional use can be made of the information in this release or J.D. Power and Associates survey results without the express prior written consent of J.D. Power and Associates.

J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM

Factors Contributing to Overall Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction



Source: J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM

Charts and graphs extracted from this press release must be accompanied by a statement identifying J.D. Power and Associates as the publisher and the J.D. Power and Associates 2009 UK Vehicle Ownership Satisfaction Study (VOSS)SM as the source. Rankings are based on numerical scores, and not necessarily on statistical significance. No advertising or other promotional use can be made of the information in this release or J.D. Power and Associates survey results without the express prior written consent of J.D. Power and Associates.