

OVERALL SCORE

80

CR Recommended

2023 Subaru Outback

CR MPG Overall 24/ City 16/ Hwy 32 mpg
#3 of 12 Midsize Sport-Utility Vehicles



- HIGHS**
- Ride
 - Transmission
 - Seat comfort
 - Driving position
 - Integrated cross bars
 - Visibility

- LOWS**
- Some controls
 - Slow responding infotainment screen

ROAD TEST

89/100

PREDICTED RELIABILITY

3/5

PREDICTED OWNER SATISFACTION

3/5

Road Test Results

Performance

Acceleration	4/5
0 to 60 mph (sec.)	7.1 sec
Transmission	5/5
Braking	4/5
Emergency Handling	4/5

Comfort/Convenience

Ride	5/5
Noise	4/5

Front Seat Comfort	5/5
Rear Seat Comfort	4/5
Interior Fit & Finish	4/5
Trunk/Cargo Area	3/5

Fuel Economy & Emissions

Fuel Economy	3/5
CR's Overall Mileage	24 mpg
CR's City Mileage	16 mpg
CR's Highway Mileage	32 mpg
Annual Fuel Cost	\$2,015
Greenhouse Gas	5/10
Smog Rating	6/10

Survey Results

WORSE → BETTER

Reliability History

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑

Owner Satisfaction

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑

Driving Experience	78/100
Comfort	81/100
Value	58/100

CR Road Test Results

The Outback is a raised wagon with standard all-wheel drive that serves as a smart alternative to more traditional SUVs. The current model doesn't stray from its successful formula. It is a comfortable, functional vehicle that's well suited for every day commutes and weekend adventures. Its size and capabilities allow the Outback to compare favorably with small and midsize SUVs.

The Outback has a solid feel, with a very comfortable ride that outshines some luxury SUVs. The elevated ground clearance and standard all-wheel drive help make the Outback ready to tackle light off-road duties. Handling is responsive and secure. We were impressed with its performance in our accident avoidance maneuver.

The standard 182-hp, 2.5-liter engine does the job and gets good fuel economy, but that engine becomes loud under duress. The uplevel turbocharged 260-hp, 2.4-liter engine (denoted as XT in trim names) transforms the Outback, granting it effortless punch and a quieter demeanor. The CVT faithfully mimics traditional gear shifts, and the turbo power

masks some of the common quirks, such as revs rising much quicker than the speed, found with that type of transmission. We got 24 mpg overall with the XT on regular gasoline. A Legacy (the Outback's sedan counterpart) we also tested with the standard, non-turbo engine returned 28 mpg overall.

The infotainment system uses a large, colorful screen that suffers from slow response time and the need for multiple steps to perform some common climate functions.

The Outback has thoughtful touches throughout. For instance, it has a configurable roof rack with crossbars that can swivel into place when needed, and be tucked neatly away to reduce wind noise. Plus, it has a dual-position cargo cover that helps when loading (it can be nudged up to create a larger opening) and a dedicated storage spot for it when removed.

Standard safety equipment includes automatic emergency braking (AEB), forward collision warning (FCW), lane departure warning (LDW), and lane centering. It also includes adaptive cruise control (ACC). Blind spot warning and rear cross traffic warning are optional.

with the Outback's uplevel engine, the turbocharged 2.4-liter.

Changes for 2023 include mild interior and exterior styling updates. On the safety front, 2023 models offer Automatic Emergency Steering, which scans for potential collisions with a vehicle, pedestrian or cyclist ahead and automatically steers to avoid or lessen the severity of impact.

To read the full road test, visit www.consumerreports.org/cars/subaru/outback/2023/road-test-report

New Cars

(as of March 2023)

WORSE → BETTER

CR Recommended	Make & Model	Overall Score	Road Test Results		Survey Results		Highs	Lows
			Road-test score	Overall mpg	Predicted reliability	Owner satisfaction		
✓	2023 Hyundai Santa Fe Hybrid	88	88	30	↑	↓	Fuel economy, ride, secure handling, braking, interior room.	Gear selector.
✓	2023 Toyota Venza	80	79	37	↑	↑	Fuel economy, ease of access.	Controls, visibility, road noise, cargo capacity.
✓	2023 Subaru Outback	80	89	24	↓	↓	Ride, transmission, seat comfort, driving position, integrated cross bars, visibility.	Some controls, Slow responding infotainment screen.
✓	2023 Ford Edge	78	81	22	↑	↓	Handling, quietness, braking, interior room, access, standard safety features.	Driving position.
✓	2023 Honda Passport	76	76	21	↑	↓	Acceleration, quietness, interior room.	Ride, lackluster handling.
✓	2023 Chevrolet Blazer	75	78	19	↑	↓	Acceleration, braking, transmission, quietness, controls.	Visibility, low dash vents.
✓	2023 Nissan Murano	74	74	21	↑	↓	Plush cabin, powerful engine, simple infotainment system.	Hampered outward visibility to rear and sides, overly light and vague steering robs driver confidence, CVT idiosyncrasy is not for everyone.
✓	2023 Hyundai Santa Fe	73	76	24	↓	↓	Secure handling; braking, interior room; rear occupant alert; hybrid's better fuel economy, ride and power.	Underpowered with base engine, ride (except the hybrid), gear selector.
✓	2023 Volkswagen Atlas Cross Sport	68	77	21	↓	↓	Interior room, access, controls.	Too wide for tight parking spaces.
	2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee	55	73	20	↓	↑	Smooth powertrain, quietness, roomy cabin.	Long braking distances, some oddly designed controls.
	2023 Ford Bronco	52	51	18	↓	↓	Off-road ability, acceleration, character.	Braking, fuel economy, wind noise.
	2023 Jeep Wrangler	25	34	18	↓	↓	Off-road ability, strong V6 powertrain.	Stiff ride, lots of wind noise, awkward access, fuel economy.
	2024 Chevrolet Blazer EV	Not Tested	NA	NA	NA	NA		
	2023 VinFast VF 8	Not Tested	NA	NA	NA	NA		

HOW TO READ THE RATINGS

Recommended vehicles, indicated with a check mark (✓), are the models with the highest Overall Scores that meet the threshold in their category.

Make + Model reflect the vehicle we tested and its engine displacement.

Overall Score reflects a vehicle's performance in our road tests; the latest results from the reliability and owner satisfaction sections of CR's exclusive Annual Auto Surveys; the availability of frontal crash prevention systems with forward collision warning, automatic emergency braking, and pedestrian detection, along with blind spot warning; and, if available, results from government and insurance-industry crash tests.

Survey Results reflect findings from CR's Annual Auto Surveys, completed by Consumer Reports members.

Predicted reliability is our determination of how well a model will hold up, based on the problems that members reported in CR's Annual Auto Surveys, which include data on around 420,000 vehicles.

Owner satisfaction is based on the percentage of surveyed owners who said they would definitely buy the same car again. We use a model's latest three years of data to determine the prediction, provided it hasn't been redesigned or significantly updated. In cases where we have insufficient survey responses, or when a model is all-new or redesigned, we use our expert judgment based on brand track record and similar models to predict reliability and owner-satisfaction ratings.

Road-Test Results include CR's test findings that we feel are the most relevant. We buy and test between 50 and 60 vehicles each year, driving them for thousands of miles and putting them through more than 50 tests and evaluations. The results of these tests make up our road-test score. Some tests, such as those for braking and fuel economy, are measured with instruments; categories such as seat and ride comfort, noise, and fit and finish are graded by our experts. The Usability rating is a combination of our testers' assessments of the ease of performing everyday driving tasks, as well as cockpit ergonomics and interface design. The energy consumption of electric vehicles is expressed in a miles-per-gallon equivalent rating (MPGe). Energy consumption for plug-in hybrids is listed in electric and gas modes.

Highs and lows give a quicksummary of a model's notable strengths and weaknesses.

Why Some Vehicles Are Not Rated Certain models have been redesigned or extensively refreshed since our last test, or are new. All are scheduled to be included in future road tests. Models include the Chevrolet Blazer EV and VinFast VF 8.

What Our Ratings Symbols Mean

WORSE → BETTER GREEN



Go to CR.org/newcarbuyingguide for advice on whether you should buy or lease your next new car, and other car shopping tips.