

The most complained-about cars, 2010-2025

Q3 2026 edition. Owner complaints filed with the federal regulator, counted from NHTSA's own bulk file, one complaint per vehicle, with the part owners named most beside each. Reports filed, never failure rates, and the whole method is on this page.

By [Iqbal Taher](#) for Oil & Miles. Published September 14, 2026. Data: NHTSA FLAT_CMPL bulk file dated 2026-08-25. Next edition: Q4 2026, December 2026.

626,070 COMPLAINTS	4,091 VEHICLES	2010-2025 MODEL YEARS	2026-08-25 FILE DATED	Q3 2026 EDITION
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Key findings

- 1 The **2010 Ford Fusion** has the most complaints of any vehicle from model years 2010-2025: **5,126**, with steering named most (1,640 of them).
- 2 **Ford** holds **17 of the 25** most complained-about vehicles, and 45 of the top 100.
- 3 **Ford** accounts for **20.8%** of all 626,070 complaints in the file; Chevrolet is next at 9.3%.
- 4 **Power train** is the component named most in **9 of the top 25** vehicles; steering in 6.
- 5 The only vehicle from model year 2023 or newer in the top 100 is the **2023 Tesla Model Y**, with **1,134** complaints.

Download the data

Free to use under CC BY 4.0: credit Oil & Miles and link to this page. Journalists get answers on the method the same day through the contact page.

most-complained-2026-q3.json

JSON

The top 100, one object per vehicle: rank, make, model, model year, complaints, the component named most, 22 KB



nhtsa-complaints-by-model-2010-2025.csv

CSV

Every vehicle and component in the file, model years 2010-2025, one row per make, model, model year and component, 1.0 MB



most-complained-2026-q3.svg

SVG

Figure 1, the top-ten chart, vector, embeds anywhere, 4 KB



most-complained-2026-q3-makes.svg

SVG

Figure 2, makes by share of all complaints, 6 KB



most-complained-2026-q3-years.svg

SVG

Figure 3, complaints by model year, 7 KB



most-complained-cars-2026-q3.pdf

PDF

The whole report as printed, Q3 2026 edition



most-complained-2026-q3.jpg

JPG

The same chart at 1200 px, for print and slides, 125 KB



CITE Oil & Miles (2026). The most complained-about cars, model years 2010-2025: Q3 2026 edition. <https://oilandmiles.com/reports/most-complained-cars>

APA Oil & Miles. (2026). The most complained-about cars, model years 2010-2025 (Q3 2026 ed.) [Data report]. <https://oilandmiles.com/reports/most-complained-cars>

For journalists. Free to use with credit; the charts come as SVG and can be re-rendered at any size on request; questions about the method are answered the same day through the contact page, ask for Iqbal Taher.

In numbers. 626,070 complaints across 4,091 vehicles, model years 2010-2025. The 2010 Ford Fusion leads with 5,126, steering named most (1,640), and 21 of every hundred complaints name a Ford.

Ford holds eight of the twelve most complained-about vehicles here, and two faults account for five of them: steering on the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Fusion, power train on the 2012 and 2014 Focus. One make with two well-documented problems, in the years it sold the most cars, is most of a table like this.

These are counts of reports, not rates of failure. A car that sold in huge numbers, or drew a recall and a news cycle, collects more filings than a rare car with a worse record.

The repeats matter more than the ranking. The Escape appears twice, 2013 and 2017, engine named most both times; the 2017 drew fewer complaints overall but more about the engine, 1,555 against 1,264, the opposite of a fault being fixed.

The Tesla Model Y repeats too, 2021 and 2023, and what its owners name is forward collision avoidance and adaptive cruise control, a category the oldest cars in this file didn't have. One bad year can be luck; the same model naming the same part two generations apart is the file telling you something.

The 25 vehicles with the most complaints

Complaints filed with NHTSA per vehicle, model years 2010-2025, and the component named in the most of them. "Again in" marks the same model returning in another model year, in the top 100, with the same component named most. Counts of reports, not rates.

Table 1. The 25 vehicles with the most complaints, model years 2010-2025

#	Vehicle	Complaints	Named most
1	2010 Ford Fusion	5,126	Steering (1,640) again in 2011, 2012, 2014
2	2012 Ford Focus	3,763	Power train (1,385) again in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
3	2011 Hyundai Sonata	3,374	Steering (1,164)
4	2013 Ford F-150	2,975	Power train (1,307) again in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
5	2010 Toyota Prius	2,819	Service brakes, hydraulic (751)
6	2011 Ford Fusion	2,783	Steering (1,403) again in 2010, 2012, 2014
7	2013 Ford Escape	2,744	Engine (1,264) again in 2014, 2017, 2018
8	2017 Ford Escape	2,663	Engine (1,555) again in 2013, 2014, 2018
9	2014 Jeep Cherokee	2,641	Power train (1,448) again in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019
10	2014 Ford Focus	2,596	Power train (1,491) again in 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016
11	2018 Ram 2500	2,547	Service brakes (1,817)
12	2012 Ford Fusion	2,513	Steering (1,439) again in 2010, 2011, 2014
13	2016 Ford Explorer	2,441	Steering (502) again in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015
14	2013 Ford Edge	2,439	Electrical system (851) again in 2011, 2012
15	2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee	2,373	Power train (467) again in 2015

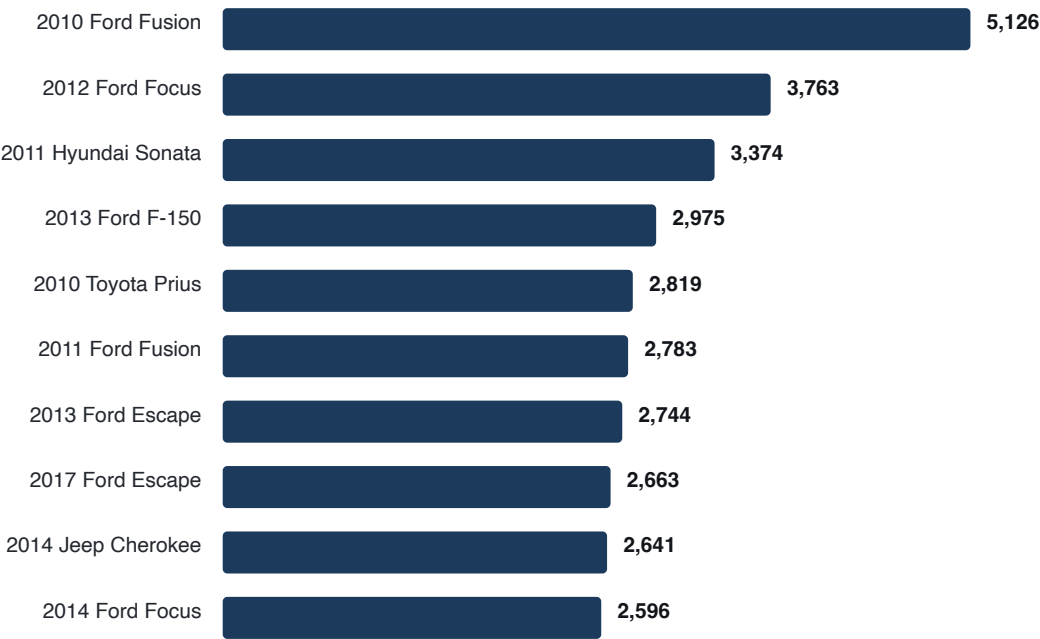
#	Vehicle	Complaints	Named most
16	2013 Nissan Altima	2,308	Air bags (512)
17	2018 Ford F-150	2,273	Power train (970) again in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021
18	2013 Ford Explorer	2,230	Steering (808) again in 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016
19	2011 Ford F-150	2,186	Power train (810) again in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
20	2018 Honda CR-V	2,122	Engine (524) again in 2017
21	2013 Ford Focus	2,106	Power train (1,051) again in 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016
22	2014 Ford Escape	2,075	Engine (719) again in 2013, 2017, 2018
23	2010 Ford Escape	2,068	Vehicle speed control (557)
24	2016 Ford F-150	2,023	Power train (552) again in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021
25	2015 Chrysler 200	1,983	Electrical system (746)

Source: NHTSA consumer complaints bulk file dated 2026-08-25, counted once per vehicle by Oil & Miles. Counts of reports, not rates.

The full top 100 is also in the edition's data file. Look any vehicle up, with every component, in the complaints decoder.

The ten most complained-about vehicles

Owner complaints filed with NHTSA, model years 2010 to 2025, counted once per vehicle. Q3 2026 edition.



Source: NHTSA consumer complaints bulk file, counted by Oil & Miles. Reports filed, not failure rates. CC BY 4.0, oilandmiles.com/reports/most-complained-cars

Figure 1. The ten most complained-about vehicles in the file, Q3 2026 edition. Counts of reports, not rates.

> Use this image

Makes, by share of all complaints

Share of the 626,070 complaints in the file. A make that sells more cars files more complaints; this is volume as much as anything.



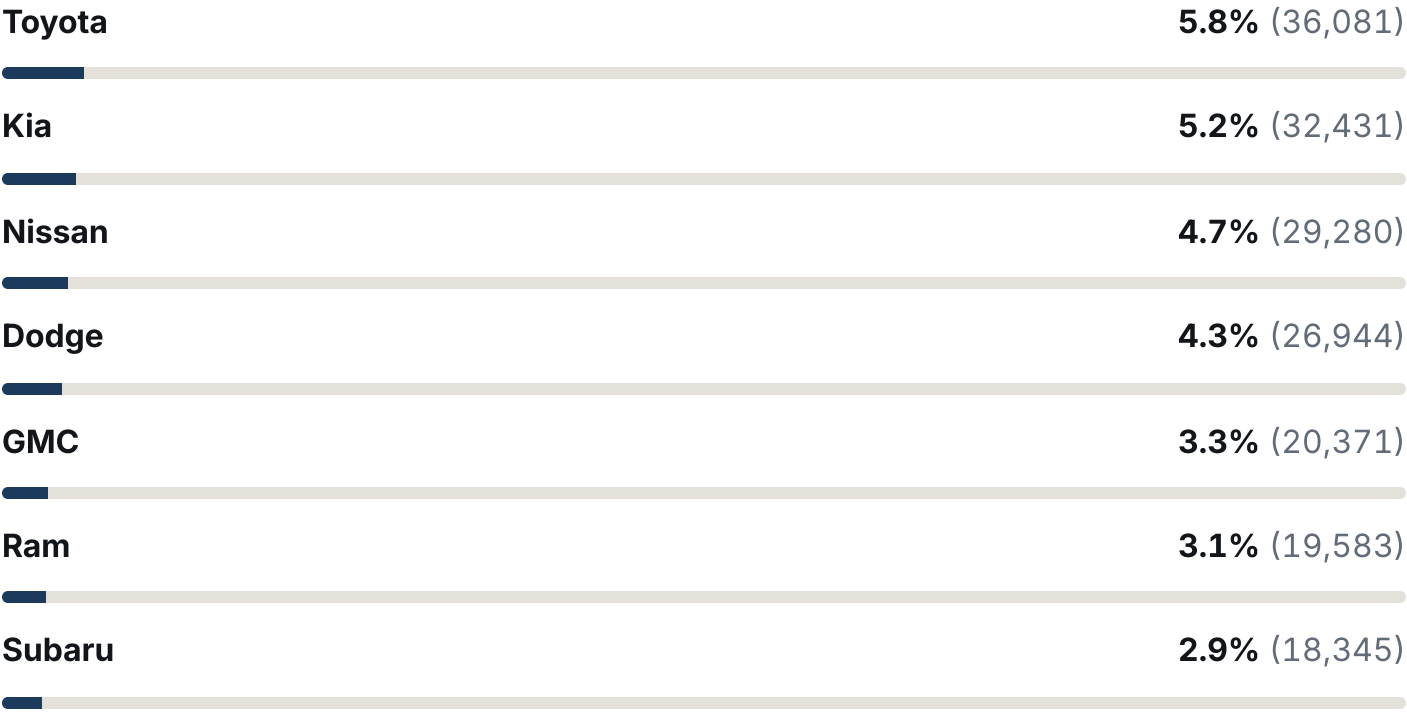


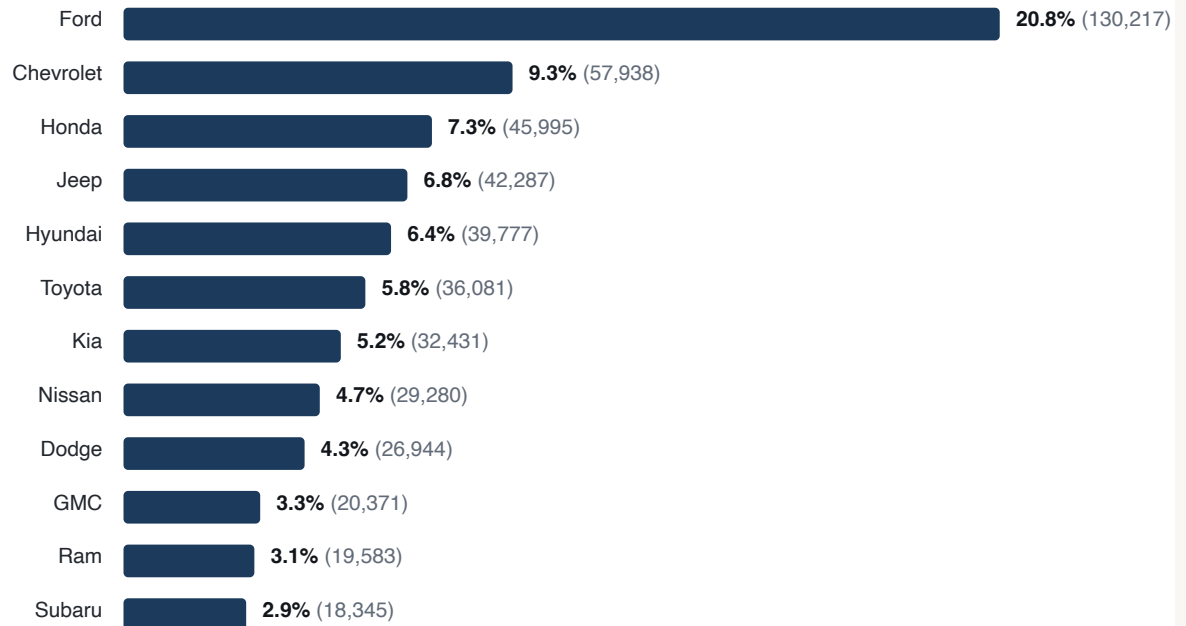
Table 3. Makes by share of all complaints, model years 2010-2025

Make	Complaints	Share
Ford	130,217	20.8%
Chevrolet	57,938	9.3%
Honda	45,995	7.3%
Jeep	42,287	6.8%
Hyundai	39,777	6.4%
Toyota	36,081	5.8%
Kia	32,431	5.2%
Nissan	29,280	4.7%
Dodge	26,944	4.3%
GMC	20,371	3.3%
Ram	19,583	3.1%
Subaru	18,345	2.9%

Source: NHTSA consumer complaints bulk file dated 2026-08-25, counted once per vehicle by Oil & Miles. Counts of reports, not rates.

Makes by share of all complaints

626,070 complaints filed with NHTSA, model years 2010-2025, counted once per vehicle. A make that sells more cars files more complaints.



Source: NHTSA consumer complaints bulk file, counted by Oil & Miles. Reports filed, not failure rates. CC BY 4.0, oilandmiles.com/reports/most-complained-cars

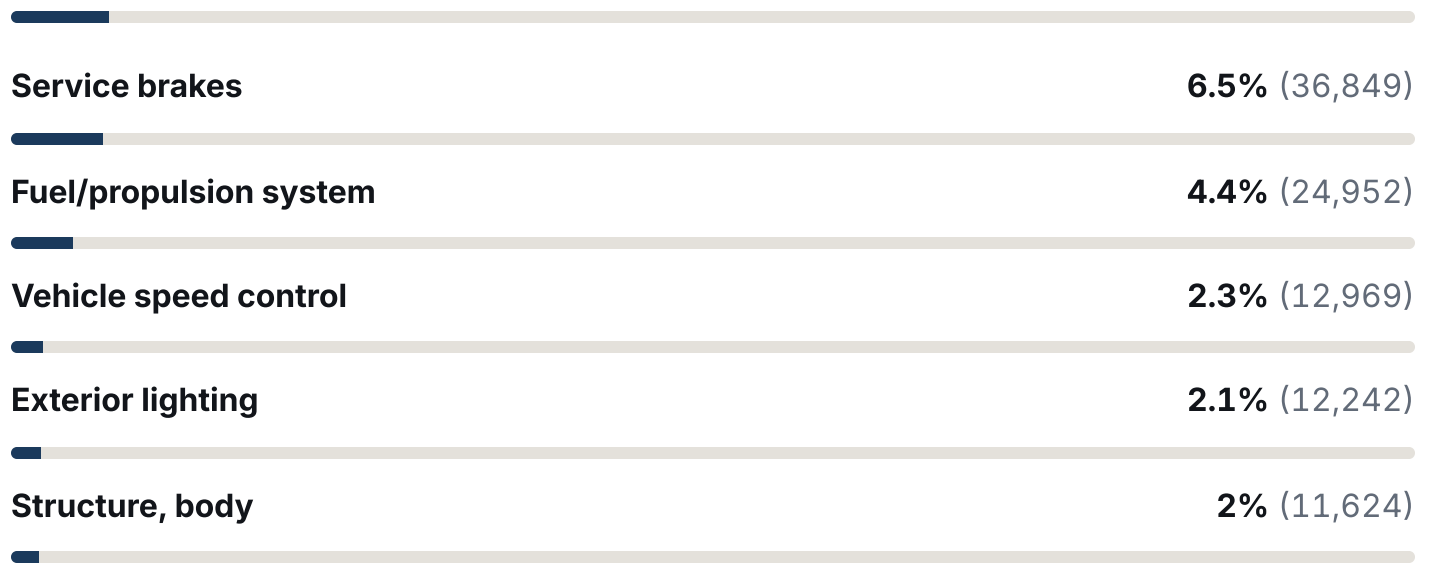
Figure 2. Makes by share of all complaints, Q3 2026 edition. Volume as much as anything: a make that sells more cars files more complaints.

[> Use this image](#)

What owners name most

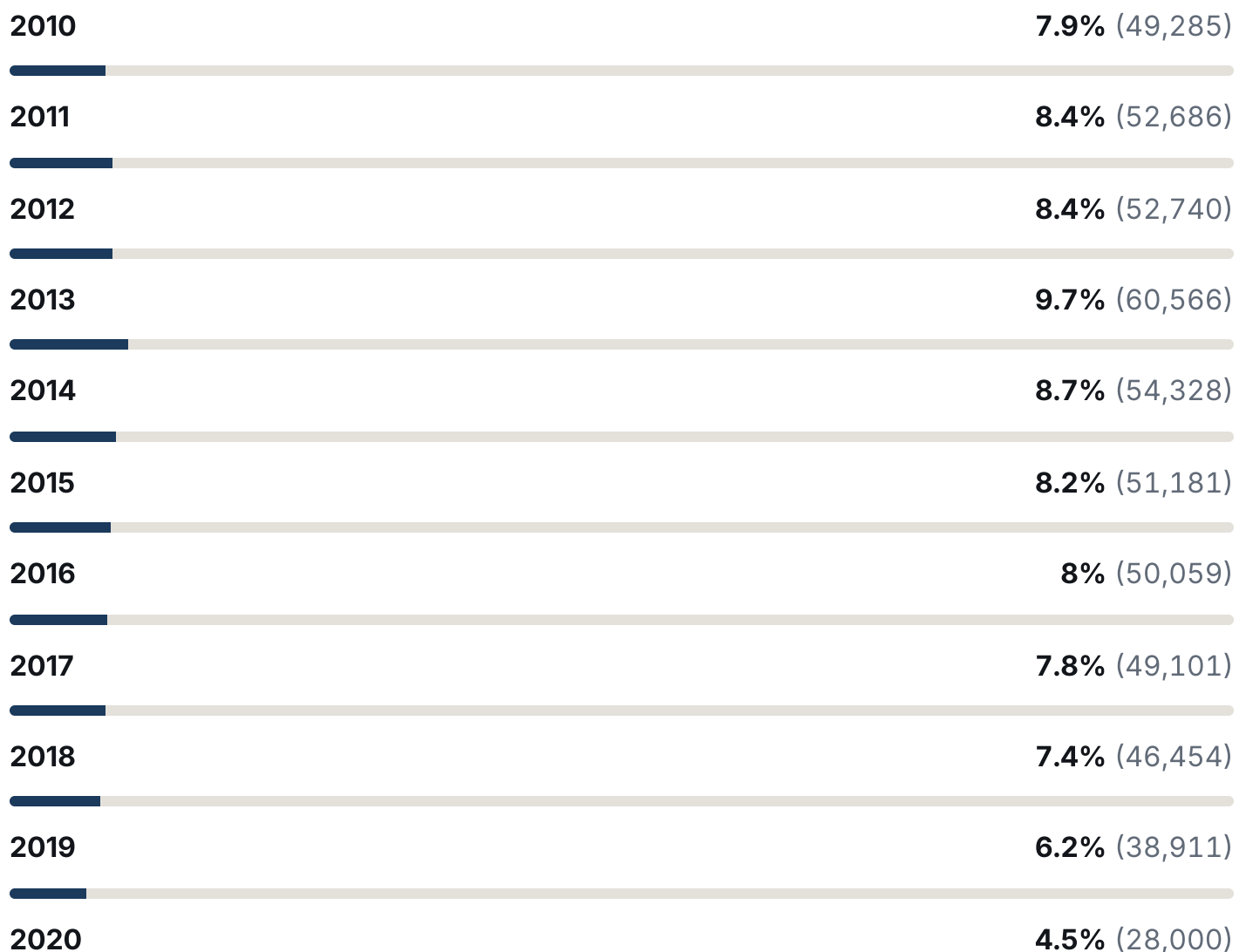
Share of component mentions across the whole file. One complaint can name more than one component, so these are mentions, not complaints.





Complaints by model year

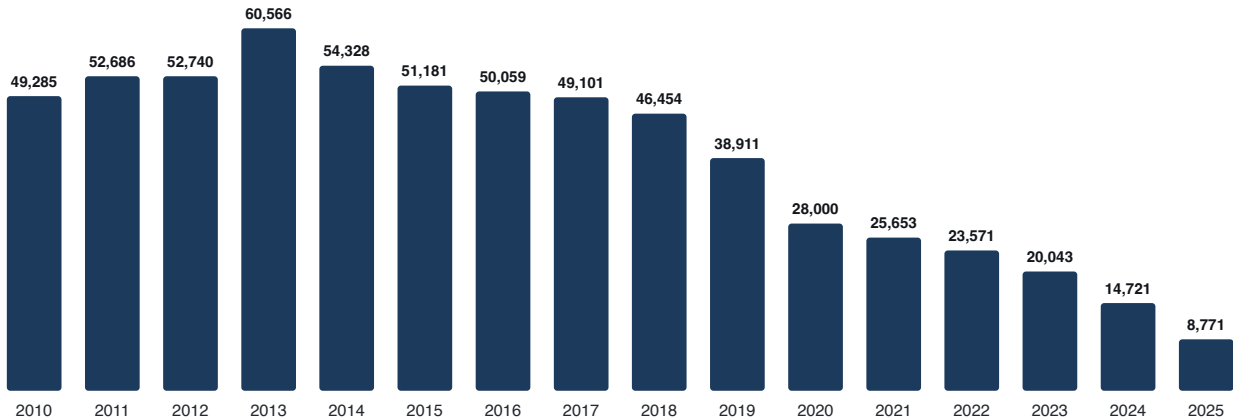
Older model years have had longer to accumulate filings, and the newest are still filling in; the shape says as much about time as about the cars.



2021	4.1% (25,653)
2022	3.8% (23,571)
2023	3.2% (20,043)
2024	2.4% (14,721)
2025	1.4% (8,771)

Complaints by model year

Older model years have had longer to accumulate filings, and the newest are still filling in.



Source: NHTSA consumer complaints bulk file, counted by Oil & Miles. Reports filed, not failure rates. CC BY 4.0, oilandmiles.com/reports/most-complained-cars

Figure 3. Complaints by model year, Q3 2026 edition. The shape says as much about time as about the cars.

> Use this image

The newest model years with the most complaints

Model years 2023 to 2025 only. These vehicles have had the least time to accumulate reports, which is what makes a high count here worth a look.

Model years 2023 to 2025, ranked by complaints filed so far, with the component named most.

Table 4. Model years 2023 to 2025, ranked by complaints

Vehicle	Complaints	Named most
2023 Tesla Model Y	1,134	Forward collision avoidance, adaptive cruise control again in 2021
2023 Fisker Ocean	883	Electrical system
2024 Honda Prologue	817	Steering
2023 Nissan Rogue	687	Engine
2023 Honda HR-V	684	Visibility/wiper
2024 Jeep Wrangler	674	Engine
2023 Honda CR-V	512	Steering
2023 Volkswagen ID.4	450	Electrical system
2023 GMC Sierra 1500	435	Engine
2023 Tesla Model 3	415	Forward collision avoidance, adaptive cruise control

Source: NHTSA consumer complaints bulk file dated 2026-08-25, counted once per vehicle by Oil & Miles. Counts of reports, not rates.

How this was counted

The source is the bulk file, not the API. NHTSA publishes every consumer complaint as a flat file, FLAT_CMPL, and that's what we read. The copy we counted is dated 2026-08-25. The summary API returns the same records with less detail and a page limit, so the file is the only way to count everything.

One complaint, one vehicle. Each complaint is counted once per make, model and model year, deduplicated on the complaint number. NHTSA files tire complaints twice by design, once against the tire and once against the vehicle, and the dedupe removes that double count.

Ten is the floor. Vehicles with fewer than 10 complaints are left out. Below that a single owner moves the ranking.

Components are mentions. A complaint that names an engine and a fuel system counts once under each, so component totals exceed complaint totals, and "unknown or other" is left out of the "named most" column because nobody can act on it.

What this data can't tell you

It's not a failure rate. The file doesn't know how many of each vehicle were sold, so a car that sold in huge numbers collects more filings than a rare car with a worse record. Divide by sales and the order changes; see the comparison below.

It's not verified. Filing is voluntary and NHTSA doesn't check a complaint before publishing it. A recall, a lawsuit or a news cycle sends owners to the form, and that shows up as a spike that is partly the news and partly the car.

It's not evenly aged. A 2010 model year has had fifteen years to accumulate reports, a 2025 model year one. Comparing counts across model years compares time as much as cars, which is why the newest years get their own table.

It's not a verdict on a part. "Named most" is the component owners mentioned most often, not a diagnosis; a complaint can name several parts, and "unknown or other" is left out of that pick.

It's not complete below ten. Vehicles with fewer than 10 complaints are left out of the ranking, so a rare model with a real problem can be absent here and present in the decoder.

How this compares with other rankings

Other rankings measure different things, so their leaders differ from ours. iSeeCars ranks complaints against vehicles sold, which favors low-volume cars with many filings. Edmunds publishes a monthly complaints report per 100,000 vehicles sold, by make rather than by

model. Lemon Law Experts counted complaints per 100,000 sales for model years 2015 to 2026, which puts the Chrysler Town & Country first. CarComplaints.com sets NHTSA filings beside its own reader reports, one page per model year.

This page counts raw filings once per vehicle from the bulk file, model years 2010-2025, with a floor of 10. It says which vehicles owners wrote to the regulator about most, not which failed most often. A rate tells you the odds for one car; a count tells you where the reports pile up. Read the two side by side.

How to cite this

Everything on this page is free to quote and republish under CC BY 4.0: credit Oil & Miles and link here. The citation lines, the JSON, the CSV and the chart files are in Download the data near the top; the chart also carries an embed snippet under "Use this image". Questions about the method go to the contact page; we answer journalists the same day.

Editions and changes

This page always carries the latest edition. Each edition is also kept at its own address for citation: Q3 2026. Corrections are made in place and noted here with the date; none so far.

What changed since the previous edition

This is the first edition, so there's nothing to compare yet. From the next edition on, this section lists which vehicles entered or left the top 25 and which moved most, with the numbers behind each move.

Sources

1. **NHTSA consumer complaints, FLAT_CMPL bulk file.** <https://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa-datasets-and-apis>. Baked to `assets/data/complaint-lookup.json` by `tools/make-complaint-lookup.py`, which also serves the complaints decoder; the same file, the same counts.

4,091 vehicles and 626,070 complaints, model years 2010-2025. This page is general information about what owners reported, not advice about a specific car. Rebuilt each quarter; the edition is named in the title.