

BLUE BOOK

BRIEFING

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The latest video and written news stories by the editorial staff of Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com

NEW-VEHICLE REVIEWS ON KBB.COM:

All-new and updated video and written reviews from the editorial staff of Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com, and links to consumer reviews and ratings on KBB.com

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Total Recall

- Jack R. Nerad, Executive Editorial Director for Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com

Some down-home philosopher once said, "Everybody has their time in the barrel; you just don't know when it's going to happen." Well, based on the events of the past month or so, the executives at General Motors have found out exactly when it was going to happen to them – right now. After surviving bankruptcy largely intact when the country's financial institutions did an instant meltdown, GM must now maneuver its way through the public relations morass of multiple recalls. While the auto industry typically prides itself on breaking records, one record GM doesn't want to break – but likely will – is the record for most-recalled vehicles in a single year.

This has already been a groundbreaking year for auto recalls in the United States. GM is leading the parade with a grand total of 12.7 million cars already recalled this year, and the industry as a whole has recalled more than 20 million vehicles since January 1. While the recall that has garnered the biggest headlines so far covers the 2005-2010 Chevrolet Cobalt, 2007-2010 Pontiac G5, 2003-2007 Saturn Ion, 2006-2011 Chevrolet HHR, 2006-2010 Pontiac Solstice and 2007-2010 Saturn Sky vehicles, that recall represented just 2.2 million of GM's more than 11 million total. Despite the fact it costs the company a \$35 million civil penalty and it prompted both houses of Congress to call GM CEO Mary Barra before committees,

GM could at least take some solace in the fact that none of

“THE GOOD NEWS FOR GM IS IT NOW SEEMS INTENT ON GETTING AHEAD OF THESE POTENTIAL QUAGMIRES, RATHER THAN SWEEPING THEM UNDER THE RUG AND RE-SURFACING LATER.”

- JACK R. NERAD

the many vehicles recalled was currently on sale as new. Not so with the more recent litany of General Motors recalls, which includes the Chevrolet Malibu, Silverado and Corvette, plus the Cadillac CTS.

The good news for GM is it now seems intent on getting ahead of these potential quagmires, rather than sweeping them under the rug and re-surfacing later. With the Department of Transportation lobbying heavily to get Congress to approve an increase in its maximum civil penalty to \$300 million from \$35 million, it is likely that GM and all the other car companies that make and market cars in the United States will be much more scrupulous about discovering and dealing with potential safety issues early, preferably before any defective cars reach consumers hands, and end the days of making buyers of first-year models de facto development drivers.

One possible unintended side effect of this new rigor when it comes to safety could be a change in how car companies emphasize innovation. A potential problem with innovation – and especially innovation in the safety sphere – is that it involves risk. Electronic safety systems show incredible promise hoping to bring us to an era in which collisions between automobiles would be largely a thing of the past. But vehicle manufacturers considering producing cars with such systems, like, for example, the heavily reported-on “autonomous car,” must be more concerned than ever about the product liability issues associated with a technology fail. While many crashes can now be attributed to that catch-all category “driver error,” what happens when the car is for all intents and purposes the driver? Who would be responsible then? One would have to assume the car company.

We hope this factor won't have a chilling effect on the development and installation of new technology that could save lives. But in a world rife with unintended consequences of well-intentioned actions, it could happen.

LATEST NEWS STORIES ON KBB.COM:

Check out the very latest news stories by visiting KBB.com and clicking the the *KBB.com Top Picks* tab on the home page. The following latest news stories by KBB.com's editorial staff went live on the site or were updated April to May 2014.

Video Posted to KBB.com:

[Video Review: 2014 Aston Martin Rapide S](#)

[Video Review: 2014 Acura MDX](#)

[Video Review: 2014 BMW 4 Series](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison Video](#)

[In 60 Seconds or Less: Chevy Volt \(Video\)](#)

[In 60 Seconds or Less: 2014 Scion FR-S/Subaru BRZ](#)

Written Stories Posted to KBB.com:

Highlights:

[2014 Compact SUVs](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison Test: Its No Small Thing](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison: Ford Escape](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison: Honda CR-V](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison: Jeep Cherokee](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison: Nissan Rogue](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison: Subaru Forester](#)

[2014 Compact SUV Comparison: Toyota RAV4](#)

[10 Best Car Deals of the Month](#)

[10 Best Green Cars of 2014](#)

[10 Most Fun SUVs of 2014](#)

[Mainstream MPG: 10 Most Fuel-Efficient Sedans](#)

Vehicle Coverage:

[2015 Chrysler 200: The Grand Canyon Test](#)

[2015 Jaguar F-Type Coupe First Review](#)

[2015 Kia K900 Quick Take: Less is More](#)

[2014 Aston Martin Rapide S Quick Take](#)

[2014 Cadillac XTS4 Vsport Quick Take](#)

[2014 Dodge Challenger SRT Quick Take](#)

[2014 Ford Transit Connect Wagon First Review](#)

[2014 Jaguar F-Type: Cruising Miami Beach in Style](#)

[2014 Kia Cadenza Limited Quick Take](#)

[2014 Lexus CT 200h hybrid Quick Take](#)

[2014 Mercedes-Benz B-Class Electric Drive First Review](#)

[2014 Mercedes-Benz S550 Quick Take](#)

[2014 Midsize Luxury Sedans](#)

[2014 Porsche Panamera GTS Quick Take](#)

[2012 Volkswagen Passat TDI Long Term Update: No midlife crisis here](#)

[First Look: 2014 Ford Transit Connect Van](#)

[Long Term Update 1: 2014 Mazda6 i Touring](#)

Editors' Page:

[Editors' Page: 2014 Acura RLX](#)

[Editors' Page: 2014 Hyundai Sonata](#)

[Editors' Page: 2014 Infiniti Q70](#)

[Editors' Page: 2014 Jaguar XF](#)

[Editors' Page: 2014 Lexus GS](#)

[Editors' Page: 2014 Toyota Camry](#)

Latest News:

[2016 Chevrolet Cruze spied](#)

[2016 Ford Raptor to feature aluminum-alloy body panels, platform](#)

[2016 Smart Fortwo and Forfour spied frolicking in the snow](#)

[2016 Volvo XC90 prototype spotted](#)

[2015 Audi R8 LMX boasts 562-hp and first use of laser high beam lights](#)

[2015 BMW M5 30th Anniversary Edition celebrates with 600 horses](#)

[2015 Cadillac CTS-V Coupe Special Edition: Bidding a fast farewell](#)

[2015 Chevrolet Impala bi-fuel model starts at \\$38,210](#)

[2015 Chevy Colorado/GMC Canyon to introduce new safety features](#)

[2015 Corvette offers Atlantic and Pacific Design Packages](#)

[2015 Ford Mustang 50 Years Convertible in charity raffle](#)

[2015 Honda Fit chosen for Zipcar's new One>Way service](#)

[2015 Mazda MX-5 Miata and 25th Anniversary Edition models priced](#)

[2015 Mini Paceman update revealed](#)

[2014 Chrysler 300C John Varvatos: Attitudinal Luxury](#)

[2014 Mercedes-Benz B-Class Electric Drive priced at \\$42,375](#)

[5 Smart Steps to Financing Your Next Car](#)

[Aston Martin confirms all-new platform coming](#)

[Audi reveals cleaner, more powerful diesel](#)

[Audi TT Offroad Concept foreshadows Q4 crossover model](#)

[BMW Vision Future Luxury Concept previews upcoming luxo flagship](#)

[Chrysler to refocus on mainstream American buyers](#)

[Dodge: Not Too Old For a Road Trip](#)

[Dodge's Road Ahead: Fewer Models, More Focus](#)

[First 2014 BMW i3 delivered in the U.S.](#)

[Ford F-150 V6 EcoBoost tops 500,000 sales](#)

[GM offering special discounts to U.S. military and veterans](#)

[Hydrogen Cars Close to Reality](#)

[Hyundai ix25 Concept may spawn U.S. compact SUV](#)

[Infiniti Q50 Eau Rouge moves one step closer to production](#)

[Jeep Confronts the Aftermarket Head-on With New Mopar Parts](#)

[Jeep Grand Wagoneer: Set for a Comeback](#)

[Jeep's 5-year plan: more models, double the sales](#)

[KBB.com tops Online Auto Shopping Brand poll for 3rd straight year](#)

[Lincoln MKX Concept previews new mid-size SUV](#)

[Lincoln: Crossovers to Fuel Growth](#)

[Mark Fields will replace Alan Mulally as Ford CEO](#)

[Maserati Focuses on Centennial, Targeted Growth](#)

[McLaren MSO 650S Coupe Concept makes Beijing debut](#)

[Mercedes-AMG GT teased - new supercar to arrive in 2015](#)

[Mini Paceman Adventure Concept shows pickup potential](#)

[Nissan Lannia Concept: A look at the next-gen Altima?](#)

[Nissan: Car, Cleanse Thyself](#)

[Ram readies for growth](#)

[Subaru developing new global platform, more efficient engines](#)

[The Italian Job: FCA's plans for Fiat/Alfa/Maserati/Ferrari](#)

[Toyota to consolidate North American operations in Texas](#)

[Volkswagen Golf R 400 Concept: A dream that could come true](#)

[Volkswagen New Midsize Coupe Concept makes Beijing debut](#)

NEW-VEHICLE REVIEWS ON KBB.COM:

The following new-vehicle reviews written by KBB.com's editorial staff went live on the site or were updated April to May 2014. To see any new-vehicle review from KBB.com's editorial staff, please visit KBB.com and click on the *Car Reviews* tab, then select the make and model.

New Vehicle Reviews:

[2015 Acura RDX](#)

An SUV that does everything right.

[2015 Aston Martin Vantage](#)

A "budget exotic" with jaw-dropping design and serious badge appeal.

[2015 BMW M4](#)

An inherently sporty vehicle with excellent driving manners and performance to boot.

[2015 BMW X1](#)

The smallest of the bunch but just as spry and powerful as its larger siblings.

[2015 BMW X3](#)

Looks like an SUV but drives like a sports car.

[2015 BMW Z4](#)

Dynamic in personality and accommodations, this roadster is excitingly appealing as either a sports car or a touring car.

[2015 Honda Fit](#)

Maturity and greater utility all in a fun-to-drive economy car.

[2015 Kia K900](#)

This flagship sedan is sure to deliver power, a quiet ride and lots of creature comforts.

[2015 Lincoln MKZ](#)

A compelling package of style, comfort and high-tech gadgets make this an attractive sedan.

[2014 Aston Martin Vantage](#)

An affordable entry into supercar status.

[2014 Ford Transit Connect](#)

This sporty minivan is loaded with value and fun to drive.

[2014 Lotus Evora](#)

Large by British standards this small sports car's exclusivity is hard to beat.

[2014 Nissan NV1500](#)

A more contemporary and efficient van with a dazzling design.

KBB.com Named Online Auto Shopping Brand Of The Year For Third Consecutive Year In Harris Poll EquiTrend® Study

Kelley Blue Book Highest Ranked Among Third-Party Websites in 2014 Survey Results of More Than 41,000 U.S. Consumers

IRVINE, Calif., May 5, 2014 -- For the third year in a row, KBB.com is awarded Online Auto Shopping Brand of the Year in the Harris Poll EquiTrend® study, announces Kelley Blue Book www.kbb.com, the only vehicle valuation and information source trusted and relied upon by both consumers and the automotive industry

“Earning the Online Auto Shopping Brand of the Year for three consecutive years, since the category’s inception, shows our ongoing commitment to deliver consumers the most valuable and trusted car-shopping information available online,” said Jared Rowe, president of Kelley Blue Book. “By leveraging our 88-year brand equity to aid consumers in making the most informed car-buying decisions, we are able to ease the shopping process and help build confident relationships between shoppers and dealers...” [MORE](#)

New-Car Transaction Prices Climb More Than 1 Percent In April 2014, According To Kelley Blue Book

Toyota Motor Company Shows Greatest Year-Over-Year Strength; Chrysler Group Rises on Increased Mix of Jeep, RAM Sales from 2013

IRVINE, Calif., May 1, 2014 -- With the spring selling season underway, the expert analysts at Kelley Blue Book www.kbb.com, the only vehicle valuation and information source trusted and relied upon by both consumers and the automotive industry, today report the estimated average transaction price for light vehicles in the United States was \$32,141 in April 2014. New-car prices have increased by \$389 (up 1.2 percent) from April 2013, while decreasing \$47 (0.1 percent) from last month

“Continuing their slow and steady increase, transaction prices are on the rise, but in conjunction with incentive spend, which forces them to offset one another,” said Karl Brauer, senior analyst for Kelley Blue Book. “Aided by the new high-volume Corolla, Toyota is showing the greatest year-over-year gains, up 4 percent from this time last year. The Highlander is another strong performer, up 6.1 percent from 2013, in addition to the strength of the Tacoma and redesigned Tundra...” [MORE](#)

Majority Of New-Car Shoppers Unaffected By GM Recall, Reports Kelley Blue Book

Toyota Recall More Memorable Than General Motors Recall According to KBB.com Consumers

IRVINE, Calif., April 30, 2014 -- Despite General Motors’ recent recalls, KBB.com survey data found consideration among the majority of shoppers remains unaffected, reports Kelley Blue Book www.kbb.com, the only vehicle valuation and information source trusted and relied upon by both consumers and the automotive industry. The survey data also revealed only 5 percent of new-vehicle shoppers say the recent GM recall caused them not to consider purchasing a Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC or Buick model

“Shoppers are willing to forgive, but not forget,” said Arthur Henry, analyst for Kelley Blue Book. “Most likely, GM is maintaining its shopping traffic on KBB.com from buyers who are looking to capitalize on any deals that may be offered or because none of the current recalled vehicles are a part of manufacturer’s current product portfolio...” [MORE](#)

About Kelley Blue Book (www.kbb.com)

Founded in 1926, Kelley Blue Book, The Trusted Resource®, is the only vehicle valuation and information source trusted and relied upon by both consumers and the automotive industry. Each week the company provides the most market-reflective values in the industry on its top-rated website KBB.com, including its famous Blue Book® Trade-In and Suggested Retail Values, and Fair Purchase Price, which reports what others are paying for new cars this week. The company also provides vehicle pricing and values through various products and services available to car dealers, auto manufacturers, finance and insurance companies, and governmental agencies. Kelley Blue Book’s KBB.com ranked highest in its category for brand equity by the 2014 Harris Poll EquiTrend® study and has been named Online Auto Shopping Brand of the Year for three consecutive years. Kelley Blue Book Co., Inc. is a subsidiary of AutoTrader Group, which includes AutoTrader.com, vAuto, VinSolutions and HomeNet Automotive. AutoTrader Group is a subsidiary of Cox Enterprises.