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USED-CAR MARKET ANALYSIS:

Used-Car Values Rise Sharply, Some Values Hit Peak


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## USED-CAR MARKET ANALYSIS

Used-Car Values Rise Sharply, Some Values Hit Peak
Toyota Corolla Leads Compact Car Segment
SUV/Crossover Values Expected to Increase through April

Full-Size Pickup Truck Values Reverse Downward Trend in March

Mid-Size Sedan Values Move Upward in March

Full-Size Car Values Increase; Hyundai Azera Leads Segment

- Auction values rose sharply in March 2014, moving up 1.4 percent or $\$ 260$. This puts the average auction value for March at $\$ 18,230$, or higher than previously seen in 2013 and 2012.
"This strong upward momentum was expected, as values typically follow a strong seasonal pattern," said Alec Gutierrez, senior analyst for Kelley Blue Book. "However, a number of luxury segments have not seen any price appreciation in the past couple of months, which signals that in some cases values may already have begun to reach their annual peak."


## Toyota Corolla Leads Compact Car Segment



- The compact car segment as a whole has outperformed every other segment on a year-to-date basis, increasing 4.2 percent since January 2014.
- Looking at model years 2011, 2012 and 2013, as pictured in the chart to the left, the Toyota Corolla has outperformed the compact segment with a 6.9 percent increase, followed closely by the Ford Focus and Kia Soul.
"Alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles within the segment have been some of the worst performing due to the low fuel prices seen throughout the year," said Gutierrez. "This includes the more popular alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles such as the Toyota Prius, Lexus CT, Ford C-MAX Hybrid, Chevrolet Volt and Nissan LEAF."

SUV/Crossover Values Expected to Increase through April



## Full-Size Pickup Truck Values Reverse Downward Trend in March



- Values for 1- to 3-year-old pickups increased at the end of the first quarter, reversing the recent downward trend in auction values and ending March only 0.12 percent below levels seen at the start of 2014.
- Values rose 1.16 percent month-to-month from February 2014, and 1.31 percent year-over-year compared to March 2013.
"Despite the recent downturn in residential construction starts, optimism may be growing in expectation of the spring homeselling season, as privately owned housing units authorized by permits rose 7.7 percent in February 2014 from January 2014, and 6.9 percent above February 2013 level," said Gutierrez.

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- In March, the mid-size sedan segment rose 3.7 percent from the previous month. Year-to-date, the segment is up 5.7 percent.
- Typically, around this time of year, values aggressively shift upward. This is caused by consumers with a little extra cash, due to tax refunds and consumers wanting to get into a newer vehicle after the winter months.
- Despite the aggressive month-over-month increase, the mid-size sedan segment as a whole still is down 12 percent in comparison to this time last year. The segment is still lower in comparison to last year, due to higher used-car supply in the market. Furthermore, the mid-size sedan segment is a highly competitive segment, which allows consumers more room for negotiation, thus driving prices down.

- The vehicles with the largest upward movement within mid-size sedan segment are the Chevrolet Malibu, Volkswagen Passat and Toyota Camry, which are up by 4.9 percent, 3.7 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.


## Full-Size Car Values Increase; Hyundai Azera Leads Segment



- Full-size car segment values consistently are moving upward in 2014, staying true to seasonal market trends.
- The best-performing vehicles in the full-size car segment for March 2014 were the Chevrolet Impala, Nissan Maxima and Mercury Grand Marquis (up 4.7 percent, 4.0 percent and 2.4 percent, respectively).
- Chevrolet Impala is performing well due to the halo effect surrounding the all-new 2014 model-year vehicles. Nissan Maxima is enjoying strong demand due to its appealing alternative to many entrylevel sedans, while Mercury Grand Marquis is still holding value due to strong customer loyalty. The last production model year was 2011.
- The worst-performing vehicles in the full-size car segment for March 2014 were the Ford Crown Victoria and Buick Lucerne (down 2.3 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively).
- Ford Crown Victoria demand has dropped as customer preference shifted to smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles. The last production model year was 2011.
- Buick Lucerne can no longer compete with new, more appealing luxury sedans in today's competitive market. The last production model year was 2011.


MY13 Retention \% - Full-Size Car


- Retention values for the 2013 Chevrolet Impala have dropped to 49.2 percent, down 6.3 percent year-over-year. This can be attributed to unchanged model offerings since 2007 as well as the release of the all-new redesigned 2014 model.
- The launch of the refreshed 2013 Hyundai Azera is leading the segment in overall retained value at 74.7 percent.

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## 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 ${ }^{\circ}$ 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 Co., Inc. is a subsidiary of AutoTrader Group, which includes AutoTrader.com, vAuto, VinSolutions and HomeNet Automotive. AutoTrader Group is a majority-owned subsidiary of Cox Enterprises.


[^0]:    - If increasing permits lead to increasing construction starts and spending, demand for full-size trucks may keep 2014 values above 2013 values.

