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RACT Vehicle Operating Costs – SUVs increase motoring costs

With a high driving position, extra space and a versatile interior, SUVs now outsell passenger cars in Australia.

But there's a premium in purchasing an SUV over a standard passenger car, the RACT's latest vehicle operating cost survey has revealed.

RACT General Manager Mobility Services Darren Moody said if you compared a Hyundai Kona, which was the leading vehicle in the small SUV category, with the Kia Cerato, which leads the small car class, motorists would pay more than \$6,500 extra over a five year ownership period.

Using Tasmanian specific data, all expenses associated with normal car ownership (purchase price, interest, fuel, electricity, servicing, new tyres, insurance and depreciation) are taken into account to allow buyers to compare vehicles not only within one class but across all classes.

The survey results help consumers see where their money goes in every aspect of vehicle ownership, from buying a car to fuel efficiency and servicing.

This year's cheapest car to own and run was the Kia Rio S.

"At \$107.97 a week, the Rio in the light class was cheaper than all the vehicles in the micro class and more than \$17 per week when compared to the Fiat 500 in the micro category," Mr Moody said.

"Keen ongoing drive-away prices for the vehicle are largely responsible."

In the volume selling small car class, the Kia Cerato was cheapest to run with a weekly cost of \$130.90 – more than \$15 per week cheaper than the next cheapest car in that category.

Mr Moody said the recently released Toyota RAV4 GXL was the cheapest vehicle to keep on the road in the increasingly popular medium SUV category at \$188.81, despite the new vehicle getting a price increase.

“Good depreciation predictions, leading fuel economy and fixed price servicing contribute to the RAV4’s low overall cost,” he said.

The Mitsubishi Triton was the cheapest vehicle for a fifth year in a row in the popular dual-cab 4WD drive category at \$223.23 per week, even though the release of a new model and a price increase during the year influenced the final calculation.

Taking the crown of most expensive non-electric vehicle was the BMW X5 in the large SUV category, which will cost the owner \$434.32 a week.

The Model X Tesla topped the charts as most expensive vehicle, costing \$495.76 per week largely due to its \$153,123 on-road price.

Electric vehicles are on the rise in terms of ownership, with the Hyundai IONIQ being the cheapest electric vehicle to run at \$194.92 per week.

This is the first time running costs for an electric vehicle have been under \$200 per week.

This year’s survey found reductions in interest rates and servicing costs over last year; fuel and tyre costs remained at similar levels, while depreciation costs increased slightly.

“While the survey generally takes into account the manufacturer’s list price (MLP) when calculating the weekly cost, there are many manufacturers offering ongoing competitive drive-away pricing below MLP which has been included in this survey,” Mr Moody said.

“The RACT Vehicle Operating Costs survey gives you what you need to know before you step into a car showroom.

“When you are buying a car, the price is just the start of the spending, there are hidden costs which you should consider by doing your research and asking the dealer questions about on-road costs.”

Calculations are based on private ownership for five-years and driving an average 12,000 kilometres per year.

This year the RACT *Vehicle Operating Cost* survey studied 140 popular vehicles over 14 categories.

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The full report is available here:

<https://www.ract.com.au/cars-and-driving/related-articles/vehicle-operating-costs-2019>

Category	Vehicle	Cost per week
Micro	Kia Picanto S Hatchback	\$109.66
Light	Kia Rio S 5d Hatchback	\$107.97
Small	Kia Cerato S 5d Hatchback	\$130.90
Medium	Toyota Camry Ascent Sport Hybrid Sedan	\$185.18
Large	Holden Commodore RS 5d Liftback Turbo 4	\$222.27
People Mover	Honda Odyssey VTi	\$209.14
Sports	Toyota 86 GT 2d Coupe Incline	\$196.65
Small SUV	Hyundai Kona Active	\$155.96
Medium SUV	Toyota Rav4 GXL (2WD)	\$188.81
Large SUV	Subaru Outback 2.5i WAGON	\$209.26
All-Terrain SUV	Isuzu MU-X LS-M(4x4)	\$234.66
2WD Ute	Mitsubishi Triton GLX (ADAS)	\$203.70
4WD Dual-Cab Ute	Mitsubishi Triton GLX (4x4)	\$223.23
Electric	Hyundai IONIQ	\$194.92