

Leader of the PART PACK

Do you know how much your car parts cost? Now in its 18th year, the Kinsey Report has become the benchmark for pricing comparison for everyone: the public, the fleet operator and even the motoring industry regulator



Now almost two decades old, the Kinsey Report has undergone few changes over the years. This year the survey is somewhat longer. There are 36 vehicles in total, with a couple of the Chinese imports being included for general interest. The full charts are becoming rather unwieldy to publish in their entirety within the space available, so this year only the best in each category is shown and the full charts are posted on the www.aa.co.za website and the online Kinsey Report.

The charts now reflect the parts baskets in ascending value instead of ascending percentage value. The percentage value is dependent on the price of the vehicle, whereas the parts basket cost does not take into account the selling price of the car. Inevitably the more expensive vehicles will have more expensive parts and it is interesting to note that taking the parts basket option hardly changes the results at all. In two of the four categories the 'winner' is the same either way and in the other two the first placed vehicle in parts basket value moves down to second place as a percentage. In these tough times of rising costs the lower-priced parts baskets have special significance to the motorist.

The sourcing of parts prices remains unchanged: they're a roundup of retail prices from dealerships, predominantly in the Durban area, but as always some price lists are sourced from Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Communication is not always as good as it should be – there were occasions this year where

two different dealerships provided similar quotes while a quote from the manufacturer was quite different. This presupposes that price changes from the manufacturer have not filtered down to the dealerships, or that the dealerships are keeping to the 'old' prices until their existing stock has been sold. Often, and the manufacturers are also guilty, VAT has not been added to every price. We had a case where every alternate price had VAT added, while the ones in between were without.

The report should be used as a guide only and shopping around for the best prices is a necessity. (This year we had quotes from two dealers for the same car that differed by R12 000.) Some crash parts differ in cost from left to right side of the vehicle. Toyota, for example, appears to have slightly higher prices for right-hand body parts – the side that seems to be more crash-prone – while other manufacturers do not differentiate.

We never include non-branded parts in this study. There are obviously some very good non-branded components available, but also lurking about are some atrociously bad, ill-fitting ones of a very poor standard. It is better to stick to original equipment wherever possible.

Do note the 'Nett Pricing' comment at the end of some of the columns on the charts (on the website). This means that a panel beater or garage buying parts for you will mark up about 30% on those prices when repairing your vehicle. The vehicles in the Kinsey Report are divided into four categories based roughly on price. Read on for more information.

EXCLUSIVE TO AA TRAVELLER

NEED TO KNOW

The most important thing when looking for parts prices is to correctly identify the vehicle. Your licence papers reflect the date of first registration, but your vehicle may have an earlier date of manufacture. To be 100% certain use the VIN number of your vehicle – this is a 17-digit number that encodes data about where and when the vehicle was built, the colour, trim, transmission, engine, etc. It is printed on your licence disc and can be found on the left bottom corner of the dash, visible through the windscreen – it will give the parts staff what they require to help you.

With imported vehicles, each shipment may have a different set of parts numbers and prices, so correct vehicle identification is vital.



ENTRY LEVEL

The old faithful Citi Golf as always has the least expensive parts basket at just over R16 373 and the lowest percentage of the vehicle price at 19.92%. It has very reasonably priced crash parts, with headlights and bumpers being quite a bit less expensive than any competitors and this contributes to its continued success.

A new arrival, which still needs to prove itself in the marketplace, is the McCarthy-imported Chery, and this comes in second in the cost of its parts basket, with very inexpensive service and repair parts, but eighth in percentage value (because of its comparatively low selling price). It just pips the Opel Corsa Lite which takes third place both in parts basket price and percentage.

FAST FACTS

1. Motorists benefit from vehicle service plans because service parts are comparatively inexpensive. Since the manufacturers are their own customers while the vehicles are within the service plan period, they tend to keep the costs down, so when vehicles come out of the service plans the service parts are still 'affordable'.

2. Body (or crash) parts tell a different story, although many people tend to ignore this and simply think of it as the insurance companies' problem. Expensive crash parts hurt from day one, because the excess paid by the owner is based on the quote cost (higher quote, higher excess) and if crash parts are expensive, the write-off point of the vehicle is reached sooner, and we all lose because it raises premiums.

GET IT ALL

Find the full charts at www.aa.co.za. For Kinsey Reports from the past 10 years, visit www.kinsey.valueweb.co.za.



B SEGMENT

This is the second year that the Hyundai Getz has been the leader of the pack, taking top honours in parts basket cost and percentage of selling price. Crash parts for the Hyundai are shown as nett pricing, which means that these prices would be increased by about 30% by a panel beater doing body repairs.

The Ford Fiesta comes in a mere R300-odd more costly in its parts basket in second spot, and the VW Polo clocks in third behind the Getz and Fiesta. Second on percentage is the Chev Aveo and third is the Kia Rio.



C SEGMENT

The Nissan Tiida also wins this category once more, boasting the least-expensive parts basket and second best on percentage. It must be noted, however, that Nissan prices are all nett. Second least-expensive parts basket belongs to the VW Golf 5 that has very similar prices for service and repair parts to the Nissan. In third position is the Toyota Corolla. On pure percentage, the honours go to the Golf 5 GTi, thanks to its relatively high selling price.



D SEGMENT

The Toyota Avensis D4D leads the way with the least-expensive parts basket and is only just nudged into second spot on percentage by the Lexus IS 250, the Lexus having second-best parts basket cost and topping the percentage calculations. For a perceived luxury import the Lexus has performed very well.

Third place on parts basket cost is the Mazda6 2.3 Individual and in the percentage stakes the BMW 320D is third.

ENTRY LEVEL

B SEGMENT

	VW CITI GOLF SPORT 1.4i	CHERY QQ3 0.8 TX	OPEL CORSA LITE SPORT	HYUNDAI GETZ 1.6 HS	FORD FIESTA 1.4i 5 DR	VW POLO 1.4 TRENDLINE
RETAIL SELLING PRICE	82 200.00	65 900.00	94 380.00	131 400.00	113 650.00	117 200.00
PARTS BASKET AS % OF SELLING PRICE	19.92%	34.96%	26.29%	23.13%	26.97%	26.92%
AIR FILTER	96.17	59.29	66.20	91.10	74.101	148.95
OIL FILTER	51.92	31.20	38.42	53.08	41.60	78.23
FUEL FILTER	158.65	43.34	87.80	258.70	171.10	199.60
SPARK PLUG EACH	22.39	36.49	36.99	29.47	31.20	42.36
R/H WIPER BLADE	32.93	32.76	43.32	151.79	161.27	164.35
L/H WIPER BLADE	32.93	32.76	PAIR	38.69	36.80	170.27
FRONT BRAKE PADS	328.57	194.52	540.87	560.48	797.12	615.28
REAR BRAKE PADS	619.38	387.66	637.39	544.40	293.00	626.25
SUB TOTAL: A	1 342.94	818.02	1 450.99	1 727.71	1 606.19	2 045.29
FRONT SHOCK- ABSORBER / STRUT	421.24	403.26	821.78	1 024.01	1,063.57	843.81
REAR SHOCK- ABSORBER / STRUT	257.88	281.55	530.86	588.88	671.08	898.09
FAN BELT	33.03	44.79	174.80	92.91	556.76	196.89
FRONT BRAKE DISC	231.00	242.03	508.28	1 200.19	697.17	582.78
CAM BELT / TIMING CHAIN	93.80	274.62	204.60	403.73	376.64	419.09
CLUTCH PLATE	503.85	441.68	388.12	710.23	821.00	1,124.06
PRESSURE PLATE	500.94	470.78	262.10	461.27	KIT	926.89
CLUTCH RELEASE BEARING	132.84	176.08	150.45	488.10	587.13	571.30
WATER PUMP	898.65	723.86	293.76	622.96	923.15	831.09
RADIATOR	859.24	823.20	995.82	1 961.76	984.12	1,889.47
RADIATOR CAP	88.66	30.27	93.74	64.79	40.82	81.91
THERMOSTAT	98.86	59.64	92.01	139.92	154.44	258.22
SUB TOTAL: B	4 119.99	3 971.76	4 516.32	7 758.75	6 875.88	8 623.60
FRONT BUMPER SKIN	728.25	1 111.45	1 199.76	1 416.67	3 210.38	1 417.10
REAR BUMPER SKIN	754.91	848.31	1 783.71	1 799.08	2 457.41	1 763.80
BONNET	971.88	1 664.19	997.60	2 497.23	1 871.49	1 295.63
GRILLE	633.27	41.16	406.79	98.66	686.45	491.45
BOOT LID / TAILGATE	1 331.18	1 685.04	2 896.30	2 604.09	2 541.88	2 913.20
R/H FRONT DOOR	1 291.03	3 024.55	2 405.99	3 145.91	3 375.47	4 774.42
R/H FRONT FENDER	543.26	932.45	549.55	998.46	498.40	772.28
R/H REAR FENDER	894.58	5 272.94	4 365.27	2 978.22	3 011.00	2 973.48
WHEEL RIM	1 228.14	852.94	812.72	938.20	606.26	745.65
HEADLIGHT ASSEMBLY	313.75	1 273.96	848.39	1 799.63	1 466.60	1 663.35
TAIL LIGHT ASSEMBLY	545.49	409.10	845.69	1 113.27	794.89	1 036.16
FRONT WINDSCREEN	1 675.00	1 129.70	1 730.00	1 516.20	1 650.00	1 038.35
SUB TOTAL: C	10 910.74	18 245.79	18 841.77	20 905.62	22 170.23	20 884.87
TOTAL: A+B+C	R 16 373.67	23 035.57	24 809.08	R 30 392.08	30 652.30	31 553.76

C SEGMENT

D SEGMENT

	NISSAN TIIDA 1.6 ACENTA 4DR	VW GOLF 5 2.0	TOYOTA COROLLA 1.6 ADVANCE	TOYOTA AVENSIS D4D EXCL	LEXUS IS 250	MAZDA6 2.3 INDIVIDUAL
RETAIL SELLING PRICE	174 990.00	188 200.00	186 900.00	285 800.00	311 500.00	266 600.00
PARTS BASKET AS % OF SELLING PRICE	19.49%	21.35%	22.92%	18.90%	18.10%	21.54%
AIR FILTER	227.68	237.20	181.28	341.61	366.44	237.99
OIL FILTER	136.68	91.47	99.98	106.99	134.93	99.08
FUEL FILTER	N/A	252.74	IN TANK	267.24	526.83	51.00
SPARK PLUG EACH	111.07	54.08	195.51	N/A	349.27	179.00
R/H WIPER BLADE	159.59	156.41	309.07	225.21	289.58	65.99
L/H WIPER BLADE	159.59	156.41	162.51	139.09	210.67	65.99
FRONT BRAKE PADS	752.49	561.66	847.18	938.65	828.02	923.12
REAR BRAKE PADS	456.06	596.77	556.48	498.93	583.29	1 036.88
SUBTOTAL: A	2 003.16	2 106.74	2 352.01	2 517.72	3 289.03	2 659.05
FRONT SHOCK- ABSORBER / STRUT	1 004.35	1 483.61	1 223.06	1 473.89	2 072.01	940.49
REAR SHOCK- ABSORBER / STRUT	349.22	1 353.39	562.12	1 345.21	1 750.52	719.06
FAN BELT	255.12	204.30	575.81	561.84	479.89	1 160.57
FRONT BRAKE DISC	951.88	708.95	996.20	814.66	1 114.29	1 417.84
CAM BELT / TIMING CHAIN	285.05	377.70	722.49	630.49	624.25	1 407.96
CLUTCH PLATE	1 323.79	2 604.48	1 460.67	3 179.45	539.54	1 808.97
PRESSURE PLATE	1 190.21	KIT	836.33	KIT	1 813.13	1 119.23
CLUTCH RELEASE BEARING	676.07	691.62	316.05	220.01	374.06	345.40
WATER PUMP	622.02	863.55	1 124.52	1 415.54	1 338.79	1 252.27
RADIATOR	3 037.13	2 365.19	3 883.65	3 787.01	3 209.79	2 342.46
RADIATOR CAP	130.07	81.91	109.59	109.59	136.67	173.67
THERMOSTAT	232.80	251.34	199.35	222.37	254.31	677.55
SUBTOTAL: B	10 057.71	10 986.04	12 009.84	13 760.06	13 707.25	13 365.47
FRONT BUMPER SKIN	1 584.09	2 315.88	1 750.75	1 898.83	2 158.81	5 022.96
REAR BUMPER SKIN	2 130.08	2 050.04	1 750.94	1 672.37	1 696.06	4 907.22
BONNET	1 739.50	4 130.66	2 662.61	3 661.90	4 807.62	3 140.24
GRILLE	409.26	681.00	1 493.39	1 836.18	1 173.82	1 311.49
BOOT LID / TAILGATE	1 398.84	4 829.75	3 339.68	4 512.19	4 305.42	3 458.59
R/H FRONT DOOR	2 372.04	1 668.44	2 959.03	4 979.70	4 962.76	3 310.72
R/H FRONT FENDER	1 576.03	1 676.68	1 944.92	1 843.61	1 804.53	1 347.40
R/H REAR FENDER	1 581.37	2 621.99	2 941.31	4 782.68	3 714.01	5 864.82
WHEEL RIM	1 279.56	1 749.34	987.96	3 653.43	4 455.86	4 517.39
HEADLIGHT ASSEMBLY	2 134.86	1 964.58	2 255.73	2 707.49	4 240.15	4 916.80
TAIL LIGHT ASSEMBLY	1 411.24	773.26	1 440.66	1 208.94	1 124.85	1 408.23
FRONT WINDSCREEN	4 428.15	2 625.75	4 939.97	4 994.39	4 950.85	2 200.83
SUBTOTAL: C	22 045.02	27 087.37	28 466.95	37 751.71	39 394.74	41 406.69
TOTAL: A + B + C	R 34 105.89	40 180.15	42 828.80	R 54 029.49	56 391.02	57 431.21