







Mercedes-Benz

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Type	Division of Daimler AG
Founded	1881
Founder(s)	Gottlieb Daimler, Karl Benz
Headquarters	Stuttgart, Germany
Key people	Dieter Zetsche, CEO
Industry	Automotive industry
Products	Automobiles Trucks Buses Engines
Parent	Daimler AG
Website	Mercedes-Benz.com

Mercedes-Benz is a German manufacturer of automobiles, buses, coaches, and trucks. It is currently a division of the parent company, Daimler AG (formerly DaimlerChrysler AG), after previously being owned by Daimler-Benz. Mercedes-Benz has its origins in Karl Benz's creation of the first automobile in January 1886, and by Gottlieb Daimler and engineer Wilhelm Maybach's conversion of a carriage by the addition of a petrol engine the same year. The Mercedes automobile was first marketed in 1901 by Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft. The first Mercedes-Benz brand name vehicles were produced in 1926, following the merger of Karl Benz's and Gottlieb Daimler's companies into the Daimler-Benz company. Mercedes-Benz has introduced many technological and safety innovations that have become common in other vehicles several years later.

Quality

Since its inception, Mercedes-Benz had a reputation for its quality and durability. Objective measures looking at passenger vehicles such as J.D. Power surveys demonstrated a downturn in reputation in this area in the late 1990s and early 2000s. By mid-2005, Mercedes temporarily returned to the industry average for initial quality, a measure of problems after the first 90 days of ownership, according to J.D. Power. In J.D. Power's Initial Quality Study for the first quarter of 2007, Mercedes showed dramatic improvement by climbing from 25th to 5th place, surpassing quality leader Toyota and earning several awards for its models. For 2008, Mercedes-Benz's initial quality rating improved by yet another mark, now in fourth place. On top of this accolade, it also received the Platinum Plant Quality Award for its Mercedes' Sindelfingen, Germany assembly plant. As of 2009, *Consumer Reports* of the United States has changed their reliability ratings for several Mercedes-Benz vehicles to "average," and recommending the E-Class and the S-Class.



Motorsport

The two companies which were merged to form the *Mercedes-Benz* brand in 1926 had both already enjoyed success in the new sport of motor racing throughout their separate histories- both had entries in the very first automobile race Paris to Rouen 1894. This has continued, and throughout its long history, the company has been involved in a range of motorsport activities, including sports car racing and rallying. On several occasions Mercedes-Benz has withdrawn completely from motorsport for a significant period, notably in the late 1930s and after the 1955 Le Mans disaster, where a Mercedes-Benz 300SLR collided with another car and killed more than eighty spectators. Although there was some activity in the intervening years, it was not until 1987 that Mercedes-Benz returned to front line competition, returning to Le Mans, DTM, and F-1 sports car racing with Sauber.

The 1990s saw Mercedes-Benz purchase engine builder Ilmor (now Mercedes-Benz High Performance Engines), and campaign IndyCars under the USAC/CART rules, eventually winning the 1994 Indianapolis 500 and 1994 CART IndyCar World Series Championship with Al Unser, Jr. at the wheel. The 90s also saw the return of Mercedes-Benz to GT racing, and the Mercedes-Benz CLK GTR, both of which took the company to new heights by dominating the FIA's GT1 class. Toyota was the most rugged car in history after BMW followed by VW (Volks Wagen, Mercedes Benz Mitsubishi, Ford, as at 2007).

Mercedes-Benz is currently active in three forms of motorsport, Formula Three, DTM and Formula One. In Formula One, the company part owns Team McLaren and has supplied the team with engines engineered by Ilmor^[7] since 1995. This partnership has brought success, including Drivers Championships for Mika Häkkinen in 1998 and 1999 and for Lewis Hamilton in 2008, as well as a Constructors Championship in 1998. The collaboration with McLaren has been extended into the production of roadgoing cars such as the Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren.

Models

Mercedes-Benz range today

Mercedes-Benz has a full range of passenger, light commercial and heavy commercial equipment. Production is on a global basis. The Smart brand of city cars has also been part of the Mercedes-Benz Group since 1994.

Passenger cars

The following passenger vehicles were in production in 2009:

- **A-Class** Hatchback
- **B-Class** Sports Tourer/Hatchback
- **C-Class** Sedan, Sports Coupe & Wagon
- **CL-Class** Coupe
- **CLK-Class** Coupe & Cabriolet
- **CLS-Class** "4-door Coupe"
- **CLC-Class** luxury compact car
- **E-Class** Sedan, Coupe & Wagon
- **G-Class** Cross-country vehicle
- **GL-Class** SUV
- **GLK-Class** SUV
- **M-Class** SUV
- **R-Class** Sports Tourer
- **S-Class** Sedan
- **SL-Class** Roadster
- **SLK-Class** Roadster
- **SLR-McLaren** High Performance Coupe & Roadster

Significant car models produced

- 1928: SSK legendary racing car
- 1930: 770 "Grosser Mercedes" state and ceremonial car
- 1934: 500 K
- 1936: 260 D World's first diesel production car
- 1936: 170
- 1938: W195 Speed Record-breaker
- 1951: Mercedes-Benz 300, knownly as "Adenauer Mercedes"
- 1953: "Ponton" Models

- 1954: 300SL "Gullwing"
- 1959: "Fintail" Models
- 1960: 220SE Cabriolet
- 1963: 600 "Grand Mercedes"
- 1963: 230SL "Pagoda"
- 1965: Mercedes-Benz S-Class
- 1966: 300SEL 6.3
- 1968: W114 "New generation" compact cars
- 1969: C111 experimental vehicle
- 1972: Mercedes-Benz W107 350SL
- 1974: 450SEL 6.9
- 1974: 240D
- 1976: 300D
- 1979: 500SEL and G-Class
- 1983: 190E 2.3-16
- 1986: First 'E-Class'
- 1991: 600SEL
- 1993: First 'C-Class'
- 1995: First 'Joint Mercedes-Benz & AMG' (C43 AMG)
- 1995: Mercedes-Benz SL73 AMG, 7.3L V12 (biggest engine ever put in a Mercedes-Benz)
- 1996: Mercedes-Benz Renntech E7.4RS
- 1997: Mercedes-Benz M-Class
- 1998: Mercedes-Benz CLK
- 2004: Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren
- 2004: Mercedes-Benz CLS
- 2007: E320, GL320 Bluetec, ML320 Bluetec, R320 Bluetec

McLaren cars

Mercedes-Benz has also produced a sports car with McLaren Cars, an extension of the collaboration by which Mercedes engines are used by the Team McLaren-Mercedes Formula One racing team, which is part owned by Mercedes. The 2003 Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren has a carbon fiber body with a 5.4l V8 supercharged engine. This is the same block as featured in SL55 AMG and the CLS55 AMG, though modified to give 460 kW (630 PS; 620 hp) and 780 N·m (575 ft·lb) of torque. The SLR has a maximum speed of 337 kilometres per hour (209 mph) and costs approximately US\$500,000. Due to European pedestrian-protection regulations, McLaren has decided to cease production of the SLR in 2009.

The most recent new joint-venture model, expected to reach production, is the mid-engine **P8** sports car. Based around a unique carbon fiber monocoque, manufactured by McLaren, the P8 was originally predicted to receive the new naturally aspirated 6.2L V8 from Mercedes-AMG, but insiders now say that the engine will be modified for the car and will probably be twin-turbocharged to produce in excess of 600 bhp (450 kW). The car is still in development, but likely to reach production to go on sale in early 2008, and have a price tag less than that of the SLR.

Car nomenclature

In 1994 (starting with the 1994 models), the traditional nomenclature of Mercedes-Benz vehicles changed. Since the early days of the company the name would be in the form of 500E where the engine displacement made up the first three numbers and the last letter(s) represented the type of engine and/or chassis; for example: "E" for fuel injection ("Einspritzung" in German), "D" for Diesel, "L" for long wheelbase etc.

In 1994, this was altered so that the prefix reflected the model ("class", German "Klasse", in Mercedes-Benz terminology) and a number the displacement. The suffix was retained in some cases, for example "L" for long wheelbase, and "CDI" for Diesel (CDI = Common-rail Direct Injection). Thus, the 500E in the example above became the E500 ("E-Klasse", 5 liters displacement). It should also be noted that while in the past the model number generally accurately reflected the actual engine displacement, this is currently not always the case—for example the E200 CDI and E220 CDI actually both have a 2.2 liter/litre displacement, and the C240 actually has a 2.6 liter/litre engine.

Electric vehicles

At the 2007 Frankfurt motor show, Mercedes-Benz showed seven hybrid models, including the F700 concept car which combined hybrid drive with the innovative DiesOtto engine. In 2009, the S400 hybrid sedan is scheduled to go on sale.

On the other hand, Mercedes-Benz says it will have a demonstration fleet of practical, if small, electric vehicles on the road in two to three years, from 2008.

Mercedes-Benz S 400 BlueHYBRID will be launched in calendar 2009 and will be the first production automotive hybrid in the world to use a lithium ion battery.

Mercedes-Benz BlueZERO cars were introduced in the 2009 North American International Auto Show.

Concept models

- Mercedes-Benz C111 - sports car and test vehicle for different high performance engines (wankelengine and later diesel engines)
- Mercedes-Benz Auto 2000 - 4-door sedan
- Mercedes-Benz NAFA - microcar
- Mercedes-Benz C112 - sports car and mule
- Mercedes-Benz F 100 - car introduced in 1991
- Mercedes-Benz F 200 Imagination - 2-door coupe introduced in 1996 Paris Motor Show
- Mercedes-Benz F 300 Life Jet - 3-wheel car/motorcycle unveiled in 1997 Frankfurt Motor Show
- Vario Research Car - one car, four vehicles
- Mercedes-Benz Vision SLR - Prototype of Mercedes-Benz SLR McLaren, unveiled in 1999 North American International Auto Show
- Mercedes-Benz Vision SLA - convertible with details of the SLR, but based on the A-Class platform, unveiled in 2000 North American International Auto Show
- Mercedes-Benz F 400 Carving - A 2-seat roadster unveiled in 2002 Tokyo Motor Show
- Mercedes Benz F 500 Mind - 4-door fastback sedan unveiled in 2003 Tokyo Motor Show

- Mercedes-Benz F 600 HYGENIUS - compact fuel cell car, unveiled in 2005 Tokyo Motor Show
- Mercedes-Benz Bionic - Car unveiled in 2005 DaimlerChrysler Innovation Symposium in Washington, modeled after boxfish
- Mercedes-Benz Ocean Drive - a 4-door convertible based on the S600
- Mercedes-Benz F700 - Large luxury saloon featuring the small capacity / high output DiesOtto engine, unveiled at the 2007 Frankfurt Motor Show.
- Mercedes-Benz ConceptFASCINATION - Shooting-brake giving a preview of the W212, unveiled at 2008 Paris Motor Show
- Mercedes-Benz S 400 BlueHYBRID
- Mercedes-Benz F-Cell Roadster

Buses

Mercedes-Benz also produces buses, mainly for Europe and Asia. The first factory to be built outside Germany after WWII was in Argentina. It originally built trucks, many of which were modified independently to buses, popularly named Colectivo. Today it builds buses, trucks and the Sprinter Van.

Vans

Mercedes-Benz produces a range of vans. The current (January 2009) range consists of:

- Mercedes-Benz Vito — Light Van based on the Viano MPV with a payload of approx 1 tonne
- Mercedes-Benz Sprinter — Mid-sized van with payloads of 2 to 6 tonne (produced as a Dodge in USA and Canada with the name Freightliner Sprinter. A joint venture.)
 - Sprinter 414 416CDI ambulance
 - Sprinter 316CDI light ambulance
- Mercedes-Benz Vario — Heavy van with similar load to a light truck (7.5 tonne)

Previous models include:

- Mercedes-Benz TN or T1 - Mid Sized van predecessor to the sprinter
- Mercedes-Benz T2 - Heavy Van
- All other previous models on the German wikipedia

Trucks

Mercedes-Benz is one of the world's largest manufacturer of trucks

The current (January 2009) range consists of:

- Mercedes-Benz Atego — Light truck from 7 to 16t

- Mercedes-Benz Axor — Mid-sized truck from 18 to 26t in rigid and articulated
- Mercedes-Benz Actros — Heavy duty rigid and premium articulated — 18 to 250t
- Mercedes-Benz Econic — Low floor version of the Axor for refuse and specialist applications
- Mercedes-Benz Unimog — For special purpose applications and transport across extreme terrain
- Mercedes-Benz Zetros — off-road truck for extreme operations
- 1828L (F581) Mobile Casualty Treatment Centre
- 1517L Mobile Casualty Treatment Centre

Old Mercedes-Benz L-series truck

Bicycles

Mercedes-Benz Accessories GmbH introduced 3 new bicycles in 2005, named Automatic Bike, Fitness Bike, Mountain Bike. The bikes are sold in Australia, Germany, and Russia.

List of bicycles:

- Mercedes-Benz Automatic Bike
- Mercedes-Benz Carbon Bike
- Mercedes-Benz Fitness Bike
- Mercedes-Benz Hybrid Bike
- Mercedes-Benz Mountain Bike
- Mercedes-Benz Street Bike

In house

AMG is Mercedes-Benz's in-house performance-tuning division, specializing in high-performance versions of most Mercedes-Benz cars. AMG engines are all hand-built and each completed engine receives a tag with the signature of the engineer who built it. AMG has been wholly owned by Mercedes-Benz since 1999.

Aftermarket tuners

There are numerous independent tuners:

- Brabus
- Carlsson
- Kicherer
- Kleemann
- Lorinser
- Renntech
- MKB

Innovations

Numerous technological innovations have been introduced on Mercedes-Benz automobiles throughout the many years of their production, including:

- The first passenger road car to have brakes on all four wheels (1924)
- The "Safety cage" or "Safety cell" construction with front and rear crumple zones was first developed by Mercedes-Benz in 1951. This is considered by many as the most important innovation in automobile construction from a safety standpoint
- In 1959, Mercedes-Benz patented a device that prevents drive wheels from spinning by intervening at the engine, transmission, or brakes. In 1987, Mercedes-Benz applied its patent by introducing a Traction control system that worked under both braking and acceleration.
- Anti-lock brakes (ABS), traction control and airbags in the European market, were Mercedes-Benz innovations. These technologies were introduced in 1978, 1986, and 1980 respectively.
- Mercedes-Benz was the first to introduce pre-tensioners to seat belts on the 1981 S-Class. In the event of a crash, a pre-tensioner will tighten the belt instantaneously, preventing the passenger from jerking forward in a crash.
- In September 2003, Mercedes-Benz introduced the world's first 7-speed automatic transmission called '7G-Tronic'.
- Stability control, brake assist, and many other types of safety equipment were all developed, tested, and implemented into passenger cars—first—by Mercedes-Benz. Mercedes-Benz has not made a large fuss about its innovations and has even licensed them for use by competitors—in the name of improving automobile and passenger safety - In fact, crumple zones and anti-lock brakes are now used on all modern luxury vehicles.
- The most powerful naturally-aspirated eight cylinder engine in the world is the Mercedes-AMG, 6208 cc M156 V8 engine. The V8 engine is badged '63 AMG' and replaced the '55 AMG' M113 engine in most models. The M156 engine produces up to 525 bhp (391 kW), and although some models using this engine do have this output (such as the S63 and CL63 AMGs) specific output varies slightly across other models in the range.

- The (W211) E320 CDI which has a (VTG) turbocharged, 3.0L V6 common rail diesel engine (producing 224-horsepower), set three world endurance records. It covered 100,000 miles (160,000 km) in a record time with an average speed of 224.823 km/h (140 mph). Three identical cars did the endurance run (one set above record) and the other two cars set world records for time taken to cover 100,000 km and 50,000 miles (80,000 km) respectively. After all three cars had completed the run their combined distance was 300,000 miles (480,000 km) (all records were FIA approved).
- Mercedes-Benz pioneered a system called Pre-Safe to detect an imminent crash and prepares the car's safety systems to respond optimally. It also calculates the optimal braking force required to avoid an accident in emergency situations and makes it immediately available for when the driver depresses the brake pedal. Occupants are also prepared by tightening the seat belt, closing the sunroof and windows, and moving the seats into the optimal position.
- Mercedes Benz developed a fatigue-detection system, known as Attention Assist that warns the driver when they are displaying signs of micro-sleep (when the eyes stay closed for slightly longer than a natural blinking action). The system will use a variety of data including the individual driving style, the duration of the journey, the time of day and the current traffic situation. Fatigue mostly sets in gradually.
- The fastest street-legal saloon car in the world is the Mercedes-Benz Brabus CLS Rocket (tuned) Mercedes-Benz CLS 'CLS V12' - based on the CLS-Class saloon.
- Mercedes Benz invented the adaptive highbeam assist system which automatically and continuously adapts the headlamp range to the distance of vehicles ahead or which are oncoming. The new system continually adjusts the beam so that the headlamp cone falls just in front of other vehicles, at the same time always ensuring maximum possible range without dazzling other road users. The adaptive highbeam assist is introduced first in the new generation E-Class.





























































































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