

# Detroit Auto Scene ROAD REPORT

## 2013 Chevy Equinox LTZ Sure Has Zip

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NEWS DEPT.



2012 Chevrolet Equinox

A round of applause, please for the 2013 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ.

It sure has plenty of zip and then some.

Talk to most any Chevrolet new car dealer, especially here in metro Detroit, and they'll tell you that it's the Equinox SUV and the Malibu passenger car that are flying out the door in terms of sales.

And as far as the Equinox goes, it's easy to understand the appeal:

Affordable, nice ride and handling, zippy with the 6-cylinder engine, large enough to haul a family around without being overwhelming, good mileage, comfortable interior and svelte looks.

What's not to like, right?

Although you can get the Equinox with a four-cylinder engine, our test-vehicle came with a 3.0L, DOHC, V6 SIDI engine, one that comes with the aforementioned road zip, but also its mileage is acceptable as six cylinders go: 23 mpg hwy, and 16 mpg city.

Mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission, the SUV is fun to drive, flat out.

So that's the secret to the Equinox's success, we must say - fun to drive and practical all at the same time.

Our test vehicle came with a variety of options that enhanced the motoring experience. It had 18-inch chrome clad aluminum wheels, which helps give the SUV a broader and more stable "road stance" than first expected.

The test car also had Chevrolet MyLink, the brand's hands-free smartphone integrator with Pandora and Stitcher, as well as Bluetooth audio streaming.

The Equinox has plenty of legroom for passengers and more than enough storage space in the back for most families. It would serve well as a family hauler or grocery hauler alike.

It also seems practical as a

vacation car, that there's plenty of elbow room for passengers as well as enough storage room for a vacation run.

It also came with SiriusXM satellite radio, so you can tune in to the pop music from whichever decade you happened to grow up in.

Note that the Equinox generally competes against the Ford Escape, Kia Sorento, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Santa Fe and Toyota RAV4 in the smaller SUV category.

In fact, these smaller SUVs more or less led the way to the creation of the "crossover" vehicle, that which looks like a combination of a station wagon and something much more well designed.

The Equinox seems to hold up well in this category. Part of its peppiness is that hot V6 engine, as described earlier, but part of the equation is that the vehicle "only" weighs all of 3,777 pounds.

The effect when driving the Equinox is that you feel safe, especially on the freeway and when cornering at relatively high speeds. The sub-4,000-pound SUV means when driving at high speeds, you don't feel like you're going to get blown all over the road if an 18-wheeler passes you at 70 mph, kind of effect.

The driver feels in control of the vehicle at all times and in all road situations. I'm guessing that Equinox sales

are probably around 50/50 between men and women, but I can also see where women might feel extra comfortable in the driver's seat of the Equinox because the landscape around you seems, well, manageable.

Think of the Equinox as something of a workhorse and not glamour vehicle in the Chevrolet lineup - it's the sensible shoes of the auto industry, you might say.

After driving our test car for a week, it's understandable why the Equinox is selling as well as it does. The car can be used by the customer in a variety of fashions - your daily work grinder, a family vacation long-hauler, a grocery runner, you just name it.

### 2013 CHEVROLET EQUINOX

- Base Price: \$30,970
- As Tested: \$34,675
- Engine: 3.0L, V6
- Mileage: 23 / 16 mpg
- Length: 187.8 inches
- Wheelbase: 112.5 in.
- Trans: 6-spd. auto
- Curb wt.: 3,777 lbs.
- Assembly: GM Ingersoll

### OPTIONS:

- 3.0L, V6 engine (\$1,500); 18-inch chrome wheels (\$1,000); forward collision alert and lane-departure warning (\$295); Chevrolet MyLink hands-free telecom system (\$100).

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MPG 33

Stk.#7172

WAS \$22,870  
**Starting At!**  
**\$16,782**

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**\$121**  
With \$999 Down

### 2012 EQUINOX LS

MPG 32

Stk.#FG5483

WAS \$24,260  
**Starting At!**  
**\$22,581**

**24 Month Lease!**  
**\$224**  
With \$999 Down

### 2012 CRUZE LS

MPG 36

Stk.#5577

WAS \$17,470  
**Starting At!**  
**\$15,999**

**24 Month Lease!**  
**\$139**  
With \$999 Down

### 2012 SILVERADO Ext Cab 4x4

All Star Edition!

Stk.#5860

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\*Picture may not represent actual vehicle. All cash incentives have been deducted from Payments/Sales prices are plus tax, title and plates. Alternate APR is in lieu of most incentives. All leases are 39 months/10,000 miles per year +800 credit score, other slightly higher. First payment, title, tax and plate fees are due at lease signing. Security deposit is required on Equinox. Purchase Payments are 75 months at 2.99% APR for well-qualified individuals. Certain restrictions may apply, see dealer for additional details. Sale ends 4-30-12 at 6 pm.

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### 2012 CRUZE

NO DOC FEES

MSRP 18,865  
Stock #421006

10 AIR BAGS  
**\$999 DOWN** at Lessee Signing

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$16,965\***

24 MO. LEASE  
**\$118\***

### 2012 MALIBU

NO DOC FEES

MSRP 22,755  
Stock #420801

12K MILES/YR  
**\$999 DOWN** at Lessee Signing

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$16,947\***

24 MO. LEASE  
**\$118\***

### LACROSSE

2011 Was \$27,880 Order #PHN82B

2012 Deal #163225 Stock #8420016

GM EMPLOYEE PRICE  
**\$21,005\*01\***

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
24 MO. LEASE  
**\$225\*00\***

### REGAL

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2011 Was \$31,975 Stock #B410676

2012 Deal #163216 Order #PW8XWT

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$22,390\*86\***

GM EMPLOYEE PRICE  
24 MO. LEASE  
**\$225\*00\***

### 2012 EQUINOX

NO DOC FEES

MSRP 24,355

10K MILES/YR  
**\$999 DOWN** at Lessee Signing

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$22,570\***

24 MO. LEASE  
**\$199\***

### 2012 SONIC

Stock #420493

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$13,973\***

### SIERRA EXT CAB

2011 Was \$26,390 Order #NZVRGP

2012 Deal #164140 Order #PFG3N

GM EMPLOYEE PRICE  
**\$19,054\*76\***

GM EMPLOYEE PRICE  
24 MO. LEASE  
**\$203\*59\***

### TERRAIN

2012 Was \$28,040 Stock #G520060

2012 Deal #162579 Stock #G520229

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$24,116\*0\***

39 MO. LEASE  
**\$213\*20\***

### 2012 SILVERADO W/T

NO DOC FEES

MSRP 23,845 Stock #520323

10K MILES/YR  
**\$999 DOWN** at Lessee Signing

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$16,808\***

39 MO. LEASE  
**\$169\***

### 2012 TAHOE Z71

WOW! DEMO

Stock #G51708

Order #CC10706

GM EMPLOYEE PRICE  
**\$45,286\***

39 MO. LEASE  
**\$509\***

### ACADIA

2012 Was \$27,030.38 Stock #G520402

2012 Deal #162544 Order #PVRVHR

EVERYONE'S SALE PRICE  
**\$27,030\*38\***

24 MO. LEASE  
**\$162\*59\***

### YUKON DENALI

WOW! DEMO

5 AVAILABLE SAVE \$15,000

2011 List \$62,964 Stock #G510390

2012 Deal #162601 Stock #G520200

GM EMPLOYEE PRICE  
**\$47,964\*22\***

GM EMPLOYEE PRICE  
59 MO. LEASE  
**\$581\*96\***

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\* All prices & payments include GM rebates. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of GM Employee Discount (unless otherwise stated). Lease terms vary from 24 to 48 months, 10,000 miles per year w/ approved 5 Tier credit w/ \$2500 due at signing, (unless otherwise noted). Prices & payments are plus tax, title, and plate fees and first month payment No security deposit on leases. 0% Financing in lieu of some factory rebates. Malibu LS (leased thru GM financial), Equinox LS, Cruze LS leases require 800 plus credit score. Cruze, Equinox and Silverado include non GM competitive lease. Malibu includes GMC. USA id insurance rebate. † Must qualify for Conquest. Some vehicles may be Courtesy cars. Expires 4-30-12.

\* All prices & payments include GM rebates. Pictures may not represent actual vehicle. Prices subject to change per GM incentives. Prices and payments are inclusive of GM Employee Discount (unless otherwise stated). Lease terms vary from 24 to 48 months, 10,000 miles per year w/ approved 5 Tier credit w/ \$1995 due at signing, (unless otherwise noted). Lacrosse, Regal require \$999 down. Purchase prices are based on 72 month financing w/ approved credit and \$1995 down. Prices & payments are plus tax, title, and plate fees. 0% financing in lieu of some factory rebates. Refundable security deposit required on certain vehicles - to be determined by lender. Must qualify for conquest with a 1999 or newer non GM lease. Acadia, Regal, & Terrain, purchase prices are Courtesy cars. Yukon purchase with trade in, 1999 or newer car or light truck \*\* See salesperson for details. Exp. - 4/30/12.

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