

**COMMERCIAL
4x4
OF THE YEAR**



TOYOTA - HILUX DOUBLE CAB 270 GX



Here's a pick-up truck with so much off-road heritage that it's a real disappointment to learn how ordinary it is in its latest generation. The styling of the Hilux is neat, soft and modern and the engine is also thoroughly contemporary but soft in its own way, an efficient and undoubtedly economical direct-injection intercooled turbodiesel.

Unfortunately it rustles up a very moderate 102bhp, leaving it sitting towards the back of the class. None of this helps to enhance the truck's off-road image, which is maybe immaterial since the low ride height and limited axle articulation would limit its ability to traverse difficult terrain. It does, however, have a locking rear differential – frankly, it needs it. If chrome trim is to your liking you'll love the Hilux, with its gleaming grille, door mirrors and front and rear bumpers, though the rear bumper protrudes far too much for a real off-roader. The Hilux performs well on the road, though, with good roadholding and reassuringly quiet cruising ability. Equipment is very good, all Double Cab variants boasting air conditioning and central locking as well as a CD player. The cabin is cheerfully upholstered in a selection of bright fabrics, the blue-grey of the cloth on our test vehicle toning well with the sporty blue instrument dials. The front seats are well shaped and reasonably comfortable, but the rear bench is a little on the shapeless side and is equipped with ugly head restraints that rob the cabin of taste.

SINGLE CAB

Price ex-VAT:	£14,180/
Inc VAT & o-t-r:	£17,154
Engine cc/bhp:	2446/102
Transmission:	Five-speed manual, selectable 4WD
Payload:	1035kg
Towing weight:	2250kg
GVW:	2515kg

DOUBLE CAB EX

Price ex-VAT:	£14,971/
Inc VAT & o-t-r:	£18,079
Engine cc/bhp:	2446/89
Transmission:	Five-speed manual, selectable 4WD
Payload:	1035kg
Towing weight:	2250kg
GVW:	2715kg

DOUBLE CAB GX

Price ex-VAT:	£17,680/
Inc VAT & o-t-r:	£21,267
Engine cc/bhp:	2446/89
Transmission:	Five-speed manual, selectable 4WD
Payload:	1055kg
Towing weight:	2250kg
GVW:	2780kg

DOUBLE CAB 270 GX

Price ex-VAT:	£16,680/
Inc VAT & o-t-r:	£20,092
Engine cc/bhp:	2446/102
Transmission:	Five-speed manual, selectable 4WD
Payload:	1050kg
Towing weight:	2250kg
GVW:	2780kg

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	6
Refinement:	4
Off-road:	5
On-road:	5
Value:	7
Style:	6
TOTAL:	33

WE LIKED: Refined cruising, good equipment
WE DISLIKED: Lack of off-road appeal