Sonic Automotive Inc.

SAH

NYSE; shops; SIC 5500, Retail-Auto Dealers & Gasoline Stations; CIK 0001043509

C

middle fifth of 255 graded peers in shops

rank 114 of 255; percentile 44.5; sampling error 3.0 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

C, the tortoise



Scoreboard

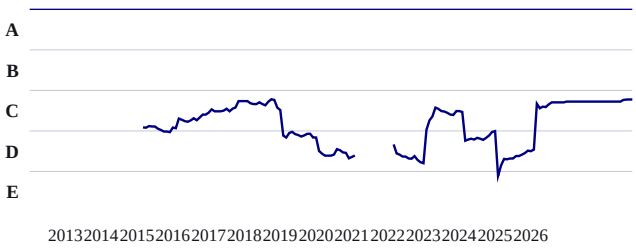
Profitability	B percentile 31.5
Solvency	D percentile 66.2
Growth and financing	C percentile 44.1
Reliability	0.94 AUC filers with over $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.97; 61 events, 2020 to 2025
Peer failure rate	0.52% a year Item 1.03 bankruptcies, same asset band, 2012 to 2025
Size band	over $2.67B assets total assets $6.0B
Standard universe	inside revenue above $1M and assets above $10M
Warnings	none triggered not computable: dilution, distress
Inputs computable	7 of 14
Graded from	filings received through Feb 23, 2026 244 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Jul 30, 2026
Last close	$61.23 2026-10-23; market equity $0; no price enters the letter

Share price, twelve months to the rescan



Split-adjusted close. Each lollipop is a rescan and carries the letter held then.

Letter at every rescan, 2012 to 2026



Sector percentile at each rescan, stronger toward the top; facts filed by each date only.

Business, in the company's words

opening of Item 1 of the 10-K received Feb 23, 2026

Sonic Automotive, Inc. was incorporated in Delaware in 1997. References to "Sonic," the "Company," "we," "us" or "our" used throughout this Annual Report on Form 10-K refer to Sonic Automotive, Inc. and its subsidiaries. We are one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States (the "U.S.") (as measured by reported total revenue). As a result of the way we manage our business, we had three reportable segments as of December 31, 2025: (1) the Franchised Dealerships Segment; (2) the EchoPark Segment; and (3) the Powersports Segment.

The fourteen inputs

lower percentile is stronger; sleeves and inputs within a sleeve carry equal weight

Input	Value	Peer median	Percentile, 0 to 100	Pct	Peers	Period end
Profitability, sleeve percentile 31.5						
Gross profitability	39.9%	42.3%		51.5	240	2025-12-31
Return on invested capital	not computable	10.9%				

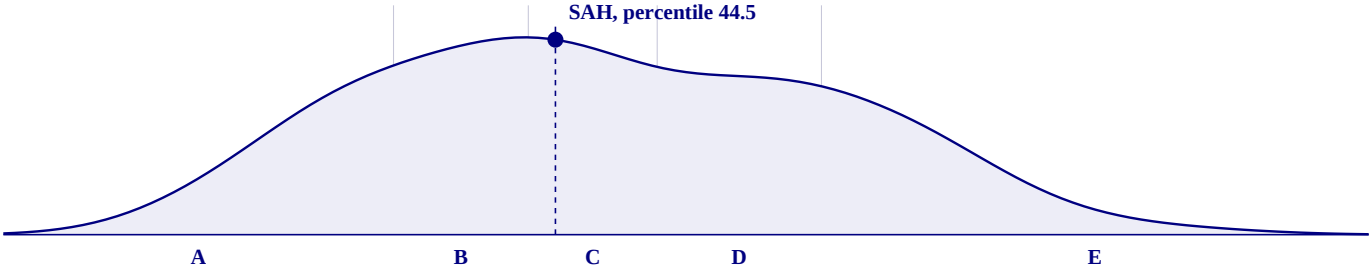
pretax income must exceed the validity floor and imply a 0%-100% tax rate

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Accruals ratio	(7.6%)	(4.9%)	33.8	285	2025-12-31
Gross margin stability, five years	0.4 pts	1.2 pts	9.3	217	2025-12-31
Solvency, sleeve percentile 66.2					
Twelve-month failure probability	not computable	0.04%			
liabilities and a nearby cover-page share count are required at 2026-06-30					
Altman Z double-prime	not computable	1.93			
one or more required annual facts are missing					
Net debt to EBITDA	not computable	1.84x			
latest aligned inputs end 2013-12-31; latest annual assets end 2025-12-31					
Interest coverage	not computable	2.49x			
latest aligned inputs end 2018-12-31; latest annual assets end 2025-12-31					
Current ratio	1.09x	1.38x	66.2	294	2025-12-31
Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 44.1					
Revenue growth, three-year compound	2.7%	1.6%	43.4	266	2025-12-31
Free cash flow growth, three-year compound	4.2%	5.5%	53.4	147	2025-12-31
Reinvestment rate	not computable	8.4%			
latest aligned inputs end 2013-12-31; latest annual assets end 2025-12-31					
Asset growth, three years	6.2%	3.4%	35.4	269	2025-12-31
Net share issuance, one year	not computable	(0.6%)			
two annual share counts are required; found 0					

Among 255 peers

shops; letters are fifths of this list



Composite score of every graded peer, smoothed; vertical rules are the letter band edges; stronger to the left.

Rank	Company	Percentile	Letter	Warnings
109	Shoe Station Group Inc. (SHOE)	42.5	B/C	
110	H&R Block Inc. (HRB)	42.9	B/C	
111	Central Garden & PET Co. (CENT)	43.5	C	
112	Central Garden & PET Co. (CENTA)	43.5	C	
113	TJX Companies Inc. (TJX)	44.1	C	
114	Sonic Automotive Inc. (SAH)	44.5	C	
115	US Foods Holding Corp. (USFD)	44.9	C	
116	Cannae Holdings, Inc. (CNNE)	45.3	C	fortress balance sheet
117	LKQ Corp. (LKQ)	45.7	C	
118	Herbalife Ltd. (HLF)	46.1	C	
119	First Watch Restaurant Group, Inc. (FWRG)	46.5	C	

What the price implies

at the 2026-10-23 close; none of these enters the grade

Measure	Value	Peer median	Percentile
Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month	4.6%	0.6%	57
Distance from 52-week high	(45.6%)	(22.7%)	18
EBIT to enterprise value	not computable	5.3%	

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Free cash flow yield	not computable	4.1%	
Book value to price	not computable	0.35	
Sales to price	not computable	1.68	
Composite equity issuance, five years	not computable	(16.8%)	
Relative strength against the sector, log excess return	0.07	0.03	57

Diagnostics

shown on every report; none enters the grade

Measure	Value
Piotroski F-score None of 9, period end 2025-12-31	
Return on assets above zero	pass
Operating cash flow above zero	pass
Return on assets improved	fail
Operating cash flow exceeds net income	pass
Long-term leverage fell	pass
Current ratio improved	fail
No new shares issued	fail
Gross margin improved	pass
Asset turnover improved	fail
Cash, filings, liquidity	
Cash and equivalents	$19.2M
Operating cash flow, four quarters	$170.1M
Months of runway	not finite
Days since last periodic filing	87 (10-Q received Jul 30, 2026)
Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions	$19.8M

Sources

every fact behind the inputs; each row links to its filing index on sec.gov

#	Concept	XBRL tag	Value	Period end	Received	Form	Accession
1	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$2.4B	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
2	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$6.0B	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
3	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	$367.5M	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
4	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc...	$172.8M	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
5	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	-$54.1M	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
6	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$1.6B	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
7	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$1.1B	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
8	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$6.3M	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
9	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$1.6B	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
10	book equity	us-gaap:StockholdersEquity	$1.1B	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
11	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$44.0M	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
12	net income	us-gaap:NetIncomeLoss	$118.7M	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
13	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$567.4M	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
14	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$5.9B	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
15	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$15.2B	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
16	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$2.2B	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
17	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$14.2B	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
18	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$2.2B	2023-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
19	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$14.4B	2023-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
20	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$2.3B	2022-12-31	2025-02-19	10-K	25-000003
21	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$14.0B	2022-12-31	2025-02-19	10-K	25-000003
22	gross profit	us-gaap:GrossProfit	$1.9B	2021-12-31	2024-02-22	10-K	24-000022
23	revenue	us-gaap:RevenueFromContractWithCustomerExcludingA...	$12.4B	2021-12-31	2024-02-22	10-K	24-000022
24	total debt	us-gaap:LongTermDebt	$748.4M	2013-12-31	2014-03-03	10-K	14-080200
25	cash	us-gaap:CashAndCashEquivalentsAtCarryingValue	$3.0M	2013-12-31	2017-02-27	10-K	17-002476

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26	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	$234.6M	2013-12-31	2016-02-26	10-K	16-013579
27	depreciation amortization	us-gaap:DepreciationDepletionAndAmortization	$54.0M	2013-12-31	2014-03-03	10-K	14-080200
28	operating income	us-gaap:OperatingIncomeLoss	$177.7M	2018-12-31	2021-02-23	10-K	21-000004
29	interest expense	us-gaap:InterestExpense	$500,000	2018-12-31	2019-02-21	10-K	19-001674
30	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$2.8B	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
31	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$2.6B	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
32	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	-$149.9M	2025-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
33	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$109.2M	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
34	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	-$187.3M	2024-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
35	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	-$15.7M	2023-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
36	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	-$203.6M	2023-12-31	2026-02-23	10-K	26-010570
37	operating cash flow	us-gaap:NetCashProvidedByUsedInOperatingActivities	$406.1M	2022-12-31	2025-02-19	10-K	25-000003
38	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	-$227.1M	2022-12-31	2025-02-19	10-K	25-000003
39	capital expenditure	us-gaap:PaymentsToAcquirePropertyPlantAndEquipment	$157.6M	2013-12-31	2016-02-26	10-K	16-013579
40	pretax income	us-gaap:IncomeLossFromContinuingOperationsBeforeInc...	$129.0M	2013-12-31	2015-02-27	10-K	15-001112
41	income tax	us-gaap:IncomeTaxExpenseBenefit	$44.3M	2013-12-31	2016-02-26	10-K	16-013579
42	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$1.7B	2013-12-31	2015-02-27	10-K	15-001112
43	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$1.6B	2013-12-31	2015-02-27	10-K	15-001112
44	current assets	us-gaap:AssetsCurrent	$1.6B	2012-12-31	2014-03-03	10-K	14-080200
45	current liabilities	us-gaap:LiabilitiesCurrent	$1.5B	2012-12-31	2014-03-03	10-K	14-080200
46	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$5.4B	2023-12-31	2025-02-19	10-K	25-000003
47	assets	us-gaap:Assets	$5.0B	2022-12-31	2024-02-22	10-K	24-000022

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