# Sonic Automotive Inc.

**SAH**

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

**C**

**middle fifth of 256 graded peers in shops**

rank 114 of 256; percentile 44.3; sampling error 2.9 points; lower is stronger

A B C D E

**C, the tortoise**



## Scoreboard

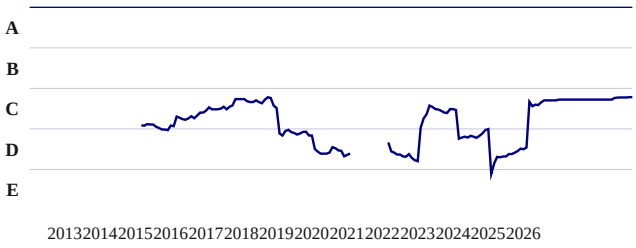
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Profitability** | B | percentile 31.2 |
| **Solvency** | D | percentile 66.8 |
| **Growth and financing** | C | percentile 43.8 |
| **Reliability** | 0.94 AUC | filers with over $2.67B assets; 95% interval 0.88 to 0.97; 61 events, 2020 to 2025 |
| **Peer failure rate** | 0.52% 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 | 247 days before the rescan; latest periodic filing 10-Q received Jul 30, 2026 |
| **Last close** | $63.69 | 2026-10-27; 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 31.2** | | | | | | |
| Gross profitability | 39.9% | 42.0% | | 50.6 | 240 | 2025-12-31 |
| Return on invested capital | not computable | 10.9% | | | | |

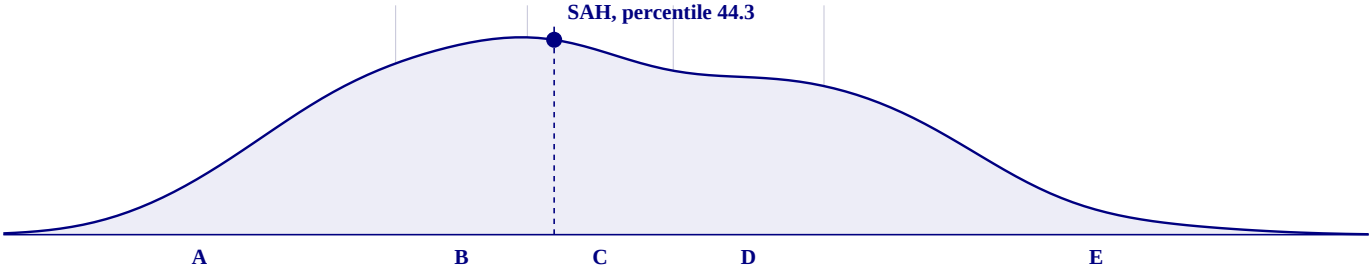
*pretax income must exceed the validity floor and imply a 0%-100% tax rate*

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Accruals ratio | (7.6%) | (4.9%) | 33.8 | 285 | 2025-12-31 |
| Gross margin stability, five years | 0.4 pts | 1.2 pts | 9.2 | 218 | 2025-12-31 |
| **Solvency, sleeve percentile 66.8** | | | | | |
| 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 | 2.28x | | | |
| *latest aligned inputs end 2018-12-31; latest annual assets end 2025-12-31* | | | | | |
| Current ratio | 1.09x | 1.38x | 66.8 | 293 | 2025-12-31 |
| **Growth and financing, sleeve percentile 43.8** | | | | | |
| Revenue growth, three-year compound | 2.7% | 1.6% | 43.2 | 267 | 2025-12-31 |
| Free cash flow growth, three-year compound | 4.2% | 4.8% | 52.7 | 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% | 35.3 | 270 | 2025-12-31 |
| Net share issuance, one year | not computable | (0.6%) | | | |
| *two annual share counts are required; found 0* | | | | | |

## Among 256 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 | Wingstop Inc. (WING) | 42.4 | B/C | |
| 110 | H&R Block Inc. (HRB) | 42.7 | B/C | |
| 111 | Central Garden & PET Co. (CENT) | 43.3 | C | |
| 112 | Central Garden & PET Co. (CENTA) | 43.3 | C | |
| 113 | TJX Companies Inc. (TJX) | 43.9 | C | |
| 114 | Sonic Automotive Inc. (SAH) | 44.3 | C | |
| 115 | US Foods Holding Corp. (USFD) | 44.7 | C | |
| 116 | Herbalife Ltd. (HLF) | 45.1 | C | |
| 117 | Cannae Holdings, Inc. (CNNE) | 45.5 | C | fortress balance sheet |
| 118 | LKQ Corp. (LKQ) | 45.9 | C | |
| 119 | First Watch Restaurant Group, Inc. (FWRG) | 46.3 | C | |

## What the price implies

*at the 2026-10-27 close; none of these enters the grade*

| Measure | Value | Peer median | Percentile |
|---|---|---|---|
| Twelve-month price change, skipping the latest month | 4.6% | 0.7% | 57 |
| Distance from 52-week high | (43.5%) | (21.6%) | 20 |
| EBIT to enterprise value | not computable | 5.3% | |

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Free cash flow yield | not computable | 4.1% | |
| Book value to price | not computable | 0.34 | |
| Sales to price | not computable | 1.65 | |
| 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 | 90 (10-Q received Jul 30, 2026) |
| Median daily dollar volume, 63 sessions | $19.6M |

## 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 |

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |

Not investment advice. Informational and educational only. Data from SEC EDGAR, may contain errors, is not warranted. The grade ranks reported financial condition and is not a return forecast.