

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC  
Form 8-K  
October 12, 2004

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **October 12, 2004**

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**SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

**1-13395**  
(Commission File Number)

**56-201079**  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

5401 E. Independence Boulevard,

Charlotte, North Carolina

28212

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(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(704) 566-2400**

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On October 12, 2004, Sonic Automotive, Inc. issued a press release announcing earnings estimates for the quarter ended September 30, 2004 and a revised earnings target for the year ending December 31, 2004.

A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) *Exhibits.*

99.1 Press release of Sonic Automotive, Inc. dated October 12, 2004

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

By: /s/ Stephen K. Coss

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Stephen K. Coss  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

Dated: October 12, 2004

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
99.1	Press release of Sonic Automotive, Inc. dated October 12, 2004