### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

# **SCHEDULE 13G**

### Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. 5)\*

### SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC-CLASS A

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities)

### 83545G102

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2009

#### (Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

⊠ Rule 13d-1(b)

 $\Box$  Rule 13d-1(c)

 $\Box$  Rule 13d-1(d)

\* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

	f Reporting Persons. ntification Nos. of above persons (entities only).
	Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (Tax ID: 30-0447847)
	e Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)
(a) □	
(b) 🗵 3. SEC Use	Only
5. 510 650	
4. Citizensh	ip or Place of Organization
	Delaware Limited Partnership
	5. Sole Voting Power
Number of	1257708 **see Note 1**
Shares	6. Shared Voting Power
Beneficially Owned by	0
Each	7. Sole Dispositive Power
Reporting Person	
With	1289958 **see Note 1**
	8. Shared Dispositive Power
	0
9. Aggregat	e Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person
	1289958 **see Note 1**
10. Check If	the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)
	N/A
11. Percent o	f Class Represented by Amount in Row (9)
	3.22%
	3.22%

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)

Item	1.	
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(a) Name of Issuer         SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC-CLASS A         (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices         6415 Idlewild Rd Ste 109, Charlotte,NC 28212-0607         Item 2.         (a) Name of Person Filing Dimensional Fund Advisors LP         (b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence Palisades West, Building One, 6300 Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas, 78746         (c) Citizenship Delaware Limited Partnership         (d) Title of Class of Securities Common Stock         (e) Citizenship         (f) Title of Class of Securities Common Stock         (e) Citizenship         (f) Title of Class of Securities Common Stock         (e) Citizenship         (f) Title of Class of Securities Common Stock         (e) Citizenship         (f) Title of Class of Securities Common Stock         (f) Title of Class of Securities Common Stock         (f) Title state===tift and partnership         (f) If it state===tift and partnership         (f) If it as tate==tift and partner section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 780).         (f) Bank as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 780).         (f) Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).         (g) Investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);         (f) A nemployee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.	nom 1.					
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(b)       □       Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).         (c)       □       Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).         (d)       □       Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).         (e)       ⊠       An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);         (f)       □       An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);         (g)       □       A parent holding company or control person in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);         (h)       □       A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);         (i)       □       A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);         (j)       □       Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).         Item 4.       Ownership.	Item 3.	If this statement is filed pursuant to §§240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:				
<ul> <li>(c) □ Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).</li> <li>(d) □ Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).</li> <li>(e) ⊠ An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);</li> <li>(f) □ An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);</li> <li>(g) □ A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);</li> <li>(h) □ A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);</li> <li>(i) □ A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);</li> <li>(j) □ Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).</li> </ul>		(a)	Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 780).			
(d)       □       Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).       (e)         (e)       ⊠       An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);       (f)       □       An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);       (g)       □       A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);       (h)       □       A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);       (i)       □       A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);       (j)       □       Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).         Item 4.       Ownership.       Ownership.       Ownership.       Ownership.		(b)	Bank as defined in section $3(a)(6)$ of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).			
<ul> <li>(e) ⊠ An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);</li> <li>(f) □ An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);</li> <li>(g) □ A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);</li> <li>(h) □ A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);</li> <li>(i) □ A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);</li> <li>(j) □ Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).</li> </ul> Item 4. Ownership.		(c)	Insurance company as defined in section $3(a)(19)$ of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).			
<ul> <li>(f) An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);</li> <li>(g) A parent holding company or control person in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);</li> <li>(h) A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);</li> <li>(i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);</li> <li>(j) Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).</li> </ul>		(d)	□ Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).			
<ul> <li>(g) □ A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);</li> <li>(h) □ A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);</li> <li>(i) □ A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);</li> <li>(j) □ Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).</li> <li>Item 4. Ownership.</li> </ul>		(e)	An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);			
<ul> <li>(h) A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);</li> <li>(i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);</li> <li>(j) Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).</li> <li>Item 4. Ownership.</li> </ul>		(f)	An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with $240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F)$ ;			
<ul> <li>(i) □ A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company U.S.C. 80a-3);</li> <li>(j) □ Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).</li> <li>Item 4. Ownership.</li> </ul>		(g)	A parent holding company or control person in accordance with $ 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G); $			
U.S.C. 80a-3); (j) $\Box$ Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J). Item 4. Ownership.		(h)	A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);			
Item 4. Ownership.		(i)				
*		(j)	Group, in accordance with $240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J)$ .			
Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.	Item 4.	Own	nership.			
	Provide the	follow	ring information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.			

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

1289958 \*\*see Note 1\*\*

(b) Percent of class:

3.22%

- Number of shares as to which the person has:
  - Sole power to vote or to direct the vote: (i) 1257708 \*\*see Note 1\*\*
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 0
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 1289958 \*\*see Note 1\*\*
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

0

\*\* Note 1 \*\* Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, furnishes investment advice to four investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and serves as investment manager to certain other commingled group trusts and separate accounts (such investment companies, trusts and accounts, collectively referred to as the "Funds"). In certain cases, subsidiaries of Dimensional Fund Advisors LP may act as an adviser or sub-adviser to certain Funds. In its role as investment advisor, sub-adviser and/or manager, neither Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or its subsidiaries (collectively, "Dimensional") possess voting and/or investment power over the securities of the Issuer that are owned by the Funds, and may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the shares of the Issuer held by the Funds. However, all securities reported in this schedule are owned by the Funds. Dimensional disclaims beneficial ownership of such securities. In addition, the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that the reporting person or any of its affiliates is the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this Schedule 13G for any other purposes than Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

#### Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class Item 5

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [X].

Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person. Item 6.

> The Funds described in Note 1 above have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of the securities held in their respective accounts. To the knowledge of Dimensional, the interest of any one such Fund does not exceed 5% of the class of securities. Dimensional Fund Advisors LP disclaims beneficial ownership of all such securities.

Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person. Item 7. N/A

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

N/A

- Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group
  - N/A
- Item 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

(c)

### SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

## DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS LP

February 10, 2010

Date

By: Dimensional Holdings Inc., General Partner

/s/ Christopher Crossan

Signature

Global Chief Compliance Officer

Title