

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

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): September 13, 2000

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware	1-13395	56-2010790
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)
5401 East Independence Boulevard P.O. Box 18747 Charlotte, North Carolina		28218
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)		(Zip Code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (704) 532-3320		

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Item 5. Other Events.

On September 13, 2000, the Company issued the press release that is attached to this report on Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press Release dated September 13, 2000

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.

Date: September 14, 2000

By: /s/ Theodore M. Wright
Theodore M. Wright
Chief Financial Officer, Vice
President, Treasurer and Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sonic Automotive Announces Proposed Private Placement

CHARLOTTE, NC (September 13, 2000) - Sonic Automotive, Inc. (NYSE: SAH) announced today that it intends to offer approximately \$125 million of its Senior Subordinated Notes due 2008. The offering will be made by means of an offering memorandum to qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and is expected to close in late September. Sonic Automotive will use the net proceeds from the offering to repay a portion of the indebtedness outstanding under its existing revolving credit facility, which amounts may be reborrowed. The securities to be offered in the private placement will not be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or applicable state securities laws, and may not be offered or sold absent registration under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws or applicable exemptions from registration requirements.

Contact: Theodore M. Wright, Chief Financial Officer of Sonic Automotive, Inc., (704) 532-3347.
J. Todd Atenhan, Investor Relations of Sonic Automotive, Inc., (888) 766-4218.