

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-13395

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

DELAWARE
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

6415 IDLEWILD ROAD, SUITE 109
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

56-2010790
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

28212
(Zip Code)

(704) 566-2400

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OF THE ACT:

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Class A Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value	New York Stock Exchange

SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(g) OF THE ACT:

(Title of Class)

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by a check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.) Yes No

The aggregate market value of the voting common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$213,038,584 based upon the closing sales price of the registrant's Class A common stock on June 30, 2010 of \$8.56 per share. As of February 18, 2011 there were 40,760,973 shares of Class A common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 12,029,375 shares of Class B common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding.

Documents incorporated by reference. Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held April 21, 2011 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains numerous “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements address our future objectives, plans and goals, as well as our intent, beliefs and current expectations regarding future operating performance, and can commonly be identified by words such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “believe,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “foresee” and other similar words or phrases. Specific events addressed by these forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- vehicle sales rates and same store sales growth;
- future liquidity trends or needs;
- our business and growth strategies;
- future covenant compliance;
- our financing plans and our ability to repay or refinance existing debt when due;
- future acquisitions or dispositions;
- level of fuel prices;
- industry trends; and
- general economic trends, including employment rates and consumer confidence levels.

These forward-looking statements are based on our current estimates and assumptions and involve various risks and uncertainties. As a result, you are cautioned that these forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance, and that actual results could differ materially from those projected in these forward-looking statements. Factors which may cause actual results to differ materially from our projections include those risks described in Item 1A of this Form 10-K and elsewhere in this report, as well as:

- the number of new and used cars sold in the United States generally, and as compared to our expectations and the expectations of the market;
- our ability to generate sufficient cash flows or obtain additional financing to fund acquisitions, capital expenditures, our share repurchase program, dividends on our Common Stock, and general operating activities;
- the reputation and financial condition of vehicle manufacturers whose brands we represent, the financial incentives vehicle manufacturers offer and their ability to design, manufacture, deliver and market their vehicles successfully;
- our relationships with manufacturers, which may affect our ability to complete additional acquisitions;
- changes in laws and regulations governing the operation of automobile franchises, accounting standards, taxation requirements, and environmental laws;
- adverse resolutions of one or more significant legal proceedings against us or our dealerships;
- general economic conditions in the markets in which we operate, including fluctuations in interest rates, employment levels, the level of consumer spending and consumer credit availability;
- the terms of any refinancing of our existing indebtedness;
- high competition in the automotive retailing industry, which not only creates pricing pressures on the products and services we offer, but also on businesses we seek to acquire;
- our ability to successfully integrate potential future acquisitions; and
- the rate and timing of overall economic recovery or decline.

PART I

Item 1. Business.

Sonic Automotive, Inc. was incorporated in Delaware in 1997. We are one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States. As of December 31, 2010, we operated 135 dealership franchises at 118 dealership locations, representing 29 different brands of cars and light trucks, and 25 collision repair centers in 15 states. Our dealerships provide comprehensive services including (1) sales of both new and used cars and light trucks; (2) sales of replacement parts and performance of vehicle maintenance, warranty, paint and repair services (collectively, "Fixed Operations"); and (3) arrangement of extended service contracts, financing and insurance and other aftermarket products (collectively, "F&I") for our customers.

The following charts depict the multiple sources of continuing operations revenue and gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2010:



As of December 31, 2010, we operated dealerships in the following markets:

Market	Number of Dealerships	Number of Franchises	Percent of 2010 Total Revenue
Houston	21	25	21.7%
Alabama/Tennessee	16	22	10.4%
North/South Carolina/Georgia	13	16	10.4%
South Bay (San Francisco)	6	6	7.5%
Los Angeles North	11	13	7.4%
Los Angeles South	4	4	7.3%
Florida	10	10	6.5%
Mid-Atlantic	5	6	6.3%
North Bay (San Francisco)	10	9	6.0%
Dallas	4	4	5.0%
Oklahoma	5	5	2.9%
Ohio	4	6	2.7%
Colorado	2	2	2.1%
Michigan	4	4	1.9%
Las Vegas	3	3	1.9%
Total	118	135	100.0%

In the future, we plan to purchase franchises that enrich our franchise portfolio and divest franchises that we believe will not yield acceptable returns over the long-term. Currently, we are not pursuing any significant acquisition opportunities. Although we believe growth through acquisitions will be a significant source of growth for us in the future, we do not see this being a significant source of growth in the near-term. See Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources" for a discussion of our plans for the use of capital generated through operations. Our ability to complete acquisitions in the future will depend on many factors, including the availability of financing and the existence of any contractual provisions that may restrict our acquisition activity.

The automotive retailing industry remains highly fragmented, and we believe that further consolidation may occur over the long-term. We believe that attractive acquisition opportunities continue to exist for dealership groups with the capital and experience to identify, acquire and professionally manage dealerships.

Business Strategy

Maximize Asset Returns Through Process Execution. We have developed standardized operating processes which are documented in operating playbooks for our dealerships. Through the continued implementation of these operating playbooks, we believe organic growth opportunities exist. Through the implementation of our standard operating practices at all of our dealerships, we believe we are able to offer a more favorable buying experience to our customers and create efficiencies in our business processes. We believe the development, refinement and implementation of these operating processes will enhance the customer experience, make us more competitive in the marketplace and drive revenue growth across each of our revenue streams.

Invest in Dealership Properties. Historically, we have operated our dealerships primarily on property financed through long-term operating leases. As these leases mature or as we have an opportunity to purchase the underlying real estate prior to renewal, we have begun to purchase and own more of our dealership properties. We remain opportunistic in purchasing existing properties or relocating dealership operations to owned real estate where the returns are favorable. We believe owning our properties will, over the long-term, strengthen our balance sheet and reduce our overall cost of operating and financing our dealership facilities.

Reduce Leverage. As we generate cash through operations and have the ability to repay or repurchase outstanding indebtedness, we will continue to reduce our non-mortgage related leverage.

Diverse Revenue Streams. We have multiple revenue streams. In addition to new vehicle sales, our revenue sources include used vehicle sales, which we believe are less sensitive to economic cycles and seasonal influences that exist with new vehicle sales. Our fixed operations sales carry a higher gross margin and, in the past, have not been as economically sensitive as vehicle sales. We also offer customers assistance in obtaining financing and a range of automobile related insurance products.

Portfolio Management. Although we are not currently pursuing any significant acquisition opportunities, our long-term growth strategy is focused on large metropolitan markets, predominantly in the Southeast, Southwest, Midwest and California. A majority of our dealerships are either luxury or mid-line import brands. For the year ended December 31, 2010, 85.1% of our total revenue was generated by mid-line import and luxury dealerships, which usually have higher operating margins, more stable fixed operations departments, lower associate turnover and lower inventory levels.

The following table depicts the breakdown of our new vehicle revenues by brand:

Brand(1)	Percentage of New Vehicle Revenue		
	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
BMW	18.6%	17.2%	17.4%
Honda	15.0%	15.2%	13.9%
Toyota	11.7%	11.7%	11.1%
Mercedes	10.5%	9.7%	9.8%
Ford	5.0%	9.6%	8.8%
General Motors(2)	10.5%	6.5%	6.7%
Lexus	5.9%	6.2%	6.0%
Cadillac	5.6%	4.6%	5.5%
Other(3)	3.6%	3.8%	3.3%
Audi	1.8%	2.6%	3.1%
Volkswagen	1.8%	2.1%	2.3%
Land Rover	1.3%	1.7%	2.0%
Hyundai	1.4%	1.8%	2.0%
Porsche	1.4%	1.5%	1.8%
Infiniti	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%
Nissan	0.9%	1.1%	1.3%
Volvo	1.2%	1.4%	1.2%
Other Luxury(4)	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%
Acura	1.1%	0.8%	1.0%
Chrysler(5)	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

(1) In accordance with the provisions of "Presentation of Financial Statements" in the Accounting Standards Codification (the "ASC"), prior years' income statement data reflect reclassifications to (i) exclude franchises sold, identified for sale, or terminated subsequent to December 31, 2009 which had not been previously included in discontinued operations or (ii) include franchises previously held for sale which subsequently were reclassified to held and used. See Notes 1 and 2 to our accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements which discuss these and other factors that affect the comparability of the information for the periods presented.

(2) Includes Buick, Chevrolet and GMC.

(3) Includes Isuzu, Kia, Mini, Scion and Subaru.

(4) Includes Hummer, Jaguar and Saab.

(5) Includes Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep.

Expand our eCommerce Capabilities. Automotive customers have become increasingly more comfortable using technology to research their vehicle buying alternatives and communicate with dealership personnel. The internet presents a unique marketing, advertising and automotive sales channel which we will exploit nationally to drive demand creation and demand maximization for our dealerships. Our technology platforms have given us the ability to leverage technology to more efficiently integrate systems, customize our dealership websites and use our data to improve the effectiveness of our advertising and interaction with our customers. This also allows us to market all of our products and services to a national audience and, at the same time, support the market penetration of our individual dealerships.

Achieve High Levels of Customer Satisfaction. We focus on maintaining high levels of customer satisfaction. Our personalized sales process is designed to satisfy customers by providing high-quality vehicles in a positive, “consumer friendly” buying environment. Several manufacturers offer specific financial incentives on a per vehicle basis if certain Customer Satisfaction Index (“CSI”) levels (which vary by manufacturer) are achieved by a dealership. In addition, all manufacturers consider CSI scores in approving acquisitions. In order to keep dealership management focused on customer satisfaction, we include CSI results as a component of our incentive-based compensation programs.

Train, Develop and Retain Associates. We believe our associates are the cornerstone of our business and crucial to our financial success. Our goal is to develop our associates and foster an environment where our associates can contribute and grow with the company. Associate satisfaction is very important to us and we believe a high level of associate satisfaction reduces turnover and enhances our customers’ experience at our stores by pairing our customers with well-trained, seasoned associates. We believe that our comprehensive training of all employees provides us with a competitive advantage over other dealership groups.

Increase Sales of Higher Margin Products and Services. We continue to pursue opportunities to increase our sales of higher-margin products and services by expanding the following:

Finance, Insurance and Other Aftermarket Products (“F&I”). Each sale of a new or used vehicle gives us an opportunity to provide our customer with financing and insurance options and earn financing fees and insurance commissions. We also offer our customers the opportunity to purchase extended service contracts and other aftermarket products. We currently offer a wide range of non-recourse financing, leasing, other aftermarket products, service contracts and insurance products to our customers. We emphasize menu-selling techniques and other best practices to increase our sales of F&I products at both newly acquired and existing dealerships.

Parts, Service & Repair. Each of our dealerships offers a fully integrated service and parts department. Manufacturers permit warranty work to be performed only at franchised dealerships such as ours. As a result, our franchised dealerships are uniquely qualified and positioned to perform work covered by manufacturer warranties on increasingly complex vehicles. We believe we can continue to grow our profitable parts and service business over the long-term by increasing service capacity, investing in sophisticated equipment and well-trained technicians, using variable rate pricing structures, focusing on customer service and efficiently managing our parts inventory. In addition, we believe our emphasis on selling extended service contracts associated with new and used vehicle retail sales will drive further service and parts business in our dealerships as we increase the potential to retain current customers beyond the term of the standard manufacturer warranty period.

Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles. Various manufacturers provide franchised dealers the opportunity to sell certified pre-owned (“CPO”) vehicles. This certification process extends the standard manufacturer warranty on the CPO vehicle. We typically earn higher revenues and gross profits on CPO vehicles compared to non-certified pre-owned vehicles. We also believe the extended manufacturer warranty increases our potential to retain the pre-owned purchaser as a future parts and service customer. Since CPO warranty work can only be performed at franchised dealerships, we believe CPO warranty work will increase our fixed operations business.

“Value” Used Vehicle. We believe the market for “value” vehicles (used vehicles with retail prices below \$10,000) is broad and not as sensitive to market fluctuations as higher priced used vehicles. Our strategy in retailing these vehicles includes the use of technology and market data to determine optimal pricing and placement of these vehicles at our stores.

Relationships with Manufacturers

Each of our dealerships operates under a separate franchise or dealer agreement that governs the relationship between the dealership and the manufacturer. Each franchise or dealer agreement specifies the location of the dealership for the sale of vehicles and for the performance of certain approved services in a specified market area. The designation of such areas generally does not guarantee exclusivity within a specified territory. In addition, most manufacturers allocate vehicles on a “turn and earn” basis that rewards high sales volume. A franchise or dealer

agreement requires the dealer to meet specified standards regarding showrooms, facilities and equipment for servicing vehicles, inventories, minimum net working capital, personnel training and other aspects of the business. Each franchise or dealer agreement also gives the related manufacturer the right to approve the dealer operator and any material change in management or ownership of the dealership. Each manufacturer may terminate a franchise or dealer agreement under certain circumstances, such as a change in control of the dealership without manufacturer approval, the impairment of the reputation or financial condition of the dealership, the death, removal or withdrawal of the dealer operator, the conviction of the dealership or the dealership's owner or dealer operator of certain crimes, the failure to adequately operate the dealership or maintain new vehicle financing arrangements, insolvency or bankruptcy of the dealership or a material breach of other provisions of the applicable franchise or dealer agreement.

Many automobile manufacturers have developed policies regarding public ownership of dealerships. Policies implemented by manufacturers include the following restrictions:

- the ability to force the sale of their respective franchises upon a change in control of our company or a material change in the composition of our Board of Directors;
- the ability to force the sale of their respective franchises if an automobile manufacturer or distributor acquires more than 5% of the voting power of our securities; and
- the ability to force the sale of their respective franchises if an individual or entity (other than an automobile manufacturer or distributor) acquires more than 20% of the voting power of our securities, and the manufacturer disapproves of such individual's or entity's ownership interest.

To the extent that new or amended manufacturer policies restrict the number of dealerships which may be owned by a dealership group or the transferability of our common stock, such policies could have a material adverse effect on us. We believe that we will be able to renew at expiration all of our existing franchise and dealer agreements.

Many states have placed limitations upon manufacturers' and distributors' ability to sell new motor vehicles directly to customers in their respective states in an effort to protect dealers from practices they believe constitute unfair competition. In general, these statutes make it unlawful for a manufacturer or distributor to compete with a new motor vehicle dealer in the same brand operating under an agreement or franchise from the manufacturer or distributor in the relevant market area. Certain states, such as Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, limit the amount of time that a manufacturer may temporarily operate a dealership.

In addition, all of the states in which our dealerships currently do business require manufacturers to show "good cause" for terminating or failing to renew a dealer's franchise agreement. Further, each of the states provides some method for dealers to challenge manufacturer attempts to establish dealerships of the same brand in their relevant market area.

Competition

The retail automotive industry is highly competitive. Depending on the geographic market, we compete both with dealers offering the same brands and product lines as ours and dealers offering other manufacturers' vehicles. We also compete for vehicle sales with auto brokers, leasing companies and services offered on the internet that provide customer referrals to other dealerships or who broker vehicle sales between customers and other dealerships. We compete with small, local dealerships and with large multi-franchise auto dealerships.

We believe that the principal competitive factors in vehicle sales are the location of dealerships, the marketing campaigns conducted by manufacturers, the ability of dealerships to offer an attractive selection of the most popular vehicles, pricing (including manufacturer rebates and other special offers) and the quality of customer service. Other competitive factors include customer preference for makes of automobiles and manufacturer warranties.

In addition to competition for vehicle sales, we also compete with other auto dealers, service stores, auto parts retailers and independent mechanics in providing parts and service. We believe that the principal competitive factors in parts and service sales are price, the use of factory-approved replacement parts, factory-trained

technicians, the familiarity with a dealer's makes and models and the quality of customer service. A number of regional and national chains offer selected parts and services at prices that may be lower than our prices.

In arranging or providing financing for our customers' vehicle purchases, we compete with a broad range of financial institutions. In addition, financial institutions are now offering F&I products through the internet, which may reduce our profits on these items. We believe the principal competitive factors in providing financing are convenience, interest rates and contract terms.

Our success depends, in part, on national and regional automobile-buying trends, local and regional economic factors and other regional competitive pressures. Conditions and competitive pressures affecting the markets in which we operate, such as price-cutting by dealers in these areas, or in any new markets we enter, could adversely affect us, even though the retail automobile industry as a whole might not be affected.

Governmental Regulations and Environmental Matters

Numerous federal and state regulations govern our business of marketing, selling, financing and servicing automobiles. We are also subject to laws and regulations relating to business corporations.

Under the laws of the states in which we currently operate as well as the laws of other states into which we may expand, we must obtain a license in order to establish, operate or relocate a dealership or operate an automotive repair service. These laws also regulate our conduct of business, including our sales, operating, advertising, financing and employment practices, including federal and state wage-hour, anti-discrimination and other employment practices laws.

Our financing activities with customers are subject to federal truth-in-lending, consumer privacy, consumer leasing and equal credit opportunity regulations as well as state and local motor vehicle finance laws, installment finance laws, usury laws and other installment sales laws. Some states regulate finance fees that may be paid as a result of vehicle sales.

Federal, state and local environmental regulations, including regulations governing air and water quality, the clean-up of contaminated property and the use, storage, handling, recycling and disposal of gasoline, oil and other materials, also apply to us and our dealership properties.

We believe that we comply in all material respects with the laws affecting our business. However, claims arising out of actual or alleged violations of laws may be asserted against us or our dealerships by individuals or governmental entities, and may expose us to significant damages or other penalties, including possible suspension or revocation of our licenses to conduct dealership operations and fines.

As with automobile dealerships generally, and service, parts and body shop operations in particular, our business involves the use, storage, handling and contracting for recycling or disposal of hazardous or toxic substances or wastes and other environmentally sensitive materials. Our business also involves the past and current operation and/or removal of above ground and underground storage tanks containing such substances or wastes. Accordingly, we are subject to regulation by federal, state and local authorities that establish health and environmental quality standards, provide for liability related to those standards, and in certain circumstances provide penalties for violations of those standards. We are also subject to laws, ordinances and regulations governing remediation of contamination at facilities we own or operate or to which we send hazardous or toxic substances or wastes for treatment, recycling or disposal.

We do not have any known material environmental liabilities, and we believe that compliance with environmental laws and regulations will not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. However, soil and groundwater contamination is known to exist at certain properties owned and used by us. Further, environmental laws and regulations are complex and subject to frequent change. In addition, in connection with our acquisitions, it is possible that we will assume or become subject to new or unforeseen environmental costs or liabilities, some of which may be material. We cannot assure you that compliance with current or amended, or new or more stringent, laws or regulations, stricter interpretations of existing laws or the future discovery of environmental conditions will not require additional expenditures by us, or that such expenditures will not be material.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

Our executive officers as of the date of this Form 10-K, are as follows:

Name	Age	Position(s) with Sonic
O. Bruton Smith	84	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Director
B. Scott Smith	43	President, Chief Strategic Officer and Director
Jeff Dyke	43	Executive Vice President of Operations
David P. Cospser	56	Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer
David B. Smith	36	Executive Vice President and Director

O. Bruton Smith, 84, is our Founder, Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and a director and has served as such since our formation in January 1997, and he currently is a director and executive officer of many of our subsidiaries. Mr. Smith has worked in the retail automobile industry since 1966. Mr. Smith is also the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, a director and controlling stockholder of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. (“SMI”). SMI is a public company traded on the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”). Among other things, SMI owns and operates the following NASCAR racetracks: Atlanta Motor Speedway, Bristol Motor Speedway, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Infineon Raceway, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Texas Motor Speedway, and Kentucky Speedway. He is also an executive officer or a director of most of SMI’s operating subsidiaries.

B. Scott Smith, 43, is our Co-Founder, President, Chief Strategic Officer and a director. Prior to his appointment as President in March 2007, Mr. Smith served as our Vice Chairman and Chief Strategic Officer since October 2002. He held the position of President and Chief Operating Officer from April 1997 to October 2002. Mr. Smith has been a director of our company since our organization was formed in January 1997. Mr. Smith also serves as a director and executive officer of many of our subsidiaries. Mr. Smith, who is the son of O. Bruton Smith and brother of David B. Smith, has been an executive officer of Town & Country Ford since 1993, and was a minority owner of both Town & Country Ford and Fort Mill Ford before our acquisition of these dealerships in 1997. Mr. Smith became the General Manager of Town & Country Ford in November 1992 where he remained until his appointment as President and Chief Operating Officer in April 1997. Mr. Smith has over twenty years experience in the automobile dealership industry.

Jeff Dyke, 43, is our Executive Vice President of Operations and is responsible for direct oversight for all retail automotive operations of Sonic. From March 2007 to October 2008, Mr. Dyke served as our Division Chief Operating Officer — South East Division, where he oversaw retail automotive operations for the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and South Carolina. Mr. Dyke first joined Sonic in October 2005 as its Vice President of Retail Strategy, a position that he held until April 2006, when he was promoted to Division Vice President — Eastern Division, a position he held from April 2006 to March 2007. Prior to joining Sonic, Mr. Dyke worked in the automotive retail industry at AutoNation from 1996 to 2005, where he held several positions in divisional, regional and dealership management with that company.

David P. Cospser, 56, is our Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer. In March 2007, Mr. Cospser was appointed to Vice Chairman after serving as Executive Vice President since March 2006. He joined Sonic Automotive on March 1, 2006 as an Executive Vice President and became our Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer on March 16, 2006. Mr. Cospser served as Treasurer through the end of 2006 and relinquished the position in February 2007. Prior to joining Sonic, he was Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer of Ford Motor Credit Company, a position held since 2003. From 1979, when he joined Ford Motor Company, Mr. Cospser served in a variety of positions in Ford Motor Company and Ford Motor Credit Company, including Vice President and Treasurer of Ford Motor Credit Company and Executive Director of Corporate Finance at Ford Motor Company. In such positions, he was responsible for worldwide profit analysis and treasury matters, risk management, business planning, and competitive and strategic analysis.

David B. Smith, 36, is our Executive Vice President and a director and has served our organization beginning in October 2000. Prior to being named a director and Executive Vice President of Sonic in October 2008, Mr. Smith, also a son of O. Bruton Smith and brother of B. Scott Smith, served as our Senior Vice President of Corporate Development since March 2007. Prior to that appointment, Mr. Smith served as our Vice President of Corporate Strategy from October 2005 to March 2007, and also served us prior to that time as Dealer Operator of one of our

Arnold Palmer Cadillac dealerships from January 2004 to October 2005, our Fort Mill Ford dealership from January 2003 to January 2004, and our Town and Country Ford dealership from October 2000 to December 2002.

Employees

As of January 31, 2011, we employed approximately 9,200 associates. We believe that our relationships with our employees are good. Approximately 225 of our employees, primarily service technicians in our Northern California markets, are represented by a labor union. However, due to our dependence on automobile manufacturers, we may be affected by labor strikes, work slowdowns and walkouts at the manufacturers' manufacturing facilities.

Company Information

Our website is located at www.sonicautomotive.com. Our Annual Report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and all amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), as well as proxy statements and other information we file with, or furnish to, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") are available free of charge on our website. We make these documents available as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file them with, or furnish them to, the SEC. Except as otherwise stated in these documents, the information contained on our website or available by hyperlink from our website is not incorporated into this Annual Report on Form 10-K or other documents we file with, or furnish to, the SEC.

Item 1A: *Risk Factors*

Risks Related to Our Sources of Financing and Liquidity

Our significant indebtedness could materially adversely affect our financial health, limit our ability to finance future acquisitions and capital expenditures and prevent us from fulfilling our financial obligations.

As of December 31, 2010, our total outstanding indebtedness was approximately \$1.4 billion, including the following:

- \$862.0 million under the secured new and used inventory floor plan facilities;
- \$208.6 million in 9.0% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2018 (the "9.0% Notes"), representing \$210.0 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding less unamortized discount of approximately \$1.4 million;
- \$42.7 million in 8.625% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2013 (the "8.625% Notes"), representing \$42.9 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding less unamortized net discount of approximately \$0.2 million;
- \$147.8 million in 5.0% Convertible Senior Notes due 2029 which are redeemable by us and which may be put to us by the holders after October 1, 2014 under certain circumstances (the "5.0% Convertible Notes"), representing \$172.5 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding less unamortized discount of approximately \$24.7 million;
- \$132.9 million of mortgage notes, representing \$133.9 million in aggregate principal amount less unamortized net discount of approximately \$1.0 million, due from June 2013 to December 2029, with a weighted average interest rate of 4.91%; and
- \$23.5 million of other secured debt, representing \$21.7 million in aggregate principal amount plus unamortized premium of approximately \$1.8 million.

We have \$150.0 million of maximum borrowing availability under a syndicated revolving credit facility (the "2010 Revolving Credit Facility"), up to \$321.0 million in maximum borrowing availability for new vehicle inventory floor plan financing and up to \$50.0 million in maximum borrowing availability for used vehicle inventory floor plan financing (the "2010 Floor Plan Facilities"). We refer to the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility and 2010 Floor Plan Facilities collectively as our "2010 Credit Facilities". As of December 31, 2010, we had \$97.9 million available for additional borrowings under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility based on the borrowing

base calculation, which is affected by numerous factors including eligible asset balances and the market value of certain additional collateral. We are able to borrow under our 2010 Revolving Credit Facility only if, at the time of the borrowing, we have met all representations and warranties and are in compliance with all financial and other covenants contained therein. We also have capacity to finance new and used vehicle inventory purchases under bilateral floor plan agreements with various manufacturer-affiliated finance companies and other lending institutions (the "Silo Floor Plan Facilities") as well as our 2010 Floor Plan Facilities. In addition, the indentures relating to our 9.0% Notes, 8.625% Notes, 5.0% Convertible Notes and our other debt instruments allow us to incur additional indebtedness, including secured indebtedness, as long as we comply with the terms thereunder.

In addition, the majority of our dealership properties are leased under long-term operating lease arrangements that commonly have initial terms of fifteen to twenty years with renewal options ranging from five to ten years. These operating leases require compliance with financial and operating covenants similar to those under our 2010 Credit Facilities, and monthly payments of rent that may fluctuate based on interest rates and local consumer price indices. The total future minimum lease payments related to these operating leases and certain equipment leases are significant and are disclosed in the Notes to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements under the heading "Commitments and Contingencies" in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

An acceleration of our obligation to repay all or a substantial portion of our outstanding indebtedness or lease obligations would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Our 2010 Credit Facilities, the indentures governing our 9.0% Notes, 8.625% Notes and many of our facility operating leases contain numerous financial and operating covenants. A breach of any of these covenants could result in a default under the applicable agreement or indenture. If a default were to occur, we may be unable to adequately finance our operations and the value of our common stock would be materially adversely affected because of acceleration and cross default provisions. In addition, a default under one agreement or indenture could result in a default and acceleration of our repayment obligations under the other agreements or indentures, including the indentures governing our outstanding 9.0% Notes, 8.625% Notes, and 5.0% Convertible Notes under the cross default provisions in those agreements or indentures. If a cross default were to occur, we may not be able to pay our debts or borrow sufficient funds to refinance them. Even if new financing were available, it may not be on terms acceptable to us. As a result of this risk, we could be forced to take actions that we otherwise would not take, or not take actions that we otherwise might take, in order to comply with the covenants in these agreements and indentures.

Our ability to make interest and principal payments when due to holders of our debt securities depends upon our future performance.

Our ability to meet our debt obligations and other expenses will depend on our future performance, which will be affected by financial, business, domestic and foreign economic conditions, the regulatory environment and other factors, many of which we are unable to control. If our cash flow is not sufficient to service our debt as it becomes due, we may be required to refinance the debt, sell assets or sell shares of our common stock on terms that we do not find attractive. Further, our failure to comply with the financial and other restrictive covenants relating to the 2010 Credit Facilities and the indentures pertaining to our outstanding notes could result in a default under these agreements that would prevent us from borrowing under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our ability to make interest and principal payments when due to holders of our debt securities depends upon the receipt of sufficient funds from our subsidiaries.

Substantially all of our consolidated assets are held by our subsidiaries and substantially all of our consolidated cash flow and net income are generated by our subsidiaries. Accordingly, our cash flow and ability to service debt depends to a substantial degree on the results of operations of our subsidiaries and upon the ability of our subsidiaries to provide us with cash. We may receive cash from our subsidiaries in the form of dividends, loans or distributions. We may use this cash to service our debt obligations or for working capital. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to distribute cash to us or to make funds available to service debt. In addition, the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends or make loans to us

is subject to minimum net capital requirements under manufacturer franchise agreements and laws of the state in which a subsidiary is organized and depends to a significant degree on the results of operations of our subsidiaries and other business considerations.

The conversion of the 5.0% Convertible Notes, if triggered, may adversely affect our liquidity and financial condition and results of operations.

If the conversion features of the 5.0% Convertible Notes are triggered, holders of those notes will be entitled to convert their notes in accordance with the terms of the indenture governing those notes. We may be required to make cash payments to satisfy our conversion obligations. In the event we have the ability to, and choose to, settle the 5.0% Convertible Notes with cash payments in lieu of settlement with shares of common stock, the amount of these cash payments could have a material adverse effect on our liquidity. In addition, even if the holders of the 5.0% Convertible Notes do not elect to convert their respective notes, we could be required under applicable accounting rules to reclassify all or a portion of the outstanding principal of the notes as a current rather than long-term liability, which could result in a material reduction of our net working capital or could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We depend on the performance of sublessees to offset costs related to certain of our lease agreements.

In most cases when we sell a dealership franchise, the buyer of the franchise will sublease the dealership property from us, but we are not released from the underlying lease obligation to the primary landlord. We rely on the sublease income from the buyer to offset the expense incurred related to our obligation to pay the primary landlord. We also rely on the buyer to maintain the property in accordance with the terms of the sublease (which in most cases mirror the terms of the lease we have with the primary landlord). Although we assess the financial condition of a buyer at the time we sell the franchise, and seek to obtain guarantees of the buyer's sublease obligation from the stockholders or affiliates of the buyer, the financial condition of the buyer and/or the sublease guarantors may deteriorate over time. In the event the buyer does not perform under the terms of the sublease agreement (due to the buyer's financial condition or other factors), we may not be able to recover amounts owed to us under the terms of the sublease agreement or the related guarantees. Our operating results, financial condition and cash flows may be materially adversely affected if sublessees do not perform their obligations under the terms of the sublease agreements.

Our use of hedging transactions could limit our gains and result in financial losses.

To reduce our exposure to fluctuations in cash flow due to interest rate fluctuations, we have entered into, and in the future expect to enter into, derivative instruments (or hedging agreements). No hedging activity can completely insulate us from the risks associated with changes in interest rates. As of December 31, 2010, we had interest rate swap agreements to effectively convert a portion of our LIBOR-based variable rate debt to a fixed rate. See "Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" under Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," to our accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements. We intend to hedge as much of the interest rate risk as management determines is in our best interests given the cost of such hedging transactions.

Our hedging transactions expose us to certain risks and financial losses, including, among other things:

- counterparty credit risk;
- available interest rate hedging may not correspond directly with the interest rate risk for which we seek protection;
- the duration of the amount of the hedge may not match the duration or amount of the related liability;
- the value of derivatives used for hedging may be adjusted from time to time in accordance with accounting rules to reflect changes in fair-value. Downward adjustments, or "mark-to-market losses," would reduce our stockholders' equity; and

- all of our hedging instruments contain terms and conditions with which we are required to meet. In the event those terms and conditions are not met, we may be required to settle the instruments prior to the instruments' maturity with cash payments which could significantly affect our liquidity.

A failure on our part to effectively hedge against interest rate changes may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We may not be able to satisfy our debt obligations upon the occurrence of a change in control or a fundamental change.

Upon the occurrence of a change in control or a fundamental change, as defined in our 9.0% Notes, 8.625% Notes and 5.0% Convertible Notes, holders of these instruments will have the right to require us to purchase all or any part of such holders' notes at a price equal to either 101% (in the case of the 9.0% Notes and 8.625% Notes) or 100% (in the case of the 5.0% Convertible Notes) of principal amount thereof, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any. The events that constitute a change of control under these indentures may also constitute a default under our 2010 Credit Facility. There can be no assurance that we would have sufficient resources available to satisfy all of our obligations under these debt instruments in the event of a change in control or fundamental change. In the event we were unable to satisfy our obligations under the change in control or fundamental change control provisions, it could have an adverse material impact on us and our Class A and Class B common stock holders. Any future debt instruments that we may incur may contain similar provisions regarding repurchases in the event of a change in control or fundamental change triggering event.

Although O. Bruton Smith, our chairman and chief executive officer, and his affiliates have previously assisted us with obtaining financing, we cannot assure you that he or they will be willing or able to do so in the future.

Our obligations under the 2010 Credit Facilities are secured with a pledge of 5,000,000 shares of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. Common Stock, a publicly traded owner and operator of automobile racing facilities. These shares of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. Common Stock are owned by Sonic Financial Corporation ("SFC"), an entity controlled by Mr. Smith. Presently, the \$150.0 million borrowing limit of our 2010 Revolving Credit Facility is subject to a borrowing base calculation that is based, in part, on the value of the Speedway Motorsports shares pledged by SFC. Consequently, a withdrawal of this pledge by SFC or a significant decrease in the value of Speedway Motorsports common stock could reduce the amount we can borrow under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility.

Risks Related to Our Relationships with Vehicle Manufacturers

Our operations may be adversely affected if one or more of our manufacturer franchise agreements is terminated or not renewed.

Each of our dealerships operates under a franchise agreement with the applicable automobile manufacturer or distributor. Without a franchise agreement, we cannot obtain new vehicles from a manufacturer or advertise as an authorized factory service center. As a result, we are significantly dependent on our relationships with the manufacturers.

Manufacturers exercise a great degree of control over the operations of our dealerships through the franchise agreements. The franchise agreements govern, among other things, our ability to purchase vehicles from the manufacturer and to sell vehicles to customers. Each of our franchise agreements provides for termination or non-renewal for a variety of causes, including certain changes in the financial condition of the dealerships and any unapproved change of ownership or management. Manufacturers may also have a right of first refusal if we seek to sell dealerships.

Actions taken by manufacturers to exploit their superior bargaining position in negotiating the terms of franchise agreements or renewals of these agreements or otherwise could also have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. We cannot guarantee that any of our existing franchise agreements will be renewed or that the terms and conditions of such renewals will be favorable to us.

Our failure to meet a manufacturer's customer satisfaction, financial and sales performance and facility requirements may adversely affect our profitability and our ability to acquire new dealerships.

Many manufacturers attempt to measure customers' satisfaction with their sales and warranty service experiences through manufacturer-determined CSI scores. The components of CSI vary from manufacturer to manufacturer and are modified periodically. Franchise agreements also may impose financial and sales performance standards. Under our agreements with certain manufacturers, a dealership's CSI scores, sales and financial performance may be considered a factor in evaluating applications for additional dealership acquisitions. From time to time, some of our dealerships have had difficulty meeting various manufacturers' CSI requirements or performance standards. We cannot assure you that our dealerships will be able to comply with these requirements in the future. A manufacturer may refuse to consent to an acquisition of one of its franchises if it determines our dealerships do not comply with its CSI requirements or performance standards, which could impair the execution of our acquisition strategy. In addition, we receive incentive payments from the manufacturers based, in part, on CSI scores, which could be materially adversely affected if our CSI scores decline.

In addition, a manufacturer may condition its allotment of vehicles, participation in bonus programs, or acquisition of additional franchises upon our compliance with its facility standards. This may put us in a competitive disadvantage with other competing dealerships and may ultimately result in our decision to sell a franchise when we believe it may be difficult to recover the cost of the required investment to reach the manufacturer's facility standards.

If state dealer laws are repealed or weakened, our dealerships will be more susceptible to termination, non-renewal or renegotiation of their franchise agreements.

State dealer laws generally provide that a manufacturer may not terminate or refuse to renew a franchise agreement unless it has first provided the dealer with written notice setting forth good cause and stating the grounds for termination or non-renewal. Some state dealer laws allow dealers to file protests or petitions or attempt to comply with the manufacturer's criteria within the notice period to avoid the termination or non-renewal. Though unsuccessful to date, manufacturers' lobbying efforts may lead to the repeal or revision of state dealer laws. If dealer laws are repealed in the states in which we operate, manufacturers may be able to terminate our franchises without providing advance notice, an opportunity to cure or a showing of good cause. Without the protection of state dealer laws, it may also be more difficult for our dealers to renew their franchise agreements upon expiration.

In addition, these laws restrict the ability of automobile manufacturers to directly enter the retail market in the future. However, the ability of a manufacturer to grant additional franchises is based on several factors which are not within our control. If manufacturers grant new franchises in areas near or within our existing markets, this could significantly impact our revenues and/or profitability. Further, if manufacturers obtain the ability to directly retail vehicles and do so in our markets, such competition could have a material adverse effect on us.

Our sales volume and profit margin on each sale may be materially adversely affected if manufacturers discontinue or change their incentive programs.

Our dealerships depend on the manufacturers for certain sales incentives, warranties and other programs that are intended to promote and support dealership new vehicle sales. Manufacturers routinely modify their incentive programs in response to changing market conditions. Some of the key incentive programs include:

- customer rebates or below market financing on new and used vehicles;
- employee pricing;
- dealer incentives on new vehicles;
- manufacturer floor plan interest and advertising assistance;
- warranties on new and used vehicles; and
- sponsorship of used vehicle sales by authorized new vehicle dealers.

Manufacturers frequently offer incentives to potential customers. A reduction or discontinuation of a manufacturer's incentive programs may materially adversely impact vehicle demand and affect our profitability.

Our sales volume may be materially adversely affected if manufacturer captives change their customer financing programs or are unable to provide floor plan financing.

One of the primary finance sources used by consumers in connection with the purchase of a new or used vehicle is the manufacturer captive finance companies. These captive finance companies rely, to a certain extent, on the public debt markets to provide the capital necessary to support their financing programs. In addition, the captive finance companies will occasionally change their loan underwriting criteria to alter the risk profile of their loan portfolio. A limitation or reduction of available consumer financing for these or other reasons could affect consumers' ability to purchase a vehicle, and thus, could have a material adverse effect on our sales volume.

Our parts and service sales volume and profitability are dependent on manufacturer warranty programs.

Franchised automotive retailers perform factory authorized service work and sell original replacement parts on vehicles covered by warranties issued by the automotive manufacturer. Dealerships which perform work covered by a manufacturer warranty are reimbursed at rates established by the manufacturer. For the year ended December 31, 2010, approximately 17.4% of our parts and service revenue was for work covered by manufacturer warranties. To the extent a manufacturer reduces the labor rates or markup of replacement parts for such warranty work, our fixed operations sales volume and profitability could be adversely affected.

Adverse conditions affecting one or more key manufacturers may negatively impact our profitability.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, approximately 82.7% of our new vehicle revenue was derived from the sale of new vehicles manufactured by BMW, Honda (including Acura), Toyota (including Lexus), Mercedes, General Motors (including Cadillac) and Ford. Our success depends to a great extent on these manufacturers':

- financial condition;
- marketing;
- vehicle design;
- publicity concerning a particular manufacturer or vehicle model;
- production capabilities;
- management;
- reputation; and
- labor relations.

Events such as labor strikes that may adversely affect a manufacturer may also adversely affect us. In particular, labor strikes at a manufacturer that continue for a substantial period of time could have a material adverse effect on our business. Similarly, the delivery of vehicles from manufacturers at a time later than scheduled, which may occur particularly during periods of new product introductions, could limit sales of those vehicles during those periods. This has been experienced at some of our dealerships from time to time. Adverse conditions affecting these and other important aspects of manufacturers' operations and public relations may adversely affect our ability to sell their automobiles and, as a result, significantly and detrimentally affect our profitability.

Manufacturer stock ownership restrictions may impair our ability to maintain or renew franchise agreements or issue additional equity.

Some of our franchise agreements prohibit transfers of any ownership interests of a dealership and, in some cases, its parent, without prior approval of the applicable manufacturer. A number of manufacturers impose restrictions on the transferability of our Class A common stock and our ability to maintain franchises if a person acquires a significant percentage of the voting power of our common stock. Our existing franchise agreements could

be terminated if a person or entity acquires a substantial ownership interest in us or acquires voting power above certain levels without the applicable manufacturer's approval. Violations of these levels by an investor are generally outside of our control and may result in the termination or non-renewal of existing franchise agreements or impair our ability to negotiate new franchise agreements for dealerships we acquire in the future. In addition, if we cannot obtain any requisite approvals on a timely basis, we may not be able to issue additional equity or otherwise raise capital on terms acceptable to us. These restrictions may also prevent or deter a prospective acquirer from acquiring control of us.

The current holders of our Class B common stock maintain voting control over us. However, we are unable to prevent our stockholders from transferring shares of our common stock, including transfers by holders of the Class B common stock. If such transfer results in a change in control, it could result in the termination or non-renewal of one or more of our existing franchise agreements, the triggering of provisions in our agreements with certain manufacturers requiring us to sell our dealerships franchised with such manufacturers and/or a default under our credit arrangements.

We depend on manufacturers to supply us with sufficient numbers of popular and profitable new models.

Manufacturers typically allocate their vehicles among dealerships based on the sales history of each dealership. Supplies of popular new vehicles may be limited by the applicable manufacturer's production capabilities. Popular new vehicles that are in limited supply typically produce the highest profit margins. We depend on manufacturers to provide us with a desirable mix of popular new vehicles. Our operating results may be materially adversely affected if we do not obtain a sufficient supply of these vehicles.

A decline in the quality of vehicles we sell, or consumers' perception of the quality of those vehicles may adversely affect our business.

Our business is highly dependent on consumer demand and preferences. Events such as manufacturer recalls, negative publicity or legal proceedings related to these events may have a negative impact on the products we sell. If such events are significant, the profitability of our franchises related to those manufacturers' could be adversely affected and we could experience a material adverse affect on our overall results of operations, financial position and cash flows.

Risks Related to Our Growth Strategy

Pursuant to the terms of the 2010 Credit Facilities, our ability to make acquisitions is restricted.

Pursuant to the 2010 Credit Facilities, we are restricted from making dealership franchise acquisitions in any fiscal year if the aggregate cost of all such acquisitions occurring in any fiscal year is in excess of \$25.0 million, without the written consent of the Required Lenders (as that term is defined in the 2010 Credit Facilities). With this restriction on our ability to make acquisitions, our growth strategy may be limited. In addition, we may have to forfeit the opportunity to acquire profitable dealerships at attractive valuations.

We may not be able to capitalize on real estate and dealership franchise acquisition opportunities because our ability to obtain capital to fund these acquisitions is limited.

We intend to finance our real estate and dealership franchise acquisitions with cash generated from operations, through issuances of our stock or debt securities and through borrowings under credit arrangements. We may not be able to obtain additional financing by issuing stock or debt securities due to the market price of our Class A common stock, overall market conditions, and covenants under our 2010 Credit Facilities which restrict our ability to issue additional indebtedness, or the need for manufacturer consent to the issuance of equity securities. Using cash to complete acquisitions could substantially limit our operating or financial flexibility.

In addition, we are dependent to a significant extent on our ability to finance our new vehicle inventory with "floor plan financing." Floor plan financing arrangements allow us to borrow money to buy a particular vehicle from the manufacturer and pay off the loan when we sell that particular vehicle. We must obtain new floor plan financing or obtain consents to assume existing floor plan financing in connection with our acquisition of dealerships.

Substantially all the assets of our dealerships are pledged to secure the indebtedness under our Silo Floor Plan Facilities and the 2010 Credit Facilities. These pledges may impede our ability to borrow from other sources. Moreover, because the identified manufacturer-affiliated finance subsidiaries are either owned or affiliated with BMW, Mercedes, Ford and Toyota, respectively, any deterioration of our relationship with the particular manufacturer-affiliated finance subsidiary could adversely affect our relationship with the affiliated manufacturer, and vice-versa.

Manufacturers' restrictions on acquisitions could limit our future growth.

We are required to obtain the approval of the applicable manufacturer before we can acquire an additional dealership franchise of that manufacturer. In determining whether to approve an acquisition, manufacturers may consider many factors such as our financial condition and CSI scores. Obtaining manufacturer approval of acquisitions also takes a significant amount of time, typically three to five months. We cannot assure you that manufacturers will approve future acquisitions or do so on a timely basis, which could impair the execution of our acquisition strategy.

Certain manufacturers also limit the number of its dealerships that we may own, our national market share of that manufacturer's products or the number of dealerships we may own in a particular geographic area. In addition, under an applicable franchise agreement or under state law, a manufacturer may have a right of first refusal to acquire a dealership that we seek to acquire.

A manufacturer may condition approval of an acquisition on the implementation of material changes in our operations or extraordinary corporate transactions, facilities improvements or other capital expenditures. If we are unable or unwilling to comply with these conditions, we may be required to sell the assets of that manufacturer's dealerships or terminate our franchise agreement.

Failure to effectively integrate acquired dealerships with our existing operations could adversely affect our future operating results.

Our future operating results depend on our ability to integrate the operations of acquired dealerships with our existing operations. In particular, we need to integrate our management information systems, procedures and organizational structures, which can be difficult. Our growth strategy has focused on the pursuit of strategic acquisitions that either expand or complement our business.

We cannot assure you that we will effectively and profitably integrate the operations of these dealerships without substantial costs, delays or operational or financial problems, due to:

- the difficulties of managing operations located in geographic areas where we have not previously operated;
- the management time and attention required to integrate and manage newly acquired dealerships;
- the difficulties of assimilating and retaining employees;
- the challenges of keeping customers; and
- the challenge of retaining or attracting appropriate dealership management personnel.

These factors could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We may not adequately anticipate all of the demands that growth through acquisitions will impose.

In pursuing a strategy of acquiring other dealerships, we face risks commonly encountered with growth through acquisitions. These risks include, but are not limited to:

- incurring significantly higher capital expenditures and operating expenses;
- failing to assimilate the operations and personnel of acquired dealerships;
- entering new markets with which we are unfamiliar;
- potential undiscovered liabilities and operational difficulties at acquired dealerships;

- disrupting our ongoing business;
- diverting our management resources;
- failing to maintain uniform standards, controls and policies;
- impairing relationships with employees, manufacturers and customers as a result of changes in management;
- increased expenses for accounting and computer systems, as well as integration difficulties;
- failure to obtain a manufacturer's consent to the acquisition of one or more of its dealership franchises or renew the franchise agreement on terms acceptable to us; and
- incorrectly valuing entities to be acquired.

We may not adequately anticipate all of the demands that growth will impose on our systems, procedures and structures.

We may not be able to reinstitute our acquisition strategy without the costs of future acquisitions escalating.

We have grown our business primarily through acquisitions. We may not be able to consummate any future acquisitions at acceptable prices and terms or identify suitable candidates. In addition, increased competition for acquisition candidates could result in fewer acquisition opportunities for us and higher acquisition prices. The magnitude, timing, pricing and nature of future acquisitions will depend upon various factors, including:

- the availability of suitable acquisition candidates;
- competition with other dealer groups for suitable acquisitions;
- the negotiation of acceptable terms with the seller and with the manufacturer;
- our financial capabilities and ability to obtain financing on acceptable terms;
- our stock price; and
- the availability of skilled employees to manage the acquired companies.

We may not be able to determine the actual financial condition of dealerships we acquire until after we complete the acquisition and take control of the dealerships.

The operating and financial condition of acquired businesses cannot be determined accurately until we assume control. Although we conduct what we believe to be a prudent level of investigation regarding the operating and financial condition of the businesses we purchase, in light of the circumstances of each transaction, an unavoidable level of risk remains regarding the actual operating condition of these businesses. Similarly, many of the dealerships we acquire, including some of our largest acquisitions, do not have financial statements audited or prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. We may not have an accurate understanding of the historical financial condition and performance of our acquired entities. Until we actually assume control of business assets and their operations, we may not be able to ascertain the actual value or understand the potential liabilities of the acquired entities and their operations.

Risks Related to the Automotive Retail Industry

Increasing competition among automotive retailers reduces our profit margins on vehicle sales and related businesses. Further, the use of the internet in the vehicle purchasing process could materially adversely affect us.

Automobile retailing is a highly competitive business. Our competitors include publicly and privately owned dealerships, some of which are larger and have greater financial and marketing resources than we do. Many of our competitors sell the same or similar makes of new and used vehicles that we offer in our markets at competitive prices. We do not have any cost advantage in purchasing new vehicles from manufacturers due to economies of

scale or otherwise. We typically rely on advertising, merchandising, sales expertise, service reputation and dealership location to sell new vehicles. Our revenues and profitability could be materially adversely affected if manufacturers decide to enter the retail market directly.

Our F&I business and other related businesses, which have higher margins than sales of new and used vehicles, are subject to strong competition from various financial institutions and other third parties.

The internet has become a significant part of the sales process in our industry. Customers are using the internet to compare pricing for vehicles and related F&I services, which may further reduce margins for new and used vehicles and profits for related F&I services. If internet new vehicle sales are allowed to be conducted without the involvement of franchised dealers, our business could be materially adversely affected. In addition, other franchise groups have aligned themselves with services offered on the internet or are investing heavily in the development of their own internet capabilities, which could materially adversely affect our business.

Our franchise agreements do not grant us the exclusive right to sell a manufacturer's product within a given geographic area. Our revenues or profitability could be materially adversely affected if any of our manufacturers award franchises to others in the same markets where we operate or if existing franchised dealers increase their market share in our markets.

We may face increasingly significant competition as we strive to gain market share through acquisitions or otherwise. Our operating margins may decline over time as we expand into markets where we do not have a leading position.

Our dealers depend upon new vehicle sales and, therefore, their success depends in large part upon customer demand for the particular vehicles they carry.

The success of our dealerships depends in large part on the overall success of the vehicle lines they carry. New vehicle sales generate the majority of our total revenue and lead to sales of higher-margin products and services such as finance, insurance, vehicle protection products and other aftermarket products, and parts and service operations. Although we have sought to limit our dependence on any one vehicle brand, and our parts and service operations and used vehicle sales may serve to offset some of this risk, we have focused our new vehicle sales operations in mid-line import and luxury brands.

Our business will be harmed if overall consumer demand suffers from a severe or sustained downturn.

Our business is heavily dependent on consumer demand and preferences. Retail vehicle sales are cyclical and historically have experienced periodic downturns characterized by oversupply and weak demand. These cycles are often dependent on economic conditions, consumer confidence, the level of discretionary personal income and credit availability. Deterioration in any of these conditions may have a material adverse effect on our retail business, particularly sales of new and used automobiles.

In addition, severe or sustained increases in gasoline prices may lead to a reduction in automobile purchases or a shift in buying patterns from luxury and sport utility vehicle models (which typically provide high margins to retailers) to smaller, more economical vehicles (which typically have lower margins).

A decline of available financing in the lending market may adversely affect our vehicle sales volume.

A significant portion of vehicle buyers, particularly in the used car market, finance their purchases of automobiles. Sub-prime lenders have historically provided financing for consumers who, for a variety of reasons including poor credit histories and lack of down payment, do not have access to more traditional finance sources. In the event lenders further tighten their credit standards or there is a further decline in the availability of credit in the lending market, the ability of these consumers to purchase vehicles could be limited which could have a material adverse effect on our business, revenues and profitability.

Our business may be adversely affected by import product restrictions and foreign trade risks that may impair our ability to sell foreign vehicles profitably.

A significant portion of our new vehicle business involves the sale of vehicles, parts or vehicles composed of parts that are manufactured outside the United States. As a result, our operations are subject to customary risks of importing merchandise, including fluctuations in the relative values of currencies, import duties, exchange controls, trade restrictions, work stoppages and general political and socio-economic conditions in other countries. The United States or the countries from which our products are imported may, from time to time, impose new quotas, duties, tariffs or other restrictions, or adjust presently prevailing quotas, duties or tariffs, which may affect our operations and our ability to purchase imported vehicles and/or parts at reasonable prices.

Natural disasters and adverse weather events can disrupt our business.

Our stores are concentrated in states and regions in the United States, including primarily Florida, Texas, and California, in which actual or threatened natural disasters and severe weather events (such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, landslides, and hail storms) may disrupt our store operations, which may adversely impact our business, results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. In addition to business interruption, the automotive retailing business is subject to substantial risk of property loss due to the significant concentration of property values at store locations. Although we have, subject to certain deductibles, limitations, and exclusions, substantial insurance, we cannot assure you that we will not be exposed to uninsured or underinsured losses that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

The seasonality of our business may adversely affect our operating results.

Our business is subject to seasonal variations in revenues. In our experience, demand for automobiles is lowest during the first quarter of each year. We therefore receive a disproportionate amount of revenues in the second, third and fourth quarters and expect our revenues and operating results to be lower in the first quarter. Consequently, if conditions surface during the second, third and fourth quarters that impair vehicle sales, such as higher fuel costs, depressed economic conditions or similar adverse conditions, our revenues for the year could be adversely affected.

General Risks Related to Investing in Our Securities

Concentration of voting power and anti-takeover provisions of our charter, bylaws, Delaware law and our dealer agreements may reduce the likelihood of any potential change of control.

Our common stock is divided into two classes with different voting rights. This dual class stock ownership allows the present holders of the Class B common stock to control us. Holders of Class A common stock have one vote per share on all matters. Holders of Class B common stock have 10 votes per share on all matters, except that they have only one vote per share on any transaction proposed or approved by the Board of Directors or a Class B common stockholder or otherwise benefiting the Class B common stockholders constituting a:

- “going private” transaction;
- disposition of substantially all of our assets;
- transfer resulting in a change in the nature of our business; or
- merger or consolidation in which current holders of common stock would own less than 50% of the common stock following such transaction.

The holders of Class B common stock currently hold less than a majority of our outstanding common stock, but a majority of our voting power (which include O. Bruton Smith, Sonic’s Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Director, his family members and entities they control). This may prevent or discourage a change of control of us even if the action was favored by holders of Class A common stock.

Our charter and bylaws make it more difficult for our stockholders to take corporate actions at stockholders’ meetings. In addition, stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock units granted under our 1997 Stock Option Plan and 2004 Stock Incentive Plan become immediately exercisable or automatically vest upon a change in

control. Delaware law also makes it difficult for stockholders who have recently acquired a large interest in a company to consummate a business combination transaction with the company against its directors' wishes. Finally, restrictions imposed by our dealer agreements may impede or prevent any potential takeover bid. Our franchise agreements allow the manufacturers the right to terminate the agreements upon a change of control of our company and impose restrictions upon the transferability of any significant percentage of our stock to any one person or entity who may be unqualified, as defined by the manufacturer, to own one of its dealerships. The inability of a person or entity to qualify with one or more of our manufacturers may prevent or seriously impede a potential takeover bid. In addition, provisions of our lending arrangements create an event of default on a change in control. These agreements, corporate governance documents and laws may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control or preventing stockholders from realizing a premium on the sale of their shares if we were acquired.

The outcome of legal and administrative proceedings we are or may become involved in could have a material adverse effect on our future business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

We are involved, and expect to continue to be involved, in numerous legal and administrative proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including regulatory investigations and private civil actions brought by plaintiffs purporting to represent a potential class or for which a class has been certified. Although we vigorously defend ourselves in all legal and administrative proceedings, the outcomes of pending and future proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including litigation with customers, employment related lawsuits, contractual disputes, class actions, purported class actions and actions brought by governmental authorities, cannot be predicted with certainty. An unfavorable resolution of one or more of these matters could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows or prospects.

We are a defendant in the matter of Galura, et al. v. Sonic Automotive, Inc., a private civil action filed in the Circuit Court of Hillsborough County, Florida. In this action, originally filed on December 30, 2002, the plaintiffs allege that we and our Florida dealerships sold an anti-theft protection product in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner, and further sought representation on behalf of any customer of any of our Florida dealerships who purchased the anti-theft protection product since December 30, 1998. The plaintiffs are seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of this class of customers. In June 2005, the court granted the plaintiffs' motion for certification of the requested class of customers, but the court has made no finding to date regarding actual liability in this lawsuit. We subsequently filed a notice of appeal of the court's class certification ruling with the Florida Court of Appeals. In April 2007, the Florida Court of Appeals affirmed a portion of the trial court's class certification, and overruled a portion of the trial court's class certification. The Florida trial court granted Summary Judgment in our favor against Plaintiff Enrique Galura, and his claim has been dismissed. Virginia Galura's claim is still pending. We currently intend to continue our vigorous appeal and defense of this lawsuit and to assert available defenses. However, an adverse resolution of this lawsuit could result in the payment of significant costs and damages, which could have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. At a mediation held February 4, 2011, our company reached an agreement in principle with the plaintiffs to settle this class action lawsuit. This agreement in principle remains conditioned upon execution of a definitive settlement agreement and subsequent approval by the Florida state court. In the event that a definitive settlement of this lawsuit is finalized upon terms and conditions consistent with the agreement in principle, such a settlement would not have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Several private civil actions have been filed against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and several of our dealership subsidiaries that purport to represent classes of customers as potential plaintiffs and made allegations that certain products sold in the finance and insurance departments were done so in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner. One of these private civil actions was filed on November 15, 2004 in South Carolina state court, York County Court of Common Pleas, against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and 10 of our South Carolina subsidiaries. The plaintiffs in that lawsuit were Misty J. Owens, James B. Wright, Vincent J. Astey and Joseph Lee Williams, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, with plaintiffs seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the purported class. The group of plaintiffs' attorneys representing the plaintiffs in the South Carolina lawsuit also filed another private civil class action lawsuit against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and 3 of our subsidiaries on February 14, 2005 in state court in North Carolina, Lincoln County Superior Court, which similarly sought

certification of a multi-state class of plaintiffs and alleged that certain products sold in the finance and insurance departments were done so in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner. The plaintiffs in this North Carolina lawsuit were Robert Price, Carolyn Price, Marcus Cappeletti and Kathy Cappeletti, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, with plaintiffs seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the purported class. The South Carolina state court action and the North Carolina state court action have since been consolidated into a single proceeding in private arbitration before the American Arbitration Association. On November 12, 2008, claimants in the consolidated arbitration filed a Motion for Class Certification as a national class action including all of the states in which we operate dealerships. Claimants are seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of this class of customers. The parties have briefed and argued the issue of class certification.

On July 19, 2010, the Arbitrator issued a Partial Final Award on Class Certification, certifying a class which includes all customers who, on or after November 15, 2000, purchased or leased from a Sonic dealership a vehicle with the Etch product as part of the transaction, but not including customers who purchased or leased such vehicles from a Sonic dealership in Florida. The Partial Final Award on Class Certification is not a final decision on the merits of the action. The merits of Claimants' assertions and potential damages will still have to be proven through the remainder of the arbitration. The Arbitrator stayed the Arbitration for thirty days to allow either party to petition a court of competent jurisdiction to confirm or vacate the award. Sonic will seek review of the class certification ruling by a court of competent jurisdiction and will continue to press its argument that this action is not suitable for a class-based arbitration. On July 22, 2010, the plaintiffs in this consolidated arbitration filed a Motion to Confirm the Arbitrator's Partial Final Award on Class Certification in state court in North Carolina, Lincoln County Superior Court. On August 17, 2010, Sonic filed to remove this North Carolina state court action to federal court, and simultaneously filed a Petition to Vacate the Arbitrator's Partial Final Award on Class Certification, with both filings made in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

We intend to continue our vigorous defense of this arbitration and to assert all available defenses. However, an adverse resolution of this arbitration could result in the payment of significant costs and damages, which could have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. Currently, we are unable to estimate a range of potential loss related to this matter.

Our business may be adversely affected by claims alleging violations of laws and regulations in our advertising, sales and finance and insurance activities.

Our business is highly regulated. In the past several years, private plaintiffs and state attorney generals have increased their scrutiny of advertising, sales, and finance and insurance activities in the sale and leasing of motor vehicles. The conduct of our business is subject to numerous federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding unfair, deceptive and/or fraudulent trade practices (including advertising, marketing, sales, insurance, repair and promotion practices), truth-in-lending, consumer leasing, fair credit practices, equal credit opportunity, privacy, insurance, motor vehicle finance, installment finance, closed-end credit, usury and other installment sales. Claims arising out of actual or alleged violations of law may be asserted against us or any of our dealers by individuals, either individually or through class actions, or by governmental entities in civil or criminal investigations and proceedings. Such actions may expose us to substantial monetary damages and legal defense costs, injunctive relief and criminal and civil fines and penalties, including suspension or revocation of our licenses and franchises to conduct dealership operations.

Our business may be adversely affected by unfavorable conditions in our local markets, even if those conditions are not prominent nationally.

Our performance is subject to local economic, competitive, weather and other conditions prevailing in geographic areas where we operate. We may not be able to expand geographically and any geographic expansion may not adequately insulate us from the adverse effects of local or regional economic conditions. In addition, due to the provisions and terms contained in our operating lease agreements, we may not be able to relocate a dealership operation to a more favorable location without incurring significant costs or penalties.

The loss of key personnel and limited management and personnel resources could adversely affect our operations and growth.

Our success depends to a significant degree upon the continued contributions of our management team, particularly our senior management, and service and sales personnel. Additionally, manufacturer franchise agreements may require the prior approval of the applicable manufacturer before any change is made in franchise general managers. We do not have employment agreements with certain members of our senior management team, our dealership managers and other key dealership personnel. Consequently, the loss of the services of one or more of these key employees could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

In addition, as we expand we may need to hire additional managers. The market for qualified employees in the industry and in the regions in which we operate, particularly for general managers and sales and service personnel, is highly competitive and may subject us to increased labor costs during periods of low unemployment. The loss of the services of key employees or the inability to attract additional qualified managers could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. In addition, the lack of qualified management or employees employed by potential acquisition candidates may limit our ability to consummate future acquisitions.

Governmental regulation and environmental regulation compliance costs may adversely affect our profitability.

We are subject to a wide range of federal, state and local laws and regulations, such as local licensing requirements, retail financing and consumer protection laws and regulations, and wage-hour, anti-discrimination and other employment practices laws and regulations. Our facilities and operations are also subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to environmental protection and human health and safety, including those governing wastewater discharges, air emissions, the operation and removal of underground and aboveground storage tanks, the use, storage, treatment, transportation, release, recycling and disposal of solid and hazardous materials and wastes and the cleanup of contaminated property or water. The violation of these laws and regulations can result in administrative, civil or criminal penalties against us or in a cease and desist order against our operations that are not in compliance. Our future acquisitions may also be subject to regulation, including antitrust reviews. We believe that we comply in all material respects with all laws and regulations applicable to our business, but future regulations may be more stringent and require us to incur significant additional compliance costs.

Our past and present business operations are subject to environmental laws and regulations. We may be required by these laws to pay the full amount of the costs of investigation and/or remediation of contaminated properties, even if we are not at fault for disposal of the materials or if such disposal was legal at the time. Like many of our competitors, we have incurred, and will continue to incur, capital and operating expenditures and other costs in complying with these laws and regulations. In addition, soil and groundwater contamination exists at certain of our properties. We cannot assure you that our other properties have not been or will not become similarly contaminated. In addition, we could become subject to potentially material new or unforeseen environmental costs or liabilities because of our acquisitions.

Climate change legislation or regulations restricting emission of "greenhouse gases" could result in increased operating costs and reduced demand for the vehicles we sell.

On December 15, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") published its findings that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other "greenhouse gases" present an endangerment to public health and the environment because emissions of such gases are, according to the EPA, contributing to warming of the earth's atmosphere and other climatic changes. These findings allow the EPA to adopt and implement regulations that would restrict emissions of greenhouse gases under existing provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. Accordingly, the EPA has proposed regulations that would require a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases from motor vehicles and could trigger permit review for greenhouse gas emissions from certain stationary sources. In addition, on October 30, 2009, the EPA published a final rule requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from specified large greenhouse gas emission sources in the United States, including facilities that emit more than 25,000 tons of greenhouse gases on an annual basis, beginning in 2011 for emissions occurring in 2010. At the state level, more than one-third of the states, either individually or through multi-state regional initiatives, already have begun

implementing legal measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The adoption and implementation of any regulations imposing reporting obligations on, or limiting emissions of greenhouse gases from, our equipment and operations or from the vehicles that we sell could adversely affect demand for those vehicles and require us to incur costs to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases associated with our operations.

Potential conflicts of interest between us and our officers or directors could adversely affect our future performance.

O. Bruton Smith serves as the chairman and chief executive officer of Speedway Motorsports. Accordingly, we compete with Speedway Motorsports for the management time of Mr. Smith.

We have in the past and will likely in the future enter into transactions with Mr. Smith, entities controlled by Mr. Smith or our other affiliates. We believe that all of our existing arrangements with affiliates are as favorable to us as if the arrangements were negotiated between unaffiliated parties, although the majority of these transactions have neither been verified by third parties in that regard nor are likely to be so verified in the future. Potential conflicts of interest could arise in the future between us and our officers or directors in the enforcement, amendment or termination of arrangements existing between them.

We may be subject to substantial withdrawal liability assessments in the future related to a multi-employer pension plan to which certain of our dealerships make contributions pursuant to collective bargaining agreements.

Six of our dealership subsidiaries in Northern California currently make fixed-dollar contributions to the Automotive Industries Pension Plan (the "AI Pension Plan") pursuant to collective bargaining agreements between our subsidiaries and the International Association of Machinists (the "IAM"). The AI Pension Plan is a "multi-employer pension plan" as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, and our six dealership subsidiaries are among approximately 100 automobile dealerships that make contributions to the AI Pension Plan pursuant to collective bargaining agreements with the IAM. In June 2006, we received information that the AI Pension Plan was substantially underfunded as of December 31, 2005. In July 2007, we received updated information that the AI Pension Plan continued to be substantially underfunded as of December 31, 2006, with the amount of such underfunding increasing versus year end 2005. In March 2008, the Board of Trustees of the AI Pension Plan notified participants, participating employers and local unions that the Plan's actuary, in accordance with the requirements of the federal Pension Protection Act of 2006, had issued a certification that the AI Pension Plan is in Critical Status effective with the plan year commencing January 1, 2008. In conjunction with this finding, the Board of Trustees of the AI Pension Plan adopted a Rehabilitation Plan that implements reductions or eliminations of certain adjustable benefits that were previously available under the Plan (including some forms of early retirement benefits, and disability and death benefits), and also implements a requirement on all participating employers to increase employer contributions to the Plan for a seven year period commencing in 2013. Under applicable federal law, any employer contributing to a multi-employer pension plan that completely ceases participating in the plan while the plan is underfunded is subject to payment of such employer's assessed share of the aggregate unfunded vested benefits of the plan. In certain circumstances, an employer can be assessed withdrawal liability for a partial withdrawal from a multi-employer pension plan. In addition, if the financial condition of the AI Pension Plan were to deteriorate to the point that the Plan is forced to terminate and be assumed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the participating employers could be subject to assessments by the PBGC to cover the participating employers' assessed share of the unfunded vested benefits. If any of these adverse events were to occur in the future, it could result in a substantial withdrawal liability assessment that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

A change in historical experience and/or assumptions used to estimate reserves could have a material impact on our earnings.

As described in Item 7 under the heading "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Use of Estimates and Critical Accounting Policies" management relies on estimates in various areas of accounting and financial reporting. For example, our estimates for finance, insurance and service

contracts and insurance reserves are based on historical experience. Differences between actual results and our historical experiences and/or our assumptions could have a material impact on our earnings in the period of the change and in periods subsequent to the change.

Impairment of our goodwill could have a material adverse impact on our earnings.

Pursuant to applicable accounting pronouncements, we evaluate goodwill for impairment annually or more frequently if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. We describe the process for testing goodwill more thoroughly in Item 7 under the heading “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Use of Estimates and Critical Accounting Policies.” If we determine that the amount of our goodwill is impaired at any point in time, we are required to reduce goodwill on our balance sheet. If goodwill of our single reporting unit is impaired based on a future impairment test, we will be required to record a significant non-cash impairment charge that may also have a material adverse effect on our results of operations for the period in which the impairment of goodwill occurs. As of December 31, 2010, our balance sheet reflected a carrying amount of approximately \$468.5 million in goodwill.

Item 1B: *Unresolved Staff Comments*

None.

Item 2: *Properties.*

Our principal executive offices are located at 6415 Idlewild Road, Suite 109, Charlotte, North Carolina 28212, and our telephone number is (704) 566-2400. We lease these offices from a related party. See Note 8, “Related Parties,” to our accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

Our dealerships are generally located along major U.S. or interstate highways. One of the principal factors we consider in evaluating an acquisition candidate is its location. We prefer to acquire dealerships or build dealership facilities located along major thoroughfares, which can be easily visited by prospective customers.

We lease the majority of the properties utilized by our dealership operations from affiliates of Capital Automotive REIT (“CARS”) and other individuals and entities. The properties utilized by our dealership operations that are owned by us or one of our subsidiaries are pledged as security for our 2010 Credit Facilities or under mortgages. We believe that our facilities are adequate for our current needs.

Under the terms of our franchise agreements, each of our dealerships must maintain an appropriate appearance and design of its dealership facility and is restricted in its ability to relocate.

Item 3: *Legal Proceedings.*

We are a defendant in the matter of Galura, et al. v. Sonic Automotive, Inc., a private civil action filed in the Circuit Court of Hillsborough County, Florida. In this action, originally filed on December 30, 2002, the plaintiffs allege that we and our Florida dealerships sold an antitheft protection product in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner, and further sought representation on behalf of any customer of any of our Florida dealerships who purchased the antitheft protection product since December 30, 1998. The plaintiffs are seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of this class of customers. In June 2005, the court granted the plaintiffs’ motion for certification of the requested class of customers, but the court has made no finding to date regarding actual liability in this lawsuit. We subsequently filed a notice of appeal of the court’s class certification ruling with the Florida Court of Appeals. In April 2007, the Florida Court of Appeals affirmed a portion of the trial court’s class certification, and overruled a portion of the trial court’s class certification. In November 2009, the Florida trial court granted Summary Judgment in our favor against Plaintiff Enrique Galura, and his claim has been dismissed. Marisa Hazelton’s claim is still pending. We currently intend to continue our vigorous appeal and defense of this lawsuit and to assert available defenses. However, an adverse resolution of this lawsuit could result in the payment of significant costs and damages, which could have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. At a mediation held February 4, 2011, our company reached an agreement in

principle with the plaintiffs to settle this class action lawsuit. This agreement in principle remains conditioned upon execution of a definitive settlement agreement and subsequent approval by the Florida state court. In the event that a definitive settlement of this lawsuit is finalized upon terms and conditions consistent with the agreement in principle, such a settlement would not have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Several private civil actions have been filed against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and several of our dealership subsidiaries that purport to represent classes of customers as potential plaintiffs and made allegations that certain products sold in the finance and insurance departments were done so in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner. One of these private civil actions was filed on November 15, 2004 in South Carolina state court, York County Court of Common Pleas, against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and 10 of our South Carolina subsidiaries. The plaintiffs in that lawsuit were Misty J. Owens, James B. Wright, Vincent J. Astey and Joseph Lee Williams, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, with plaintiffs seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the purported class. The group of plaintiffs' attorneys representing the plaintiffs in the South Carolina lawsuit also filed another private civil class action lawsuit against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and 3 of our subsidiaries on February 14, 2005 in state court in North Carolina, Lincoln County Superior Court, which similarly sought certification of a multi-state class of plaintiffs and alleged that certain products sold in the finance and insurance departments were done so in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner. The plaintiffs in this North Carolina lawsuit were Robert Price, Carolyn Price, Marcus Cappeletti and Kathy Cappeletti, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, with plaintiffs seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the purported class. The South Carolina state court action and the North Carolina state court action have since been consolidated into a single proceeding in private arbitration before the American Arbitration Association. On November 12, 2008, claimants in the consolidated arbitration filed a Motion for Class Certification as a national class action including all of the states in which we operate dealerships. Claimants are seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of this class of customers. The parties have briefed and argued the issue of class certification.

On July 19, 2010, the Arbitrator issued a Partial Final Award on Class Certification, certifying a class which includes all customers who, on or after November 15, 2000, purchased or leased from a Sonic dealership a vehicle with the Etch product as part of the transaction, but not including customers who purchased or leased such vehicles from a Sonic dealership in Florida. The Partial Final Award on Class Certification is not a final decision on the merits of the action. The merits of Claimants' assertions and potential damages will still have to be proven through the remainder of the arbitration. The Arbitrator stayed the Arbitration for thirty days to allow either party to petition a court of competent jurisdiction to confirm or vacate the award. Sonic will seek review of the class certification ruling by a court of competent jurisdiction and will continue to press its argument that this action is not suitable for a class-based arbitration. On July 22, 2010, the plaintiffs in this consolidated arbitration filed a Motion to Confirm the Arbitrator's Partial Final Award on Class Certification in state court in North Carolina, Lincoln County Superior Court. On August 17, 2010, Sonic filed to remove this North Carolina state court action to federal court, and simultaneously filed a Petition to Vacate the Arbitrator's Partial Final Award on Class Certification, with both filings made in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. We intend to continue our vigorous defense of this arbitration and to assert all available defenses. However, an adverse resolution of this arbitration could result in the payment of significant costs and damages, which could have a material adverse effect on our future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. Currently, we are unable to estimate a range of potential loss related to this matter.

We are involved, and expect to continue to be involved, in numerous legal and administrative proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including regulatory investigations and private civil actions brought by plaintiffs purporting to represent a potential class or for which a class has been certified. Although we vigorously defend ourselves in all legal and administrative proceedings, the outcomes of pending and future proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including litigation with customers, employment related lawsuits, contractual disputes, class actions, purported class actions and actions brought by governmental authorities, cannot be predicted with certainty. An unfavorable resolution of one or more of these matters could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows or prospects.

Item 4: *[Removed and Reserved]*

PART II

Item 5: *Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities.*

Our Class A common stock is currently traded on the NYSE under the symbol "SAH." Our Class B Common Stock is not traded on a public market.

As of February 18, 2011, there were 40,760,973 shares of Sonic's Class A common stock and 12,029,375 shares of Sonic's Class B common stock outstanding. As of February 18, 2011, there were 95 record holders of the Class A common stock and three record holders of the Class B common stock. As of February 18, 2011, the closing stock price for the Class A common stock was \$14.80.

Our Board of Directors approved four quarterly cash dividends on all outstanding shares of common stock totaling \$0.48 per share during 2008. No dividends were declared during 2009, but in the fourth quarter of 2010 our Board of Directors approved a cash dividend on all outstanding shares of common stock of \$0.025 per share. Subsequent to December 31, 2010, our Board of Directors approved a cash dividend on all outstanding shares of common stock of \$0.025 per share for shareholders of record on March 15, 2011 to be paid on April 15, 2011. There is no guarantee that additional dividends will be declared and paid at any time in the future. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements and Item 7: *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* for additional discussion of dividends and for a description of restrictions on the payment of dividends.

The following table sets forth the high and low closing sales prices for Sonic's Class A common stock for each calendar quarter during the periods indicated as reported by the NYSE Composite Tape and the dividends declared during such periods.

	Market Price		Cash Dividend Declared
	High	Low	
2010			
First Quarter	\$12.51	\$9.05	\$ —
Second Quarter	13.18	8.45	—
Third Quarter	10.23	8.39	—
Fourth Quarter	13.64	9.50	0.025
2009			
First Quarter	\$ 4.16	\$0.95	\$ —
Second Quarter	11.03	1.06	—
Third Quarter	14.77	8.35	—
Fourth Quarter	13.04	8.54	—

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table sets forth information about the shares of Class A Common Stock we repurchased during the quarter ended December 31, 2010.

	Total Number of Shares Purchased(1)(2)	Average Price Paid per Share <small>(In thousands, except per share data)</small>	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs(2)(3)	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
October 2010	1	\$ 10.53	1	\$ 43,547
November 2010	—	—	—	43,547
December 2010	2	13.23	2	43,511
Total	3	\$ 12.92	3	\$ 43,511

- (1) All shares repurchased were part of publicly announced share repurchase programs
(2) Shares purchased represent the required tax withholding upon issuance of restricted stock.
(3) Our publicly announced Class A Common Stock repurchase authorizations occurred as follows:

	<small>(Amounts in thousands)</small>
November 1999	\$ 25,000
February 2000	25,000
December 2000	25,000
May 2001	25,000
August 2002	25,000
February 2003	20,000
December 2003	20,000
July 2004	20,000
July 2007	30,000
October 2007	40,000
April 2008	40,000
Total	\$ 295,000

Item 6: Selected Financial Data.

This selected consolidated financial data should be read in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and the Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

We have accounted for all of our dealership acquisitions using the purchase method of accounting and, as a result, we do not include in our Consolidated Financial Statements the results of operations of these dealerships prior to the date we acquired them. Our selected consolidated financial data reflect the results of operations and financial positions of each of our dealerships acquired prior to December 31, 2010. As a result of the effects of our acquisitions and other potential factors in the future, the historical consolidated financial information described in selected consolidated financial data is not necessarily indicative of the results of our operations and financial position in the future or the results of operations and financial position that would have resulted had such acquisitions occurred at the beginning of the periods presented in the selected consolidated financial data.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	(In millions, except per share data)				
Income Statement Data(1)(2):					
Total revenues	\$ 7,376.9	\$ 7,767.0	\$ 6,900.2	\$ 6,055.3	\$ 6,880.8
Impairment charges	\$ 4.7	\$ 0.9	\$ 812.0	\$ 23.5	\$ 0.2
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	\$ 139.1	\$ 172.1	\$ (756.1)	\$ 27.9	\$ 78.4
Income (loss) from continuing operations	\$ 82.9	\$ 104.6	\$ (633.8)	\$ 57.2	\$ 95.9
Basic earnings (loss) per share from continuing operations	\$ 1.95	\$ 2.44	\$ (15.70)	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.82
Diluted earnings (loss) per share from continuing operations	\$ 1.91	\$ 2.36	\$ (15.70)	\$ 1.07	\$ 1.58
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data(2):					
Total assets	\$ 3,124.8	\$ 3,282.7	\$ 2,405.5	\$ 2,068.9	\$ 2,250.8
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 2.7	\$ 4.2	\$ 738.4	\$ 24.0	\$ 9.1
Total long-term debt	\$ 567.8	\$ 678.4	\$ 738.4	\$ 576.1	\$ 555.5
Total long-term liabilities (including long-term debt)	\$ 768.2	\$ 915.8	\$ 809.6	\$ 717.2	\$ 689.5
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.48	\$ 0.48	\$ —	\$ 0.025

- (1) In accordance with the provisions of “Presentation of Financial Statements” in the ASC, prior years’ income statement data reflect reclassifications to (i) exclude franchises sold, identified for sale, or terminated subsequent to December 31, 2009 which had not been previously included in discontinued operations or (ii) include franchises previously held for sale which subsequently were reclassified to held and used. See Notes 1 and 2 to our accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements which discuss these and other factors that affect the comparability of the information for the periods presented.
- (2) As mentioned in *Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources* and Notes 2, 5 and 6 to our accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements, impairment charges, business combinations and dispositions and debt refinancings have had a material impact on our reported financial information.

Item 7: Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

2010 Events

In January 2010, we replaced our 2006 Credit Facility, which was scheduled to mature in February 2010, with a new revolving credit and vehicle floor plan facility (the “2010 Credit Facilities”), which matures in August 2012, and additional manufacturer-affiliated finance company floor plan agreements (the “Silo Floor Plan Facilities”).

In March 2010, we issued \$210.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 9.0% Senior Subordinated Notes (the "9.0% Notes") which mature on March 15, 2018. In April 2010, we used net proceeds from this issuance together with cash on hand to redeem \$200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 8.625% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2013 (the "8.625% Notes"). During the second and third quarters of 2010, we repurchased an additional \$32.1 million in aggregate principal amount of the 8.625% Notes, resulting in \$42.9 million in remaining aggregate principal amount outstanding at December 31, 2010.

In November 2010, we redeemed \$16.0 million in remaining aggregate principal amount outstanding of the 4.25% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes (the "4.25% Convertible Notes"), completely extinguishing our obligations under the 4.25% Convertible Notes.

As a result of these refinancing activities, other than principal payments due on mortgage notes and certain term notes, we do not have another significant debt maturity until the 2010 Credit Facilities expire in 2012 or when the remaining aggregate principal amount outstanding of the 8.625% Notes matures in 2013.

In 2009, General Motors offered financial assistance with winding down the operations of the franchises for which we executed termination agreements in conjunction with the restructuring of General Motors. Assistance to be received from General Motors totaled \$3.3 million, all of which had been collected by December 31, 2010. As of December 31, 2010, we operated 23 General Motors franchises (under the Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC, Saab and Buick brands) at 18 dealership locations.

During 2010, Toyota Motor Corporation issued recalls affecting certain of its most popular models in certain model years. Toyota Motor Corporation had instructed its dealerships to stop selling vehicles affected by the recall until it developed a solution to the problem and provided the necessary parts and instructions to fix it. During the period of time when affected vehicles could not be sold, Toyota Motor Corporation offered its dealers floor plan assistance to help reduce dealers' cost of carrying vehicles which dealers could not sell due to the recall, which reduced our floor plan interest expense. As of December 31, 2010, we operated 11 Toyota franchises. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we experienced a benefit to our fixed operations business as a result of work performed on vehicles affected by the recall which was paid for by the manufacturer and provided free of charge to the customer. We cannot estimate how this recall will affect consumer preferences over the long-term.

The following discussion and analysis of the results of operations and financial condition should be read in conjunction with the Sonic Automotive, Inc. and Subsidiaries Consolidated Financial Statements and the related notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The financial and statistical data contained in the following discussion for all periods presented reflects our December 31, 2010 classification of franchises between continuing and discontinued operations in accordance with "Presentation of Financial Statements" in the ASC.

Overview

We are one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States. As of December 31, 2010, we operated 135 dealership franchises, representing 29 different brands of cars and light trucks, at 118 locations and 25 collision repair centers in 15 states. As a result of the way we manage our business, we have a single operating segment for purposes of reporting financial condition and results of operations.

Our dealerships provide comprehensive services including sales of both new and used cars and light trucks, sales of replacement parts, performance of vehicle maintenance, manufacturer warranty repairs, paint and collision repair services, and arrangement of extended service contracts, financing, insurance and other aftermarket products for our customers. Although vehicle sales are cyclical and are affected by many factors, including overall economic conditions, consumer confidence, levels of discretionary personal income, interest rates and available credit, our parts, service and collision repair services are not closely tied to vehicle sales and are not as dependent upon near-term sales volume.

The automobile industry's total amount of new vehicles sold increased by 11.5% to 11.6 million vehicles in 2010 from 10.4 million vehicles in 2009. From an industry perspective, new vehicle unit sales on a year-over-year basis increased 9.3% for import brands and 13.4% for domestic brands. Average industry expectations for new vehicle sales volume in 2011 are between 12.0 million and 13.0 million vehicles which, if realized, would be an

increase of 3.4% to 12.1% from the 2010 level. Changes in consumer confidence, availability of consumer financing or changes in the financial stability of the automotive manufacturers could cause 2011 industry results to vary. Many factors such as brand and geographic concentrations have caused our past results to differ from the industry's overall trend.

Use of Estimates and Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Critical accounting policies are those that are both most important to the portrayal of our financial position and results of operations and require the most subjective and complex judgments. The following is a discussion of what we believe are our critical accounting policies and estimates. See Note 1, "Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies," in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for additional discussion regarding our accounting policies.

Finance, Insurance and Service Contracts

We arrange financing for customers through various financial institutions and receive a commission from the lender either in a flat fee amount or in an amount equal to the difference between the actual interest rates charged to customers and the predetermined base rates set by the financing institution. We also receive commissions from the sale of various insurance contracts and non-recourse third party extended service contracts to customers. Under these contracts, the applicable manufacturer or third party warranty company is directly liable for all warranties provided within the contract.

In the event a customer terminates a financing, insurance or extended service contract prior to the original termination date, we may be required to return a portion of the commission revenue originally recorded to the third party provider ("chargebacks"). The commission revenue for the sale of these products and services is recorded net of estimated chargebacks at the time of sale. Our estimate of future chargebacks is established based on our historical chargeback rates, termination provisions of the applicable contracts and industry data. While chargeback rates vary depending on the type of contract sold, a 100 basis point change in the estimated chargeback rates used in determining our estimates of future chargebacks would have changed our estimated reserve for chargebacks at December 31, 2010 by approximately \$1.6 million. Our estimate of chargebacks (\$11.3 million as of December 31, 2010) is influenced by early contract termination events such as vehicle repossessions, refinancings and early pay-offs. If these factors negatively change, the resulting impact would affect our future estimate for chargebacks and could have a negative adverse impact on our operations, financial position and cash flows. Our actual chargeback experience has not been materially different from our recorded estimates.

Goodwill and Franchise Assets

Goodwill is tested for impairment at least annually, or more frequently when events or circumstances indicate that impairment might have occurred. An exception to the annual impairment test is provided by "Intangibles — Goodwill and Other" in the ASC, wherein a detailed determination of the fair value of a reporting unit may be carried forward from one year to the next if the following criteria have been met: (i) the assets and liabilities that make up the reporting unit have not changed significantly since the most recent fair value determination; (ii) the most recent fair value determination resulted in an amount that exceeded the carrying amount of the reporting unit by a substantial margin; and (iii) based on the analysis of events that have occurred and circumstances that have changed since the most recent fair value determination, the likelihood that a current fair value determination would be less than the current carrying amount of the reporting unit is remote. As of December 31, 2010, we determined that we had met the criteria necessary to carry forward our step one testing from December 31, 2009.

In completing step one of our impairment analyses as of December 31, 2009, we used a discounted cash flow ("DCF") model to calculate fair value. We believe a discounted cash flow model is the most reliable valuation

method to use because the fair value of our business is dependent on our ability to generate cash through sales and service of new and used vehicles. The DCF method is based on forward-looking projections that incorporate current trends and market expectations. We also analyzed our market capitalization along with potential adjustments to market capitalization such as control premium and cost synergies in evaluating our estimate of fair value. The results of our DCF model compared to our adjusted market capitalization determine whether the DCF model provided an accurate measure of fair value for the purpose of the impairment test. Our estimate of fair value was then compared to our book value at December 31, 2009 to determine whether an indicator of impairment existed. At December 31, 2009, the fair value of our reporting unit exceeded the carrying value of the reporting unit by a substantial margin. As a result, we were not required to conduct the second step of the impairment test, and determined that no indicator of impairment existed at December 31, 2009.

The significant assumptions in our DCF model include projected earnings, weighted average cost of capital (and estimates in the weighted average cost of capital inputs) and residual growth rates. To the extent the reporting unit's earnings decline significantly or there are changes in one or more of these assumptions that would result in lower valuation results, it could cause the carrying value of the reporting unit to exceed its fair value and thus require us to conduct the second step of the impairment test described above. In projecting our reporting unit's earnings, we develop many assumptions which include, but are not limited to, new and used vehicle unit sales, internal revenue enhancement initiatives, cost control initiatives, internal investment programs such as training and technology, infrastructure and inventory floor plan borrowing rates. Our expectation of new vehicle unit sales is driven by our expectation of the SAAR of new vehicles. The estimate of the industry SAAR in future periods is the basis of our assumptions related to new vehicle unit sales volumes in our DCF model because we believe the historic and projected level of SAAR is the best indicator of our new vehicle unit sales trends. The level of SAAR assumed in our projection of earnings for 2010 was approximately 11.0 million units with a gradual increase in the level of SAAR to approximately 14.0 million units in 2013, and remaining level thereafter. Actual SAAR in 2010 was approximately 11.6 million units, and average industry expectations for the SAAR in 2011 are between 12.0 million and 13.0 million units, consistent with the expectations used in our DCF model in 2009.

Our DCF model is dependent on the assumptions used and is sensitive to changes in assumptions. For example, assuming all other factors remain the same, a 10% change in projected earnings would change the calculated fair value estimate as of December 31, 2009 by approximately \$136.3 million. In the event the weighted average cost of capital changed 100 basis points, assuming all other factors remain the same, the calculated fair value estimate as of December 31, 2009 would change by approximately \$143.9 million. Finally, if the residual growth estimate changed 100 basis points, assuming all other factors remain the same, the calculated fair value estimate as of December 31, 2009 would change by approximately \$119.9 million. Based on our DCF model estimating the fair value of our reporting unit, none of the items above, if realized, would have resulted in lowering the fair value of the reporting unit below the reporting unit's carrying value.

We continue to face a challenging automotive retail environment. As a result of these conditions, there can be no assurances that a material impairment charge will not occur in a future period. We will continue to monitor events in future periods to determine if additional asset impairment testing should be performed. If we are required to apply the second step of the goodwill impairment test in future periods, we could be required to record an impairment charge to goodwill that would have a material adverse impact on our financial condition.

We test franchise assets for impairment annually or more frequently if events or circumstances indicate possible impairment. We estimate the value of our franchise assets using a discounted cash flow model. The discounted cash flow model used contains inherent uncertainties, including significant estimates and assumptions related to growth rates, projected earnings and cost of capital. We are subject to financial risk to the extent that our franchise assets become impaired due to deterioration of the underlying businesses. The risk of a franchise asset impairment loss may increase to the extent the underlying businesses' earnings or projected earnings decline. As a result of our impairment testing in 2010, no franchise asset impairments were required. The balance of our franchise assets (related to continuing operations and discontinued operations) totaled \$64.8 million at December 31, 2010.

Insurance Reserves

We have various high deductible retention and insurance programs which require us to make estimates in determining the ultimate liability we may incur for claims arising under these programs. We accrue for insurance reserves on a pro-rata basis throughout the year based on the expected year-end liability. We estimate the ultimate liability under these programs is between \$20.0 million and \$22.2 million. At December 31, 2010, we had \$21.0 million reserved for such programs. Changes in significant assumptions used in the development of the ultimate liability for these programs could have a material impact on the level of reserves, our operating results, financial position and cash flows. These significant assumptions would include the volume of claims, medical cost trends, claims handling and reporting patterns, historical claims experience, the effect of related court rulings and current or projected changes in state laws. From a sensitivity analysis perspective, it is difficult to quantify the effect of changes in any of these significant assumptions with the exception of the volume of claims. We believe a 10% change in the volume of claims would have a proportional effect on our reserves. We believe our actual loss experience has not been materially different from our recorded estimates.

Lease Exit Accruals

The majority of our dealership properties are leased under long-term operating lease arrangements. When leased properties are no longer utilized in operations, we record lease exit accruals. These situations could include the relocation of an existing facility or the sale of a franchise where the buyer will not be subleasing the property for either the remaining term of the lease or for an amount equal to our obligation under the lease, or in situations where a store is closed as a result of the associated franchise being terminated by the manufacturer and no other operations continue on the leased property. The lease exit accruals represent the present value of the lease payments, net of estimated sublease rentals, for the remaining life of the operating leases and other accruals necessary to satisfy lease commitments to the landlords. At December 31, 2010, we had \$43.5 million accrued for lease exit costs. A significant change in our assumptions regarding the time period necessary to obtain a subtenant or the amount of the anticipated sublease income could have a material effect on our accrual and, as a result, earnings. For example, assuming all other factors remain the same, a 50% decrease in our estimated proceeds from subleases would change our lease exit accruals by approximately \$1.1 million. In addition, based on the terms and conditions negotiated in the sale of franchises in the future, additional accruals may be necessary if the purchaser of the franchise does not assume the lease of the associated franchise, or we are unable to negotiate a sublease with the buyer of the franchise on terms that are identical to or better than those associated with the original lease.

Legal Proceedings

We are involved, and expect to continue to be involved, in numerous legal proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including litigation with customers, employment related lawsuits, contractual disputes and actions brought by governmental authorities. As of December 31, 2010, we had accrued \$9.1 million in legal reserves. Although we vigorously defend ourselves in all legal and administrative proceedings, the outcomes of pending and future proceedings arising out of the conduct of our business, including litigation with customers, employment related lawsuits, contractual disputes, class actions, purported class actions and actions brought by governmental authorities, cannot be predicted with certainty. An unfavorable resolution of one or more of these matters that are significant could exceed the amount of our legal reserve and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows or prospects.

Classification of Franchises in Continuing and Discontinued Operations

We classify the results from operations of our continuing and discontinued operations in our Consolidated Statements of Income based on the provisions of "Presentation of Financial Statements" in the ASC. Many of these provisions involve judgment in determining whether a franchise will be reported as continuing or discontinued operations. Such judgments include whether a franchise will be sold or terminated, the period required to complete the disposition and the likelihood of changes to a plan for sale. If in future periods we determine that a franchise should be either reclassified from continuing operations to discontinued operations or from discontinued operations to continuing operations, previously reported Consolidated Statements of Income will be reclassified in order to reflect that classification. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we identified one franchise that was held for

sale and previously included in discontinued operations, which we chose to continue to hold and operate in continuing operations in 2010. At December 31, 2010 there were no dealership franchises classified as held for sale.

Income Taxes

As a matter of course, we are regularly audited by various taxing authorities and from time to time these audits result in proposed assessments where the ultimate resolution may result in us owing additional taxes. We believe that our tax positions comply, in all material respects, with applicable tax law and that we have adequately provided for any reasonably foreseeable outcome related to these matters. Included in other accrued liabilities at December 31, 2010 is \$27.6 million in reserves that we have provided for these matters (including estimates related to possible interest and penalties). From time to time, we engage in transactions in which the tax consequences may be subject to uncertainty. Examples of such transactions include business acquisitions and disposals, including consideration paid or received in connection with such transactions. Significant judgment is required in assessing and estimating the tax consequences of these transactions. We determine whether it is more-likely-than-not that a tax position will be sustained upon examination, including resolution of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits of the position. In evaluating whether a tax position has met the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, we presume that the position will be examined by the appropriate taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. A tax position that does not meet the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold is measured to determine the amount of benefit to be recognized in the financial statements. The tax position is measured at the largest amount of benefit that is likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement.

We adjust our estimates periodically because of ongoing examinations by and settlements with the various taxing authorities, as well as changes in tax laws, regulations and precedent. The effects on our financial statements of income tax uncertainties are discussed in Note 7, "Income Taxes," to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

We continually review all deferred tax asset positions (including state net operating loss carryforwards) to determine whether it is more-likely-than-not that the deferred tax assets will be utilized. Certain factors considered in evaluating the potential for realization of deferred tax assets include the time remaining until expiration (related to state net operating loss carryforwards) and various sources of taxable income that may be available under the tax law to realize a tax benefit related to a deferred tax asset. This evaluation requires management to make certain assumptions about future profitability, the execution of tax strategies that may be available to us and the likelihood that these assumptions or execution of tax strategies would occur. This evaluation is highly judgmental. The results of future operations, regulatory framework of these taxing authorities and other related matters cannot be predicted with certainty. Therefore, actual realization of these deferred tax assets may be materially different from management's estimate.

At December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, we had a valuation allowance recorded totaling \$116.3 million, \$61.9 million and \$10.9 million, respectively.

During the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, we reduced the recorded valuation allowance amount by \$54.4 million and \$51.0 million, respectively. These changes were the result of the use of certain state net operating loss carryforwards as well as a change in estimate that we would be able to ultimately realize the benefits of recorded deferred tax balances. These changes in estimate were primarily driven by the improvement experienced in our operating results, the overall improvement of the automotive retailing industry and the expectation that our results and those of the automotive retailing industry would continue to improve in the future. Notwithstanding these facts, at December 31, 2010, we maintained valuation allowance amounts of \$10.9 million related to certain state net operating loss carryforwards as it was likely that we would not be able to generate sufficient state taxable income in the related entities to utilize the accumulated net operating loss carryforward balances.

We accrue for income taxes on a pro-rata basis throughout the year based on the expected year end liability. These estimates, judgments and assumptions are made quarterly by our management based on available information and take into consideration estimated income taxes based on prior year income tax returns, changes in income tax law, our income tax strategies and other factors. If our management receives information which causes us to change our estimate of the year end liability, the amount of expense or expense reduction required to be recorded in any particular quarter could be material to our operating results, financial position and cash flows.

Results of Operations

The following table summarizes the percentages of total revenues represented by certain items reflected in our Consolidated Statements of Income:

	Percentage of Total Revenue(1) for the Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
Revenues:			
New vehicles	58.1%	53.3%	53.0%
Used vehicles	19.5%	24.0%	25.8%
Wholesale vehicles	3.9%	2.4%	2.2%
Parts, service and collision repair	15.9%	17.7%	16.4%
Finance, insurance and other	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%
Total revenue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of sales(2)	84.0%	82.9%	83.8%
Gross profit	16.0%	17.1%	16.2%
Selling, general and administrative expenses	13.1%	13.7%	13.0%
Impairment charges	11.7%	0.4%	0.0%
Depreciation and amortization	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Operating income	(9.3%)	2.4%	2.7%
Interest expense, floor plan	0.6%	0.3%	0.3%
Interest expense, other, net	0.9%	1.3%	1.0%
Interest expense, non-cash, convertible debt	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%
Interest expense, non-cash, cash flow swaps	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Other expense, net	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes	(11.0%)	0.5%	1.1%
Income tax expense (benefit)	(1.8%)	(0.4%)	(0.3%)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	(9.2%)	0.9%	1.4%

(1) In accordance with the provisions of "Presentation of Financial Statements" in the ASC, prior years' income statement data reflect reclassifications to (i) exclude franchises sold, identified for sale, or terminated subsequent to December 31, 2009 which had not been previously included in discontinued operations or (ii) include franchises previously held for sale which subsequently were reclassified to held and used. See Notes 1 and 2 to our accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements which discuss these and other factors that affect the comparability of the information for the periods presented.

(2) The cost of sales line item includes the cost of new and used vehicles, vehicle parts and all costs directly linked to servicing customer vehicles.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, we disposed of 13 franchises and, at December 31, 2010, had no other franchises held for sale. The results of operations of these dealerships, including gains or losses on disposition, have been included in discontinued operations on the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income for all periods presented. In addition to these dispositions, we disposed of 10 and 18 franchises, respectively, in each of the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2009. See additional discussions of franchises held for sale in the "Liquidity and Capital Resources" discussion.

The following discussions are based on reported figures. Same store amounts do not vary significantly from reported totals since there were no significant dealership franchise acquisitions in the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010.

Impairments and Other Charges

We recorded various charges in connection with the decision to exit certain facility leases since the planned use of certain leased properties will not occur. See the table below for the amounts and classification of the charges recorded. Of the \$27.6 million recorded in discontinued operations in the year ending December 31, 2009, \$11.4 million relates to lease exit accruals for our General Motors dealerships which were terminated in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Annually, we review franchise asset and property and equipment valuations. Based on historical and projected operating losses for certain continuing operating dealerships, we determined that certain dealerships would not be able to recover recorded franchise asset and property and equipment asset balances and that we would not complete certain capital projects at these stores. As such, we partially or fully impaired the franchise asset, property and equipment asset values as well as costs for construction in progress for those stores. Further, as a result of lowering the estimates of expected proceeds from the sale of certain dealership franchises held for sale based on market conditions, we recorded franchise asset, property and equipment and other asset impairment charges in discontinued operations. See the table below for the amounts and classification of the charges recorded for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010. In 2010, we recorded \$0.2 million of impairment related to property and equipment and construction in progress in continuing operations.

Goodwill is tested for impairment at least annually, or more frequently when events or circumstances indicate that impairment might have occurred. An exception to the annual impairment test provided by "Intangibles — Goodwill and Other" in the ASC allowed us to carry forward our goodwill impairment analysis from 2009, resulting in no goodwill impairment in 2010. For the year ended December 31, 2009, we recorded goodwill impairment charges of \$1.1 million within continuing operations and \$1.6 million within discontinued operations due to the determination that a portion of the goodwill was not recoverable, based on estimated proceeds, while certain dealership operations were held for sale. For the year ended December 31, 2008, we recorded an impairment of \$797.3 million related to our evaluation of goodwill. We recorded \$795.3 million in continuing operations and \$2.0 million in discontinued operations as a result of step two of our goodwill impairment test and based on the determination that a portion of goodwill was not recoverable from assets held for sale based on estimated proceeds. See additional discussion of goodwill impairment testing in the previous heading "Use of Estimates and Critical Accounting Policies — Goodwill and Franchise Assets."

For the year ended December 31, 2008, our results of operations were negatively impacted by the effects of Hurricane Ike and hail storms in the Houston and mid-west markets. We estimate the overall impact (physical damage and business interruption) in 2008 lowered pre-tax earnings by approximately \$8.0 million. For the year ended December 31, 2010, our results of operations were negatively impacted by the effects of hail storms in the Mid-Atlantic market. We estimate the overall impact (physical damage and business interruption) in 2010 lowered pre-tax earnings by approximately \$0.6 million.

We have entered into interest rate swap agreements (the "Fixed Swaps") to effectively convert a portion of our LIBOR-based variable rate debt to a fixed rate, in order to reduce our exposure to market risks from fluctuations in interest rates. As a result of the refinancing of our 2006 Credit Facility and the new terms of the 2010 Credit Facilities, at December 31, 2009 we determined it was no longer probable that we would incur interest payments that match the terms of certain Fixed Swaps that previously were designated and qualified as cash flow hedges, as we would be borrowing certain amounts under the Silo Floor Plan Facilities rather than under the new 2010 Credit Facilities. Certain of the lenders' terms under the Silo Floor Plan Facilities did not match the terms of our Fixed Swaps that previously qualified as cash flow hedges. Of the Fixed Swaps (including the two \$100.0 million notional swaps which were settled in 2009), \$565.0 million of the notional amount had previously been documented as hedges against the variability of cash flows related to interest payments on certain debt obligations. At December 31, 2010, we estimate that under the new 2010 Credit Facilities and other facilities with matching terms, it is probable that the expected debt balance with interest payments that match the terms of the Fixed Swaps will be \$400.0 million. As a result, non-cash charges were recorded in interest expense, non-cash, cash flow swaps in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income related to the Fixed Swaps and amortization of amounts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) related to other terminated cash flow swaps. The non-cash charges for the year ended December 31, 2010 were \$4.9 million, and for the year ended December 31, 2009 were

\$11.8 million. Changes in the fair value of the notional amount of certain cash flow swaps are recognized through earnings. See the heading "Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" in Note 1, "Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies," in the notes to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion.

In the year ended December 31, 2009, we recognized a non-cash benefit of \$11.3 million related to the extinguishment of the derivative liability associated with the redemption of the 6.0% Convertible Notes. In the table below, this amount partially offsets the \$11.8 million non-cash charge related to cash flow swaps discussed above.

In the year ended December 31, 2009, we recorded \$12.0 million of debt restructuring charges. Of the \$12.0 million, \$6.6 million related to the amendment of our 2006 Credit Facility executed March 31, 2009, in which we agreed to the payment of amendment fees and increases in the interest rates for amounts outstanding and the quarterly commitment fees payable by us on the unused portion and \$5.4 million related to the loan cost amortization on our 6.0% Convertible Notes which we repurchased on October 28, 2009.

For the year ended December 31, 2009, other income (expense), net, includes a gain of approximately \$0.4 million on the repurchase of a portion of the 4.25% Convertible Notes at a discount and a gain of approximately \$0.1 million related to the derecognition of liability and equity components of the 4.25% Convertible Notes upon repurchase of a portion of the 4.25% Convertible Notes during the third quarter of 2009. These gains were offset by a loss of approximately \$7.2 million related to the write-off of the unamortized debt discount associated with the redemption of the 6.0% Convertible Notes during the fourth quarter of 2009, resulting in a net loss on debt extinguishment of approximately \$6.7 million. We recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$7.7 million in the year ended December 31, 2010, related to the retirement of \$232.1 million in aggregate principal amount of the 8.625% Notes. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the notes to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion.

At December 31, 2009, we had a total of \$61.9 million of valuation allowances recorded related to our deferred tax asset balances, \$15.9 million related to state net operating loss carryforwards and \$46.0 million related to all other deferred tax asset balances. The change in the recorded valuation allowance balances in the year ended December 31, 2009 was primarily driven by the assumption that state net operating loss carryforwards generated in 2010 would not be realizable, the utilization of net deferred tax assets to reduce income tax payments and changes in assumptions related to the overall realization of net deferred tax asset balances.

At December 31, 2010, we had \$10.9 million of valuation allowances recorded related to our deferred tax asset balances, the total balance of which was related to state net operating loss carryforwards. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we lowered the recorded valuation allowance amount by \$51.0 million. This was the result of the use of certain state net operating loss carryforwards as well as a change in estimate that we will be able to ultimately realize the benefits of recorded deferred tax balances. See the table below for amounts and classification of the charges recorded.

The amount and location of the pre-tax charges discussed above in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income are presented in the following table:

	Continuing Operations for the Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
	(In millions)		
Selling, general & administrative expenses			
Hurricane and hail storm related expenses	8.0	—	0.6
Lease exit and other accruals	13.5	1.1	—
Franchise tax assessment	—	2.9	—
Total selling, general & administrative expenses	21.5	4.0	0.6
Impairment charges			
Property impairment charges	10.0	18.1	0.2
Goodwill impairment charges	795.3	1.1	—
Franchise agreement and other asset impairment charges	6.7	4.3	—
Total impairment charges	812.0	23.5	0.2
Interest expense			
Cash-flow swap ineffectiveness, mark-to-market and amortization charges	—	0.5	4.9
Debt restructuring charges	—	12.0	1.5
Total interest expense	—	12.5	6.4
Other (income) expense			
Loss on debt extinguishment	—	6.7	7.7
Income tax related adjustments			
Valuation allowances and other tax adjustment expense (benefit)	111.6	(41.3)	(48.2)
	Discontinued Operations for the Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
	(In millions)		
Gross profit, selling, general & administrative expenses			
Lease exit and other accruals	\$ 12.8	\$ 27.6	\$ 0.9
Impairment charges			
Property impairment charges	14.9	5.0	—
Goodwill impairment charges	2.0	1.6	—
Franchise agreement and other asset impairment charges	20.5	—	—
Favorable lease asset impairment charges	1.9	—	—
Total impairment charges	39.3	6.6	—
Income tax related adjustments			
Valuation allowances and other tax adjustment expense / (benefit)	3.4	(6.1)	—

New Vehicles

New vehicle revenues include the sale of new vehicles to retail customers, as well as the sale of fleet vehicles. New vehicle revenues are highly dependent on manufacturer incentives, which vary from cash-back incentives to low interest rate financing. New vehicle revenues are also dependent on manufacturers to provide adequate vehicle allocations to meet customer demands and the availability of consumer credit.

The automobile manufacturing industry is cyclical and historically has experienced periodic downturns characterized by oversupply and weak demand. As an automotive retailer, we seek to mitigate the effects of this cyclical by maintaining a diverse brand mix of dealerships. Our brand diversity allows us to offer a broad range of products at a wide range of prices from lower priced, or economy vehicles, to luxury vehicles. For the year ended December 31, 2010, 84.2% of our total new vehicle revenue was generated by import and luxury dealerships compared to 83.7% for 2009.

The automobile retail industry uses the SAAR to measure the amount of new vehicle unit sales activity within the United States market. The SAAR averages below reflect a blended average of all brands marketed or sold in the United States market. The SAAR includes brands we do not sell and markets in which we do not operate.

SAAR	2009	2010	% Change (In millions of vehicles)	2008	2009	% Change
Year Ended December 31,	10.4	11.6	11.5%	13.2	10.4	(21.2%)

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets, via Stephens Inc.

During 2010 we experienced an increase in customer traffic at our dealerships as compared to 2009. We believe this was caused in part by the improved overall economic conditions in 2010. Despite increases in new vehicle volume in 2010, year-over-year new vehicle sales comparisons are impacted by the government's Car Allowance Rebate System ("CARS") program in effect in the third quarter of 2009, which significantly affected new vehicle sales in 2009. Average industry expectations for the 2011 SAAR are currently between 12.0 million and 13.0 million vehicles which, if realized, would be an increase of 3.4% to 12.1% from the 2010 level. Following is information related to our new vehicle sales:

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
	(In thousands, except units and per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 3,229,948	\$ 3,646,200	\$ 416,252	12.9%
Gross profit	\$ 219,158	\$ 237,071	\$ 17,913	8.2%
Unit sales	99,361	107,151	7,790	7.8%
Revenue per unit	\$ 32,507	\$ 34,029	\$ 1,522	4.7%
Gross profit per unit	\$ 2,206	\$ 2,212	\$ 6	0.3%
Gross profit as a % of revenue	6.8%	6.5%	(30)bps	

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2008	2009	Change	% Change
	(In thousands, except units and per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 4,009,496	\$ 3,229,948	\$ (779,548)	(19.4%)
Gross profit	\$ 264,962	\$ 219,158	\$ (45,804)	(17.3%)
Unit sales	123,356	99,361	(23,995)	(19.5%)
Revenue per unit	\$ 32,503	\$ 32,507	\$ 4	0.0%
Gross profit per unit	\$ 2,148	\$ 2,206	\$ 58	2.7%
Gross profit as a % of revenue	6.6%	6.8%	20bps	

During 2010, our luxury and import dealerships experienced increases in new vehicle volume of 12.1% and 6.4%, respectively. The majority of our luxury and import brands experienced increases in new vehicle volume, with the most notable increases being experienced by our Cadillac, BMW and Mercedes dealerships. These stores experienced increases of 34.1%, 13.2% and 9.3%, respectively. Our domestic brands experienced a new vehicle volume increase in 2010 of 4.4%, led by our General Motors ("GM") dealerships (excluding Cadillac), which increased 15.5% compared to the prior year. Our domestic brands' new vehicle volume increases were partially offset by declines at our Ford stores of 1.9% compared to 2009. However, excluding fleet, our GM stores increased

9.3%, while our Ford stores increased 15.3% compared to 2009. The increase in new vehicle gross profit in 2010 compared to 2009 was due primarily to a 7.8% increase in new vehicle sales volume.

Overall, our new vehicle price per unit increased \$1,522, or 4.7%, compared to 2009, with our luxury stores increasing \$1,909, or 4.1%, our domestic stores increasing \$1,554, or 5.5%, and our import stores increasing \$542, or 2.3% in 2010. The increase in our overall new vehicle price per unit in 2010 can be attributed to a larger percentage of our sales being generated by higher priced luxury vehicles.

During 2009, our dealerships experienced a 19.5% decrease in new unit volume, with our luxury stores declining 21.1%, our import stores declining 16.9% and our domestic dealerships declining 22.6% compared to 2008. Our price per unit remained relatively flat in 2009 compared to 2008, which can be attributed to the decrease in new luxury unit volume in 2009 primarily due to a shift in consumer preferences as a result of the CARS program. Our gross profit decreased in 2009 compared to 2008, which can be attributed to the volatile economic conditions and the lack of credit availability to consumers in 2009.

Used Vehicles

Used vehicle revenues are directly affected by a number of factors including the level of manufacturer incentives on new vehicles, the number and quality of trade-ins and lease turn-ins and the availability of consumer credit. In addition, various manufacturers provide franchised dealers the opportunity to “certify” pre-owned vehicles based on criteria established by the manufacturer. This certification process extends the standard manufacturer warranty. In 2010, we continued to see improvements in our CPO unit volume, which increased 9.6% as compared to 2009. However, our sales of CPO vehicles decreased as a percentage of total used vehicle units to 35.4% from 38.4% in 2009. This percentage decrease was primarily due to an increase in our sales of non-CPO used vehicles of 11,697 units, or 25.1%, during 2010. Following is information related to our used vehicle sales:

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
	(In thousands, except units and per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 1,451,870	\$ 1,776,581	\$ 324,711	22.4%
Gross profit	\$ 123,993	\$ 139,620	\$ 15,627	12.6%
Unit sales	75,795	90,290	14,495	19.1%
Revenue per unit	\$ 19,155	\$ 19,676	\$ 521	2.7%
Gross profit per unit	\$ 1,636	\$ 1,546	\$ (90)	(5.5%)
Gross profit as a % of revenue	8.5%	7.9%	(60)bps	
CPO revenue	\$ 744,244	\$ 849,323	\$ 105,079	14.1%
CPO unit sales	29,135	31,933	2,798	9.6%

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2008	2009	Change	% Change
	(In thousands, except units and per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 1,342,486	\$ 1,451,870	\$ 109,384	8.1%
Gross profit	\$ 119,077	\$ 123,993	\$ 4,916	4.1%
Unit sales	67,237	75,795	8,558	12.7%
Revenue per unit	\$ 19,966	\$ 19,155	\$ (811)	(4.1%)
Gross profit per unit	\$ 1,771	\$ 1,636	\$ (135)	(7.6%)
Gross profit as a % of revenue	8.9%	8.5%	(40)bps	
CPO revenue	\$ 708,663	\$ 744,244	\$ 35,581	5.0%
CPO unit sales	27,951	29,135	1,184	4.2%

During 2010, our used vehicle unit volume increased significantly compared to 2009, primarily due to the continued implementation of our standardized used vehicle merchandising process. This process allows us to price

our used vehicles more competitively, market them more effectively and physically move certain used vehicles to specific dealerships within a particular region that have shown success in retailing that specific type of used vehicle. Our import dealerships' used unit sales volume increased 21.5% compared to 2009. Our domestic and luxury dealerships used unit sales increased by 19.9% and 17.0%, respectively.

In 2010, gross profit per unit from used vehicles declined compared to the prior year due in part to a shift toward purchasing more vehicles from auction as obtaining vehicles through trade did not fulfill our used inventory requirements. However, obtaining more used vehicles from auction allowed us to better implement the standardized used vehicle merchandising process, as buying cars at auction allowed us to optimize the used vehicle inventory mix at each dealership, increasing unit sales and overall gross profit.

In 2009, the overall increase in gross profit when compared to 2008 can be mainly attributed to rebounding consumer confidence levels despite a challenging consumer credit environment. Gross margin rates for used vehicles declined in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to sourcing more vehicles through wholesale auctions versus trades and actively managing our vehicle days supply, resulting in more favorable pricing to customers.

Wholesale Vehicles

Wholesale vehicle revenues are highly correlated with new and used vehicle retail sales and the associated trade-in volume. Wholesale revenues are also significantly affected by our corporate inventory management policies, which are designed to optimize our total used vehicle inventory. Following is information related to wholesale vehicles:

	For the Year-Ended		Better/(Worse)	
	December 31,		Change	% Change
	2009	2010		
	(In thousands, except units and per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 147,002	\$ 149,041	\$ 2,039	1.4%
Gross loss	\$ (5,486)	\$ (5,041)	\$ 445	8.1%
Unit sales	25,271	24,128	(1,143)	(4.5%)
Revenue per unit	\$ 5,817	\$ 6,177	\$ 360	6.2%
Gross loss per unit	\$ (217)	\$ (209)	\$ 8	3.7%
Gross loss as a % of revenue	(3.7%)	(3.4%)	30bps	

	For the Year-Ended		Better/(Worse)	
	December 31,		Change	% Change
	2008	2009		
	(In thousands, except units and per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 272,172	\$ 147,002	\$ (125,170)	(46.0%)
Gross loss	\$ (6,191)	\$ (5,486)	\$ 705	11.4%
Unit sales	35,802	25,271	(10,531)	(29.4%)
Revenue per unit	\$ 7,602	\$ 5,817	\$ (1,785)	(23.5%)
Gross loss per unit	\$ (173)	\$ (217)	\$ (44)	(25.4%)
Gross loss as a % of revenue	(2.3%)	(3.7%)	(140)bps	

During 2010, there was a decrease in wholesale unit sales, in part due to an increased focus on selling vehicles through our retail channel. Further, consumer demand has increased in 2010 for used vehicles which historically would have been wholesaled. Consequently, pre-owned vehicles are in higher demand and are staying on the lot for less time, resulting in lower wholesale volume. Wholesale vehicle gross loss decreased in 2010 compared to 2009 as a result of the decreased unit sales combined with a lower gross loss per unit.

During 2009, there was a decrease in wholesale gross loss due primarily to decreased wholesale unit sales, offset by a higher gross loss per unit. The decrease in wholesale unit volume and gross margins compared to 2008 can be primarily attributed to our increased focus on retailing used vehicles which historically we would have disposed of through the wholesale market and fewer vehicles received in trades for new and used vehicles.

Parts, Service and Collision Repair (“Fixed Operations”)

Parts and service revenue consists of customer requested repairs (“customer pay”), warranty repairs, retail parts, wholesale parts and collision repairs. Parts and service revenue is driven by the mix of warranty repairs versus customer pay repairs, available service capacity, vehicle quality, customer loyalty and manufacturer warranty programs.

We believe that over time, vehicle quality will improve, but vehicle complexity will offset any revenue lost from improvement in vehicle quality. We also believe that over the long-term we have the ability to continue to add service capacity and increase revenues. However, based on current market conditions, we do not anticipate a near-term increase in additional service capacity. Manufacturers continue to extend new vehicle warranty periods and have also begun to include regular maintenance items in the warranty coverage. These factors, over the long-term, combined with the extended manufacturer warranties on CPO vehicles (see the discussion in “Business — Business Strategy — Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles” above), should facilitate long-term growth in our service and parts business. Barriers to long-term growth may include reductions in the rate paid by manufacturers to dealers for warranty work performed. Following is information related to fixed operations:

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better / (Worse)	
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
	(In thousands)			
Revenue				
Parts	\$ 581,056	\$ 599,348	\$ 18,292	3.1%
Service	443,247	479,759	36,512	8.2%
Collision Repair	47,522	48,947	1,425	3.0%
Total	<u>\$ 1,071,825</u>	<u>\$ 1,128,054</u>	<u>\$ 56,229</u>	<u>5.2%</u>
Gross profit				
Parts	\$ 199,193	\$ 199,850	\$ 657	0.3%
Service	314,227	335,377	21,150	6.7%
Collision Repair	26,891	26,833	(58)	(0.2%)
Total	<u>\$ 540,311</u>	<u>\$ 562,060</u>	<u>\$ 21,749</u>	<u>4.0%</u>
Gross profit as a % of revenue				
Parts	34.3%	33.3%	(100)bps	
Service	70.9%	69.9%	(100)bps	
Collision Repair	56.6%	54.8%	(180)bps	
Total	50.4%	49.8%	(60)bps	

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2008	2009	Change	% Change
	(In thousands)			
Revenue				
Parts	\$ 589,758	\$ 581,056	\$ (8,702)	(1.5%)
Service	454,534	443,247	(11,287)	(2.5%)
Collision Repair	51,482	47,522	(3,960)	(7.7%)
Total	\$ 1,095,774	\$ 1,071,825	\$ (23,949)	(2.2%)
Gross profit				
Parts	\$ 202,973	\$ 199,193	\$ (3,780)	(1.9%)
Service	317,212	314,227	(2,985)	(0.9%)
Collision Repair	28,891	26,891	(2,000)	(6.9%)
Total	\$ 549,076	\$ 540,311	\$ (8,765)	(1.6%)
Gross profit as a % of revenue				
Parts	34.4%	34.3%	(10)bps	
Service	69.8%	70.9%	110bps	
Collision Repair	56.1%	56.6%	50bps	
Total	50.1%	50.4%	30bps	

Our total fixed operations revenues increased in 2010 compared to 2009, led by increases at our Cadillac, BMW, and Toyota dealerships which all experienced significant fixed operations revenue increases in 2010 compared to 2009, accounting for 49.1% of the year-over-year improvement in overall fixed operations revenues. Overall customer pay sales increased \$15.1 million, or 3.0%, during 2010. Internal sales, primarily related to reconditioning work on used vehicles, increased \$20.0 million, or 15.6%, compared to 2009. Warranty sales decreased \$3.5 million, or 1.8%, in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to decreases at our BMW dealerships partially offset by an 86.3% increase in warranty sales at our Toyota dealerships due to the 2010 Toyota recalls discussed previously. Our Lexus dealerships experienced a 7.2% decrease in warranty sales in 2010 due to the Lexus recalls that occurred in 2009.

Our fixed operations gross profit increased \$21.7 million, or 4.0%, in 2010 compared to 2009. An increase in fixed operations revenue contributed approximately \$28.2 million in gross profit increase, partially offset by a \$6.5 million decrease in gross profit due to a 60 basis point decline in the gross margin rate.

Fixed operations revenues decreased \$23.9 million, or 2.2%, during 2009 compared to 2008, primarily due to an \$11.0 million, or 13.9%, decrease at our Cadillac dealerships and a \$10.7 million, or 7.2%, decrease at our Honda dealerships. Customer pay sales remained flat in 2009 compared to 2008. Warranty sales decreased \$10.6 million, or 5.3%, during 2009 compared to 2008, which was primarily caused by decreases at our BMW and Mercedes dealerships. Our fixed operations gross profit decreased \$8.8 million, or 1.6%, during 2009 compared to 2008, primarily due to a \$10.7 million, or 7.2%, gross profit decrease at our Honda dealerships.

As of December 31, 2010, we operated 25 collision repair centers. Reported collision repair revenues increased \$1.4 million, or 3.0%, during 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to an increase in sublet revenues of \$0.8 million, or 14.6%. Collision repair revenues decreased \$4.0 million, or 7.7%, during 2009 compared to 2008, primarily due to a decline in customer pay revenues of \$3.0 million, or 8.3%.

Finance, Insurance and Other ("F&I")

Finance, insurance and other revenues include commissions for arranging vehicle financing and insurance, sales of third-party extended service contracts for vehicles and other aftermarket products. In connection with vehicle financing, service contracts, other aftermarket products and insurance contracts, we receive commissions from the providers for originating contracts.

Rate spread is another term for the commission earned by our dealerships for arranging vehicle financing for consumers. The amount of the commission could be zero, a flat fee or an actual spread between the interest rate charged to the consumer and the interest rate provided by the direct financing source (bank, credit union or manufacturers' captive finance company). We have established caps on the potential rate spread our dealerships can earn with all finance sources. We believe the rate spread we earn for arranging financing represents value to the consumer in numerous ways, including the following:

- Lower cost, below-market financing is often available only from the manufacturers' captives and franchised dealers;
- Generally easy access to multiple high-quality lending sources;
- Lease-financing alternatives are largely available only from manufacturers' captives or other indirect lenders;
- Customers with substandard credit frequently do not have direct access to potential sources of sub-prime financing; and
- Customers with significant "negative equity" in their current vehicle (i.e., the customer's current vehicle is worth less than the balance of their vehicle loan or lease obligation) frequently are unable to pay off the loan on their current vehicle and finance the purchase or lease of a replacement new or used vehicle without the assistance of a franchised dealer.

F&I revenues are driven by the level of new and used vehicle unit sales, manufacturer financing or leasing incentives and our F&I penetration rate. The F&I penetration rate represents the percentage of vehicle sales on which we are able to originate financing or sell extended service contracts, other aftermarket products or insurance contracts. Our finance penetration rates increased to 67.8% in 2010 from 65.0% in 2009. Our extended service contract penetration rates declined to 26.1% in 2010 from 30.2% in 2009. Further, the aftermarket products penetration rate increased to 87.0% in 2010 from 82.9% in 2009. Penetration rates were positively impacted by a strengthening economy and increasing consumer confidence, combined with an effective roll-out of our F&I best practices during 2010. Following is information related to F&I:

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
	(In thousands, except per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 154,696	\$ 180,968	\$ 26,272	17.0%
Gross profit per retail unit (excluding fleet)	\$ 929	\$ 957	\$ 28	3.0%

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2008	2009	Change	% Change
	(In thousands, except per unit data)			
Revenue	\$ 180,274	\$ 154,696	\$(25,578)	(14.2%)
Gross profit per retail unit (excluding fleet)	\$ 1,015	\$ 929	\$ (86)	(8.5%)

F&I revenues increased during 2010 compared to 2009 primarily due to an increase in total new and used retail (excluding fleet) unit volume of 22,651 units, or 13.6%, increased penetration rates and higher profit per unit. Gross profit per retail unit increased 3.0% in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to better pricing on finance contracts in 2010 and a 19.2% increase in aftermarket products sold. Finance contracts may be under pressure in the event manufacturers offer attractive financing rates from their captive finance affiliates as we tend to earn lower commissions under these programs.

F&I revenues decreased during 2009 when compared to 2008 primarily due to a decrease in total new and used retail (excluding fleet) unit volume of 11,224 or 6.3%. In addition to the unit decline, F&I gross profit per unit decreased during 2009 when compared to 2008. This decrease in F&I revenue per unit can be attributed to a decrease in finance contract penetration rates to 65.0% in 2009 from 69.4% in 2008 and a decrease in service contract penetration rates to 30.2% in 2009 from 32.8% in 2008.

Selling, General and Administrative ("SG&A") Expenses

SG&A expenses are comprised of four major groups: compensation expense, advertising expense, rent and rent related expense, and other expense. Compensation expense primarily relates to dealership personnel who are paid a commission or a modest salary plus commission (which typically vary depending on gross profits realized) and support personnel who are paid a fixed salary. Due to the salary component for certain dealership and corporate personnel, gross profits and compensation expense do not change in direct proportion to one another. Advertising expense and other expenses vary based on the level of actual or anticipated business activity and number of dealerships owned. Rent and rent related expense typically varies with the number of dealerships owned, investments made for facility improvements and interest rates. Although not completely correlated, we believe the best way to measure SG&A expenses are as a percentage of gross profit. Following is information related to our SG&A expenses:

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2009	2010	Change	% Change
	(In thousands)			
Compensation	\$ 470,293	\$ 526,577	\$ (56,284)	(12.0%)
Advertising	44,736	46,908	(2,172)	(4.9%)
Rent and Rent Related	131,262	130,739	523	0.4%
Other	182,929	192,473	(9,544)	(5.2%)
Total	\$ 829,220	\$ 896,697	\$ (67,477)	(8.1%)
SG&A as a % of gross				
Compensation	45.5%	47.2%	(170)bps	
Advertising	4.3%	4.2%	10bps	
Rent and Rent Related	12.7%	11.7%	100bps	
Other	17.8%	17.3%	50bps	
Total	80.3%	80.4%	(10)bps	

	For the Year-Ended December 31,		Better/(Worse)	
	2008	2009	Change	% Change
	(In thousands)			
Compensation	\$ 489,922	\$ 470,293	\$ 19,629	4.0%
Advertising	56,837	44,736	12,101	21.3%
Rent and Rent Related	133,278	131,262	2,016	1.5%
Other	226,206	182,929	43,277	19.1%
Total	\$ 906,243	\$ 829,220	\$ 77,023	8.5%
SG&A as a % of gross				
Compensation	44.2%	45.5%	(130)bps	
Advertising	5.1%	4.3%	80bps	
Rent and Rent Related	12.0%	12.7%	(70)bps	
Other	20.6%	17.8%	280bps	
Total	81.9%	80.3%	160bps	

2010 Compared to 2009

Total SG&A expenses increased both in dollar amount and as a percentage of gross profit in 2010. The increase can be attributed to the increases in revenue and gross profit as well as higher compensation costs.

In 2010, total compensation expense increased in both dollar amount and as a percentage of gross profit compared to 2009. Compensation costs were higher in the first half of 2010 and improved in the latter half of the year when pay plans were adjusted to compensate for higher than expected retail activity.

Advertising expense increased in dollar amount but improved slightly as a percentage of gross profit. Total advertising costs were higher versus prior year primarily due to the rebound in economic activity in 2010.

In 2010, rent and rent related expenses remained flat as compared to 2009. As a percentage of gross profit, rent and rent related expenses decreased in 2010 compared to 2009, primarily due to increases in gross profit resulting from an improved sales environment.

Other SG&A expenses increased compared to 2009, primarily due to higher insurance related expenses and investments in our employees through training. Other SG&A as a percentage of gross profit decreased due to gross profit increases in an improved economic environment.

2009 Compared to 2008

Total SG&A expenses decreased both in dollar amount and as a percentage of gross profit in 2009 as compared to 2008. The dollar decrease can be attributed to lower sales volume in 2009, while the decrease as a percentage of gross profit is primarily attributable to reductions in other SG&A expenses due to hail and hurricane damage, loss on marketable securities and legal expenses incurred in 2008.

In 2009, total reported compensation expense decreased compared to 2008. However, as a percentage of gross profit, total compensation expense increased. The dollar decrease was the result of overall declines in retail volume due to a slow sales environment which led to lower sales commissions. The unfavorable increase as a percentage of gross profit was primarily the result of sales compensation not being perfectly correlated with changes in gross profit.

Advertising expense decreased both in dollar amount and as a percentage of gross profit in 2009 compared to 2008. Total advertising costs were lower versus prior year due to adjustments in advertising strategies in response to the soft operating environment and an overall effort to reduce costs in 2009. In addition, during 2009 we shifted our advertising strategy away from traditional media and more towards internet and other outlets.

Rent and rent related expenses decreased slightly in 2009 as compared to 2008. Rent and rent related expenses were negatively impacted by lease exit charges recorded in 2008. As a percentage of gross profit, rent and rent related expenses increased slightly in 2009 compared to 2008 due to declines in gross profit in a slower sales environment in 2009.

Other SG&A expenses decreased in 2009 as compared to 2008, primarily due to our efforts to reduce costs in 2009. Further, we incurred \$4.4 million of hail and hurricane damage and loss on marketable securities of \$6.4 million in 2008. In 2009, there were no significant losses from weather events and we recorded a \$3.8 million gain on marketable securities, further contributing to the decrease.

Impairment Charges

Impairment charges decreased \$23.3 million from 2009 to 2010 due to impairment charges recorded in 2009 and no significant charges in 2010 related to goodwill, franchise assets and fixed assets. See the table and discussion included under the previous heading "Impairments and Other Charges" for a detail of other impairment charges recorded during 2009 and 2010.

In 2009, impairment charges decreased \$788.5 million compared to 2008 primarily due to goodwill impairment recorded in 2008. See the table and discussion included under the previous heading "Impairments and Other Charges" for a detail of impairment charges recorded during 2009 and 2008.

Depreciation and Amortization

Depreciation expense increased \$0.2 million, or 0.7%, in 2010 compared to 2009, and \$2.1 million, or 6.6%, in 2009 compared to 2008. The increases were primarily related to additions to gross property and equipment of

\$35.0 million in 2010 and \$31.2 million in 2009 related to continuing operations, excluding land and construction in progress. The increases in depreciable property were due in part to our strategic shift to continue to own and hold more dealership properties. Also, the increase in 2010 compared to 2009 was partially due to infrastructure investments in facilities that were completed and transferred out of construction in progress and placed into service in 2010.

Interest Expense, Floor Plan

Interest expense, floor plan for new vehicles increased \$1.1 million, or 6.2%, in 2010 compared to 2009. The average new vehicle floor plan interest rate related to new vehicles incurred by continuing dealerships was 2.69% for the year ended December 31, 2010, compared to 2.50% for the year ended December 31, 2009, which increased interest expense by approximately \$1.4 million. The average floor plan balance for new vehicles decreased by \$11.0 million in 2010, resulting in a decrease in expense of approximately \$0.3 million.

Interest expense, floor plan for used vehicles incurred by continuing operations increased \$0.6 million, or 37.1%, in 2010 compared to 2009. Before considering used vehicle floor plan interest expense allocated to discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2009 of \$0.2 million, the weighted average used vehicle floor plan interest rate incurred by both continuing and discontinued operations was 2.88% for the year ended December 31, 2010, compared to 2.31% for the year ended December 31, 2009, which increased interest expense by approximately \$0.4 million. The average used vehicle floor plan notes payable balance from continuing and discontinued dealerships increased \$2.2 million in 2010 compared to 2009, resulting in an increase in used vehicle floor plan interest expense of approximately \$0.1 million.

Interest expense, floor plan for new vehicles decreased \$21.6 million, or 54.2%, in 2009 compared to 2008. The average floor plan interest rate for new vehicles incurred by continuing dealerships was 2.50% for the year ended December 31, 2009, compared to 4.12% for the year ended December 31, 2008, which decreased interest expense by approximately \$11.8 million. During 2009 the average floor plan balance for new vehicles decreased \$237.3 million which resulted in a decrease in expense of approximately \$9.8 million.

Interest expense, floor plan for used vehicles incurred by continuing operations decreased \$2.0 million, or 55.5%, in 2009 compared to 2008. Before considering used vehicle floor plan interest expense allocated to discontinued operations for the year ended December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008 of \$0.2 million and \$0.6 million, respectively, the weighted average used vehicle floor plan interest rate incurred by both continuing and discontinued operations was 2.31% for the year ended December 31, 2009, compared to 4.37% for the year ended December 31, 2008, which decreased interest expense by approximately \$1.6 million. The average used vehicle floor plan notes payable balance from continuing and discontinued dealerships decreased \$19.0 million in 2009 compared to 2008, resulting in a decrease in used vehicle floor plan interest expense of approximately \$0.7 million.

Interest Expense, Other, Net

Interest expense, other, net, was \$59.0 million, \$78.3 million and \$63.4 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. Changes in interest expense, other, net, are summarized in the schedule below:

	2009		2010	
	Increase (Decrease) in Interest Expense		Increase (Decrease) in Interest Expense	
	(In millions)			
Debt balances —				
- Increase (decrease) in debt balances	\$	(2.1)	\$	(3.6)
Other factors —				
- (Increase) decrease in capitalized interest		0.8		(1.6)
- Incremental interest expense (benefit) related to variable to fixed rate swaps(1)		6.1		(0.9)
- Incremental interest expense (benefit) related to fixed rate to variable swaps(1)		0.8		—
- Interest expense (benefit) allocation to discontinued operations		1.1		1.8
- Increase (decrease) in deferred loan cost amortization(2)		11.7		(10.3)
- Increase (decrease) in other expense, net		0.9		(0.3)
	\$	19.3	\$	(14.9)

- (1) Represent difference in cash payments to and from the counterparty.
(2) Includes loan costs related to the issuance of the 6.0% Convertible Notes and amendments to the 2006 Credit Facility.

Interest Expense, Non-Cash, Convertible Debt

Non-cash convertible debt interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2010 is comprised of the amortization of the debt discount and deferred loan costs associated with our 5.0% Convertible Notes and 4.25% Convertible Notes. The initial debt discount was determined based on a valuation of the debt component of these notes and is being amortized monthly to interest expense over the expected life of the notes.

Interest expense of approximately \$10.7 million, \$6.2 million and \$0.5 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, represents the non-cash amortization of the debt discount associated with the 5.25% Convertible Notes and 4.25% Convertible Notes. Interest expense of approximately \$1.2 million and \$5.1 million in 2009 and 2010, respectively, was recorded related to amortization of the debt discount on the 5.0% Convertible Notes. Interest expense of approximately \$4.1 million in 2009 represents the non-cash amortization of the debt discount associated with the 6.0% Convertible Notes. We recognized a non-cash benefit of \$11.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2009 due to the extinguishment of the derivative liability associated with the redemption of our 6.0% Convertible Notes during 2009. Deferred loan cost amortization related to the 4.25% Convertible Notes and 5.0% Convertible Notes was \$1.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2010.

Interest expense, non-cash, convertible debt is summarized in the schedule below:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
	(In millions)		
Amortization of debt discount	\$ 10.7	\$ 11.5	\$ 5.6
Amortization of deferred loan costs	—	0.5	1.3
Mark-to-market on derivative liability	—	(11.3)	—
	\$ 10.7	\$ 0.7	\$ 6.9

Interest Expense/Amortization, Non-Cash, Cash Flow Swaps

We have entered into the Fixed Swaps to effectively convert a portion of our LIBOR-based variable rate debt to a fixed rate, in order to reduce our exposure to market risks from fluctuations in interest rates. As a result of the refinancing of our 2006 Credit Facility and the new terms of the 2010 Credit Facilities, it is no longer probable that we will incur interest payments that match the terms of certain Fixed Swaps that previously were designated and qualified as cash flow hedges, as we would be borrowing certain amounts under the Silo Floor Plan Facilities rather than under the new 2010 Credit Facilities. Certain of the lenders' terms under the Silo Floor Plan Facilities did not match the terms of our Fixed Swaps that previously qualified as cash flow hedges. Of the Fixed Swaps (including the two \$100.0 million notional swaps which were settled in 2009), \$565.0 million of the notional amount had previously been documented as hedges against the variability of cash flows related to interest payments on certain debt obligations. At December 31, 2010, we estimate that under the new 2010 Credit Facilities and other facilities with matching terms, it is probable that the expected debt balance with interest payments that match the terms of the Fixed Swaps will be \$400.0 million. As a result, for the years ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009, non-cash charges of approximately \$4.9 million and \$11.8 million, respectively, related to the Fixed Swaps and amortization of amounts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) related to other existing and terminated cash flow swaps were included in interest expense/amortization, non-cash, cash flow swaps in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. Changes in the fair value of notional amounts of certain cash flow swaps are recognized through earnings. See the heading "Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" in Note 6 "Long-Term Debt," in the accompanying notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion.

For the Fixed Swaps which qualify as cash flow hedges, the changes in the fair value of these swaps have been recorded in other comprehensive income (loss), net of related income taxes in the Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity. The incremental interest expense (the difference between interest paid and interest received) related to the Fixed Swaps was \$17.6 million in 2010, \$18.5 million in 2009 and \$12.4 million in 2008, and is included in interest expense, other, net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. The estimated net expense expected to be reclassified out of other comprehensive income (loss) into results of operations during the year ended December 31, 2011 is approximately \$10.8 million.

Other Income (Expense), Net

We recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$7.7 million in the year ended December 31, 2010, related to the retirement of \$232.1 million in aggregate principal amount of the 8.625% Notes. For the year ended December 31, 2009, other income (expense), net, includes a gain of approximately \$0.4 million on the repurchase of a portion of the 4.25% Convertible Notes at a discount and a gain of approximately \$0.1 million related to the derecognition of liability and equity components of the 4.25% Convertible Notes upon repurchase of a portion of the 4.25% Convertible Notes during the third and fourth quarter of 2009. These gains were offset by a loss of approximately \$7.2 million related to the write-off of the unamortized debt discount associated with the redemption of the 6.0% Convertible Notes during the fourth quarter of 2009. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the notes to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion.

Provision for Income Taxes

The effective tax rate from continuing operations was (22.3%) in 2010, (105.0%) in 2009 and 16.2% in 2008. In 2010 and 2009, a reduction of valuation allowances on deferred tax assets and other tax adjustments of \$48.2 million and \$41.3 million, respectively, resulted in an overall tax benefit from continuing operations. Excluding the effect of these items, the effective tax rate from continuing operations would have been 43.2% and 39.9% for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, respectively. The 2008 effective tax rate for continuing operations was affected by valuation allowance and other account adjustments as well as the effect of non-deductible goodwill. Absent these items the effective tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2008 would have been 38.5%. Our effective tax rate varies from year to year based on the distribution of taxable income between states in which we operate. We expect the effective tax rate in future periods to fall within a range of 38.0% to 41.0% before the impact, if any, of changes in valuation allowances related to deferred income tax assets.

Discontinued Operations

The pre-tax losses from operations and the sale of discontinued franchises were as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
	(In thousands)		
Loss from operations	\$ (20,103)	\$ (12,579)	\$ (6,634)
Gain (loss) on disposal of franchises	(2,325)	(293)	2,629
Lease exit charges	(13,747)	(30,794)	(4,232)
Property impairment charges	(14,912)	(4,992)	—
Goodwill impairment charges	(2,025)	(1,586)	—
Franchise agreement and other asset impairment charges	(20,500)	—	—
Favorable lease asset impairment charges	(1,903)	—	—
Pre-tax loss	\$ (75,515)	\$ (50,244)	\$ (8,237)
Total revenues	\$ 587,801	\$ 294,390	\$ 55,077

Loss from discontinued operations has declined from 2008 levels due to the disposal of under-performing franchises which incurred significant operating losses in the periods prior to their disposal. For a description of the impairment and other charges taken for the years ended December 31 2010, 2009 and 2008, see the discussion under the previous heading "Impairments and Other Charges."

Adjusted Results of Operations

Along with the evaluation of our performance presented on a basis consistent with GAAP, we believe there is benefit in evaluating our results of operations exclusive of certain significant items which affect the comparability of results between periods. The "As Adjusted" columns below are not measures of financial performance under GAAP. Accordingly, they should not be considered as substitutes for their "As Reported" GAAP counterparts, which are prepared in accordance with GAAP. Although we find these non-GAAP results useful in evaluating the performance of our business, our reliance on these measures is limited because the adjustments often have a material impact on our financial statements presented in accordance with GAAP. Therefore, we typically use these "As Adjusted" amounts in conjunction with our GAAP results to address these limitations. See the previous discussion in this section under the heading "Impairments and Other Charges" for discussion of the adjustments in

the table below, which reconciles adjusted results of operations (a non-GAAP measure) to the results of operations presented in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income in accordance with GAAP.

	Year Ended December 31,								
	2008			2009			2010		
	As Reported	Adjustments	As Adjusted	As Reported	Adjustments	As Adjusted	As Reported	Adjustments	As Adjusted
	(\$ in millions, shares in thousands, except per share data)								
Revenues	\$ 6,900.2	\$ —	\$ 6,900.2	\$ 6,055.3	\$ —	\$ 6,055.3	\$ 6,880.8	\$ —	\$ 6,880.8
Gross profit	1,107.2	—	1,107.2	1,032.7	—	1,032.7	1,114.7	—	1,114.7
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(906.3)	21.5	(884.8)	(829.2)	4.0	(825.2)	(896.8)	0.6	(896.2)
Impairment charges	(812.0)	812.0	—	(23.5)	23.5	—	(0.2)	0.2	—
Depreciation and amortization	(32.7)	—	(32.7)	(34.9)	—	(34.9)	(35.1)	—	(35.1)
Operating income	(643.8)	833.5	189.7	145.1	27.5	172.6	182.6	0.8	183.4
Other income (expense):									
Interest expense, floor plan	(43.4)	—	(43.4)	(19.8)	—	(19.8)	(21.5)	—	(21.5)
Interest expense, other, net	(59.0)	—	(59.0)	(78.3)	12.0	(66.3)	(63.3)	1.5	(61.8)
Interest expense, non-cash	(10.7)	—	(10.7)	(12.5)	0.5	(12.0)	(11.8)	4.9	(6.9)
Other income (expense), net	0.8	—	0.8	(6.6)	6.7	0.1	(7.6)	7.7	0.1
Total other expense	(112.3)	—	(112.3)	(117.2)	19.2	(98.0)	(104.2)	14.1	(90.1)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before taxes	(756.1)	833.5	77.4	27.9	46.7	74.6	78.4	14.9	93.3
Income tax benefit (expense)	122.3	(146.3)(1)	(24.0)	29.3	(61.5)(3)	(32.2)	17.5	(54.0)(5)	(36.5)
Income (loss) from continuing operations	(633.8)	687.2	53.4	57.2	(14.8)	42.4	95.9	(39.1)	56.8
Loss from discontinued operations	(58.5)	46.9(2)	(11.6)	(25.7)	15.5(4)	(10.2)	(6.0)	0.7(6)	(5.3)
Net income (loss)	\$ (692.3)	\$ 734.1	\$ 41.8	\$ 31.5	\$ 0.7	\$ 32.2	\$ 89.9	\$ (38.4)	\$ 51.5
Basic earnings (loss) per common share:									
Earnings (loss) per share from continuing operations	\$ (15.70)	\$ 17.01	\$ 1.31	\$ 1.29	\$ (0.33)	\$ 0.96	\$ 1.82	\$ (0.74)	\$ 1.08
Loss per share from discontinued operations	(1.46)	1.17	(0.29)	(0.58)	0.35	(0.23)	(0.12)	0.02	(0.10)
Earnings (loss) per common share	\$ (17.16)	\$ 18.18	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.73	\$ 1.70	\$ (0.72)	\$ 0.98
Weighted average shares outstanding	40,356		40,356	43,836		43,836	52,214		52,214
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share:									
Earnings (loss) per share from continuing operations	\$ (15.70)	\$ 17.01	\$ 1.31	\$ 1.07	\$ (0.26)	\$ 0.81	\$ 1.58	\$ (0.59)	\$ 0.99
Loss per share from discontinued operations	(1.46)	1.17	(0.29)	(0.45)	0.27	(0.18)	(0.09)	0.01	(0.08)
Earnings (loss) per common share	\$ (17.16)	\$ 18.18	\$ 1.02	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.63	\$ 1.49	\$ (0.58)	\$ 0.91
Weighted average shares outstanding	40,356		40,356	55,832		55,832	65,794		65,794

- (1) Tax effect of the pre-tax adjustments above in addition to expense of \$111.6 million related to valuation allowance and other tax adjustments.
- (2) Tax-effected adjustments to discontinued operations in addition to expense of \$3.4 million related to valuation allowance and other tax adjustments.
- (3) Tax effect of the pre-tax adjustments above in addition to a benefit of \$41.3 million related to valuation allowance and other tax adjustments.

- (4) Tax-effected adjustments to discontinued operations in addition to a benefit of \$6.1 million related to valuation allowance and other tax adjustments.
- (5) Tax effect of the pre-tax adjustments above in addition to a benefit of \$48.2 million related to valuation allowance and other tax adjustments.
- (6) Tax-effected adjustments to discontinued operations.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We require cash to fund debt service, operating lease obligations, working capital requirements and to finance acquisitions. We rely on cash flows from operations, borrowings under our revolving credit and floor plan borrowing arrangements, real estate mortgage financing, asset sales and offerings of debt and equity securities to meet these requirements. Our liquidity could be negatively affected if we fail to comply with the financial covenants in our existing debt or lease arrangements. Cash flows provided by our dealerships are derived from various sources. The primary sources include individual consumers, automobile manufacturers, automobile manufacturers' captive finance subsidiaries and finance companies. Disruptions in these cash flows can have a material and adverse impact on our operations and overall liquidity.

Because the majority of our consolidated assets are held by our dealership subsidiaries, the majority of our cash flows from operations are generated by these subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flows and ability to service our obligations depends to a substantial degree on the cash generated from the operations of these dealership subsidiaries.

In 2010, our overall debt maturity position improved as a result of the refinancing of our credit facilities in January 2010 and the issuance of our 9.0% Notes in March 2010. During 2010, we also redeemed \$232.1 million in aggregate principal amount of our 8.625% Notes and the remaining \$17.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 4.25% Convertible Notes.

In 2010, our operational performance began to rebound as the economy and the automotive retail industry environment improved coming out of the economic crisis that began in the fourth quarter of 2008. Average industry expectations for new vehicle sales volume in 2011 are between 12.0 million and 13.0 million vehicles which, if realized, would be an increase of 3.4% to 12.1% from the 2010 level. This suggests a steady improvement in automotive retailing in 2011. We believe our current capital structure and the expected results of our operating activities will enable us to continue to service our liquidity requirements.

Long-Term Debt and Credit Facilities

2010 Credit Facilities

Our 2010 Credit Facilities, executed on January 15, 2010, provide a total of up to \$521.0 million in combined revolving credit and floor plan financing.

Under the terms of the 2010 Credit Facilities, up to \$321.0 million is available for new vehicle inventory floor plan financing (the "2010 New Vehicle Floor Plan Sub-Facility"), up to \$50.0 million is available for used vehicle inventory floor plan financing (the "2010 Used Vehicle Floor Plan Sub-Facility") and up to \$150.0 million is available for working capital and general corporate purposes (the "2010 Revolving Credit Facility"). The 2010 Credit Facilities mature on August 15, 2012. We also have capacity to finance new and used vehicle inventory purchases under bilateral floor plan agreements with various manufacturer-affiliated finance companies and other lending institutions (the "Silo Floor Plan Facilities").

Availability under our 2010 Revolving Credit Facility is calculated as the lesser of \$150.0 million or a borrowing base calculated based on certain eligible assets plus 50% of the fair market value of 5,000,000 shares of common stock of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. that are pledged as collateral (the "2010 Revolving Borrowing Base"). The 2010 Revolving Credit Facility may be expanded up to \$215.0 million upon satisfaction of certain conditions. A withdrawal of this pledge by Sonic Financial Corporation ("SFC"), which holds the 5,000,000 shares of common stock of Speedway Motorsports, Inc., or a significant decline in the value of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. common stock, could reduce the amount we can borrow under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility.

The 2010 Revolving Borrowing Base was approximately \$145.6 million at December 31, 2010. The amount available to be borrowed under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility is calculated by subtracting the sum of (1) any outstanding borrowings plus (2) the cumulative face amount of any outstanding letters of credit from the 2010 Revolving Borrowing Base. At December 31, 2010, we had no outstanding borrowings and \$47.7 million in outstanding letters of credit resulting in total borrowing availability of \$97.9 million.

Under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility, the amounts outstanding bear interest at a specified percentage above LIBOR, ranging from 2.50% per annum to 4.00% per annum, (but, in any case, not less than 3.50% per annum through the end of the first quarter of 2011) according to a performance-based pricing grid determined by our Consolidated Total Debt to EBITDA Ratio as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter (the "Performance Grid").

Under the 2010 New Vehicle Floor Plan Sub-Facility, amounts outstanding bear interest at a specified percentage above LIBOR, ranging from 1.50% per annum to 2.25% per annum (but, in any case, not less than 2.00% per annum through the end of the first quarter of 2011), according to the Performance Grid. Under the 2010 Used Vehicle Floor Plan Sub-Facility, amounts outstanding bear interest at a specified percentage above LIBOR, ranging from 1.75% per annum to 2.50% per annum (but, in any case, not less than 2.25% per annum through the end of the first quarter of 2011), according to the Performance Grid.

Availability under our 2010 Used Vehicle Floor Plan Sub-Facility is calculated as the lesser of \$50.0 million or a borrowing base calculated based on certain eligible inventory, net of any liens or reserves (the "2010 Used Vehicle Borrowing Base"). At December 31, 2010, the 2010 Used Vehicle Borrowing Base was approximately \$27.9 million and we had \$10.0 million in outstanding borrowings, resulting in total availability of approximately \$17.9 million.

The Silo Floor Plan Facilities provide financing for new and used vehicle inventory and bear interest at variable rates based on prime or LIBOR. Our obligations under the Silo Floor Plan Facilities are guaranteed by us and are secured by liens on substantially all of the assets of our respective dealership franchise subsidiaries that receive financing under these arrangements.

All amounts outstanding (including any outstanding letters of credit) under the 2010 Credit Facilities are secured by a pledge of substantially all of our assets and the assets of substantially all of our dealership franchise subsidiaries, in addition to the pledge of 5,000,000 shares of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. Common Stock owned by SFC. The collateral for the 2010 Credit Facilities also includes the pledge of the stock or equity interests of our dealership franchise subsidiaries, except where such a pledge is prohibited by the applicable vehicle manufacturer.

We agreed under the 2010 Credit Facilities not to pledge any assets to any third party, subject to certain stated exceptions, including floor plan financing arrangements. In addition, the 2010 Credit Facilities contain certain negative covenants, including covenants which could restrict or prohibit indebtedness, liens, the payment of dividends, capital expenditures and material dispositions of assets as well as other customary covenants and default provisions. Specifically, the 2010 Credit Facilities permit cash dividends on our Class A and Class B common stock so long as no event of default (as defined in the 2010 Credit Facilities) has occurred and is continuing and provided that we remain in compliance with all financial covenants under the 2010 Credit Facilities.

The 2010 Credit Facilities contain events of default, including cross-defaults to other material indebtedness, change of control events and events of default customary for syndicated commercial credit facilities. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, we could be required to immediately repay all outstanding amounts under the 2010 Credit Facilities. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the 2010 Credit Facilities.

9.0% Notes

On March 12, 2010, we issued \$210.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 9.0% Notes which mature on March 15, 2018. On April 12, 2010, we used the net proceeds, together with cash on hand, to redeem \$200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 8.625% Notes due 2013. The 9.0% Notes are unsecured senior subordinated obligations and are guaranteed by our domestic operating subsidiaries and rank equal in right of payment to all of our and the subsidiary guarantors' existing and future senior subordinated indebtedness. Interest is payable semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 each year. We may redeem the 9.0% Notes in whole or in part at any time.

after March 15, 2014 at the redemption prices in the following table, which are expressed as percentages of the principal amount. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the 9.0% Notes.

	Redemption
Beginning on March 15, 2014	104.50%
Beginning on March 15, 2015	102.25%
Beginning on March 15, 2016 and thereafter	100.00%

8.625% Notes

As discussed above, during 2010 we redeemed \$200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 8.625% Notes using proceeds from the issuance of the 9.0% Notes. We also redeemed an additional \$32.1 million in aggregate principal amount of our 8.625% Notes using cash on hand. At December 31, 2010, we had \$42.9 million outstanding under the 8.625% Notes. Our obligations under the 8.625% Notes are guaranteed by our operating domestic subsidiaries. The 8.625% Notes are unsecured obligations that rank equal in right of payment to all of our and the subsidiary guarantors' existing and future senior subordinated indebtedness, mature on August 15, 2013 and are currently redeemable at our option. The redemption premiums for the twelve-month periods beginning August 15 of the years 2010 and 2011 are 101.438% and 100.000%, respectively. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the 8.625% Notes.

5.0% Convertible Notes

On September 23, 2009, we issued \$172.5 million in principal of 5.0% Convertible Notes and 10,350,000 shares of Class A common stock. Net proceeds from these issuances were used to repurchase \$143.0 million in aggregate principal amount of our 4.25% Convertible Notes, \$85.6 million in aggregate principal amount of our 6.0% Convertible Notes and to repay amounts outstanding under the 2006 Credit Facility.

The 5.0% Convertible Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.0% per year, payable semiannually on April 1 and October 1 of each year and mature on October 1, 2029. We may redeem some or all of the 5.0% Convertible Notes for cash at any time subsequent to October 1, 2014 at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes. Holders have the right to require us to purchase the 5.0% Convertible Notes on each of October 1, 2014, October 1, 2019 and October 1, 2024 or in the event of a change in control for cash at a purchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes.

Holders of the 5.0% Convertible Notes may convert their notes at their option prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding July 1, 2029 only under the following circumstances: (1) during any fiscal quarter commencing after December 31, 2009, if the last reported sale price of the Class A common stock for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the preceding fiscal quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the applicable conversion price on each applicable trading day; (2) during the five business day period after any 10 consecutive trading day period (the "measurement period") in which the trading price (as defined below) per \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each day of that measurement period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of our Class A common stock and the applicable conversion rate on each such day; (3) if we call any or all of the notes for redemption, the notes so called for redemption at any time prior to the close of business on the third scheduled trading day prior to the redemption date; or (4) upon the occurrence of specified corporate events. On and after July 1, 2029 to (and including) the close of business on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, holders may convert their notes at any time, regardless of the foregoing circumstances. The conversion rate is 74.7245 shares of Class A common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, which is equivalent to a conversion price of approximately \$13.38 per share of Class A common stock. The 5.0% Convertible Notes were not convertible at any time in 2010.

To recognize the equity component of a convertible borrowing instrument, upon issuance of the 5.0% Convertible Notes in September 2009, we recorded a debt discount of \$31.0 million and a corresponding amount (net of taxes of \$12.8 million) to equity. The debt discount will be amortized to interest expense through October 2014, the

earliest redemption date. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the 5.0% Convertible Notes.

4.25% Convertible Notes

As discussed above, \$143.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.25% Convertible Notes were repurchased in 2009, resulting in a gain of \$0.1 million recorded in other income (expense), net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. In addition, the repurchase required the write-off of approximately \$7.1 million of unamortized debt discount, which was offset by a \$4.3 million adjustment to paid-in capital and a \$2.9 million adjustment to deferred income tax assets.

We repurchased approximately \$1.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.25% Convertible Notes during the second quarter of 2010 at amounts close to par. In November 2010, we used cash on hand to extinguish the remaining \$16.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.25% Convertible Notes at the applicable redemption price (100.00% of principal redeemed) plus accrued but unpaid interest. The 4.25% Convertible Notes were not convertible at any time in 2010. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of the 4.25% Convertible Notes.

Notes Payable to a Finance Company

Three notes payable totaling \$26.6 million in aggregate principal were assumed with the purchase of certain dealerships during the second quarter of 2004 (the "Assumed Notes"). The Assumed Notes mature November 1, 2015 through September 1, 2016 and are collateralized by letters of credit. We recorded the Assumed Notes at fair value using an interest rate of 5.35%. Although the Assumed Notes allow for prepayment, the penalties and fees are disproportionately burdensome relative to the Assumed Notes' principal balance. Therefore, we do not currently intend to prepay the Assumed Notes.

Mortgage Notes

During 2010, we obtained \$21.2 million in mortgage financing related to four of our properties. During 2009, we obtained \$6.3 million in mortgage financing for capital construction projects on our dealership facilities. Since implementing our strategy of owning more of our dealership properties in late 2007, we have added \$142.7 million in mortgage financing to our capital structure on 14 of our dealership properties. These mortgage notes require monthly payments of principal and interest through maturity, are secured by the underlying properties and contain certain cross-default provisions. Maturity dates range between June 2013 and December 2029. At December 31, 2010, the weighted average interest rate was 4.91% and the total outstanding balance of our mortgages was \$133.9 million.

Operating Leases

We lease facilities for the majority of our dealership operations under operating lease arrangements. These facility lease arrangements normally have fifteen to twenty year terms with one or two ten year renewal options and do not contain provisions for contingent rent related to dealership's operations. Many of the leases are subject to the provisions of a guaranty and subordination agreement that contains financial and affirmative covenants. Approximately 20% of these facility leases are based on capitalization rates with payments that vary based on interest rates. We also lease certain equipment for use in dealership operations. These equipment lease arrangements normally have three to five year terms with one or two year renewal options. See the table under the heading "Future Liquidity Outlook" below for our future minimum lease payment obligations, net of sublease proceeds.

Floor Plan Facilities

We finance our new and certain of our used vehicle inventory through standardized floor plan facilities which are due on demand. These floor plan facilities bear interest at variable rates based on LIBOR and prime. The weighted average interest rate for our floor plan facilities for continuing and discontinued operations was 2.54% for 2009 and 2.71% for 2010. We receive floor plan assistance from certain manufacturers. Floor plan assistance received is capitalized in inventory and charged against cost of sales when the associated inventory is sold. We

received approximately \$30.8 million, \$19.4 million and \$24.6 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, and recognized in cost of sales for continuing operations and discontinued operations approximately \$30.1 million, \$22.6 million and \$24.0 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, in manufacturer assistance. Interest payments under each of our floor plan facilities are due monthly and we are not required to make principal repayments prior to the sale of the vehicles.

Covenants and Default Provisions

Non-compliance with covenants, including a failure to make any payment when due, under our 2010 Credit Facilities, Silo Floor Plan Facilities, operating lease agreements, mortgage notes, 9.0% Notes, 8.625% Notes and 5.0% Convertible Notes (collectively, our "Significant Debt Agreements") could result in a default and an acceleration of our repayment obligation under our 2010 Credit Facilities. A default under our 2010 Credit Facilities would constitute a default under our Silo Floor Plan Facilities and could entitle these lenders to accelerate our repayment obligations under the one or more of the floor plan facilities. Certain defaults under our 2010 Credit Facilities and one or more Silo Floor Plan Facilities, or certain other debt obligations would not result in a default under our 9.0% Notes, 8.625% Notes or 5.0% Convertible Notes unless our repayment obligations under the 2010 Credit Facilities and/or one or more of the Silo Floor Plan Facilities or such other debt obligations were accelerated. An acceleration of our repayment obligation under any of our Significant Debt Agreements could result in an acceleration of our repayment obligations under our other Significant Debt Agreements. The failure to repay principal amounts of the Significant Debt Agreements when due would create cross-default situations related to other indebtedness. The 2010 Credit Facilities include the following financial covenants:

	Covenant		
	Consolidated Liquidity Ratio	Consolidated Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio	Consolidated Total Senior Secured Debt to EBITDA Ratio
Through March 30, 2011	³ 1.00	³ 1.10	£2.25
March 31, 2011 through and including March 30, 2012	³ 1.05	³ 1.15	£2.25
March 31, 2012 and thereafter	³ 1.10	³ 1.20	£2.25
December 31, 2010 actual	1.17	1.40	1.22

In addition, many of our facility leases are governed by a guarantee agreement between the landlord and us that contains financial and operating covenants. The financial covenants are identical to those under the 2010 Credit Facilities with the exception of one financial covenant related to the ratio of EBT DAR to Rent with a required ratio of no less than 1.5 to 1.0. At December 31, 2010, the ratio was 2.11 to 1.00.

We were in compliance with all of the restrictive and financial covenants on all of our floor plan, long-term debt facilities and lease agreements as of December 31, 2010. We expect to be in compliance with all of our long-term debt agreements for the foreseeable future.

Acquisitions and Dispositions

During 2010, we did not acquire any franchises. Under the 2010 Credit Facilities, we are restricted from making dealership franchise acquisitions in any fiscal year if the aggregate cost of all such acquisitions occurring in any fiscal year is in excess of \$25.0 million, without the written consent of the Required Lenders (as that term is defined in the 2010 Credit Facilities). Currently, we have no plans to pursue any significant dealership franchise acquisition activity in 2011. Although we believe growth through acquisitions will be a significant source of growth for us in the future, we do not see this being a significant source of growth in the near-term.

During 2010, we disposed of 13 franchises, of which three were General Motors terminations. These disposals generated cash of \$24.7 million. In addition, as of December 31, 2010, we had no additional franchises classified as held for sale.

Capital Expenditures

Our capital expenditures include the purchase of land, construction of new dealerships and collision repair centers, building improvements and equipment purchased for use in our dealerships. We selectively construct new dealership facilities to maintain compliance with manufacturers' image requirements. We often finance these projects first through new mortgages and secondly through cash flow from operations and availability under our credit facilities.

Capital expenditures in 2010 were approximately \$88.3 million. Of this amount, \$43.7 million was related to facility construction projects, \$29.1 million was related to real estate acquisitions and \$15.5 million was for fixed assets utilized in our dealership operations. Of the 2010 capital expenditures, \$21.2 million was funded through mortgage financing and \$67.1 million was funded through cash from operations and use of our credit facilities. See the previous discussion in this section under the heading "Mortgage Notes". As of December 31, 2010, commitments for facilities construction projects totaled approximately \$17.3 million. We expect investments related to capital expenditures to be dependent upon the availability of mortgage financing to fund significant capital projects.

Subsequent to December 31, 2010, we purchased five dealership properties which we were previously leasing through long-term operating leases for \$75.2 million, utilizing cash on hand and borrowings under our 2010 Credit Facilities.

Stock Repurchase Program

Our Board of Directors has authorized us to repurchase shares of our Class A common stock or redeem securities convertible into Class A common stock. Historically, we have used our share repurchase authorization to offset dilution caused by the exercise of stock options or the vesting of restricted stock awards and to maintain our desired capital structure. At the end of 2010, our remaining repurchase authorization was approximately \$43.5 million. Under our 2010 Credit Facilities, share repurchases are permitted to the extent that no event of default exists and we are in compliance with the financial covenants contained therein.

Our share repurchase activity is subject to the business judgment of management and our Board of Directors, taking into consideration our historical and projected results of operations, financial condition, cash flows, capital requirements, covenant compliance and economic and other factors considered relevant. These factors are considered each quarter and will be scrutinized as management and our Board of Directors determines our share repurchase policy throughout 2011.

Dividends

Our Board of Directors approved a cash dividend on all outstanding shares of Class A and Class B common stock of \$0.025 per share in the fourth quarter of 2010. Subsequent to December 31, 2010, our Board of Directors approved a cash dividend on all outstanding shares of common stock of \$0.025 per share for shareholders of record on March 15, 2011 to be paid on April 15, 2011. Under our 2010 Credit Facilities, dividends are permitted to the extent that no event of default exists and we are in compliance with the financial covenants contained therein. The indentures governing our outstanding 8.625% Notes and 9.0% Notes contain restrictions on our ability to pay dividends. The payment of any future dividend is subject to the business judgment of our Board of Directors, taking into consideration our historic and projected results of operations, financial condition, cash flows, capital requirements, covenant compliance, share repurchases, current economic environment and other factors considered relevant. These factors are considered each quarter and will be scrutinized as our Board of Directors determines our dividend policy throughout 2011. There is no guarantee that additional dividends will be declared and paid at any time in the future. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for a description of restrictions on the payment of dividends.

Cash Flows

Cash Flows from Operating Activities — Net cash provided by operating activities was \$120.6 million, \$403.6 million and \$255.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively.

We arrange our inventory floor plan financing through both manufacturer captive finance companies and a syndicate of manufacturer-affiliated finance companies and commercial banks. Our floor plan financed with manufacturer captives is recorded as trade floor plan liabilities (with the resulting change being reflected as an operating cash flow). Our dealerships that obtain floor plan financing from a syndicate of manufacturer-affiliated finance companies and commercial banks record their obligation as non-trade floor plan liabilities (with the resulting change being reflected as a financing cash flow).

Due to the presentation differences for changes in trade floor plan and non-trade floor plan in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, decisions made by us to move dealership floor plan financing arrangements from one finance source to another may cause significant variations in operating and financing cash flows without affecting our overall liquidity, working capital, or cash flow.

Net cash used in combined trade and non-trade floor plan financing was \$53.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008 and \$353.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2009. The significant reduction of floor plan liabilities in 2009 was mostly offset by a corresponding \$307.8 million decrease in inventory. Net cash provided by combined trade and non-trade floor plan financing was \$95.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. Had all floor plan financing changes been included in cash flow from operations, adjusted cash provided by operations would have been \$116.5 million, \$108.8 million and \$86.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Inventory levels were reduced in 2009 due to the struggling economy, but in 2010 Sonic began to build up inventory levels as economic conditions improved. The primary factor increasing cash provided from operations during 2010 was the inflow of cash provided by notes payable — floor plan - trade of \$264.0 million as a result of the floor plan refinancing that occurred in the first half of 2010, under which notes payable — floor plan — trade replaced a significant amount of notes payable — floor plan — non-trade. During 2009, the reduction of inventory levels generated cash of \$307.8 million, and in 2008, reductions of accounts receivable generated cash of \$101.1 million.

Cash Flows from Investing Activities — Cash used in investing activities during 2008, 2009 and 2010 was \$115.3 million, \$9.7 million, and \$58.7 million, respectively. During 2010, the majority of the investing activities cash outflow is related to capital expenditures partially offset by proceeds received from the disposition of franchises. During 2008 and 2009, cash used in investing activities was primarily related to capital expenditures partially offset by proceeds received from dealership dispositions and the sales of property and equipment. Dealership franchise acquisitions, net of cash acquired, used \$22.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, whereas there were no dealership franchise acquisitions in the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010. We do not expect to complete any significant dealership franchise acquisitions in 2011.

The significant components of capital expenditures relate primarily to dealership renovations and the purchase of certain existing dealership facilities which had previously been financed under long-term operating leases. During 2008, 2009 and 2010, we used proceeds from mortgage financing in the amount of \$56.9 million, \$6.3 million and \$21.2 million, respectively, to purchase certain existing dealership facilities and to fund certain capital expenditures.

Cash Flows from Financing Activities — Net cash used in financing activities was \$14.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, \$370.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2009, and \$204.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. For the year ended December 31, 2010, excluding the effect of changes in notes payable floor plan, non-trade, cash flow used in financing activities is comprised primarily of repurchases of debt securities, payments on long-term debt and debt issuance costs, partially offset by new borrowings.

During the year ended December 31, 2009, cash used in financing activities was comprised primarily of payments on long-term debt partially offset by new borrowings and issuance of common stock. During 2009, we repurchased the remaining balances of our 5.25% Convertible Notes for \$15.7 million and a portion of our 4.25% Convertible Notes for \$143.0 million. During 2009, we also issued common stock of \$101.3 million and paid cash of \$16.5 million for the settlement of two swaps.

Cash Flows from Discontinued Operations — Our Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows includes both continuing and discontinued operations. Net cash used in operating activities associated with discontinued

operations for the year ended December 31, 2010 was approximately \$25.6 million. This was substantially comprised of changes in assets and liabilities that relate to dealership operations. In our Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, cash flows from investing activities includes the line item "Proceeds from sale of franchises" which is entirely related to discontinued operations. With the exception of "Proceeds from sale of franchises" in the amount of \$24.7 million and "Net payments on notes payable — floor plan — non-trade" in the amount of \$6.7 million, 2010 cash flows from investing and financing activities represent an immaterial amount of total cash flows from discontinued operations.

Guarantees and Indemnification Obligations

See discussion under heading "Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements — Guarantees and Indemnification Obligations" below.

Future Liquidity Outlook

Our future contractual obligations are as follows:

	2011	2012	2013	2014 (In thousands)	2015	Thereafter	Total
Floor Plan Facilities	\$ 861,985	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 861,985
Long-Term Debt(1)	8,449	8,991	58,103	184,923	15,383	305,084	580,933
Letters of Credit	47,657	—	—	—	—	—	47,657
Estimated Interest Payments on Floor Plan Facilities(2)	3,980	—	—	—	—	—	3,980
Estimated Interest Payments on Long-Term Debt(3)	62,586	49,250	38,039	32,701	25,471	64,750	272,797
Operating Leases (Net of Sublease Rentals)	107,191	97,935	93,465	90,004	85,609	385,844	860,048
Construction Contracts	17,331	—	—	—	—	—	17,331
Other Purchase Obligations(4)	80,836	4,135	3,500	3,500	—	—	91,971
FIN 48 Liability(5)	500	—	—	—	—	27,099	27,599
Total	\$ 1,190,515	\$ 160,311	\$ 193,107	\$ 311,128	\$ 126,463	\$ 782,777	\$ 2,764,301

- (1) Amounts outstanding under the 8.625% Notes are redeemable at our option but have been classified in this schedule according to contractual maturity. The 5.0% Convertible Notes are redeemable before the stated maturities at both our option and the option of the respective holders. The assumed maturities of these securities are based on these earlier redemption date, which is October 2014 for the 5.0% Convertible Notes. All amounts represent outstanding principal only.
- (2) Floor plan facilities balances are correlated with the amount of vehicle inventory and are generally due at the time that a vehicle is sold. Estimated interest payments were calculated using the December 31, 2010 floor plan facilities balance, the weighted average interest rate for the fourth quarter of 2010 of 2.78% and the assumption that floor plan facilities balances at December 31, 2010 would be relieved within 60 days in connection with the sale of the associated vehicle inventory.
- (3) Estimated interest payments calculated based on assumed or stated maturities consistent discussion in (1) above. Estimated interest payments include payments related to interest rate swaps.
- (4) Other Purchase Obligations include contracts for office supplies, utilities, and various other items or services. The \$75.2 million of dealership property discussed under the previous heading "Capital Expenditures" is included in the amount for 2011.
- (5) Amount represents recorded liability, including interest and penalties, related to FIN 48. See Notes 1 and 7 to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

We believe our best source of liquidity for operations and debt service remains cash flows generated from operations combined with our availability of borrowings under our floor plan facilities (or any replacements thereof), our 2010 Credit Facilities, selected dealership and other asset sales and our ability to raise funds in the capital markets. Because the majority of our consolidated assets are held by our dealership subsidiaries, the majority of our cash flows from operations are generated by these subsidiaries. As a result, our cash flows and ability to service debt depends to a substantial degree on the results of operations of these subsidiaries and their ability to provide us with cash.

Seasonality

Our operations are subject to seasonal variations. The first quarter normally contributes less operating profit than the second, third and fourth quarters. Weather conditions, the timing of manufacturer incentive programs and model changeovers cause seasonality, and may adversely affect vehicle demand, and consequently, our profitability. Comparatively, parts and service demand remains more stable throughout the year.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Guarantees and Indemnification Obligations

In connection with the operation and disposition of dealership franchises, we have entered into various guarantees and indemnification obligations. When we sell dealership franchises, we attempt to assign any related lease to the buyer of the franchise to eliminate any future liability. However, if we are unable to assign the related leases to the buyer, we will attempt to sublease the leased properties to the buyer at a rate equal to the terms of the original leases. In the event we are unable to sublease the properties to the buyer with terms at least equal to our lease, we may be required to record lease exit accruals. We expect the aggregate amount of the obligations we guarantee to increase as we dispose of additional franchises. See Note 12, "Commitments and Contingencies," to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion regarding these guarantees and indemnification obligations. Past performance under these guarantees and indemnification obligations and their estimated fair value has been immaterial to our liquidity and capital resources. Although we seek to mitigate our exposure in connection with these matters, these guarantees and indemnification obligations, including environmental exposures and the financial performance of lease assignees and sub-lessees, cannot be predicted with certainty. An unfavorable resolution of one or more of these matters could have a material adverse effect on our liquidity and capital resources. At December 31, 2010, our future gross minimum lease payments related to properties subleased to buyers of sold franchises totaled approximately \$119.1 million. Future sublease payments expected to be received related to these lease payments were \$94.3 million at December 31, 2010.

5.0% Convertible Notes

The 5.0% Convertible Notes are convertible into shares of our Class A common stock, at the option of the holder, based on certain conditions. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," to the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion regarding these conversion conditions, which are primarily linked to the per share price of our Class A common stock and the relationship between the trading values of our Class A common stock and the 5.0% Convertible Notes.

Item 7A: *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.*

Interest Rate Risk

Our variable rate floor plan facilities, revolving credit facility borrowings and other variable rate notes expose us to risks caused by fluctuations in the applicable interest rates. The total outstanding balance of such variable instruments after considering the effect of our interest rate swaps (see below) was approximately \$408.0 million at December 31, 2009 and approximately \$504.9 million at December 31, 2010. A change of 100 basis points in the underlying interest rate would have caused a change in interest expense of approximately \$5.1 million in 2009 and approximately \$4.6 million in 2010. Of the total change in interest expense, approximately \$4.5 million in both 2009 and 2010 would have resulted from the floor plan facilities.

In addition to our variable rate debt, as of December 31, 2009 and 2010 approximately 20% of our dealership lease facilities have monthly lease payments that fluctuate based on LIBOR interest rates. An increase in interest rates of 100 basis points would not have had a significant impact on rent expense in 2010 due to the leases containing LIBOR floors which were above the LIBOR rate during 2010.

We also have the Fixed Swaps to effectively convert a portion of our LIBOR based variable rate debt to a fixed rate. Under the terms of the Fixed Swaps interest rates reset monthly. The fair value of these swap positions at December 31, 2010 was a liability of \$32.7 million included in Other Long-Term Liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. See the previous discussion of "Interest Expense/Amortization, Non-Cash, Cash Flow Swaps" in Item 7: *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*. We will receive and pay interest based on the following:

Notional (In millions)	Pay Rate	Receive Rate(1)	Maturing Date
\$ 200.0	4.935%	one-month LIBOR	May 1, 2012
\$ 100.0	5.265%	one-month LIBOR	June 1, 2012
\$ 3.6	7.100%	one-month LIBOR	July 10, 2017
\$ 25.0(2)	5.160%	one-month LIBOR	September 1, 2012
\$ 15.0(2)	4.965%	one-month LIBOR	September 1, 2012
\$ 25.0(2)	4.885%	one-month LIBOR	October 1, 2012
\$ 11.3	4.655%	one-month LIBOR	December 10, 2017
\$ 8.7	6.860%	one-month LIBOR	August 1, 2017
\$ 6.9	4.330%	one-month LIBOR	July 1, 2013
\$ 100.0(3)	3.280%	one-month LIBOR	July 1, 2015
\$ 100.0(3)	3.300%	one-month LIBOR	July 1, 2015
\$ 7.3	6.410%	one-month LIBOR	September 12, 2017

- (1) The one-month LIBOR rate was 0.261% at December 31, 2010.
- (2) After December 31, 2009 changes in fair value are recorded through earnings.
- (3) The effective date of these forward-starting swaps is July 2, 2012.

During the second quarter of 2010, we entered into two \$100.0 million notional forward-starting interest rate swap agreements which become effective in July 2012 and terminate in July 2015. These interest rate swaps have been designated and qualify as cash flow hedges and, as a result, changes in the fair value of these swaps are recorded in other comprehensive income (loss), net of related income taxes, in the Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity.

During the first quarter of 2009, we settled our \$100.0 million notional, pay 5.002% and \$100.0 million notional, pay 5.319% swaps above with a payment to the counterparty for approximately \$16.5 million.

Absent the acceleration of payments of principal that may result from non-compliance with financial and operational covenants under our various indebtedness, future principal maturities of variable and fixed rate debt and related interest rate swaps are as follows:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Thereafter	Total	Fair Value
	(\$ in thousands)							
Long-term Debt:								
Fixed Rate Maturities	\$ 5,623	\$ 6,180	\$ 49,542	\$ 182,469	\$ 7,003	\$ 284,477	\$ 535,294	
Fixed Rate Outstanding	\$ 535,294	\$ 529,671	\$ 523,491	\$ 473,949	\$ 291,480	\$ 284,477	\$ 588,893	\$ 588,893
Average Interest Rate on Outstanding Debt	7.27%	7.27%	7.26%	7.12%	8.36%	8.37%		
Variable Rate Maturities	\$ 2,826	\$ 2,811	\$ 8,561	\$ 2,454	\$ 8,380	\$ 20,607	\$ 45,639	
Variable Rate Outstanding	\$ 45,639	\$ 42,813	\$ 40,002	\$ 31,441	\$ 28,987	\$ 20,607	\$ 39,962	\$ 39,962
Average Interest Rate on Outstanding Debt	2.34%	2.35%	2.36%	2.27%	2.28%	1.88%		
Cash Flow Swaps:								
Variable to Fixed Maturities	\$ 1,791	\$ 366,836	\$ 7,621	\$ 1,536	\$ 1,597	\$ 223,380	\$ 602,761	
Variable to Fixed Outstanding	\$ 402,761	\$ 35,946	\$ 28,008	\$ 26,513	\$ 24,977	\$ 223,380	\$ (32,675)	\$ (32,675)
Average Pay Rate on Outstanding Swaps	5.10%	5.69%	6.00%	6.00%	6.01%	5.58%		
Receive Rate	1M LIBOR	1M LIBOR	1M LIBOR	1M LIBOR	1M LIBOR	1M LIBOR		

Foreign Currency Risk

We purchase certain of our new vehicle and parts inventories from foreign manufacturers. Although we purchase our inventories in U.S. Dollars, our business is subject to foreign exchange rate risk which may influence automobile manufacturers' ability to provide their products at competitive prices in the United States. To the extent that we cannot recapture this volatility in prices charged to customers or if this volatility negatively impacts consumer demand for our products, this volatility could adversely affect our future operating results.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

See "Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes" that appears on page F-1 herein.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure.

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures.

Controls and Procedures

Our management, under the supervision and with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Based on this evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. During our last fiscal quarter, there were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect our internal control over financial reporting.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f). Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide a reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on our evaluation under the framework in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework*, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2010.

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010 has been attested to by Ernst & Young LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited our financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, as stated in their report which is included herein.

Item 9B. *Other Information.*

None.

PART III

Item 10. *Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance.*

Information required by this item is furnished by incorporation by reference to the information under the captions entitled “Election of Directors,” “Election of Directors — Board Meetings and Committees of the Board — Audit Committee,” “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance,” and “Additional Corporate Governance and Other Information — Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Committee Charters” in the Proxy Statement (to be filed hereafter) for our Annual Meeting of the Stockholders to be held on April 21, 2011 (the “Proxy Statement”). The information required by this item with respect to our executive officers appears in Part I of this Annual Report on Form 10-K under the caption “Executive Officers of the Registrant.”

Item 11. *Executive Compensation.*

The information required by this item is furnished by incorporation by reference to the information under the captions entitled “Executive Compensation” and “Director Compensation for 2010” in the Proxy Statement.

Item 12. *Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters*

The information required by this item is furnished by incorporation by reference to the information under the caption “General — Ownership of Voting Stock” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” in the Proxy Statement.

Item 13. *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions and Director Independence*

The information required by this item is furnished by incorporation by reference to all information under the captions “Certain Transactions” and “Election of Directors — Board and Committee Member Independence” in the Proxy Statement.

Item 14. *Principal Accountant Fees and Services.*

The information required by this item is furnished by incorporation by reference to the information under the caption “Selection of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in the Proxy Statement.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules.

The exhibits and other documents filed as a part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, including those exhibits that are incorporated by reference herein, are:

(a) (1) Financial Statements: Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2009 and 2010. Consolidated Statements of Income for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

(2) Financial Statement Schedules: No financial statement schedules are required to be filed (no respective financial statement captions) as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(3) Exhibits: Exhibits required in connection with this Annual Report on Form 10-K are listed below. Certain of such exhibits, indicated by an asterisk, are hereby incorporated by reference to other documents on file with the SEC with which they are physically filed, to be a part hereof as of their respective dates.

Exhibit No.	<u>Description</u>
3.1*	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Sonic (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-33295) (the "Form S-1")).
3.2*	Certificate of Amendment to Sonic's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective June 18, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999 (the "1999 Form 10-K")).
3.3*	Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of Class A Convertible Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Sonic's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 1998).
3.4*	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Sonic (as amended February 9, 2006) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Sonic's Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 13, 2006).
4.1*	Specimen Certificate representing Class A Common Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form S-1)
4.2*	Form of 8 ⁵ / ₈ % Senior Subordinated Note due 2013, Series B (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Reg. Nos. 333-109426 and 333-109426-1 through 109426-261) (the "2003 Exchange Offer Form S-4")).
4.3*	Indenture dated as of August 12, 2003 among Sonic Automotive, Inc., as issuer, the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein, as guarantors, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (the "Trustee"), relating to the 8 ⁵ / ₈ % Senior Subordinated Notes due 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the 2003 Exchange Offer Form S-4).
4.4*	Form of 5.0% Convertible Senior Note due October 2029 (included in Exhibit 4.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 25, 2009 (the "September 25, 2009 Form 8-K")).
4.5*	Indenture dated as of September 23, 2009 (the "Base Indenture") by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc, the guarantors named therein, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the September 25, 2009 Form 8-K).
4.6*	First Supplemental Indenture dated as of September 23, 2009 to the Base Indenture (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the September 2009 Form 8-K).
4.7*	Registration Rights Agreement dated as of March 12, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc. the guarantors set forth on the signature page thereto and Banc of America Securities LLC, as representative of the several initial purchasers named on Schedule A to the Purchase Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the March 2010 Form 8-K).
4.8*	Indenture dated as of March 12, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc, as issuer, the guarantors named therein, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, relating to the 9.0% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2018 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the March 2010 Form 8-K).
4.9*	Form of 9.0% Senior Subordinated Note due 2018 (included in Exhibit 4.2) to Exhibit 4.2 to the March 2010 Form 8-K).

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<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.1*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, Amended and Restated as of February 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-159674))(1)
10.2*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 1997 Stock Option Plan, Amended and Restated as of April 22, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to Sonic's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003).(1)
10.3*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Amended and Restated as of May 8, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the 2002 Annual Report).(1)
10.4*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Nonqualified Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Amended and Restated as of October 23, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the 2002 Annual Report). (1)
10.5*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2005 Formula Restricted Stock Plan for Non-Employee Directors, Amended and Restated as of May 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-159675))(1)
10.6*	Employment Agreement dated January 30, 2006 between Sonic and Mr. David P. Cosper (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Sonic's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2006 (the "March 2006 Form 10-Q"))(1)
10.7*	First Amendment to Employment Agreement dated January 30, 2006 between Sonic and Mr. David P. Cosper. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)(1)
10.8*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement.(1)
10.9*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Award Agreement.(1)
10.10*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Incentive Compensation Plan, Amended and Restated as of December 4, 2008.(1)
10.11*	Standard form of lease executed with Capital Automotive, L.P. or its affiliates (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.12*	Standard form of guaranty executed with Capital Automotive, L.P. or its affiliates (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.39 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.13*	Amendment to Guaranty and Subordination Agreements, dated as of January 1, 2005, by Sonic as Guarantor, to Capital Automotive, L.P. and affiliates, as Landlord (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.14*	Second Amendment to Guaranty and Subordination Agreements, dated as of March 11, 2009, by Sonic as Guarantor, to Capital Automotive, L.P. and affiliates, as Landlord. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.15*	Side letter to Second Amendment to Guaranty and Subordination Agreements, dated as of March 11, 2009, by Sonic as Guarantor, to Capital Automotive, L.P. and affiliates, as Landlord. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)
10.16*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, Amended and Restated as of February 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-159674))(1)
10.17*	Underwriting Agreement (Class A common stock) dated as of September 17, 2009 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 23, 2009 (the "September 23, 2009 Form 8-K"))).
10.18*	Underwriting Agreement (convertible senior notes) dated as of September 17, 2009 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.2 to the September 23, 2009 Form 8-K).

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.19*	Amendment No. 1 to Sonic Automotive, Inc. Formula Stock Option Plan for Independent Directors.(1)
10.20*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Incentive Compensation Plan Amended and Restated as of December 4, 2008.(1)
10.21*	Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, among Sonic Automotive, Inc.; each lender; Bank of America, N.A, as Administrative Agent, Swing Line Lender and an L/C Issuer, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as an L/C Issuer.
10.22*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Bank of America, N.A., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.23*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of DCFS USA LLC, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.24*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of BMW Financial Services NA, LLC, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.25*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Toyota Motor Credit Corporation, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.26*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.27*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Wachovia Bank, National Association, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.28*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Comerica Bank, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.29*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of World Omni Financial Corp., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.30*	Amended and Restated Subsidiary Guaranty Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by the Revolving Subsidiary Guarantor, as Guarantors, to Bank of America, N.A, as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.31*	Amended and Restated Securities Pledge Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc., the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.32*	Amended and Restated Escrow and Security Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc., the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.33*	Amended and Restated Securities Pledge Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Financial Corporation and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.34*	Amended and Restated Security Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc., the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.35*	Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement, dated January 15, 2010, among Sonic Automotive, Inc.; certain subsidiaries of the Company; each lender; Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent, New Vehicle Swing Line Lender and Used Vehicle Swing Line Lender; and Bank of America, N.A., as Revolving Administrative Agent.
10.36*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Bank of America, N.A., pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.37*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.38*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Wachovia Bank, National Association, pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.39*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Comerica Bank, pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.40*	Company Guaranty Agreement, dated January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc. and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.41*	Subsidiary Guaranty Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by the Floor Plan Subsidiary Guarantor, as Guarantors, to Bank of America, N.A, as administrative agent for the lenders.

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<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.42*	Promissory Note, dated August 12, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of VW Credit, Inc., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.43*	Purchase Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") dated as of March 9, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc., the guarantors named therein and Banc of America Securities LLC on behalf of itself and as representative of the initial purchasers named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 15, 2010 (the "March 2010 Form 8-K")).
10.44*	Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of February 25, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc., Bank of America, N.A. and each of the Subsidiary Guarantors signatory thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 (the "March 2010 Form 10-Q").
10.45*	Amendment No. 1 to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floorplan Credit Agreement dated February 25, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries party to the Credit Agreement and Bank of America, N.A. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the March 2010 Form 10-Q).
10.46	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2010.(1)
10.47	First Amendment to Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective December 29, 2010.(1)
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
21.1	Subsidiaries of Sonic.
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
31.1	Certification of Mr. David P. Cosper pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a).
31.2	Certification of Mr. O. Bruton Smith pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a).
32.1	Certification of Mr. David P. Cosper pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Mr. O. Bruton Smith pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Filed Previously

(1) Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

BY /s/ DAVID P. COSPER
Mr. David P. Cospers
Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer
Date: February 24, 2011

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ O. BRUTON SMITH</u> O. Bruton Smith	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer (principal executive officer) and Director	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ B. SCOTT SMITH</u> B. Scott Smith	President, Chief Strategic Officer and Director	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ DAVID P. COSPER</u> David P. Cospers	Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial officer and principal accounting officer)	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ DAVID B. SMITH</u> David B. Smith	Executive Vice President and Director	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ WILLIAM R. BROOKS</u> William R. Brooks	Director	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ WILLIAM I. BELK</u> William I. Belk	Director	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ ROBERT HELLER</u> Robert Heller	Director	February 12, 2011
<u>/s/ ROBERT L. REWEY</u> Robert L. Rewey	Director	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ VICTOR H. DOOLAN</u> Victor H. Doolan	Director	February 24, 2011
<u>/s/ DAVID C. VORHOFF</u> David C. Vorhoff	Director	February 24, 2011

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1*	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Sonic (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Reg. No. 333-33295) (the "Form S-1")).
3.2*	Certificate of Amendment to Sonic's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation effective June 18, 1999 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1999 (the "1999 Form 10-K")).
3.3*	Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of Class A Convertible Preferred Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Sonic's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 1998).
3.4*	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Sonic (as amended February 9, 2006) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Sonic's Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 13, 2006).
4.1*	Specimen Certificate representing Class A Common Stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Form S-1)
4.2*	Form of 8 ⁵ / ₈ % Senior Subordinated Note due 2013, Series B (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-4 (Reg. Nos. 333-109426 and 333-109426-1 through 109426-261) (the "2003 Exchange Offer Form S-4")).
4.3*	Indenture dated as of August 12, 2003 among Sonic Automotive, Inc., as issuer, the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein, as guarantors, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (the "Trustee"), relating to the 8 ⁵ / ₈ % Senior Subordinated Notes due 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the 2003 Exchange Offer Form S-4).
4.4*	Form of 5.0% Convertible Senior Note due October 2029 (included in Exhibit 4.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 25, 2009 (the "September 25, 2009 Form 8-K").
4.5*	Indenture dated as of September 23, 2009 (the "Base Indenture") by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc, the guarantors named therein, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the September 25, 2009 Form 8-K).
4.6*	First Supplemental Indenture dated as of September 23, 2009 to the Base Indenture (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the September 2009 Form 8-K).
4.7*	Registration Rights Agreement dated as of March 12, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc. the guarantors set forth on the signature page thereto and Banc of America Securities LLC, as representative of the several initial purchasers named on Schedule A to the Purchase Agreement (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the March 2010 Form 8-K).
4.8*	Indenture dated as of March 12, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc, as issuer, the guarantors named therein, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, relating to the 9.0% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2018 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the March 2010 Form 8-K).
4.9*	Form of 9.0% Senior Subordinated Note due 2018 (included in Exhibit 4.2) to Exhibit 4.2 to the March 2010 Form 8-K).
10.1*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, Amended and Restated as of February 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-159674))(1)
10.2*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 1997 Stock Option Plan, Amended and Restated as of April 22, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to Sonic's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003).(1)
10.3*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Amended and Restated as of May 8, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to the 2002 Annual Report).(1)
10.4*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Nonqualified Employee Stock Purchase Plan, Amended and Restated as of October 23, 2002 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the 2002 Annual Report). (1)
10.5*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2005 Formula Restricted Stock Plan for Non-Employee Directors, Amended and Restated as of May 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-159675))(1)

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.6*	Employment Agreement dated January 30, 2006 between Sonic and Mr. David P. Cosper (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Sonic's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2006 (the "March 2006 Form 10-Q"))(1)
10.7*	First Amendment to Employment Agreement dated January 30, 2006 between Sonic and Mr. David P. Cosper. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)(1)
10.8*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement.(1)
10.9*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Award Agreement.(1)
10.10*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Incentive Compensation Plan, Amended and Restated as of December 4, 2008.(1)
10.11*	Standard form of lease executed with Capital Automotive, L.P. or its affiliates (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.12*	Standard form of guaranty executed with Capital Automotive, L.P. or its affiliates (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.39 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.13*	Amendment to Guaranty and Subordination Agreements, dated as of January 1, 2005, by Sonic as Guarantor, to Capital Automotive, L.P. and affiliates, as Landlord (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.14*	Second Amendment to Guaranty and Subordination Agreements, dated as of March 11, 2009, by Sonic as Guarantor, to Capital Automotive, L.P. and affiliates, as Landlord. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
10.15*	Side letter to Second Amendment to Guaranty and Subordination Agreements, dated as of March 11, 2009, by Sonic as Guarantor, to Capital Automotive, L.P. and affiliates, as Landlord. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to Sonic's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)
10.16*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, Amended and Restated as of February 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to Sonic's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Reg. No. 333-159674)).(1)
10.17*	Underwriting Agreement (Class A common stock) dated as of September 17, 2009 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed September 17, 2009 (the "September 23, 2009 Form 8-K"))).
10.18*	Underwriting Agreement (convertible senior notes) dated as of September 17, 2009 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc. and J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.2 to the September 23, 2009 Form 8-K).
10.19*	Amendment No. 1 to Sonic Automotive, Inc. Formula Stock Option Plan for Independent Directors.(1)
10.20*	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Incentive Compensation Plan Amended and Restated as of December 4, 2008.(1)
10.21*	Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, among Sonic Automotive, Inc.; each lender; Bank of America, N.A, as Administrative Agent, Swing Line Lender and an L/C Issuer, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as an L/C Issuer.
10.22*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Bank of America, N.A., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.23*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of DCFS USA LLC, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.24*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of BMW Financial Services NA, LLC, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.25*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Toyota Motor Credit Corporation, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.26*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.27*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Wachovia Bank, National Association, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.28*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Comerica Bank, pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.29*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of World Omni Financial Corp., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.30*	Amended and Restated Subsidiary Guaranty Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by the Revolving Subsidiary Guarantor, as Guarantors, to Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.31*	Amended and Restated Securities Pledge Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc., the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.32*	Amended and Restated Escrow and Security Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc., the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.33*	Amended and Restated Securities Pledge Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Financial Corporation and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.34*	Amended and Restated Security Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc., the subsidiaries of Sonic named therein and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.35*	Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement, dated January 15, 2010, among Sonic Automotive, Inc.; certain subsidiaries of the Company; each lender; Bank of America, N.A., as Administrative Agent, New Vehicle Swing Line Lender and Used Vehicle Swing Line Lender; and Bank of America, N.A., as Revolving Administrative Agent.
10.36*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Bank of America, N.A., pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.37*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.38*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Wachovia Bank, National Association, pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.39*	Promissory Note, dated January 15, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of Comerica Bank, pursuant to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floor Plan Credit Agreement.
10.40*	Company Guaranty Agreement, dated January 15, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc. and Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.41*	Subsidiary Guaranty Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2010, by the Floor Plan Subsidiary Guarantor, as Guarantors, to Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent for the lenders.
10.42*	Promissory Note, dated August 12, 2010, executed by Sonic in favor of VW Credit, Inc., pursuant to the Credit Agreement.
10.43*	Purchase Agreement (the "Purchase Agreement") dated as of March 9, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc., the guarantors named therein and Banc of America Securities LLC on behalf of itself and as representative of the initial purchasers named therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 15, 2010 (the "March 2010 Form 8-K").
10.44*	Amendment No. 1 to Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated as of February 25, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc., Bank of America, N.A. and each of the Subsidiary Guarantors signatory thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010 (the "March 2010 Form 10-Q").
10.45*	Amendment No. 1 to the Syndicated New and Used Vehicle Floorplan Credit Agreement dated February 25, 2010 by and among Sonic Automotive, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries party to the Credit Agreement and Bank of America, N.A. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the March 2010 Form 10-Q).

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<u>Exhibit</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.46	Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective January 1, 2010.(1)
10.47	First Amendment to Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan effective December 29, 2010.(1)
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
21.1	Subsidiaries of Sonic.
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
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31.2	Certification of Mr. O. Bruton Smith pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a).
32.1	Certification of Mr. David P. Cospers pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Mr. O. Bruton Smith pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Filed Previously

(1) Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of Sonic Automotive, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Sonic Automotive, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Sonic Automotive, Inc. and subsidiaries at December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 24, 2011 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina
February 24, 2011

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of Sonic Automotive, Inc. and subsidiaries

We have audited Sonic Automotive, Inc. and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, based on criteria established in Internal Control — Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). Sonic Automotive, Inc. and subsidiaries management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Sonic Automotive, Inc. and subsidiaries maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Sonic Automotive, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2010, and our report dated February 24, 2011 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina
February 24, 2011

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2009 and 2010

	December 31,	
	2009	2010
(Dollars in thousands)		
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 30,035	\$ 21,842
Receivables, net	232,969	239,634
Inventories	795,275	903,221
Assets held for sale	12,167	2,020
Other current assets	14,937	23,633
Total current assets	1,085,383	1,190,350
Property and Equipment, net	382,085	436,260
Goodwill	469,482	468,516
Other Intangible Assets, net	80,806	79,149
Other Assets	51,099	76,489
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,068,855</u>	<u>\$ 2,250,764</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Notes payable — floor plan — trade	\$ 214,871	\$ 478,834
Notes payable — floor plan — non-trade	548,493	383,151
Trade accounts payable	55,345	59,719
Accrued interest	16,146	14,070
Other accrued liabilities	144,709	160,763
Liabilities associated with assets held for sale — non-trade	3,346	—
Current maturities of long-term debt	23,991	9,050
Total current liabilities	1,006,901	1,105,587
Long-Term Debt	552,150	546,401
Other Long-Term Liabilities	141,052	134,081
Commitments and Contingencies		
Stockholders' Equity:		
Class A convertible preferred stock, none issued	—	—
Class A common stock, \$.01 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized; 54,986,875 shares issued and 40,099,559 shares outstanding at December 31, 2009; 55,738,639 shares issued and 40,757,999 shares outstanding at December 31, 2010	550	557
Class B common stock; \$.01 par value; 30,000,000 shares authorized; 12,029,375 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2010	121	121
Paid-in capital	662,186	666,961
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	(35,180)	53,427
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(22,350)	(18,683)
Treasury stock, at cost (14,887,316 Class A shares held at December 31, 2009 and 14,980,640 Class A shares held at December 31, 2010)	(236,575)	(237,688)
Total stockholders' equity	368,752	464,695
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$ 2,068,855</u>	<u>\$ 2,250,764</u>

See notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
	(Dollars and shares in thousands, except per share amounts)		
Revenues:			
New vehicles	\$ 4,009,496	\$ 3,229,948	\$ 3,646,200
Used vehicles	1,342,486	1,451,870	1,776,581
Wholesale vehicles	272,172	147,002	149,041
Total vehicles	5,624,154	4,828,820	5,571,822
Parts, service and collision repair	1,095,774	1,071,825	1,128,054
Finance, insurance and other	180,274	154,696	180,968
Total revenues	6,900,202	6,055,341	6,880,844
Cost of Sales:			
New vehicles	(3,744,533)	(3,010,790)	(3,409,129)
Used vehicles	(1,223,409)	(1,327,878)	(1,636,961)
Wholesale vehicles	(278,364)	(152,487)	(154,082)
Total vehicles	(5,246,306)	(4,491,155)	(5,200,172)
Parts, service and collision repair	(546,698)	(531,514)	(565,994)
Total cost of sales	(5,793,004)	(5,022,669)	(5,766,166)
Gross profit	1,107,198	1,032,672	1,114,678
Selling, general and administrative expenses	(906,243)	(829,220)	(896,697)
Impairment charges	(812,004)	(23,460)	(249)
Depreciation and amortization	(32,734)	(34,879)	(35,110)
Operating income (loss)	(643,783)	145,113	182,622
Other income (expense):			
Interest expense, floor plan	(43,392)	(19,812)	(21,536)
Interest expense, other, net	(58,980)	(78,284)	(63,343)
Interest expense, non-cash, convertible debt	(10,704)	(679)	(6,914)
Interest expense / amortization, non-cash, cash flow swaps	—	(11,769)	(4,883)
Other income (expense), net	742	(6,677)	(7,525)
Total other expense	(112,334)	(117,221)	(104,201)
Income (loss) from continuing operations before taxes	(756,117)	27,892	78,421
Provision for income taxes — benefit (expense)	122,340	29,275	17,504
Income (loss) from continuing operations	(633,777)	57,167	95,925
Discontinued operations:			
Loss from operations and the sale of discontinued franchises	(75,515)	(50,244)	(8,237)
Income tax benefit	16,943	24,625	2,241
Loss from discontinued operations	(58,572)	(25,619)	(5,996)
Net income (loss)	\$ (692,349)	\$ 31,548	\$ 89,929
Basic earnings (loss) per common share:			
Earnings (loss) per share from continuing operations	\$ (15.70)	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.82
Loss per share from discontinued operations	(1.46)	(0.58)	(0.12)
Earnings (loss) per common share	\$ (17.16)	\$ 0.71	\$ 1.70
Weighted average common shares outstanding	40,356	43,836	52,214
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share:			
Earnings (loss) per share from continuing operations	\$ (15.70)	\$ 1.07	\$ 1.58
Loss per share from discontinued operations	(1.46)	(0.45)	(0.09)
Earnings (loss) per common share	\$ (17.16)	\$ 0.62	\$ 1.49
Weighted average common shares outstanding	40,356	55,832	65,794
Dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.48	\$ —	\$ 0.025

See notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
Years Ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010

	Class A Common Stock		Class B Common Stock		Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings / (Deficit)	Treasury Stock	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)/Income	Total Stockholders' Equity	Compre- hensive Income (Loss)
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount						
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2007	42,414	\$ 424	12,029	\$ 121	\$ 523,020	\$ 644,399	\$ (207,866)	\$ (15,114)	\$ 944,984	\$ 74,449
Shares awarded under stock compensation plans	509	5	—	—	5,144	—	—	—	5,149	—
Purchases of treasury stock	—	—	—	—	—	—	(28,648)	—	(28,648)	—
Income tax benefit associated with stock compensation plans	—	—	—	—	607	—	—	—	607	—
Income tax benefit associated with convertible note hedge	—	—	—	—	2,120	—	—	—	2,120	—
Fair value of interest rate swap agreements, net of tax benefit of \$13,383	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(21,835)	(21,835)	(21,835)
Unrealized gain on available-for-sale securities, net of tax benefit of \$193	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	314	314	314
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	—	—	2,211	—	—	—	2,211	—
Restricted stock amortization	—	—	—	—	3,920	—	—	—	3,920	—
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	(692,349)	—	—	(692,349)	(692,349)
Dividends (\$0.48 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	(18,950)	—	—	(18,950)	—
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2008	42,923	\$ 429	12,029	\$ 121	\$ 537,022	\$ (66,900)	\$ (236,514)	\$ (36,635)	\$ 197,523	\$ (713,870)
Shares awarded under stock compensation plans	104	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Purchases of treasury stock	—	—	—	—	—	—	(61)	—	(61)	—
Income tax benefit associated with convertible note hedge	—	—	—	—	4,293	—	—	—	4,293	—
Fair value of interest rate swap agreements, net of tax expense of \$7,045	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,494	11,494	11,494
Discontinuance of cash flow swaps, net of tax expense of \$1,711	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,791	2,791	2,791
Issuance of Common Stock	11,699	117	—	—	105,095	—	—	—	105,212	—
ASC "Debt with Conversion and Other Options" derecognition — 4.25% Convertible Notes, net of tax benefit of \$2,887	—	—	—	—	(4,331)	—	—	—	(4,331)	—
ASC "Debt with Conversion and Other Options" — 5.0% Convertible Notes, net of tax expense of \$12,823	—	—	—	—	18,146	—	—	—	18,146	—
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	—	—	603	—	—	—	603	—
Restricted stock amortization	—	—	—	—	1,329	—	—	—	1,329	—
Other	261	4	—	—	29	172	—	—	205	—
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	31,548	—	—	31,548	31,548
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2009	54,987	\$ 550	12,029	\$ 121	\$ 662,186	\$ (35,180)	\$ (236,575)	\$ (22,350)	\$ 368,752	\$ 45,833
Shares awarded under stock compensation plans	396	4	—	—	1,737	—	—	—	1,741	—
Purchases of treasury stock	—	—	—	—	—	—	(1,113)	—	(1,113)	—
Income tax benefit associated with stock compensation plans	—	—	—	—	(12)	—	—	—	(12)	—
Income tax benefit associated with convertible note hedge	—	—	—	—	239	—	—	—	239	—
Fair value of interest rate swap agreements, net of tax expense of \$2,247	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,667	3,667	3,667
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	—	—	513	—	—	—	513	—
Restricted stock amortization	—	—	—	—	2,301	—	—	—	2,301	—
Other	356	3	—	—	(3)	—	—	—	—	—
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	89,929	—	—	89,929	89,929
Dividends (\$0.025 per share)	—	—	—	—	—	(1,322)	—	—	(1,322)	—
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2010	55,739	\$ 557	12,029	\$ 121	\$ 666,961	\$ 53,427	\$ (237,688)	\$ (18,683)	\$ 464,695	\$ 93,596

See notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
	(Dollars in thousands)		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net (loss) income	\$ (692,349)	\$ 31,548	\$ 89,929
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization of property, plant and equipment	36,378	36,091	35,292
Provision for bad debt expense	2,488	1,491	1,449
Other amortization	1,912	1,656	1,656
Debt issuance cost amortization	1,256	13,435	3,685
Debt discount amortization, net of premium amortization	11,712	11,755	5,195
Stock — based compensation expense	2,211	603	513
Amortization of restricted stock	5,280	1,511	2,301
Restricted stock forfeiture	(1,360)	(182)	—
Deferred income taxes	(253,846)	23,153	22,057
Valuation allowance — deferred income taxes	108,421	(53,743)	(50,388)
Equity interest in earnings of investees	(399)	(713)	(752)
Asset impairment charges	851,655	30,038	249
Loss (gain) on disposal of franchises and property and equipment	1,604	(804)	(1,249)
Loss on exit of leased dealerships	18,037	33,013	4,266
(Gain) loss on retirement of debt	(647)	6,745	7,665
Derivative liability fair value adjustments	—	(11,300)	—
Non-cash adjustments — cash flow swaps	—	11,769	4,883
Changes in assets and liabilities that relate to operations:			
Receivables	101,126	23,424	(8,114)
Inventories	5,204	307,803	(121,935)
Other assets	9,909	(1,393)	(21,315)
Notes payable — floor plan — trade	(49,590)	(58,972)	263,963
Trade accounts payable and other liabilities	(38,363)	(3,347)	15,689
Total adjustments	812,988	372,033	165,110
Net cash provided by operating activities	120,639	403,581	255,039
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of businesses, net of cash acquired	(22,945)	—	—
Purchases of land, property and equipment	(137,094)	(43,277)	(85,194)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	6,295	6,018	1,214
Proceeds from sale of franchises	37,803	27,276	24,720
Distributions from equity investees	600	300	600
Net cash used in investing activities	(115,341)	(9,683)	(58,660)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Net (repayments) borrowings on notes payable floor plan — non-trade	(4,167)	(294,823)	(168,688)
Borrowings on revolving credit facilities	890,838	558,011	40,000
Repayments on revolving credit facilities	(889,996)	(628,853)	(40,000)
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	56,913	178,751	229,775
Debt issuance costs	—	(18,387)	(10,962)
Principal payments on long-term debt	(4,348)	(5,458)	(6,362)
Settlement of cash flow swaps	—	(16,454)	—
Repurchase of debt securities	(24,203)	(244,258)	(249,190)
Purchases of treasury stock	(28,648)	(61)	(1,113)
Income tax benefit associated with stock compensation plans	607	—	(12)
Income tax benefit associated with convertible hedge	2,120	4,293	239
Issuance of shares under stock compensation plans	5,149	—	1,741
Issuance of common stock	—	101,265	—
Dividends paid	(19,106)	(4,860)	—
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(14,841)	(370,834)	(204,572)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(9,543)	23,064	(8,193)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	16,514	6,971	30,035
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 6,971	\$ 30,035	\$ 21,842
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE OF NON-CASH FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Change in fair value of cash flow hedging instruments (net of tax benefit of \$13,383, and tax expense of \$7,045 and \$2,247 in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively)	\$ (21,835)	\$ 11,494	\$ 3,667
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:			
Cash paid (received) during the year for:			
Interest, net of amount capitalized	\$ 114,003	\$ 110,420	\$ 93,598
Income taxes	\$ 13,351	\$ (23,507)	\$ (17,098)

See notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(All tables in thousands except per share amounts)

1. Description of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Organization and Business — Sonic Automotive, Inc. (“Sonic” or the “Company”) is one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States (as measured by total revenue), operating 135 dealership franchises and 25 collision repair centers throughout the United States as of December 31, 2010. Sonic sells new and used cars and light trucks, sells replacement parts, provides vehicle maintenance, warranty, paint and repair services, and arranges related financing and insurance for its automotive customers. As of December 31, 2010, Sonic sold a total of 29 foreign and domestic brands of new vehicles.

Principles of Consolidation — All of Sonic’s dealership and non-dealership subsidiaries are wholly owned and consolidated in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements except for one fifty-percent owned dealership that is accounted for under the equity method. All material intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements.

Reclassifications — Individual franchises sold, terminated or classified as held for sale are reported as discontinued operations. During 2010, Sonic completed the disposal of 13 automobile franchises, and had no franchises classified as held for sale at December 31, 2010. The results of operations of these franchises for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010 are reported as discontinued operations for all periods presented. Sonic decided to retain and operate one franchise which was held for sale as of December 31, 2009 due to strategic considerations. This dealership was reclassified into continuing operations during 2010 as a result of Sonic’s asset management strategy. Determining whether a franchise will be reported as continuing or discontinued operations involves judgments such as whether a franchise will be sold or terminated, the period required to complete the disposition and the likelihood of changes to a plan for sale. If in future periods Sonic determines that a franchise should be either reclassified from continuing operations to discontinued operations or from discontinued operations to continuing operations, previously reported Consolidated Statements of Income are reclassified in order to reflect the current classification.

Use of Estimates — The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires Sonic’s management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the Consolidated Financial Statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates particularly related to allowance for credit loss, realization of inventory, intangible asset and deferred tax asset values, reserves for tax contingencies, legal matters, reserves for future chargebacks, results reported as continuing and discontinued operations, insurance reserves, lease exit accruals and certain accrued expenses.

Cash and Cash Equivalents — Sonic classifies cash and all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the date of purchase, including short-term time deposits and government agency and corporate obligations, as cash and cash equivalents.

Revenue Recognition — Sonic records revenue when vehicles are delivered to customers, when vehicle service work is performed and when parts are delivered. Conditions to completing a sale include having an agreement with the customer, including pricing, and the sales price must be reasonably expected to be collected.

Sonic arranges financing for customers through various financial institutions and receives a commission from the financial institution either in a flat fee amount or in an amount equal to the difference between the interest rates charged to customers over the predetermined interest rates set by the financial institution. Sonic also receives commissions from the sale of various insurance contracts to customers. Sonic may be assessed a chargeback fee in the event of early cancellation of a loan or insurance contract by the customer. Finance and insurance commission revenue is recorded net of estimated chargebacks at the time the related contract is placed with the financial institution.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Sonic also receives commissions from the sale of non-recourse third party extended service contracts to customers. Under these contracts, the applicable manufacturer or third party warranty company is directly liable for all warranties provided within the contract. Commission revenue from the sale of these third party extended service contracts is recorded net of estimated chargebacks at the time of sale. As of December 31, 2009 and 2010, the amounts recorded as allowances for commission chargeback reserves were \$11.7 million and \$11.3 million, respectively, and were classified as other accrued liabilities and other long-term liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Floor Plan Assistance — Sonic receives floor plan assistance payments from certain manufacturers. This assistance reduces the carrying value of Sonic's new vehicle inventory and is recognized as a reduction of cost of sales at the time the vehicle is sold. Amounts recognized as a reduction of cost of sales for continuing operations were \$26.6 million, \$21.0 million and \$23.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. There was an additional \$3.5 million, \$1.6 million and \$0.4 million in floor plan assistance related to discontinued operations for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Contracts in Transit — Contracts in transit represent customer finance contracts evidencing loan agreements or lease agreements between Sonic, as creditor, and the customer, as borrower, to acquire or lease a vehicle in situations where a third-party finance source has given Sonic initial, non-binding approval to assume Sonic's position as creditor. Funding and final approval from the finance source is provided upon the finance source's review of the loan or lease agreement and related documentation executed by the customer at the dealership. These finance contracts are typically funded within ten days of the initial approval of the finance transaction given by the third-party finance source. The finance source is not contractually obligated to make the loan or lease to the customer until it gives its final approval and funds the transaction, and until such final approval is given, the contracts in transit represent amounts due from the customer to Sonic. Contracts in transit are included in receivables on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets and totaled \$90.8 million at December 31, 2009 and \$109.0 million at December 31, 2010.

Accounts Receivable — In addition to contracts in transit, Sonic's accounts receivable consist of amounts due from the manufacturers for repair services performed on vehicles with a remaining factory warranty and amounts due from third parties from the sale of parts. Sonic evaluates receivables for collectability based on the age of the receivable, the credit history of the customer and past collection experience. The allowance for doubtful accounts receivable is not significant.

Inventories — Inventories of new vehicles, recorded net of manufacturer credits, and used vehicles, including demonstrators, are stated at the lower of specific cost or market. Inventories of parts and accessories are accounted for using the "first-in, first-out" ("FIFO") method of inventory accounting and are stated at the lower of FIFO cost or market. Other inventories are primarily service loaner vehicles and, to a lesser extent, vehicle chassis, other supplies and capitalized customer work-in-progress (open customer vehicle repair orders). Other inventories are stated at the lower of specific cost (depreciated cost for service loaner vehicles) or market.

Sonic assesses the valuation of all of its vehicle and parts inventories and maintains a reserve where the cost basis exceeds the fair market value. In making this assessment for new vehicles, Sonic primarily considers the age of the vehicles along with the timing of annual and model changeovers. For used vehicles, Sonic considers recent market data and trends such as loss histories along with the current age of the inventory. Parts inventories are primarily assessed considering excess quantity and continued usefulness of the part. The risk with parts inventories is minimized by the fact that excess or obsolete parts can usually be returned to the manufacturer. Recorded inventory reserves are not significant.

Property and Equipment — Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation and amortization is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Sonic amortizes leasehold improvements over the shorter of the estimated useful life or the remaining lease life. This lease life includes

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

renewal options if a renewal has been determined to be reasonably assured. The range of estimated useful lives is as follows:

Leasehold and land improvements	10-30 years
Buildings	10-30 years
Parts and service equipment	7-10 years
Office equipment and fixtures	3-10 years
Company vehicles	3-5 years

Sonic reviews the carrying value of property and equipment and other long-term assets (other than goodwill and franchise assets) for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. If such an indication is present, Sonic compares the carrying amount of the asset to the estimated undiscounted cash flows related to those assets. Sonic concludes that an asset is impaired if the sum of such expected future cash flows is less than the carrying amount of the related asset. If Sonic determines an asset is impaired, the impairment loss would be the amount by which the carrying amount of the related asset exceeds its fair value. The fair value of the asset would be determined based on the quoted market prices, if available. If quoted market prices are not available, Sonic determines fair value by using a discounted cash flow model. See Note 4, "Property and Equipment," for a discussion of impairment charges.

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities — Sonic utilizes derivative financial instruments for the purpose of hedging the risks of certain identifiable and anticipated transactions and the fair value of certain obligations classified as long-term debt on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. Commonly, the types of risks being hedged are those relating to the variability of cash flows and long-term debt fair values caused by fluctuations in interest rates. Sonic documents its risk management strategy and hedge effectiveness at the inception of and during the term of each hedge. As of December 31, 2010, Sonic only utilizes interest rate swap agreements to effectively convert a portion of its LIBOR-based variable rate debt to a fixed rate. See Note 6, "Long-Term Debt," for further discussion of derivative instruments and hedging activities.

Goodwill — Goodwill is recognized to the extent that the purchase price of the acquisition exceeds the estimated fair value of the net assets acquired, including other identifiable intangible assets.

Goodwill is tested for impairment at least annually, or more frequently when events or circumstances indicate that impairment might have occurred. An exception to the annual impairment test is provided by "Intangibles — Goodwill and Other" in the ASC, wherein a detailed determination of the fair value of a reporting unit may be carried forward from one year to the next if the following criteria have been met: (i) the assets and liabilities that make up the reporting unit have not changed significantly since the most recent fair value determination; (ii) the most recent fair value determination resulted in an amount that exceeded the carrying amount of the reporting unit by a substantial margin; and (iii) based on the analysis of events that have occurred and circumstances that have changed since the most recent fair value determination, the likelihood that a current fair value determination would be less than the current carrying amount of the reporting unit is remote. Based on criteria established by the applicable accounting pronouncements, Sonic has one reporting unit.

In evaluating goodwill for impairment, if the fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying value, Sonic is then required to proceed to the second step of the impairment test. The second step involves allocating the calculated fair value to all of the assets and liabilities of the reporting unit as if the calculated fair value was the purchase price in a business combination. This allocation would include assigning value to any previously unrecognized identifiable assets (including franchise assets) which means the remaining fair value that would be allocated to goodwill would be significantly reduced. See discussion regarding franchise agreements acquired prior to July 1, 2001 in "Other Intangible Assets" below. Sonic would then compare the fair value of the goodwill resulting from this allocation process to the carrying value of the goodwill with the difference representing the amount of impairment. The purpose of this second step is only to determine the amount of goodwill that should be recorded on the balance sheet. The recorded amounts of other items on the balance sheet are not adjusted.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Sonic uses a discounted cash flow model to estimate its reporting unit's fair value in evaluating goodwill for impairment. The significant assumptions include projected earnings, weighted average cost of capital (and estimates in the weighted average cost of capital inputs) and residual growth rates. Sonic also considers a control premium that represents the estimated amount an investor would pay for Sonic's equity securities to obtain a controlling interest and other factors. See Note 5, "Intangible Assets and Goodwill," for further discussion.

Other Intangible Assets — The principal identifiable intangible assets other than goodwill acquired in an acquisition are rights under franchise agreements with manufacturers. Sonic classifies franchise agreements as indefinite lived intangible assets as it has been Sonic's experience that renewals have occurred without substantial cost or material modifications to the underlying agreements. As such, Sonic believes that its franchise agreements will contribute to cash flows for an indefinite period, therefore the carrying amount of franchise rights is not amortized. Franchise agreements acquired after July 1, 2001 have been included in other intangible assets on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. Prior to July 1, 2001, franchise agreements were recorded and amortized as part of goodwill and remain as part of goodwill on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. Other intangible assets acquired in acquisitions include favorable lease agreements with definite lives which are amortized on a straight-line basis over the remaining lease term. Sonic tests other intangible assets for impairment annually or more frequently if events or circumstances indicate possible impairment. See Note 5, "Intangible Assets and Goodwill," regarding impairment charges on franchise agreements.

Insurance Reserves — Sonic has various self-insured and high deductible casualty and other insurance programs which require the Company to make estimates in determining the ultimate liability it may incur for claims arising under these programs. These insurance reserves are estimated by management using actuarial evaluations based on historical claims experience, claims processing procedures, medical cost trends and, in certain cases, a discount factor. At December 31, 2009 and 2010, Sonic had \$19.4 million and \$21.0 million, respectively, reserved for such programs.

Lease Exit Accruals — The majority of Sonic's dealership properties are leased under long-term operating lease arrangements. When situations arise where the leased properties are no longer utilized in operations, Sonic records accruals for the present value of the lease payments, net of estimated sublease rentals, for the remaining life of the operating leases and other accruals necessary to satisfy the lease commitment to the landlord. These situations could include the relocation of an existing facility or the sale of a franchise whereby the buyer will not be subleasing the property for either the remaining term of the lease or for an amount of rent equal to Sonic's obligation under the lease. See Note 12, "Commitments and Contingencies," for further discussion.

Income Taxes — Income taxes are provided for the tax effects of transactions reported in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements and consist of taxes currently due plus deferred taxes. Deferred taxes are provided at currently enacted tax rates for the tax effects of carryforward items and temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts. As a matter of course, the Company is regularly audited by various taxing authorities and from time to time, these audits result in proposed assessments where the ultimate resolution may result in the Company owing additional taxes. Sonic's management believes that the Company's tax positions comply with applicable tax law and that the Company has adequately provided for any reasonably foreseeable outcome related to these matters.

From time to time, Sonic engages in transactions in which the tax consequences may be subject to uncertainty. Significant judgment is required in assessing and estimating the tax consequences of these transactions. Sonic determines whether it is more likely than not that a tax position will be sustained upon examination, including resolution of any related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits of the position. In evaluating whether a tax position has met the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, Sonic presumes that the position will be examined by the appropriate taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. A tax position that does not meet the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold is measured to determine the amount of benefit to be recognized in the financial statements. The tax position is measured at the largest amount of benefit that is likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. Sonic adjusts its estimates periodically because of ongoing

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

examinations by and settlements with the various taxing authorities, as well as changes in tax laws, regulations and precedent. See Note 7, "Income Taxes," for further discussion of Sonic's uncertain tax positions.

Concentrations of Credit and Business Risk — Financial instruments that potentially subject Sonic to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash on deposit with financial institutions. At times, amounts invested with financial institutions exceed FDIC insurance limits. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to receivables are limited primarily to automobile manufacturers and financial institutions. Credit risk arising from trade receivables from commercial customers is reduced by the large number of customers comprising the trade receivables balances.

The counterparties to Sonic's swap transactions consist of four large financial institutions. Sonic could be exposed to loss in the event of non-performance by any of these counterparties.

Financial Instruments and Market Risks — As of December 31, 2009 and 2010 the fair values of Sonic's financial instruments including receivables, notes receivable from finance contracts, notes payable-floor plan, trade accounts payable, borrowings under the revolving credit facilities and certain mortgage notes approximate their carrying values due either to length of maturity or existence of variable interest rates that approximate prevailing market rates. See Note 11, "Fair Value Measurements," for further discussion of the fair value and carrying value of Sonic's fixed rate long-term debt.

Sonic has variable rate notes payable — floor plan, revolving credit facilities and other variable rate notes that expose Sonic to risks caused by fluctuations in the underlying interest rates. The total outstanding balance of such facilities before the effects of interest rate swaps was approximately \$805.0 million at December 31, 2009 and \$907.6 million at December 31, 2010.

Advertising — Sonic expenses advertising costs in the period incurred, net of earned cooperative manufacturer credits that represent reimbursements for specific, identifiable and incremental advertising costs. Advertising expense amounted to \$56.8 million, \$44.7 million and \$46.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, and has been classified as selling, general and administrative expense in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

Sonic has cooperative advertising reimbursement agreements with certain automobile manufacturers it represents. Usually, these cooperative programs require Sonic to provide the manufacturer with support for qualified, actual advertising expenditures in order to receive reimbursement under these cooperative agreements. It is uncertain whether or not Sonic would maintain the same level of advertising expenditures if these manufacturers discontinued their cooperative programs. Cooperative manufacturer credits classified as an offset to advertising expenses were \$13.6 million, \$9.2 million and \$13.7 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Segment Information — Sonic has determined it has a single segment for purposes of reporting financial condition and results of operations.

2. Business Acquisitions and Dispositions

Acquisitions

Sonic's growth strategy is focused on metropolitan markets, predominantly in the Southeast, Southwest, Midwest and California. Where practicable, Sonic also seeks to acquire stable franchises that Sonic believes have above average sales prospects. Under the 2010 Credit Facilities (see Note 6 for discussion of the 2010 Credit Facilities), Sonic is restricted from making dealership franchise acquisitions in any fiscal year if the aggregate cost of all such acquisitions occurring in any fiscal year is in excess of \$25.0 million, without the written consent of the Required Lenders (as that term is defined in the 2010 Credit Facilities). With this restriction on Sonic's ability to make dealership franchise acquisitions, its acquisition growth strategy may be limited. Sonic was awarded two franchises from manufacturers in 2010.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

During 2008, Sonic acquired or was awarded five franchises located in its Tennessee and Houston markets, for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$22.4 million in cash, net of cash acquired, funded by cash from operations and borrowing under the 2006 Credit Facility.

Dispositions

During 2010, Sonic disposed of 13 franchises. These disposals generated cash of \$24.7 million. During 2008 and 2009, Sonic completed 10 and 18 franchise dispositions, respectively. The dispositions in 2008 and 2009 generated cash of \$37.8 million and \$27.3 million, respectively. The operating gains or losses associated with these disposed franchises are included in the amounts shown in the table below.

In conjunction with franchise dispositions, Sonic has agreed to indemnify the buyers from certain liabilities and costs arising from operations or events that occurred prior to sale but which may or may not be known at the time of sale, including environmental liabilities and liabilities associated from the breach of representations or warranties made under the agreements. See Note 12, "Commitments and Contingencies," for further discussion.

At December 31, 2010, Sonic had no franchises held for sale. Assets which have been classified in assets held for sale in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets include dealership franchises not yet sold as of December 31, 2009 and real estate held for sale by non-dealership entities at December 31, 2010 and consist of the following:

	December 31, 2009	December 31, 2010
	(In thousands)	
Inventories	\$ 4,528	\$ —
Property and equipment, net	2,073	—
Land	2,765	2,020
Goodwill	2,801	—
Franchise assets	—	—
Assets held for sale	<u>\$ 12,167</u>	<u>\$ 2,020</u>

Liabilities associated with assets held for sale are comprised entirely of notes payable — floor plan and are classified as such on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2009. Results associated with franchises classified as discontinued operations were as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2008	2009	2010
	(In thousands)		
Loss from operations	\$ (20,103)	\$ (12,579)	\$ (6,634)
Gain (loss) on disposal of franchises	(2,325)	(293)	2,629
Lease exit charges	(13,747)	(30,794)	(4,232)
Property impairment charges	(14,912)	(4,992)	—
Goodwill impairment charges	(2,025)	(1,586)	—
Franchise agreement and other asset impairment charges	(20,500)	—	—
Favorable lease asset impairment charges	(1,903)	—	—
Pre-tax loss	<u>\$ (75,515)</u>	<u>\$ (50,244)</u>	<u>\$ (8,237)</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$ 587,801</u>	<u>\$ 294,390</u>	<u>\$ 55,077</u>

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Sonic allocates corporate-level interest to discontinued operations based on the net assets of the discontinued operations group. Interest allocated to discontinued operations for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010 was \$3.1 million, \$2.0 million and \$0.2 million, respectively.

3. Inventories and Related Notes Payable — Floor Plan

Inventories consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	2009	2010
	(In thousands)	
New vehicles	\$ 557,319	\$ 628,939
Used vehicles	138,401	165,039
Parts and accessories	51,956	50,854
Other	52,127	58,389
	<u>\$ 799,803</u>	<u>\$ 903,221</u>
Less inventories classified as assets held for sale	(4,528)	—
Inventories	<u>\$ 795,275</u>	<u>\$ 903,221</u>

Sonic finances all of its new and certain of its used vehicle inventory through standardized floor plan facilities with a syndicate of financial institutions and manufacturer-affiliated finance companies. The new and used floor plan facilities bear interest at variable rates based on prime and LIBOR. The weighted average interest rate for Sonic's new vehicle floor plan facilities, for continuing operations and discontinued operations, was 2.54% and 2.71% for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, respectively. Sonic's floor plan interest expense related to the new vehicle floor plan arrangements is partially offset by amounts received from manufacturers in the form of floor plan assistance. Floor plan assistance received is capitalized in inventory and charged against cost of sales when the associated inventory is sold. For the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, for continuing operations and discontinued operations, Sonic recognized a reduction in cost of sales of approximately \$30.1 million, \$22.6 million and \$24.0 million, respectively, related to manufacturer floor plan assistance.

The average interest rate for Sonic's used vehicle floor plan facility was 2.31% and 2.88% for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, respectively.

The new and used floor plan facilities are collateralized by vehicle inventories and other assets, excluding franchise agreements, of the relevant dealership subsidiary. The new and used floor plan facilities contain a number of covenants, including, among others, covenants restricting Sonic with respect to the creation of liens and changes in ownership, officers and key management personnel. Sonic was in compliance with all of these restrictive covenants as of December 31, 2010.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

4. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment consists of the following:

	December 31,	
	2009	2010
(In thousands)		
Land	\$ 61,886	\$ 76,357
Building and improvements	322,632	353,088
Office equipment and fixtures	75,801	77,654
Parts and service equipment	54,981	56,651
Company vehicles	8,440	8,137
Construction in progress	40,000	48,230
Total, at cost	563,740	620,117
Less accumulated depreciation	(176,817)	(181,837)
Subtotal	386,923	438,280
Less assets held for sale	(4,838)	(2,020)
Property and equipment, net	\$ 382,085	\$ 436,260

Subsequent to December 31, 2010, Sonic purchased five dealership properties which it was previously leasing through long-term operating leases for \$75.2 million, utilizing cash on hand and borrowings under the 2010 Credit Facilities (see Note 6 for discussion of the 2010 Credit Facilities).

Interest capitalized in conjunction with construction projects was approximately \$1.5 million, \$0.7 million and \$2.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. As of December 31, 2010, commitments for facility construction projects totaled approximately \$17.3 million.

During the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, property and equipment impairment charges were recorded as noted in the following table.

Year Ended December 31,	Continuing Operations	Discontinued Operations
	(In millions)	
2010	\$ 0.2	\$ —
2009	\$ 18.1	\$ 5.0
2008	\$ 10.0	\$ 14.9

Impairment charges related to continuing operations were related to the abandonment of construction projects, the abandonment and disposal of dealership equipment or Sonic's estimate that based on historical and projected operating losses for certain dealerships, these dealerships would not be able to recover recorded property and equipment asset balances.

Impairment charges related to assets held for sale were recorded in discontinued operations based on the estimated fair value of the property and equipment to be sold in connection with the disposal of the associated franchises. During 2009, \$3.8 million of the impairment charge in discontinued operations was related to Sonic's General Motors dealerships that were terminated in 2009.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

5. Intangible Assets and Goodwill

The changes in the carrying amount of franchise agreements and goodwill for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010 were as follows:

	<u>Franchise Agreements</u>	<u>Gross Goodwill</u>	<u>Accumulated Impairment</u>	<u>Net Goodwill</u>
	(In thousands)			
Balance, December 31, 2008	\$ 64,701	\$ 1,124,332	\$ (797,325)	\$ 327,007
Impairment of domestic dealerships	(500)	—	(929)	(929)
Impairment of import dealerships	(3,800)	—	(1,751)	(1,751)
Reductions from sales of franchises	(800)	(10,264)	3,280	(6,984)
Reclassification from assets held for sale, net	5,234	152,139	—	152,139
Balance, December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 64,835</u>	<u>\$ 1,266,207</u>	<u>\$ (796,725)</u>	<u>\$ 469,482</u>
Reductions from sales of franchises	—	(3,767)	—	(3,767)
Reclassification from assets held for sale, net	—	2,801	—	2,801
Balance, December 31, 2010	<u>\$ 64,835</u>	<u>\$ 1,265,241</u>	<u>\$ (796,725)</u>	<u>\$ 468,516</u>

Pursuant to applicable accounting pronouncements, Sonic tests goodwill for impairment annually or more frequently if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. If Sonic determines that the amount of its goodwill is impaired at any point in time, Sonic is required to reduce goodwill on its balance sheet. In completing step one of the impairment analyses, Sonic used a discounted cash flow model in order to estimate its reporting unit's fair value. The result from this model was then analyzed to determine if an indicator of impairment exists.

Based on the results of Sonic's step one test as of December 31, 2009, Sonic was not required to complete step two of the impairment evaluation. Pursuant to an exception to the annual goodwill impairment test provided by "Intangibles — Goodwill and Other" in the ASC, Sonic was allowed to carry forward its estimate of the reporting unit's fair value from 2009, resulting in no goodwill impairment in 2010. See the discussion under the heading "Goodwill" in Note 1 for the criteria prescribed by this exception. For the year ended December 31, 2009, Sonic recorded goodwill impairment charges of \$1.1 million within continuing operations and \$1.6 million within discontinued operations based on the determination that a portion of the goodwill was not recoverable based on estimated proceeds while dealership operations were held for sale. For the year ended December 31, 2008, Sonic recorded an impairment of \$797.3 million related to its evaluation of goodwill. Sonic recorded \$795.3 million in continuing operations and \$2.0 million in discontinued operations as a result of step two of its goodwill impairment test and based on the determination that a portion of goodwill was not recoverable from assets held for sale based on estimated proceeds.

Franchise asset impairment charges of \$17.5 million and \$6.7 million were recorded within discontinued and continuing operations in the year ended December 31, 2008, respectively. Further, Sonic incurred \$4.3 million of franchise asset impairment charges in continuing operations in the year ended December 31, 2009. These impairment charges were recorded based on management's conclusion that the recorded values would not be recoverable either through operating cash flows or through the eventual sale of the franchises. Approximately \$2.1 million of the impairment charges recorded in 2009 relate to dealership franchises that were terminated based on notifications from General Motors.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Definite life intangible assets consist of the following:

	December 31,	
	2009	2010
	(In thousands)	
Lease agreements	\$ 21,987	\$ 21,987
Less accumulated amortization	(6,016)	(7,673)
Definite life intangibles, net	<u>\$ 15,971</u>	<u>\$ 14,314</u>

Franchise assets and definite life intangible assets are classified as Other Intangible Assets, net, on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Amortization expense for definite life intangible assets was \$1.8 million, \$1.7 million and \$1.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. The weighted-average amortization period for lease agreements and definite life intangible assets is 15 years. Future amortization expense is as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	(In thousands)	
2011	\$	1,656
2012		1,656
2013		1,656
2014		1,290
2015		924
Thereafter		7,132
Total	<u>\$</u>	<u>14,314</u>

6. Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt consists of the following:

	December 31,	December 31,
	2009	2010
	(In thousands)	
2010 Revolving Credit Facility(1)	\$ —	\$ —
2006 Revolving Credit Sub-Facility(1)	—	—
Senior Subordinated Notes bearing interest at 9.0%	—	210,000
Senior Subordinated Notes bearing interest at 8.625%	275,000	42,855
Convertible Senior Notes bearing interest at 5.0%	172,500	172,500
Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes bearing interest at 4.25%	17,045	—
Notes payable to a finance company bearing interest from 9.52% to 10.52% (with a weighted average of 10.19)%	17,778	15,618
Mortgage notes to finance companies-fixed rate, bearing interest from 4.50% to 7.03%	78,424	88,262
Mortgage notes to finance companies-variable rate, bearing interest at 1.25 to 3.50 percentage points above one-month LIBOR	38,251	45,639
Net debt discount and premium(2)	(29,199)	(25,482)
Other	6,342	6,059
	<u>\$ 576,141</u>	<u>\$ 555,451</u>
Less current maturities(3)	(23,991)	(9,050)
Long-term debt	<u>\$ 552,150</u>	<u>\$ 546,401</u>

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

- (1) Sonic replaced its 2006 Revolving Credit Sub-Facility with the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility on January 15, 2010. Interest rate on the revolving credit facility was 3.5% above LIBOR at December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2010.
- (2) December 31, 2009 includes \$1.5 million discount associated with the 8.625% Notes, \$29.8 million discount associated with the 5.0% Convertible Notes, \$0.6 million discount associated with the 4.25% Convertible Notes, \$2.5 million premium associated with notes payable to a finance company and \$0.2 million premium associated with mortgage notes payable. December 31, 2010 includes \$1.4 million discount associated with the 9.0% Notes, \$0.2 million discount associated with the 8.625% Notes, \$24.7 million discount associated with the 5.0% Convertible Notes, \$1.8 million premium associated with notes payable to a finance company and \$1.0 million discount associated with mortgage notes payable.
- (3) At December 31, 2009, current maturities included amounts outstanding related to the 4.25% Convertible Notes as a result of these obligations maturing or expected to be extinguished within one year of the balance sheet date.

Future maturities of long-term debt are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	Principal	Net
	(In thousands)	
2011	\$ 8,449	\$ 9,050
2012	8,991	9,337
2013	58,103	58,154
2014	184,923	160,348
2015	15,383	15,330
Thereafter	305,084	303,232
Total	<u>\$ 580,933</u>	<u>\$ 555,451</u>

2006 Credit Facility

The 2006 Revolving Credit Sub-Facility, the 2006 New Vehicle Floor Plan Sub-Facility and the 2006 Used Vehicle Floor Plan Sub-Facility (collectively the “2006 Credit Facility”) would have matured on February 17, 2010. The 2006 Credit Facility was refinanced on January 15, 2010. See 2010 Credit Facilities discussion below.

2010 Credit Facilities

On January 15, 2010, Sonic entered into an amended and restated syndicated revolving credit agreement (the “2010 Revolving Credit Facility”) and a syndicated floor plan credit facility (the “2010 Floor Plan Facility”). The 2010 Revolving Credit Facility and 2010 Floor Plan Facility (collectively the “2010 Credit Facilities”) mature on August 15, 2012.

Availability under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility is calculated as the lesser of \$150.0 million or a borrowing base calculated based on certain eligible assets plus 50% of the fair market value of 5,000,000 shares of common stock of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. (“SMI”) that are pledged as collateral, less the aggregate face amount of any outstanding letters of credit under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility (the “2010 Revolving Borrowing Base”). The 2010 Revolving Credit Facility may be expanded up to \$215.0 million upon satisfaction of certain conditions. A withdrawal of this pledge by Sonic Financial Corporation (“SFC”), which holds the 5,000,000 shares of common stock of Speedway Motorsports, Inc., or a significant decline in the value of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. common stock, could reduce the amount Sonic can borrow under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility. See Note 8 for further discussion of related-party transactions with SMI and SFC.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The 2010 Revolving Borrowing Base was approximately \$145.6 million at December 31, 2010. At December 31, 2010, Sonic had no outstanding borrowings and \$47.7 million in outstanding letters of credit resulting in total borrowing availability of \$97.9 million under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility.

Outstanding obligations under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility are secured by a pledge of substantially all of the assets of Sonic and its subsidiaries, and by the pledge of 5,000,000 shares of common stock of SMI by SFC. The collateral also provides for the pledge of the franchise agreements and stock or equity interests of Sonic's dealership franchise subsidiaries, except for those dealership franchise subsidiaries where the applicable manufacturer prohibits such a pledge, in which cases the stock or equity interests of the dealership franchise subsidiary is subject to an escrow arrangement with the administrative agent. Substantially all of Sonic's subsidiaries also guarantee its obligations under the 2010 Revolving Credit Facility.

The 2010 Floor Plan Facility is comprised of a new vehicle revolving floor plan facility in an amount up to \$321.0 million (the "2010 New Vehicle Floor Plan Facility") and a used vehicle revolving floor plan facility in an amount up to \$50.0 million, subject to a borrowing base (the "2010 Used Vehicle Floor Plan Facility"). Sonic may, under certain conditions, request an increase in the 2010 Floor Plan Facility by up to \$125.0 million, which shall be allocated between the 2010 New Vehicle Floor Plan Facility and the 2010 Used Vehicle Floor Plan Facility as Sonic requests, with no more than 15% of the aggregate commitments allocated to the commitments under the 2010 Used Vehicle Floor Plan Facility. Outstanding obligations under the 2010 Floor Plan Facility are guaranteed by Sonic and certain of its subsidiaries and are secured by a pledge of substantially all of the assets of Sonic and its subsidiaries.

The amounts outstanding under the 2010 Credit Facilities bear interest at variable rates based on specified percentages above LIBOR according to a performance-based pricing grid determined by Sonic's Consolidated Total Debt to EBITDA Ratio (as defined in the 2010 Credit Facilities agreement) as of the last day of the immediately preceding fiscal quarter.

Sonic agreed under the 2010 Credit Facilities not to pledge any assets to any third party, subject to certain stated exceptions, including floor plan financing arrangements. In addition, the 2010 Credit Facilities contain certain negative covenants, including covenants which could restrict or prohibit indebtedness, liens, the payment of dividends, capital expenditures and material dispositions and acquisitions of assets as well as other customary covenants and default provisions. Specifically, the 2010 Credit Facilities permit cash dividends on Sonic's Class A and Class B common stock so long as no event of default (as defined in the 2010 Credit Facilities) has occurred and is continuing and provided that Sonic remains in compliance with all financial covenants under the 2010 Credit Facilities.

The 2010 Credit Facilities contain events of default, including cross-defaults to other material indebtedness, change of control events and events of default customary for syndicated commercial credit facilities. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, Sonic could be required to immediately repay all outstanding amounts under the 2010 Credit Facilities. Sonic was in compliance with all required covenants as of December 31, 2010.

9.0% Senior Subordinated Notes ("9.0% Notes")

On March 12, 2010, Sonic issued \$210.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 9.0% Notes which mature on March 15, 2018. On April 12, 2010, Sonic used the net proceeds, together with cash on hand, to redeem \$200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of its 8.625% Notes due 2013. The 9.0% Notes are unsecured senior subordinated obligations of Sonic and are guaranteed by Sonic's domestic operating subsidiaries. Interest is payable semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 each year. Sonic may redeem the 9.0% Notes in whole or in

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

part at any time after March 15, 2014 at the following redemption prices, which are expressed as percentages of the principal amount:

	<u>Redemption</u>
Beginning on March 15, 2014	104.50%
Beginning on March 15, 2015	102.25%
Beginning on March 15, 2016 and thereafter	100.00%

In addition, on or before March 15, 2013, Sonic may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 9.0% Notes at par value plus accrued interest with proceeds from certain equity offerings. The Indenture also provides that holders of 9.0% Notes may require Sonic to repurchase the 9.0% Notes at 101% of the par value of the 9.0% Notes, plus accrued interest if Sonic undergoes a "change of control" as defined in the Indenture.

The indenture governing the 9.0% Notes contains certain specified restrictive covenants. Sonic has agreed not to pledge any assets to any third party lender of senior subordinated debt except under certain limited circumstances. Sonic also has agreed to certain other limitations or prohibitions concerning the incurrence of other indebtedness, capital stock, guarantees, asset sales, investments, cash dividends to stockholders, distributions and redemptions. Specifically, the indenture governing Sonic's 9.0% Notes limits Sonic's ability to pay quarterly cash dividends on Sonic's Class A and B common stock in excess of \$0.10 per share. Sonic may only pay quarterly cash dividends on Sonic's Class A and B common stock if Sonic complies with the terms of the indenture governing the 9.0% Notes. Sonic was in compliance with all restrictive covenants as of December 31, 2010.

Balances outstanding under Sonic's 9.0% Notes are guaranteed by all of Sonic's operating domestic subsidiaries. These guarantees are full and unconditional and joint and several. The parent company has no independent assets or operations. The non-domestic and non-operating subsidiaries that are not guarantors are considered to be minor.

Sonic's obligations under the 9.0% Notes may be accelerated by the holders of 25% of the outstanding principal amount of the 9.0% Notes then outstanding if certain events of default occur, including: (1) defaults in the payment of principal or interest when due; (2) defaults in the performance, or breach, of Sonic's covenants under the 9.0% Notes; and (3) certain defaults under other agreements under which Sonic or its subsidiaries have outstanding indebtedness in excess of \$35.0 million.

8.625% Senior Subordinated Notes ("8.625% Notes")

Sonic has \$42.9 million in aggregate principal amount outstanding of the 8.625% Notes at December 31, 2010. The 8.625% Notes are unsecured obligations that rank equal in right of payment to all of Sonic's existing and future senior subordinated indebtedness, mature on August 15, 2013 and are redeemable at Sonic's option after August 15, 2008.

On April 12, 2010, Sonic used the net proceeds obtained from the issuance of the 9.0% Notes, together with cash on hand, to redeem \$200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding 8.625% Notes at the then applicable redemption price (102.875% of principal redeemed) plus accrued but unpaid interest. Sonic recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$7.0 million related to the redemption which was recognized in the second quarter of 2010. During the second quarter of 2010, Sonic repurchased approximately \$12.1 million in additional aggregate principal amount of the 8.625% Notes and recorded an additional loss on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$0.3 million related to these repurchases. During the third quarter of 2010, Sonic redeemed an additional \$20.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding 8.625% Notes and recorded a loss on extinguishment of debt of approximately \$0.4 million related to the redemption.

The total loss on extinguishment of debt related to repurchases and redemptions of the 8.625% Notes of \$7.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2010 is recorded in other income (expense), net, in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The indenture governing the 8.625% Notes contains certain specified restrictive covenants. Sonic has agreed not to pledge any assets to any third party lender of senior subordinated debt except under certain limited capital stock, guarantees, asset sales, investments, cash dividends to shareholders, distributions and circumstances. Sonic also has agreed to certain other limitations or prohibitions concerning the incurrence of other indebtedness, redemptions. Specifically, the indenture governing Sonic's 8.625% Notes limits Sonic's ability to pay quarterly cash dividends on Sonic's Class A and B common stock in excess of \$0.10 per share. Sonic may only pay quarterly cash dividends on Sonic's Class A and B common stock if Sonic complies with the terms of the indenture governing the 8.625% Notes. Sonic was in compliance with all restrictive covenants as of December 31, 2010.

Balances outstanding under Sonic's 8.625% Notes are guaranteed by all of Sonic's operating domestic subsidiaries. These guarantees are full and unconditional and joint and several. The parent company has no independent assets or operations. The non-domestic and non-operating subsidiaries that are not guarantors are considered to be minor.

5.25% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes ("5.25% Convertible Notes") and 6.0% Senior Secured Convertible Notes ("6.0% Convertible Notes")

On May 7, 2009, Sonic paid the holders of its 5.25% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2009 (the "5.25% Convertible Notes") \$15.7 million in cash, issued \$85.6 million in aggregate principal of 6.0% Senior Secured Convertible Notes due 2012 (the "6.0% Convertible Notes") and issued 860,723 shares of its Class A common stock in private placements exempt from registration requirements in full satisfaction of its obligations under certain of the 5.25% Convertible Notes. The issuance of the 6.0% Convertible Notes with the redemption of the 5.25% Convertible Notes was accounted for as a debt modification which required the 6.0% Convertible Notes to be recorded at fair value of \$74.3 million (\$85.6 million, less a discount of \$11.3 million). In addition, an \$11.3 million derivative liability was also recorded which represents the fair value of the embedded derivatives (put and conversion features) contained in the 6.0% Convertible Notes.

In accordance with the provisions of "Debt with Conversion and Other Options" in the ASC, Sonic estimated the non-convertible borrowing rate related to the 5.25% Convertible Notes to be 10.0%. Accordingly, the fair value of the equity component of the 5.25% Convertible Notes was \$31.6 million (\$19.0 million, net of tax) at the date of the issuance. As of December 31, 2009, the debt discount associated with the 5.25% Convertible Notes had been fully amortized.

Sonic incurred interest expense related to the 5.25% Convertible Notes of \$7.1 million and \$2.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2009, respectively, recorded to interest expense, other, net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. In addition, Sonic recorded interest expense associated with the amortization of debt discount on the 5.25% Convertible Notes of \$5.7 million and \$2.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2009, respectively, recorded to interest expense, non-cash, convertible debt in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

As a result of Sonic's redemption of the 6.0% Convertible Notes in 2009 (see discussion below), the derivative liability associated with the 6.0% Convertible Notes was extinguished, resulting in a gain which was recognized in interest expense, non-cash, convertible debt of \$11.3 million in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. Sonic also recorded a loss on the repurchase of the 6.0% Convertible Notes of approximately \$7.2 million in 2009 related to the redemption of these notes. This loss represents the write-off of the remaining unamortized discount at the redemption date, and is presented in the other income (expense), net, line in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

5.0% Convertible Senior Notes ("5.0% Convertible Notes")

On September 23, 2009, Sonic issued \$172.5 million in principal of 5.0% Convertible Senior Notes (the "5.0% Convertible Notes") and 10,350,000 shares of Class A common stock generating net proceeds of

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

\$266.4 million. Net proceeds from these issuances were used to repurchase \$143.0 million of 4.25% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes due 2010 (the “4.25% Convertible Notes”), plus accrued interest, \$85.6 million of 6.0% Convertible Notes, plus accrued interest, and to repay amounts outstanding under the 2006 Credit Facility.

The 5.0% Convertible Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.0% per year, payable semiannually on April 1 and October 1 of each year, beginning on April 1, 2010. The 5.0% Convertible Notes mature on October 1, 2029. Sonic may redeem some or all of the 5.0% Convertible Notes for cash at any time subsequent to October 1, 2014 at a repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes. Holders have the right to require Sonic to purchase the 5.0% Convertible Notes on each of October 1, 2014, October 1, 2019 and October 1, 2024 or in the event of a change in control for cash at a purchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the notes.

Holders of the 5.0% Convertible Notes may convert their notes at their option prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding July 1, 2029 only under the following circumstances: (1) during any fiscal quarter commencing after December 31, 2009, if the last reported sale price of the Class A common stock for at least 20 trading days (whether or not consecutive) during a period of 30 consecutive trading days ending on the last trading day of the preceding fiscal quarter is greater than or equal to 130% of the applicable conversion price on each applicable trading day; (2) during the five business day period after any 10 consecutive trading day period (the “measurement period”) in which the trading price (as defined below) per \$1,000 principal amount of notes for each day of that measurement period was less than 98% of the product of the last reported sale price of Sonic’s Class A common stock and the applicable conversion rate on each such day; (3) if Sonic calls any or all of the notes for redemption, at any time prior to the close of business on the third scheduled trading day prior to the redemption date; or (4) upon the occurrence of specified corporate events. On and after July 1, 2029 to (and including) the close of business on the third scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, holders may convert their notes at any time, regardless of the foregoing circumstances. The conversion rate is 74.7245 shares of Class A common stock per \$1,000 principal amount of notes, which is equivalent to a conversion price of approximately \$13.38 per share of Class A common stock.

To recognize the equity component of a convertible borrowing instrument, upon issuance of the 5.0% Convertible Notes in September 2009, Sonic recorded a debt discount of \$31.0 million and a corresponding amount (net of taxes of \$12.8 million) to equity, based on an estimated non-convertible borrowing rate of 10.5%. The debt discount is being amortized to interest expense through October 2014, the earliest redemption date. The unamortized debt discount was \$29.8 million and \$24.7 million at December 31, 2009 and 2010, respectively.

Sonic incurred interest expense related to the 5.0% Convertible Notes of approximately \$2.3 million and \$8.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, respectively, recorded to interest expense, other, net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. In addition, Sonic recorded interest expense associated with the amortization of debt discount on the 5.0% Convertible Notes of \$1.2 million and \$5.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, respectively, recorded to interest expense, non-cash, convertible debt in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

4.25% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes (“4.25% Convertible Notes”)

In September 2009, Sonic repurchased \$143.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.25% Convertible Notes using proceeds from the issuance of the 5.0% Convertible Notes and shares of Class A common stock discussed above. The remaining outstanding aggregate principal amount of the 4.25% Convertible Notes was \$17.0 million at December 31, 2009. The repurchase of \$143.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.25% Convertible Notes resulted in a gain of \$0.1 million recorded in other income (expense), net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. In addition, the repurchase required the write-off of approximately \$7.1 million of unamortized debt discount, which was offset by a \$4.3 million adjustment to paid-in capital and a \$2.9 million adjustment to deferred income tax assets.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

During 2010 Sonic extinguished the remaining \$17.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.25% Convertible Notes. Sonic repurchased approximately \$1.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 4.25% Convertible Notes during the second quarter of 2010 at amounts close to par. On November 30, 2010, Sonic used cash on hand to repurchase \$16.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 4.25% Convertible Notes at the applicable redemption price (100.00% of principal redeemed) plus accrued but unpaid interest.

In accordance with the provisions of "Debt with Conversion and Other Options" in the ASC, Sonic estimated the non-convertible borrowing rate related to the 4.25% Convertible Notes to be 8.0%. Accordingly, the fair value of the equity component of the 4.25% Convertible Notes was \$25.1 million (\$15.1 million, net of tax) at the date of issuance. As of December 31, 2009, the unamortized debt discount associated with these provisions related to the 4.25% Convertible Notes was \$0.5 million and as of December 31, 2010 the debt discount related to the 4.25% Convertible Notes had been fully amortized.

Sonic incurred interest expense related to the 4.25% Convertible Notes of \$7.4 million, \$5.8 million and \$0.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, recorded to interest expense, other, net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. In addition, Sonic recorded interest expense associated with the amortization of debt discount on the 4.25% Convertible Notes of \$5.0 million, \$4.1 million and \$0.5 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, recorded to interest expense, non-cash, convertible debt in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

Notes Payable to a Finance Company

Three notes payable (due October 2015 and August 2016) were assumed in connection with an acquisition in 2005 (the "Assumed Notes"). Sonic recorded the Assumed Notes at fair value using an interest rate of 5.35%. The interest rate used to calculate the fair value was based on a quoted market price for notes with similar terms as of the date of assumption. As a result of calculating the fair value, a premium of \$7.3 million was recorded that will be amortized over the lives of the Assumed Notes. At December 31, 2010, the outstanding principal balance on the Assumed Notes was \$15.6 million with a remaining unamortized premium balance of \$1.8 million.

Mortgage Notes

Sonic has mortgage financing totaling \$133.9 million in aggregate, related to several of its dealership properties. These mortgage notes require monthly payments of principal and interest through maturity and are secured by the underlying properties. Maturity dates range between June 2013 and December 2029. The weighted average interest rate was 4.91% at December 31, 2010.

Covenants

Sonic agreed under the 2010 Credit Facilities not to pledge any assets to any third party (other than those explicitly allowed under the amended terms of the facility), including other lenders, subject to certain stated exceptions, including floor plan financing arrangements. In addition, the 2010 Credit Facilities contains certain negative covenants, including covenants which could restrict or prohibit the payment of dividends, capital expenditures and material dispositions of assets as well as other customary covenants and default provisions.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Financial covenants related to outstanding indebtedness and certain operating leases include required specified ratios of:

	Covenant		
	Consolidated Liquidity Ratio	Consolidated Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio	Consolidated Total Senior Secured Debt to EBITDA Ratio
Through March 30, 2011	³ 1.00	³ 1.10	£2.25
March 31, 2011 through and including March 30, 2012	³ 1.05	³ 1.15	£2.25
March 31, 2012 and thereafter	³ 1.10	³ 1.20	£2.25
December 31, 2010 actual	1.17	1.40	1.22

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

At December 31, 2010 Sonic had interest rate swap agreements (the "Fixed Swaps") to effectively convert a portion of its LIBOR-based variable rate debt to a fixed rate. The fair value of these swap positions at December 31, 2010 was a liability of \$32.7 million included in Other Long-Term Liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets. Under the terms of the Fixed Swaps, Sonic will receive and pay interest based on the following:

Notional (In millions)	Pay Rate	Receive Rate(1)	Maturing Date
\$ 200.0	4.935%	one-month LIBOR	May 1, 2012
\$ 100.0	5.265%	one-month LIBOR	June 1, 2012
\$ 3.6	7.100%	one-month LIBOR	July 10, 2017
\$ 25.0(2)	5.160%	one-month LIBOR	September 1, 2012
\$ 15.0(2)	4.965%	one-month LIBOR	September 1, 2012
\$ 25.0(2)	4.885%	one-month LIBOR	October 1, 2012
\$ 11.3	4.655%	one-month LIBOR	December 10, 2017
\$ 8.7	6.860%	one-month LIBOR	August 1, 2017
\$ 6.9	4.330%	one-month LIBOR	July 1, 2013
\$ 100.0(3)	3.280%	one-month LIBOR	July 1, 2015
\$ 100.0(3)	3.300%	one-month LIBOR	July 1, 2015
\$ 7.3	6.410%	one-month LIBOR	September 12, 2017

- (1) The one-month LIBOR rate was 0.261% at December 31, 2010.
- (2) After December 31, 2009 changes in fair value are recorded through earnings.
- (3) The effective date of these forward-starting swaps is July 2, 2012.

During the second quarter ended June 30, 2010, Sonic entered into two \$100.0 million notional forward-starting interest rate swap agreements which become effective in July 2012 and terminate in July 2015. These interest rate swaps have been designated and qualify as cash flow hedges and, as a result, changes in the fair value of these swaps are recorded in other comprehensive income (loss), net of related income taxes, in the Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity.

As a result of the refinancing of Sonic's 2006 Credit Facility and the new terms of the 2010 Credit Facilities, it is no longer probable that Sonic will incur interest payments that match the terms of certain Fixed Swaps that previously were designated and qualified as cash flow hedges. Of the Fixed Swaps (including the two \$100.0 million notional swaps which were settled in 2009), \$565.0 million of the notional amount had previously been documented

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

as hedges against the variability of cash flows related to interest payments on certain debt obligations. At December 31, 2010, Sonic estimates that under the new 2010 Credit Facilities and other facilities with matching terms, it is probable that the expected debt balance with interest payments that match the terms of the Fixed Swaps will be \$400.0 million. During the first quarter ended March 31, 2009, Sonic settled its \$100.0 million notional, pay 5.002% and \$100.0 million notional, pay 5.319% swaps for a payment of approximately \$16.5 million. These payments are being amortized into earnings over the original life of the swaps.

As a result of the above, for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, non-cash charges of approximately \$11.8 million and \$4.9 million, respectively, related to the Fixed Swaps not designated as hedges and amortization of amounts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) related to terminated cash flow swaps were included in interest expense/amortization, non-cash, cash flow swaps in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

For the Fixed Swaps which qualify as cash flow hedges, the changes in the fair value of these swaps have been recorded in other comprehensive income (loss), net of related income taxes, in the Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity. The incremental interest expense (the difference between interest paid and interest received) related to the Fixed Swaps was \$12.4 million, \$18.5 million and \$17.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. This expense is included in interest expense, other, net, in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income. The estimated net expense expected to be reclassified out of other comprehensive income (loss) into results of operations during the next twelve months is approximately \$10.8 million.

7. Income Taxes

The provision for income tax (benefit) expense from continuing operations consists of the following:

	2008	2009	2010
	(In thousands)		
Current:			
Federal	\$ (13,834)	\$ 929	\$ 8,789
State	3,246	6,865	3,345
	(10,588)	7,794	12,134
Deferred	(111,752)	(37,069)	(29,638)
Total provision for income taxes — (benefit) expense	\$ (122,340)	\$ (29,275)	\$ (17,504)

The reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax rate with Sonic's federal and state overall effective income tax rate from continuing operations is as follows:

	2008	2009	2010
Statutory federal rate	35.00%	35.00%	35.00%
Effective state income tax rate	3.21	4.83	4.85
Valuation allowance and other account adjustments	(13.99)	(148.12)	(62.18)
Non-deductible goodwill	(8.35)	—	0.29
Other	0.31	3.34	(0.28)
Effective tax rate	16.18%	(104.96%)	(22.32%)

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of the temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for tax purposes. Significant components of Sonic's deferred tax assets and liabilities as of December 31 are as follows:

	2009	2010
	(In thousands)	
Deferred tax assets:		
Allowance for bad debts	\$ 158	\$ 180
Accruals and reserves	49,524	48,497
Basis difference in property and equipment	—	217
Basis difference in goodwill	30,266	5,721
Net operating loss carryforwards	15,869	13,638
Fair value of Fixed Swaps	13,698	9,761
Interest and state taxes associated with "Accounting for Uncertain Income Tax Positions" in the ASC liability	7,777	6,694
Other	3	3
Total deferred tax assets	117,295	84,711
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Basis difference in inventory	(3,340)	(2,105)
Basis difference in property and equipment	(3,938)	—
Basis difference in debt	(11,748)	(9,749)
Other	(4,396)	(4,849)
Total deferred tax liability	(23,422)	(16,703)
Valuation allowance	(61,868)	(10,875)
Net deferred tax asset (liability)	\$ 32,005	\$ 57,133

Net long-term deferred tax balances are recorded in other assets and net short-term deferred tax balances are recorded in other current assets on the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

At December 31, 2008, Sonic had a valuation allowance recorded totaling \$116.3 million. During the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010, Sonic lowered the recorded valuation allowance amount by \$54.4 million (\$44.2 million in continuing operations and \$10.2 million in discontinued operations) and \$51.0 million (\$48.8 million in continuing operations and \$2.2 million in discontinued operations), respectively. These changes were the result of the use of certain state net operating loss carryforwards as well as a change in estimate that we would be able to ultimately realize the benefits of recorded deferred tax balances. These changes in estimate were primarily driven by the improvement experienced in Sonic's operating results, the overall improvement of the automotive retailing industry and the expectation that Sonic's results and those of the automotive retailing industry would continue to improve in the future.

Sonic has \$345.5 million in gross deferred tax assets related to state net operating loss carryforwards that will expire between 2014 and 2030. Management reviews these carryforward positions, the time remaining until expiration and other opportunities to utilize these carryforwards in making an assessment as to whether it is more likely than not that these carryforwards will be utilized. The results of future operations, regulatory framework of the taxing authorities and other related matters cannot be predicted with certainty. Therefore, actual utilization of the losses that created these deferred tax assets that differs from the assumptions used in the development of management's judgment could occur. Accordingly, at December 31, 2010, Sonic had recorded a valuation allowance amount of \$10.9 million related to certain state net operating loss carryforward deferred tax assets.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

as it was likely that Sonic would not be able to generate sufficient state taxable income in the related entities to utilize the accumulated net operating loss carryforward balances.

At January 1, 2010, Sonic had liabilities of \$31.2 million recorded related to unrecognized tax benefits. Included in the liabilities related to unrecognized tax benefits at January 1, 2010, is \$6.4 million related to interest and penalties which Sonic has estimated may be paid as a result of its tax positions. It is Sonic's policy to classify the expense related to interest and penalties to be paid on underpayments of income taxes within income tax expense. A summary of the changes in the liability related to Sonic's unrecognized tax benefits is presented below.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u> (In thousands)	<u>2010</u>
Unrecognized tax benefit liability, January 1(1)	\$ 18,921	\$ 17,131	\$ 24,790
Prior period positions:			
Increases	132	8,883	518
Decreases	(1,766)	(134)	(162)
Current period positions	2,278	1,629	1,212
Settlements	(33)	(456)	(1,706)
Lapse of statute of limitations	(2,401)	(2,072)	(1,762)
Other	—	(191)	(355)
Unrecognized tax benefit liability, December 31(2)	<u>\$ 17,131</u>	<u>\$ 24,790</u>	<u>\$ 22,535</u>

(1) Excludes accrued interest and penalties of \$5.6 million at January 1, 2008, \$6.1 million at January 1, 2009 and \$6.4 million at January 1, 2010.

(2) Excludes accrued interest and penalties of \$6.1 million at December 31, 2008, \$6.4 million at December 31, 2009 and \$5.1 million at December 31, 2010.

Approximately \$12.0 million of the unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31, 2010 would ultimately affect the income tax rate if ultimately recognized. Included in the December 31, 2010 recorded liability is \$5.1 million related to interest and penalties which Sonic has estimated may be paid as a result of its tax positions. Sonic does not anticipate any significant changes in its unrecognized tax benefit liability within the next twelve months.

Sonic and its subsidiaries are subject to U.S. federal income tax as well as income tax of multiple state jurisdictions. Sonic's 2007 through 2010 U.S. federal income tax returns remain open to examination by the Internal Revenue Service, and the 2008 and 2009 tax years are currently under review. Sonic and its subsidiaries' state income tax returns are open to examination by state taxing authorities for years ranging from 2000 to 2010.

8. Related Parties

Sonic leases office space in Charlotte from a subsidiary of Sonic Financial Corporation ("SFC"), an entity controlled by Sonic's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. O. Bruton Smith, for a majority of its headquarters personnel. Annual aggregate rent under this lease was approximately \$0.6 million in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Sonic rents various aircraft owned by SFC, subject to their availability, for business-related travel by Sonic executives. Sonic incurred costs of approximately \$0.4 million in 2008, \$0.3 million in 2009 and \$0.4 million in 2010 for the use of these aircraft.

Certain of Sonic's dealerships purchase the Z-Max oil additive product from Oil Chem Research Company, a subsidiary of Speedway Motorsports, Inc. ("SMI") whose Chairman and Chief Executive Officer is O. Bruton Smith, also Sonic's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, for resale to service customers of Sonic's dealerships in

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

the ordinary course of business. Total purchases from Oil Chem by Sonic dealerships totaled approximately \$1.7 million in 2008, \$1.5 million in 2009 and \$1.4 million in 2010.

Sonic donates cash periodically to Speedway Children's Charities, a non-profit organization founded by O. Bruton Smith. O. Bruton Smith and B. Scott Smith, Sonic's President and Chief Strategic Officer, are both board members of Speedway Children's Charities. Donations to this organization amounted to \$0.2 million in 2008.

9. Capital Structure and Per Share Data

Preferred Stock — Sonic has 3,000,000 shares of "blank check" preferred stock authorized with such designations, rights and preferences as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors has designated 300,000 shares of preferred stock as Class A convertible preferred stock, par value \$0.10 per share (the "Preferred Stock") which is divided into 100,000 shares of Series I Preferred Stock, 100,000 shares of Series II Preferred Stock, and 100,000 shares of Series III Preferred Stock. There were no shares of Preferred Stock issued or outstanding at December 31, 2009 and 2010.

Common Stock — Sonic has two classes of common stock. Sonic has authorized 100.0 million shares of Class A common stock at a par value of \$0.01 per share. Class A common stock entitles its holder to one vote per share. Sonic has also authorized 30.0 million shares of Class B common stock at a par value of \$0.01 per share. Class B common stock entitles its holder to ten votes per share, except in certain circumstances. Each share of Class B common stock is convertible into one share of Class A common stock either upon voluntary conversion at the option of the holder, or automatically upon the occurrence of certain events, as provided in Sonic's charter. The two classes of stock share equally in dividends and in the event of liquidation.

Share Repurchases — Sonic's Board of Directors has authorized Sonic to expend up to \$295.0 million to repurchase shares of its Class A common stock or redeem securities convertible into Class A common stock. As of December 31, 2010, Sonic had repurchased a total of 14,980,640 shares of Class A common stock at an average price per share of approximately \$15.87 and had redeemed 13,801.5 shares of Class A convertible preferred stock at an average price of \$1,000 per share. As of December 31, 2010, Sonic had \$43.5 million remaining under the Board's authorization.

Per Share Data — The calculation of diluted earnings per share considers the potential dilutive effect of options and shares under Sonic's stock compensation plans, Class A common stock purchase warrants, the 5.0% Convertible Notes, 6.0% Convertible Notes, the 5.25% Convertible Notes and the 4.25% Convertible Notes (see Notes 1 and 6). Sonic's non-vested restricted stock and restricted stock units contain rights to receive non-forfeitable dividends, and thus, are considered participating securities and should be included in the two-class method of computing earnings per share. Due to the net loss in the year ended December 31, 2008, there was no dilutive impact of options, shares or warrants as their effect would be anti-dilutive on a loss per share basis. The

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

following table illustrates the dilutive effect of such items on earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2010:

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2009						
	Weighted Average Shares	Income from Continuing Operations		Loss from Discontinued Operations		Net Income	
		Amount	Per Share Amount	Amount	Per Share Amount	Amount	Per Share Amount
		(In thousands except per share amounts)					
Earnings (Loss) and Shares	43,836	\$ 57,167	\$ 1.30	\$ (25,619)	\$ (0.58)	\$ 31,548	
Effect of Participating Securities:							
Unvested Restricted Stock and Stock Units	—	(406)		—		(406)	
Basic Earnings (Loss) Per Share	43,836	\$ 56,761	\$ 1.29	\$ (25,619)	\$ (0.58)	\$ 31,142	\$ 0.71
Effect of Dilutive Securities:							
Contingently Convertible Debt (6.0% Convertible Notes)	7,833	916		23		939	
Contingently Convertible Debt (5.0% Convertible Notes)	3,496	2,225		55		2,280	
Stock Compensation Plans	667						
Diluted Earnings (Loss) Per Share	<u>55,832</u>	<u>\$ 59,902</u>	<u>\$ 1.07</u>	<u>\$ (25,541)</u>	<u>\$ (0.45)</u>	<u>\$ 34,361</u>	<u>\$ 0.62</u>

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2010						
	Weighted Average Shares	Income from Continuing Operations		Loss from Discontinued Operations		Net Income	
		Amount	Per Share Amount	Amount	Per Share Amount	Amount	Per Share Amount
		(In thousands, except per share amounts)					
Earnings (Loss) and Shares	52,214	\$ 95,925	\$ 1.84	\$ (5,996)	\$ (0.12)	\$ 89,929	
Effect of Participating Securities:							
Unvested Restricted Stock and Stock Units	—	(921)		—		(921)	
Basic Earnings (Loss) Per Share	52,214	\$ 95,004	\$ 1.82	\$ (5,996)	\$ (0.12)	\$ 89,008	\$ 1.70
Effect of Dilutive Securities:							
Contingently Convertible Debt (5.0% Convertible Notes)	12,890	9,022		31		9,053	
Stock Compensation Plans	690						
Diluted Earnings (Loss) Per Share	<u>65,794</u>	<u>\$ 104,026</u>	<u>\$ 1.58</u>	<u>\$ (5,965)</u>	<u>\$ (0.09)</u>	<u>\$ 98,061</u>	<u>\$ 1.49</u>

In addition to the stock options included in the tables above, options to purchase approximately 3.3 million, 2.4 million and 2.3 million shares of Class A common stock were outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively, but were not included in the computation of diluted net income per share because the options were not dilutive.

10. Employee Benefit Plans

Substantially all of the employees of Sonic are eligible to participate in a 401(k) plan. Contributions by Sonic to the 401(k) plan were \$5.8 million in 2008 and none in 2009 and 2010.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Stock Compensation Plans

Sonic currently has two stock compensation plans, the Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the "2004 Plan") and the 2005 Formula Restricted Stock Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the "2005 Formula Plan") (collectively, the "Stock Plans"). During the second quarter of 2007, Sonic's stockholders approved amendments to the 2004 Plan and the 2005 Formula Plan to increase the number of shares issuable under these plans to 3,000,000 and 90,000, respectively. During the second quarter of 2009, Sonic's stockholders approved an increase in the number of shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock authorized for issuance under the 2004 Plan and the 2005 Formula Plan to 5,000,000 and 340,000, respectively. The Sonic Automotive, Inc. 1997 Stock Option Plan (the "1997 Plan") was terminated during the fourth quarter of 2007.

The 2004 Plan and the 1997 Plan were adopted by the Board of Directors in order to attract and retain key personnel. Under the 2004 Plan and the 1997 Plan, options to purchase shares of Class A common stock may be granted to key employees of Sonic and its subsidiaries and to officers, directors, consultants and other individuals providing services to Sonic. The options are granted at the fair market value of Sonic's Class A common stock at the date of grant, vest over a period ranging from six months to three years, are exercisable upon vesting and expire ten years from the date of grant. The 2004 Plan also authorized the issuance of restricted stock. Restricted stock grants under the 2004 Plan vest over a three year term. The 2005 Formula Plan provides for grants of restricted stock to non-employee directors and restrictions on those shares expire on the earlier of the first anniversary of the grant date or the day before the next annual meeting of Sonic's stockholders. Individuals receiving restricted shares under both the 2005 Formula Plan and the 2004 Plan have voting rights and receive dividends on non-vested shares. Sonic issues new shares of Class A common stock to employees and directors to satisfy its option exercise and stock grant obligations. To offset the effects of these transactions, Sonic will periodically buy back shares of Class A common stock after considering cash flow, market conditions and other factors.

A summary of the status of the options related to the Stock Plans and the 1997 Plan is presented below:

	Options Outstanding	Exercise Price per Share			Weighted Average Exercise Price per Share	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
		(\$ in thousands, except per share data, term in years)					
Balance — December 31, 2009	4,014	\$ 1.81	-	37.50	\$ 15.48	5.9	\$ 12,349
Exercised	(357)	1.81	-	11.19	5.18		
Forfeited	(228)	1.81	-	37.50	13.51		
Balance — December 31, 2010	3,429	\$ 1.81	-	37.50	\$ 16.69	5.1	\$ 13,193
Exercisable	2,535	\$ 1.81	-	37.50	\$ 21.93	4.0	\$ 2,976
						December 31,	
						2008	2009
						(In thousands, except per option data)	
Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value per Option Granted					N/A	\$ 0.99	N/A
Intrinsic Value of Options Exercised					\$ 3,146	\$ —	\$ 2,235
Fair Value of Shares Vested					\$ 5,867	\$ 395	\$ 555

Sonic recognized compensation expense within selling, general and administrative expenses related to the options in the Stock Plans of \$2.2 million, \$0.6 million and \$0.5 million in the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. Tax benefits recognized related to the compensation expenses were \$0.8 million, \$0.2 million and \$0.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. The total compensation cost related to non-vested options not yet recognized at December 31, 2010 was \$0.5 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.3 years.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Black-Scholes Assumptions

The weighted average fair value of options granted in the year ended December 31, 2009 (no options were granted in 2008 or 2010) was estimated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions:

	2009
Stock Option Plans	
Dividend yield	0.00%
Risk free interest rates	1.67-1.87%
Expected lives	5 years
Volatility	64.13%

Sonic used an expected term of five years for option grants based on several facts associated with past grants and exercises. First, the historical exercise experience indicated that the expected term was at least three years (consistent with the three year graded vesting period attached to the majority of these options) and the majority of Sonic's grants were in the early to middle stages of their contractual terms of ten years; secondly, the contractual term of all of Sonic's options was ten years. Expected volatility was estimated based on historical experience.

A summary of the status of restricted stock and restricted stock unit grants related to the Stock Plans is presented below:

	Unvested Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units (Shares in thousands)	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Balance — December 31, 2009	313	\$ 17.45
Granted	502	10.30
Forfeited	(4)	10.30
Vested	(305)	17.47
Balance — December 31, 2010	506	\$ 10.58

During the year ended December 31, 2010, approximately 472,000 restricted shares of Class A common stock and restricted stock units were awarded to Sonic's executive officers and other key associates under the 2004 Plan. These awards were made in connection with establishing the objective performance criteria for 2010 incentive compensation and vest one-third annually over three years. The shares and units awarded to executive officers and other key associates are subject to forfeiture, in whole or in part, based upon specified measures of Sonic's earnings per share performance for the 2010 fiscal year, continuation of employment and compliance with any restrictive covenants contained in any agreement between Sonic and the respective officer and other key associates. Also in 2010, 30,000 restricted shares of Class A common stock were awarded to Sonic's Board of Directors pursuant to the 2005 Formula Plan and vest on the earlier of the first anniversary of the grant date or the day before the next annual meeting of Sonic's stockholders. Sonic recognized compensation expense within selling, general and administrative expenses related to non-vested restricted stock and restricted stock units of \$3.9 million, \$2.2 million and \$2.3 million in the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. Tax benefits recognized related to the compensation expenses were \$1.5 million, \$0.8 million and \$0.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. Total compensation cost related to non-vested restricted stock not yet recognized at December 31, 2010 was \$3.6 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.1 years.

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NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan

On December 7, 2009, the Compensation Committee of Sonic's Board of Directors approved and adopted the Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (the "SERP") to be effective as of January 1, 2010. The SERP is a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that is unfunded for federal tax purposes. The SERP includes 11 members of senior management at December 31, 2010. The purpose of the SERP is to attract and retain key members of management by providing a retirement benefit in addition to the benefits provided by Sonic's tax-qualified and other nonqualified deferred compensation plans. As of December 31, 2010, Sonic had recorded a liability of \$1.0 million and assets of \$1.7 million in the Consolidated Balance Sheets related to the SERP. Service cost recognized for the year ended December 31, 2010 was \$1.0 million and is recorded in selling, general and administrative expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Income.

11. Fair Value Measurements

In determining fair value, Sonic uses various valuation approaches including market, income and/or cost approaches. "Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures" in the ASC establishes a hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are inputs that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of Sonic. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect Sonic's assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. The hierarchy is broken down into three levels based on the reliability of inputs as follows:

Level 1 — Valuations based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that Sonic has the ability to access. Assets utilizing Level 1 inputs include marketable securities that are actively traded.

Level 2 — Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly. Assets and liabilities utilizing Level 2 inputs include cash flow swap instruments.

Level 3 — Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement. Asset and liability measurements utilizing Level 3 inputs include those used in estimating fair value of non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities in purchase acquisitions, those used in assessing impairment of property, plant and equipment and other intangibles and those used in the reporting unit valuation in the first step of the annual goodwill impairment evaluation. For instance, certain assets held for sale in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets are valued based on estimated proceeds to be received in connection with the disposal of those assets.

The availability of observable inputs can vary and is affected by a wide variety of factors. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment required by Sonic in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, for disclosure purposes, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is disclosed is determined based on the lowest level input (Level 3 being the lowest level) that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Fair value is a market-based measure considered from the perspective of a market participant who holds the asset or owes the liability rather than an entity-specific measure. Therefore, even when market assumptions are not readily available, Sonic's own assumptions are set to reflect those that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Sonic uses inputs that are current as of the measurement date, including during periods when the market may be abnormally high or abnormally low. Accordingly, fair value measurements can be volatile based on various factors that may or may not be within Sonic's control.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

Assets or liabilities recorded at fair value in the accompanying balance sheet as of December 31, 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

	Fair Value at December 31,							
	Total		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)		Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)		Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(In millions)							
Cash Flow Swaps Designated as Hedges(1)	\$ (25.9)	\$ (25.3)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (25.9)	\$ (25.3)	\$ —	\$ —
Cash Flow Swaps not Designated as Hedges(1)	(6.6)	(7.4)	—	—	(6.6)	(7.4)	—	—
Total	\$ (32.5)	\$ (32.7)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (32.5)	\$ (32.7)	\$ —	\$ —

(1) - Included in Other Long-Term Liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the accompanying balance sheet as of December 31, 2010 are as follows:

	Year Ended 12/31/2010	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Gains / (Losses)
	(In millions)		
Long-lived assets held and used(1)	\$ 436.3	\$ 436.3	\$ (0.2)
Goodwill(2)	468.5	468.5	—
Franchise assets(2)	64.8	64.8	—
Long-lived assets held for sale(3)	2.0	2.0	—

(1) See Note 4 for discussion.

(2) See Note 5 for discussion.

(3) Includes real estate property. See Note 4 for discussion.

As of December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2010, the fair values of Sonic's financial instruments including receivables, notes receivable from finance contracts, notes payable-floor plan, trade accounts payable, borrowings under the revolving credit facilities and certain mortgage notes approximate their carrying values due either to length of maturity or existence of variable interest rates that approximate prevailing market rates.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

The fair value and carrying value of Sonic's fixed rate long-term debt was as follows:

	December 31, 2009		December 31, 2010	
	Fair Value	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Carrying Value
	(In thousands)			
9.0% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes(1)	\$ —	\$ —	\$220,836	\$ 208,630
8.625% Senior Subordinated Notes(1)	\$266,750	\$ 273,455	\$ 43,498	\$ 42,673
5.0% Convertible Senior Notes(1)	\$188,072	\$ 142,743	\$215,453	\$ 147,824
4.25% Convertible Senior Subordinated Notes(1)	\$ 16,363	\$ 16,423	\$ —	\$ —
Mortgage Notes(2)	\$ 78,333	\$ 78,424	\$ 88,119	\$ 88,262
Notes Payable to a Finance Company(2)	\$ 17,859	\$ 20,260	\$ 15,676	\$ 17,427
Other(2)	\$ 5,349	\$ 5,931	\$ 5,311	\$ 5,751

(1) As determined by market quotations as of December 31, 2010 (Level 1).

(2) As determined by discounted cash flows (Level 3).

12. Commitments and Contingencies

Facility and Equipment Leases

During 2010, Sonic's management decided to cease using one dealership property which is leased under an operating lease. Of the \$4.3 million of lease exit expense recorded for the year ended December 31, 2010, \$0.1 million related to lease exit accruals established in 2010 and adjustments to lease exit accruals recorded in prior years for the present value of the lease payments, net of estimated sublease rentals, for the remaining life of the operating leases and other accruals necessary to satisfy the lease commitment to the landlord. The remaining \$4.2 million lease exit expense was related to interest charges for dealerships for which lease exit accruals exist. A summary of the activity of these operating lease accruals consists of the following:

	(In thousands)
Balance, December 31, 2009	\$ 47,825
Lease exit expense(1)	4,266
Payments(2)	(8,557)
Reversals	—
Balance, December 31, 2010	\$ 43,534

(1) Approximately \$4.2 million is recorded in interest expense, other, net, and the remaining \$0.1 million is recorded in selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

(2) Amount is recorded as reduction of rent expense in selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

Sonic leases facilities for the majority of its dealership operations under operating lease arrangements. These facility lease arrangements normally have fifteen to twenty year terms with one or two ten year renewal options and do not contain provisions for contingent rent related to dealership's operations. Many of the leases are subject to the

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

provisions of a guaranty and subordination agreement that contains financial and affirmative covenants. Sonic was in compliance with these covenants at December 31, 2010. Approximately 20% of these facility leases are based on capitalization rates with payments that vary based on interest rates. Sonic also leases certain equipment for use in dealership operations. These equipment lease arrangements normally have three to five year terms with one or two year renewal options. Minimum future lease payments for both facility and equipment leases and sub-leases to be received as required under non-cancelable operating leases for both continuing and discontinued operations based on interest rates as of the inception of each lease are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	Future Minimum Lease Payments, Net	Receipts from Future Subleases
	(In thousands)	
2011	\$ 107,191	\$ (14,291)
2012	97,935	(13,759)
2013	93,465	(12,763)
2014	90,004	(12,793)
2015	85,609	(10,805)
Thereafter	385,844	(41,830)

Total lease expense for continuing operations in 2008, 2009 and 2010 was approximately \$122.5 million, \$113.9 million and \$113.8 million, respectively. Total lease expense for discontinued operations in 2008, 2009 and 2010 was approximately \$28.2 million, \$39.5 million and \$1.7 million, respectively. The total net contingent rent benefit in 2008 relating to a decrease in interest rates since the underlying leases commenced for continuing and discontinued operations was \$1.9 million and \$0.2 million, respectively. The total net contingent benefit in each of 2009 and 2010 relating to a decrease in interest rates since the underlying leases commenced for continuing and discontinued operations was \$2.5 million and \$0.4 million, respectively.

Many of Sonic's facility operating leases are subject to affirmative and financial covenant provisions related to a subordination and guaranty agreement executed with the landlord of many of its facility properties. On March 12, 2009, Sonic amended this guaranty and subordination agreement with the landlord. This amendment adjusted the calculation of the consolidated fixed charge coverage ratio covenant contained in the original guaranty and subordination agreement and added two additional financial covenants: a consolidated liquidity ratio covenant and a consolidated total senior secured debt to EBITDA ratio covenant. The required financial covenants related to the amended subordination and guaranty agreement are as follows:

	Covenant			
	Consolidated Liquidity Ratio	Consolidated Fixed Charge Coverage Ratio	Consolidated Total Senior Secured Debt to EBITDA Ratio	EBTDAR to Rent Ratio
Through March 30, 2011	³ 1.00	³ 1.10	£2.25	³ 1.50
March 31, 2011 through and including March 30, 2012	³ 1.05	³ 1.15	£2.25	³ 1.50
March 31, 2012 and thereafter	³ 1.10	³ 1.20	£2.25	³ 1.50
December 31, 2010 actual	1.17	1.40	1.22	2.11

Guarantees and Indemnifications

In accordance with the terms of Sonic's operating lease agreements, Sonic's dealership subsidiaries, acting as lessees, generally agree to indemnify the lessor from certain exposure arising as a result of the use of the leased premises, including environmental exposure and repairs to leased property upon termination of the lease. In addition, Sonic has generally agreed to indemnify the lessor in the event of a breach of the lease by the lessee.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

In connection with franchise dispositions, certain of Sonic's dealership subsidiaries have assigned or sublet to the buyer its interests in real property leases associated with such dealerships. In general, the subsidiaries retain responsibility for the performance of certain obligations under such leases, including rent payments, and repairs to leased property upon termination of the lease, to the extent that the assignee or sub-lessee does not perform. These obligations are included within the future minimum lease payments, net, in the table above. In the event the sub-lessees do not perform under their obligations Sonic remains liable for the lease payments. The total amount relating to this risk is approximately \$106.2 million, which is the total of the receipts from future subleases in the table under "Facility and Equipment Leases" above. However, there are situations where Sonic has assigned a lease to the buyer and Sonic was not able to obtain a release from the landlord. In these situations, although Sonic is no longer the primary obligor, Sonic is contingently liable if the buyer does not perform under the lease terms. The total estimated minimum lease payments remaining related to these leases totaled \$13.6 million at December 31, 2010. However, in accordance with the terms of the assignment and sublease agreements, the assignees and sub-lessees have generally agreed to indemnify Sonic and its subsidiaries in the event of non-performance. Additionally, in connection with certain dispositions, Sonic has obtained indemnifications from the parent company or owners of these assignees and sub-lessees in the event of non-performance.

In accordance with the terms of agreements entered into for the sale of Sonic's franchises, Sonic generally agrees to indemnify the buyer from certain liabilities and costs arising subsequent to the date of sale, including environmental exposure and exposure resulting from the breach of representations or warranties made in accordance with the agreement. While Sonic's exposure with respect to environmental remediation and repairs is difficult to quantify, Sonic's maximum exposure associated with these general indemnifications was \$17.3 million at December 31, 2010. These indemnifications generally expire within a period of one to three years following the date of sale. The estimated fair value of these indemnifications was not material and the amount recorded for this contingency was not significant at December 31, 2010.

One of the dealership acquisitions Sonic completed in 2007 provides for additional cash consideration of up to \$3.0 million to be paid if the dealership acquired achieves a prescribed level of earnings over a continuous twelve-month period within the five years following the acquisition. As of December 31, 2010, the acquired dealership had not achieved the level of earnings which would result in additional consideration to be paid.

Legal Matters

Sonic is a defendant in the matter of Galura, et al. v. Sonic Automotive, Inc., a private civil action filed in the Circuit Court of Hillsborough County, Florida. In this action, originally filed on December 30, 2002, the plaintiffs allege that Sonic and its Florida dealerships sold an anti-theft protection product in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner, and further sought representation on behalf of any customer of any of Sonic's Florida dealerships who purchased the anti-theft protection product since December 30, 1998. The plaintiffs are seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of this class of customers. In June 2005, the court granted the plaintiffs' motion for certification of the requested class of customers, but the court has made no finding to date regarding actual liability in this lawsuit. Sonic subsequently filed a notice of appeal of the court's class certification ruling with the Florida Court of Appeals. In April 2007, the Florida Court of Appeals affirmed a portion of the trial court's class certification, and overruled a portion of the trial court's class certification. In November 2009, the Florida trial court granted Summary Judgment in Sonic's favor against Plaintiff Enrique Galura, and his claim has been dismissed. Marisa Hazelton's claim is still pending. Sonic currently intends to continue its vigorous appeal and defense of this lawsuit and to assert available defenses. However, an adverse resolution of this lawsuit could result in the payment of significant costs and damages, which could have a material adverse effect on Sonic's future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows. At a mediation held February 4, 2011, Sonic reached an agreement in principle with the plaintiffs to settle this class action lawsuit. This agreement in principle remains conditioned upon execution

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

of a definitive settlement agreement and subsequent approval by the Florida state court. In the event that a definitive settlement of this lawsuit is finalized upon terms and conditions consistent with the agreement in principle, such a settlement would not have a material adverse affect on Sonic's future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Several private civil actions have been filed against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and several of its dealership subsidiaries that purport to represent classes of customers as potential plaintiffs and made allegations that certain products sold in the finance and insurance departments were done so in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner. One of these private civil actions was filed on November 15, 2004 in South Carolina state court, York County Court of Common Pleas, against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and 10 of Sonic's South Carolina subsidiaries. The plaintiffs in that lawsuit were Misty J. Owens, James B. Wright, Vincent J. Astey and Joseph Lee Williams, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, with plaintiffs seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the purported class. The group of plaintiffs' attorneys representing the plaintiffs in the South Carolina lawsuit also filed another private civil class action lawsuit against Sonic Automotive, Inc. and 3 of its subsidiaries on February 14, 2005 in state court in North Carolina, Lincoln County Superior Court, which similarly sought certification of a multi-state class of plaintiffs and alleged that certain products sold in the finance and insurance departments were done so in a deceptive or otherwise illegal manner. The plaintiffs in this North Carolina lawsuit were Robert Price, Carolyn Price, Marcus Cappeletti and Kathy Cappeletti, on behalf of themselves and all other persons similarly situated, with plaintiffs seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of the purported class. The South Carolina state court action and the North Carolina state court action have since been consolidated into a single proceeding in private arbitration before the American Arbitration Association. On November 12, 2008, claimants in the consolidated arbitration filed a Motion for Class Certification as a national class action including all of the states in which Sonic operates dealerships. Claimants are seeking monetary damages and injunctive relief on behalf of this class of customers. The parties have briefed and argued the issue of class certification.

On July 19, 2010, the Arbitrator issued a Partial Final Award on Class Certification, certifying a class which includes all customers who, on or after November 15, 2000, purchased or leased from a Sonic dealership a vehicle with the Etch product as part of the transaction, but not including customers who purchased or leased such vehicles from a Sonic dealership in Florida. The Partial Final Award on Class Certification is not a final decision on the merits of the action. The merits of Claimants' assertions and potential damages will still have to be proven through the remainder of the arbitration. The Arbitrator stayed the Arbitration for thirty days to allow either party to petition a court of competent jurisdiction to confirm or vacate the award. Sonic will seek review of the class certification ruling by a court of competent jurisdiction and will continue to press its argument that this action is not suitable for a class-based arbitration. On July 22, 2010, the plaintiffs in this consolidated arbitration filed a Motion to Confirm the Arbitrator's Partial Final Award on Class Certification in state court in North Carolina, Lincoln County Superior Court. On August 17, 2010, Sonic filed to remove this North Carolina state court action to federal court, and simultaneously filed a Petition to Vacate the Arbitrator's Partial Final Award on Class Certification, with both filings made in the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. Sonic intends to continue its vigorous defense of this arbitration and to assert all available defenses. However, an adverse resolution of this arbitration could result in the payment of significant costs and damages, which could have a material adverse effect on Sonic's future results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

Sonic is involved, and expects to continue to be involved, in numerous legal and administrative proceedings arising out of the conduct of its business, including regulatory investigations and private civil actions brought by plaintiffs purporting to represent a potential class or for which a class has been certified. Although Sonic vigorously defends itself in all legal and administrative proceedings, the outcomes of pending and future proceedings arising out of the conduct of Sonic's business, including litigation with customers, employment related lawsuits, contractual disputes, class actions, purported class actions and actions brought by governmental authorities, cannot be predicted with certainty. An unfavorable resolution of one or more of these matters could have a material adverse effect on Sonic's business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows or prospects. Included in other

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — (Continued)

accrued liabilities at December 31, 2009 and 2010 were \$9.2 million and \$9.1 million, respectively, in reserves that Sonic has provided for pending proceedings.

13. Summary of Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

The following table summarizes Sonic's results of operations as presented in the Consolidated Statements of Income by quarter for 2009 and 2010.

	<u>First Quarter</u>	<u>Second Quarter</u>	<u>Third Quarter</u>	<u>Fourth Quarter</u>
	(In thousands, except per share data)			
Year Ended December 31, 2009				
Total revenues	\$ 1,363,074	\$ 1,485,685	\$ 1,629,897	\$ 1,576,685
Gross profit	\$ 244,706	\$ 257,253	\$ 274,303	\$ 256,410
Net income (loss)	\$ 1,678	\$ 26	\$ 15,594	\$ 14,250
Earnings (loss) per common share — Basic	\$ 0.04	\$ —	\$ 0.37	\$ 0.27
Earnings (loss) per common share — Diluted	\$ 0.04	\$ —	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.25
Year Ended December 31, 2010				
Total revenues	\$ 1,543,665	\$ 1,722,026	\$ 1,770,260	\$ 1,844,893
Gross profit	\$ 265,878	\$ 282,476	\$ 281,799	\$ 284,525
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,154	\$ 8,436	\$ 12,985	\$ 64,354
Earnings (loss) per common share — Basic	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.25	\$ 1.22
Earnings (loss) per common share — Diluted	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.23	\$ 1.00

- (1) Operations are subject to seasonal variations. The first quarter generally contributes less operating profits than the second, third and fourth quarters. Parts and service demand remains more stable throughout the year.
- (2) The sum of net income per common share for the quarters may not equal the full year amount due to weighted average common shares being calculated on a quarterly versus annual basis.
- (3) Amounts presented differ from amounts previously reported on Form 10-Q due to the classification of certain franchises in discontinued and continuing operations in accordance with "Presentation of Financial Statements" in the ASC (see Note 2).

Net income in the second quarter ended June 30, 2009 includes pre-tax impairment charges of \$5.0 million and debt restructuring charges of \$7.1 million related to amendments to the 2006 Credit Facility and the issuance of the 6.0% Senior Secured Convertible Notes.

Net income in the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2009 includes pre-tax impairment charges related to asset balances of \$20.9 million, lease exit charges of \$24.3 million and income tax valuation allowance benefits related to state net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred income tax assets of \$47.4 million.

Net income in the second quarter ended June 30, 2010 includes a pre-tax loss of \$7.3 million on the repurchase of \$200.0 million in aggregate principal amount of the 8.625% Senior Subordinated Notes.

Net income in the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2010 includes income tax valuation allowance benefits related to state net operating loss carryforwards and other deferred income tax assets of \$48.2 million.

Sonic Automotive, Inc.
Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan
“SERP”
Effective January 1, 2010

Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (“SERP”)

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ARTICLE I

Establishment and Purpose

Sonic Automotive, Inc. (the "Company") hereby adopts the Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, a nonqualified defined benefit plan (the "Plan" or the "SERP"), effective as of the Effective Date.

The purpose of the Plan is to attract and retain key employees by providing Participants with a retirement benefit in addition to the benefits provided by the Company's tax-qualified retirement and other nonqualified deferred compensation plans. The Plan is not intended to meet the qualification requirements of Code Section 401(a), but is intended to meet the requirements of Code Section 409A, and shall be operated and interpreted consistent with that intent.

The Plan constitutes an unsecured promise by the Employer to pay benefits in the future. Participants in the Plan shall have the status of general unsecured creditors of the Company (or other Employer, as applicable). Each Employer shall be solely responsible for payment of the benefits of its participating Employees and their Beneficiaries. The Plan is unfunded for Federal tax purposes and is intended to be an unfunded arrangement for eligible employees who are part of a select group of management or highly compensated employees of the Employer within the meaning of Sections 201(2), 301(a)(3) and 401(a)(1) of ERISA. Any amounts set aside to defray the liabilities of the Company or other Employer under this Plan will remain the general assets of the Company or other Employer, as the case may be, and shall remain subject to the claims of the Company's or other Employer's creditors until such amounts are distributed to the Participants.

ARTICLE II

Definitions

- 2.1 Accrued Benefit. Accrued Benefit means an annual payment made to a Participant or, if applicable, a Beneficiary or Beneficiaries, to the extent provided under the Plan including Schedule A, attached hereto.
 - 2.2 Annual Salary. Annual Salary means the highest annualized base salary paid to a Participant by the Company or other Employer during a Plan Year, or if applicable, a partial Plan Year.
 - 2.3 Beneficiary. Beneficiary means a natural person, estate, or trust designated by a Participant to receive payments to which a Beneficiary is entitled in accordance with provisions of the Plan. The Participant's spouse, if living, otherwise the Participant's estate, shall be the Beneficiary if: (i) the Participant has failed to properly designate a Beneficiary, or (ii) all designated Beneficiaries have predeceased the Participant. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent provided in Schedule A, in the event of the Participant's death during the "benefit duration period" described in Schedule A, only the Participant's surviving spouse (if any) may be the Beneficiary.
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Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP")

A former spouse shall have no interest under the Plan, as Beneficiary or otherwise, unless the Participant designates such person as a Beneficiary after dissolution of the marriage, except to the extent provided under the terms of a domestic relations order as described in Code Section 414(p)(1)(B).

2.4 Cause. Cause means:

(i) a material breach by the Participant of his or her obligations set forth in any employment agreement (other than due to Disability) with the Company or other Employer, which material breach is not remedied within five (5) business days after receipt of written notice specifying such a breach;

(ii) a breach by the Participant of the terms of any secrecy, confidentiality, noncompetition, no-solicit, no-hire, nondisparagement and/or other restrictive covenants or clauses contained in any agreement with the Company, another Employer, and/or a subsidiary or affiliate of either;

(iii) the conviction of the Participant of a felony;

(iv) actions by the Participant involving moral turpitude;

(v) willful failure of the Participant to comply with reasonable and lawful directives of the Company's Board of Directors or the Participant's superiors;

(vi) chronic absenteeism of the Participant;

(vii) willful or material misconduct of the Participant, including without limitation, misconduct involving fraud or dishonesty in the performance of the Participant's covenants, duties or obligations in connection with his job or conduct which is deemed, in the sole judgment of the Compensation Committee, to be injurious to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates;

(viii) the Participant's illegal use of controlled substances; or

(ix) to the extent applicable, the final and non-appealable determination by a court of competent jurisdiction that the Participant willfully and knowingly filed a fraudulent certification under Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act.

2.5 Change in Control. Change in Control means any of the following events: (i) a change in the ownership of the Company, (ii) a change in the effective control of the Company, or (iii) a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the assets of the Company.

Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (“SERP”)

For purposes of this Section, a change in the ownership of the Company occurs on the date on which any one person, or more than one person acting as a group (other than (a) Sonic Financial Corporation, O. Bruton Smith or B. Scott Smith, (b) any spouse, immediate family member or lineal descendent of O. Bruton Smith or B. Scott Smith (collectively with O. Bruton Smith or B. Scott Smith, a “Smith Family Member”) or (c) any trust, corporation, partnership or other entity the beneficiaries, stockholders, partners or owners of which are Smith Family Members (the persons and entities in (a), (b) and (c) referred to, individually and collectively, as the “Smith Group”)) acquires ownership of stock of the Company that, together with stock held by such person or group, constitutes more than 50% of the total fair market value or total voting power of the stock of the Company.

A change in the effective control of the Company occurs on the date on which either: (i) a person, or more than one person acting as a group, (in either case, other than members of the Smith Group) acquires ownership of stock of the Company possessing 30% or more of the total voting power of the stock of the Company, taking into account all such stock acquired during the 12-month period ending on the date of the most recent acquisition, or (ii) a majority of the members of the Company’s Board of Directors is replaced during any 12-month period by directors whose appointment or election is not endorsed by a majority of the members of such Board of Directors prior to the date of the appointment or election, but only if no other corporation is a majority shareholder of the Company.

A change in the ownership of a substantial portion of assets occurs on the date on which any one person, or more than one person acting as a group, other than members of the Smith Group or any other person or group of persons that is related to the Company, acquires assets from the Company that have a total gross fair market value equal to or more than 50% of the total gross fair market value of all of the assets of the Company immediately prior to such acquisition or acquisitions, taking into account all such assets acquired during the 12-month period ending on the date of the most recent acquisition.

The determination as to the occurrence of a Change in Control shall be based on objective facts and in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 409A.

- 2.6 Claimant. Claimant means a Participant or Beneficiary filing a claim under Article IX of this Plan.
- 2.7 Code. Code means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time. Reference to any section of the Code or Treasury Regulations shall be deemed to include reference to any amendments or successor provisions thereto.

Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (“SERP”)

- 2.8 Code Section 409A. Code Section 409A means Section 409A of the Code, and regulations and other guidance issued by the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service thereunder.
- 2.9 Committee. Committee means the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company.
- 2.10 Company. Company means Sonic Automotive, Inc.
- 2.11 Death Benefit. Death Benefit means the Accrued Benefit payable pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Plan to a Participant’s Beneficiary(ies) upon the Participant’s death.
- 2.12 Disability Benefit. Disability Benefit means the Accrued Benefit payable pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Plan to a Participant in the event such Participant is determined to be Disabled.
- 2.13 Disabled (or Disability). Disabled or Disability means that a Participant is, by reason of any medically-determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months: (i) unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity, or (ii) receiving income replacement benefits for a period of not less than three months under an accident and health plan covering employees of the Participant’s Employer. The Committee shall determine whether a Participant is Disabled in accordance with Code Section 409A; provided, however, that a Participant shall be deemed to be Disabled if determined to be totally disabled by the Social Security Administration.
- 2.14 Effective Date. Effective Date means January 1, 2010.
- 2.15 Eligible Employee. Eligible Employee means a member of a “select group of management or highly compensated employees” of the Company and other Employers within the meaning of Sections 201(2), 301(a)(3) and 401(a)(1) of ERISA, as determined by the Committee from time to time in its sole discretion.
- 2.16 Employee. Employee means a common-law employee of an Employer.
- 2.17 Employer. Employer means, with respect to Employees it employs, the Company and all subsidiaries and affiliates of the Company.
- 2.18 ERISA. ERISA means the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended from time to time.

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- 2.19 Final Average Salary. Final Average Salary means the average of the highest three Annual Salaries during the last five Plan Years prior to the Participant’s Separation from Service. In the event that a Participant has fewer than three Plan Years of employment with the Company and/or other Employer, Final Average Salary means the average of the Annual Salaries paid to such Participant during such Plan Years of employment (including one, if applicable).
- 2.20 Normal Retirement. Normal Retirement means Separation from Service on or after attaining age sixty-five (65), or after attaining age fifty-five (55) so long as the Participant has at least ten (10) Years of Service.
- 2.21 Participant. Participant means an Eligible Employee who has received notification of his or her eligibility to receive benefits under the Plan pursuant to Section 3.1 and any other person with an Accrued Benefit greater than zero, regardless of whether such individual continues to be an Eligible Employee. A Participant’s continued participation in the Plan shall be governed by Section 3.2 of the Plan. Participants are designated as “Tier 1,” “Tier 2,” or “Tier 3” Participants by the Committee upon notification of eligibility.
- 2.22 Payment Schedule. Payment Schedule means the time and form of payment in which payment of a benefit will be made under the Plan, as specified in Article V of the Plan.
- 2.23 Plan. Generally, the term Plan means the “Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan” or the “Sonic Automotive, Inc. SERP” as documented herein and as may be amended from time to time hereafter. However, to the extent permitted or required under Code Section 409A, the term Plan may in the appropriate context also mean a portion of the Plan that is treated as a single plan under Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-1(c), or the Plan and any other nonqualified defined benefit plan or portion thereof that is treated as a single plan under such Section.
- 2.24 Plan Year. Plan Year means January 1 through December 31.
- 2.25 Retirement Benefit. Retirement Benefit means the Accrued Benefit payable to a Participant pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Plan following the Participant’s Normal Retirement.
- 2.26 Separation from Service. Separation from Service means an Employee’s termination of employment with the Employer. Whether a Separation from Service has occurred shall be determined by the Committee in accordance with Code Section 409A.

Except in the case of an Employee on a bona fide leave of absence as provided below, an Employee is deemed to have incurred a Separation from Service if the Employer and the Employee reasonably anticipated that the level of services to be performed by the

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Employee after a date certain would be reduced to 20% or less of the average services rendered by the Employee during the immediately preceding 36-month period (or the total period of employment, if less than 36 months), disregarding periods during which the Employee was on a bona fide leave of absence.

An Employee who is absent from work due to military leave, sick leave, or other bona fide leave of absence shall incur a Separation from Service on the first date immediately following the later of: (i) the six month anniversary of the commencement of the leave, or (ii) the expiration of the Employee's right, if any, to reemployment under statute or contract.

For purposes of determining whether a Separation from Service has occurred, the Employer means the Employer as defined in Section 2.17 of the Plan, except that in applying Code Sections 1563(a)(1), (2) and (3) for purposes of determining whether another organization is a subsidiary or affiliate of the Company under Code Section 414(b), and in applying Treas. Reg. Section 1.414(c)-2 for purposes of determining whether another organization is a subsidiary or affiliate of the Company under Code Section 414(c), 80% shall remain the applicable percentage in making such determinations.

The Committee specifically reserves the right to determine whether a sale or other disposition of substantial assets to an unrelated party constitutes a Separation from Service with respect to a Participant providing services to the seller immediately prior to the transaction and providing services to the buyer after the transaction. Such determination shall be made in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 409A.

- 2.27 Specified Employee. Specified Employee means an Employee who, as of the date of his or her Separation from Service, is a "key employee" of the Company or any Affiliate, any stock of which is actively traded on an established securities market or otherwise.

An Employee is a key employee if he or she meets the requirements of Code Section 416(i)(1)(A)(i), (ii), or (iii) (applied in accordance with applicable regulations thereunder and without regard to Code Section 416(i)(5)) at any time during the 12-month period ending on the Specified Employee Identification Date. Such Employee shall be treated as a key employee for the entire 12-month period beginning on the Specified Employee Effective Date.

For purposes of determining whether an Employee is a Specified Employee, the compensation of the Employee shall be determined in accordance with the definition of compensation provided under Treas. Reg. Section 1.415(c)-2(d)(2) (wages, salaries, fees for professional services, and other amounts received for personal services actually rendered in the course of employment with the employer maintaining the Plan, to the

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extent such amounts are includible in gross income or would be includible but for an election under Code Section 125(a), 132(f)(4), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 402(k) or 457(b), including the earned income of a self-employed individual/1.415(c)-2(d)(3) (wages within the meaning of Code Section 3401(a) for purposes of income tax withholding at the source, plus amounts excludible from gross income under Code Section 125(a), 132(f)(4), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 402(k) or 457(b), without regard to rules that limit the remuneration included in wages based on the nature or location of the employment or the services performed).

Notwithstanding anything in this paragraph to the contrary: (i) if a different definition of compensation has been designated by the Company with respect to another nonqualified deferred compensation plan in which a key employee participates, the definition of compensation shall be the definition provided in Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-1(i)(2), and (ii) the Company may, through action that is legally binding with respect to all nonqualified deferred compensation plans maintained by the Company, elect to use a different definition of compensation.

In the event of corporate transactions described in Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-1(i)(6), the identification of Specified Employees shall be determined in accordance with the default rules described therein, unless the Company elects to utilize the available alternative methodology through designations made within the timeframes specified therein.

- 2.28 Specified Employee Identification Date. Specified Employee Identification Date means December 31, unless the Company has elected a different date through action that is legally binding with respect to all nonqualified deferred compensation plans maintained by the Company and other Employers.
- 2.29 Specified Employee Effective Date. Specified Employee Effective Date means the first day of the fourth month following the Specified Employee Identification Date, or such earlier date as is selected by the Committee.
- 2.30 Termination Benefit. Termination Benefit means the vested portion of the Accrued Benefit payable to a Participant pursuant to provisions of Article V of the Plan following the Participant’s Separation from Service other than due to death, Disability, or Normal Retirement.
- 2.31 Year of Service. Year of Service (for purposes of Normal Retirement prior to age 65) means each 365-day period of employment with the Company and/or other Employer, commencing on a Participant’s hire date and each anniversary thereof.
- 2.32 Year of Plan Service. Year of Plan Service (for purposes of vesting and, to the extent provided by the Plan and Schedule A, determining Accrued Benefits) means each 365-

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day period of employment with the Company and/or other Employer, commencing on the Participant’s effective date of participation in the Plan and each anniversary thereof.

ARTICLE III

Eligibility and Participation

- 3.1 Eligibility and Participation. An Eligible Employee becomes a Participant upon receipt of notification of eligibility to participate. Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 Participants have different Accrued Benefit levels, as further described in Schedule A. The Committee designates the Eligible Employees who shall become Participants and may require that Eligible Employees execute a participation acknowledgment or agreement as a condition of participation.
- 3.2 Duration. A Participant with an Accrued Benefit remains a Participant, regardless of any change in employment status, until such benefit has been paid in full.

ARTICLE IV

Vesting

Accrued Benefits vest in accordance with the vesting schedule set forth in Schedule A (including Schedule A-1, as applicable), attached hereto. The portion of a Participant’s Accrued Benefit that remains unvested upon his or her Separation from Service after the application of the terms of this Article IV shall be forfeited.

A Participant also shall forfeit his or her Accrued Benefit as provided in Article V below.

ARTICLE V

Benefits

- 5.1 Benefits, Generally. A Participant shall be entitled to the following benefits under the Plan:
- (a) *Retirement Benefit.* Upon the Participant’s Normal Retirement, he or she shall be entitled to a Retirement Benefit. The Retirement Benefit shall be equal to the Participant’s Accrued Benefit, determined as of the first day of the month following the Participant’s Separation from Service.
 - (b) *Termination Benefit.* Upon the Participant’s Separation from Service for reasons other than death, Disability or Normal Retirement, he or she shall be entitled to a Termination Benefit. The Termination Benefit shall be equal to his or her vested

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Accrued Benefit, reduced to reflect commencement of payments earlier than the date that Normal Retirement would have occurred had the Participant remained employed with the Company, as further provided in Schedule A (including Schedule A-1, as applicable). The Termination Benefit shall be based on the value of the Accrued Benefit as of the first day of the month following the month in which Separation from Service occurs.

- (c) *Disability Benefit.* Upon a determination by the Committee that a Participant is Disabled, he or she shall be entitled to a Disability Benefit. The Disability Benefit shall be equal to the Retirement Benefit calculated as though the date of onset of the Participant's Disability was the date of the Participant's Normal Retirement. The Disability Benefit shall be based on the value of the Accrued Benefit as of the last day of the month in which Disability occurs.
- (d) *Death Benefit.* In the event of the Participant's death prior to Separation from Service, his or her designated Beneficiary(ies) shall be entitled to a Death Benefit equal to the present value (utilizing reasonable interest assumptions determined in the sole discretion of the Committee) of the installment payments of the Retirement Benefit calculated as though the date of death were the date of Normal Retirement.

5.2 Payment Schedule.

- (a) *Retirement Benefit.* A Participant (or Beneficiary, if applicable) who is entitled to receive a Retirement Benefit shall receive payment of such benefit according to the Payment Schedule specified in Schedule A. Payment of the Retirement Benefit will begin the first day of the month following the month in which Separation from Service occurs, provided, however, that with respect to a Participant who is a Specified Employee as of the date of such Participant's Normal Retirement, the first installment payment will be made on the first day of the seventh month following the month in which such Separation from Service occurs. Subsequent installment payments to a Specified Employee will be paid on the anniversary of the date the initial installment otherwise would have been made.
- (b) *Termination Benefit.* A Participant (or Beneficiary, if applicable) who is entitled to receive a Termination Benefit shall receive payment of such benefit according to the Payment Schedule specified in Schedule A. Payment of the Termination Benefit will begin the first day of the month following the month in which Separation from Service occurs; provided, however, that with respect to a Participant who is a Specified Employee as of the date such Participant incurs a Separation from Service, the first installment payment will be made on the first

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day of the seventh month following the month in which such Separation from Service occurs. Subsequent installment payments to a Specified Employee will be paid on the anniversary of the date the initial installment otherwise would have been made.

- (c) *Disability Benefit.* A Participant (or Beneficiary, if applicable) who is entitled to receive a Disability Benefit shall receive payment of such benefit according to the Payment Schedule specified in Schedule A. The Disability Benefit will begin to be paid the first day of the month following the month in which Disability occurs.
 - (d) *Death Benefit.* A designated Beneficiary who is entitled to receive a Death Benefit shall receive payment of such benefit in a single lump sum. The Death Benefit shall be paid on the first day of the month following the month in which death occurred.
 - (e) *Change in Control.* The foregoing provisions regarding form of payment notwithstanding, a Participant will receive his or her Retirement Benefit or Termination Benefit, as applicable, in a single lump sum payment equal to the present value (utilizing reasonable interest assumptions determined in the sole discretion of the Committee) of the unpaid, vested Accrued Benefit, if Separation from Service occurs within 24 months following a Change in Control.
- 5.3 Acceleration of or Delay in Payments. The Committee, in its sole and absolute discretion, may elect to accelerate the time or form of payment of a benefit owed to the Participant hereunder, provided such acceleration is permitted under Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-3(j)(4). The Committee may also, in its sole and absolute discretion, delay the time for payment of a benefit owed to the Participant hereunder, to the extent permitted under Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-2(b)(7). If the Plan receives a domestic relations order (within the meaning of Code Section 414(p)(1)(B)) directing that all or a portion of a Participant's Accounts be paid to an "alternate payee," any amounts to be paid to the alternate payee(s) shall be paid in a single lump sum.
- 5.4 Payments Treated as Made on the Designated Payment Date. Payments made on the payment date specified in the Plan, or on a later date within the same taxable year of the Participant or Beneficiary, or, if later, by the fifteenth (15th) day of the third calendar month following the payment date specified in the Plan shall be treated as having been made on the payment date; provided, however, that the Participant or Beneficiary is not permitted, directly or indirectly, to designate the taxable year of the payment. In addition, payments made no earlier than 30 days before the designated payment date will likewise be treated as having been made on the payment date so long as the Participant or Beneficiary is not permitted, directly or indirectly, to designate the taxable year of the payment. The foregoing shall be administered in compliance with the provisions of

Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-3(d), which Regulation may authorize other instances in which payments made after the payment date shall be treated as having been made on the payment date.

5.5 Forfeiture of Accrued Benefit

- (a) *Termination for Cause.* Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, if a Participant incurs a Separation from Service due to termination of his or her employment for Cause, or if a Participant is determined by the Committee to have engaged in any act (or omission) which would have constituted Cause for termination of employment (provided that for a Participant who already incurred a Separation from Service prior to such Committee determination, only Sections 2.4(ii), (v), (vii) and (ix) shall be considered for this purpose), the Participant shall immediately forfeit his or her Accrued Benefit (regardless of the extent vested) and no future benefits shall be paid to the Participant or any Beneficiary thereof, including any remaining unpaid Retirement Benefit, Disability Benefit or Termination Benefit if the Participant already is in pay status. In the case of a Participant who already is in pay status, the Participant shall be obligated to pay to the Company an amount equal to all benefit payments the Participant has received pursuant to the Plan.
- (b) *Violation of Restrictive Covenants.* As a condition precedent to receiving an Accrued Benefit under the Plan and notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, a Participant shall immediately forfeit his or her Accrued Benefit (regardless of the extent vested) and no future benefits shall be paid to the Participant or any Beneficiary thereof, including any remaining unpaid Retirement Benefit, Disability Benefit or Termination Benefit if the Participant already is in pay status, in the event that the Committee determines, in its good faith discretion, that the Participant has failed to comply with any of the conditions in this Section 5.5(b). In the case of a Participant who already is in pay status, the Participant shall be obligated to pay to the Company an amount equal to all benefit payments the Participant has received pursuant to the Plan.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Participant shall not incur such forfeiture with respect to (ii) or (iii) below if the Participant has sought and received a waiver from the Committee or a majority of the members of the Company's Board of Directors as constituted at that time (which waiver shall not be unreasonably withheld) with respect to the restricted actions proposed to be taken by the Participant.

For the avoidance of any doubt, the sole consequences arising under this Plan with respect to a Participant who violates any of the provisions of this Section

5.5(b) shall be the forfeiture of the Participant's Accrued Benefit and the repayment obligations described above, and this Section 5.5(b) does not vest in the Company any right to injunctive relief or any other remedies with respect to a violation of this Section 5.5(b). Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing under this Plan shall limit the Company's (or its subsidiaries' or affiliates') remedies under any other agreements containing secrecy, confidentiality, noncompetition, no-solicit, no-hire, nondisparagement and/or other restrictive covenants or clauses which the Participant may have breached.

For purposes of this Section 5.5(b), the term "Business" shall refer to the Company's business of owning and operating automobile and/or truck dealerships and collision repair centers, which business includes, without limitation, the marketing, selling and leasing of new and used vehicles, the servicing of automobiles and trucks, including collision repair, and the provision of financing and insurance to automobile and truck customers. In addition, the term "Confidential Information" shall refer to the valuable, highly confidential, privileged and proprietary information relating to the Company's Business, including, without limitation, existing and future inventory information, financial information, unpublished present and future marketing strategies and promotional programs, and other information regarded by the Company as proprietary and confidential.

- (i) While a Participant in the Plan and thereafter, the Participant shall not at any time, without the Company's prior written consent, use, divulge, disclose, furnish or make accessible to any third person, company or other entity, any aspect of the Confidential Information (other than as required in the ordinary discharge of the Participant's duties for the Company).
- (ii) While a Participant in the Plan and, if later, until the end of the two-year period following the Participant's Separation from Service, the Participant shall not directly or indirectly:
 - (A) employ or solicit the employment of, or hire or retain as an agent, consultant or in any other capacity, or engage in any business enterprise with, any person who is or was employed by the Company, its affiliates or subsidiaries at any time while the Participant is a Participant in the Plan and, if later, during the two-year period following the Participant's Separation from Service; or
 - (B) interfere or attempt to interfere with the terms or other aspects of the relationship between the Company and any person or entity from whom the Company has purchased automobiles, trucks, parts,

supplies, inventory or services at any time while the Participant is a Participant in the Plan and, if later, during the two-year period following the Participant's Separation from Service.

- (iii) While a Participant in the Plan and, if later, until the end of the two-year period following the Participant's Separation from Service, the Participant shall not directly or indirectly, provide information to, solicit or sell for, organize or own any interest in (either directly or thorough any parent, affiliate or subsidiary corporation, partnership, or other entity), or become employed or engaged by, or act as agent for any person, corporation, partnership or other entity that is directly or indirectly engaged in a business in the Restricted Territory (as defined below) which is substantially similar to the Business or any of its component parts, or which is otherwise competitive with the Company's business; provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude the Participant from holding not more than 3% of the outstanding shares of any publicly held company which may be so engaged in a trade or business identical or similar to the Business of the Company, so long as such ownership does not provide to the Participant the ability to influence the management of such company in any material respect.

For this purpose, "Restricted Territory" means (A) all Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, as determined by the United States Office of Management and Budget from time to time, in which the Company or one of the Company's subsidiaries has an office, store or other place of business at any time while the Participant is a Participant in the Plan and, if later, during the two-year period following the Participant's Separation from Service; and (B) all counties in all states in which the Company or one of the Company's subsidiaries has an office, store or other place of business at any time while the Participant is a Participant in the Plan and, if later, during the two-year period following the Participant's Separation from Service.

- (iv) While a Participant in the Plan and thereafter, the Participant shall not at any time, directly or indirectly, either orally, in writing or otherwise, disparage the Company or any subsidiary or affiliate thereof, its officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, shareholders or its business or products, and shall not, directly or indirectly, make any communication or comment, whether written or oral, which might cause injury or damage to any of the foregoing or their respective reputations.

ARTICLE VI

Administration

- 6.1 Plan Administration. This Plan shall be administered by the Committee which shall have discretionary authority to make, amend, interpret and enforce all appropriate rules and regulations for the administration of this Plan and to utilize its discretion to decide or resolve any and all questions, including but not limited to eligibility to participate, eligibility for benefits and interpretations of this Plan and its terms, as may arise in connection with the Plan. Claims for benefits shall be filed with the Committee and resolved in accordance with the claims procedures in Article IX.
- 6.2 Withholding. The Company or applicable Employer shall have the right to withhold from any payment due under the Plan (or with respect to any amounts credited to the Plan) any taxes required by law to be withheld in respect of such payment (or credit). The Company or applicable Employer also shall have the right to withhold from other amounts owed to a Participant, or require the Participant to remit, an amount sufficient to satisfy any taxes required by law to be withheld with respect to any Plan benefit or the vesting or payment of any Plan benefit.
- 6.3 Indemnification. The Company shall indemnify and hold harmless its employees, officers, and directors to whom or to which are delegated duties, responsibilities, and authority under the Plan or otherwise with respect to administration of the Plan, including, without limitation, the Committee, against all claims, liabilities, fines and penalties, and all expenses reasonably incurred by or imposed upon him or it (including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees) which arise as a result of his or its actions or failure to act in connection with the operation and administration of the Plan to the extent lawfully allowable and to the extent that such claim, liability, fine, penalty, or expense is not paid for by liability insurance purchased or paid for by the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company shall not indemnify any person if his or her actions or failure to act are due to gross negligence or willful misconduct or for any such amount incurred through any settlement or compromise of any action unless the Company consents in writing to such settlement or compromise.
- 6.4 Delegation of Authority. In the administration of this Plan, the Committee may, from time to time, employ agents and delegate to them such administrative duties as it sees fit, and may from time to time consult with legal counsel who may be legal counsel to the Company.
- 6.5 Binding Decisions or Actions. The decision or action of the Committee in respect of any question arising out of or in connection with the administration, interpretation and application of the Plan and the rules and regulations thereunder shall be final and conclusive and binding upon all persons having any interest in the Plan.

ARTICLE VII

Amendment and Termination

- 7.1 Amendment and Termination. The Company may at any time and from time to time amend the Plan or may terminate the Plan as provided in this Article VII.
- 7.2 Amendments. The Company, by action taken by the Committee, may amend the Plan at any time and for any reason, provided that any such amendment shall not reduce the vested Accrued Benefits of any Participant accrued as of the date of any such amendment (as if the Participant had incurred a Separation from Service on such date) without the written consent of the Participant.
- 7.3 Termination. The Company, by action taken by the Committee, may terminate the Plan at any time and, in such case, may determine to pay Participants and Beneficiaries the present value (utilizing reasonable interest assumptions determined in the sole discretion of the Committee) of their Accrued Benefits in a single lump sum, to the extent permitted by and in accordance with Treas. Reg. Section 1.409A-3(j)(4)(ix).
- 7.4 Accrued Benefits Taxable Under Code Section 409A. The Plan is intended to constitute a plan of deferred compensation that meets the requirements for deferral of income taxation under Code Section 409A. The Committee, pursuant to its authority to interpret the Plan, may sever from the Plan any provision or exercise of a right that otherwise would result in a violation of Code Section 409A.

ARTICLE VIII

Informal Funding

- 8.1 General Assets. Obligations established under the terms of the Plan may be satisfied from the general funds of the Company or applicable Employer, or a trust described in this Article VIII. No Participant, spouse or Beneficiary shall have any right, title or interest whatever in assets of the Company or other Employer. Nothing contained in this Plan, and no action taken pursuant to its provisions, shall create or be construed to create a trust of any kind, or a fiduciary relationship, between the Company or other Employer and any Participant, Employee, spouse, or Beneficiary. To the extent that any person acquires a right to receive payments hereunder, such rights are no greater than the right of an unsecured general creditor of the Company or other Employer, as the case may be.
- 8.2 Rabbi Trust. The Company may, in its sole discretion, establish a grantor trust, commonly known as a rabbi trust, as a vehicle for accumulating assets to pay benefits under the Plan. Payments under the Plan may be paid from the general assets of the Company or other applicable Employer or from the assets of any such rabbi trust.

Payment from any such source shall reduce the obligation owed to the Participant or Beneficiary under the Plan.

If a rabbi trust is in existence upon the occurrence of a Change in Control, as defined in this Plan, the Company shall, upon such Change in Control, and on each anniversary of the Change in Control, contribute (and/or cause each applicable Employer to contribute) in cash or liquid securities such amounts as are necessary so that the value of assets after making the contributions at least equals the total value of all Accrued Benefits.

ARTICLE IX

Claims

- 9.1 Filing a Claim. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to the Plan shall be filed in writing with the Committee which shall make all determinations concerning such claim. Any claim filed with the Committee and any decision by the Committee denying such claim shall be in writing and any such denial shall be delivered to the Participant or Beneficiary filing the claim (the "Claimant"). For purposes of the Plan, electronic notification from the Committee may serve as written notification subject to and in accordance with applicable Department of Labor regulations.
- (a) *In General.* Notice of a denial of benefits (other than Disability Benefits) will be provided within 90 days of the Committee's receipt of the Claimant's claim for benefits. If the Committee determines that it needs additional time to review the claim, the Committee will provide the Claimant with a notice of the extension before the end of the initial 90-day period. The extension will not be more than 90 days from the end of the initial 90-day period and the notice of extension will explain the special circumstances that require the extension and the date by which the Committee expects to make a decision.
- (b) *Disability Benefits.* Notice of denial of a Disability Benefit will be provided within 45 days of the Committee's receipt of the Claimant's claim for a Disability Benefit. If the Committee determines that it needs additional time to review the Disability claim, the Committee will provide the Claimant with a notice of the extension before the end of the initial 45-day period. If the Committee determines that a decision cannot be made within the first extension period due to matters beyond the control of the Committee, the time period for making a determination may be further extended for an additional 30 days. If such an additional extension is necessary, the Committee shall notify the Claimant prior to the expiration of the initial 30-day extension. Any notice of extension shall indicate the circumstances necessitating the extension of time, the date by which the Committee expects to furnish a notice of decision, the specific standards on which such entitlement to a

benefit is based, the unresolved issues that prevent a decision on the claim and any additional information needed to resolve those issues. A Claimant will be provided a minimum of 45 days to submit any necessary additional information to the Committee. In the event that a 30-day extension is necessary due to a Claimant’s failure to submit information necessary to decide a claim, the period for furnishing a notice of decision shall be tolled from the date on which the notice of the extension is sent to the Claimant until the earlier of the date the Claimant responds to the request for additional information or the response deadline.

- (c) *Contents of Notice.* If a claim for benefits is completely or partially denied, notice of such denial shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for denial in plain language. The notice also shall: (i) reference the pertinent provisions of the Plan document, and (ii) explain, where appropriate, how the Claimant can perfect the claim, including a description of any additional material or information necessary to complete the claim and why such material or information is necessary. The claim denial also shall include an explanation of the claims review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the Claimant’s right to bring a civil action under Section 502(a) of ERISA following an adverse decision on review. In the case of a complete or partial denial of a Disability Benefit claim, the notice shall provide a statement that the Committee will provide to the Claimant, upon request and free of charge, a copy of any internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion that was relied upon in making the decision.

- 9.2 Appeal of Denied Claims. A Claimant whose claim has been completely or partially denied shall be entitled to appeal the claim denial by filing a written appeal with a committee designated to hear such appeals (the “Appeals Committee”), which may be the Committee except as otherwise provided below. A Claimant who timely requests a review of the denied claim (or his or her authorized representative) may have, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records and other information relevant to the claim for benefits and may submit written comments, documents, records and other information relevant to the claim to the Appeals Committee. All written comments, documents, records, and other information shall be considered “relevant” if the information: (i) was relied upon in making a benefits determination, (ii) was submitted, considered or generated in the course of making a benefits decision regardless of whether it was relied upon to make the decision, or (iii) demonstrates compliance with administrative processes and safeguards established for making benefit decisions. The Appeals Committee may, in its sole discretion and if it deems appropriate or necessary, decide to hold a hearing with respect to the claim appeal.

- (a) *In General.* Appeal of a denied benefits claim (other than a Disability Benefit claim) must be filed in writing with the Appeals Committee no later than 60 days after receipt of the written notification of such claim denial. The Appeals Committee shall make its decision regarding the merits of the denied claim within 60 days following receipt of the appeal (or within 120 days after such receipt, in a case where there are special circumstances requiring extension of time for reviewing the appealed claim). If an extension of time for reviewing the appeal is required because of special circumstances, written notice of the extension shall be furnished to the Claimant prior to the commencement of the extension. The notice will indicate the special circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Appeals Committee expects to render the determination on review. The review will take into account comments, documents, records and other information submitted by the Claimant relating to the claim without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination.
- (b) *Disability Benefits.* Appeal of a denied Disability Benefit claim must be filed in writing with the Appeals Committee no later than 180 days after receipt of the written notification of such claim denial. The review shall be conducted by the Appeals Committee (exclusive of any person who made the initial adverse decision or such person's subordinate). In reviewing the appeal, the Appeals Committee shall: (i) not afford deference to the initial denial of the claim, (ii) if the initial claim denial was based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, consult a medical professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involving the medical judgment and who was neither consulted as part of the initial denial nor is the subordinate of such individual, and (iii) identify any medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained with respect to the initial benefit denial, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the decision. The Appeals Committee shall make its decision regarding the merits of the denied claim within 45 days following receipt of the appeal (or within 90 days after such receipt, in a case where there are special circumstances requiring extension of time for reviewing the appealed claim). If an extension of time for reviewing the appeal is required because of special circumstances, written notice of the extension shall be furnished to the Claimant prior to the commencement of the extension. The notice will indicate the special circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which the Appeals Committee expects to render the determination on review. Following its review of any additional information submitted by the Claimant, the Appeals Committee shall render a decision on its review of the denied claim.

- (c) *Contents of Notice.* If a benefits claim is completely or partially denied on review, notice of such denial shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for denial in plain language.

The decision on review shall set forth: (i) the specific reason or reasons for the denial, (ii) specific references to the pertinent Plan provisions on which the denial is based, (iii) a statement that the Claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to and copies of all documents, records, or other information relevant (as defined above) to the Claimant's claim, and (iv) a statement describing any voluntary appeal procedures offered by the Plan (provided that the Plan is not required to have any such procedures) and a statement of the Claimant's right to bring an action under Section 502(a) of ERISA.

- (d) For the denial of a Disability Benefit, the notice will also include (i) a statement that the Appeals Committee will provide, upon request and free of charge: (A) any internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion relied upon in making the decision, and (B) any medical opinion relied upon to make the decision, and (ii) if applicable, the required statement under Section 2560.503-1(j)(5)(iii) of the Department of Labor regulations.

- 9.3 Legal Action. A Claimant may not bring any legal action, including commencement of any arbitration, relating to a claim for benefits under the Plan unless and until the Claimant has followed the claims procedures under the Plan and exhausted his or her administrative remedies under such claims procedures.

If a Participant or Beneficiary prevails in a legal proceeding brought under the Plan to enforce the rights of such Participant or any other similarly situated Participant or Beneficiary, in whole or in part, the Company shall reimburse such Participant or Beneficiary for all legal costs, expenses, attorneys' fees and such other liabilities incurred as a result of such proceedings. If the legal proceeding is brought in connection with a Change in Control and the Company has established a rabbi trust as described in Section 8.2, the Participant or Beneficiary may file a claim directly with the trustee for reimbursement of such costs, expenses and fees. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the amount of the claim shall be treated as if it were an addition to the Participant's or Beneficiary's Accrued Benefit and will be included in determining the Company's or other Employer's trust funding obligation under Section 8.2.

- 9.4 Discretion of Appeals Committee. All interpretations, determinations and decisions of the Appeals Committee with respect to any claim shall be made in its sole discretion, and shall be final and conclusive.

ARTICLE X

General Provisions

- 10.1 Assignment. No interest of any Participant, spouse or Beneficiary under this Plan and no benefit payable hereunder shall be assigned as security for a loan, and any such purported assignment shall be null, void and of no effect, nor shall any such interest or any such benefit be subject in any manner, either voluntarily or involuntarily, to anticipation, sale, transfer, assignment or encumbrance by or through any Participant, spouse or Beneficiary. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, however, the Committee has the discretion to make payments to an alternate payee in accordance with the terms of a domestic relations order (as defined in Code Section 414(p)(1)(B)).
- The Company or other Employer may assign any or all of its liabilities under this Plan in connection with any restructuring, recapitalization, sale of assets or other similar transactions affecting the Company or other Employer without the consent of the Participant.
- 10.2 No Legal or Equitable Rights or Interest. No Participant or other person shall have any legal or equitable rights or interest in this Plan that are not expressly granted in this Plan. Participation in this Plan does not give any person any right to be retained in the service of the Company or other Employer. The right and power of the Company or other Employer to dismiss or discharge an Employee is expressly reserved. The Company and other Employers make no representations or warranties as to the tax consequences to a Participant or a Participant's Beneficiaries resulting from participation in the Plan.
- 10.3 No Employment Contract. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to constitute a contract of employment between an Employee and the Company and/or other Employer.
- 10.4 Notice. Any notice or filing required or permitted to be delivered to the Company or Committee under this Plan shall be delivered in writing in person or by registered or certified mail, or through such electronic means as is established by the Committee. Once received, notice shall be deemed given as of the date of delivery or, if delivery is made by mail, as of the date shown on the postmark on the receipt for registration or certification. Written transmission shall be sent by certified mail to:

**SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
ATTN: VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
6415 IDLEWILD ROAD, SUITE 109
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28212**

Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (“SERP”)

Any notice or filing required or permitted to be given to a Participant under this Plan shall be sufficient if in writing or hand-delivered, or sent by mail to the last known address of the Participant or delivered electronically in accordance with applicable Department of Labor regulations.

- 10.5 Headings. The headings of Sections are included solely for convenience of reference, and if there is any conflict between such headings and the text of this Plan, the text shall control.
- 10.6 Invalid or Unenforceable Provisions. If any provision of this Plan shall be held invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions hereof and the Committee may elect in its sole discretion to construe such invalid or unenforceable provisions in a manner that conforms to applicable law or as if such provisions, to the extent invalid or unenforceable, had not been included.
- 10.7 Lost Participants or Beneficiaries. Any Participant or Beneficiary who is entitled to a benefit from the Plan has the duty to keep the Committee advised of his or her current mailing address. If the Committee is unable to locate a Participant or Beneficiary to whom payment is due or if benefit payments are returned to the Plan or are not presented for payment after a reasonable amount of time, the Committee shall cause the benefit due under the terms of the Plan to be paid into a taxable bank account established by the Committee in the name of such Participant or Beneficiary.
- 10.8 Facility of Payment to a Minor. If a distribution is to be made to a minor, or to a person who is otherwise incompetent, then the Committee may, in its discretion, make such distribution: (i) to the legal guardian, or if none, to a parent of a minor payee with whom the payee maintains his or her residence, or (ii) to the conservator or committee or, if none, to the person having custody of an incompetent payee. Any such distribution shall fully discharge the Committee, the Company, the Employer and the Plan from further liability on account thereof.
- 10.9 Governing Law. To the extent not preempted by ERISA, the laws of the State of North Carolina shall govern the construction and administration of the Plan.

Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("SERP")

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned executed this Plan as of the ____ day of _____, 2009, to be effective as of the Effective Date.

Sonic Automotive, Inc.

_____ (Signature)

By: _____ (Print Name)

Its: _____ (Title)

Schedule A

1. Accrued Benefit.

- (a) The Accrued Benefit for a Tier 1 Participant shall be fifty percent (50%) of such Participant's Final Average Salary, determined in the sole discretion of the Committee.
- (b) The Accrued Benefit for a Tier 2 Participant shall be forty percent (40%) of such Participant's Final Average Salary, determined in the sole discretion of the Committee.
- (c) The Accrued Benefit for a Tier 3 Participant shall be thirty-five percent (35%) of such Participant's Final Average Salary, determined in the sole discretion of the Committee.

2. Payment Schedule for Benefits other than Death Benefit

The Payment Schedule for the Retirement Benefit, Termination Benefit and Disability Benefit shall be annual installment payments in substantially equal amounts to the Participant and/or (if applicable) to the Participant's spouse for the duration of the "benefit payment period." The "benefit payment period" is fifteen (15) years. Payments are made to the Participant unless the Participant dies during the "benefit payment period" leaving a spouse surviving him or her, in which case payments continue to be made to the surviving spouse for the remainder of the benefit payment period.

3. Reduction of Accrued Benefit for Early Separation from Service

Except as provided in Schedule A-1, the Accrued Benefit for purposes of determining the Termination Benefit shall be calculated by beginning with the amount of the vested Retirement Benefit and then reducing that amount by ten percent (10%) for each year the Participant's payment commencement date precedes the earliest date that such Participant would have qualified for Normal Retirement (e.g., the earlier of attainment of age 65 or age 55 with at least ten Years of Service).

4. Vesting. Except as provided in Schedule A-1, Participants will vest in their Accrued Benefits according to the applicable schedule as follows:

<i>Years of Plan Service</i>	<i>Percent Vested</i>
Less than 1	0%
At least 1 but less than 2	20%
At least 2 but less than 3	40%
At least 3 but less than 4	60%
At least 4 but less than 5	80%
5 or more	100%

5. Accelerated Vesting. Participants will become 100% vested in their Accrued Benefits upon Normal Retirement, death prior to Separation from Service, Disability prior to Separation from Service, or upon a Change in Control prior to Separation from Service.

Schedule A-1

Special Provisions Applicable to David Cosper

1. No Reduction of Accrued Benefit for Early Separation from Service Section 3 of Schedule A shall not apply to Mr. Cosper's Accrued Benefit.
2. Special Vesting Schedule. Notwithstanding the vesting schedule in Section 4 of Schedule A, Mr. Cosper will vest in his Accrued Benefits according to the applicable schedule as follows:

<i>Years of Plan Service</i>	<i>Percent Vested</i>
Less than 2	0%
At least 2 but less than 4	20%
At least 4 but less than 6	50%
At least 6 but less than 8	75%
8 or more	100%

Section 5 of Schedule A (Accelerated Vesting) also shall apply to Mr. Cosper.

**FIRST AMENDMENT
TO THE
SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE RETIREMENT PLAN
("SERP")**

THIS AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED AS OF THE ___ DAY OF December, 2010, by Sonic Automotive, Inc. (the "Company") to be effective as of January 1, 2010;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Company adopted the Sonic Automotive, Inc. Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan ("the SERP") effective January 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Article VII of the SERP permits the Company, by action taken by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company, to amend the SERP at any time and for any reason, provided that any such amendment shall not reduce the vested Accrued Benefits of any Participant accrued as of the date of any such amendment without the written consent of the Participant;

NOW, THEREFORE, the SERP is hereby amended effective as of January 1, 2010, as follows:

1. Section 2.25, "Retirement Benefit", is deleted in its entirety and replaced by:
"2.25 Retirement Benefit. Retirement Benefit means the vested portion of the Accrued Benefit payable to a Participant pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Plan following the Participant's Normal Retirement."
2. Section 5.1(a), "Retirement Benefit", is deleted in its entirety and replaced by:
"(a) *Retirement Benefit*. Upon the Participant's Normal Retirement, he or she shall be entitled to a Retirement Benefit, which shall be determined as of the first day of the month following the Participant's Separation from Service."
3. SCHEDULE A is deleted in its entirety, to be replaced by the Amended and Restated SCHEDULE A, including the Amended and Restated SCHEDULE A-1, attached hereto as EXHIBIT A.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company, by action of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, has caused the Amendment to be properly executed as of the day and year first above written.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

By: _____
Title: _____



EXHIBIT A
Amended and Restated
Schedule A

1. Accrued Benefit.
 - (a) The Accrued Benefit for a Tier 1 Participant shall be fifty percent (50%) of such Participant's Final Average Salary, determined in the sole discretion of the Committee.
 - (b) The Accrued Benefit for a Tier 2 Participant shall be forty percent (40%) of such Participant's Final Average Salary, determined in the sole discretion of the Committee.
 - (c) The Accrued Benefit for a Tier 3 Participant shall be thirty-five percent (35%) of such Participant's Final Average Salary, determined in the sole discretion of the Committee.
2. Payment Schedule for Benefits other than Death Benefit The Payment Schedule for the Retirement Benefit, Termination Benefit and Disability Benefit shall be annual installment payments in substantially equal amounts to the Participant and/or (if applicable) to the Participant's spouse for the duration of the "benefit payment period." The "benefit payment period" is fifteen (15) years. Payments are made to the Participant unless the Participant dies during the "benefit payment period" leaving a spouse surviving him or her, in which case payments continue to be made to the surviving spouse for the remainder of the benefit payment period.
3. Reduction of Accrued Benefit for Early Separation from Service Except as provided in Schedule A-1, the Accrued Benefit for purposes of determining the Termination Benefit shall be calculated by beginning with the amount of the vested Retirement Benefit and then reducing that amount by ten percent (10%) for each year the Participant's payment commencement date precedes the earliest date that such Participant would have qualified for Normal Retirement (e.g., the earlier of attainment of age 65 or age 55 with at least ten Years of Service).
4. Vesting. Except as provided in Schedule A-1, Participants will vest in their Accrued Benefit according to the applicable schedule as follows:

<i>Years of Plan Service</i>	<i>Percent Vested</i>
Less than 1	0%
At least 1 but less than 2	20%
At least 2 but less than 3	40%
At least 3 but less than 4	60%
At least 4 but less than 5	80%
5 or more	100%

5. Accelerated Vesting. The foregoing notwithstanding, Participants will become 100% vested in their Accrued Benefit upon death prior to Separation from Service, Disability prior to Separation from Service, or upon a Change in Control prior to Separation from Service.
-

Amended and Restated

Schedule A-1

Special Provisions Applicable to David Cosp

1. No Reduction of Accrued Benefit for Early Separation from Service Section 3 of Schedule A shall not apply to Mr. Cosp's Accrued Benefit.
2. Special Vesting Schedule. Notwithstanding the vesting schedule in Section 4 of Schedule A, Mr. Cosp will vest in his Accrued Benefit according to the applicable schedule as follows:

<i>Years of Plan Service</i>	<i>Percent Vested</i>
Less than 2	0%
At least 2 but less than 4	20%
At least 4 but less than 6	50%
At least 6 but less than 8	75%
8 or more	100%

3. Accelerated Vesting. The foregoing notwithstanding, Mr. Cosp will become 100% vested in his Accrued Benefit upon death prior to Separation from Service, Disability prior to Separation from Service, or upon a Change in Control prior to Separation from Service.

Exhibit 12.1

(Dollars in thousands)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Fixed charges:					
Interest expense, excluding floor plan interest	\$ 42,203	\$ 47,330	\$ 72,417	\$ 92,897	\$ 79,032
Capitalized interest	3,651	2,463	1,543	702	2,330
Rent expense (interest factor)	32,321	32,481	32,085	32,013	31,451
Total fixed charges	78,175	82,274	106,045	125,612	112,813
Income from continuing operations before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	139,110	172,137	(756,117)	27,892	78,421
Add: Fixed charges	78,175	82,274	106,045	125,612	112,813
Less: Capitalized interest	(3,651)	(2,463)	(1,543)	(702)	(2,330)
Income from continuing operations before income taxes and cumulative effect of change in accounting principle & fixed charges	\$ 213,634	\$ 251,948	\$ (651,615)	\$ 152,802	\$ 188,904
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.7 x	3.1 x	(757,660)(1)	1.2 x	1.7 x

(1) Reflects deficiency of earnings available to cover fixed charges. Because of the deficiency, ratio information is not provided.

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
ADI of the Southeast LLC	SC	
AnTrev, LLC	NC	
Arngar, Inc.	NC	Cadillac of South Charlotte
Autobahn, Inc.	CA	Autobahn Motors
Avalon Ford, Inc.	DE	
Casa Ford of Houston, Inc.	TX	
Cornerstone Acceptance Corporation	FL	
FAA Auto Factory, Inc.	CA	
FAA Beverly Hills, Inc.	CA	Beverly Hills BMW
FAA Capitol F, Inc.	CA	
FAA Capitol N, Inc.	CA	
FAA Concord H, Inc.	CA	Concord Honda
FAA Concord N, Inc.	CA	
FAA Concord T, Inc.	CA	Concord Toyota
		Concord Scion
FAA Dublin N, Inc.	CA	
FAA Dublin VWD, Inc.	CA	
FAA Holding Corp.	CA	
FAA Las Vegas H, Inc.	NV	Honda West
FAA Marin F, Inc.	CA	
FAA Marin LR, Inc.	CA	
FAA Poway G, Inc.	CA	
FAA Poway H, Inc.	CA	Poway Honda
FAA Poway T, Inc.	CA	
FAA San Bruno, Inc.	CA	Melody Toyota
		Melody Scion
FAA Santa Monica V, Inc.	CA	Volvo of Santa Monica
FAA Serramonte H, Inc.	CA	Honda of Serramonte
FAA Serramonte L, Inc.	CA	Lexus of Serramonte
		Lexus of Marin
FAA Serramonte, Inc.	CA	Serramonte Auto Plaza
		Serramonte Nissan
		Kia Serramonte

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
FAA Stevens Creek, Inc.	CA	Stevens Creek Nissan
FAA Torrance CPJ, Inc.	CA	South Bay Chrysler Jeep Dodge
FirstAmerica Automotive, Inc.	DE	
Fort Mill Ford, Inc.	SC	
Fort Myers Collision Center, LLC	FL	
Franciscan Motors, Inc.	CA	Acura of Serramonte
Frank Parra Autoplex, Inc.	TX	
Frontier Oldsmobile-Cadillac, Inc.	NC	
HMC Finance Alabama, Inc.	AL	
Kramer Motors Incorporated	CA	Honda of Santa Monica
L Dealership Group, Inc.	TX	
Marcus David Corporation	NC	Town and Country Toyota Town and Country Toyota Certified Used Cars Town and Country Toyota-Scion
Massey Cadillac, Inc. (TN-MI)	TN	
Massey Cadillac, Inc. (TX)	TX	
Mountain States Motors Co., Inc.	CO	
Ontario L, LLC	CA	Crown Lexus
Philpott Motors, Ltd.	TX	Philpott Ford Philpott Toyota Philpott Motors Hyundai
Royal Motor Company, Inc.	AL	
Santa Clara Imported Cars, Inc.	CA	Honda of Stevens Creek
SRM Assurance, Ltd.	Cayman Islands	
Stevens Creek Cadillac, Inc.	CA	St. Claire Cadillac
Town and Country Ford, Incorporated	NC	
Village Imported Cars, Inc.	MD	
Windward, Inc.	HI	Honda of Hayward
Z Management, Inc.	CO	
SAI AL HC1, Inc.	AL	
SAI AL HC2, Inc.	AL	Tom Williams Collision Center
SAI Ann Arbor Imports, LLC,	MI	Mercedes-Benz of Ann Arbor BMW of Ann Arbor

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
SAI Atlanta B, LLC	GA	Global Imports BMW Global Imports MINI
SAI Broken Arrow C, LLC	OK	Speedway Chevrolet
SAI Charlotte M, LLC	NC	
SAI Clearwater T, LLC	FL	Clearwater Toyota Clearwater Scion
SAI Columbus Motors, LLC	OH	Hatfield Hyundai Hatfield Subaru
SAI Columbus T, LLC,	OH	Toyota West Hatfield Automall Scion West
SAI Columbus VWK, LLC	OH	Hatfield Kia Hatfield Volkswagen
SAI FL HC1, Inc.	FL	
SAI FL HC2, Inc.	FL	
SAI FL HC3, Inc.	FL	
SAI FL HC4, Inc.	FL	
SAI FL HC5, Inc.	FL	
SAI FL HC6, Inc.	FL	
SAI FL HC7, Inc.	FL	
SAI Fort Myers B, LLC	FL	BMW of Fort Myers MINI of Fort Myers
SAI Fort Myers H, LLC	FL	Honda of Fort Myers
SAI Fort Myers M, LLC	FL	Mercedes-Benz of Fort Myers
SAI Fort Myers VW, LLC	FL	Volkswagen of Fort Myers
SAI GA HC1, LP	GA	
SAI Georgia, LLC	GA	
SAI Irondale Imports, LLC	AL	Tom Williams Imports (BMW) Tom Williams Audi Tom Williams Porsche Land Rover Birmingham MINI of Birmingham Tom Williams Lexus
SAI Irondale L, LLC	AL	
SAI Lansing CH, LLC	MI	
SAI Long Beach B, Inc.	CA	Long Beach BMW Long Beach MINI
SAI MD HC1, Inc.	MD	

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
SAI Monrovia B, Inc.	CA	BMW of Monrovia
		MINI of Monrovia
SAI Montgomery B, LLC	AL	BMW of Montgomery
SAI Montgomery BCH, LLC	AL	Classic Buick GMC Cadillac
SAI Montgomery CH, LLC	AL	Capitol Chevrolet
		Capitol Hyundai
SAI Nashville CSH, LLC	TN	Crest Saab
		Crest Cadillac
SAI Nashville H, LLC	TN	Crest Honda
SAI Nashville M, LLC	TN	Mercedes-Benz of Nashville
SAI Nashville Motors, LLC	TN	Audi Nashville
		Jaguar Nashville
		Porsche of Nashville
SAI NC HC2, Inc.	NC	
SAI OH HC1, Inc.	OH	
SAI OK HC1, Inc.	OK	
SAI Oklahoma City C, LLC	OK	
SAI Oklahoma City H, LLC	OK	Steve Bailey Honda
		Steve Bailey Pre-Owned Super Center
SAI Oklahoma City T, LLC	OK	Dub Richardson Toyota
		Dub Richardson Scion
SAI Orlando CS, LLC	FL	Massey Cadillac [North]
		Massey Saab of Orlando
SAI Peachtree, LLC	GA	
SAI Plymouth C, LLC	MI	
SAI Riverside C, LLC	OK	Riverside Chevrolet
SAI Rockville Imports, LLC	MD	Rockville Audi
		Porsche of Rockville
		Rockville Porsche-Audi
SAI Rockville L, LLC	MD	Lexus of Rockville
SAI Santa Clara K, Inc.	CA	Kia of Stevens Creek
SAI Stone Mountain T, LLC	GA	
SAI TN HC1, LLC	TN	
SAI TN HC2, LLC	TN	
SAI TN HC3, LLC	TN	
SAI Tulsa N, LLC	OK	

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
SAI Tulsa T, LLC	OK	Riverside Toyota Riverside Scion
SAI VA HC1, Inc.	VA	
Sonic Automotive-1495 Automall Drive, Columbus, Inc.	OH	
Sonic Automotive — 1720 Mason Ave., DB, Inc.	FL	
Sonic Automotive — 1720 Mason Ave., DB, LLC	FL	Mercedes-Benz of Daytona Beach
Sonic Automotive 2424 Laurens Rd., Greenville, Inc.	SC	
Sonic Automotive — 2490 South Lee Highway, LLC	TN	
Sonic Automotive 2752 Laurens Rd., Greenville, Inc.	SC	Century BMW Century MINI
Sonic Automotive — 3401 N. Main, TX, LP	TX	Ron Craft Chevrolet Cadillac Baytown Auto Collision Center
Sonic Automotive-3700 West Broad Street, Columbus, Inc.	OH	
Sonic Automotive-4000 West Broad Street, Columbus, Inc.	OH	
Sonic Automotive — 4701 I-10 East, TX, LP	TX	Baytown Ford
Sonic Automotive — 5221 I-10 East, TX, LP	TX	
Sonic Automotive 5260 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., LLC	GA	Dyer and Dyer Volvo
Sonic Automotive — 6008 N. Dale Mabry, FL, Inc.	FL	
Sonic Automotive — 9103 E. Independence, NC, LLC	NC	Infiniti of Charlotte
Sonic Automotive F&I, LLC	NV	
Sonic Automotive of Chattanooga, LLC	TN	BMW of Chattanooga
Sonic Automotive of Nashville, LLC	TN	BMW of Nashville MINI of Nashville Sonic Automotive Body Shop
Sonic Automotive of Nevada, Inc.	NV	
Sonic Automotive of Texas, LP	TX	Lone Star Ford
Sonic Automotive Support, LLC	NV	
Sonic Automotive West, LLC	NV	
Sonic 2185 Chapman Rd., Chattanooga, LLC	TN	Economy Honda Superstore
Sonic Advantage PA, LP	TX	Performance Auto Leasing Audi West Houston Porsche of West Houston Momentum Luxury Cars
Sonic Agency, Inc.	MI	
Sonic — Buena Park H, Inc.	CA	Buena Park Honda

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
Sonic — Cadillac D, LP	TX	Massey Cadillac
Sonic — Calabasas A, Inc.	CA	Acura 101 West
Sonic Calabasas M, Inc.	CA	Mercedes-Benz of Calabasas
Sonic — Calabasas V, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Camp Ford, LP	TX	
Sonic — Capitol Cadillac, Inc.	MI	Capitol Cadillac
Sonic — Capitol Imports, Inc.	SC	Capitol Imports Capitol Hyundai
Sonic — Carrollton V, LP	TX	
Sonic — Carson F, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Carson LM, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Chattanooga D East, LLC	TN	
Sonic — Clear Lake N, LP	TX	
Sonic — Clear Lake Volkswagen, LP	TX	Clear Lake Volkswagen
Sonic Coast Cadillac, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Denver T, Inc.	CO	Mountain States Toyota Mountain States Toyota and Scion
Sonic — Denver Volkswagen, Inc.	CO	
Sonic Development, LLC	NC	
Sonic Divisional Operations, LLC	NV	
Sonic — Downey Cadillac, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Englewood M, Inc.	CO	
Sonic eStore, Inc.	NC	
Sonic FFC 1, Inc.	DE	
Sonic FFC 2, Inc.	DE	
Sonic FFC 3, Inc.	DE	
Sonic — Fort Mill Chrysler Jeep, Inc.	SC	
Sonic — Fort Mill Dodge, Inc.	SC	
Sonic — Fort Worth T, LP	TX	Toyota of Fort Worth Scion of Fort Worth
Sonic — Frank Parra Autoplex, LP	TX	
Sonic Fremont, Inc.	CA	

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
Sonic — Harbor City H, Inc.	CA	Carson Honda
Sonic Houston JLR, LP	TX	Jaguar Houston North Land Rover Houston North
Sonic Houston LR, LP	TX	Land Rover Houston Central Jaguar Houston Central Volvo of Houston
Sonic — Houston V, LP	TX	
Sonic — Integrity Dodge LV, LLC	NV	
Sonic — Jersey Village Volkswagen, LP	TX	Momentum Volkswagen of Jersey Village
Sonic — Lake Norman Chrysler Jeep, LLC	NC	
Sonic — Las Vegas C East, LLC	NV	
Sonic — Las Vegas C West, LLC	NV	Cadillac of Las Vegas
Sonic — Lloyd Nissan, Inc.	FL	
Sonic — Lloyd Pontiac — Cadillac, Inc.	FL	
Sonic — Lone Tree Cadillac, Inc.	CO	Don Massey Cadillac Don Massey Collision Center Lone Star Chevrolet
Sonic — LS Chevrolet, LP	TX	
Sonic — LS, LLC	DE	
Sonic — Lute Riley, LP	TX	Lute Riley Honda
Sonic — Manhattan Fairfax, Inc.	VA	BMW of Fairfax
Sonic — Massey Cadillac, LP	TX	
Sonic — Massey Chevrolet, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Massey Pontiac Buick GMC, Inc.	CO	
Sonic — Mesquite Hyundai, LP	TX	
Sonic Momentum B, LP	TX	Momentum BMW Momentum MINI Momentum Collision Center Land Rover Southwest Houston Jaguar Southwest Houston Momentum Volvo Momentum Porsche Momentum Volkswagen Momentum Audi
Sonic Momentum JVP, LP	TX	
Sonic Momentum VWA, LP	TX	
Sonic — Newsome Chevrolet World, Inc.	SC	Capitol Chevrolet
Sonic — Newsome of Florence, Inc.	SC	Capitol Chevrolet of Florence Capitol Imports of Florence Capitol Automotive of Florence Imports of Florence (BMW)

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
Sonic — North Charleston Dodge, Inc.	SC	
Sonic — North Charleston, Inc.	SC	
Sonic of Texas, Inc.	TX	
Sonic Okemos Imports, Inc.	MI	
Sonic Peachtree Industrial Blvd., LP	GA	
Sonic — Plymouth Cadillac, Inc.	MI	Don Massey Cadillac
Sonic — Reading, LP	TX	
Sonic Resources, Inc.	NV	
Sonic — Richardson F, LP	TX	North Central Ford
Sonic-Riverside Auto Factory, Inc.	OK	
Sonic — Sam White Nissan, LP	TX	
Sonic — Sanford Cadillac, Inc.	FL	
Sonic Santa Monica M, Inc.	CA	W.I. Simonson
Sonic Santa Monica S, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Saturn of Silicon Valley, Inc.	CA	
Sonic Serramonte I, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Shottenkirk, Inc.	FL	Pensacola Honda
Sonic — South Cadillac, Inc.	FL	
Sonic — Stevens Creek B, Inc.	CA	Stevens Creek BMW
Sonic — Stone Mountain T, LP	GA	Stone Mountain Toyota
		Stone Mountain Scion
Sonic Tysons Corner H, Inc.	VA	Honda of Tysons Corner
Sonic Tysons Corner Infiniti, Inc.	VA	Infiniti of Tysons Corner
Sonic — University Park A, LP	TX	
Sonic-Volvo LV, LLC	NV	Volvo of Las Vegas
Sonic Walnut Creek M, Inc.	CA	Mercedes-Benz of Walnut Creek
Sonic — West Covina T, Inc.	CA	
Sonic — Williams Cadillac, Inc.	AL	
Sonic Wilshire Cadillac, Inc.	CA	
SRE Alabama — 2, LLC	AL	

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
SRE Alabama — 3, LLC	AL	
SRE Alabama — 4, LLC	AL	
SRE Alabama — 5, LLC	AL	
SRealEstate Arizona — 1, LLC	AZ	
SRealEstate Arizona — 2, LLC	AZ	
SRealEstate Arizona — 3, LLC	AZ	
SRealEstate Arizona — 4, LLC	AZ	
SRealEstate Arizona — 5, LLC	AZ	
SRealEstate Arizona — 6, LLC	AZ	
SRealEstate Arizona — 7, LLC	AZ	
SRE California — 1, LLC	CA	
SRE California — 2, LLC	CA	
SRE California — 3, LLC	CA	
SRE California — 4, LLC	CA	
SRE California — 5, LLC	CA	
SRE California — 6, LLC	CA	
SRE California — 7 SCB, LLC	CA	
SRE California — 8 SCH, LLC	CA	
SRE Colorado — 1, LLC	CO	
SRE Colorado — 2, LLC	CO	
SRE Colorado — 3, LLC	CO	
SRE Florida — 1, LLC	FL	
SRE Florida — 2, LLC	FL	
SRE Florida — 3, LLC	FL	
SRE Georgia — 1, LP	GA	
SRE Georgia — 2, LP	GA	
SRE Georgia — 3, LP	GA	
SRE Holding, LLC	NC	
SRE Maryland — 1, LLC	MD	
SRE Maryland — 2, LLC	MD	

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
SRE Michigan — 3, LLC	MI	
SRE Nevada — 1, LLC	NV	
SRE Nevada — 2, LLC	NV	
SRE Nevada — 3, LLC	NV	
SRE Nevada — 4, LLC	NV	
SRE Nevada — 5, LLC	NV	
SRE North Carolina — 1, LLC	NC	
SRE North Carolina — 2, LLC	NC	
SRE North Carolina — 3, LLC	NC	
SRE Oklahoma — 1, LLC	OK	
SRE Oklahoma — 2, LLC	OK	
SRE Oklahoma — 3, LLC	OK	
SRE Oklahoma — 4, LLC	OK	
SRE Oklahoma — 5, LLC	OK	
SRE South Carolina — 2, LLC	SC	
SRE South Carolina — 3, LLC	SC	
SRE South Carolina — 4, LLC	SC	
SRE Tennessee — 1, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 2, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 3, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 4, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 5, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 6, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 7, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 8, LLC	TN	
SRE Tennessee — 9, LLC	TN	
SRE Texas — 1, LP	TX	
SRE Texas — 2, LP	TX	
SRE Texas — 3, LP	TX	
SRE Texas — 4, LP	TX	

Name of Entity	Domestic State	Certificate of Assumed Name
SRE Texas — 5, LP	TX	
SRE Texas — 6, LP	TX	
SRE Texas — 7, LP	TX	
SRE Texas — 8, LP	TX	
SRE Virginia — 1, LLC	VA	
SRE Virginia — 2, LLC	VA	

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the following registration statements of Sonic Automotive, Inc.:

- Registration Statement No. 333-82615 on Form S-3;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-81059 on Form S-8;
 - Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement No. 333-81059 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-81053 on Form S-8;
 - Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement No. 333-81053 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-71803 on Form S-3;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-77407 on Form S-3MEF;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-69907 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-69899 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-68183 on Form S-3;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-65447 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-49113 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-96023 on Form S-3;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-51978 on Form S-4;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-50430 and Nos. 333-50430-01 through 333-50430-G7 on Form S-3;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-69901 on Form S-8;
 - Post-Effective Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement No. 333-69901 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-95791 on Form S-8;
 - Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement No. 333-95791 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-46272 on Form S-8;
 - Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement No. 333-46272 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-46274 on Form S-8;
 - Post-Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Registration Statement No. 333-46274 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-102052 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-102053 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-109411 on Form S-8;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-109426 and Nos. 333-109426-1 through 333-109426-261 on Form S-4;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-111463 and Nos. 333-111463-01 through 333-111463-263 on Form S-4;
 - Registration Statement No. 333-117065 on Form S-8;
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- Registration Statement No. 333-124370 on Form S-8;
- Registration Statement No. 333-142435 on Form S-8;
- Registration Statement No. 333-142436 on Form S-8;
- Registration Statement No. 333-159674 on Form S-8;
- Registration Statement No. 333-159675 on Form S-8;
- Registration Statement No. 333-160452 and Nos. 333-160452-01 through 333-160452-277 on Form S-3;
- Registration Statement No. 333-161519 and Nos. 333-161519-01 through 333-161519-277 on Form S-3; and
- Registration Statement No. 333-165718 and Nos. 333-165718-01 through 333-165718-277 on Form S-4.

of our reports dated February 24, 2011, with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (the “Company”) and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of the Company included in this Annual Report (Form 10-K) of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2010.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina
February 24, 2011

CERTIFICATION

I, David P. Cosper, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Sonic Automotive, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ DAVID P. COSPER
David P. Cosper
Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 24, 2011

CERTIFICATION

I, O. Bruton Smith, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Sonic Automotive, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ O. BRUTON SMITH
O. Bruton Smith
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 24, 2011

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO**

SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, David P. Cosper, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) the Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ DAVID P. COSPER
David P. Cosper
Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer

February 24, 2011

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, O. Bruton Smith, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1350, as adopted pursuant to § 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) the Report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ O. BRUTON SMITH
O. Bruton Smith
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

February 24, 2011