

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC
Form SC 13G/A
February 08, 2012

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
1 of 13

13G

Page

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

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 1)*

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
(Name of Issuer)

Class A Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value
(Title of Class of Securities)

83545G102

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2011

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

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

☒ Rule 13d 1(b)

☐ Rule 13d 1(c)

☐ Rule 13d 1(d)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with

respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which

would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose

of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that

section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
2 of 13

13G

Page

1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

Franklin Resources, Inc.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b) X

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

914,389

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES ☐

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

2.2%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC, CO (See Item 4)

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
3 of 13

13G

Page

1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

Charles B. Johnson

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b) X

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

USA

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

914,389

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES []

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

2.2%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC, IN (See Item 4)

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
4 of 13

13G

Page

1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS.

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b) X

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

USA

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

(See Item 4)

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(See Item 4)

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

914,389

10. CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES
CERTAIN SHARES []

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

2.2%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

HC, IN (See Item 4)

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
5 of 13

13G

Page

Item 1.

(a) Name of Issuer

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices

4401 Colwick Road

Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

Item 2.

(a) Name of Person Filing

(i): Franklin Resources, Inc.

(ii): Charles B. Johnson

(iii): Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence

(i), (ii), and (iii):

One Franklin Parkway

San Mateo, CA 94403 1906

(c) Citizenship

(i): Delaware

(ii) and (iii): USA

(d) Title of Class of Securities

Class A Common Stock, \$0.01 Par Value

(e) CUSIP Number

83545G102

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
6 of 13

13G

Page

Item 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to §§240.13d 1(b) or 240.13d 2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a) ☐ Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).
- (b) ☐ Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) ☐ Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) ☐ Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a 8).
- (e) ☐ An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f) ☐ An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) ☒ A parent holding company or control person in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h) ☐ A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i) ☐ A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a 3);
- (j) ☐ A non U.S. institution in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(ii)(J);
- (k) ☐ Group, in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(K).

If filing as a non U.S. institution in accordance with §240.13d 1(b)(1)(ii)(J), please specify the type of institution:

Item 4. Ownership

The securities reported herein (the "Securities") are beneficially owned by one or more open or closed end investment

companies or other managed accounts that are investment management clients of investment managers that are direct and

indirect subsidiaries (each, an "Investment Management Subsidiary" and, collectively, the "Investment Management

Subsidiaries") of Franklin Resources, Inc. ("FRI"), including the Investment Management Subsidiaries listed in Item 7.

Investment management contracts grant to the Investment Management Subsidiaries all investment and/or voting power

over the securities owned by such investment management clients, unless otherwise noted in this Item 4. Therefore, for

purposes of Rule 13d-3 under the Act, the Investment Management Subsidiaries may be deemed to be the beneficial

owners of the Securities.

Beneficial ownership by investment management subsidiaries and other affiliates of FRI is being reported in conformity with

the guidelines articulated by the SEC staff in Release No. 34-39538 (January 12, 1998) relating to organizations, such as

FRI, where related entities exercise voting and investment powers over the securities being reported independently from

each other. The voting and investment powers held by Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC ("FMA"), an indirect wholly owned

Investment Management Subsidiary, are exercised independently from FRI and from all other Investment Management

Subsidiaries (FRI, its affiliates and the Investment Management Subsidiaries other than FMA are collectively, "FRI

affiliates"). Furthermore, internal policies and procedures of FMA and FRI establish informational barriers that prevent the

flow between FMA and the FRI affiliates of information that relates to the voting and investment powers over the securities

owned by their respective investment management clients. Consequently, FMA and the FRI affiliates report the securities

over which they hold investment and voting power separately from each other for purposes of Section 13 of the Act.

Charles B. Johnson and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. (the "Principal Shareholders") each own in excess of 10% of the

outstanding common stock of FRI and are the principal stockholders of FRI. FRI and the Principal Shareholders may be

deemed to be, for purposes of Rule 13d-3 under the Act, the beneficial owners of securities held by persons and entities for

whom or for which FRI subsidiaries provide investment management services. The number of shares that may be deemed to

be beneficially owned and the percentage of the class of which such shares are a part are reported in Items 9 and 11 of the

cover pages for FRI and each of the Principal Shareholders. FRI, the Principal Shareholders and each of the

Investment Management Subsidiaries disclaim any pecuniary interest in any of the Securities. In addition, the filing of this

Schedule 13G on behalf of the Principal Shareholders, FRI and FRI affiliates, as applicable, should not be construed as an

admission that any of them is, and each disclaims that it is, the beneficial owner, as defined in Rule 13d-3, of any of the

Securities.

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
7 of 13

13G

Page

FRI, the Principal Shareholders, and each of the Investment Management Subsidiaries believe that they are not a "group"

within the meaning of Rule 13d-5 under the Act and that they are not otherwise required to attribute to each other the

beneficial ownership of the Securities held by any of them or by any persons or entities for whom or for which the

Investment Management Subsidiaries provide investment management services.

(a) Amount beneficially owned:

914,389

(b) Percent of class:

2.2%

(c) Number of shares as to which the person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote

Franklin Resources, Inc.:

0

Charles B. Johnson:

0

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.:

0

Franklin Templeton Investments Corp.:

914,389

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote

0

(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of

	Franklin Resources, Inc.:	0
	Charles B. Johnson:	0
	Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.:	0
	Franklin Templeton Investments Corp.:	914,389
(iv)	Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of	0

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
8 of 13

13G

Page

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

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

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

registered under The clients of the Investment Management Subsidiaries, including investment companies
receive or power to the Investment Company Act of 1940 and other managed accounts, have the right to
direct the receipt of dividends from, and the proceeds from the sale of, the Securities.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being
Reported on By the Parent Holding Company

See Attached Exhibit C

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Not Applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not Applicable

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
9 of 13

13G

Page

Item 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were

acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose

of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and

are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Exhibits

Exhibit A Joint Filing Agreement

Exhibit B Limited Powers of Attorney for Section 13 Reporting Obligations

Exhibit C Item 7 Identification and Classification of Subsidiaries

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this

statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: January 30, 2012

Franklin Resources, Inc.

Charles B. Johnson

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

By: /s/ ROBERT C. ROSSELOT

Robert C. Rosselot

Assistant Secretary of Franklin Resources, Inc.

this

Attorney in Fact for Charles B. Johnson pursuant to Limited Power of Attorney attached to

Schedule 13G

this

Attorney in Fact for Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. pursuant to Limited Power of Attorney attached to

Schedule 13G

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
10 of 13

13G

Page

EXHIBIT A

JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

In accordance with Rule 13d-1(k) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the undersigned hereby

agree to the joint filing with each other of the attached statement on Schedule 13G and to all amendments to such

statement and that such statement and all amendments to such statement are made on behalf of each of them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this agreement on
January 30, 2012.

Franklin Resources, Inc.

Charles B. Johnson

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

By: /s/ ROBERT C. ROSSELOT

Robert C. Rosselot

Assistant Secretary of Franklin Resources, Inc.

this

Attorney in Fact for Charles B. Johnson pursuant to Limited Power of Attorney attached to

Schedule 13G

to this

Attorney in Fact for Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. pursuant to Limited Power of Attorney attached

Schedule 13G

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
11 of 13

13G

Page

EXHIBIT B

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR
SECTION 13 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby makes, constitutes and appoints each of Robert Rosselot

and Maria Gray, each acting individually, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney in fact, with full power and authority

as hereinafter described on behalf of and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned to:

(1) prepare, execute, acknowledge, deliver and file Schedules 13D and 13G (including any amendments thereto or any

related documentation) with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, any national securities exchanges

and Franklin Resources, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Reporting Entity"), as considered necessary or advisable under

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended

from time to time (the "Exchange Act"); and

(2) perform any and all other acts which in the discretion of such attorney in fact are necessary or desirable for and on

behalf of the undersigned in connection with the foregoing.

The undersigned acknowledges that:

(1) this Limited Power of Attorney authorizes, but does not require, each such attorney in fact to act in their discretion on

information provided to such attorney in fact without independent verification of such information;

(2) any documents prepared and/or executed by either such attorney in fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this

Limited Power of Attorney will be in such form and will contain such information and disclosure as such attorney in fact, in

his or her discretion, deems necessary or desirable;

(3) neither the Reporting Entity nor either of such attorneys in fact assumes (i) any liability for the undersigned's

responsibility to comply with the requirements of the Exchange Act or (ii) any liability of the undersigned for any failure to

comply with such requirements; and

(4) this Limited Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the

undersigned's obligations under the Exchange Act, including without limitation the reporting requirements under Section 13

of the Exchange Act.

The undersigned hereby gives and grants each of the foregoing attorneys in fact full power and authority to do and

perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or appropriate to be done in and about the foregoing

matters as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if present, hereby ratifying all that each

such attorney in fact of, for and on behalf of the undersigned, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Limited

Power of Attorney.

This Limited Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing

delivered to each such attorney in fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Limited Power of Attorney to be executed as of

this 30th day of April, 2007

/s/Charles B. Johnson

Signature

Charles B. Johnson

Print Name

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
12 of 13

13G

Page

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

FOR

SECTION 13 REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby makes, constitutes and appoints each of Robert Rosselot

and Maria Gray, each acting individually, as the undersigned's true and lawful attorney in fact, with full power and authority

as hereinafter described on behalf of and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned to:

(1) prepare, execute, acknowledge, deliver and file Schedules 13D and 13G (including any amendments thereto or any

related documentation) with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, any national securities exchanges

and Franklin Resources, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Reporting Entity"), as considered necessary or advisable under

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended

from time to time (the "Exchange Act"); and

(2) perform any and all other acts which in the discretion of such attorney in fact are necessary or desirable for and on

behalf of the undersigned in connection with the foregoing.

The undersigned acknowledges that:

(1) this Limited Power of Attorney authorizes, but does not require, each such attorney in fact to act in their discretion on

information provided to such attorney in fact without independent verification of such information;

(2) any documents prepared and/or executed by either such attorney in fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this

Limited Power of Attorney will be in such form and will contain such information and disclosure as such attorney in fact, in

his or her discretion, deems necessary or desirable;

(3) neither the Reporting Entity nor either of such attorneys in fact assumes (i) any liability for the undersigned's

responsibility to comply with the requirements of the Exchange Act or (ii) any liability of the undersigned for any failure to

comply with such requirements; and

(4) this Limited Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the

undersigned's obligations under the Exchange Act, including without limitation the reporting requirements under Section 13

of the Exchange Act.

The undersigned hereby gives and grants each of the foregoing attorneys in fact full power and authority to do and

perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or appropriate to be done in and about the foregoing

matters as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if present, hereby ratifying all that each

such attorney in fact of, for and on behalf of the undersigned, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Limited

Power of Attorney.

This Limited Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing

delivered to each such attorney in fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Limited Power of Attorney to be executed as

of this 25th day of April, 2007

/s/ Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

Signature

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.

Print Name

CUSIP NO. 83545G102
13 of 13

13G

Page

EXHIBIT C

Franklin Templeton Investments Corp.

Item 3 Classification: 3(e)