



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Sonic Drive-In Named One of the Hot Growth Companies**  
*BusinessWeek* magazine releases *Hot Growth Companies 2002 List*

(OKLAHOMA CITY) For the first time Sonic Corp. (Nasdaq/NM:SONC) has been named to *BusinessWeek's* Hot Growth Company list. This list is based on companies that have excelled in three areas: three-year results in sales growth, earnings growth and return on invested capital.

*BusinessWeek* used Standard & Poor's COMPUSTAT, which has computerized financial data on 10,000 publicly traded corporations with annual sales of more than \$50 million and less than \$1.5 billion on average for the previous three years, a current market value greater than \$25 million, a current stock price greater than \$5 and is actively traded.

The 100 companies on the Hot Growth list feature annual profit growth of 61% and sales growth of 29% over the past three years. According to *BusinessWeek*, the small, fast-growing companies demonstrate that persistence, deft management, and innovation can help companies succeed in a challenging, economic environment.

"Sonic's inclusion on this list validates the company's multi-layered growth strategy and financial strength," said Pattye Moore, president of Sonic Corp. "Our brand continues to grow because our customers are drawn to our unique experience which combines great menu variety with high quality, made-to-order food and personalized Carhop service. Where else can you get hand-breaded Onion Rings, a fresh Cherry Limeade and an Extra-Long Chili Cheese Coney delivered to your car by a friendly Carhop?"

Steady growth continues to be illustrated by Sonic in 2002. Sonic anticipates its estimated system-wide same-store sales for the third quarter to be within the company's target range of a 2% to 4%. Consequently, the company remains comfortable with the current analysts' consensus earnings estimate of \$0.34 per diluted share for its third fiscal quarter ended May 31, 2002, which would represent an increase of 26% over earnings of \$0.27 in the year-earlier period, adjusted for a three-for-two stock split distributed in February 2002. Sonic expects to report its third quarter results on June 24, 2002. More financial information is available on the Internet at <http://www.sonicdrivein.com/invest/invest.shtml>

Sonic is known for its made-to-order food served by Carhops who deliver food directly to customers' cars. Sonic started as a hamburger and root beer stand in 1953 in Shawnee, Okla., and has grown to more than 2,500 drive-ins in 30 states. Sonic is the nation's largest chain of drive-in restaurants and more than a million people eat at Sonic Drive-Ins every day.

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