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Germain, Ricart auto groups make trade mag's top 100 list

Germain Motor Co. and the Ricart Automotive Group, both based in Columbus, have made Automotive News' list of the 100 largest U.S. dealers, based on 2003 new-car sales.

Germain ranked 35th, with 15,455 new vehicles sold and leased at 14 dealerships last year. Ricart ranked 64th, with 11,204 new-vehicle sales and leases. Germain sold 26,248 new and used vehicles combined, compared with Ricart's 25,558.

Germain's 2003 gross sales were \$721.8 million. Sales at Ricart weren't disclosed. Sonic Automotive Inc., which owns several Central Ohio dealerships, ranked third on the magazine's list with 140,772 new-car sales last year. CarMax Inc., based in Glen Allen, Va., ranked 19th, with 21,641 new-vehicle sales.

Sonic owns Trader Bud's Westside Chrysler Jeep, Trader Bud's Westside Dodge, Toyota West, Hatfield Hyundai, Hatfield Isuzu, Hatfield Lincoln Mercury, Hatfield Volkswagen and Hatfield Subaru.