DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC Form 8-K June 23, 2009

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# FORM 8-K

# CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF

THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report: June 23, 2009

(Date of earliest event reported)

# DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Commission File Number: 1-13666

Florida 59-3305930 (State or other jurisdiction (IRS Employer

of incorporation) Identification No.)

5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32809

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(407) 245-4000

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- " Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

#### Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

Darden Restaurants, Inc. (the Company ) issued a news release dated June 23, 2009, entitled Darden Restaurants Reports Fourth Quarter And Annual Diluted Net Earnings Per Share; Increases Quarterly Dividend By 25 Percent, a copy of which is furnished as Exhibit 99 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

The information in this Item 2.02 in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including Exhibit 99 hereto, shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section. The information in this Item 2.02 of this Current Report on Form 8-K shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

99

Exhibit Number Description

Press Release dated June 23, 2009, entitled Darden Restaurants Reports Fourth Quarter And Annual Diluted Net

Earnings Per Share; Increases Quarterly Dividend By 25 Percent.

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC.

By: /s/ Paula J. Shives
Paula J. Shives Senior Vice President, General
Counsel and Secretary

Date: June 23, 2009

#### EXHIBIT INDEX

## Exhibit

**Description of Exhibit** Number

99

Press Release dated June 23, 2009, entitled Darden Restaurants Reports Fourth Quarter And Annual Diluted Net Earnings Per Share; Increases Quarterly Dividend By 25 Percent.

4