

Pickens David T  
 Form 4  
 December 01, 2004

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Pickens David T

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC  
 [DRI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 5900 LAKE ELLENOR  
 DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 11/29/2004

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 President, Olive Garden

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |              |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |                                   |              |
| Common Stock                    | 11/29/2004                           |  | A                              | 7,500   | A   | \$ 0   | 42,023                            | D            |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  | 593 <sup>(1)</sup>                | I            |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   |   |  |                                   | Savings Plan |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474  
 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy)                | \$ 27.215  | 11/29/2004                           |  | A                              | 30,000  | (2) 11/29/2014   | Common Stock  | 30,000                        |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                         |            |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other      |
| Pickens David T<br>5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE<br>P.O. BOX 593330<br>ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330   |               |           | President, Olive Garden |            |
| Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for PICKENS, DAVID T., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive,<br>P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330, Darden Restaurants, Inc. (DRI) |               |           |                         | 12/01/2004 |
| **Signature of Reporting Person   |               |           |                         | Date       |

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
  - \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- The number of shares reported is based on a plan statement dated November 16, 2004 and is derived from an undivided interest in a fund
- (1) consisting of both Darden common stock and a small cash position that fluctuates from time to time. The number of shares reported may change based on the size of the cash position at the time of reporting.
  - (2) The option vests in two equal annual installments beginning 11/29/07.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.