

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC
Form 10-K/A
January 07, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 10-K/A
(Amendment No. 1)

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended May 30, 2004

/ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from ___ to ___
Commission File Number: 1-13666

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Florida 59-3305930
(State or other jurisdiction of (IRS Employer Identification Number)
incorporation or organization)

5900 Lake Ellenor Drive 32809
Orlando, Florida (Zip Code)
(Address of principal executive offices)

(407) 245-4000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, without par value and Preferred Stock Purchase Rights	New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by Reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. []

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Aggregate market value of Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, based on the closing price of \$19.84 per share as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on November 23, 2003: \$3,270,109,251.

Number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of July 26, 2004: 157,795,459 (excluding 108,273,571 shares held in the Company's treasury).

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for its Annual Meeting of Shareholders on September 29, 2004, to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after May 30, 2004, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Report.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As previously disclosed, following a December 2004 review of the accounting adjustments cited in several recent Form 8-K filings by other restaurant companies, and in consultation with our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, Darden Restaurants, Inc. ("we," "our" or the "Company") determined that one of the adjustments in those filings relating to the treatment of lease accounting and leasehold depreciation applied to us, and that it was appropriate to adjust certain of our prior financial statements. As a result, on December 15, 2004, our Board of Directors concluded that our previously-filed financial statements for the fiscal years 1996 through 2004 and for the first quarter of fiscal 2005 should be restated (the "Restatement"). Historically, when accounting for leases with renewal options, we recorded rent expense on a straight-line basis over the initial non-cancelable lease term, with the term commencing when actual rent payments began. We depreciate our buildings, leasehold improvements and other long-lived assets on those properties over a period that includes both the initial non-cancelable lease term and all option periods provided for in the lease (or the useful life of the assets if shorter). We previously believed that these longstanding accounting treatments were appropriate under generally accepted accounting principles. We now have restated our financial statements to recognize rent expense on a straight-line basis over the expected lease term, including cancelable option periods where failure to exercise such options would result in an economic penalty. The lease term commences on the date when we become legally obligated for the rent payments. These adjustments were not attributable to any material non-compliance by us, as a result of any misconduct, with any financial reporting requirements under the securities laws.

This Amendment No. 1 on Form 10-K/A ("Form 10-K/A") to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 30, 2004, initially filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on August 12, 2004 (the "Original Filing"), is being filed to reflect restatements of (i) our consolidated balance sheets at May 30, 2004 and May 25, 2003 and (ii) our consolidated statements of earnings, changes in stockholders' equity and accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), and cash flows, for the fiscal years ended May 30, 2004, May 25, 2003 and May 26, 2002, and the notes related thereto. For a more detailed description of these restatements, see Note 2, "Restatement of Financial Statements" to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements and the section entitled "Restatement" in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contained in this Form 10-K/A.

For the convenience of the reader, this Form 10-K/A sets forth the Original Filing in its entirety. However, this Form 10-K/A only amends and restates Items 6, 7, 8 and 9A of Part II and Exhibit 12 of Item 15 of Part IV of the Original Filing, in each case, solely as a result of, and to reflect, the Restatement,

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

and no other information in the Original Filing is amended hereby. The foregoing items have not been updated to reflect other events occurring after the Original Filing or to modify or update those disclosures affected by subsequent events. In addition, pursuant to the rules of the SEC, Item 15 of Part IV of the Original Filing has been amended to contain the consent of our independent registered public accounting firm and currently-dated certifications from our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as required by Sections 302 and 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The consent of the independent registered public accounting firm and the certifications of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer are attached to this Form 10-K/A as Exhibits 23, 31(a), 31(b), 32(a) and 32(b), respectively.

Except for the foregoing amended information, this Form 10-K/A continues to describe conditions as of the date of the Original Filing, and we have not updated the disclosures contained herein to reflect events that occurred at a later date. Other events occurring after the filing of the Original Filing or other disclosures necessary to reflect subsequent events have been or will be addressed in our amended Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q/A for the quarterly period ended August 29, 2004 and/or our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended November 28, 2004 which are being filed concurrently with the filing of this Form 10-K/A and any reports filed with the SEC subsequent to the date of this filing.

We have not amended and do not intend to amend our previously-filed Annual Reports on Form 10-K or our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the periods affected by the Restatement that ended prior to May 30, 2004. For this reason, the consolidated financial statements, auditors' reports and related financial information for the affected periods contained in such reports should no longer be relied upon.

i

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Part I	
Item 1. Business	2
Item 2. Properties	15
Item 3. Legal Proceedings	15
Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders	16
Part II	
Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities	17
Item 6. Selected Financial Data	17
Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	19
Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	31
Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data	
Report of Management Responsibilities	31
Report of Independent Registered Public	

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Accounting Firm	32
Consolidated Statements of Earnings	33
Consolidated Balance Sheets	34
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity and Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	35
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	36
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	37
Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure	57
Item 9A. Controls and Procedures	57
Part III	
Item 10. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant	58
Item 11. Executive Compensation	58
Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	58
Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions	58
Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services	58
Part IV	
Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules, and Reports on Form 8-K	59
Signatures	62
Exhibit Index	63

1

PART I

Item 1. BUSINESS

Introduction

Darden Restaurants, Inc. is the largest publicly held casual dining restaurant company in the world,¹ and served over 300 million meals during fiscal 2004. As of May 30, 2004, we operated 1,325 restaurants in the United States and Canada. In the United States, we operated 1,288 restaurants in 49 states (the exception being Alaska), including 649 Red Lobster(R), 537 Olive Garden(R), 32 Bahama Breeze(R), 69 Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill SM and one Seasons 52SM restaurants. In Canada, we operated 37 restaurants, including 31 Red Lobster and six Olive Garden restaurants. We own and operate all of our restaurants in the United States and Canada, with no franchising. Of our 1,325 restaurants open on May 30, 2004, 816 were located on owned sites and 509 were located on leased sites. In Japan, we licensed 38 Red Lobster restaurants to an unaffiliated Japanese corporation that operates the restaurants under an Area Development and Franchise Agreement.

Darden Restaurants, Inc. is a Florida corporation incorporated in March 1995, and is the parent company of GMRI, Inc., also a Florida corporation. GMRI and our other subsidiaries own the operating assets of the restaurants. GMRI was originally incorporated in March 1968 as Red Lobster Inns of America, Inc. Our

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

principal executive offices and restaurant support center are located at 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, Orlando, Florida 32809, telephone (407) 245-4000. Our corporate website address is www.darden.com. We make our reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K, and Section 16 reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5, and all amendments to those reports available free of charge on our website the same day as the reports are filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Information on our website is not deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K/A. Unless the context indicates otherwise, all references to Darden, "we", "our" or "us" include Darden, GMRI and our respective subsidiaries.

We have a 52/53 week fiscal year ending on the last Sunday in May. Our 2004 fiscal year ended on May 30, 2004 and had 53 weeks. Our 2003 fiscal year ended on May 25, 2003, and our 2002 fiscal year ended on May 26, 2002, and each had 52 weeks.

The following description of our business should be read in conjunction with the information in our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in Item 7 of this Form 10-K/A and our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K/A.

Background

We opened our first restaurant, a Red Lobster, in Lakeland, Florida in 1968. Red Lobster was founded by William B. Darden, for whom we are named. We were acquired by General Mills, Inc. in 1970. In May 1995, we became a separate publicly held company when General Mills distributed all outstanding Darden stock to General Mills' stockholders.

The number of Red Lobster and Olive Garden restaurants open at the end of fiscal 2004 increased by seven and 19, respectively, as compared to the end of fiscal 2003. Red Lobster has grown from six restaurants in operation at the end of fiscal 1970 to 680 units in North America by the end of fiscal 2004. Olive Garden, an internally developed concept, opened its first restaurant in Orlando, Florida in fiscal 1983, and by the end of fiscal 2004 had expanded to 543 restaurants in North America.

Bahama Breeze is an internally developed concept with a Caribbean theme. In fiscal 1996, Bahama Breeze opened its first restaurant in Orlando, Florida. At the end of fiscal 2004, there were 32 Bahama Breeze restaurants.

1Source: Nation's Restaurant News, "Special Report: Top 100," June 28, 2004 (based on revenues from company-owned restaurants).

Smokey Bones is also an internally developed concept featuring barbeque and other grilled favorites served in an inviting mountain-lodge setting that features televised sports. The first restaurant was opened in fiscal 2000 in Orlando, Florida. At the end of fiscal 2004, there were 69 Smokey Bones restaurants.

In February 2003, we opened a new test restaurant in Orlando, Florida called Seasons 52. It is a casually sophisticated fresh grill and wine bar with seasonally inspired menus offering fresh ingredients to create great tasting, nutritionally balanced meals that are lower in calories than comparable restaurant meals.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

The table below shows our growth and lists the number of restaurants operated by Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones and Seasons 52 as of the end of each fiscal year since 1970. The final column in the table lists our total sales for the years indicated.

Company-Operated Restaurants Open at Fiscal Year End

Fiscal Year ----	Red Lobster -----	Olive Garden -----	Bahama Breeze -----	Smokey Bones -----	Seasons 52 --	Total Restaurants (1) -----
1970	6					6
1971	24					24
1972	47					47
1973	70					70
1974	97					97
1975	137					137
1976	174					174
1977	210					210
1978	236					236
1979	244					244
1980	260					260
1981	291					291
1982	328					328
1983	360	1				361
1984	368	2				370
1985	372	4				376
1986	401	14				415
1987	433	52				485
1988	443	92				535
1989	490	145				635
1990	521	208				729
1991	568	272				840
1992	619	341				960
1993	638	400				1,038
1994	675	458				1,133
1995	715	477				1,192
1996	729	487	1			1,217
1997	703	477	2			1,182
1998	682	466	3			1,151
1999	669	464	6			1,139
2000	654	469	14	2		1,139
2001	661	477	21	9		1,168
2002	667	496	29	19		1,211
2003	673	524	34	39	1	1,271
2004	680	543	32	69	1	1,325

(1) Includes only Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones and Seasons 52 restaurants. Does not include other restaurant concepts operated by us in these years that are no longer owned or operated by us.

3

(2) Includes total sales from all of our operations, including sales from restaurant concepts besides Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones and Seasons 52 that are no longer owned or operated by us.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

- (3) Emerging Issues Task Force Issue 00-14 "Accounting for Certain Sales Incentives" requires sales incentives to be classified as a reduction of sales. We adopted Issue 00-14 in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2002. For purposes of this presentation, sales incentives have been reclassified as a reduction of sales for fiscal 1998 through 2004. Sales incentives for fiscal years prior to 1998 have not been reclassified.

Strategy

The restaurant industry is generally considered to be comprised of four segments: quick service, midscale, casual dining and fine dining. The industry is highly fragmented and includes many independent operators and small chains. We believe that capable operators of strong multi-unit concepts have the opportunity to increase their share of the casual dining segment. We plan to grow by increasing the number of restaurants in each of our existing concepts and by developing or acquiring additional concepts that can be expanded profitably.

While we are a leader in the casual dining segment, we know we cannot be successful without a clear sense of who we are. Our core purpose is "To nourish and delight everyone we serve." This core purpose is supported by our core values:

- o Integrity and fairness;
- o Respect and caring;
- o Diversity;
- o Always learning/always teaching;
- o Being "of service";
- o Teamwork;and
- o Excellence.

Our mission is to be "The best in casual dining, now and for generations." Four strategic imperatives support our mission:

- o Leadership excellence at all levels;
- o Brand building excellence;
- o Service and hospitality excellence; and
- o Culinary and beverage excellence.

We also have two strategic enablers we believe can help us accelerate progress in each strategic imperative. These enablers are:

- o Diversity excellence that embraces and builds upon our differences; and
- o Process and technology excellence that maximize organizational effectiveness and drive both discipline and nimbleness.

New to our strategic framework is the explicit statement of two points that have been implicit in our approach to the business for many years now, and that we believe separate us from our competition. We are committed to:

- o Being a multi-brand restaurant company that is bound together by common operating practices and a unifying culture which serves to make us stronger than the sum of our parts; and
- o Listening to our guests and employees for insights we need to create powerful, broadly appealing brands and to develop successful people.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Restaurant Concepts

Red Lobster

Red Lobster is the largest casual dining, seafood-specialty restaurant operator in the United States. It offers an extensive menu featuring fresh fish, shrimp, crab, lobster, scallops and other seafood in a casual atmosphere. The menu includes a variety of specialty seafood and non-seafood entrees, appetizers and desserts.

Dinner entree prices range from \$8.50 to \$27.50, with certain lobster items available at market price. Lunch entree prices range from \$5.99 to \$11.25. The price of each entree includes side items and our signature Cheddar Bay biscuits. During fiscal 2004, the average check per person was between \$16.50 and \$17.50, with alcoholic beverages accounting for about 8.4 percent of Red Lobster's sales. Red Lobster maintains approximately 105 different menus across its trade areas to reflect geographic differences in consumer preferences, prices and selections, as well as a lower-priced children's menu. Red Lobster is testing a number of new menu items to expand its current offerings.

Olive Garden

Olive Garden is the market share leader among casual dining Italian restaurants in the United States. Olive Garden's menu includes a variety of authentic Italian foods featuring fresh ingredients and an expanded wine list that includes a broad selection of wines imported from Italy. The menu includes antipasti (appetizers); soups, salad and garlic breadsticks; baked pastas; sauteed specialties with chicken, seafood and fresh vegetables; grilled meats; and a variety of desserts. Olive Garden also uses coffee imported from Italy for its espresso and cappuccino.

Most dinner entree prices range from \$7.95 to \$17.95, and most lunch entree prices range from \$5.95 to \$9.50. The price of each entree also includes as much fresh salad or soup and breadsticks as a guest desires. During fiscal 2004, the average check per person was \$13.50 to \$14.50, with alcoholic beverages accounting for about 8.7 percent of Olive Garden's sales. Olive Garden maintains approximately 40 different dinner menus and 30 lunch menus across its trade areas to reflect geographic differences in consumer preferences, prices and selections, as well as two lower-priced children's menus.

Bahama Breeze

Bahama Breeze is a Caribbean-themed restaurant that offers guests a distinctive island dining experience. The first Bahama Breeze opened in 1996 and met with strong positive consumer response. We continued to test the concept by opening a limited number of additional restaurants in each of the following years, and began national expansion of the concept in 1998. The concept continues to be well received by guests, although its financial performance has not met our overall expectations. Bahama Breeze closed six restaurants and wrote down the carrying value of four others during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, reducing to 32 the total number of restaurants in operation. In addition to closing the underperforming restaurants, we have made recent changes that have improved the sales, financial performance and long-term potential of Bahama Breeze. These changes include implementing lunch operations, creating a new dinner menu and slowing new restaurant development. We also are reducing the size of a typical Bahama Breeze building and the related capital investment. A new reduced-investment prototype building opened in Pittsburgh, PA during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 and the early results are encouraging. We have postponed any new restaurant expansion at Bahama Breeze while we evaluate the new prototype. In the meantime, the closure of some underperforming restaurants during fiscal 2004 allows Bahama Breeze to focus on its most profitable

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

restaurants as it builds its business.

Smokey Bones

Smokey Bones features barbequed pork, beef and chicken, as well as other grilled favorites, all served in a lively yet comfortable mountain-lodge setting that features televised sports. We opened the first Smokey Bones in September 1999, and began national expansion of the concept in fiscal 2002. Smokey Bones has been well received by consumers and continues to expand rapidly. We opened 30 new Smokey Bones restaurants during fiscal 2004, and had 69 restaurants in operation at the end of the fiscal year. We plan to open 30 to 40 new Smokey Bones

5

restaurants in fiscal 2005. We believe that Smokey Bones has strong expansion potential and is capable of achieving future annual sales of \$500 million or more.

Recent and Planned Growth

During fiscal 2004, we opened 66 new restaurants (excluding the relocation of existing restaurants to new sites and the rebuilding of restaurants at existing sites) and closed eight restaurants. In addition, we had four restaurants closed temporarily at the end of fiscal 2004 that we expect to reopen during fiscal 2005. This resulted in a net increase of 54 restaurants in fiscal 2004. We plan to open approximately 49-65 new Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Smokey Bones and Seasons 52 restaurants during fiscal 2005 (excluding relocations and rebuilds). Our actual and projected new openings by concept (excluding relocations and rebuilds) are shown below.

	Actual New Restaurant Openings Fiscal 2004	Projected New Restaurant Openings Fiscal 2005
	-----	-----
Red Lobster.....	9	2
Olive Garden.....	23	15-20
Bahama Breeze.....	4	0
Smokey Bones.....	30	30-40
Seasons 52.....	0	2-3
	----	-----
Totals.....	66	49-65

Our objective is to continue to expand our current portfolio of restaurant concepts, and to develop or acquire additional concepts that can be expanded profitably. We have continued to test new ideas and concepts, and also to evaluate potential acquisition candidates to assess whether they would satisfy our strategic and financial objectives. At present, we have not identified any specific acquisitions.

In fiscal 2005, we will limit new restaurant expansion at Red Lobster while we continue to focus on improving operational returns for that concept. At Olive Garden, we will continue to focus on maintaining operational returns and expanding that concept to high potential sites that we believe can generate significant returns on our investments. Olive Garden's expansion will include its recently developed "Tuscan Farmhouse" design, an outgrowth of our collaboration with Rocca delle Macie, a family-owned winery in Tuscany, Italy. We have postponed any new restaurant openings at Bahama Breeze while we evaluate the new reduced-investment prototype restaurant opened in Pittsburgh, PA during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004. We plan to continue to expand Smokey Bones in fiscal 2005 at a pace that we believe will enable each new restaurant to capture

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

the concept's full potential. We plan to open two to three additional Seasons 52 restaurants in fiscal 2005 to further explore the concept's viability. The actual number of openings for each of our concepts will depend on many factors, including our ability to locate appropriate sites, negotiate acceptable purchase or lease terms, obtain necessary local governmental permits, complete construction, and recruit and train restaurant management and hourly personnel.

We consider location to be a critical factor in determining a restaurant's long-term success, and we devote significant effort to the site selection process. Prior to entering a market, we conduct a thorough study to determine the optimal number and placement of restaurants. Our site selection process incorporates a variety of analytical techniques to evaluate key factors. These factors include trade area demographics, such as target population density and household income levels; competitive influences in the trade area; the site's visibility, accessibility and traffic volume; and proximity to activity centers such as shopping malls, hotel/motel complexes, offices and universities. Members of senior management evaluate, inspect and approve each restaurant site prior to its acquisition. Constructing and opening a new restaurant typically takes 120 to 180 days after permits are obtained and the site is acquired.

The following table illustrates the approximate average capital investment, size and dining capacity of the nine Red Lobster, 23 Olive Garden and 30 Smokey Bones restaurants that were opened during fiscal 2004 (excluding relocations, rebuilds and conversions of existing restaurants).

6

	Capital Investment (1)	Square Feet (2)	Dining Seats (3)	Dining Tables (4)
Red Lobster (5).....	\$3,475,000	6,954	221	59
Olive Garden (6).....	\$3,963,000	7,445	214	60
Smokey Bones.....	\$3,490,000	7,025	205	47

- (1) Includes net present value of leases, but excludes working capital.
- (2) Includes all space under the roof, including the coolers and freezers, but excludes gazebos, pavilions and porte cocheres.
- (3) Includes bar dining seats and patio seating, but excludes bar stools.
- (4) Includes patio dining tables.
- (5) Excludes one center city urban Red Lobster restaurant whose size is larger and cost is significantly higher than the average and therefore is not representative of the typical restaurant.
- (6) Excludes one center city urban Olive Garden restaurant whose size is larger and cost is significantly higher than the average and therefore is not representative of the typical restaurant.

We systematically review the performance of our restaurants to ensure that each one meets our standards. When a restaurant falls below minimum standards, we conduct a thorough analysis to determine the causes, and implement marketing and operational plans to improve that restaurant's performance. If performance does not improve to acceptable levels, the restaurant is evaluated for relocation, closing or conversion to one of our other concepts.

During fiscal 2004, we permanently closed two and relocated ten Red Lobster restaurants. During the same period, we relocated one Olive Garden restaurant and permanently closed our one remaining Olive Garden Cafe. In addition, during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004, we closed six Bahama Breeze restaurants and wrote down the carrying value of four other Bahama Breeze restaurants, one Olive Garden restaurant, and one Red Lobster restaurant, which continued to operate. The decision to close or write down the carrying value of the restaurants was the result of our on-going analysis that examines restaurants not meeting our

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

minimum return on investment thresholds and certain other operating performance criteria. The decision to close and write-down the carrying value of the Bahama Breeze restaurants also reflected an analysis of each restaurant's ability to successfully implement the changes effected over the past year to improve sales, financial performance, and overall long-term potential of the concept, including the addition of lunch and adoption of a new dinner menu. The write-down of the carrying value of the one Olive Garden restaurant and one Red Lobster restaurant was a result of less-than-optimal locations. We continue to evaluate our site locations in order to minimize the risk of future asset impairment charges.

Restaurant Operations

We believe that high-quality restaurant management is critical to our long-term success. We also believe that our leadership position, strong success-oriented culture and various short-term and long-term incentive programs, including stock options, restricted stock or stock units, help attract and retain highly motivated restaurant managers.

Our restaurant management structure varies by concept and restaurant size. Each restaurant is led by a general manager and three to five additional managers, depending on the operating complexity and sales volume of the restaurant. Each restaurant also employs approximately 65 to 140 hourly employees, most of whom work part-time. We issue detailed operations manuals covering all aspects of restaurant operations, as well as food and beverage manuals which detail the preparation procedures of our formulated recipes. The restaurant management teams are responsible for the day-to-day operation of each restaurant and for ensuring compliance with our operating standards. At our two largest concepts, Red Lobster and Olive Garden, restaurant general managers report to directors. Each director was responsible for five to 11 restaurants at the end of fiscal 2004, compared to our target range of seven to 12 restaurants for each director. Restaurants are visited regularly by all levels of supervision to help ensure strict adherence to all aspects of our standards.

Each concept's vice president or director of training, together with senior operations executives, is responsible for developing and maintaining that concept's operations training programs. These efforts include a 12

7

to 15-week training program for management trainees, and continuing development programs for managers, supervisors and directors. The emphasis of the training and development programs varies by restaurant concept, but includes leadership, restaurant business management and culinary skills. We also use a highly structured training program to open new restaurants, including deploying training teams experienced in all aspects of restaurant operations. The opening training teams typically begin work one week prior to opening and remain at the new restaurant one week following the opening. They are re-deployed as appropriate to enable a smooth transition to the restaurant's operating staff.

Quality Assurance

Our Total Quality Department helps ensure that all restaurants provide safe, high-quality food in a clean and safe environment. Through rigorous physical evaluation and testing at our North American laboratories and through "point source inspection" by our international team of Quality Specialists in several foreign countries, we purchase only seafood that meets or exceeds our specifications. We use independent third parties to inspect and evaluate commodity vendors. In addition, any commodity supplier that produces a "high risk" product is subject to a minimum annual food safety evaluation by Darden personnel. We require our suppliers to maintain sound manufacturing practices and operate with the comprehensive HACCP food safety programs in place.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Since 1976, we have maintained a microbiological laboratory to routinely test seafood and other commodities for quality and microbiological safety. In addition, Darden Total Quality Managers and third party auditors visit each restaurant periodically throughout the year to review food handling and to provide education and training in food safety and sanitation. The Total Quality managers also serve as a liaison to regulatory agencies on issues relating to food safety.

Purchasing and Distribution

Our ability to ensure a consistent supply of high-quality food and supplies at competitive prices to all of our restaurant concepts depends upon procurement from reliable sources. Our purchasing staff sources, negotiates and purchases food and supplies from more than 2,000 suppliers in 45 countries. Suppliers must meet strict quality control standards in the development, harvest, catch and production of food products. Competitive bids, long-term contracts and long-term vendor relationships are routinely used to manage availability and cost of products.

We believe that our seafood purchasing capabilities are a significant competitive advantage. Our purchasing staff travels routinely within the United States and internationally to source more than 100 varieties of top-quality seafood at competitive prices. We believe that we have established excellent long-term relationships with key seafood vendors, and usually source our product directly from producers (not brokers or middlemen). We operate a procurement office in Singapore, our only purchasing office outside of Orlando, to source products directly from Asia. While the supply of certain seafood species is volatile, we believe that we have the ability to identify alternative seafood products and to adjust our menus as necessary. All other essential food products are available, or can be made available upon short notice, from alternative qualified suppliers. Because of the relatively rapid turnover of perishable food products, inventories in the restaurants have a modest aggregate dollar value in relation to sales. Controlled inventories of specified products are distributed to all restaurants through independent national distribution companies.

Our supplier diversity program is an integral part of our purchasing efforts. Through it, we identify minority and women-owned vendors and assist them in establishing supplier relationships with us. We are committed to the development and growth of minority and women-owned enterprises, and in fiscal 2004 we spent more than five percent and one percent, respectively, of our purchasing dollars with those firms.

Advertising and Marketing

We believe that we have developed significant marketing and advertising capabilities. Our size enables us to be a leading advertiser in the casual dining segment of the restaurant industry. Red Lobster and Olive Garden leverage the efficiency of national network television advertising and supplement it with local television advertising. Bahama Breeze and Smokey Bones do not use national television advertising. Our restaurants appeal to a broad spectrum of consumers and we use advertising and product promotions to attract customers. We implement periodic

promotions as appropriate to maintain and increase our sales and profits. We also rely on radio and newspaper advertising, as well as newspaper and direct mail couponing programs, as appropriate, to attract customers. We have developed and consistently use sophisticated consumer marketing research techniques to monitor customer satisfaction and evolving expectations.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Employees

At the end of fiscal 2004, we employed approximately 141,300 persons. Of these employees, approximately 1,300 were corporate or restaurant concept personnel located in our restaurant support center in Orlando, Florida, approximately 5,820 were restaurant management personnel in the restaurants or in field offices, and the remainder were hourly restaurant personnel. Of the restaurant support center employees, approximately 60 percent were management personnel and the balance were administrative or office employees. Our operating executives have an average of more than 14 years of experience with us. The restaurant general managers average 12 years with us. We believe that we provide working conditions and compensation that compare favorably with those of our competitors. Most employees, other than restaurant management and corporate management, are paid on an hourly basis. None of our employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. We consider our employee relations to be good.

Information Technology

We strive for leadership in the restaurant business by using technology as a competitive advantage and as an enabler for our strategic building blocks. Since 1975, computers located in the restaurants have been used to assist in the management of the restaurants. We have implemented systems targeted at improved financial control, cost management, enhanced guest service and improved employee effectiveness. Management information systems are designed to be used across restaurant concepts, yet are flexible enough to meet the unique needs of each restaurant concept. In the past three years, we have implemented a suite of web-enabled and fully integrated financial and human resource (including payroll and benefits) systems. We also implemented a high-speed data network connecting all restaurants to all current and anticipated future applications.

Restaurant hardware and software support is provided or coordinated from the restaurant support center in Orlando, Florida, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. A communications network sends and receives critical business data to and from the restaurants throughout the day and night, providing timely and extensive information on business activity in every location. The restaurant support center houses our data center, which contains sufficient computing power to process information from all restaurants quickly and efficiently. Our information is processed in a secured environment to protect both the actual data and the physical assets. We guard against business interruption by maintaining a disaster recovery plan, which includes storing critical business information off-site, testing the disaster recovery plan at a hot-site facility and providing on-site power backup via a large diesel generator. We use internally developed proprietary software, as well as purchased software, with proven, non-proprietary hardware. This allows processing power to be distributed effectively to each of our restaurants.

Our management believes that our current systems and practice of implementing regular updates will position us well to support current needs and future growth. We are committed to maintaining an industry leadership position in information systems and computing technology. We use a strategic information systems planning process that involves senior management and is integrated into our overall business planning. Information systems projects are prioritized based upon strategic, financial, regulatory and other business advantage criteria.

Competition

The restaurant industry is intensely competitive with respect to the type and quality of food, price, service, restaurant location, personnel, concept, attractiveness of facilities, and effectiveness of advertising and marketing. The restaurant business is often affected by changes in consumer tastes;

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

national, regional or local economic conditions; demographic trends; traffic patterns; the type, number and location of competing restaurants; and consumers' discretionary purchasing power. We compete within each market with national and regional chains and locally-owned restaurants for customers, management and hourly personnel and suitable real estate sites. We also face growing competition from the supermarket industry, which offers "convenient meals" in the form of improved entrees and side dishes from the deli section. We expect intense competition to continue in all of these areas.

9

Other factors pertaining to our competitive position in the industry are addressed under the sections entitled "Purchasing and Distribution," "Advertising and Marketing," "Information Technology" and "Forward-Looking Statements" elsewhere in this report.

Trademarks and Related Agreements

We regard our Darden Restaurants(R), Red Lobster(R), Olive Garden(R), Bahama Breeze(R), Smokey Bones Barbeque & GrillSM and Seasons 52SM service marks, and other variations of these service marks, as having significant value and as being important in marketing the restaurants. Our policy is to pursue registration of our important service marks and trademarks and to oppose vigorously any infringement of them. Generally, with appropriate renewal and use, the registration of our service marks will continue indefinitely.

Our only restaurant operations outside of North America historically have been conducted through an Area Development and Franchise Agreement with Red Lobster Japan Co., Ltd. ("Red Lobster Japan"), an unaffiliated Japanese corporation. Red Lobster Japan operated 38 Red Lobster restaurants in Japan as of May 30, 2004. We do not have an ownership interest in Red Lobster Japan, but receive royalty income under the Franchise Agreement. The amount of this income is not material to our consolidated financial statements.

Seasonality

Our sales volumes fluctuate seasonally. During fiscal years 2004, 2003 and 2002, our sales were highest in the spring, lowest in the fall, and comparable during winter and summer. Holidays, severe weather and similar conditions may impact sales volumes seasonally in some operating regions.

Government Regulation

We are subject to various federal, state and local laws affecting our business. Each of our restaurants must comply with licensing requirements and regulations by a number of governmental authorities, which include health, safety and fire agencies in the state or municipality in which the restaurant is located. The development and operation of restaurants depend on selecting and acquiring suitable sites, which are subject to zoning, land use, environmental, traffic and other regulations. To date, we have not been significantly affected by any difficulty, delay or failure to obtain required licenses or approvals.

Presently about 9.3 percent of our sales are attributable to the sale of alcoholic beverages. Regulations governing their sale require licensure by each site (in most cases, on an annual basis), and licenses may be revoked or suspended for cause at any time. These regulations relate to many aspects of restaurant operation, including the minimum age of patrons and employees, hours of operation, advertising, wholesale purchasing, inventory control and handling, and storage and dispensing of alcoholic beverages. The failure of a restaurant to obtain or retain these licenses would adversely affect the restaurant's operations. We also are subject in certain states to "dram-shop" statutes, which

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

generally provide an injured party with recourse against an establishment that serves alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person, who then causes injury to himself or a third party. We carry liquor liability coverage as part of our comprehensive general liability insurance.

We also are subject to federal and state minimum wage laws and other laws governing such matters as overtime, tip credits, working conditions, safety standards, and hiring and employment practices. Changes in these laws during fiscal 2004 have not had a material effect on our operations.

We currently are operating under a Tip Rate Alternative Commitment ("TRAC") agreement with the Internal Revenue Service. Through increased educational and other efforts in the restaurants, the TRAC agreement reduces the likelihood of potential chain-wide employer-only FICA assessments for unreported tips.

We are subject to federal and state environmental regulations, but these rules have not had a material effect on our operations. During fiscal 2004, there were no material capital expenditures for environmental control facilities and no material expenditures for this purpose are anticipated.

10

Our facilities must comply with the applicable requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA") and related state accessibility statutes. Under the ADA and related state laws, we must provide equivalent service to disabled persons, and make reasonable accommodation for their employment, and when constructing or undertaking significant remodeling of our restaurants, we must make those facilities accessible.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

Our executive officers as of August 12, 2004 are listed below. On August 11, 2004, we announced that after 37 years with our company, Joe R. Lee will retire as our Chief Executive Officer effective November 29, 2004. Mr. Lee will remain as Chairman of our Board, assuming his reelection as a director by our shareholders at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and reelection as Chairman by our Board at that time. We also announced that, effective upon Mr. Lee's retirement, Clarence Otis, Jr., our Executive Vice President and President of Smokey Bones, will become Chief Executive Officer; Andrew H. (Drew) Madsen, our Senior Vice President and President of Olive Garden, will become President and Chief Operating Officer; and David Pickens, the Executive Vice President-Operations of Olive Garden, will become Senior Vice President and President of Olive Garden.

Joe R. Lee, age 63, has been our Chief Executive Officer since December 1994 and Chairman of the Board since April 1995. Mr. Lee will retire as our Chief Executive Officer effective November 29, 2004, but is expected to remain as Chairman of our Board, assuming his reelection to the Board by our shareholders at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and reelection as Chairman by our Board at that time. Mr. Lee joined Red Lobster in 1967 as a member of its opening management team, and was named its President in 1975. From 1970 to 1995, he held various positions with General Mills, Inc., a manufacturer and marketer of consumer food products and our former parent company, including Vice Chairman, with responsibility for various consumer foods businesses and corporate staff functions, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, Finance and International Restaurants.

Clarence Otis, Jr., age 48, has been our Executive Vice President since March 2002 and President of Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill since December 2002. He will become our Chief Executive Officer upon the retirement of our current

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Chief Executive Officer, Joe R. Lee, on November 29, 2004. Mr. Otis was our Senior Vice President from December 1999 until April 2002, and our Chief Financial Officer from December 1999 until December 2002. He joined us in 1995 as Vice President and Treasurer. He served as our Senior Vice President, Investor Relations and Treasurer from July 1997 to August 1998, and as Senior Vice President, Finance and Treasurer from August 1998 until December 1999. Prior to joining us, he was employed by Chemical Securities, Inc. (now J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc.), an investment banking firm, where he had been Managing Director and Manager of Public Finance since 1991.

Andrew H. (Drew) Madsen, age 48, has been Senior Vice President and President of Olive Garden since April 2002. He will become President and Chief Operating Officer on November 29, 2004. Mr. Madsen joined us in December 1998 as Executive Vice President of Marketing for Olive Garden. From 1997 until joining us, he was President of International Master Publishers, Inc., a company that developed and marketed consumer information products such as magazines and compact discs. From 1993 until 1997, he worked at James River (now part of Georgia-Pacific Corporation, a diversified paper and building products manufacturer), where he held various positions, including Vice President and General Manager for the Dixie consumer products unit. From 1980 to 1992, he held progressively more responsible positions in consumer products marketing, including Vice President of Marketing, at General Mills, Inc., a manufacturer and marketer of consumer food products and our former parent company.

Blaine Sweatt, III, age 56, has been our President, New Business Development since February 1996 and Executive Vice President since April 1995, and a Director since 1995. He led teams that developed the Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones and Seasons 52 concepts, among others. He joined Red Lobster in 1976 and was named Director of New Restaurant Concept Development in 1981. From 1986 to 1989, he held various positions with General Mills, Inc., a manufacturer and marketer of consumer food products and our former parent company.

Laurie B. Burns, age 42, has been our Senior Vice President and President of Bahama Breeze since March 2003. She joined us in April 1999 as Vice President of Development for Red Lobster, and served as our Senior Vice President, Development from September 2000 until March 2003. She was a private real estate consultant from

11

October 1998 until joining us in April 1999, and was Regional Vice President for Development for the Eastern United States at Homestead Village, an extended-stay hotel company, from 1995 to 1998.

Linda J. Dimopoulos, age 53, has been our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since December 2002. She joined us in 1982, and served as Senior Vice President, Financial Operations of Red Lobster from 1993 to July 1998, as our Senior Vice President, Corporate Controller and Business Information Systems from July 1998 to December 1999, and as our Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer from December 1999 until assuming her current position in December 2002.

Stephen E. Helsel, age 59, has been our Senior Vice President, Corporate Controller since December 1999. He joined us in 1973 as an accountant with Red Lobster, and was named Vice President, Controller of Red Lobster in 1989. He served as our Vice President, Controller, Accounting Services from 1991 to 1996, and as Senior Vice President, Information Services from 1996 until December 1999.

Kim Lopdrup, age 46, has been our Senior Vice President and President of

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Red Lobster since May 2004. He joined us in November 2003 as Executive Vice President of Marketing for Red Lobster. From 2001 until 2002, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for North American operations of Burger King Corporation, an operator and franchiser of fast food restaurants. From 1985 until 2001, he worked for Allied Domecq Quick Service Restaurants ("ADQSR"), a distiller and operator and franchiser of quick service restaurants including Dunkin' Donuts, Baskin-Robbins and Togo's Eateries, where he held progressively more responsible positions in marketing, strategic and general management roles, eventually serving as Chief Executive Officer of ADQSR International.

Daniel M. Lyons, age 51, has been our Senior Vice President, Human Resources since January 1997. He joined us in 1993 as Senior Vice President of Personnel for Olive Garden. Prior to joining Olive Garden, he spent 18 years with the Quaker Oats Company.

Barry Moullet, age 46, has been our Senior Vice President, Supply Chain & Development since August 2003. He served as our Senior Vice President Purchasing, Distribution and Food Safety from June 1999 until assuming his current position in August 2003. He joined us in July 1996 as Senior Vice President, Purchasing and Distribution. Prior to joining us, he spent 15 years in the purchasing field in various positions with Restaurant Services, Inc., a Burger King purchasing co-operative, KFC Corporation and the Pillsbury Company.

Paula J. Shives, age 53, has been our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since June 1999. Prior to joining us, she served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary from 1995 to 1999, and Associate General Counsel from 1985 to 1995, of Long John Silver's Restaurants, Inc.

Richard J. Walsh, age 52, has been our Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations since 1994. He joined General Mills, Inc., a manufacturer and marketer of consumer food products and our former parent company, in 1984 as Manager of Government Affairs for Red Lobster. He served as Vice President of Government and Community Relations for General Mills Restaurants, Inc. from 1987 until assuming his current position in December 1994.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain information included in this report and other materials filed or to be filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission (as well as information included in oral or written statements made by us or on our behalf), may contain forward-looking statements about our future performance, plans and objectives, long-term goals, forecasts of market trends and other matters. These statements may be contained in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in our press releases, in other written communications, and in oral statements made by or with the approval of one of our authorized officers. Words or phrases such as "believe," "plan," "will likely result," "expect," "intend," "will continue," "is anticipated," "estimate," "project" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements, and any other statements that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as codified in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended from time to time (the "Act"). These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to,

projections regarding: our growth plans and the number and type of expected new restaurant openings; same-restaurant sales growth for Red Lobster and Olive Garden; diluted net earnings per share growth in fiscal 2005; and expectations regarding when Bahama Breeze and Smokey Bones will become accretive to earnings.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

In connection with the "safe harbor" provisions of the Act, we are filing the following cautionary statements to identify important factors, risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those projected in forward-looking statements made by us, or on our behalf. These cautionary statements are to be used as a reference in connection with any forward-looking statements. The factors, risks and uncertainties identified in these cautionary statements are in addition to those contained in any other cautionary statements, written or oral, which may be made or otherwise addressed in connection with a forward-looking statement or contained in any of our subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Because of these factors, risks and uncertainties, we caution against placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Although we believe that the assumptions underlying our forward-looking statements are reasonable, any of the assumptions could be incorrect, and there can be no assurance that the forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which they are made. We do not undertake any obligation to modify or revise any forward-looking statement to take into account or otherwise reflect subsequent events, or circumstances arising after the date that the forward-looking statement was made.

The following factors, risks and uncertainties, have affected, and may continue to affect, our operating results and the environment within which we conduct our business. If our projections and estimates regarding these key factors differ materially from what actually occurs, our actual results could vary significantly from the performance projected in our forward-looking statements.

Competition. The casual dining sector of the restaurant industry is intensely competitive in pricing, service, location, personnel, and type and quality of food. We compete with national, regional and local organizations primarily through the quality, variety and value perception of menu items. The number and location of restaurants, type of concept, quality and efficiency of service, attractiveness of facilities and effectiveness of advertising and marketing programs are also important factors. We anticipate that intense competition will continue in all of these areas.

Economic, Market and Other Conditions. Certain risks are endemic to the restaurant and retail industry in general. A protracted economic slowdown or worsening economy, industry-wide cost pressures, or public safety conditions, including ongoing concerns about terrorism threats or the continuing armed conflict in Iraq, could affect consumer behavior and spending for restaurant dining occasions and lead to same-restaurant sales declines and lower profits. The casual dining sector of the restaurant industry is affected by changes in national, regional and local economic conditions; the seasonality of our business; consumer preferences, including changes in consumer tastes and the level of consumer acceptance of our restaurant concepts; consumer spending patterns; demographic trends; weather; traffic patterns; and the type, number and location of competing restaurants. Our ability to undertake new restaurant development, as well as improvements and additions to existing restaurants, is affected by economic conditions, including interest rates, and government policies impacting land and construction costs and the cost and availability of borrowed funds.

Price and Availability of Food, Labor, Utilities, Insurance and Media; Other Costs. Our profitability depends significantly on our ability to anticipate and react to changes in the price and availability of food; labor; utilities; insurance (including workers' compensation, general liability, health, and directors and officers' liability insurance); advertising, media and marketing; employee benefits; and other costs over which we may have little control. The price and availability of commodities, including, among other things, shrimp, lobster, crab and other seafood, are subject to fluctuation and

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

could increase or decrease more than we expect. Tariffs on imported shrimp or other commodities could increase our costs and possibly impact the supply of those goods. We are subject to the general risk of inflation and possible shortages or interruptions in supply caused by inclement weather or other conditions that could adversely affect the availability and cost of the items we buy. Restaurant pre-opening expenses could be more than expected, and labor shortages, increased employee turnover and higher minimum wage rates all could raise our cost of doing business. Our business also is subject to the risk of litigation by employees, consumers, suppliers, shareholders or others that may result in additional costs. There can be no assurance that management will be able to anticipate and react to these cost issues without a material adverse effect on our profitability and results of operations.

13

Unfavorable Publicity Relating to Food Safety or Other Concerns. Multi-unit restaurant businesses can be adversely affected by publicity resulting from complaints or litigation alleging poor food quality, food-borne illness, personal injury, adverse health effects including obesity, or other operational concerns. Negative publicity may also result from actual or alleged violations of dram shop laws that may impose liability on sellers of liquors when a third party is injured as a result of intoxication. Regardless of whether the allegations are valid, unfavorable publicity relating to just one or a limited number of restaurants could taint public perception of the entire brand. Such unfavorable publicity and overall consumer perceptions of food safety could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Importance of Locations. The success of our restaurants depends in large part on location. There can be no assurance that current locations will continue to be attractive, as demographic patterns change. Possible declines in neighborhoods where restaurants are located, or economic conditions surrounding those neighborhoods, could result in reduced sales in those locations.

Government Regulation and Litigation. We are subject to various federal, state and local laws affecting our business. The development and operation of restaurants depend to a significant extent on the selection and acquisition of suitable sites, which are subject to zoning, land use, environmental, traffic and other regulations. Restaurant operations are also subject to licensing and regulation by state and local departments relating to health, liquor licenses, sanitation and safety standards, federal and state labor laws (including the Fair Labor Standards Act and applicable minimum wage requirements, overtime, working and safety conditions, and citizenship requirements), federal and state laws which prohibit discrimination and other laws regulating the design and operation of facilities, such as the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. We cannot predict the effect on our operations of these laws and regulations, the future enactment of additional legislation regulating these and other areas, or actual or potential litigation in connection with current and future laws and regulations.

Growth Plans. There can be no assurance that we will be able to achieve our growth objectives or that new restaurants opened or acquired will be profitable. There are inherent risks involved with expanding new concepts (such as Bahama Breeze and Smokey Bones) that have not yet proved their long-term viability. The opening and success of restaurants depends on various factors, including the identification and availability of suitable and economically viable locations; sales levels at existing restaurants; the negotiation of acceptable lease or purchase terms for new locations; obtaining all required governmental permits, including zoning approvals and liquor licenses, on a timely basis; other regulatory compliance; the availability of necessary contracts and subcontractors and the ability to meet construction schedules; our ability to

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

manage union activities such as picketing, which could delay construction; the availability of capital at affordable cost to finance growth; changes in the weather or other acts of God that could result in construction delays and adversely affect the results of one or more restaurants for an indeterminate amount of time; our ability to hire and train qualified management personnel; and general economic and business conditions.

14

Item 2. PROPERTIES

As of May 30, 2004, we operated 1,325 restaurants (including 680 Red Lobster, 543 Olive Garden, 32 Bahama Breeze, 69 Smokey Bones and one Seasons 52 restaurants) in the following locations:

Alabama (21)	Iowa (14)	Nevada (12)	South Dakota (3)
Arizona (29)	Kansas (11)	New Hampshire (3)	Tennessee (31)
Arkansas (10)	Kentucky (16)	New Jersey (27)	Texas (108)
California (95)	Louisiana (9)	New Mexico (11)	Utah (13)
Colorado (25)	Maine (3)	New York (50)	Vermont (1)
Connecticut (9)	Maryland (22)	North Carolina (31)	Virginia (41)
Delaware (4)	Massachusetts (9)	North Dakota (4)	Washington (25)
Florida (138)	Michigan (52)	Ohio (80)	West Virginia (6)
Georgia (58)	Minnesota (24)	Oklahoma (17)	Wisconsin (20)
Hawaii (1)	Mississippi (7)	Oregon (12)	Wyoming (2)
Idaho (6)	Missouri (29)	Pennsylvania (66)	Canada (37)
Illinois (56)	Montana (2)	Rhode Island (2)	
Indiana (45)	Nebraska (8)	South Carolina (20)	

Of our 1,325 restaurants open on May 30, 2004, 816 were located on owned sites and 509 were located on leased sites. The 509 leases are classified as follows:

Land-Only Leases (we own buildings and equipment).....	391
Ground and Building Leases.....	61
Space/In-Line/Other Leases.....	57
	--
Total.....	509
	===

During fiscal 1999, we formed two subsidiary corporations, each of which elected to be taxed as a Real Estate Investment Trust ("REIT") under Sections 856 through 860 of the Internal Revenue Code. These elections limit the activities of both corporations to holding certain real estate assets. The formation of these two REITs is designed primarily to assist us in managing our real estate portfolio and possibly to provide a vehicle to access capital markets in the future.

Both REITs are non-public REITs. Through our subsidiary companies, we indirectly own 100 percent of all voting stock and greater than 99.5 percent of the total value of each REIT. For financial reporting purposes, both REITs are included in our consolidated financial statements.

We own or lease our executive offices, culinary center and training facilities in Orlando, Florida. Except in limited instances, our restaurant sites and other facilities are not subject to mortgages or encumbrances securing money borrowed by us from outside sources. In our opinion, our buildings and equipment generally are in good condition, suitable for their purposes and adequate for our current and foreseeable needs. See also Note 5, "Land, Buildings, and Equipment" and Note 12, "Leases" under Notes to Consolidated

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K/A.

Item 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In March 2003 and March 2002, three of our current and former hourly restaurant employees filed two purported class action lawsuits against us in California Superior Court of Orange County alleging violations of California labor laws with respect to providing meal and rest breaks. The lawsuits seek penalties under Department of Labor rules providing a \$100 penalty per violation per employee, plus attorney's fees on behalf of the plaintiffs and other purported class members. Discovery is currently underway in these matters. One of the cases was removed to our mandatory arbitration program, although the Court retained the authority to permit a sample of class-wide discovery. We are prosecuting an appeal to cause the other case to be similarly removed to arbitration. In September 2003, three former employees in Washington State filed a similar purported class action in Washington State Superior Court in Spokane County alleging violations of Washington labor laws with respect to providing rest breaks. The Court stayed the action, and ordered the plaintiffs into our mandatory arbitration program; the plaintiffs

15

have filed a motion for reconsideration. We intend to vigorously defend our position in all of these cases. Although the outcome of the cases cannot be ascertained at this time, we do not believe that the disposition of these cases, either individually or in the aggregate, would have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

We are subject to other private lawsuits, administrative proceedings and claims that arise in the ordinary course of our business. These matters typically involve claims from guests, employees and others related to operational issues common to the restaurant industry. A number of these lawsuits, proceedings and claims may exist at any given time. We could be affected by adverse publicity resulting from the allegations comprising a claim, regardless of whether the allegations are valid or whether we are ultimately found liable. From time to time, we also are involved in lawsuits related to infringement of, or challenges to, our trademarks. We do not believe that the final disposition of the lawsuits and claims in which we are currently involved will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

Item 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

Not applicable.

16

PART II

Item 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

The principal United States market on which our common shares are traded is the New York Stock Exchange. As of July 26, 2004, there were approximately 37,501 record holders of our common shares. The information concerning the dividends and high and low intraday sales prices for our common shares on the New York Stock Exchange for each full quarterly period during fiscal 2003 and

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

2004 contained in Note 19, "Quarterly Data (unaudited)" under Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8 of this Form 10-K/A. We have not sold any securities during the last three years that were not registered under the Securities Act of 1933.

The table below provides information concerning our repurchase of shares of our common stock during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004. Since commencing our repurchase program in December 1995, we have repurchased a total of 109,211,684 shares under authorizations from our Board of Directors to repurchase an aggregate of 115,400,000 shares.

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased (1)	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs
February 23, 2004 through March 28, 2004	1,166,697	\$24.83	1,166,697
March 29, 2004 through April 25, 2004	1,802,011	\$23.76	1,802,011
April 26, 2004 through May 30, 2004	1,450,000	\$21.91	1,450,000
Total	4,418,708	\$23.44	4,418,708

- (1) All of the shares purchased during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 were purchased as part of our repurchase program, the authority for which was most recently increased to an aggregate of 115.4 million shares by our Board of Directors on September 18, 2002, and announced publicly in a press release issued that same day. There is no expiration date for our program. The number of shares purchased includes shares withheld for taxes on vesting of restricted stock, and shares delivered or deemed to be delivered to us on tender of stock in payment for the exercise price of options. These shares are included as part of our repurchase program and deplete the repurchase authority granted by our Board. The number of shares purchased excludes shares we reacquired pursuant to tax withholding on option exercises or forfeiture of restricted stock.
- (2) Repurchases are subject to prevailing market prices, may be made in open market or private transactions, and may occur or be discontinued at any time. There can be no assurance that we will repurchase any shares.

Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following information has been restated to reflect adjustments to the Original Filing that are further discussed in "Explanatory Note" in the forepart of this Form 10-K/A and in Note 2, "Restatement of Financial Statements" under Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K/A. You should read the selected consolidated historical financial information set forth below along with Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and our restated audited consolidated financial statements included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K/A.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

17

Five-Year Financial Summary
(In thousands, except per share data)

	Fiscal Year Ended (as restated)			
	May 30, 2004 (1)	May 25, 2003	May 26, 2002	May 20
Operating Results				
Sales	\$5,003,355	\$4,654,971	\$4,366,911	\$3,9
Costs and expenses:				
Cost of sales:				
Food and beverage	1,526,875	1,449,162	1,384,481	1,3
Restaurant labor	1,601,258	1,485,046	1,373,416	1,2
Restaurant expenses (3)	774,806	713,699	636,575	5
Total cost of sales, excluding restaurant depreciation and amortization (2), (3)	\$3,902,939	\$3,647,907	\$3,394,472	\$3,1
Selling, general, and administrative	472,109	431,722	417,158	3
Depreciation and amortization	210,004	191,218	165,829	1
Interest, net	43,659	42,597	36,585	
Asset impairment and restructuring charges (credits), net	41,868	3,924	(2,568)	
Total costs and expenses (3)	\$4,670,579	\$4,317,368	\$4,011,476	\$3,6
Earnings before income taxes (3)	332,776	337,603	355,435	2
Income taxes (3)	105,603	111,624	122,664	1
Net earnings (3)	\$ 227,173	\$ 225,979	\$ 232,771	\$ 1
Net earnings per share:				
Basic (3)	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.33	\$
Diluted (3)	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.27	\$ 1.27	\$
Average number of common shares outstanding, net of shares held in Treasury:				
Basic	163,500	170,300	174,700	1
Diluted	169,700	177,400	183,500	1
Financial Position				
Total assets	\$2,780,348	\$2,664,633	\$2,529,736	\$2,2
Land, buildings, and equipment	2,250,616	2,157,132	1,926,947	1,7
Working capital (deficit)	(337,174)	(314,280)	(157,662)	(2
Long-term debt	653,349	658,086	662,506	5
Stockholders' equity (3)	1,175,288	1,130,055	1,069,606	9
Stockholders' equity per outstanding shares	7.42	6.85	6.21	
Other Statistics				
Cash flow from operations	\$ 525,411	\$ 508,635	\$ 508,101	\$ 4
Capital expenditures	354,326	423,273	318,392	3
Dividends paid	12,984	13,501	9,225	
Dividends paid per share	0.080	0.080	0.053	
Advertising expense	210,989	200,020	184,163	1

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Stock price:					
High		25.60		27.83	29.767
Low		17.80		16.46	15.400
Close	\$	22.50	\$	18.35	\$ 25.030
Number of employees		141,300		140,700	133,200
Number of restaurants		1,325		1,271	1,211
=====					

- (1) Fiscal year 2004 consisted of 53 weeks while all other fiscal years consisted of 52 weeks.
- (2) Total cost of sales, excluding restaurant depreciation and amortization of \$195,486, \$177,127, \$155,837, \$138,229, and \$123,477, respectively.
- (3) Amounts have been adjusted as a result of the Restatement.

18

Item 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

This discussion and analysis below for the Company should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes found elsewhere in this report. All applicable disclosures in the following discussion have been modified to reflect the Restatement, as described below.

For financial reporting, we operate on a 52/53 week fiscal year ending on the last Sunday in May. Our 2004 fiscal year, which ended on May 30, 2004, had 53 weeks. Our 2003 fiscal year, which ended on May 25, 2003, and our 2002 fiscal year, which ended on May 26, 2002, each had 52 weeks. We have included in this discussion certain financial information for fiscal 2004 on a 52-week basis in order to assist investors in making comparisons to our prior fiscal years.

RESTATEMENT

Following a December 2004 review of the accounting adjustments cited in several recent Form 8-K filings by other restaurant companies, and in consultation with our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG LLP, we determined that one of the adjustments in those filings relating to the treatment of lease accounting and leasehold depreciation applied to us, and that it was appropriate to adjust certain of our prior financial statements. As a result, we have restated our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years 1996 through 2004 and for the first quarter of fiscal 2005. Historically, when accounting for leases with renewal options, we recorded rent expense on a straight-line basis over the initial non-cancelable lease term, with the term commencing when actual rent payments began. We depreciate our buildings, leasehold improvements and other long-lived assets on those properties over a period that includes both the initial non-cancelable lease term and all option periods provided for in the lease (or the useful life of the assets, if shorter). We previously believed that these longstanding accounting treatments were appropriate under generally accepted accounting principles. We now have restated our financial statements to recognize rent expense on a straight-line basis over the expected lease term, including cancelable option periods where failure to exercise such options would result in an economic penalty. The lease term commences on the date when we become legally obligated for the rent payments. These adjustments were not attributable to any material non-compliance by us, as a result of any misconduct, with any financial reporting requirements under the securities laws. The Restatement is further discussed in the "Explanatory Note" in the forepart

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

of this Form 10-K/A and in Note 2, "Restatement of Financial Statements" under Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K/A.

The cumulative effect of the Restatement through fiscal 2004 is an increase in deferred rent liability of \$114 million and a decrease in deferred income tax liability of \$44 million. As a result, retained earnings at the end of fiscal 2004 decreased by \$70 million. Rent expense for fiscal years ended 2004, 2003 and 2002 increased by \$7 million, \$10 million, and \$8 million, respectively. The Restatement decreased reported diluted net earnings per share by \$0.02, \$0.04 and \$0.03 for the fiscal years ended 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively. The Restatement did not have any impact on our previously reported cash flows, sales or same-restaurant sales or on our compliance with any covenant under our credit facility or other debt instruments.

The impact of these adjustments on the consolidated statements of earnings for each of the three fiscal years from 2002 through 2004 is shown in the table below. Further information on the nature and impact of these adjustments is provided in Note 2, "Restatement of Financial Statements" under Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K/A.

19

Net Earnings Adjustments Related to the Restatement (in thousands, except per share data)

Fiscal Year 2004	As Previously Reported	Adjustments
Restaurant expenses	\$ 767,584	\$ 7,222
Total cost of sales	3,895,717	7,222
Total costs and expenses	4,663,357	7,222
Earnings before income taxes	339,998	(7,222)
Income taxes	108,536	(2,933)
Net earnings	231,462	(4,289)
Basic net earnings per share	1.42	(0.03)
Diluted net earnings per share	\$ 1.36	\$ (0.02)

Fiscal Year 2003	As Previously Reported	Adjustments
Restaurant expenses	\$ 703,554	\$ 10,145
Total cost of sales	3,637,762	10,145
Total costs and expenses	4,307,223	10,145
Earnings before income taxes	347,748	(10,145)
Income taxes	115,488	(3,864)
Net earnings	232,260	(6,281)
Basic net earnings per share	1.36	(0.03)
Diluted net earnings per share	\$ 1.31	\$ (0.04)

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Fiscal Year 2002	As Previously Reported	Adjustments
Restaurant expenses	\$ 628,701	\$ 7,874
Total cost of sales	3,386,598	7,874
Total costs and expenses	4,003,602	7,874
Earnings before income taxes	363,309	(7,874)
Income taxes	125,521	(2,857)
Net earnings	237,788	(5,017)
Basic net earnings per share	1.36	(0.03)
Diluted net earnings per share	\$ 1.30	\$ (0.03)

OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Our business operates in the casual dining segment of the restaurant industry, primarily in the United States. At May 30, 2004, we operated 1,325 Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill, and Seasons 52 restaurants in the United States and Canada and licensed 38 Red Lobster restaurants in Japan. We own and operate all of our restaurants in the United States and Canada, with no franchising.

Our sales were \$5.00 billion in fiscal 2004 and \$4.65 billion in fiscal 2003, a 7.5 percent increase. On a 52-week basis, after adjusting for the \$90 million of sales contributed by the additional 53rd operating week in fiscal 2004, total sales would have been \$4.91 billion for fiscal 2004, a 5.5 percent increase from fiscal 2003. Net earnings for fiscal 2004 were \$227 million (\$1.34 per diluted share) compared with net earnings for fiscal 2003 of \$226 million (\$1.27 per diluted share). Net earnings for fiscal 2004 increased 0.5 percent and diluted net earnings per share increased 5.5 percent compared to fiscal 2003. Although Red Lobster's string of 23 consecutive quarters of U.S. same-restaurant sales gains ended during fiscal 2004, Red Lobster has made progress in some important areas. Red Lobster improved its operating efficiency during fiscal 2004 through improvements in labor management and other cost controls, as well as implementing a less-disruptive promotional strategy in the second half of fiscal 2004, which resulted in higher operating profit than in fiscal 2003. Results from guest satisfaction surveys also improved as the fiscal year progressed. Red Lobster retained a new advertising agency in fiscal 2004 and is in the process of developing a marketing plan designed to achieve more sustainable benefits than have been obtained in prior years. Red Lobster also is developing new entree offerings in the \$10-\$15 price range to strengthen the value offered to its guests. Olive Garden's sales gains in fiscal 2004, combined with lower food and beverage costs, restaurant

20

expenses, and selling, general, and administrative expenses as a percent of sales, more than offset increased restaurant labor expenses as a percent of sales. This resulted in a double-digit increase in operating profit for Olive Garden during fiscal 2004 along with record annual operating profit and return on sales.

In fiscal 2005, we expect to increase our number of restaurants by approximately 50 to 60 restaurants. We expect combined same-restaurant sales growth in fiscal 2005 of between one percent and three percent for Red Lobster and Olive Garden. We believe we can achieve diluted net earnings per share growth in the range of 8 percent to 12 percent for fiscal 2005. In fiscal 2005, we also expect Bahama Breeze to be accretive to earnings, and Smokey Bones to remain dilutive to

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

earnings. However, we expect Smokey Bones to be accretive to earnings in the second half of fiscal 2005. As with same-restaurant sales growth, there can always be some quarter-to-quarter variability in operating results, where specific factors put us above or below the expected range of diluted net earnings per share growth. We believe our strong balance sheet and cash flows will be important factors in helping us reach our goals.

Our mission is to be the best in casual dining, now and for generations. To achieve this goal, we focus on four strategic imperatives: leadership excellence, brand management excellence, service and hospitality excellence, and culinary and beverage excellence.

From a financial perspective, we seek to increase sales and profits. To evaluate our operations and assess our financial performance, we use the following two key factors:

- o Same-restaurant sales - a year-over-year comparison of each period's sales volumes for restaurants that are open more than 16 months; and
- o Operating margins - restaurant sales less restaurant-level cost of sales (food and beverage costs, restaurant labor, and other restaurant expenses).

Increasing same-restaurant sales can increase operating margins, since these incremental sales provide better leverage of our fixed costs. Same-restaurant sales increases can be generated by increases in guest traffic, increases in the average guest check, or a combination of the two. The average guest check can be impacted by menu price changes and by the mix of menu items sold. For each concept, we gather sales data daily and regularly analyze the guest traffic counts and the mix of menu items sold to assist in developing menu pricing, product offerings, and promotional strategies. We view guest traffic counts as an indication of the long-term health of a concept, while increases in average check and menu mix may contribute more significantly to near-term profitability. We continually focus on balancing our pricing and product offerings with other initiatives to generate sustainable growth in same-restaurant sales.

Incremental same-restaurant sales increases make a significant contribution to our profitability. Many restaurant-level expenses are relatively fixed in nature and do not vary with sales volumes. Therefore, same-restaurant sales increases can improve our profitability. We define same-restaurants as restaurants that have been open at least 16 months. New restaurants experience an adjustment period before sales levels and operating margins normalize, and sales at newly opened restaurants generally do not make a significant contribution to profitability in their initial months of operation. Our sales and expenses can be impacted significantly by the number and timing of the opening of new restaurants, and the closing, relocation, and remodeling of existing restaurants. Pre-opening expenses each period reflect the costs associated with opening new restaurants in current and future periods.

There are significant risks and challenges that could impact our operations and ability to increase sales and earnings. The casual dining restaurant industry is highly competitive and sensitive to economic turns, trends in lifestyles and fluctuating costs. Operating margins for our concepts are susceptible to changes in the price of commodities, including seafood, beef, pork, chicken, cheese, produce, natural gas, and other energy supplies. Other risks and uncertainties include the price and availability of labor, insurance and media; possible unfavorable publicity relating to food safety or other concerns; government regulation and litigation; and factors that could impact our growth plans, including the availability of suitable restaurant locations, construction cost increases, construction delays, and other factors.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR FISCAL 2004, 2003 and 2002

The following table sets forth selected operating data as a percentage of sales for the 53-week period ended May 30, 2004 and the 52-week periods ended May 25, 2003 and May 26, 2002. All information is derived from the consolidated statements of earnings for the periods indicated.

	Fiscal Years	
	2004	2003
	(as restated)	(as restated)
Sales.....	100.0%	100.0%
Costs and expenses:		
Cost of sales:		
Food and beverage.....	30.5	31.1
Restaurant labor.....	32.0	31.9
Restaurant expenses.....	15.5	15.3
	-----	-----
Total cost of sales, excluding restaurant depreciation and amortization of 3.9%, 3.8%, and 3.6%, respectively.....	78.0%	78.3%
Selling, general, and administrative.....	9.4	9.3
Depreciation and amortization.....	4.2	4.1
Interest, net.....	0.9	0.9
Asset impairment and restructuring charges (credits), net..	0.9	0.1
	-----	-----
Total costs and expenses.....	93.4%	92.7%
	-----	-----
Earnings before income taxes.....	6.6	7.3
Income taxes.....	2.1	2.4
	-----	-----
Net earnings.....	4.5%	4.9%
	=====	=====

SALES

Sales were \$5.00 billion in fiscal 2004, \$4.65 billion in fiscal 2003, and \$4.37 billion in fiscal 2002. The 7.5% increase in company-wide sales for fiscal 2004 was primarily due to a net increase of 54 company-owned restaurants since fiscal 2003, same-restaurant sales increases at Olive Garden, and the additional operating week in fiscal 2004. These sales increases were partially offset by decreased same-restaurant sales at Red Lobster. After adjusting for \$90 million of sales contributed by the additional operating week, total sales would have been \$4.91 billion for fiscal 2004 on a 52-week basis, a 5.5 percent increase from fiscal 2003.

Red Lobster sales of \$2.44 billion were 0.1 percent above last year. U.S. same-restaurant sales for Red Lobster decreased 3.5 percent due to a 6.5 percent decrease in same-restaurant guest counts, offset partially by a 3.0 percent

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

increase in average check. Average annual sales per restaurant for Red Lobster were \$3.6 million in fiscal 2004 (on a 52-week basis).

Olive Garden sales of \$2.21 billion were 11.1 percent above last year. U.S. same-restaurant sales for Olive Garden increased 4.6 percent due to a 3.0 percent increase in average check and a 1.6 percent increase in same-restaurant guest counts. Average annual sales per restaurant for Olive Garden were \$4.1 million in fiscal 2004 (on a 52-week basis). Olive Garden has enjoyed 39 consecutive quarters of U.S. same-restaurant sales increases.

Bahama Breeze sales of \$176 million were 28 percent above last year. Bahama Breeze opened four new restaurants during fiscal 2004, including its new prototype restaurant in Pittsburgh, PA. Bahama Breeze also closed six restaurants during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 as a result of a comprehensive analysis performed during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 that examined restaurants not meeting our minimum return-on-investment thresholds and certain other operating performance criteria. Average annual sales per restaurant (excluding the six closed restaurants) were \$5.2 million (on a 52-week basis). Smokey Bones sales of \$174 million were 87 percent above last year. Average annual sales per restaurant were \$3.2 million (on a 52-week basis). Smokey Bones opened 30 new restaurants during fiscal 2004.

22

The 6.6 percent increase in company-wide sales for fiscal 2003 versus fiscal 2002 was primarily due to same-restaurant sales increases in the U.S. and a net increase of 60 company-owned restaurants since fiscal 2002. Red Lobster sales of \$2.43 billion were 4.1 percent above fiscal 2002. U.S. same-restaurant sales for Red Lobster increased 2.7 percent due to a 3.1 percent increase in average check, partially offset by a 0.4 percent decrease in same-restaurant guest counts. Average annual sales per restaurant for Red Lobster were \$3.7 million in fiscal 2003. Olive Garden sales of \$1.99 billion were 6.8 percent above fiscal 2002. U.S. same-restaurant sales for Olive Garden increased 2.2 percent due to a 3.7 percent increase in average check and a 1.5 percent decrease in same-restaurant guest counts. Average annual sales per restaurant for Olive Garden were \$3.9 million in fiscal 2003. Bahama Breeze opened five new restaurants during fiscal 2003 and generated sales that exceeded \$137 million. Smokey Bones opened 20 new restaurants during fiscal 2003 and generated sales of \$93 million.

COSTS AND EXPENSES

Total costs and expenses were \$4.67 billion in fiscal 2004, \$4.32 billion in fiscal 2003, and \$4.01 billion in fiscal 2002. Total costs and expenses in fiscal 2004 were 93.4 percent of sales, an increase from 92.7 percent of sales in fiscal 2003. The following analysis of the components of total costs and expenses is presented as a percent of sales.

Food and beverage costs increased \$78 million, or 5.4 percent, from \$1.45 billion to \$1.53 billion in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. Food and beverage costs increased \$65 million, or 4.7 percent, from \$1.38 billion to \$1.45 billion in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. As a percent of sales, food and beverage costs decreased from the prior year in fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2003 primarily as a result of pricing changes, and favorable changes in promotional and menu mix of sales, which was partially offset by higher seafood costs and by crab usage and additional plate accompaniments at Red Lobster during its crab promotion in the first quarter of fiscal 2004. Other commodity costs, such as chicken and shrimp, decreased modestly.

Restaurant labor increased \$116 million, or 7.8 percent, from \$1.49 billion to

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

\$1.60 billion in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. Restaurant labor increased \$112 million, or 8.1 percent, from \$1.37 billion to \$1.49 billion in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. As a percent of sales, restaurant labor increased in fiscal 2004 primarily as a result of a modest increase in wage rates at Red Lobster and Olive Garden, and higher manager bonuses at Olive Garden as a result of their increased operating performance in fiscal 2004. These factors were only partially offset by the favorable impact of higher sales volumes and lower health insurance costs as a result of fewer claims. As a percent of sales, restaurant labor increased in fiscal 2003 primarily as a result of a modest increase in wage rates, higher promotional staffing levels, and increased sales volatility, which made it more difficult to predict staffing needs. These factors were only partially offset by the favorable impact of higher sales volumes.

Restaurant expenses (which include lease, property tax, credit card, utility, workers' compensation, insurance, new restaurant pre-opening, and other restaurant-level operating expenses) increased \$61 million, or 8.6 percent, from \$714 million to \$775 million in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. Restaurant expenses increased \$77 million, or 12.1 percent, from \$637 million to \$714 million in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. As a percent of sales, restaurant expenses increased in fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2003 primarily due to increased utility, workers' compensation, insurance and new restaurant pre-opening costs. These cost increases were only partially offset by the favorable impact of higher sales volumes.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses increased \$40 million, or 9.4 percent, from \$432 million to \$472 million in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. Selling, general, and administrative expenses increased \$15 million, or 3.5 percent, from \$417 million to \$432 million in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. As a percent of sales, selling, general, and administrative expenses increased in fiscal 2004 primarily due to increased employee benefit costs, an increase in the amount contributed to the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation, and an increase in litigation related costs, which were only partially offset by the favorable impact of higher sales volumes. As a percent of sales, selling, general, and administrative expenses in fiscal 2003 were less than fiscal 2002 primarily as a result of decreased bonus costs and the favorable impact of higher sales volumes, which were partially offset by increased marketing expense incurred in response to the challenging economic and competitive environment.

Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$19 million, or 9.8 percent, from \$191 million to \$210 million in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$25 million, or 15.3 percent, from \$166 million to \$191 million in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. As a percent of sales, depreciation and amortization increased in fiscal 2004 and 2003 primarily as a result of new restaurant and remodel activities, which were only partially offset by the favorable impact of higher sales volumes.

23

Net interest expense increased \$1 million, or 2.5 percent, from \$43 million to \$44 million in fiscal 2004 compared to fiscal 2003. Net interest expense increased \$6 million, or 16.4 percent, from \$37 million to \$43 million in fiscal 2003 compared to fiscal 2002. As a percent of sales, net interest expense in fiscal 2004 was comparable to fiscal 2003, reflecting lower interest income in fiscal 2004, offset by the favorable impact of higher sales volumes. As a percent of sales, net interest expense in fiscal 2003 was comparable to fiscal 2002 primarily because increased interest expense associated with higher average debt levels in fiscal 2003 was offset by the favorable impact of higher sales volumes.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

After a comprehensive analysis performed during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004 that examined restaurants not meeting our minimum return-on-investment thresholds and other operating performance criteria, we recorded a \$36.5 million pre-tax (\$22.4 million after-tax) charge for long-lived asset impairments associated with the closing of six Bahama Breeze restaurants and the write-down of the carrying value of four other Bahama Breeze restaurants, one Olive Garden restaurant, and one Red Lobster restaurant, which continued to operate. We also recorded a \$1.1 million pre-tax (\$0.7 million after-tax) restructuring charge primarily related to severance payments made to certain restaurant employees and exit costs associated with the closing of the six Bahama Breeze restaurants. During fiscal 2004, certain changes were made at Bahama Breeze to improve its sales, financial performance, and overall long-term potential, including the addition of lunch at most restaurants and introduction of a new dinner menu. The decision to close certain Bahama Breeze restaurants and write down the carrying value of others was based on our on-going review of each individual restaurant's performance against our expectations and their ability to successfully implement these changes. Based on our review of the other 28 Bahama Breeze restaurants, we believe their locations and ability to execute these and future initiatives will minimize the likelihood that additional impairment charges will be required. The write-down of the carrying value of one Olive Garden restaurant and one Red Lobster restaurant was a result of less-than-optimal locations. We will continue to evaluate all of our locations to minimize the risk of future asset impairment charges. In addition to the fiscal 2004 fourth quarter action, we recognized asset impairment charges in the amount of \$5.7 million and \$4.9 million in fiscal 2004 and 2003, respectively, related to the relocation and rebuilding of certain restaurants. Asset impairment credits related to the sale of assets that were previously impaired amounted to \$1.4 million and \$0.6 million in fiscal 2004 and 2003, respectively. Pre-tax restructuring credits of \$0.4 million and \$2.6 million were recorded in fiscal 2003 and 2002, respectively. The credits resulted from lower than projected costs of lease terminations in connection with our fiscal 1997 restructuring. All fiscal 1997 restructuring actions were completed as of May 25, 2003.

INCOME TAXES

The effective income tax rates for fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002 were 31.7 percent, 33.1 percent, and 34.5 percent, respectively. The rate decrease in fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2003 was primarily a result of favorable resolutions of prior year tax matters and an increase in FICA tax credits for employee-reported tips.

NET EARNINGS AND NET EARNINGS PER SHARE

Net earnings for fiscal 2004 were \$227 million (\$1.34 per diluted share) compared with net earnings for fiscal 2003 of \$226 million (\$1.27 per diluted share) and net earnings for fiscal 2002 of \$233 million (\$1.27 per diluted share).

Net earnings for fiscal 2004 increased 0.5 percent and diluted net earnings per share increased 5.5 percent compared to fiscal 2003. The increase in net earnings was primarily due to decreases in food and beverage costs as a percent of sales, which were only partially offset by increases in restaurant labor, restaurant expenses, selling, general, and administrative expenses, and depreciation and amortization expense as a percent of sales. Net earnings were also impacted by the \$38 million pre-tax (\$23 million after-tax) asset impairment and restructuring charges recognized during fiscal 2004 related to the closing of six Bahama Breeze restaurants and write down of another four Bahama Breeze restaurants, one Olive Garden restaurant and one Red Lobster restaurant. The increase in diluted net earnings per share is primarily due to a reduction in the average diluted shares outstanding from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2004 because of our continuing repurchase of our common stock.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Net earnings for fiscal 2003 decreased 2.9 percent and diluted net earnings per share was comparable to fiscal 2002. The decrease in net earnings was primarily due to increases in restaurant labor, restaurant expenses, and depreciation and amortization expenses as a percent of sales, which were only partially offset by decreases in food and beverage costs and selling, general, and administrative costs as a percent of sales. Diluted net earnings per share for fiscal 2003 was comparable to fiscal 2002 due to a reduction in the average diluted shares outstanding from fiscal 2002 to fiscal 2003 because of our continuing repurchase of our common stock, which was offset by the decrease in net earnings in fiscal 2003.

24

SEASONALITY

Our sales volumes fluctuate seasonally. During fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, our sales were highest in the spring, lowest in the fall, and comparable during winter and summer. Holidays, severe weather, and similar conditions may impact sales volumes seasonally in some operating regions. Because of the seasonality of our business, results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be achieved for the full fiscal year.

IMPACT OF INFLATION

We do not believe inflation had a significant overall effect on our operations during fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002. We believe we have historically been able to pass on increased operating costs through menu price increases and other strategies.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

We prepare our consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of sales and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Critical accounting policies are those we believe are both most important to the portrayal of our financial condition and operating results, and require our most difficult, subjective or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Judgments and uncertainties affecting the application of those policies may result in materially different amounts being reported under different conditions or using different assumptions. We consider the following policies to be most critical in understanding the judgments that are involved in preparing our consolidated financial statements.

Land, Buildings, and Equipment

Land, buildings, and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Building components are depreciated over estimated useful lives ranging from seven to 40 years using the straight-line method. Leasehold improvements, which are reflected on our consolidated balance sheets as a component of buildings, are amortized over the lesser of the expected lease term, including cancelable option periods, or the estimated useful lives of the related assets using the straight-line method. Equipment is depreciated over estimated useful lives ranging from two to 10 years, also using the straight-line method. Accelerated depreciation methods are generally used for

income tax purposes.

Our accounting policies regarding land, buildings, and equipment, including leasehold improvements, include our judgments regarding the estimated useful lives of these assets, the residual values to which the assets are depreciated or amortized, and the determination as to what constitutes enhancing the value of or increasing the life of existing assets. These judgments and estimates may produce materially different amounts of reported depreciation and amortization expense if different assumptions were used. As discussed further below, these judgments may also impact our need to recognize an impairment charge on the carrying amount of these assets as the cash flows associated with the assets are realized.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

Land, buildings, and equipment and certain other assets, including capitalized software costs and liquor licenses, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of the assets to the future undiscounted net cash flows expected to be generated by the assets. Identifiable cash flows are measured at the lowest level for which they are largely independent of the cash flows of other groups of assets and liabilities, generally at the restaurant level. If these assets are determined to be impaired, the impairment recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds their fair value. Fair value is generally determined based on appraisals or sales prices of comparable assets. Restaurant sites

25

and certain other assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of their carrying amount or fair value, less estimated costs to sell. Restaurant sites and certain other assets to be disposed of are included in assets held for disposal when certain criteria are met. These criteria include the requirement that the likelihood of disposing of these assets within one year is probable. Those assets whose disposal is not probable within one year remain in land, buildings, and equipment until their disposal is probable within one year.

The judgments we make related to the expected useful lives of long-lived assets and our ability to realize undiscounted cash flows in excess of the carrying amounts of these assets are affected by factors such as the ongoing maintenance and improvements of the assets, changes in economic conditions, and changes in usage or operating performance. As we assess the ongoing expected cash flows and carrying amounts of our long-lived assets, significant adverse changes in these factors could cause us to realize a material impairment charge. In fiscal 2004, we recognized asset impairment charges of \$37 million (\$22 million after-tax) for the closing of six Bahama Breeze restaurants and the write-down of four other Bahama Breeze restaurants, one Olive Garden restaurant, and one Red Lobster restaurant based on an evaluation of expected cash flows.

Self-Insurance Accruals

We self-insure a significant portion of expected losses under our workers' compensation, employee medical, and general liability programs. Accrued liabilities have been recorded based on our estimates of the ultimate costs to settle incurred claims, both reported and not yet reported.

Our accounting policies regarding self-insurance programs include our judgments and independent actuarial assumptions regarding economic conditions, the frequency or severity of claims and claim development patterns, and claim

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

reserve, management, and settlement practices. Unanticipated changes in these factors may produce materially different amounts of reported expense under these programs.

Income Taxes

We estimate certain components of our provision for income taxes. These estimates include, among other items, depreciation and amortization expense allowable for tax purposes, allowable tax credits for items such as taxes paid on reported employee tip income, effective rates for state and local income taxes, and the tax deductibility of certain other items.

Our estimates are based on the best available information at the time that we prepare the provision. We generally file our annual income tax returns several months after our fiscal year-end. Income tax returns are subject to audit by federal, state, and local governments, generally years after the returns are filed. These returns could be subject to material adjustments or differing interpretations of the tax laws.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash flows generated from operating activities provide us with a significant source of liquidity. Since substantially all our sales are for cash and cash equivalents, and accounts payable are generally due in five to 30 days, we are able to carry current liabilities in excess of current assets. In addition to cash flows from operations, we use a combination of long-term and short-term borrowings to fund our capital needs.

We manage our business and our financial ratios to maintain an investment grade bond rating, which allows flexible access to financing at reasonable costs. Currently, our publicly issued long-term debt carries "Baa1" (Moody's Investors Service), "BBB+" (Standard & Poor's) and "BBB+" (Fitch) ratings. Our commercial paper has ratings of "P-2" (Moody's Investors Service), "A-2" (Standard & Poor's) and "F-2" (Fitch). These ratings are as of the date of this annual report and have been obtained with the understanding that Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch will continue to monitor our credit and make future adjustments to these ratings to the extent warranted. The ratings may be changed, superseded, or withdrawn at any time.

Our commercial paper program serves as our primary source of short-term financing. At May 30, 2004, \$15 million was outstanding under the program. To support our commercial paper program, we have a credit facility under a Credit Agreement dated October 17, 2003, as amended, with a consortium of banks, including Wachovia Bank, N.A., as administrative agent, under which we can borrow up to \$400 million. The credit facility allows us to borrow at interest rates based on a spread over (i) LIBOR or (ii) a base rate that is the higher of the prime rate, or one-half of one percent above the federal funds rate, at our option. The interest rate spread over LIBOR is determined by our debt rating. The credit facility expires on October 17, 2008, and contains various restrictive

covenants, including a leverage test that requires us to maintain a ratio of consolidated total debt to consolidated total capitalization of less than 0.55 to 1.00 and a limitation of \$25 million on priority debt, subject to certain exceptions. The credit facility does not, however, contain a prohibition on borrowing in the event of a ratings downgrade or a material adverse change in and of itself. None of these covenants are expected to impact our liquidity or capital resources. At May 30, 2004, we were in compliance with all covenants under the Credit Agreement.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

At May 30, 2004, our long-term debt consisted principally of: (1) \$150 million of unsecured 8.375 percent senior notes due in September 2005, (2) \$150 million of unsecured 6.375 percent notes due in February 2006, (3) \$150 million of unsecured 5.75 percent medium-term notes due in March 2007, (4) \$75 million of unsecured 7.45 percent medium-term notes due in April 2011, (5) \$100 million of unsecured 7.125 percent debentures due in February 2016, and (6) an unsecured, variable rate, \$29 million commercial bank loan due in December 2018 that supports two loans from us to the Employee Stock Ownership Plan portion of the Darden Savings Plan. Through a shelf registration on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), we may issue up to an additional \$125 million of unsecured debt securities from time to time. The debt securities may bear interest at either fixed or floating rates, and may have maturity dates of nine months or more after issuance.

A summary of our contractual obligations and commercial commitments at May 30, 2004, is as follows (in thousands):

Contractual Obligations	Payments Due by Period			
	Total	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Short-term debt	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ --	\$ --
Long-term debt (1)	654,403	--	450,000	--
Operating leases	373,699	62,070	108,218	80,009
Purchase obligations (2)	670,019	575,836	94,183	--
Total contractual cash obligations	\$ 1,712,621	\$ 652,406	\$ 652,401	\$80,009

Other Commercial Commitments	Amount of Commitment Expiration per Period			
	Total Amounts Committed	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
Trade letters of credit	\$ 242	\$ 242	\$ --	\$ --
Standby letters of credit (3)	88,376	88,376	--	--
Guarantees (4)	4,346	796	1,488	1,147
Other	2,125	750	1,375	--
Total commercial				

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Adjusted total capital \$2,196

=====

CAPITAL STRUCTURE RATIOS

Debt to total capital ratio	36%
Adjusted debt to adjusted total capital ratio	46%

=====

Net cash flows used in financing activities included our repurchase of 10.7 million shares of our common stock for \$235 million in fiscal 2004, compared to 10.7 million shares for \$213 million in fiscal 2003, and 9.0 million shares for \$209 million in fiscal 2002. Our Board of Directors has authorized us to repurchase up to 115.4 million shares of our common stock. At May 30, 2004, a total of 109.2 million shares have been repurchased under the authorization. The repurchased common stock is reflected as a reduction of stockholders' equity. Net cash flows used in financing activities also included dividends paid to stockholders of \$13 million, \$14 million, and \$9 million in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively.

Net cash flows used in investing activities included capital expenditures incurred principally for building new restaurants, replacing equipment, and remodeling existing restaurants. Capital expenditures were \$354 million in fiscal 2004, compared to \$423 million in fiscal 2003, and \$318 million in fiscal 2002. The decreased expenditures in fiscal 2004 resulted primarily from decreased spending associated with building fewer new restaurants and fewer remodels. The increased expenditures in fiscal 2003 resulted primarily from increased spending associated with building more new restaurants and replacing equipment. We estimate that our fiscal 2005 capital expenditures will approximate \$360 million.

Net cash flows provided by operating activities for fiscal 2003 included a \$20 million contribution to our defined benefit pension plans, which enabled the plans to maintain a fully funded status as of the plans' February 28, 2003 annual valuation date. Less than \$0.1 million was required to fund our defined benefit pension plans in fiscal 2004 and fiscal 2002. Our defined benefit and other postretirement benefit costs and liabilities are calculated using various actuarial assumptions and methodologies prescribed under the Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 87, "Employers' Accounting for Pensions" and No. 106, "Employers' Accounting for Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pensions". We use certain assumptions including, but not limited to, the selection of a discount rate, expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, and expected health care cost trend rates. We set the discount rate assumption annually for each plan at its valuation date to reflect the yield of high quality fixed-income debt instruments, with lives that approximate the maturity of the plan benefits. At May 30, 2004, our discount rate was 6.0 percent. The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets

and health care cost trend rates are based upon several factors, including our historical assumptions compared with actual results, an analysis of current market conditions, asset allocations, and the views of leading financial advisers and economists. Based on our analysis during fiscal 2003, we lowered our defined benefit plans' expected long-term rate of return on plan assets for fiscal 2004 from 10.4 percent to 9.0 percent. The change in our defined benefit plans' expected long-term rate of return on plan assets decreased earnings before income taxes by approximately \$2 million in fiscal 2004. At May 30, 2004, our expected health care cost trend rates ranged from 11.0 percent to 12.0 percent for fiscal 2005, depending on the medical service category. The rates

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

gradually decrease to 5.0 percent through fiscal 2010 and remain at that level thereafter.

The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets component of our net periodic benefit cost is calculated based on the market-related value of plan assets. Our target asset allocation is 35 percent U.S. equities, 30 percent high-quality, long-duration fixed-income securities, 15 percent international equities, 10 percent private equities, and 10 percent real assets. We monitor our actual asset allocation to ensure that it approximates our target allocation and believe that our long-term asset allocation will continue to approximate our target allocation. Our historical ten-year rate of return on plan assets, calculated using the geometric method average of returns, is approximately 10.5 percent as of May 30, 2004.

We have an unrecognized net actuarial loss for the defined benefit plans and postretirement benefit plan as of May 30, 2004, of \$62 million and \$6 million, respectively. The unrecognized net actuarial loss represents changes in the amount of the projected benefit obligation and plan assets resulting from differences in the assumptions used and actual experience. The amortization of the unrecognized net actuarial loss component of our fiscal 2005 net periodic benefit cost for the defined benefit plans and postretirement benefit plan is expected to be approximately \$5 million and \$0.3 million, respectively.

We believe our defined benefit and postretirement benefit plan assumptions are appropriate based upon the factors discussed above. However, other assumptions could also be reasonably applied that could differ from the assumptions used. A quarter percentage point change in the defined benefit plans' discount rate and the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets would increase or decrease earnings before income taxes by \$0.8 million and \$0.4 million, respectively. A quarter percentage point change in our postretirement benefit plan discount rate would increase or decrease earnings before income taxes by \$0.1 million. A one percentage point increase in the health care cost trend rates would have increased the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO) by \$4 million at May 30, 2004, and the aggregate of the service cost and interest cost components of net periodic postretirement benefit cost by \$0.3 million for fiscal 2004. A one percentage point decrease in the health care cost trend rates would have decreased the APBO by \$3 million at May 30, 2004, and the aggregate of the service cost and interest cost components of net periodic postretirement benefit cost by \$0.3 million for fiscal 2004. These changes in assumptions would not significantly impact our funding requirements.

We are not aware of any trends or events that would materially affect our capital requirements or liquidity. We believe that our internal cash-generating capabilities, borrowings available under our shelf registration for unsecured debt securities, and short-term commercial paper program should be sufficient to finance our capital expenditures, stock repurchase program, and other operating activities through fiscal 2005.

OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

We are not a party to any off-balance sheet arrangements that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future material effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures, or capital resources.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

Our current assets totaled \$346 million at May 30, 2004, compared to \$326 million at May 25, 2003. The increase resulted primarily from increases in inventories of \$25 million that resulted from opportunistic product purchases made during fiscal 2004.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Our current liabilities were \$683 million at May 30, 2004, compared to \$640 million at May 25, 2003. At May 30, 2004, \$15 million of short-term debt was outstanding under our commercial paper program, which was used to fund current operations and capital expenditures. Accrued payroll of \$103 million at May 30, 2004, increased from \$86 million at May 25, 2003, principally due to higher incentive compensation earned in fiscal 2004. Other current liabilities of \$228 million at May 30, 2004, increased from \$202 million at May 25, 2003, principally due to a \$19

29

million increase in liabilities associated with our non-qualified deferred compensation plan and a \$7 million increase in sales tax payable as a result of higher fourth quarter sales in fiscal 2004. Accrued income taxes of \$49 million at May 30, 2004, decreased from \$68 million at May 25, 2003, principally due to timing of income tax payments made and changes in temporary differences included in the deferred tax balances associated with current income tax deductions for certain land, buildings, and equipment. The \$19 million decrease in accrued income taxes is offset by the related increase in net non-current deferred income tax liabilities at May 30, 2004.

QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to a variety of market risks, including fluctuations in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, and commodity prices. To manage this exposure, we periodically enter into interest rate, foreign currency exchange, and commodity instruments for other than trading purposes (see Notes 1 and 8 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

We use the variance/covariance method to measure value at risk, over time horizons ranging from one week to one year, at the 95 percent confidence level. At May 30, 2004, our potential losses in future net earnings resulting from changes in foreign currency exchange rate instruments, commodity instruments, and floating rate debt interest rate exposures were approximately \$2 million over a period of one year (including the impact of the interest rate swap agreements discussed in Note 8 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements). The value at risk from an increase in the fair value of all of our long-term fixed rate debt, over a period of one year, was approximately \$22 million. The fair value of our long-term fixed rate debt during fiscal 2004 averaged \$690 million, with a high of \$714 million and a low of \$669 million. Our interest rate risk management objective is to limit the impact of interest rate changes on earnings and cash flows by targeting an appropriate mix of variable and fixed rate debt.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements included in this report and other materials filed or to be filed by us with the SEC (as well as information included in oral or written statements made or to be made by us) may contain statements that are forward-looking within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). Words or phrases such as "believe," "plan," "will," "expect," "intend," "estimate," and "project," and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All of these statements, and any other statements in this report that are not historical facts, are forward-looking. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, projections regarding: our growth plans and the number and type of expected new restaurant openings; same-restaurant sales growth for Red Lobster and Olive Garden; diluted net earnings per share growth in fiscal 2005; and expectations regarding when Bahama Breeze and Smokey Bones will become accretive to earnings. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

concerning important factors, risks, and uncertainties that could significantly affect anticipated results in the future and, accordingly, could cause the actual results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements. These factors, risks, and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

- o the highly competitive nature of the restaurant industry, especially pricing, service, location, personnel, and type and quality of food;
- o economic, market, and other conditions, including a protracted economic slowdown or worsening economy, industry-wide cost pressures, public safety conditions (including ongoing concerns about terrorism threats or the continuing conflict in Iraq), weak consumer demand, changes in consumer preferences, demographic trends, weather conditions, construction costs, and the cost and availability of borrowed funds;
- o the price and availability of food, labor, utilities, insurance and media, and other costs, including seafood costs, employee benefits, workers' compensation insurance, litigation costs, and the general impact of inflation;
- o unfavorable publicity relating to food safety or other concerns, including litigation alleging poor food quality, food-borne illness, or personal injury;
- o the availability of desirable restaurant locations;
- o government regulations and litigation relating to federal and state labor laws, zoning, land use, environmental matters, and liquor licenses; and
- o growth plans, including real estate development and construction activities, the issuance and renewal of licenses and permits for restaurant development, and the availability of funds to finance growth.

30

Item 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The text under the heading "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" is contained within "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" included in Item 7 of this Form 10-K/A.

Item 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

REPORT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The management of Darden Restaurants, Inc. is responsible for the fairness and accuracy of the consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, using management's best estimates and judgments where appropriate. The financial information throughout this report is consistent with our consolidated financial statements.

Management has established a system of internal controls that provides reasonable assurance that assets are adequately safeguarded, and transactions are recorded accurately, in all material respects, in accordance with management's authorization. We maintain a strong audit program that independently evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls. Our internal controls provide for appropriate segregation of duties and responsibilities, and there are documented policies regarding utilization of our assets and proper financial reporting. These formally stated and regularly communicated policies set high standards of ethical conduct for all employees.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors meets at least quarterly to determine that management, internal auditors, and the independent registered

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

public accounting firm are properly discharging their duties regarding internal control and financial reporting. The independent registered public accounting firm, internal auditors, and employees have full and free access to the Audit Committee at any time.

KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, is retained to audit our consolidated financial statements. Their report follows.

/s/ Clarence Otis, Jr.
Clarence Otis, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

31

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Stockholders
Darden Restaurants, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Darden Restaurants, Inc. and subsidiaries as of May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, changes in stockholders' equity and accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended May 30, 2004. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Darden Restaurants, Inc. and subsidiaries as of May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended May 30, 2004, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 2 of the consolidated financial statements, the consolidated financial statements for all periods presented have been restated.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Tampa, Florida
June 18, 2004, except as to
Note 2, which is as of
December 30, 2004

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS

	Fiscal Year Ended	
(In thousands, except per share data)	May 30, 2004	May 25, 2003
	(as restated)	(as restated)
Sales	\$5,003,355	\$4,654,971
Costs and expenses:		
Cost of sales:		
Food and beverage	1,526,875	1,449,162
Restaurant labor	1,601,258	1,485,046
Restaurant expenses	774,806	713,699
Total cost of sales, excluding restaurant depreciation and amortization of \$195,486, \$177,127, and \$155,837, respectively	\$3,902,939	\$3,647,907
Selling, general, and administrative	472,109	431,722
Depreciation and amortization	210,004	191,218
Interest, net	43,659	42,597
Asset impairment and restructuring charges (credits), net	41,868	3,924
Total costs and expenses	\$4,670,579	\$4,317,368
Earnings before income taxes	332,776	337,603
Income taxes	105,603	111,624
Net earnings	\$ 227,173	\$ 225,979
Net earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.33
Diluted	\$ 1.34	1.27
Average number of common shares outstanding:		
Basic	163,500	170,300
Diluted	169,700	177,400

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

(In thousands)	May 30, 2004	Ma
ASSETS	(as restated)	(a
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 36,694	\$
Receivables	30,258	
Inventories	198,781	
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	25,316	
Deferred income taxes	55,258	
Total current assets	\$ 346,307	\$
Land, buildings, and equipment	2,250,616	
Other assets	183,425	
Total assets	\$ 2,780,348	\$
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 174,624	\$
Short-term debt	14,500	
Accrued payroll	103,327	
Accrued income taxes	48,753	
Other accrued taxes	38,440	
Unearned revenues	75,513	
Other current liabilities	228,324	
Total current liabilities	\$ 683,481	\$
Long-term debt	653,349	
Deferred income taxes	132,690	
Deferred rent	122,879	
Other liabilities	12,661	
Total liabilities	\$ 1,605,060	\$
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock and surplus, no par value. Authorized 500,000 shares; issued 264,907 and 261,463 shares, respectively; outstanding 158,431 and 164,950 shares, respectively	\$ 1,584,115	\$
Preferred stock, no par value. Authorized 25,000 shares; none issued and outstanding	--	
Retained earnings	1,127,653	
Treasury stock, 106,476 and 96,513 shares, at cost, respectively	(1,483,768)	
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(10,173)	
Unearned compensation	(41,401)	
Officer notes receivable	(1,138)	
Total stockholders' equity	\$ 1,175,288	\$
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 2,780,348	\$

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY AND
ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

(In thousands, except per share data)	Common Stock and Surplus	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	U
Balance at May 27, 2001 (as previously reported)	\$1,405,799	\$532,121	\$ (840,254)	\$(13,102)	\$ (
Restatement adjustments	--	(54,681)	--	317	
Balance at May 27, 2001 (as restated)	1,405,799	477,440	(840,254)	(12,785)	(
Comprehensive income:					
Net earnings (as restated)	--	232,771	--	--	
Other comprehensive income (loss):					
Foreign currency adjustment (as restated)	--	--	--	279	
Change in fair value of derivatives, net of tax of \$234	--	--	--	380	
Minimum pension liability adjustment, net of tax benefit of \$177	--	--	--	(288)	
Total comprehensive income (as restated)					
Cash dividends declared (\$0.053 per share)	--	(9,225)	--	--	
Stock option exercises (4,310 shares)	34,742	--	1,364	--	
Issuance of restricted stock (438 shares), net of forfeiture adjustments	5,666	--	815	--	
Earned compensation	--	--	--	--	
ESOP note receivable repayments	--	--	--	--	
Income tax benefits credited to equity	24,989	--	--	--	
Purchases of common stock for treasury (8,972 shares)	--	--	(208,578)	--	
Issuance of treasury stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan and other plans (290 shares)	2,858	--	1,738	--	
Issuance of officer notes, net	--	--	--	--	
Balance at May 26, 2002 (as restated)	\$1,474,054	\$700,986	\$(1,044,915)	\$(12,414)	\$ (
Comprehensive income:					
Net earnings (as restated)	--	225,979	--	--	
Other comprehensive income (loss):					
Foreign currency adjustment (as restated)	--	--	--	1,995	
Change in fair value of derivatives, net of tax of \$0	--	--	--	2	
Minimum pension liability adjustment, net of tax benefit of \$141	--	--	--	(229)	
Total comprehensive income (as restated)					
Cash dividends declared (\$0.080 per share)	--	(13,501)	--	--	
Stock option exercises (3,133 shares)	27,261	--	1,652	--	
Issuance of restricted stock (148 shares), net of forfeiture adjustments	4,429	--	600	--	

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Earned compensation	--	--	--	--
ESOP note receivable repayments	--	--	--	--
Income tax benefits credited to equity	16,385	--	--	--
Purchases of common stock for treasury (10,746 shares)	--	--	(213,311)	--
Issuance of treasury stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan and other plans (280 shares)	3,828	--	1,681	--
Issuance of officer notes, net	--	--	--	--

Balance at May 25, 2003 (as restated)	\$1,525,957	\$913,464	\$(1,254,293)	\$(10,646)

Comprehensive income:				
Net earnings (as restated)	--	227,173	--	--
Other comprehensive income (loss):				
Foreign currency adjustment (as restated)	--	--	--	337
Change in fair value of derivatives, net of tax of \$51	--	--	--	205
Minimum pension liability adjustment, net of tax benefit of \$45	--	--	--	(69)
Total comprehensive income (as restated)				
Cash dividends declared (\$0.080 per share)	--	(12,984)	--	--
Stock option exercises (3,464 shares)	30,972	--	3,685	--
Issuance of restricted stock (409 shares), net of forfeiture adjustments	7,605	--	173	--
Earned compensation	--	--	--	--
ESOP note receivable repayments	--	--	--	--
Income tax benefits credited to equity	15,650	--	--	--
Purchases of common stock for treasury (10,749 shares)	--	--	(235,462)	--
Issuance of treasury stock under Employee Stock Purchase Plan and other plans (357 shares)	3,931	--	2,129	--
Issuance of officer notes, net	--	--	--	--

Balance at May 30, 2004 (as restated)	\$1,584,115	\$1,127,653	\$(1,483,768)	\$(10,173)
=====				

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

35

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In thousands)	Fiscal Year Ended	
	May 30, 2004	May 25, 2003
	(as restated)	(as restated)
Cash flows - operating activities		
Net earnings	\$ 227,173	\$ 225,979
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to cash flows:		
Depreciation and amortization	210,004	191,218
Asset impairment charges, net	40,756	4,282

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Restructuring charge (credit)	1,112	(358)
Amortization of unearned compensation and loan costs	7,599	6,901
Change in current assets and liabilities	2,207	36,046
Contribution to defined benefit pension plans and postretirement plan	(257)	(20,203)
Loss on disposal of land, buildings, and equipment	104	2,456
Change in cash surrender value of trust-owned life insurance	(6,106)	2,441
Deferred income taxes	16,688	32,026
Change in deferred rent	7,583	10,098
Change in other liabilities	1,490	1,051
Income tax benefits credited to equity	15,650	16,385
Non-cash compensation expense	861	758
Other, net	547	(445)

Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 525,411	\$ 508,635

Cash flows - investing activities		
Purchases of land, buildings, and equipment	(354,326)	(423,273)
Increase in other assets	(5,128)	(8,100)
Purchase of trust-owned life insurance	--	(6,000)
Proceeds from disposal of land, buildings, and equipment	16,197	7,641
Proceeds from maturities of (purchases of) short-term investments	--	10,000

Net cash used in investing activities	\$ (343,257)	\$ (419,732)

Cash flows - financing activities		
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	39,856	33,664
Dividends paid	(12,984)	(13,501)
Purchases of treasury stock	(235,462)	(213,311)
ESOP note receivable repayments	5,027	4,710
Increase (decrease) in short-term debt	14,500	--
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt	--	--
Repayment of long-term debt	(5,027)	(4,710)
Payment of loan costs	--	--

Net cash used in financing activities	\$ (194,090)	\$ (193,148)

(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(11,936)	(104,245)
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	48,630	152,875

Cash and cash equivalents - end of year	\$ 36,694	\$ 48,630
=====		
Cash flows from changes in current assets and liabilities		
Receivables	(279)	66
Inventories	(25,137)	(1,231)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(190)	(8,523)
Accounts payable	(1,027)	15,927
Accrued payroll	17,352	(1,961)
Accrued income taxes	(19,222)	(529)
Other accrued taxes	3,371	4,595
Unearned revenues	2,815	16,066
Other current liabilities	24,524	11,636

Change in current assets and liabilities	\$ 2,207	\$ 36,046
=====		

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Dollar amounts in thousands, except per share data)

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Operations and Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the operations of Darden Restaurants, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiaries. We own and operate various restaurant concepts located in the United States and Canada, with no franchising. We also license 38 restaurants in Japan. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Fiscal Year

Our fiscal year ends on the last Sunday in May. Fiscal 2004 consisted of 53 weeks of operation. Fiscal 2003 and 2002 both consisted of 52 weeks of operation.

Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents include highly liquid investments such as U.S. treasury bills, taxable municipal bonds, and money market funds that have a maturity of three months or less. Amounts receivable from credit card companies are also considered cash equivalents because they are both short-term and highly liquid in nature and are typically converted to cash within three days of the sales transaction.

Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of weighted-average cost or market.

Land, Buildings, and Equipment

Land, buildings, and equipment are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Building components are depreciated over estimated useful lives ranging from seven to 40 years using the straight-line method. Leasehold improvements, which are a component of buildings, are amortized over the lesser of the expected lease term, including cancelable option periods, or the estimated useful lives of the related assets using the straight-line method. Equipment is depreciated over estimated useful lives ranging from two to ten years also using the straight-line method. Accelerated depreciation methods are generally used for income tax purposes. Depreciation and amortization expense associated with land, buildings, and equipment amounted to \$203,349, \$184,963 and \$162,784, in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively. In fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, we had losses on disposal of land, buildings, and equipment of \$104, \$2,456, and \$1,803, respectively, which were included in selling, general, and administrative expenses.

Capitalized Software Costs

Capitalized software, which is a component of other assets, is recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Capitalized software is amortized using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives ranging from three to ten years. The cost of capitalized software at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, amounted to \$46,629 and \$44,018, respectively. Accumulated amortization as of May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, amounted to \$14,301 and \$9,963, respectively. Amortization expense associated with capitalized software amounted to \$6,655, \$6,255, and \$3,045, in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively.

Trust-Owned Life Insurance

In August 2001, we caused a trust that we previously had established to purchase life insurance policies covering certain of our officers and other key employees (trust-owned life insurance or TOLI). The trust is the owner and sole

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

beneficiary of the TOLI policies. The policies were purchased to offset a portion of our obligations under our non-qualified deferred compensation plan. The cash surrender value of the policies is included in other assets while changes in cash surrender value are included in selling, general, and administrative expenses.

Liquor Licenses

The costs of obtaining non-transferable liquor licenses that are directly issued by local government agencies for nominal fees are expensed as incurred. The costs of purchasing transferable liquor licenses through open markets in jurisdictions with a limited number of authorized liquor licenses are capitalized. Annual liquor license renewal fees are expensed.

37

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

Land, buildings, and equipment and certain other assets, including capitalized software costs and liquor licenses, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of the assets to the future undiscounted net cash flows expected to be generated by the assets. Identifiable cash flows are measured at the lowest level for which they are largely independent of the cash flows of other groups of assets and liabilities, generally at the restaurant level. If such assets are determined to be impaired, the impairment recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds their fair value. Fair value is generally determined based on appraisals or sales prices of comparable assets. Restaurant sites and certain other assets to be disposed of are reported at the lower of their carrying amount or fair value, less estimated costs to sell. Restaurant sites and certain other assets to be disposed of are included in assets held for disposal when certain criteria are met. These criteria include the requirement that the likelihood of disposing of these assets within one year is probable. Those assets whose disposal is not probable within one year remain in land, buildings, and equipment until their disposal is probable within one year.

Self-Insurance Accruals

We self-insure a significant portion of expected losses under our workers' compensation, employee medical, and general liability programs. Accrued liabilities have been recorded based on our estimates of the ultimate costs to settle incurred claims, both reported and unreported.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue from restaurant sales is recognized when food and beverage products are sold. Unearned revenues represent our liability for gift cards and certificates that have been sold but not yet redeemed and are recorded at their expected redemption value. When the gift cards and certificates are redeemed, we recognize restaurant sales and reduce unearned revenues.

Food and Beverage Costs

Food and beverage costs include inventory, warehousing, and related purchasing and distribution costs. Vendor allowances received in connection with the purchase of a vendor's products are recognized as a reduction of the related food and beverage costs as earned. These allowances are recognized as earned in accordance with the underlying agreement with the vendor and completion of the earning process. Vendor agreements are generally for a period of one year or less and payments received are recorded as a current liability until earned.

Income Taxes

We provide for federal and state income taxes currently payable as well as for

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

those deferred because of temporary differences between reporting income and expenses for financial statement purposes versus tax purposes. Federal income tax credits are recorded as a reduction of income taxes. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in earnings in the period that includes the enactment date.

Income tax benefits credited to equity relate to tax benefits associated with amounts that are deductible for income tax purposes but do not affect earnings. These benefits are principally generated from employee exercises of non-qualified stock options and vesting of employee restricted stock awards.

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

We account for derivative financial instruments and hedging activities in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" and SFAS No. 138, "Accounting for Certain Derivative Instruments and Certain Hedging Activities - an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 133." SFAS No. 133 and SFAS No. 138 require that all derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet at fair value. We use financial and commodities derivatives to manage interest rate and commodities pricing risks inherent in our business operations. Our use of derivative instruments is currently limited to interest rate hedges and commodities futures contracts. These instruments are structured as hedges of forecasted transactions or the variability of cash flows to be paid

38

related to a recognized asset or liability (cash flow hedges). No derivative instruments are entered into for trading or speculative purposes. All derivatives are recognized on the balance sheet at fair value. On the date the derivative contract is entered into, we document all relationships between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as our risk-management objective and strategy for undertaking the various hedge transactions. This process includes linking all derivatives designated as cash flow hedges to specific assets and liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet or to specific forecasted transactions. We also formally assess, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in cash flows of hedged items.

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are highly effective and that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges are recorded in other comprehensive income until earnings are affected by the variability in cash flows of the designated hedged item. Where applicable, we discontinue hedge accounting prospectively when it is determined that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting changes in the cash flows of the hedged item or the derivative is terminated. Any changes in the fair value of a derivative where hedge accounting has been discontinued or is ineffective are recognized immediately in earnings. Cash flows related to derivatives are included in operating activities.

Pre-Opening Expenses

Non-capital expenditures associated with opening new restaurants are expensed as incurred.

Advertising

Production costs of commercials are charged to operations in the fiscal period

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

the advertising is first aired. The costs of programming and other advertising, promotion, and marketing programs are charged to operations in the fiscal period incurred. Advertising expense amounted to \$210,989, \$200,020, and \$184,163, in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively.

Stock-Based Compensation

SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," encourages the use of a fair-value method of accounting for stock-based awards under which the fair value of stock options is determined on the date of grant and expensed over the vesting period. As allowed by SFAS No. 123, we have elected to account for our stock-based compensation plans under an intrinsic value method that requires compensation expense to be recorded only if, on the date of grant, the current market price of our common stock exceeds the exercise price the employee must pay for the stock. Our policy is to grant stock options at the fair market value of our underlying stock on the date of grant. Accordingly, no compensation expense has been recognized for stock options granted under any of our stock plans because the exercise price of all options granted was equal to the current market value of our stock on the grant date. In December 2002, the FASB issued SFAS No. 148, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation." SFAS No. 148 provides alternative methods of transition for voluntary change to the fair value method of accounting for stock-based compensation. In addition, SFAS No. 148 requires more prominent disclosures in both annual and interim financial statements about the method of accounting for stock-based compensation and the effect of the method used on reported results.

Had we determined compensation expense for our stock options based on the fair value at the grant date as prescribed under SFAS No. 123, our net earnings and net earnings per share would have been reduced to the pro forma amounts indicated below:

	Fiscal Year	
	2004	2003
	(as restated)	(as restated)
Net earnings, as reported	\$ 227,173	\$ 225,979
Add: Stock-based compensation expense included in reported net earnings, net of related tax effects	3,158	2,642
Deduct: Total stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based method for all awards, net of related tax effects	(17,980)	(19,801)
Pro forma	\$ 212,351	\$ 208,820
Basic net earnings per share		
As reported	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.33
Pro forma	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.23
Diluted net earnings per share		
As reported	\$ 1.34	\$ 1.27
Pro forma	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.18

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

To determine pro forma net earnings, reported net earnings have been adjusted for compensation expense associated with stock options granted that are expected to eventually vest. The preceding pro forma results were determined using the Black Scholes option-pricing model, which values options based on the stock price at the grant date, the expected life of the option, the estimated volatility of the stock, expected dividend payments, and the risk-free interest rate over the expected life of the option. The dividend yield was calculated by dividing the current annualized dividend by the option exercise price for each grant. The expected volatility was determined considering stock prices for the fiscal year the grant occurred and prior fiscal years, as well as considering industry volatility data. The risk-free interest rate was the rate available on zero coupon U.S. government obligations with a term equal to the expected life of each grant. The expected life of the option was estimated based on the exercise history from previous grants.

The weighted-average assumptions used in the Black Scholes model were as follows:

	Stock Options Granted in Fiscal Year	
	2004	2003
Risk-free interest rate	2.62%	4.37%
Expected volatility of stock	30.0%	30.0%
Dividend yield	0.2%	0.2%
Expected option life	6.0 years	6.0 years

Restricted stock and restricted stock unit (RSU) awards are recognized as unearned compensation, a component of stockholders' equity, based on the fair market value of our common stock on the award date. These amounts are amortized to compensation expense, using the straight-line method, over the vesting period using assumed forfeiture rates for different types of awards. Compensation expense is adjusted in future periods if actual forfeiture rates differ from initial estimates.

Net Earnings Per Share

Basic net earnings per share are computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the reporting period. Diluted net earnings per share reflect the potential dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. Outstanding stock options issued by us represent the only dilutive effect reflected in diluted weighted-average shares outstanding. Options do not impact the numerator of the diluted net earnings per share computation.

Options to purchase 4,643,389 shares, 3,952,618 shares, and 161,220 shares of common stock were excluded from the calculation of diluted net earnings per share for fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively, because their exercise prices exceeded the average market price of common shares for the period.

Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Comprehensive income (loss) includes net earnings and other comprehensive income

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

(loss) items that are excluded from net earnings under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Other comprehensive income (loss) items include foreign currency translation adjustments, the effective unrealized portion of changes in the fair value of cash flow hedges, and amounts associated with minimum pension liability adjustments.

Foreign Currency

The Canadian dollar is the functional currency for our Canadian restaurant operations. Assets and liabilities denominated in Canadian dollars are translated into U.S. dollars using the exchange rates in effect at the balance sheet date. Results of operations are translated using the average exchange rates prevailing throughout the period. Translation gains and losses are reported as a separate component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity. Aggregate cumulative translation losses were \$10,174 and \$10,511 at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, respectively. Gains (losses) from foreign currency transactions, which amounted to \$(53), \$(105), and \$33, are included in the consolidated statements of earnings for fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of sales and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Segment Reporting

As of May 30, 2004, we operated 1,325 Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones Barbeque & Grill and Seasons 52 restaurants in North America as part of a single operating segment. The restaurants operate principally in the U.S. within the casual dining industry, providing similar products to similar customers. The restaurants also possess similar pricing structures, resulting in similar long-term expected financial performance characteristics. Revenues from external customers are derived principally from food and beverage sales. We do not rely on any major customers as a source of revenue. We believe we meet the criteria for aggregating our operations into a single reporting segment.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications, including the reclassification of asset impairment charges and credits from selling, general, and administrative expenses, have been made to prior year amounts to conform to current year presentation.

Adoption of New Accounting Standards

In June 2001, the FASB issued SFAS No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations." SFAS No. 143 establishes accounting standards for the recognition and measurement of an asset retirement obligation and its associated asset retirement cost. It also provides accounting guidance for legal obligations associated with the retirement of tangible long-lived assets. SFAS No. 143 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2002. We adopted SFAS No. 143 in the first quarter of fiscal 2004. Adoption of SFAS No. 143 did not materially impact our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2003, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 46, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, an interpretation of ARB No. 51." Interpretation No. 46, which was revised in December 2003, addresses the consolidation by business enterprises of variable interest entities as defined in the Interpretation. Interpretation No. 46 is effective for interests in structures that are commonly referred to as special-purpose entities for periods ending after December 15, 2003. Interpretation No. 46 is also effective for all other types of variable interest entities for periods ending after March 15, 2004. We do not have any interests that would change our current consolidated reporting entity or require

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

additional disclosures required by Interpretation No. 46.

In April 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 149, "Amendment to Statement 133 on Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities." SFAS No. 149 amends and clarifies the financial accounting and reporting for derivative instruments, including certain derivative instruments embedded in other contracts and for hedging activities under SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities." This statement is effective for hedging relationships designated and contracts entered into or modified after June 30, 2003, except for the provisions that relate to SFAS No. 133 implementation issues, which will continue to be applied in accordance with

41

their respective dates. We adopted SFAS No. 149 in the first quarter of fiscal 2004. Adoption of SFAS No. 149 did not materially impact our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, "Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity." SFAS No. 150 establishes accounting standards for the classification and measurement of certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. It requires certain financial instruments that were previously classified as equity to be classified as assets or liabilities. SFAS No. 150 is effective for financial instruments entered into or modified after May 31, 2003, and otherwise is effective at the beginning of the first interim period starting after June 15, 2003. We adopted SFAS No. 150 in the second quarter of fiscal 2004. Adoption of SFAS No. 150 did not materially impact our consolidated financial statements.

In December 2003, the FASB revised SFAS No. 132, "Employers' Disclosures about Pensions and Other Postretirement Benefits." SFAS No. 132, as revised, establishes additional disclosures for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans. It requires additional annual disclosures about the assets, obligations, cash flows, net periodic benefit cost and other quantitative and qualitative information regarding defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans. It also requires quarterly disclosures of the components of the net periodic benefit cost recognized for each period presented and significant changes in the estimated amount of annual contributions previously disclosed for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans. The additional disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 132, as revised, are effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2003, and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2003. We adopted the additional disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 132 in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004. Adoption of the additional disclosure requirements of SFAS No. 132 did not materially impact our consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 2 - RESTATEMENT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Following a December 2004 review of our lease accounting and leasehold depreciation policies, we determined that it was appropriate to adjust certain of our prior financial statements. As a result, we have restated our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years 1996 through 2004. Historically, when accounting for leases with renewal options, we recorded rent expense on a straight-line basis over the initial non-cancelable lease term, with the term commencing when actual rent payments began. We depreciate our buildings, leasehold improvements and other long-lived assets on those properties over a period that includes both the initial non-cancelable lease term and all option periods provided for in the lease (or the useful life of the

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

assets, if shorter). We previously believed that these longstanding accounting treatments were appropriate under generally accepted accounting principles. We now have restated our financial statements to recognize rent expense on a straight-line basis over the expected lease term, including cancelable option periods where failure to exercise such options would result in an economic penalty. The lease term commences on the date when we become legally obligated for the rent payments.

The cumulative effect of the Restatement through fiscal 2004 is an increase in the deferred rent liability of \$114,008 and a decrease in deferred income tax liability of \$43,526. As a result, retained earnings at the end of fiscal 2004 decreased by \$70,268. Rent expense for fiscal years ended 2004, 2003 and 2002 increased by \$7,222, \$10,145, and \$7,874, respectively. The Restatement decreased reported diluted net earnings per share by \$0.02, \$0.04 and \$0.03 for the fiscal years ended 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively. The cumulative effect of the Restatement for all years prior to fiscal year 2002 was \$54,364, which was recorded as an adjustment to opening stockholders' equity at May 27, 2001. The Restatement did not have any impact on our previously reported cash flows, sales or same-restaurant sales or on our compliance with any covenant under our credit facility or other debt instruments.

The following is a summary of the impact of the Restatement on (i) our consolidated balance sheets at May 30, 2004 and May 25, 2003 and (ii) our consolidated statements of earnings for the fiscal years ended May 30, 2004, May 25, 2003 and May 26, 2002. We have not presented a summary of the impact of the Restatement on our consolidated statements of cash flows for any of the above-referenced fiscal years because the net impact for each such fiscal year is zero.

42

Fiscal Year 2004	As Previously Reported	Adjustments
<hr/>		
Consolidated Balance Sheet		
Deferred income taxes	\$ 176,216	\$ (43,526)
Deferred rent	--	122,879
Other liabilities	21,532	(8,871)
Total liabilities	1,534,578	70,482
Retained earnings	1,197,921	(70,268)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(9,959)	(214)
Total stockholders' equity	1,245,770	(70,482)
Consolidated Statement of Earnings		
Restaurant expenses	767,584	\$ 7,222
Total cost of sales	3,895,717	7,222
Total costs and expenses	4,663,357	7,222
Earnings before income taxes	339,998	(7,222)
Income taxes	108,536	(2,933)
Net earnings	231,462	(4,289)
Basic net earnings per share	1.42	(0.03)
Diluted net earnings per share	1.36	(0.02)
Fiscal Year 2003	As Previously Reported	Adjustments
<hr/>		

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Consolidated Balance Sheet		
Deferred income taxes	\$ 150,537	\$ (40,593)
Deferred rent	--	115,296
Other liabilities	19,910	(8,567)
Total liabilities	1,468,442	66,136
Retained earnings	979,443	(65,979)
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(10,489)	(157)
Total stockholders' equity	1,196,191	(66,136)

Consolidated Statement of Earnings		
Restaurant expenses	703,554	10,145
Total cost of sales	3,637,762	10,145
Total costs and expenses	4,307,223	10,145
Earnings before income taxes	347,748	(10,145)
Income taxes	115,488	(3,864)
Net earnings	232,260	(6,281)
Basic net earnings per share	1.36	(0.03)
Diluted net earnings per share	1.31	(0.04)

Fiscal Year 2002	As Previously Reported	Adjustments

Consolidated Statement of Earnings		
Restaurant expenses	\$ 628,701	\$ 7,874
Total cost of sales	3,386,598	7,874
Total costs and expenses	4,003,602	7,874
Earnings before income taxes	363,309	(7,874)
Income taxes	125,521	(2,857)
Net earnings	237,788	(5,017)
Basic net earnings per share	1.36	(0.03)
Diluted net earnings per share	1.30	(0.03)

43

Please refer to Note 19 for the impact of the Restatement on our fiscal 2004 and 2003 quarterly information. In addition, certain amounts in Notes 1, 11, 12, and 14 have been restated to reflect the Restatement adjustments described above.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Our accounts receivable is primarily comprised of receivables from national storage and distribution companies with which we contract to provide services that are billed to us on a per-case basis. In connection with these services, certain of our inventory items are conveyed to these storage and distribution companies to transfer ownership and risk of loss prior to delivery of the inventory to our restaurants. We reacquire these items when the inventory is subsequently delivered to our restaurants. These transactions do not impact the consolidated statements of earnings. Receivables from national storage and distribution companies amounted to \$20,276 and \$19,628 at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, respectively. The allowance for doubtful accounts associated with all of our receivables amounted to \$350 and \$330 at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, respectively.

NOTE 4 - RESTRUCTURING AND ASSET IMPAIRMENT ACTIVITIES

During fiscal 2004, we recorded pre-tax asset impairment charges of \$36,526 for long-lived asset impairments associated with the closing of six Bahama Breeze restaurants and the write-down of the carrying value of four other Bahama Breeze restaurants, one Olive Garden restaurant, and one Red Lobster restaurant, which

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

continued to operate. We also recorded a restructuring charge of \$1,112 primarily related to severance payments made to certain restaurant employees and exit costs associated with the closing of the six Bahama Breeze restaurants in accordance with SFAS No. 146, "Accounting for Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities". Below is a summary of the restructuring costs and the remaining liability for fiscal 2004:

	Balance at May 25, 2003	Additions	Utilizations
One-time termination benefits	\$ --	\$ 433	\$ (384)
Lease termination costs	--	113	(113)
Other exit costs	--	566	(255)
	\$ --	\$ 1,112	\$ (752)

Asset impairment charges related to the decision to relocate or rebuild certain restaurants amounted to \$5,667 and \$4,876 in fiscal 2004 and 2003, respectively. Asset impairment credits related to assets sold that were previously impaired amounted to \$1,437 and \$594 in fiscal 2004 and 2003, respectively. All impairment amounts are included in asset impairment and restructuring charges (credits) in the consolidated statements of earnings.

During fiscal 2003 and fiscal 2002, we recognized restructuring credits of \$358 and \$2,568, respectively, resulting from lease terminations completed on more favorable terms than previously anticipated from our fiscal 1997 restructuring action. All restaurant closings and other activities under this restructuring action were completed as of May 25, 2003.

NOTE 5 - LAND, BUILDINGS, AND EQUIPMENT

The components of land, buildings, and equipment are as follows:

	May 30, 2004
Land	\$ 545,191
Buildings	2,138,376
Equipment	1,008,133
Construction in progress	87,655
Total land, buildings, and equipment	3,779,355
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,528,739)
Net land, buildings, and equipment	\$ 2,250,616

NOTE 6 - OTHER ASSETS

The components of other assets are as follows:

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

	May 30, 2004

Prepaid pension costs	\$ 67,077
Trust-owned life insurance	40,422
Capitalized software costs, net	32,328
Liquor licenses	22,201
Prepaid interest and loan costs	12,396
Miscellaneous	9,001

Total other assets	\$ 183,425
=====	

NOTE 7 - SHORT-TERM DEBT

Short-term debt at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003 consisted of \$14,500 and \$0, respectively, of unsecured commercial paper borrowings with original maturities of one month or less. The debt bore an interest rate of 1.09 percent at May 30, 2004.

NOTE 8 - LONG-TERM DEBT

The components of long-term debt are as follows:

	May 30, 2004

8.375% senior notes due September 2005	\$ 150,000
6.375% notes due February 2006	150,000
5.75% medium-term notes due March 2007	150,000
7.45% medium-term notes due April 2011	75,000
7.125% debentures due February 2016	100,000
ESOP loan with variable rate of interest (1.43% at May 30, 2004) due December 2018	29,403

Total long-term debt	654,403
Less issuance discount	(1,054)

Total long-term debt less issuance discount	653,349
Less current portion	--

Long-term debt, excluding current portion	\$ 653,349
=====	

In July 2000, we registered \$500,000 of debt securities with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this process, we may offer, from time to time, up to an aggregate of \$500,000 of debt securities. In September 2000, we issued \$150,000 of unsecured 8.375 percent senior notes due in September 2005. The senior notes rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt and will be senior in right of payment to any future subordinated debt we may issue. In April 2001, we issued \$75,000 of unsecured 7.45 percent medium-term notes due in April 2011. In March 2002, we issued \$150,000 of unsecured 5.75 percent medium-term notes due in March 2007. At May 30, 2004, our shelf registration provides for the issuance of an additional \$125,000 of unsecured debt securities.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

In January 1996, we issued \$150,000 of unsecured 6.375 percent notes due in February 2006 and \$100,000 of unsecured 7.125 percent debentures due in February 2016. Concurrent with the issuance of the notes and debentures, we terminated, and settled for cash, interest-rate swap agreements with notional amounts totaling \$200,000, which hedged the movement of interest rates prior to the issuance of the notes and debentures. The cash paid in terminating the interest-rate swap agreements is being amortized to interest expense over the life of the notes and debentures. The effective annual interest rate is 7.57 percent for the notes and 7.82 percent for the debentures, after consideration of loan costs, issuance discounts, and interest-rate swap termination costs.

We also maintain a credit facility that expires in October 2008, with a consortium of banks under which we can borrow up to \$400,000. The credit facility allows us to borrow at interest rates that vary based on a spread over (i) LIBOR or (ii) a base rate that is the higher of the prime rate, or one-half of one percent above the federal funds rate,

45

at our option. The interest rate spread over LIBOR is determined by our debt rating. The credit facility supports our commercial paper borrowing program. We are required to pay a facility fee of 12.5 basis points per annum on the average daily amount of loan commitments by the consortium. The amount of interest and the annual facility fee are subject to change based on our maintenance of certain debt ratings and financial ratios, such as maximum debt to capital ratios. Advances under the credit facility are unsecured. At May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, no borrowings were outstanding and we were in compliance with the covenants under this credit facility.

The aggregate maturities of long-term debt for each of the five fiscal years subsequent to May 30, 2004, and thereafter are \$0 in 2005, \$300,000 in 2006, \$150,000 in 2007, \$0 in 2008 and 2009, and \$204,403 thereafter.

NOTE 9 - DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES

We use interest rate related derivative instruments to manage our exposure on debt instruments, as well as commodities derivatives to manage our exposure to commodity price fluctuations. By using these instruments, we expose ourselves, from time to time, to credit risk and market risk. Credit risk is the failure of the counterparty to perform under the terms of the derivative contract. When the fair value of a derivative contract is positive, the counterparty owes us, which creates credit risk for us. We minimize this credit risk by entering into transactions with high quality counterparties. Market risk is the adverse effect on the value of a financial instrument that results from a change in interest rates or commodity prices. We minimize this market risk by establishing and monitoring parameters that limit the types and degree of market risk that may be undertaken.

Futures Contracts and Commodity Swaps

During fiscal 2004 and 2003, we entered into futures contracts and commodity swaps to reduce the risk of natural gas and coffee price fluctuations. To the extent these derivatives are effective in offsetting the variability of the hedged cash flows, changes in the derivatives' fair value are not included in current earnings but are reported as other comprehensive income. These changes in fair value are subsequently reclassified into earnings when the natural gas and coffee are purchased and used by us in our operations. Net gains (losses) of \$(439) and \$941 related to these derivatives were recognized in earnings during fiscal 2004 and 2003, respectively. The fair value of these contracts was a net gain of \$106 at May 30, 2004, and is expected to be reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into food and beverage costs or

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

restaurant expenses during the next 12 months. To the extent these derivatives are not effective, changes in their fair value are immediately recognized in current earnings. Outstanding derivatives are included in other current assets or other current liabilities.

At May 30, 2004, the maximum length of time over which we are hedging our exposure to the variability in future natural gas cash flows is 12 months. At May 30, 2004, we are not hedging our exposure to the variability in future coffee cash flows. No gains or losses were reclassified into earnings during fiscal 2004 or 2003 as a result of the discontinuance of natural gas and coffee cash flow hedges.

Interest Rate Lock Agreement

During fiscal 2002, we entered into a treasury interest rate lock agreement (treasury lock) to hedge the risk that the cost of a future issuance of fixed-rate debt may be adversely affected by interest rate fluctuations. The treasury lock, which had a \$75,000 notional principal amount of indebtedness, was used to hedge a portion of the interest payments associated with \$150,000 of debt subsequently issued in March 2002. The treasury lock was settled at the time of the related debt issuance with a net gain of \$267 being recognized in other comprehensive income. The net gain on the treasury lock is being amortized into earnings as an adjustment to interest expense over the same period in which the related interest costs on the new debt issuance are being recognized in earnings. Amortization of \$53, \$53, and \$14 was recognized in earnings as an adjustment to interest expense during fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively. It is expected that \$53 of this gain will be recognized in earnings as an adjustment to interest expense during the next 12 months.

Interest Rate Swaps

During fiscal 2004, we entered into interest rate swap agreements (swaps) to hedge the risk of changes in interest rates on the cost of a future issuance of fixed-rate debt. The swaps, which have a \$75,000 notional principal amount of indebtedness, will be used to hedge a portion of the interest payments associated with a forecasted issuance of debt in fiscal 2006. To the extent the swaps are effective in offsetting the variability of the hedged cash flows, changes in the fair value of the swaps are not included in current earnings but are reported as other comprehensive income. The accumulated gain or loss at the swap settlement date will be amortized into earnings as an adjustment

46

to interest expense over the same period in which the related interest costs on the new debt issuance are recognized in earnings. The fair value of the swaps at May 30, 2004 was a gain of \$698 and is included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) at May 30, 2004. No amounts were recognized in earnings during fiscal 2004.

We had interest rate swaps with a notional amount of \$200,000, which we used to convert variable rates on our long-term debt to fixed rates effective May 30, 1995. We received the one-month commercial paper interest rate and paid fixed-rate interest ranging from 7.51 percent to 7.89 percent. The interest rate swaps were settled during January 1996 at a cost to us of \$27,670. This cost is being recognized as an adjustment to interest expense over the term of our 10-year, 6.375 percent notes and 20-year, 7.125 percent debentures (see Note 8).

NOTE 10 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The fair values of cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and short-term debt approximate their carrying amounts due to their short duration.

The carrying value and fair value of long-term debt at May 30, 2004, was

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

\$653,349 and \$700,383, respectively. The carrying value and fair value of long-term debt at May 25, 2003, was \$658,086 and \$740,130, respectively. The fair value of long-term debt is determined based on market prices or, if market prices are not available, the present value of the underlying cash flows discounted at our incremental borrowing rates.

NOTE 11 - STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Treasury Stock

Our Board of Directors has authorized us to repurchase up to 115.4 million shares of our common stock. In fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, we purchased treasury stock totaling \$235,462, \$213,311, and \$208,578, respectively. At May 30, 2004, a total of 109.2 million shares have been repurchased under the authorization. The repurchased common stock is reflected as a reduction of stockholders' equity.

Stock Purchase/Loan Program

We have share ownership guidelines for our officers. To assist them in meeting these guidelines, we implemented the 1998 Stock Purchase/Option Award Loan Program (Loan Program) in conjunction with our Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Plan of 1995. The Loan Program provided loans to our officers and awarded two options for every new share purchased, up to a maximum total share value equal to a designated percentage of the officer's base compensation. Loans are full recourse and interest bearing, with a maximum principal amount of 75 percent of the value of the stock purchased. The stock purchased is held on deposit with us until the loan is repaid. The interest rate for loans under the Loan Program is fixed and is equal to the applicable federal rate for mid-term loans with semi-annual compounding for the month in which the loan originates. Interest is payable on a weekly basis. Loan principal is payable in installments with 25 percent, 25 percent, and 50 percent of the total loan due at the end of the fifth, sixth, and seventh years of the loan. Effective July 30, 2002, and in compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, we no longer issue new loans to our executive-level officers under the Loan Program. We account for outstanding officer notes receivable as a reduction of stockholders' equity.

Stockholders' Rights Plan

Under our amended Rights Agreement, each share of our common stock has associated with it two-thirds of a right to purchase one-hundredth of a share of our Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock at a purchase price of \$62.50, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances to prevent dilution. The number of rights associated with each share of our common stock reflects an adjustment resulting from our three-for-two stock split in May 2002. The rights are exercisable when, and are not transferable apart from our common stock until, a person or group has acquired 20 percent or more, or makes a tender offer for 20 percent or more, of our common stock. If the specified percentage of our common stock is then acquired, each right will entitle the holder (other than the acquiring company) to receive, upon exercise, common stock of either us or the acquiring company having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the right. The rights are redeemable by our Board of Directors under certain circumstances and expire on May 24, 2005.

47

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) are as follows:

May 30, 2004

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

(as restated)

Foreign currency translation adjustment	\$ (10,174)
Unrealized gains on derivatives	587
Minimum pension liability adjustment	(586)

Total accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	\$ (10,173)
=====	

Reclassification adjustments associated with pre-tax net derivative income (losses) realized in net earnings for fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002 amounted to \$(386), \$994, and (\$262), respectively.

NOTE 12 - LEASES

An analysis of rent expense incurred under operating leases is as follows:

	Fiscal Year	
	2004	2003
	(as restated)	(as restated)
Restaurant minimum rent	\$ 56,462	\$ 48,121
Restaurant percentage rent	3,820	3,682
Restaurant equipment minimum rent	57	5,719
Restaurant rent averaging expense	7,522	9,482
Transportation equipment	2,514	2,665
Office equipment	1,302	1,138
Office space	1,286	1,713
Warehouse space	315	303

Total rent expense	\$ 73,278	\$ 72,823
=====		

We recognize rent expense on a straight-line basis over the expected lease term, including cancelable option periods where failure to exercise such options would result in an economic penalty. The lease term commences on the date when we become legally obligated for the rent payments. Percentage rent expense is generally based on sales levels. Many of our leases have renewal periods totaling five to 20 years, exercisable at our option, and require payment of property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs in addition to the rent payments. The annual non-cancelable future lease commitments for each of the five fiscal years subsequent to May 30, 2004, and thereafter are: \$62,070 in 2005, \$57,348 in 2006, \$50,870 in 2007, \$43,651 in 2008, \$36,358 in 2009, and \$123,402 thereafter, for a cumulative total of \$373,699.

NOTE 13 - INTEREST, NET

The components of interest, net, are as follows:

	Fiscal Year	
	2004	2003
Interest expense	\$47,710	\$47,566
Capitalized interest	(3,500)	(3,470)

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Interest income	(551)	(1,499)

Interest, net	\$43,659	\$42,597
=====		

Capitalized interest was computed using our average borrowing rate. We paid \$39,661, \$38,682, and \$31,027, for interest (excluding amounts capitalized) in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, respectively.

48

NOTE 14 - INCOME TAXES

The components of earnings before income taxes and the provision for income taxes thereon are as follows:

	Fiscal Year	
	2004	2003
	(as restated)	(as restated)
Earnings before income taxes:		
U.S.	\$ 328,577	\$ 335,611
Canada	4,199	1,992

Earnings before income taxes	\$ 332,776	\$ 337,603

Income taxes:		
Current:		
Federal	\$ 75,121	\$ 68,178
State and local	13,663	11,396
Canada	131	24

Total current	\$ 88,915	\$ 79,598

Deferred (principally U.S.)	16,688	32,026

Total income taxes	\$ 105,603	\$ 111,624
=====		

During fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, we paid income taxes of \$92,265, \$65,398, and \$56,839, respectively.

The following table is a reconciliation of the U.S. statutory income tax rate to the effective income tax rate included in the accompanying consolidated statements of earnings:

	Fiscal Year	
	2004	2003
	(as restated)	(as restated)

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

U.S. statutory rate	35.0%	35.0%
State and local income taxes, net of federal tax benefits	3.2	3.0
Benefit of federal income tax credits	(5.2)	(4.5)
Other, net	(1.3)	(0.4)

Effective income tax rate	31.7%	33.1%
=====		

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

	May 30, 2004
	(as restated)

Accrued liabilities	\$ 13,286
Compensation and employee benefits	63,234
Deferred rent and interest income	28,094
Asset disposition and restructuring liabilities	2,651
Other	2,918

Gross deferred tax assets	\$ 110,183

Buildings and equipment	(143,910)
Prepaid pension costs	(25,452)
Prepaid interest	(1,333)
Capitalized software and other assets	(15,976)
Other	(944)

Gross deferred tax liabilities	\$ (187,615)

Net deferred tax liabilities	\$ (77,432)
=====	

A valuation allowance for deferred tax assets is provided when it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. Realization is dependent upon the generation of future taxable income or the reversal of deferred tax liabilities during the periods in which those temporary differences become deductible. We consider the scheduled reversal of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income, and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. At May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, no valuation allowance has been

49

recognized for deferred tax assets because we believe that sufficient projected future taxable income will be generated to fully utilize the benefits of these deductible amounts.

NOTE 15- RETIREMENT PLANS

Defined Benefit Plans and Postretirement Benefit Plan

Substantially all of our employees are eligible to participate in a retirement plan. We sponsor non-contributory defined benefit pension plans for our salaried employees, in which benefits are based on various formulas that include years of service and compensation factors, and for a group of hourly employees, in which a fixed level of benefits is provided. Pension plan assets are primarily

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

invested in U.S., international, and private equities, long duration fixed income securities, and real assets. Our policy is to fund, at a minimum, the amount necessary on an actuarial basis to provide for benefits in accordance with the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended. We also sponsor a contributory postretirement benefit plan that provides health care benefits to our salaried retirees. During fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, we funded the defined benefit pension plans in the amount of \$85, \$20,063, and \$41, respectively. We expect to contribute approximately \$100 to our defined benefit pension plans during fiscal 2005. During fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, we funded the postretirement benefit plan in the amount of \$172, \$140, and \$123, respectively. We expect to contribute approximately \$260 to our postretirement benefit plan during fiscal 2005.

The following provides a reconciliation of the changes in the plan benefit obligation, fair value of plan assets, and the funded status of the plans as of February 28, 2004 and 2003:

	Defined Benefit Plans		Postretirement
	2004	2003	2004
Change in Benefit Obligation:			
Benefit obligation at beginning of period	\$129,636	\$111,155	\$ 14,809
Service cost	4,516	3,732	626
Interest cost	7,076	7,088	919
Participant contributions	--	--	128
Benefits paid	(5,553)	(4,558)	(299)
Actuarial loss	8,014	12,219	702
Benefit obligation at end of period	\$143,689	\$129,636	\$ 16,885
Change in Plan Assets:			
Fair value at beginning of period	\$115,962	\$109,574	\$ --
Actual return on plan assets	34,759	(9,117)	--
Employer contributions	85	20,063	172
Participant contributions	--	--	128
Benefits paid	(5,554)	(4,558)	(300)
Fair value at end of period	\$145,252	\$115,962	\$ --
Reconciliation of the Plan's Funded Status:			
Funded status at end of period	\$ 1,563	\$(13,675)	\$ (16,885)
Unrecognized prior service cost	(479)	(936)	--
Unrecognized actuarial loss	62,062	79,805	6,458
Contributions for March to May	22	19	77
Prepaid (accrued) benefit costs	\$ 63,168	\$ 65,213	\$ (10,350)
Components of the Consolidated Balance Sheets:			
Prepaid benefit costs	\$ 67,077	\$ 68,873	\$ --
Accrued benefit costs	(4,859)	(4,496)	(10,350)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	950	836	--
Net asset (liability) recognized	\$ 63,168	\$ 65,213	\$ (10,350)

The accumulated benefit obligation for all pension plans was \$135,950 and \$119,070 at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, respectively. The accumulated benefit obligation and fair value of plan assets for pension plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets were \$4,881 and \$0, respectively, at February 28, 2004, and \$4,515 and \$0, respectively, at February 28, 2003. The projected benefit obligation for pension plans with projected benefit obligations in excess of plan assets approximated their accumulated benefit obligation at February 28, 2004 and February 28, 2003.

The following table presents the weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations and net expense:

	Defined Benefit Plans		Postretirement
	2004	2003	2004
Weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations at May 30 and May 25, (1)			
Discount rate	6.00%	6.25%	6.00%
Rate of future compensation increases	3.75%	3.75%	N/A
Weighted-average assumptions used to determine net expense for fiscal years ended May 30 and May 25, (2)			
Discount rate	6.25%	7.00%	6.25%
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	9.00%	10.40%	N/A
Rate of future compensation increases	3.75%	3.75%	N/A

- (1) Determined as of the end of fiscal year
- (2) Determined as of the beginning of fiscal year

We set the discount rate assumption annually for each of the plans at their valuation dates to reflect the yield of high-quality fixed-income debt instruments, with lives that approximate the maturity of the plan benefits. The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets and health care cost trend rates are based upon several factors, including our historical assumptions compared with actual results, an analysis of current market conditions, asset allocations, and the views of leading financial advisers and economists. Our target asset allocation is 35 percent U.S. equities, 30 percent high-quality, long-duration fixed-income securities, 15 percent international equities, 10 percent real assets, and 10 percent private equities. We monitor our actual asset allocation to ensure that it approximates our target allocation and believe that our long-term asset allocation will continue to approximate our target allocation. The defined benefit pension plans have the following asset allocations at their measurement dates of February 28, 2004, and 2003, respectively:

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

U.S. equities	38%
High-quality, long-duration fixed-income securities	26%
International equities	18%
Real assets	12%
Private equities	6%
Total	100%

Based on an analysis performed in fiscal 2003, we lowered our defined benefit plans' expected long-term rate of return on plan assets for fiscal 2004 to 9.0 percent, a reduction from its previous level of 10.4 percent. Our historical ten-year rate of return on plan assets, calculated using the geometric method average of returns, is approximately 10.5 percent as of May 30, 2004.

The discount rate and expected return on plan assets assumptions have a significant effect on amounts reported for defined benefit pension plans. A quarter percentage point change in the defined benefit plans' discount rate and the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets would increase or decrease earnings before income taxes by \$769 and \$357, respectively.

51

The assumed health care cost trend rate increase in the per-capita charges for benefits ranged from 11.0 percent to 12.0 percent for fiscal 2005, depending on the medical service category. The rates gradually decrease to 5.0 percent through fiscal 2010 and remain at that level thereafter.

The assumed health care cost trend rate has a significant effect on amounts reported for retiree health care plans. A one-percentage-point variance in the assumed health care cost trend rate would increase or decrease the total of the service and interest cost components of net periodic postretirement benefit cost by \$341 and \$267, respectively, and would increase or decrease the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation by \$3,572 and \$2,805, respectively.

Components of net periodic benefit cost (income) are as follows:

	Defined Benefit Plans			Postreti
	2004	2003	2002	2004
Service cost	\$ 4,516	\$ 3,732	\$ 3,586	\$ 626
Interest cost	7,076	7,088	7,145	919
Expected return on plan assets	(12,821)	(12,739)	(12,416)	--
Amortization of unrecognized transition asset	--	--	(642)	--
Amortization of unrecognized prior service cost	(348)	(348)	(456)	29
Recognized net actuarial loss	3,710	1,924	1,104	334
Net periodic benefit cost (income)	\$ 2,133	\$ (343)	\$ (1,679)	\$ 1,908

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

On December 8, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (the Act). The Act introduces a prescription drug benefit beginning in 2006 under Medicare (Medicare Part D) as well as a federal subsidy to sponsors of retiree health care benefit plans that provide a benefit that is at least actuarially equivalent to Medicare Part D. We have elected to defer accounting for the effects of the Act until we are able to determine whether the benefits provided under our postretirement benefit plan is actuarially equivalent to Medicare Part D. Therefore, our postretirement benefit obligation has not been remeasured for the effects of the Act. We do not believe the impact of the Act will be material to our results of operations, financial position, or cash flows.

Defined Contribution Plan

We have a defined contribution plan covering most employees age 21 and older. We match contributions for participants with at least one year of service at up to six percent of compensation, based on our performance. The match ranges from a minimum of \$0.25 to \$1.20 for each dollar contributed by the participant. The plan had net assets of \$390,461 at May 30, 2004, and \$334,319 at May 25, 2003. Expense recognized in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002 was \$2,666, \$1,732, and \$1,593, respectively. Employees classified as "highly compensated" under the Internal Revenue Code are not eligible to participate in this plan. Instead, highly compensated employees are eligible to participate in a separate non-qualified deferred compensation plan. This plan allows eligible employees to defer the payment of all or part of their annual salary and bonus, and provides for awards that approximate the matching contributions and other amounts that participants would have received had they been eligible to participate in our defined contribution and defined benefit plans. Amounts payable to highly compensated employees under the non-qualified deferred compensation plan totaled \$88,569 and \$69,653 at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, respectively. These amounts are included in other current liabilities.

The defined contribution plan includes an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). This ESOP originally borrowed \$50,000 from third parties, with guarantees by us, and borrowed \$25,000 from us at a variable interest rate. The \$50,000 third party loan was refinanced in 1997 by a commercial bank's loan to us and a corresponding loan from us to the ESOP. Compensation expense is recognized as contributions are accrued. In addition to matching plan participant contributions, our contributions to the plan are also made to pay certain employee incentive bonuses. Fluctuations in our stock price impact the amount of expense to be recognized. Contributions to the plan, plus the dividends accumulated on allocated and unallocated shares held by the ESOP, are used to pay principal, interest, and expenses of the plan. As loan payments are made, common stock is allocated to ESOP participants. In fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, the ESOP incurred interest expense of \$473, \$697, and \$1,258, respectively, and used dividends received of \$454, \$1,002, and \$735, respectively, and contributions received from us of \$4,093, \$4,266, and \$5,166, respectively, to pay principal and interest on our debt.

52

The ESOP shares we own are included in average common shares outstanding for purposes of calculating net earnings per share. At May 30, 2004, the ESOP's debt to us had a balance of \$29,403 with a variable rate of interest of 1.43 percent; \$12,503 of the principal balance is due to be repaid no later than December 2007, with the remaining \$16,900 due to be repaid no later than December 2014. The number of our common shares within the ESOP at May 30, 2004, approximated 10,699,000 shares, representing 4,271,000 allocated shares, 6,000 committed-to-be-released shares, and 6,422,000 suspense shares.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

NOTE 16 - STOCK PLANS

We maintain three active stock option and stock grant plans under which new awards may still be issued: the Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Plan of 1995 (1995 Plan); the 2002 Stock Incentive Plan (2002 Plan); and the Stock Plan for Directors (Director Stock Plan). We also have two other stock option and stock grant plans under which we no longer can make new awards, although awards outstanding under the plans may still vest and be exercised in accordance with their terms: the Restaurant Management and Employee Stock Plan of 2000 (2000 Plan); and the Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Conversion Plan (Conversion Plan). All of the plans are administered by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors. The 1995 Plan provides for the issuance of up to 33,300,000 common shares in connection with the granting of non-qualified stock options, restricted stock, or restricted stock units (RSUs) to key employees. Up to 2,250,000 shares may be granted under the plan as restricted stock and RSUs. No new awards may be made under the 1995 Plan after September 30, 2004. The 2002 Plan provides for the issuance of up to 8,550,000 common shares in connection with the granting of non-qualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights, stock awards, restricted stock, or RSUs to key employees and non-employee directors. Up to 1,700,000 shares may be granted under the plan as restricted stock and RSUs. The Director Stock Plan provides for the issuance of up to 375,000 common shares out of our treasury in connection with the granting of non-qualified stock options and restricted stock and RSUs to non-employee directors. The 2000 Plan provided for the issuance of up to 5,400,000 shares of common stock out of our treasury as non-qualified stock options, restricted stock, or RSUs. The Conversion Plan provided for the issuance of stock options and other awards to our officers and employees in connection with our spin-off from our former parent, General Mills, Inc., in 1995. As noted above, no new awards may be made under the 2000 Plan and Conversion Plan, although awards outstanding under those plans may still vest and be exercised in accordance with their terms. Under all of the plans, stock options are granted at a price equal to the fair value of the shares at the date of grant, for terms not exceeding ten years, and have various vesting periods at the discretion of the Compensation Committee. Outstanding options generally vest over one to four years. Restricted stock and RSUs granted under the 1995, 2000, and 2002 Plans generally vest over periods ranging from three to five years and no sooner than one year from the date of grant. The restricted period for certain grants may be accelerated based on performance goals established by the Compensation Committee.

We also maintain the Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors. This plan provides that non-employee directors may elect to receive their annual retainer and meeting fees in any combination of cash, deferred cash, or our common shares, and authorizes the issuance of up to 105,981 common shares out of our treasury for this purpose. The common shares issuable under the plan have an aggregate fair value equal to the value of the foregone retainer and meeting fees.

The per share weighted-average fair value of stock options granted during fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002 was \$6.83, \$9.01, and \$6.05, respectively.

53

Stock option activity during the periods indicated was as follows:

Weighted-Average

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

	Options Exercisable	Exercise Price Per Share	Options Outstanding
Balance at May 27, 2001	12,222,339	\$ 7.62	26,132,288
Options granted			5,776,350
Options exercised			(4,310,327)
Options cancelled			(675,776)
Balance at May 26, 2002	12,152,538	\$ 8.31	26,922,535
Options granted			4,200,086
Options exercised			(3,132,894)
Options cancelled			(1,298,094)
Balance at May 25, 2003	13,481,166	\$ 9.59	26,691,633
Options granted			3,336,655
Options exercised			(3,463,615)
Options cancelled			(911,036)
Balance at May 30, 2004	14,380,195	\$ 11.00	25,653,637

The following table provides information regarding exercisable and outstanding options at May 30, 2004:

Range of Exercise Price Per Share	Options Exercisable	Weighted- Average Exercise Price Per Share	Options Outstanding	Weighted- Average Exercise Price Per Share
\$ 4.00 - \$10.00	5,150,315	\$ 6.87	5,150,315	\$ 6.87
\$10.01 - \$15.00	7,613,735	12.20	9,075,619	11.96
\$15.01 - \$20.00	1,268,145	17.00	6,744,078	17.77
Over \$20.00	348,000	24.01	4,683,625	25.34
	14,380,195	\$ 11.00	25,653,637	\$ 14.91

We granted restricted stock and RSUs during fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002 totaling 513,305, 275,610, and 428,280 shares, respectively. The per share weighted-average fair value of the awards granted in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002 was \$19.45, \$26.53, and \$17.10, respectively. After giving consideration to assumed forfeiture rates and subsequent forfeiture adjustments, compensation expense recognized in net earnings for awards granted in fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002 amounted to \$4,198, \$3,579, and \$4,392, respectively.

NOTE 17 - EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

We maintain the Darden Restaurants Employee Stock Purchase Plan to provide eligible employees who have completed one year of service (excluding senior officers subject to Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) an opportunity to purchase shares of our common stock, subject to certain limitations. Under the plan, up to an aggregate of 2,100,000 shares are

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

available for purchase by employees at the lower of 85 percent of the fair market value of our common stock as of the first or last trading days of each quarterly participation period. During fiscal 2004, 2003, and 2002, employees purchased shares of common stock under the plan totaling 319,299, 261,409, and 284,576, respectively. At May 30, 2004, an additional 459,157 shares were available for issuance.

No compensation expense has been recognized for shares issued under the plan. The impact of recognizing compensation expense for purchases made under the plan in accordance with the fair value method specified in SFAS No. 123 is less than \$900 and has no impact on reported basic or diluted net earnings per share.

54

NOTE 18 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

We make trade commitments in the course of our normal operations. At May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, we were contingently liable for approximately \$242 and \$8,301, respectively, under outstanding trade letters of credit issued in connection with purchase commitments. These letters of credit have terms of two months or less and are used to collateralize our obligations to third parties for the purchase of inventories.

As collateral for performance on contracts and as credit guarantees to banks and insurers, we were contingently liable for guarantees of subsidiary obligations under standby letters of credit. At May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, we had \$72,480 and \$41,442, respectively, of standby letters of credit related to workers' compensation and general liabilities accrued in our consolidated financial statements. At May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, we had \$15,896 and \$7,503, respectively, of standby letters of credit related to contractual operating lease obligations and other payments. All standby letters of credit are renewable annually. At May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, we had other commercial commitments of \$2,125 and \$2,250, respectively.

At May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003, we had \$4,346 and \$4,254, respectively, of guarantees associated with third-party sublease or assignment obligations. These amounts represent the maximum potential amount of future payments under the guarantees. The fair value of these potential payments discounted at our pre-tax cost of capital at May 30, 2004, and May 25, 2003 amounted to \$3,131 and \$2,935, respectively. We did not accrue for the guarantees, as the likelihood of the third parties defaulting on the sublease or assignment agreements was less than probable. In the event of default by a third party, the indemnity and/or default clauses in our sublease and assignment agreements govern our ability to recover from and pursue the third party for damages incurred as a result of its default. We do not hold any third-party assets as collateral related to these sublease or assignment agreements, except to the extent that the sublease or assignment allows us to repossess the building and personal property. These guarantees expire over their respective lease terms, which range from fiscal 2005 through fiscal 2012.

In March 2003 and March 2002, three of our current and former hourly restaurant employees filed two purported class action lawsuits against us in California Superior Court of Orange County alleging violations of California labor laws with respect to providing meal and rest breaks. The lawsuits seek penalties under Department of Labor rules providing a one hundred dollar penalty per violation per employee, plus attorney's fees on behalf of the plaintiffs and other purported class members. Discovery is currently underway in these matters. One of the cases was removed to our mandatory arbitration program, although the Court retained the authority to permit a sample of class-wide discovery. We are prosecuting an appeal to cause the other case to be similarly removed to

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

arbitration. In September 2003, three former employees in Washington State filed a similar purported class action in Washington State Superior Court in Spokane County alleging violations of Washington labor laws with respect to providing meal and rest breaks. The Court stayed the action, and ordered the plaintiffs into our mandatory arbitration program; the plaintiffs have filed a motion for reconsideration. We intend to vigorously defend our position in all of these cases. Although the outcome of the cases cannot be ascertained at this time, we do not believe that the disposition of these cases, either individually or in the aggregate, would have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity.

We are subject to other private lawsuits, administrative proceedings, and claims that arise in the ordinary course of our business. These matters typically involve claims from guests, employees, and others related to operational issues common to the restaurant industry. A number of these lawsuits, proceedings, and claims may exist at any given time. We do not believe that the final disposition of the lawsuits and claims in which we are currently involved will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or liquidity.

55

NOTE 19 - QUARTERLY DATA (UNAUDITED)

The following table summarizes unaudited quarterly data for fiscal 2004 and 2003:

	Fiscal 2004 - Quarters Ended (as resta			
	Aug. 24	Nov. 23	Feb. 22	May 30 (
Sales	\$1,259,689	\$1,142,543	\$1,241,952	\$1,359,1
Earnings before income taxes (2)	101,977	44,688	111,404	74,7
Net earnings (2)	67,351	30,053	77,088	52,6
Net earnings per share:				
Basic (2)	0.41	0.18	0.47	0.
Diluted (2)	0.40	0.18	0.45	0.
Dividends paid per share	--	0.04	--	0.
Stock price:				
High	21.62	22.77	22.50	25.
Low	17.80	18.25	18.48	21.

	Fiscal 2003 - Quarters Ended (as resta			
	Aug. 25	Nov. 24	Feb. 23	May 25
Sales	\$1,174,565	\$1,071,531	\$1,181,383	\$1,227,4
Earnings before income taxes (3)	106,547	53,822	90,638	86,5
Net earnings (3)	70,364	35,994	60,122	59,4
Net earnings per share:				
Basic (3)	0.41	0.21	0.35	0.
Diluted (3)	0.39	0.20	0.34	0.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Dividends paid per share	--	0.04	--	0.
Stock price:				
High	27.83	26.13	22.96	20.
Low	19.17	17.96	16.46	16.

- (1) Earnings before income taxes includes asset impairment charges of \$36,526 (\$22,372 after-tax) for long-lived asset impairments associated with the closing of six Bahama Breeze restaurants and the write-down of the carrying value of four other Bahama Breeze restaurants, one Olive Garden restaurant, and one Red Lobster restaurant, which continued to operate. Earnings before income taxes also includes charges of \$1,112 (\$681 after-tax) related to severance payments made to certain restaurant employees and exit costs associated with the closing of six Bahama Breeze restaurants.
- (2) As described in Note 2, we have restated our consolidated statements of earnings related to the calculation of straight-line rent expense and related deferred rent liability. The effect of the Restatement on the quarterly earnings before income taxes is \$(2,007), \$(1,938), \$(1,601), and \$(1,676), for the quarters ended August 24, 2003, November 23, 2003, February 22, 2004, and May 30, 2004, respectively. The effect of the Restatement on the quarterly net earnings is \$(1,243), \$(1,200), \$(811), and \$(1,035), for the quarters ended August 24, 2003, November 23, 2003, February 22, 2004, and May 30, 2004, respectively. The effect on reported quarterly basic net earnings per share is \$(0.01), \$(0.01), \$(0.00), and \$(0.01), for the quarters ended August 24, 2003, November 23, 2003, February 22, 2004, and May 30, 2004, respectively. The effect on reported quarterly diluted net earnings per share is \$(0.01) for the quarter ended February 22, 2004. The Restatement had no effect on reported quarterly diluted net earnings per share for the quarters ended August 24, 2003, November 23, 2003, and May 30, 2004, respectively.
- (3) As described in Note 2, we have restated our consolidated statements of earnings related to the calculation of straight-line rent expense and related deferred rent liability. The effect of the Restatement on the quarterly earnings before income taxes is \$(2,458), \$(2,398), \$(2,687), and \$(2,602), for the quarters ended August 25, 2002, November 24, 2002, February 23, 2003, and May 25, 2003, respectively. The effect of the Restatement on the quarterly net earnings is \$(1,522), \$(1,484), \$(1,664), and \$(1,611), for the quarters ended August 25, 2002, November 24, 2002, February 23, 2003, and May 25, 2003, respectively. The effect on reported quarterly basic net earnings per share is \$(0.01), \$(0.01), \$(0.01), and \$(0.01), for the quarters ended August 25, 2002, November 24, 2002, February 23, 2003, and May 25, 2003, respectively. The effect on reported quarterly

56

diluted net earnings per share is \$(0.01), \$(0.01), \$(0.01), and \$(0.01), for the quarters ended August 25, 2002, November 24, 2002, February 23, 2003, and May 25, 2003, respectively.

Item 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

Not applicable.

Item 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, we evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of May 30, 2004, the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of May 30, 2004.

Subsequent to the period covered by this report, and following a December 2004 review of the accounting adjustments cited in several recent Form 8-K filings by other restaurant companies, and in consultation with our independent registered public accounting firm, KPMG, LLP, we determined that one of the adjustments in those filings relating to the treatment of lease accounting and leasehold depreciation applied to us, and that it was appropriate to adjust certain of our prior financial statements. As a result, on December 15, 2004, our Board of Directors concluded that our previously-filed financial statements for the fiscal years 1996 through 2004 and for the first quarter of fiscal 2005 should be restated. The Restatement is further discussed in "Explanatory Note" in the forepart of this Form 10-K/A, in the section entitled "Restatement" in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in Item 7 of this Form 10-K/A and in Note 2, "Restatement of Financial Statements" under Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K/A. In connection with the Restatement and with the filing of this Form 10-K/A, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, we re-evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of May 30, 2004, the end of the period covered by this Form 10-K/A. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of May 30, 2004.

During the fiscal quarter ended May 30, 2004, there was no change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

57

PART III

Item 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

The information contained in the sections entitled "Who Are This Year's Nominees?", "What Board Committees Do You Have?" and "Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance" in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders is incorporated herein by reference. Information regarding executive officers is contained in Part I above under the heading "Executive Officers of the Registrant."

All of our employees are subject to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. Appendix A to the Code provides a special Code of Ethics with additional provisions that apply to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, and persons performing similar functions (the "Senior Financial Officers"). Appendix B to the Code provides a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for members of our Board of Directors. These documents are posted on our internet website at www.darden.com and are available in print free of charge to any shareholder who requests them. We will disclose any amendments to or waivers of these Codes for directors, executive officers or Senior Financial Officers on our website.

We also have adopted a set of Corporate Governance Guidelines and charters

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

for all of our Board Committees, including the Audit, Compensation, and Nominating and Governance Committees. The Corporate Governance Guidelines and committee charters are available on our website at www.darden.com and in print free of charge to any shareholder who requests them. Written requests for our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Corporate Governance Guidelines and committee charters should be addressed to Darden Restaurants, Inc., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, Orlando, FL 32809, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

Item 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information contained in the sections entitled "How Are Directors Compensated?"; "Summary Compensation Table"; "Option Grants In Last Fiscal Year"; "Stock Option Exercises And Holdings"; "Long-Term Incentive Plans - Awards In Last Fiscal Year"; "Do Executive Officers Currently Participate In A Defined Benefit Retirement Plan?"; "Do Executive Officers Currently Participate In Any Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan?"; "Do Executive Officers Have Any Change-In-Control Arrangements?"; "Do Any Of The Executive Officers Have Employment Agreements?"; and "Compensation Committee Interlocks And Insider Participation" in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, is incorporated herein by reference. The information appearing in the Proxy Statement under the heading "Compensation Committee Report" (except under the heading "Compensation Committee Interlocks And Insider Participation") is not incorporated herein.

Item 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information contained in the sections entitled "Security Ownership Of Principal Shareholders", "Equity Compensation Plan Information" and "Security Ownership Of Management" in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The information contained in the sections entitled "Do You Provide Loans For Executive Officers To Meet Their Share Ownership Guidelines?" and "Are There Any Other Relationships Or Related Transactions Between Us And Our Management?" in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The information contained in the section entitled "Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees And Services" in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, is incorporated herein by reference.

58

PART IV

Item 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES, AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K

(a) 1. Financial Statements:

Consolidated Statements of Earnings (Restated) for the fiscal years ended May 30, 2004, May 25, 2003 and May 26, 2002.

Consolidated Balance Sheets (Restated) at May 30, 2004 and May 25, 2003.

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity and Accumulated

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Other Comprehensive Income (Restated) for the fiscal years ended May 30, 2004, May 25, 2003 and May 26, 2002.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Restated) for the fiscal years ended May 30, 2004, May 25, 2003 and May 26, 2002.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Restated).

2. Financial Statements Schedules:

Not applicable.

3. Exhibits:

Pursuant to Item 601(b)(4)(iii) of Regulation S-K, copies of certain instruments defining the rights of holders of certain of our long-term debt are not filed, and in lieu thereof, we agree to furnish copies thereof to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request.

Exhibit Number	Title
3(a)+	Articles of Incorporation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3(a) to our Registration Statement on Form 10 effective May 5, 1995).
3(b)+	Bylaws as amended July 21, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(b) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
4(a)+	Rights Agreement dated as of May 28, 1995 between us and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association (formerly known as Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.), as amended May 23, 1996, assigned to Wachovia Bank, National Association (formerly known as First Union National Bank), as Rights Agent, as of September 29, 1997 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(a) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 1998).
4(b)+	Indenture dated as of January 1, 1996, between us and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association (formerly known as Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.), as Trustee (incorporated herein by reference to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 9, 1996).
*10(a)+	Darden Restaurants, Inc. Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Plan of 1995, as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).
*10(b)+	Darden Restaurants, Inc. FlexComp Plan, as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(f) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).
*10(c)+	Darden Restaurants, Inc. Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Conversion Plan, as amended

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

(incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(c) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 26, 1996).

- * 10(d)+ Supplemental Pension Plan of Darden Restaurants, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(d) to our Registration Statement on Form 10 effective May 5, 1995).
- * 10(e)+ Executive Health Plan of Darden Restaurants, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(e) to our Registration Statement on Form 10 effective May 5, 1995).
- *10(f)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Stock Plan for Directors, as amended June 19, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(f) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
- * 10(g)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(d) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).
- *10(h)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Management and Professional Incentive Plan, as amended June 19, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(h) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
- *10(i)+ Benefits Trust Agreement dated as of October 3, 1995, between us and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association (formerly known as Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.), as Trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(i) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 1997).
- *10(j)+ Form of Management Continuity Agreement, as amended, between us and certain of our executive officers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(j) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 1997).
- *10(k)+ Form of documents for our Fiscal 1998 Stock Purchase/Option Award Program, including a Non-Negotiable Promissory Note and a Stock Pledge Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(k) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 27, 2001).
- *10(l)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Restaurant Management and Employee Stock Plan of 2000, as amended June 19, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(l) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
- *10(m)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. 2002 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(a) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

- 10(n)+ Credit Agreement dated as of October 17, 2003, among Darden Restaurants, Inc. and the banks named therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended November 30, 2003).
- 10(o)+ First Amendment dated as of February 4, 2004, to Credit Agreement dated as of October 17, 2003, among Darden Restaurants, Inc. and the banks listed therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(a) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 22, 2004).

60

- *10(p)+ Letter Agreement dated February 3, 2004, between Richard E. Rivera and Darden Restaurants, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 22, 2004).
- 12ss. Computation of Ratio of Consolidated Earnings to Fixed Charges.
- 13+ Portions of 2004 Annual Report to Shareholders.
- 21+ Subsidiaries of Darden Restaurants, Inc.
- 23ss. Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 24+ Powers of Attorney.
- 31(a)ss. Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31(b)ss. Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32(a)ss. Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32(b)ss. Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

* Items marked with an asterisk are management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements required to be filed as an exhibit pursuant to Item 14 of Form 10-K and Item 601(b)(10)(iii)(A) of Regulation S-K.

+ Previously filed with the original Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 30, 2004.

ss. Filed herewith.

We will furnish copies of any exhibit listed above upon request upon the payment of a reasonable fee to cover our expenses in furnishing such exhibits.

(b) Reports on Form 8-K.

During the fourth quarter covered by this report, we filed or furnished the

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

following current reports on Form 8-K:

- (i) Current report on Form 8-K dated February 25, 2004, reporting expected fiscal 2004 third quarter net earnings per diluted share.
- (ii) Current report on Form 8-K dated March 17, 2004, reporting fiscal 2004 third quarter net earnings per diluted share.
- (iii) Current report on Form 8-K dated May 11, 2004, announcing asset impairment and restructuring charges.
- (iv) Current report on Form 8-K dated May 20, 2004, announcing new Red Lobster leadership.

In addition, we furnished the following reports on Form 8-K subsequent to the close of the fourth quarter of fiscal 2004:

- (i) Current report on Form 8-K dated June 22, 2004, reporting fiscal 2004 annual and fourth quarter net earnings per diluted share.
- (ii) Current report on Form 8-K dated August 11, 2004, reporting the retirement of Chief Executive Officer Joe R. Lee and other management changes.

61

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: January 6, 2005

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC.

By: /s/Clarence Otis, Jr.

Clarence Otis, Jr.,
Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Clarence Otis, Jr. ----- Clarence Otis, Jr.	Director, Chief Executive Officer (Principal executive officer)	January 6, 2005
/s/ Linda J. Dimopoulos ----- Linda J. Dimopoulos	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal financial and accounting officer)	January 6, 2005
/s/ Leonard L. Berry* ----- Leonard L. Berry	Director	
/s/ Odie C. Donald* ----- Odie C. Donald	Director	
/s/ David H. Hughes* -----	Director	

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

David H. Hughes

/s/ Joe R. Lee* Director,
----- Chairman of the Board
Joe R. Lee

/s/ Andrew H. Madsen Director January 6, 2005

Andrew H. Madsen

/s/ Cornelius McGillicuddy, III* ** Director

Cornelius McGillicuddy, III

/s/ Michael D. Rose* Director

Michael D. Rose

/s/ Maria A. Sastre* Director

Maria A. Sastre

/s/ Jack A. Smith* Director

Jack A. Smith

/s/ Blaine Sweatt, III* Director

Blaine Sweatt, III

/s/ Rita P. Wilson* Director

Rita P. Wilson

*By: /s/ Paula J. Shives

Paula J. Shives, Attorney-In-Fact
January 6, 2005

** Popularly known as Senator Connie Mack, III. Senator Mack signs legal documents, including this Form 10-K/A, under his legal name of Cornelius McGillicuddy, III.

62

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Title
3(a)+	Articles of Incorporation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3(a) to our Registration Statement on Form 10 effective May 5, 1995).
3(b)+	Bylaws as amended July 21, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3(b) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
4(a)+	Rights Agreement dated as of May 28, 1995 between us and

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association (formerly known as Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.), as amended May 23, 1996, assigned to Wachovia Bank, National Association (formerly known as First Union National Bank), as Rights Agent, as of September 29, 1997 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(a) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 1998).

- 4(b)+ Indenture dated as of January 1, 1996, between us and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association (formerly known as Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.), as Trustee (incorporated herein by reference to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 9, 1996).
- *10(a)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Plan of 1995, as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).
- *10(b)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. FlexComp Plan as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(f) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).
- *10(c)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Stock Option and Long-Term Incentive Conversion Plan, as amended (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(c) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 26, 1996).
- * 10(d)+ Supplemental Pension Plan of Darden Restaurants, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(d) to our Registration Statement on Form 10 effective May 5, 1995).
- * 10(e)+ Executive Health Plan of Darden Restaurants, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(e) to our Registration Statement on Form 10 effective May 5, 1995).
- *10(f)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Stock Plan for Directors, as amended June 19, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(f) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
- *10(g)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(d) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).
- *10(h)+ Darden Restaurants, Inc. Management and Professional Incentive Plan, as amended June 19, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(h) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
- *10(i)+ Benefits Trust Agreement dated as of October 3, 1995, between us and Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association (formerly known as Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.), as

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

	Trustee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(i) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 1997).
*10(j)+	Form of Management Continuity Agreement, as amended, between us and certain of our executive officers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(j) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 1997).
*10(k)+	Form of documents for our Fiscal 1998 Stock Purchase/Option Award Program, including a Non-Negotiable Promissory Note and a Stock Pledge Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(k) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 27, 2001).
*10(l)+	Darden Restaurants, Inc. Restaurant Management and Employee Stock Plan of 2000, as amended June 19, 2003 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10(l) to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 25, 2003).
*10(m)+	Darden Restaurants, Inc. 2002 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended March 19, 2003 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(a) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 23, 2003).
10(n)+	Credit Agreement dated as of October 17, 2003, among Darden Restaurants, Inc. and the banks named therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended November 30, 2003).
10(o)+	First Amendment dated as of February 4, 2004, to Credit Agreement dated as of October 17, 2003, among Darden Restaurants, Inc. and the banks listed therein (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(a) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 22, 2004).
*10(p)+	Letter Agreement dated February 3, 2004, between Richard E. Rivera and Darden Restaurants, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10(b) to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 22, 2004).
12ss.	Computation of Ratio of Consolidated Earnings to Fixed Charges.
13+	Portions of 2004 Annual Report to Shareholders.
21+	Subsidiaries of Darden Restaurants, Inc.
23ss.	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
24+	Powers of Attorney.
31(a)ss.	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Edgar Filing: DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC - Form 10-K/A

- 31(b) ss. Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32(a) ss. Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32(b) ss. Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

64

- * Items marked with an asterisk are management contracts or compensatory plans or arrangements required to be filed as an exhibit pursuant to Item 14 of Form 10-K and Item 601(b)(10)(iii)(A) of Regulation S-K.
- + Previously filed with the original Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 30, 2004.
- ss. Filed herewith.

65