

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

Form 8-K

December 16, 2011

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

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

Date of Report: December 16, 2011

(Date of earliest event reported)

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Commission File Number: 1-13666

Florida

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1000 Darden Center Drive, Orlando, Florida 32837

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(407) 245-4000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

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

59-3305930

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

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

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

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

Darden Restaurants, Inc. (the "Company") issued a news release dated December 16, 2011, entitled "Darden Restaurants Reports Second Quarter Diluted Net Earnings Per Share Of 41 Cents; Declares A Quarterly Dividend Of 43 Cents Per Share," a copy of which is furnished as Exhibit 99 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

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

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| 99 | News release dated December 16, 2011, entitled "Darden Restaurants Reports Second Quarter Diluted Net Earnings Per Share Of 41 Cents; Declares A Quarterly Dividend Of 43 Cents Per Share." |

SIGNATURES

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

DARDEN RESTAURANTS, INC.

By: /s/ C. Bradford Richmond
 C. Bradford Richmond
 Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 16, 2011

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Description of Exhibit |
|-------------------|---|
| 99 | News release dated December 16, 2011, entitled "Darden Restaurants Reports Second Quarter Diluted Net Earnings Per Share Of 41 Cents; Declares A Quarterly Dividend Of 43 Cents Per Share." |