

DARDEN RESTAURANTS INC

Form 4

March 01, 2005

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

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

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

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
SMITH JACK A

(Last) (First) (Middle)

5900 LAKE ELLENOR
DRIVE, P.O. BOX 593330

(Street)

ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
02/25/2005

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

☒ Director ☐ 10% Owner
☐ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify below)

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

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)			
				Code V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock					43,323	D	

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not
required to respond unless the form
displays a currently valid OMB control
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SEC 1474
(9-02)

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

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. D S (I			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock Units	(1)	02/25/2005		A		368.739		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	368.739 \$

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SMITH JACK A 5900 LAKE ELLENOR DRIVE P.O. BOX 593330 ORLANDO, FL 32859-3330		X		

Signatures

Douglas E. Wentz, Attorney-in-fact for SMITH, JACK A., 5900 Lake Ellenor Drive, P.O. Box 593330, Orlando, FL 32859-3330

03/01/2005

____Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The actual conversion rate is 1-for-1.
The Reporting Person elected to defer all of the quarterly Director's compensation under the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, to be paid out in Darden Restaurants, Inc. common stock upon the reporting person's termination of board service.
- (3) Includes phantom stock units acquired pursuant to a dividend equivalent reinvestment feature of the Darden Restaurants, Inc. Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors.

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