

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 (Date of earliest event reported): April 6, 2009

BRINKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State of Incorporation)

1-10275
(Commission File
Number)

75-1914582
(IRS Employment
Identification No.)

6820 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75240
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code **972-980-9917**

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)).

Section 2 — Financial Information.

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Conditions.

The information contained in this Current Report on Form 8-K, including the Exhibit attached hereto, is being furnished and shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section. Furthermore, the information contained in this Current Report on Form 8-K shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

On April 6, 2009, the Registrant issued a Press Release announcing its preliminary estimate of earnings per share and comparable restaurant sales for the third quarter fiscal 2009. A copy of this Press Release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99(a).

Section 9 — Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

99(a) Press Release dated April 6, 2009.

SIGNATURE

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.

BRINKER INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Date: April 7, 2009

By: /s/ Douglas H. Brooks
Douglas H. Brooks, Chairman of the Board
President and Chief Executive Officer





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**BRINKER INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES PRELIMINARY THIRD QUARTER
FISCAL 2009 EARNINGS PER DILUTED SHARE AND REPORTS PRELIMINARY COMPARABLE RESTAURANT SALES**

DALLAS (April 6, 2009) – Brinker International, Inc. (NYSE: EAT) today estimates earnings per diluted share, before special items, of \$0.44 to \$0.45 for the company's third quarter ended March 25, 2009 as compared to earnings per diluted share, before special items and excluding Macaroni Grill, of \$0.33 for the third quarter of fiscal 2008 (see Table 1). For the third quarter of fiscal 2009, special items of approximately (\$0.11) per diluted share consist primarily of lease termination charges and severance costs. For the third quarter of fiscal 2008, special items of (\$0.82) per diluted share were primarily related to the write-down of Macaroni Grill assets held for sale to fair value less costs to sell as well as asset impairments and write-offs, lease termination charges and severance costs resulting from the company's decision to close restaurants and reduce its future domestic restaurant development. Third quarter fiscal 2008 earnings for Macaroni Grill accounted for approximately \$0.11 per diluted share. As a result, the company estimates earnings per diluted share on a GAAP basis to be \$0.33 to \$0.34 for the third quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to (\$0.38) for the third quarter of the prior year.

Special Items

**Table 1: Reconciliation of preliminary earnings per share, before special items (1)
Q3 09 and Q3 08; \$ per diluted share after-tax**

<u>Item</u>	<u>EPS Q3 09</u>	<u>EPS Q3 08</u>
Net Income (Loss)	0.33 - 0.34	(0.38)
Other (Gains) and Charges	0.11	0.82
Net Income before Special Items	0.44 - 0.45	0.44
Macaroni Grill before Special Items	—	(0.11)
Adjusted Net Income before Special Items	0.44 - 0.45	0.33

(1) The company believes excluding other gains and charges and Macaroni Grill from its financial results provides investors with a clearer perspective of the company's ongoing operating performance and a more relevant comparison to prior period results.

For the third quarter of fiscal 2009, earnings before special items were positively impacted by an increase in the company's margins due to favorability in cost of sales, labor, pre-opening expenses and general and administrative expenses, but partially offset by a greater than expected decrease in comparable restaurant sales of approximately 5.6 percent (see Table 2).

"Our continued success in lowering and controlling operating costs in a weak sales environment is evidence of the entire organization's commitment to improve margins and drive profits over the long term. We expect this momentum to continue into fiscal 2010, which will provide additional leverage when sales stabilize in the future," said Chuck Sonstebly, Chief Financial Officer of Brinker International.

**Table 2: Q3 preliminary comparable restaurant sales
Q3 09 and Q3 08, company and three reported brands; percentage**

	<u>Q3 09 Comparable Sales</u>	<u>Q3 08 Comparable Sales</u>	<u>Q3 09 Pricing Impact</u>	<u>Q3 09 Mix-Shift</u>
Brinker International (1)	(5.6)	1.1	3.5	0.6
Chili's	(5.2)	1.6	3.7	0.7
On The Border	(5.0)	(1.8)	3.3	2.2
Maggiano's	(9.5)	(0.4)	1.7	(2.0)

(1) Brinker International comparable restaurant sales exclude the impact of Macaroni Grill in the third quarter of fiscal 2008.

Forward Calendar

- Third quarter earnings release, before market opens, on April 21, 2009.
- Third quarter conference call, via a live webcast, on April 21, 2009.

At the end of the third quarter of fiscal quarter 2009, Brinker International either owned, operated, or franchised 1,679 restaurants under the names Chili's Grill & Bar (1,478 restaurants), On The Border Mexican Grill & Cantina (156 restaurants) and Maggiano's Little Italy (45 restaurants). Brinker also holds a minority investment in Romano's Macaroni Grill.

The statements contained in this release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and, consequently, could be affected by general business and economic conditions, financial and credit market conditions, credit availability, reduced disposable income, the impact of competition, the impact of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and other strategic transactions, the seasonality of the

company's business, adverse weather conditions, future commodity prices, product availability, fuel and utility costs and availability, terrorists acts, consumer perception of food safety, changes in consumer taste, health epidemics or pandemics, changes in demographic trends, availability of employees, unfavorable publicity, the company's ability to meet its growth plan, acts of God, governmental regulations, and inflation.

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