Darden Restaurants Reports April Same-Restaurant Sales Results


Same-restaurant sales at Olive Garden increased 5% to 6% for fiscal April, which reflected an approximate 3% increase in guest counts and a 2% to 3% increase in check average. The check average increase was a result of an increase in pricing, with flat menu mix. Last year, Olive Garden had an approximate 1% increase in same-restaurant sales.

Same-restaurant sales at Red Lobster decreased 1% to 2% for fiscal April, which reflected a 3% to 4% decrease in guest counts and an approximate 2% increase in check average. The check average increase was a result of a 2% to 3% increase in pricing and a 0% to 1% decrease from menu mix changes. Last year, Red Lobster had a 9% to 10% increase in same-restaurant sales.

Darden Restaurants, Inc., headquartered in Orlando, FL, owns and operates over 1,450 Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bahama Breeze, Smokey Bones, and Seasons 52(R) restaurants with annual sales of $5.7 billion.

Forward-looking statements in this news release are made under the Safe Harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Certain important factors could cause results to differ materially from those anticipated by the forward-looking statements including the impact of intense competition, changing economic or business conditions, the price and availability of food, ingredients and utilities, labor and insurance costs, increased advertising and marketing costs, higher-than-anticipated costs to open or close restaurants, litigation, unfavorable publicity, a lack of suitable locations, government regulations, a failure to achieve growth objectives, weather, risks associated with our plans to continue to improve the financial performance at Bahama Breeze to support new restaurant growth, the continued business weakness at Smokey Bones, and other factors discussed from time to time in reports filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SOURCE Darden Restaurants, Inc.

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