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APPLEBEES INTERNATIONAL INC

Form 8-K

January 23, 2003

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 (Date of earliest event reported) January 23, 2003  
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Commission File Number: 000-17962

Applebee's International, Inc.  
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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
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43-1461763  
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(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

4551 W. 107th Street, Suite 100, Overland Park, Kansas 66207  
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(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(913) 967-4000  
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(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

None  
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(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events

On January 23, 2003, Applebee's International, Inc. (the "Company") issued a press release entitled "Applebee's International Enters Into Agreement to

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Acquire 11 Franchise Restaurants." The press release is included below.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carol DiRaimo,  
Director of Investor Relations  
(913) 967-4109

### APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL ENTERS INTO AGREEMENT TO ACQUIRE 11 FRANCHISE RESTAURANTS

OVERLAND PARK, KAN., January 23, 2003 -- Applebee's International, Inc. (Nasdaq:APPB) announced today that it has reached an agreement with Thomas and King, Inc., an existing Applebee's franchisee, to acquire the assets of 11 Applebee's restaurants for \$23.2 million in cash at closing, subject to adjustment. The restaurants are located in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri.

Lloyd L. Hill, chairman and chief executive officer, said, "Part of our growth strategy is to use our strong balance sheet and substantial free cash flow for franchise acquisitions. These restaurants are contiguous to the St. Louis market that we acquired in 1997, and their addition will provide geographic and operations synergy to our base of company restaurants. Fiscal year 2002 comparable sales for these restaurants were higher than the system average, and average weekly sales were in excess of \$44,000. We believe the territory in which these restaurants are located will ultimately support a total of more than 15 Applebee's restaurants. We look forward to welcoming this team of associates and their strong operating culture to Applebee's International."

The acquisition of the restaurants is anticipated to close late in the first quarter of 2003, subject to obtaining operating licenses and other third-party consents. The company expects the addition of these restaurants to be slightly accretive to fiscal year 2003 earnings.

Thomas and King is currently the largest franchisee in the Applebee's system with 85 restaurants in seven states. Upon completion of the sale, Thomas and King will continue to operate Applebee's restaurants located primarily in Arizona, Kentucky and Ohio.

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Applebee's International, Inc., headquartered in Overland Park, Kan., develops, franchises and operates restaurants under the Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar brand, the largest casual dining concept in the world. There are currently over 1,500 Applebee's restaurants operating system-wide in 49 states and nine international countries. Additional information on Applebee's International can be found at the company's website ([www.applebees.com](http://www.applebees.com)).

Certain statements contained in this release are forward looking and based on current expectations. There are several risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described, including but not limited to the ability of the company and its franchisees to open and operate

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additional restaurants profitably, the continued growth of its franchisees and its ability to attract and retain qualified franchisees, the impact of intense competition in the casual dining segment of the restaurant industry and its ability to control restaurant operating costs which are impacted by market changes, minimum wage and other employment laws, food costs and inflation. For additional discussion of the principal factors that could cause actual results to be materially different, the reader is referred to the company's current report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 16, 2002. The company disclaims any obligation to update these forward-looking statements.

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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, thereunto duly authorized.

APPLEBEE'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
(Registrant)

Date: January 23, 2003  
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By: /s/ Steven K. Lumpkin  
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Steven K. Lumpkin  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

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