

Chefs' Warehouse Holdings, LLC

Form S-1/A

June 08, 2011

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 8, 2011

Registration No. 333-173445

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

**Amendment No. 1
to
Form S-1**

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

CHEFS WAREHOUSE HOLDINGS, LLC
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
*(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation or Organization)*

5141
*(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)*

20-3031526
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

**100 East Ridge Road
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877
(203) 894-1345**
*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)*

**Christopher Pappas
President and Chief Executive Officer
100 East Ridge Road
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877
(203) 894-1345**
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service)*

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Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer
(Do not check if a smaller
reporting company)

Smaller reporting
company

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC, a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware, is the registrant filing this registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Prior to the effectiveness of this registration statement, Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC will be converted into a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware pursuant to Section 18-216 of the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act and Section 265 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. The securities issued to investors in connection with this offering will be common stock in that corporation, which will be named The Chefs Warehouse, Inc.

The Chefs Warehouse, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC, is not the registrant under this registration statement. Prior to the consummation of this offering, we expect that its name will be changed to The Chefs Warehouse Mid-Atlantic, LLC.

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The information in this preliminary prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is declared effective. This preliminary prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED JUNE 8, 2011

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS

Shares

The Chefs Warehouse, Inc.

Common Stock

We are offering _____ shares of our common stock and the selling stockholders identified in this prospectus are offering _____ shares of our common stock. Because the selling stockholders are our affiliates, a portion of the proceeds of the offering will benefit such affiliates. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of shares by the selling stockholders. This is our initial public offering, and, prior to this offering, there has been no public market for our common stock. We expect the initial public offering price to be between \$ _____ and \$ _____ per share. We have applied to list our common stock for listing on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol CHEF.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Please read Risk Factors beginning on page 12 of this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	PER SHARE	TOTAL
Public Offering Price	\$	\$
Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	\$	\$
Proceeds to The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. Before Expenses	\$	\$
Proceeds to Selling Stockholders Before Expenses	\$	\$

Delivery of the shares of common stock is expected to be made on or about _____, 2011. We and the selling stockholders have granted the underwriters an option for a period of 30 days to purchase an additional

and _____ shares of our common stock, respectively, to cover over-allotments. If the underwriters exercise the option in full, the total underwriting discounts and commissions payable by us and the selling stockholders will be \$ _____ and the total proceeds to us and the selling stockholders, before expenses, will be \$ _____.

Jefferies

Prospectus dated _____, 2011

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We and the selling stockholders have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to give any information or to make any representations other than those that are contained in this prospectus or in any free writing prospectus

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issued by us. Do not rely upon any information or representations made outside of this prospectus or in any free writing prospectus issued by us. This prospectus is not an offer to sell, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy, (1) any securities other than shares of our common stock or (2) shares of our common stock in any circumstances in which the offer or solicitation is unlawful. The information contained in this prospectus may change after the date of this prospectus. Do not assume after the date of this prospectus that the information contained in this prospectus is still correct.

Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus must inform themselves about and observe any restrictions relating to the offering of the securities and the distribution of the prospectus outside the United States.

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Basis of Presentation

We utilize a 52/53 week fiscal year ending on a Friday near the end of December. Our fiscal years ended December 24, 2010, December 25, 2009, December 26, 2008, December 28, 2007 and December 29, 2006 were each comprised of 52 weeks. Fiscal years are identified in this prospectus according to the calendar year in which the fiscal years end. For example, references to 2010, fiscal 2010, fiscal year end 2010 or other similar references refer to the fiscal year ended December 24, 2010. Our fiscal year ending December 30, 2011 will have 53 weeks.

Industry and Market Data

This prospectus includes industry and market data that we derived from internal company records, publicly-available information and industry publications and surveys. Industry publications and surveys generally state that the information contained therein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. We believe that this data is accurate in all material respects as of the date of this prospectus. You should carefully consider the inherent risks and uncertainties associated with the industry and market data contained in this prospectus.

Trademarks and Trade Names

In this prospectus, we refer (without any ownership notation) to several registered and common law trademarks, including The Chefs Warehouse, Dairyland USA, Spoleto, Bel Aria and Grand Reserve. All brand names or other trademarks appearing in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus and is qualified in its entirety by the more detailed information and the historical consolidated financial statements, and the related notes thereto, included elsewhere in this prospectus. Because it is a summary, it does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our common stock. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the more detailed information set forth under the caption Risk Factors and the historical consolidated financial statements, and the related notes thereto, included elsewhere in this prospectus before investing in our common stock.

Prior to the effectiveness of this registration statement, we will convert our company from a Delaware limited liability company (Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC) to a Delaware corporation (The Chefs Warehouse, Inc.). Unless otherwise noted, the terms Company, we, us, and our refer to Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC and its consolidated subsidiaries prior to the conversion date and The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries on and after the conversion date. This prospectus assumes the completion of the conversion and related transactions, as a result of which all membership interests of Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC held by our investors will be converted into shares of common stock of The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. See Certain Relationships and Related-Party Transactions Reorganization Transaction. Unless otherwise indicated or the context otherwise requires, financial and operating data in this prospectus reflects the consolidated business and operations of Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC and its wholly-owned subsidiaries prior to the conversion and The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries from and after the conversion.

Unless the context otherwise requires or indicates, the information set forth in this prospectus assumes that (1) the underwriters over-allotment option is not exercised and (2) the common stock to be sold in this offering is sold at \$ per share, which is the midpoint of the price range indicated on the cover page of this prospectus.

Company Overview

We are a premier distributor of specialty food products in the United States. We are focused on serving the specific needs of chefs who own and/or operate some of the nation's leading menu-driven independent restaurants, fine dining establishments, country clubs, hotels, caterers, culinary schools and specialty food stores. We believe that we have a distinct competitive advantage in serving these customers as a result of our extensive selection of distinctive and hard-to-find specialty food products, our product knowledge and our customer service.

We define specialty food products as gourmet foods and ingredients that are of the highest grade, quality or style as measured by their uniqueness, exotic origin or particular processing method. Our product portfolio includes over 11,500 stock-keeping units, or SKUs, and is comprised primarily of imported and domestic specialty food products, such as artisan charcuterie, specialty cheeses, unique oils and vinegars, hormone-free protein, truffles, caviar and chocolate. We also offer an extensive line of broadline food products, including cooking oils, butter, eggs, milk and flour. Our core customers are chefs, and we believe that, by offering a wide selection of both distinctive and hard-to-find specialty products, together with staple broadline food products, we are able to differentiate ourselves from larger, traditional broadline foodservice distributors, while simultaneously enabling our customers to utilize us as their primary foodservice distributor.

Since the formation of our predecessor in 1985, we have expanded our distribution network, product selection and customer base both organically and through acquisitions. From fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2010, net revenues, net income and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or EBITDA, increased approximately \$59.0 million, \$6.9 million and \$8.7 million, respectively, to \$330.1 million, \$15.9 million and \$24.6 million, respectively. Net revenues, net income and EBITDA for the three months ended March 25, 2011 were \$83.2 million, \$1.0 million and

\$5.5 million, respectively, increases of \$13.2 million, \$0.7 million and \$1.8 million, respectively, over the comparable period in fiscal 2010. Pro forma net income for fiscal 2010 and the three months ended March 25, 2011 was \$ and \$, respectively. See footnote 4 to the Summary Consolidated Financial Data for a reconciliation of EBITDA to adjusted EBITDA and the information under the caption Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page F-21 for the calculation of pro forma net income for fiscal 2010. During these periods and in prior years, our sales to both new and existing customers have increased as a result of an increase in the breadth and depth of our product portfolio, our commitment to customer service, the efforts of our experienced and sophisticated sales professionals, the increased use of technology in the operations and management of our business and our ongoing

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consolidation of the fragmented specialty foodservice distribution industry, including acquisitions in San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and Miami since 2007.

Competitive Strengths

We believe that, during our 26-year history, we have achieved, developed and/or refined the following strengths which provide us with a distinct competitive position in the foodservice distribution industry and also the opportunity to achieve superior margins relative to most large broadline foodservice distributors:

Leading Distributor of Specialty Food Products in Many of the Key Culinary Markets. Based on our management's industry knowledge and experience, we believe we are the largest distributor of specialty food products in the New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Los Angeles metro markets as measured by net sales. We believe these markets, along with a number of other markets we serve, including Las Vegas, Miami, Philadelphia, Boston and Napa Valley, create and set the culinary trends for the rest of the United States and provide us with valuable insight into the latest culinary and menu practices. Furthermore, we believe our established relationships with many of the top chefs, culinary schools and dining establishments in these key culinary markets have benefited us when we entered into new markets where we believe that chefs at our potential customers were generally knowledgeable of our brand and commitment to quality and excellence from their experience working in other markets which we serve or through their personal relationships throughout the culinary industry.

Expansive Product Offering. We offer an extensive portfolio of high-quality specialty food products, ranging from basic ingredients and staples, such as milk and flour, to delicacies and specialty ingredients sourced from North America, Europe, Asia and South America, which we believe helps our customers distinguish their menu items. We carry more than 11,500 SKUs, including approximately 7,000 that are in-stock every day, and we constantly evaluate our portfolio and introduce new products to address regional trends and preferences and ensure that we are on the leading edge of broader culinary trends. Through our importing division, we provide our customers with access to a portfolio of exclusive items, including regional olive oils, truffles and charcuterie from Italy, Spain, France and other Mediterranean countries. In addition, and as evidence of our commitment to aid our customers in creating unique and innovative menu items, we regularly utilize our sourcing relationships and industry insights to procure additional products that we do not regularly carry but that our customers specifically request. We believe that the breadth and depth of our product portfolio facilitates our customers' ability to distinguish and enhance their menu offerings and differentiates us from larger traditional broadline foodservice distributors. For example, we provide a selection of more than 125 different varieties of olive oil, while large broadline foodservice distributors only carry, on average, 5-10 types of olive oil.

Critical Route-to-Market for Specialty Food Suppliers. We currently distribute products from more than 1,000 different suppliers, with no single supplier currently representing more than 5% of our total disbursements. Our suppliers are located throughout North America, Europe, Asia and South America and include numerous small, family-owned entities and artisanal food producers. We are the largest customer for many of our suppliers. As a result, our experienced and sophisticated sales professionals, customer relationships and distribution platform are critical to these suppliers' route-to-market, which provides us with greater leverage in our relationships with the suppliers and also enables us to offer a wide range of products on an exclusive basis.

Expanding Base of Premier Customer Relationships. Our breadth and depth of product offerings coupled with our highly regarded customer service has allowed us to develop and retain a loyal customer base that is comprised of chefs who own or work at more than 7,000 of the nation's leading menu-driven independent restaurants, fine dining establishments, country clubs, hotels, caterers, culinary schools and specialty food stores. Our focus on product selection, product knowledge and customer service has rewarded us with a number of long-term customer relationships, which often begin when chefs are introduced to us while attending the nation's leading culinary schools,

including The Culinary Institute of America and The French Culinary Institute, both of which have been customers of ours for more than five years.

Collaborative Professional and Educational Relationships with our Customers. We employ a sophisticated and experienced sales force of approximately 125 sales professionals, the majority of whom have formal culinary training, degrees in the culinary arts or prior experience working in the culinary industry. Equipped with advanced culinary and industry knowledge, our sales professionals seek to establish a rapport with our customers so that they can more fully understand and anticipate the needs of and offer cost-effective food product solutions to the chefs that own or operate these businesses. We believe that the specialized knowledge base of our sales professionals

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enables us to take a more collaborative and educational approach to selling our gourmet foods and ingredients and to further differentiate ourselves from our traditional broadline competitors.

Expertise in Logistics and Distribution. We have built a first-class, scalable inventory management and logistics platform that enables us to efficiently fill an average of 11,000 orders each week and to profitably meet our customers needs for varying drop sizes, high service levels and timely delivery. Our average distribution service level, or the percentage of in-stock items ordered by customers that were delivered by the requested date, was in excess of 99% in 2010, which we believe is among the highest rates in the foodservice distribution industry. With distribution centers located in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Las Vegas and Miami, we are able to leverage our geographic footprint and reduce our inbound freight costs. This scale enables us to maintain a portfolio of more than 11,500 SKUs through the operation of our sophisticated information technology, inventory management and logistics systems, which we believe allows us to provide our customers with the highest level of customer service and responsiveness in our industry.

Experienced and Proven Management Team. Our senior management team has demonstrated the ability to grow the business through various economic environments. With collective experience of more than 60 years at The Chefs Warehouse and its predecessor, our founders and senior management are experienced operators and are passionate about our future. Our senior management team is comprised of our founders as well as experienced professionals with expertise in a wide range of functional areas, including finance, sales and marketing, information technology and human resources. We believe our management team and employee base is, and will remain, highly motivated as they will continue to own % of our common stock following this offering.

Our Growth Strategies

We believe substantial organic growth opportunities exist in our current markets through increased penetration of our existing customers and the addition of new customers, and we have identified new markets that we believe also present opportunities for future expansion. Key elements of our growth strategy include the following:

Increase Penetration with Existing Customers. We intend to sell more products to our existing customers by increasing the breadth and depth of our product selection and increasing the efficiency of our sales professionals, while at the same time continuing to provide excellent customer service. We are a data-driven and goal-oriented organization, and we are highly focused on increasing the number of unique products we distribute to each customer and our weekly gross profit contribution from each customer. Based on our management's industry experience and our relationships and dealings with our customers, we believe we are the primary distributor of specialty food products to the majority of our customers, and we intend to maintain that position while adding to the number of customers for which we serve as their primary distributor of specialty food products.

Expand our Customer Base Within our Existing Markets. As of December 24, 2010, we served more than 7,000 customer locations in the United States. We plan to expand our market share in the fragmented specialty food distribution industry by cultivating new customer relationships within our existing markets through the continued penetration of independent restaurants, fine dining establishments, country clubs, hotels, caterers, culinary schools and specialty food stores. We believe we have the opportunity to continue to gain market share in our existing markets by offering an extensive selection of specialty food products as well as traditional broadline staple food products through our unique, collaborative and educational sales efforts and efficient, scalable distribution solution.

Continue to Improve our Operating Margins. As we continue to grow, we believe we can improve our operating margins by continuing to leverage our inventory management and logistics platform and our general and administrative functions to yield both improved customer service and profitability. Utilizing our fleet of delivery trucks, we fill an average of 11,000 customer orders each week, usually within 12-24 hours of order placement. We

intend to continue to offer our customers this high level of customer service while maintaining our focus on realizing efficiencies and economies of scale in purchasing, warehousing, distribution and general and administrative functions which, when combined with incremental fixed-cost leverage, we believe will lead to continued improvements in our operating margin.

Pursue Selective Acquisitions. Throughout our 26-year history, we have successfully identified, consummated and integrated multiple new market and tuck-in acquisitions. We believe we have improved the operations and overall profitability of each acquired company by leveraging our sourcing relationships to provide an expanded product portfolio, implementing our tested sales force training techniques and metrics and installing improved warehouse

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management and information systems. We believe we have the opportunity to capitalize on our existing infrastructure and expertise by continuing to selectively pursue opportunistic acquisitions in order to expand the breadth of our distribution network, increase our operating efficiency and add additional products and capabilities.

Recent Developments

On May 31, 2011, we entered into an agreement to purchase certain of the assets of Harry Wils & Co., a specialty foodservice distribution company headquartered in the New York City metropolitan area. We are purchasing the inventory of Harry Wils & Co. and certain intangible assets, including Harry Wils & Co.'s customer list and certain intellectual property. We are assuming no liabilities in connection with the transaction and intend to relocate the inventory we are purchasing to our Bronx, New York distribution facility shortly following the closing of the transaction, which, subject to the satisfaction of certain customary closing conditions, we expect to occur by mid-July 2011. We intend to finance the purchase price for these assets we are acquiring through borrowings under our existing senior secured credit facilities.

Reorganization Transaction

Prior to the effectiveness of this registration statement, we will complete a transaction in which we will convert Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC into The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. Specifically, immediately prior to the time at which the registration statement of which this prospectus is part is declared effective, Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, will convert into The Chefs Warehouse, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and the members of Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC will receive in the conversion _____ shares of common stock of The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. for each unit of membership interest in Chefs Warehouse Holdings, LLC owned by them at the time of the conversion. In total, we expect to issue _____ shares of common stock in this reorganization transaction. Of these shares, _____ shares will be restricted shares of our common stock issued upon conversion of our Class C units that have not vested as of the date we consummate the reorganization transaction.

Refinancing Transactions

In connection with our redemption of all of our outstanding Class A units in October 2010, we entered into our existing \$100.0 million senior secured credit facilities with a syndicate of lenders. The existing senior secured credit facilities provide for (i) a \$75.0 million term loan facility and (ii) a revolving credit facility under which we may borrow up to \$25.0 million. We also issued \$15.0 million of our senior subordinated notes due 2014.

In connection with this offering, we intend to enter into a commitment letter, which we expect will be replaced by definitive loan documentation simultaneously with the closing of this offering, with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. with respect to new senior secured credit facilities. Pursuant to the commitment letter, we expect that the new senior secured credit facilities will provide for (i) a four year, \$30.0 million term loan facility maturing in 2015, and (ii) a four year, \$50.0 million revolving credit facility maturing in 2015. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering, together with a portion of borrowings under our new senior secured credit facilities, to repay all of our loans outstanding under our existing senior secured credit facilities and redeem or repurchase all of our outstanding senior subordinated notes due 2014.

Risk Factors

An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before you invest in our common stock, you should carefully read and consider, among other things, the following risks as well as those described under the caption Risk Factors beginning on page 12 of this prospectus:

Our success depends to a significant extent on general economic conditions, including changes in disposable income levels and consumer spending trends;

Conditions beyond our control could materially affect the cost and/or availability of our specialty food products and/or interrupt our distribution network;

Our business is low-margin in nature and our profit margins are sensitive to inflationary and deflationary pressures;

Because our foodservice distribution operations are principally concentrated in six culinary markets, we are susceptible to economic and other developments, including adverse weather conditions, in these areas;

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Damage to our reputation or lack of acceptance of our specialty food products and/or the brands we carry in existing and new markets could materially and adversely impact our business, financial condition or results of operations;

Our profit margins may be negatively affected if group purchasing organizations are successful in adding our independent restaurant customers as members;

A significant portion of our future growth is dependent upon our ability to expand our operations in our existing markets and to penetrate new markets, including through acquisitions; and

We may have difficulty managing and facilitating our future growth.

Company Information

Our principal executive office is located at 100 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877, and our telephone number is (203) 894-1345. Our website address is *http://www.chefswarehouse.com*. Our website and the information contained therein or connected thereto is not and shall not be deemed to be incorporated into this prospectus or the registration statement of which it forms a part and is provided as an inactive textual reference.

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The Offering

Common stock offered by us shares

Common stock offered by the selling stockholders shares

Common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering shares

Selling Stockholders

See **Principal and Selling Stockholders** for information regarding the selling stockholders who are participating in this offering.

Over-Allotment Option

We and the selling stockholders have granted to the underwriters an option for a period of 30 days after the date of this prospectus to purchase up to and additional shares of our common stock, respectively, to cover over-allotments. The information presented in this prospectus assumes that the underwriters do not exercise their over-allotment option.

Use of Proceeds

We estimate the net proceeds to us from this offering will be approximately \$ million, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us, based upon an assumed initial offering price of \$ per share, which is the midpoint of the range set forth on the cover page of this prospectus. We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering, together with borrowings under our new senior secured credit facilities, to:

- redeem or repurchase all of our outstanding senior subordinated notes due 2014 and pay any accrued but unpaid interest thereon and other related fees, including the call premium associated with such redemption or repurchase; and
- repay all of our loans outstanding under our existing senior secured credit facilities and any accrued but unpaid interest thereon and other related fees.

Any remaining net proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes.

An affiliate of Jefferies & Company, Inc., an underwriter in this offering, is a lender under our existing term loan facility and one of the holders of our senior subordinated notes and will receive approximately \$ million of the net proceeds of this offering used to redeem or repurchase our senior subordinated notes and repay our existing term loan facility.

For a more complete description of our new senior secured credit facilities, see the information under the caption **Description of Our Indebtedness – New Senior Secured Credit Facilities**.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of common stock by the selling stockholders. See **Use of Proceeds**, **Description of Our Indebtedness**, **Principal and Selling Stockholders** and **Underwriting Affiliations and Conflicts of Interest**.

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Risk Factors

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully read this entire prospectus, including the more detailed information set forth under the caption **Risk Factors** and the historical consolidated financial statements, and the related notes thereto, included elsewhere in this prospectus, before investing in our common stock.

Lock-up Agreements

Our directors, executive officers and holders of more than 5% of our outstanding common stock have agreed with the underwriters, subject to limited exceptions, not to sell, transfer or dispose of any of our shares for a period of 180 days after the date of this prospectus. See the information under the caption **Underwriting** **No Sales of Similar Securities** for additional information.

Proposed NASDAQ Global Market Symbol

We have applied to have our common stock approved for listing on The NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol CHEF.

Conflicts of Interest

As described under the caption **Use of Proceeds**, we intend to use net proceeds from this offering, together with borrowings under our new senior secured credit facilities, to (1) redeem or repurchase any and all of our outstanding senior subordinated notes and any accrued but unpaid interest thereon and other related fees, including the call premium associated with such redemption or repurchase, and (2) repay all of our loans outstanding under our existing senior secured credit facilities and any accrued but unpaid interest thereon and other related fees. Because an affiliate of Jefferies & Company, Inc. is a lender under our existing term loan facility and one of the holders of our senior subordinated notes and will receive approximately \$, or more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering, due to such redemption and repayments, this offering will be conducted in accordance with Rule 5121 of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., or FINRA. This rule requires, among other things, that a qualified independent underwriter has participated in the preparation of, and has exercised the usual standards of due diligence with respect to, the registration statement and this prospectus. has agreed to act as qualified independent underwriter for the offering and to undertake the legal responsibilities and liabilities of an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, specifically including those inherent in Section 11 of the Securities Act.

Table of Contents**Summary Consolidated Financial Data**

The following table sets forth, for the periods and as of the dates indicated, our summary consolidated financial data on an historical basis and, for the fiscal year ended December 24, 2010 and for the three months ended March 25, 2011, on both an as adjusted basis giving effect to this offering, our reorganization transaction described below and the application of the net proceeds of this offering as described under the caption "Use of Proceeds" and borrowings under our new senior secured credit facilities and a pro forma basis giving effect to our redemption of our Class A units, this offering, our reorganization transaction described below and the application of the net proceeds of this offering as described under the caption "Use of Proceeds" and borrowings under our new senior secured credit facilities. The statement of operations data for the fiscal years ended December 24, 2010, December 25, 2009 and December 26, 2008 and the balance sheet data as of December 24, 2010 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. We have derived the statement of operations data for the three months ended March 25, 2011 and March 26, 2010 and balance sheet data as of March 25, 2011 from our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. In the opinion of management, the unaudited interim consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments, consisting of normal and recurring adjustments, necessary for the fair presentation of the Company's financial position at March 25, 2011 and results of its operations and its cash flows for the three months ended March 25, 2011 and March 26, 2010. The financial condition and results of operations as of and for the three months ended March 25, 2011 do not purport to be indicative of the financial condition or results of operations to be expected as of or for the fiscal year ending December 30, 2011. The pro forma data included in the table was prepared in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation S-X of the Securities Act.

The summary consolidated financial data presented below represent only portions of our financial statements and, accordingly, are not complete. You should read this information in conjunction with the information included under the captions "Use of Proceeds," "Capitalization," "Selected Consolidated Financial Data," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," "Unaudited Pro Forma Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements" and our consolidated financial statements, and the related notes thereto, which are included elsewhere in this prospectus.

Prior to the effectiveness of this registration statement, we will convert our company from a Delaware limited liability company (Chefs' Warehouse Holdings, LLC) to a Delaware corporation (The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc.). See "Certain Relationships and Related-Party Transactions" Reorganization Transaction. The summary consolidated financial data relate to Chefs' Warehouse Holdings, LLC and its consolidated subsidiaries.

	FISCAL YEAR ENDED		THREE MONTHS ENDED		PRO FORMA ⁽¹⁾ FISCAL YEAR ENDED		THREE MONTHS ENDED
	DECEMBER 24, 2010	DECEMBER 25, 2009	DECEMBER 26, 2008	MARCH 25, 2011	MARCH 26, 2010	DECEMBER 24, 2010	MARCH 25, 2011
	(In thousands, except per share data)						

Statement of Operations Data:

Net revenues	\$ 330,118	\$ 271,072	\$ 281,703	\$ 83,183	\$ 70,000	\$ 330,118	\$ 83,183
Cost of sales	244,340	199,764	211,387	61,148	52,017	244,340	61,148

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Gross profit	85,778	71,308	70,316	22,035	17,983	85,778	22,035
Operating expenses	64,206	57,977	60,314	16,976	14,953		
Operating profit	21,572	13,331	10,002	5,059	3,030		

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As of March 29, 2019, the 500 companies included in the Reference Asset were divided into eleven Global Industry Classification Sectors. The Global Industry Classification Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Information Technology (21.2%); Health Care (14.6%); Financials (12.7%); Communication Services (10.1%); Consumer Discretionary (10.1%); Industrials (9.5%); Consumer Staples (7.3%); Energy (5.4%); Utilities (3.3%); Real Estate (3.1%); and Materials (2.6%). (Sector designations are determined by the Index Sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.) As of the close of business on September 21, 2018, the Index Sponsor and MSCI, Inc. updated the Global Industry Classification Sector structure. Among other things, the update broadened the Telecommunications Services sector and renamed it the Communication Services sector. The renamed sector includes the previously existing Telecommunication Services Industry group, as well as the Media Industry group, which was moved from the Consumer Discretionary sector and renamed the Media & Entertainment Industry group. The Media & Entertainment Industry group contains three industries: Media, Entertainment and Interactive Media & Services. The Media industry continues to consist of the Advertising, Broadcasting, Cable & Satellite and Publishing sub-industries. The Entertainment industry contains the Movies & Entertainment sub-industry (which includes online entertainment streaming companies in addition to companies previously classified in such industry prior to September 21, 2018) and the Interactive Home Entertainment sub-industry (which includes companies previously classified in the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry prior to September 21, 2018 (when the Home Entertainment Software sub-industry was a sub-industry in the Information Technology sector)), as well as producers of interactive gaming products, including mobile gaming applications). The Interactive Media & Services industry and sub-industry includes companies engaged in content and information creation or distribution through proprietary platforms, where revenues are derived primarily through pay-per-click advertisements, and includes search engines, social media and networking platforms, online classifieds and online review companies. The Global Industry Classification Sector structure changes were effective for the S&P 500® Index as of the open of business on September 24, 2018 to coincide with the September 2018 quarterly rebalancing.

Calculation of the Reference Asset

The Reference Asset is calculated using a base-weighted aggregative methodology. The level of the Reference Asset on any day for which a level is published is determined by a fraction, the numerator of which is the aggregate of the market price of each Reference Asset Constituent *times* the number of shares of such Reference Asset Constituent, and the denominator of which is the divisor, which is described more fully below. The “market value” of any Reference Asset Constituent is the *product* of the market price per share of that Reference Asset Constituent *times* the number of the then-outstanding shares of such Reference Asset Constituent that are then included in the Reference Asset .

The Reference Asset is also sometimes called a “base-weighted aggregative index” because of its use of a divisor. The “divisor” is a value calculated by the Index Sponsor that is intended to maintain conformity in Reference Asset levels over time and is adjusted for all changes in the Reference Asset Constituents’ share capital after the “base date” as described below. The level of the Reference Asset reflects the total market value of all Reference Asset Constituents relative to the Reference Asset’s base date of 1941-43.

In addition, the Reference Asset is float-adjusted, meaning that the share counts used in calculating the Reference Asset reflect only those shares available to investors rather than all of a company’s outstanding shares. The Index Sponsor seeks to exclude shares held by certain shareholders concerned with the control of a company, a group that generally includes the following: officers and directors and related individuals whose holdings are publicly disclosed, private equity, venture capital, special equity firms, publicly traded companies that hold shares for control in another company, strategic partners, holders of restricted shares, employee stock ownership plans, employee and family trusts, foundations associated with the company, holders of unlisted share classes of stock, government entities at all levels

(except government retirement or pension funds) and any individual person listed as a 5% or greater stakeholder in a company as reported in regulatory filings (collectively, “control holders”). To this end, the Index Sponsor excludes all share-holdings (other than depository banks, pension funds, mutual funds, exchange traded fund providers, 401(k) plans of the company, government retirement and pension funds, investment funds of insurance companies, asset managers and investment funds, independent foundations, savings plans and investment plans) with a position greater than 5% of the outstanding shares of a company from the float-adjusted share count to be used in Reference Asset calculations.

The exclusion is accomplished by calculating an Investable Weight Factor (IWF) for each Reference Asset Constituent that is part of the numerator of the float-adjusted index fraction described above:

$IWF = (\text{available float shares}) / (\text{total shares outstanding})$

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where available float shares is defined as total shares outstanding less shares held by control holders. In most cases, an IWF is reported to the nearest one percentage point. For companies with multiple share class lines, a separate IWF is calculated for each share class line.

Maintenance of the Reference Asset

In order to keep the Reference Asset comparable over time the Index Sponsor engages in a Reference Asset maintenance process. The Reference Asset maintenance process involves changing the constituents as discussed above, and also involves maintaining quality assurance processes and procedures, adjusting the number of shares used to calculate the Reference Asset, monitoring and completing the adjustments for company additions and deletions, adjusting for stock splits and stock dividends and adjusting for other corporate actions. In addition to its daily governance of indices and maintenance of the Reference Asset methodology, at least once within any 12 month period, the S&P Index Committee reviews the Reference Asset methodology to ensure the Reference Asset continues to achieve the stated objective, and that the data and methodology remain effective. The S&P Index Committee may at times consult with investors, market participants, security issuers included in or potentially included in the Reference Asset, or investment and financial experts.

Divisor Adjustments

The two types of adjustments primarily used by the Index Sponsor are divisor adjustments and adjustments to the number of shares (including float adjustments) used to calculate the Reference Asset. Set forth below is a table of certain corporate events and their resulting effect on the divisor and the share count. If a corporate event requires an adjustment to the divisor, that event has the effect of altering the market value of the affected Reference Asset Constituent and consequently of altering the aggregate market value of the Reference Asset Constituents following the event. In order that the level of the Reference Asset not be affected by the altered market value (which could be an increase or decrease) of the affected Reference Asset Constituent, the Index Sponsor generally derives a new divisor by dividing the post-event market value of the Reference Asset Constituents by the pre-event Reference Asset level, which has the effect of reducing the Reference Asset's post-event level to the pre-event level.

Changes to the Number of Shares of a Constituent

The Reference Asset maintenance process also involves tracking the changes in the number of shares included for each of the Reference Asset Constituents. The timing of adjustments to the number of shares depends on the type of event causing the change, and whether the change represents 5% or more of the total share count (for companies with multiple share class lines, the 5% threshold is based on each individual share class line rather than total company shares). Changes as a result of mergers or acquisitions are implemented when the transaction occurs. At the Index Sponsor's discretion, however, de minimis merger and acquisition changes may be accumulated and implemented with the updates made at the quarterly share updates as described below. Changes in a constituent's total shares of 5% or more due to public offerings (which must be underwritten, have a publicly available prospectus or prospectus summary filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and include a public confirmation that the offering has been completed) are implemented as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes of 5% or more are made weekly and are announced on Fridays for implementation after the close of trading on the following Friday. For changes of less than 5%, on the third Friday of the last month in each calendar quarter, the Index Sponsor updates the share totals of companies in the Reference Asset as required by any changes in the number of shares outstanding. The Index Sponsor implements a share / IWF freeze beginning after the market close on the Tuesday preceding the second Friday of each quarterly rebalancing month and ending after the market close on the third Friday of the quarterly rebalancing month. During this frozen period, shares and IWFs are not changed except for certain corporate action events (merger activity, stock splits and rights offerings).

Adjustments for Corporate Actions

There is a large range of corporate actions that may affect companies included in the Reference Asset. Certain corporate actions require the Index Sponsor to recalculate the share count or the float adjustment or to make an adjustment to the divisor to prevent the level of the Reference Asset from changing as a result of the corporate action. This helps ensure that the movement of the Reference Asset does not reflect the corporate actions of individual companies in the Reference Asset.

Spin-Offs

As a general policy, a spin-off security is added to the Reference Asset at a zero price at the market close of the day before the ex-date (with no divisor adjustment). The spin-off security will remain in the Reference Asset if it meets all eligibility criteria. If the spin-off security is determined ineligible to remain in the Reference Asset, it will generally be removed after at least one day of regular way trading (with a divisor adjustment). If there is a gap between the ex-date

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and distribution date (or payable date), or if the spin-off security does not trade regular way on the ex-date, the spin-off security is kept in the Reference Asset until the spin-off security begins trading regular way.

Several additional types of corporate actions, and their related adjustments, are listed in the table below.

Corporate Action	Share Count Revision Required?	Divisor Adjustment Required?
Stock split	Yes – share count is revised to reflect new count.	No – share count and price changes are off-setting
Change in shares outstanding (secondary issuance, share repurchase and/or share buy-back)	Yes – share count is revised to reflect new count.	Yes
Special dividends	No	Yes – calculation assumes that share price drops by the amount of the dividend; divisor adjustment reflects this change in index market value
Change in IWF	No	Yes – divisor change reflects the change in market value caused by the change to an IWF
Company added to or deleted from the Reference Asset	No	Yes – divisor is adjusted by the net change in market value, calculated as the shares issued multiplied by the price paid
Rights Offering	No	Yes – divisor adjustment reflects increase in market capitalization (calculation assumes that offering is fully subscribed)

Recalculation Policy

The Index Sponsor reserves the right to recalculate and republish the Reference Asset at its discretion in the event one of the following issues has occurred: (1) incorrect or revised closing price of one or more constituent securities; (2) missed corporate event; (3) incorrect application of corporate action or Reference Asset methodology; (4) late announcement of a corporate event; or (5) incorrect calculation or data entry error. The decision to recalculate the Reference Asset is made at the discretion of the index manager and/or index committee, as further discussed below. The potential market impact or disruption resulting from the potential recalculation is considered when making any such decision. In the event of an incorrect closing price, a missed corporate event or a misapplied corporate action, a late announcement of a corporate event, or an incorrect calculation or data entry error that is discovered within two trading days of its occurrence, the index manager may, at his or her discretion, recalculate the Reference Asset without involving the index committee. In the event any such event is discovered beyond the two trading day period, the index committee shall decide whether the Reference Asset should be recalculated. In the event of an incorrect application of the methodology that results in the incorrect composition and/or weighting of Reference Asset Constituents, the index committee shall determine whether or not to recalculate the Reference Asset following specified guidelines. In the event that the Reference Asset is recalculated, it shall be done within a reasonable timeframe following the detection and review of the issue.

Calculations and Pricing Disruptions

Closing levels for the Reference Asset are calculated by the Index Sponsor based on the closing price of the individual constituents of the Reference Asset as set by their primary exchange. Closing prices are received by the Index Sponsor from one of its third party vendors and verified by comparing them with prices from an alternative vendor. The vendors receive the closing price from the primary exchanges. Real-time intraday prices are calculated similarly without a second verification. Prices used for the calculation of real time Reference Asset levels are based on the "Consolidated Tape". The Consolidated Tape is an aggregation of trades for each constituent over all regional exchanges and trading venues and includes the primary exchange. If there is a failure or interruption on one or more exchanges, real-time calculations will continue as long as the "Consolidated Tape" is operational.

If an interruption is not resolved prior to the market close, official closing prices will be determined by following the hierarchy set out in NYSE Rule 123C. A notice is published on the S&P website at *spdji.com* indicating any changes to the prices used in Reference Asset calculations. In extreme circumstances, the Index Sponsor may decide to delay Reference Asset adjustments or not publish the Reference Asset. Real-time indices are not restated.

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Unexpected Exchange Closures

An unexpected market/exchange closure occurs when a market/exchange fully or partially fails to open or trading is temporarily halted. This can apply to a single exchange or to a market as a whole, when all of the primary exchanges are closed and/or not trading. Unexpected market/exchange closures are usually due to unforeseen circumstances, such as natural disasters, inclement weather, outages, or other events.

To a large degree, the Index Sponsor is dependent on the exchanges to provide guidance in the event of an unexpected exchange closure. The Index Sponsor's decision making is dependent on exchange guidance regarding pricing and mandatory corporate actions.

NYSE Rule 123C provides closing contingency procedures for determining an official closing price for listed securities if the exchange is unable to conduct a closing transaction in one or more securities due to a system or technical issue.

3:00 PM ET is the deadline for an exchange to determine its plan of action regarding an outage scenario. As such, the Index Sponsor also uses 3:00 PM ET as the cutoff.

If all major exchanges fail to open or unexpectedly halt trading intraday due to unforeseen circumstances, the Index Sponsor will take the following actions:

Market Disruption Prior to Open of Trading:

(i) If all exchanges indicate that trading will not open for a given day, the Index Sponsor will treat the day as an unscheduled market holiday. The decision will be communicated to clients as soon as possible through the normal channels. Indices containing multiple markets will be calculated as normal, provided that at least one market is open that day. Indices which only contain closed markets will not be calculated.

(ii) If exchanges indicate that trading, although delayed, will open for a given day, the Index Sponsor will begin index calculation when the exchanges open.

Market Disruption Intraday:

(i) If exchanges indicate that trading will not resume for a given day, the Reference Asset level will be calculated using prices determined by the exchanges based on NYSE Rule 123C. Intraday Reference Asset levels will continue to use the last traded composite price until the primary exchange publishes official closing prices.

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Historical Information

The graph below shows the daily historical Closing Levels of the Reference Asset from April 2, 2009 through April 2, 2019. We obtained the information regarding the historical performance of the Reference Asset in the graph below from Bloomberg.

We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from Bloomberg. The historical performance of the Reference Asset should not be taken as an indication of its future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Final Level of the Reference Asset. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the Reference Asset will result in any positive return on your initial investment.

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS.

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Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences

The U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the Notes are uncertain. No statutory, regulatory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how the Notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Some of these tax consequences are summarized below, but we urge you to read the more detailed discussion under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” in the product prospectus supplement and discuss the tax consequences of your particular situation with your tax advisor. This discussion is based upon the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), final, temporary and proposed U.S. Treasury Department (the “Treasury”) regulations, rulings and decisions, in each case, as available and in effect as of the date hereof, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Tax consequences under state, local and non-U.S. laws are not addressed herein. No ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) has been sought as to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the Notes, and the following discussion is not binding on the IRS.

U.S. Tax Treatment. Pursuant to the terms of the Notes, TD and you agree, in the absence of a statutory or regulatory change or an administrative determination or judicial ruling to the contrary, to characterize your Notes as prepaid derivative contracts with respect to the Reference Asset. If your Notes are so treated, you should generally recognize gain or loss upon the taxable disposition of your Notes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount you receive at such time and the amount you paid for your Notes. Such gain or loss should generally be long-term capital gain or loss if you have held your Notes for more than one year (otherwise such gain or loss should be short-term capital gain or loss if held for one year or less). The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Based on certain factual representations received from us, our special U.S. tax counsel, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, is of the opinion that it would be reasonable to treat your Notes in the manner described above. However, because there is no authority that specifically addresses the tax treatment of the Notes, it is possible that your Notes could alternatively be treated for tax purposes as a single contingent payment debt instrument, or pursuant to some other characterization, such that the timing and character of your income from the Notes could differ materially and adversely from the treatment described above, as described further under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences — Alternative Treatments” of the product prospectus supplement.

Except to the extent otherwise required by law, TD intends to treat your Notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described above and under “Supplemental Discussion of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” of the product prospectus supplement, unless and until such time as the Treasury and the IRS determine that some other treatment is more appropriate.

Notice 2008-2. In 2007, the IRS released a notice that may affect the taxation of holders of the Notes. According to Notice 2008-2, the IRS and the Treasury are actively considering whether a holder of an instrument such as the Notes should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis, and they are seeking taxpayer comments on the subject. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. It is possible, however, that under such guidance, holders of the Notes will ultimately be required to accrue income currently and this could be applied on a retroactive basis. The IRS and the Treasury are also considering other relevant issues, including whether additional gain or loss from such instruments should be treated as ordinary or capital, whether non-U.S. holders of such instruments should be subject to withholding tax on any deemed income accruals, and whether the special “constructive ownership rules” of Section 1260 of the Code should be applied to such instruments. Both U.S. and non-U.S. holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the significance, and the potential impact, of the above considerations on their investments in the Notes.

Medicare Tax on Net Investment Income. U.S. holders that are individuals, estates or certain trusts are subject to an additional 3.8% tax on all or a portion of their “net investment income,” or “undistributed net investment income” in the

case of an estate or trust, which may include any income or gain with respect to the Notes, to the extent of their net investment income or undistributed net investment income (as the case may be) that when added to their other modified adjusted gross income, exceeds \$200,000 for an unmarried individual, \$250,000 for a married taxpayer filing a joint return (or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 for a married individual filing a separate return or the dollar amount at which the highest tax bracket begins for an estate or trust. The 3.8% Medicare tax is determined in a different manner than the regular income tax. You should consult your tax advisor as to the consequences of the 3.8% Medicare tax to your investment in the Notes.

Specified Foreign Financial Assets. U.S. holders may be subject to reporting obligations with respect to their Notes if they do not hold their Notes in an account maintained by a financial institution and the aggregate value of their Notes and certain other “specified foreign financial assets” (applying certain attribution rules) exceeds an applicable threshold. Significant penalties can apply if a U.S. holder is required to disclose its Notes and fails to do so.

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Non-U.S. Holders. This section applies only if you are a non-U.S. holder. For these purposes, you are a non-U.S. holder if you are the beneficial owner of the Notes and are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

a non-resident alien individual;
a non-U.S. corporation; or

an estate or trust that, in either case, is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from the Notes.

If you are a non-U.S. holder, subject to Section 871(m) of the Code and FATCA, as discussed below, you should generally not be subject to U.S. withholding tax with respect to payments on your Notes or to generally applicable information reporting and backup withholding requirements with respect to payments on your Notes if you comply with certain certification and identification requirements as to your non-U.S. status including providing us (and/or the applicable withholding agent) a properly executed and fully completed applicable IRS Form W-8. Subject to Section 897 of the Code and Section 871(m) of the Code, as discussed below, gain from the taxable disposition of the Notes generally should not be subject to U.S. tax unless (i) such gain is effectively connected with a trade or business conducted by you in the U.S., (ii) you are a non-resident alien individual and are present in the U.S. for 183 days or more during the taxable year of such taxable disposition and certain other conditions are satisfied or (iii) you have certain other present or former connections with the U.S.

Section 897. We will not attempt to ascertain whether any Reference Asset Constituent Issuer would be treated as a “United States real property holding corporation” (a “USRPHC”) within the meaning of Section 897 of the Code. We also have not attempted to determine whether the Notes should be treated as “United States real property interests” (“USRPI”) as defined in Section 897 of the Code. If any such entity and the Notes were so treated, certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could possibly apply, including subjecting any gain to a non-U.S. holder in respect of a Note upon a taxable disposition of the Note to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis, and the proceeds from such a taxable disposition to a 15% withholding tax. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the potential treatment of any such entity as a USRPHC and the Notes as USRPI.

Section 871(m). A 30% withholding tax (which may be reduced by an applicable income tax treaty) is imposed under Section 871(m) of the Code on certain “dividend equivalents” paid or deemed paid to a non-U.S. holder with respect to a “specified equity-linked instrument” that references one or more dividend-paying U.S. equity securities or indices containing U.S. equity securities. The withholding tax can apply even if the instrument does not provide for payments that reference dividends. Treasury regulations provide that the withholding tax applies to all dividend equivalents paid or deemed paid on specified equity-linked instruments that have a delta of one (“delta-one specified equity-linked instruments”) issued after 2016 and to all dividend equivalents paid or deemed paid on all other specified equity-linked instruments issued after 2018. However, the IRS has issued guidance that states that the Treasury and the IRS intend to amend the effective dates of the Treasury regulations to provide that withholding on dividend equivalents paid or deemed paid will not apply to specified equity-linked instruments that are not delta-one specified equity-linked instruments and are issued before January 1, 2021.

Based on our determination that the Notes are not “delta-one” with respect to the Reference Asset or any U.S. Reference Asset Constituent, our counsel is of the opinion that the Notes should not be delta-one specified equity-linked instruments and thus should not be subject to withholding on dividend equivalents. Our determination is not binding on the IRS, and the IRS may disagree with this determination. Furthermore, the application of Section 871(m) of the Code will depend on our determinations made upon issuance of the Notes. If withholding is required, we will not make payments of any additional amounts.

Nevertheless, after issuance, it is possible that your Notes could be deemed to be reissued for tax purposes upon the occurrence of certain events affecting the Reference Asset, any Reference Asset Constituent or your Notes, and following such occurrence your Notes could be treated as delta-one specified equity-linked instruments that are subject to withholding on dividend equivalents. It is also possible that withholding tax or other tax under Section

871(m) of the Code could apply to the Notes under these rules if you enter, or have entered, into certain other transactions in respect of the Reference Asset, any Reference Asset Constituent or the Notes. If you enter, or have entered, into other transactions in respect of the Reference Asset, any Reference Asset Constituent or the Notes, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the application of Section 871(m) of the Code to your Notes in the context of your other transactions.

Because of the uncertainty regarding the application of the 30% withholding tax on dividend equivalents to the Notes, you are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the potential application of Section 871(m) of the Code and the 30% withholding tax to an investment in the Notes.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the Notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization of the Notes cause payments with respect to the Notes to become subject to withholding

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tax, we (or the applicable withholding agent) will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate and we will not make payments of any additional amounts.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“FATCA”) was enacted on March 18, 2010, and imposes a 30% U.S. withholding tax on “withholdable payments” (i.e., certain U.S.-source payments, including interest (and original issue discount), dividends, other fixed or determinable annual or periodical income, and the gross proceeds from a disposition of property of a type that can produce U.S.-source interest or dividends) and “passthru payments” (i.e., certain payments attributable to withholdable payments) made to certain foreign financial institutions (and certain of their affiliates) unless the payee foreign financial institution agrees (or is required), among other things, to disclose the identity of any U.S. individual with an account at the institution (or the relevant affiliate) and to annually report certain information about such account. FATCA also requires withholding agents making withholdable payments to certain foreign entities that do not disclose the name, address, and taxpayer identification number of any substantial U.S. owners (or do not certify that they do not have any substantial U.S. owners) to withhold tax at a rate of 30%. Under certain circumstances, a holder may be eligible for refunds or credits of such taxes.

Pursuant to final and temporary Treasury regulations and other IRS guidance, the withholding and reporting requirements under FATCA will generally apply to certain “withholdable payments”, will not apply to gross proceeds on a sale or disposition, and will apply to certain foreign passthru payments only to the extent that such payments are made after the date that is two years after final regulations defining the term “foreign passthru payment” are published. If withholding is required, we (or the applicable paying agent) will not be required to pay additional amounts with respect to the amounts so withheld. Foreign financial institutions and non-financial foreign entities located in jurisdictions that have an intergovernmental agreement with the U.S. governing FATCA may be subject to different rules.

Investors should consult their tax advisors about the application of FATCA, in particular if they may be classified as financial institutions (or if they hold their Notes through a foreign entity) under the FATCA rules.

Proposed Legislation. In 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if it had been enacted, would have required holders of Notes purchased after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of the Notes despite the fact that there will be no interest payments over the term of the Notes.

Furthermore, in 2013, the House Ways and Means Committee released in draft form certain proposed legislation relating to financial instruments. If it had been enacted, the effect of this legislation generally would have been to require instruments such as the Notes to be marked to market on an annual basis with all gains and losses to be treated as ordinary, subject to certain exceptions.

It is impossible to predict whether any similar or identical bills will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of your Notes. You are urged to consult your tax advisor regarding the possible changes in law and their possible impact on the tax treatment of your Notes.

Both U.S. and non-U.S. holders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the Notes, as well as any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction (including that of TD).

Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)

We have appointed TDS, an affiliate of TD, as the agent for the sale of the Notes. Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, TDS will purchase the Notes from TD at the public offering price less any underwriting discount set forth on the cover page of this pricing supplement for distribution to other registered broker-dealers, or will offer the Notes directly to investors. TD will reimburse TDS for certain expenses in connection with its role in the offer and sale of the Notes, and TD will pay TDS a fee in connection with its role in the offer and sale of the Notes.

We expect that delivery of the Notes will be made against payment for the Notes on or about [], which is the fifth (5th) Business Day following the Pricing Date (this settlement cycle being referred to as “T+5”). Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two Business Days (“T+2”), unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if the initial settlement of the Notes occurs more than two Business Days from the Pricing Date, purchasers who wish to trade the Notes more than two Business Days prior to the Issue Date will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

Conflicts of Interest. TDS is an affiliate of TD and, as such, has a “conflict of interest” in this offering within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (“FINRA”) Rule 5121. In addition, TD will receive the net proceeds from the initial public offering of the Notes, thus creating an additional conflict of interest within the meaning of FINRA Rule 5121. Consequently, the offering is being conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. TDS is not permitted to sell Notes in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

We, TDS or any of our affiliates may use this pricing supplement in the initial sale of the Notes. In addition, we, TDS or any of our affiliates may use this pricing supplement in a market-making transaction in a Note after its initial sale. ***If a purchaser buys the Notes from us, TDS or any of our affiliates, this pricing supplement is being used in a market-making transaction unless we, TDS or any of our affiliates informs such purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale.***

Prohibition of Sales to EEA Retail Investors

The Notes are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in the European Economic Area (“EEA”). For these purposes, a retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of: (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU, as amended (“MiFID II”); (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2002/92/EC, as amended, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC, as amended. Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014, as amended (the “PRIIPs Regulation”), for offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the Notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation.

Events of Default

The indenture provides holders of Notes with remedies if we fail to perform specific obligations, such as making payments on the Notes, or if we become bankrupt. Holders should review the applicable provisions and understand which of our actions would trigger an event of default and which actions would not.

Under the indenture, “event of default” means any of the following:

we default in the payment of the principal of or interest on, as applicable, any note of that series and, in each case, the default continues for a period of 30 Business Days; or
we become insolvent or bankrupt or subject to the provisions of the Winding-up and Restructuring Act (Canada), or any statute hereafter enacted in substitution therefor, as such act, or substituted act, may be amended from time to time, (ii) we go into liquidation, either voluntary or under an order of a court of competent jurisdiction or (iii) we pass a resolution for our winding-up, liquidation or dissolution (with certain exceptions).

The indenture permits the issuance of notes in one or more series, and, in many cases, whether an event of default has occurred is determined on a series by series basis. For purposes of this section, with respect to notes issued on or after September 23, 2018, “series” refers to notes having identical terms, except as to issue date, principal amount and, if applicable, the date from which interest begins to accrue.

The indenture provides that:

if an event of default due to the default in payment of principal of or, if applicable, any premium or interest on, any series of senior notes issued under the indenture, or due to any event of default referred to in the last bullet above applicable to the senior notes of that series but not applicable to all outstanding senior notes issued under the indenture, occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding senior notes of each affected series, voting as a single class, by notice in writing to TD, may declare the principal of (or such other amount as may be specified) all senior notes of each affected series and, if applicable, interest accrued thereon to be due and payable immediately; and
if an event of default due to specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency, winding up or liquidation of TD, occurs and is continuing, either the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of all outstanding senior notes issued under the senior debt indenture, treated as one class, by notice in writing to TD may declare the principal of (or such other amount as may be specified) all those senior notes and, if applicable, interest accrued thereon to be due and payable immediately.

Annulment of Acceleration and Waiver of Defaults.

In some circumstances, if any and all events of default under the indenture, other than the non-payment of the principal of the securities that has become due as a result of an acceleration, have been cured, waived or otherwise remedied, then the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all series of outstanding senior notes affected, voting as one class, may annul past declarations of acceleration of or waive past defaults of the senior notes.

Differences in Events of Default

Notes issued by us prior to September 23, 2018, such as the Series A notes and the Series B notes, contain events of default that are different from those set forth above. In particular, the events of default applicable to the Series A notes and the Series B notes do not provide for a 30-business-day cure period with respect to any failure by us to pay the principal of or, if applicable, interest on those senior notes. Accordingly, if we fail to pay the principal of any series of Series A notes or Series B notes when due, the holders of such notes would be entitled to declare their securities due and payable following a 7-day cure period, whereas holders of Series C notes, Series D notes or Series E notes would not be entitled to accelerate the notes until 30 Business Days after our failure to pay the principal of the notes. In addition, if we fail to pay, if applicable, interest on any series of Series A notes or Series B notes when due, the

holders of such notes would be entitled to declare their securities due and payable following a 30-calendar day cure period, whereas holders of Series C notes, Series D notes or Series E notes would not be entitled to accelerate the notes until 30 Business Days after our failure to pay, if applicable, the interest on the notes.

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