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DENNYS CORP  
Form 8-K  
August 05, 2003

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 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): July 31, 2003

Denny's Corporation  
-----

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
-----

0-18051  
-----

13-3487402  
-----

(State or other  
jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

(Commission File  
Number)

IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

203 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC  
-----

29319-9966  
-----

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (864) 597-8000

-----  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On July 31, 2003, Denny's Corporation issued a press release announcing financial results for the quarter ended June 25, 2003. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

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 hereunto duly authorized.

Denny's Corporation

Date: August 5, 2003

/s/ Andrew F. Green  
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Andrew F. Green  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

Exhibit 99.1

NEWS RELEASE

Investor Contact: Ken Jones  
864-597-8658

Media Contact: Debbie Atkins  
864-597-8361

DENNY'S CORPORATION REPORTS SECOND QUARTER RESULTS

SPARTANBURG, S.C., July 31, 2003 -- Denny's Corporation (OTCBB: DNY) today reported results for its second quarter ended June 25, 2003. Highlights included:

- o Systemwide sales were \$546 million for the quarter, a 3.0% decrease from last year's second quarter, reflecting 51 fewer restaurants systemwide.
- o Systemwide same-store sales for the quarter declined 1.5% with company units down 0.6% and franchised units down 2.1%.
- o Denny's ended the quarter with 1,663 restaurants systemwide (563 company and 1,100 franchised and licensed units).
- o Total operating revenue declined 4.3% to \$230 million for the quarter.
- o Operating income of \$13.8 million declined \$2.4 million for the quarter, down from 6.7% of revenue to 6.0%.
- o Net loss for the quarter was \$5.4 million, or \$0.13 per common share, compared with last year's net income of \$16.2 million, or \$0.40 per common share.
- o Last year's net income included nonoperating income of \$19.2 million from a gain on exchange of debt.
- o At quarter end, Denny's had \$49.9 million drawn under its credit facility and \$38.3 million in letters of credit, leaving net availability of \$36.8 million.

Commenting on Denny's results for the second quarter of 2003, Nelson J. Marchioli, president and chief executive officer, said, "Our operating performance in the second quarter was disappointing, especially our decline in guest counts. This quarter we focused our marketing message on driving guests during our dinner and late night dayparts, as opposed to last spring and summer when we focused on breakfast with a Grand Slam promotion. Though we were successful in improving our dinner and late night sales, which resulted in an increase in our guest check average, we lost more guests than anticipated during the breakfast daypart. In response, this week we launched a new media campaign which promotes a choice of three "Complete Breakfasts," each for \$4.99. This promotion builds on two core strengths of the Denny's brand -- breakfast and good value.

"On the margin side of our business, we continue to experience cost pressures which have contributed to declining margins. The cost increases include higher meat prices, medical costs and natural gas prices. In addition, higher costs related to increased restaurant staffing and improved food quality are intentional investments in the long term success of Denny's. We are committed to doing what is right for the Denny's brand and are optimistic that these investments, which are beginning to contribute to improved consumer perceptions, will ultimately translate into increased guest traffic,"

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Marchioli concluded.

### Second Quarter Results

Denny's reported total operating revenue of \$230.1 million for the second quarter, down \$10.3 million from the prior year quarter. Company restaurant sales declined \$9.0 million to \$208.5 million, due primarily to 25 fewer company units. Franchise revenue decreased \$1.3 million to \$21.6 million, resulting from 26 fewer franchised and licensed restaurants.

During the second quarter, company restaurant operating margin decreased by 5.8 percentage points to 11.2% of company sales compared with 17.0% of sales last year. Payroll and benefits costs accounted for 3.7 percentage points of the margin decline, resulting from increased restaurant staffing aimed at improving customer satisfaction, higher wage rates and increased health insurance costs. Product costs increased by 1.7 percentage points due to higher commodity costs as well as menu mix shifts resulting from our promotion of higher cost dinner items this quarter compared with a breakfast promotion in the same period last year.

Operating income for the quarter decreased \$2.4 million to \$13.8 million compared with \$16.2 million last year, reflecting the lower revenue and reduced operating margins. Operating income this quarter benefited from a \$6.4 million reduction in depreciation and amortization expense. In January 1998, certain assets were revalued and assigned a five-year life as a result of the predecessor company's reorganization. Those assets became fully amortized in January 2003, resulting in lower depreciation and amortization expense in 2003. In addition, operating income in the second quarter benefited from a \$1.0 million reduction in general and administrative expenses as well as a \$3.8 million reduction in restructuring and exits costs compared with last year.

For the second quarter, Denny's reported a net loss of \$5.4 million, or \$0.13 per diluted common share, compared with last year's second quarter net income of \$16.2 million, or \$0.40 per diluted common share. Last year's second quarter results included nonoperating income of \$19.2 from gains on exchanges of debt.

### Revolving Credit Facility

On June 25, 2003, our \$125 million credit facility had outstanding revolver advances of \$49.9 million compared with \$60.2 million outstanding on March 26, 2003. Our outstanding letters of credit decreased to \$38.3 million compared with \$48.4 million on March 26, 2003, leaving a net availability of \$36.8 million at the end of the second quarter. As of today, after making the scheduled \$21.3 million semiannual interest payment on our 11.25% senior notes on July 15, revolver advances have increased to \$61.0 million while letters of credit are \$38.5 million, leaving a net availability of \$25.5 million.

Profitability was below our expectations for the first two quarters of 2003. Accordingly, we were required to obtain an amendment to the credit facility to provide less restrictive financial covenants effective for the quarter ended June 25, 2003 and for the remaining term of the facility. We were in compliance with the terms of the credit facility, as amended, as of June 25, 2003.

### Further Information

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Denny's will host its quarterly conference call for investors and analysts today, Thursday, July 31, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. EST. Interested parties are invited to join a live, listen only broadcast of the conference call. The call may be accessed through our website at [www.dennys.com](http://www.dennys.com). On the front page of the website, follow the link to "About Us;" then follow the link to "Investor Info;" and then select the "Live Webcast" icon. A replay of the call may be accessed at the same location later in the day and will remain available for at least 30 days.

Denny's is America's largest full-service family restaurant chain, operating directly and through franchisees 1,663 Denny's restaurants in the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Guam, Mexico, New Zealand and Puerto Rico. For further information on Denny's, including news releases, links to SEC filings and other financial information, please visit our website referenced above.

Certain matters discussed in this release may constitute forward looking statements involving risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause the actual performance of Denny's Corporation, its subsidiaries and underlying restaurants to be materially different from the performance indicated or implied by such statements. Factors that could cause actual performance to differ materially from the performance indicated by such statements include, among others: the competitive pressures from within the restaurant industry; the level of success of the Company's operating initiatives and advertising and promotional efforts; adverse publicity; changes in business strategy or development plans; terms and availability of capital; regional weather conditions; overall changes in the general economy, particularly at the retail level; political environment (including acts of war and terrorism); and other factors from time to time set forth in the Company's SEC reports, including but not limited to the discussion in Management's Discussion and Analysis and the risks identified in Exhibit 99 contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 25, 2002 (and in the Company's subsequent quarterly reports on Form 10-Q).

### DENNY'S CORPORATION Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Quarter Ended 6/25/03 -----	Quarter 6/26/ -----
Revenue:		
Company restaurant sales	\$ 208,457	\$ 217,
Franchise and license revenue	21,603	22,
	-----	-----
Total operating revenue	230,060	240,
	-----	-----
Costs of company restaurant sales	185,192	180,
Costs of franchise and license revenue	6,778	7,
General and administrative expenses	13,044	14,
Depreciation and amortization	14,420	20,
Restructuring charges and exit costs	(982)	2,
Impairment charges	410	

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Gains on disposition of assets and other, net	(2,552)	(1,
	-----	-----
Total operating costs and expenses	216,310	224,
	-----	-----
Operating income	13,750	16,
	-----	-----
Other expenses:		
Interest expense, net	18,989	18,
Gains on exchanges of debt and other, net	(127)	(19,
	-----	-----
Total other expenses (income), net	18,862	(
	-----	-----
Income (loss) before income taxes	(5,112)	16,
Provision for income taxes	265	
	-----	-----
Net income (loss)	\$ (5,377)	\$ 16,
	=====	=====
Basic and diluted net income (loss) per share	\$ (0.13)	\$ 0
	=====	=====
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	40,743	40,
	=====	=====
Diluted	40,743	40,
	=====	=====

DENNY'S CORPORATION  
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations  
(Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Two Quarters Ended 6/25/03	Two Quar Ended 6/26/0
	-----	-----
Revenue:		
Company restaurant sales	\$ 407,901	\$ 429,
Franchise and license revenue	43,000	45,
	-----	-----
Total operating revenue	450,901	474,
	-----	-----
Costs of company restaurant sales	363,656	362,
Costs of franchise and license revenue	13,270	14,
General and administrative expenses	26,247	28,
Depreciation and amortization	28,677	41,
Restructuring charges and exit costs	(936)	3,

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Impairment charges	699	
Gains on disposition of assets and other, net	(4,869)	(3,
	-----	-----
Total operating costs and expenses	426,744	446,
	-----	-----
Operating income	24,157	28,
	-----	-----
Other expenses:		
Interest expense, net	38,206	38,
Gains on exchanges of debt and other, net	(120)	(19,
	-----	-----
Total other expenses, net	38,086	18,
	-----	-----
Income (loss) before income taxes	(13,929)	9,
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	530	(2,
	-----	-----
Net income (loss)	\$ (14,459)	\$ 11,
	=====	=====
Basic and diluted income (loss) per share	\$ (0.36)	\$ 0
	=====	=====
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	40,628	40,
	=====	=====
Diluted	40,628	40,
	=====	=====

DENNY'S CORPORATION  
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet  
(Unaudited)

(In thousands)	6/25/03	12/25
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,547	\$ 5
Other	29,311	28
	-----	-----
	33,858	33
	-----	-----
Property, net	307,479	324
Goodwill	50,404	50
Intangible assets, net	88,502	92
Other assets	45,022	50

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Total Assets	\$ 525,265	\$ 551
-----		
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' DEFICIT		
Current Liabilities		
Current maturities of notes and debentures	\$ 583	\$ 3
Current maturities of capital lease obligations	3,536	3
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	137,419	148
	-----	-----
	141,538	152
-----		
Long-Term Liabilities		
Notes and debentures, less current maturities	562,468	560
Capital lease obligations, less current maturities	29,556	31
Other	84,736	86
	-----	-----
	676,760	677
-----		
Total Liabilities	818,298	830
Total Shareholders' Deficit	(293,033)	(278)
-----		
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Deficit	\$ 525,265	\$ 551
=====		

DENNY'S CORPORATION  
Quarterly Operating Margins  
(Unaudited)

(In millions)	Quarter Ended			
	6/25/03		6/26/02	
	-----		-----	
Total operating revenue (1)	\$ 230.1	100.0%	\$ 240.3	100.0%
Company restaurant operations: (2)				
Company restaurant sales	208.5	100.0%	217.5	100.0%
Costs of company restaurant sales:				
Product costs	53.0	25.4%	51.5	23.7%
Payroll and benefits	92.2	44.2%	88.1	40.5%
Occupancy	11.9	5.7%	12.2	5.6%
Other operating costs:				
Utilities	9.1	4.3%	8.8	4.1%
Repairs and maintenance	4.3	2.1%	4.4	2.0%
Marketing	6.8	3.3%	8.4	3.9%
Other	7.9	3.8%	7.0	3.2%
	-----		-----	
Total costs of company restaurant sales	185.2	88.8%	180.4	83.0%
-----				
Company restaurant operating margin	\$ 23.3	11.2%	\$ 37.1	17.0%
-----				
Franchise operations: (3)				
Franchise and license revenue	21.6	100.0%	22.9	100.0%

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Costs of franchise and license revenue	6.8	31.4%	7.4	32.2
Franchise operating margin	\$ 14.8	68.6%	\$ 15.5	67.8
Total operating margin (1)	\$ 38.1	16.6%	\$ 52.6	21.9
Other operating expenses: (1) (4)				
General and administrative expenses	13.0	5.7%	14.0	5.8
Depreciation and amortization	14.4	6.3%	20.9	8.7
Restructuring, exit costs and impairment	(0.6)	(0.2%)	3.3	1.4
Gains on disposition of assets and other, net	(2.6)	(1.1%)	(1.8)	(0.7)
Total other operating expenses	\$ 24.3	10.6%	\$ 36.4	15.1
Operating income (1)	\$ 13.8	6.0%	\$ 16.2	6.7

- (1) As a percentage of total operating revenue  
(2) As a percentage of company restaurant sales  
(3) As a percentage of franchise and license revenue  
(4) Other operating expenses such as general and administrative expenses and depreciation and amortization relate to both company and franchise operations and are not allocated to costs of company restaurant sales and costs of franchise and license revenue.

DENNY'S CORPORATION  
EBITDA Reconciliation  
(Unaudited)

(in millions)	Quarter Ended 6/25/03	Quarter Ended 6/26/02	Tw
Net income (loss)	\$ (5.4)	\$ 16.2	\$
Provision for (benefit from) income taxes	0.3	0.3	
Interest expense, net	19.0	18.9	
Depreciation and amortization	14.4	20.9	
EBITDA (1) (2)	\$ 28.3	\$ 56.3	\$

- (1) Following recent SEC guidance, we have changed our definition of EBITDA in the second quarter of 2003. Amounts previously reported for EBITDA

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- have been reclassified to conform to the current presentation.
- (2) We believe that, in addition to other financial measures, EBITDA is an appropriate indicator to assist in the evaluation of our operating performance because it provides additional information with respect to our ability to meet our future debt service, capital expenditures and working capital needs. However, EBITDA should be considered as a supplement to, not a substitute for, operating income, net income or other financial performance measures prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other financial data: (3)

Restructuring charges and exit costs	\$	(1.0)	\$	2.8	\$
Impairment charges		0.4		0.5	
Gains on disposition of assets and other, net		(2.6)		(1.8)	
Gains on exchanges of debt and other, net (4)		(0.1)		(19.3)	

- (3) The line items in this section are components of both net income and EBITDA as shown above.
- (4) The second quarter results in 2002 included a \$19.2 million gain attributable to the senior note debt exchange completed in April 2002.

### DENNY'S CORPORATION Statistical Data (Unaudited)

Same-Store Data (increase/(decrease) vs. prior year)	Quarter Ended 6/25/03	Two Quarte Ended 6/25/03
	-----	-----
Company-Owned Same-Store Sales	(0.6%)	(0.5%)
Guest Check Average	3.9%	3.2%
Guest Counts	(4.3%)	(3.6%)
Franchised Same-Store Sales	(2.1%)	(1.8%)
Systemwide Same-Store Sales	(1.5%)	(1.3%)

	Quarter Ended	Quarter Ended	Two Quarters Ended
Systemwide Sales			

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(\$ in millions)	6/25/03	6/26/02	6/25/03
	-----	-----	-----
Systemwide Sales	\$ 545.7	\$ 562.8	\$ 1,071.7
Average Unit Sales (\$ in thousands)	Quarter Ended 6/25/03	Quarter Ended 6/26/02	Two Quarters Ended 6/25/03
	-----	-----	-----
Company-owned	\$ 372.2	\$ 368.9	\$ 727.0
Franchised	\$ 300.7	\$ 305.5	\$ 593.4
Restaurant Units	Company	Franchised	Licensed
	-----	-----	-----
Ending Units 6/26/02	588	1,112	14
Units Opened/Acquired	1	26	1
Units Reacquired	1	(1)	0
Units Refranchised	(1)	1	0
Units Closed	(26)	(53)	0
	-----	-----	-----
Net Change	(25)	(27)	1
Ending Units 6/25/03	563	1,085	15

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