

Chefs' Warehouse, Inc.  
Form S-8  
August 02, 2011

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As Filed With the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 2, 2011

**Registration No. 333-\_\_\_\_\_**

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM S-8  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**THE CHEFS WAREHOUSE, INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation  
or organization)

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

**100 East Ridge Road  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)(Zip Code)

**THE CHEFS WAREHOUSE, INC. 2011 OMNIBUS EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN**  
(Full title of the plan)

**Christopher Pappas  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
100 East Ridge Road  
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877  
(203) 894-1345**

(Name, address, and telephone number of Registrant's agent for service)

Copy to:

**F. Mitchell Walker, Jr. Esq.  
D. Scott Holley, Esq.  
Bass, Berry & Sims PLC  
150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800  
Nashville, Tennessee 37201  
(615) 742-6200**

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.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share (2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee

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Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	1,750,000	\$ 17.32	\$30,310,000	\$3,519
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- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ), this registration statement includes an indeterminate number of additional shares which may be offered and issued to prevent dilution resulting from stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.
  - (2) Pursuant to Rule 457(h)(1) and (c) under the Securities Act, the offering price is estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee on the basis of the average of the high (\$17.75) and low prices (\$16.88) of the Registrant's Common Stock on The Nasdaq Global Market on July 29, 2011.
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**PART I**  
**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS**

The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. (the Registrant or the Company ) has sent or given or will send or give documents containing the information specified by Part I of this Form S-8 Registration Statement (the Registration Statement ) to participants in The Chefs Warehouse, Inc. 2011 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan (the Plan ) to which this Registration Statement relates, as specified in Rule 428(b)(1) promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission ) under the Securities Act and the Note to Part I of Form S-8. The Registrant is not filing such documents with the SEC, but these documents constitute (along with the documents incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II hereof) a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

**PART II**  
**INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

**Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.**

The following documents filed by the Registrant with the Commission, pursuant to the Securities Act or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), are hereby incorporated by reference and shall be deemed to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such document:

- (1) The Registrant's Prospectus filed with the Commission on July 29, 2011, pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act ), relating to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, as amended (File No. 333-173445), which contains the Registrant's audited financial statements for the latest fiscal year for which such statements have been filed;
- (2) The Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on August 2, 2011; and
- (3) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share ( Common Stock ) contained in the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-35249) filed with the Commission on July 22, 2011, pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

Except to the extent that information therein is deemed furnished and not filed pursuant to the Exchange Act, all documents filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the effective date of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement indicating that all securities offered hereby have been sold or deregistering all securities then remaining unsold shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained herein or in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this Registration Statement, except as so modified or superseded.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, information furnished under Items 2.02 and 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K, including the related exhibits, is not incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement or the related prospectus.

**Item 4. Description of Securities.**

Not applicable.

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**Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.**

Not applicable.

**Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

Section 145(a) of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides, in general, that a corporation shall have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, other than an action by or in the right of the corporation, because the person is or was a director or officer of the corporation. Such indemnity may be against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and if, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, the person did not have reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful.

Section 145(b) of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides, in general, that a corporation shall have the power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor because the person is or was a director or officer of the corporation, against any expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to be indemnified for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper.

Section 145(g) of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides, in general, that a corporation shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director or officer of the corporation against any liability asserted against the person in any such capacity, or arising out of the person's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify the person against such liability under the provisions of the law. Our certificate of incorporation will provide that, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, a director will not be liable to us or our stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director. In addition, our by-laws provide that we will indemnify each director and officer and may indemnify employees and agents, as determined by our board, to the fullest extent provided by the laws of the State of Delaware.

The Company's certificate of incorporation and bylaws contain provisions requiring it to indemnify and advance expenses to, its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by law. Among other things, these provisions generally provide indemnification for the Company's officers and directors against liabilities for judgments in and settlements of lawsuits and other proceedings and for the advance and payment of fees and expenses reasonably incurred by the director or officer in defense of any such lawsuit or proceeding if the director or officer acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the Company's best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

The foregoing statements are subject to the detailed provisions of section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law and provisions of the Company's certificate of incorporation and by-laws.

Section 102 of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits the limitation of directors' personal liability to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duties as a director except for (i) any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, (ii) acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, (iii) breaches under section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which relates to unlawful payments of dividends or unlawful stock

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repurchase or redemptions, and (iv) any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Pursuant to authority conferred by Delaware law, the Company's certificate of incorporation contains a provision providing that no director shall be liable to the Company or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except to the extent that such exemption from liability or limitation thereof is not permitted under Delaware law as then in effect or as it may be amended. This provision is intended to eliminate the risk that a director might incur personal liability to the Company or the Company's stockholders for breach of the duty of care.

The Company maintains directors' and officers' liability insurance for its officers and directors.

The Company has entered into an indemnification agreement with each of its executive officers and directors that provides, in general, that the Company will indemnify these individuals to the fullest extent permitted by law in connection with their service to the Company or on the Company's behalf.

**Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.**

Not applicable.

**Item 8. Exhibits.**

- 4.1 Certificate of Incorporation of The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 2, 2011).
- 4.2 Bylaws of The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 2, 2011).
- 4.3 Form of Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Registration No. 333-173445)).
- 5.1 Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC.
- 23.1 Consent of BDO USA, LLP.
- 23.2 Consent of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC (included in Exhibit 5.1).
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney (contained on signature pages of this Registration Statement).
- 99.1 The Chefs' Warehouse, Inc. 2011 Omnibus Equity Incentive Plan.

**Item 9. Undertakings.**

a. The Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the

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estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement; *provided, however*, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

b. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

c. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.



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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Ridgefield, State of Connecticut, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2011.

**THE CHEFS WAREHOUSE, INC.**

By: /s/ Christopher Pappas  
 Christopher Pappas  
 President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints each of Christopher Pappas and Kenneth Clark as his/her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, each acting alone, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him/her and in his/her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments to this registration statement, including post-effective amendments, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he/she might or could do in person, and hereby ratifies and confirms all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them or their substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

This power of attorney may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but which taken together shall constitute one instrument.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ Christopher Pappas Christopher Pappas	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	August 2, 2011
/s/ John Pappas John Pappas	Director and Vice Chairman	August 2, 2011
/s/ Kenneth Clark Kenneth Clark	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	August 2, 2011
/s/ Dean Facatselis Dean Facatselis	Director	August 2, 2011
/s/ John Couri John Couri	Director	August 2, 2011

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/s/ Kevin Cox	Director	August 2, 2011
Kevin Cox		
/s/ John Austin	Director	August 2, 2011
John Austin		
/s/ Stephen Hanson	Director	August 2, 2011
Stephen Hanson		

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