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

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of The
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 8, 2020



Post Holdings, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Missouri (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	001-35305 (Commission File Number)	45-3355106 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
2503 S. Hanley Road (Address of Principal Executive Offices)	St. Louis Missouri	63144 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(314) 644-7600**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	POST	New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

Information furnished under Item 7.01 is incorporated by reference herein.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On May 8, 2020, Post Holdings, Inc. (the “Company”) is scheduled to hold a conference call to discuss financial results for its second quarter ended March 31, 2020. The details of the conference call were previously provided in [Exhibit 99.1](#) of the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 7, 2020 (the “May 7 Form 8-K”). The prepared remarks of Robert V. Vitale, the Company’s President and Chief Executive Officer, that will be read on the conference call are attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and are incorporated by reference herein.

In such remarks, the Company makes reference to certain non-GAAP financial measures. Management believes the use of such non-GAAP financial measures provides increased transparency and assists investors in understanding the underlying operating performance of the Company and its segments and in the analysis of ongoing operating trends. These measures may not be comparable to similarly-titled measures of other companies. For additional information, see “Post’s Use of Non-GAAP Measures” and “Explanation and Reconciliation of Non-GAAP Measures” furnished in [Exhibit 99.1](#) of the May 7 Form 8-K. Any non-GAAP measures should not be considered as a substitute for, and should only be read in conjunction with, measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with GAAP.

The information contained in Items 2.02 and 7.01 and in the accompanying Exhibit 99.1 shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Exchange Act or the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Forward-Looking Statements

Forward-looking statements, within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act, are made throughout the prepared remarks attached hereto. These forward-looking statements are sometimes identified from the use of forward-looking words such as “believe,” “should,” “could,” “potential,” “continue,” “expect,” “project,” “estimate,” “predict,” “anticipate,” “aim,” “intend,” “plan,” “forecast,” “target,” “is likely,” “will,” “can,” “may” or “would” or the negative of these terms or similar expressions elsewhere in the prepared remarks. Such statements are based on management’s current views and assumptions, and involve risks and uncertainties that could affect expected results. Those risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to those described in the Company’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

You should not rely upon forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, the Company cannot guarantee that the future results, levels of activity, performance or events and circumstances reflected in the forward-looking statements will be achieved or occur. Moreover, the Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason after the date of this report to conform these statements to actual results or to changes in the Company’s expectations.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**(d) Exhibits.**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Post Holdings Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2020 Earnings Conference Call Prepared Remarks of Robert V. Vitale, President and Chief Executive Officer
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (the cover page iXBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document)

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.

Date: May 8, 2020

Post Holdings, Inc.

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Diedre J. Gray

Name: Diedre J. Gray

Title: EVP, General Counsel & Chief
Administrative Officer, Secretary

Post Holdings Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2020 Earnings Conference Call Prepared Remarks of
Robert V. Vitale, President and Chief Executive Officer – May 8, 2020

Good morning. Thanks Jennifer and thank you all for joining us. I want to begin my comments by recognizing and thanking the thousands of Post employees who have risen to the challenge and kept our supply chains working. We all owe gratitude to the people who keep our stores stocked and who do their part in making this challenge just a bit easier.

As you might expect, we had a strong second quarter; our retail channel businesses performed well and foodservice trailed off as the COVID crisis erupted. This morning I want to share with you our principles for managing through this, then briefly comment on how we expect it to continue to benefit our retail businesses. Most of my time will be focused on helping you understand the impact on foodservice and the path to normalcy. As you saw in our release, we withdrew our fiscal 2020 guidance which primarily resulted from uncertainty surrounding foodservice volume trajectory.

At the onset of this crisis, we adopted three principles. First, we would protect the physical safety of our colleagues. Second, we would keep our supply chains intact. And finally, that we would cushion the economic impact on our people. While we remain committed to delivering long-term value to our shareholders, we are also committed to navigating this crisis in a compassionate manner. We are investing in our front-line people in the form of incremental bonuses and in the form of additional safety measures. As I mentioned, essential workers in our supply chain are helping to feed each of us and we owe them our gratitude. We do have plants that support foodservice in which the demand reduction has led to a temporary furlough. We are structuring furlough programs to minimize the impact to employees until we can return to full production. Cost reduction actions are more restrained than they would be if we considered the demand destruction permanent. We are balancing the obligations that flow from our principles, with our objective to build value. We believe this balance is not only the morally right thing to do, it is the economically right thing to do. Our culture, our respect for each other and our commitment to our purpose are all being strengthened.

Post has a diversified set of businesses and we see that clearly in the impact of COVID-19. Our retail businesses saw a surge in demand and our foodservice business saw a dramatic decrease in demand.

My comments about retail will echo what you have heard elsewhere. March had spikes in demand, during which our supply chains were stretched. I am quite proud of how they performed across each of our platforms. Jeff will provide more detail, but it's fair to say our results were quite solid. We believe we are well-positioned to benefit from this experience. As a general statement, compared to our competitors, our business includes a greater number of brands with lower household penetration. I would include in this category MOM brand bag cereal, *Bob Evans* brand side dishes and *Premier Protein* brand shakes. This experience accelerated household penetration and we expect the benefit to be long-lasting. Meanwhile, specifically within cereal, there was a re-engagement with the category that seems to have momentum. It is early to make predictions on the durability of this trend, but I would say we have cause for cautious optimism. This is true in both the U.S. and the U.K. In the short term, specifically the balance of 2020, we expect cereal and refrigerated retail products to be strong for the balance of the year. Protein shakes had a demand spike in March, but fell off in April. Most of the April result is pantry deloading, but there is an element of on-the-go consumption that we may temporarily lose. Nonetheless, we expect the trial benefit to remain. If you tune into the BellRing call, you will get greater detail. On balance, we expect to have quite a strong year in our retail businesses.

In contrast, our foodservice platform has been materially impacted by shelter in place orders and the resulting demand destruction. As I mentioned, our cost reduction actions are restrained by our assumption that the demand will rebuild as the economy re-opens.

Within foodservice we have channels directly affected by COVID responses and those less affected. Directly affected channels include full service restaurants, quick service restaurants, education and travel and lodging. These channels represent approximately 50% of segment sales. Less affected channels would include food ingredient, healthcare, government and other smaller channels.

In the first month of the crisis, distributors essentially stopped purchasing in order to reallocate their inventory from affected to unaffected channels. This cost us one purchasing cycle and it cost us some aged inventory. We are now through this initial cycle, but it bottomed at 65% declines through most of April. We are now running closer to down 45% and it seems to be improving each week. We expect that demand recovery will vary by subchannel and be based on consumer purchasing confidence.

The April loss of a purchasing cycle resulted in revenue levels below our fixed costs. Meanwhile, we are incurring incremental costs from the demand falloff. These are not systemic costs; they are instead reactive to managing the crisis. For

example, we are meeting demand for conventional egg products using cage-free inventory, simply because of a demand/supply mismatch. We also have significantly higher freight costs in redistributing product. At the risk of redundancy, I again want to stress that we are not attacking fixed costs aggressively as we are retaining capacity for the demand rebuild. As I mentioned, our recovery trajectory is encouraging. With the loosening of shelter-in-place orders and the adaptations being made, such as curbside delivery, we expect an improvement each month and into Q4, with Q4 significantly outperforming Q3. We expect full recovery to take through fiscal 2021 as subchannels like travel and lodging will take longer to heal. This high degree of variability is why we withdrew guidance.

Despite the reduction in expected EBITDA from foodservice, we will come close to our original estimates for second half free cash flow. The decline in foodservice EBITDA is offset by increases in retail plus natural declines in working capital, capital spending and taxes. In no scenarios do we have any concerns about liquidity and are frankly well-positioned to be offensive should attractive opportunities arise. We entered the crisis with over \$500 million in cash on hand. In mid-March, we had some concerns about financial system liquidity and we drew \$500 million on our revolver. These concerns were unfounded and we are now beginning to lower the amount drawn. In April alone, excluding BellRing, we generated \$140 million in cash.

Because of the initial uncertainty, we suspended our share buyback program. We will continue to reevaluate our capital allocation strategies as more information becomes available. We want to strike the right balance between the prudent level of defensive positioning and the opportunity to take attractive strategic actions should the opportunity arise.

Let me close by saying that our people have done an extraordinary job across the board. Where we are benefiting, we have stepped up into greater demands on all aspects of our business, and where we are hurting, we are making tough decisions in a humane and prudent manner. This is a challenging year, but I am more proud of this company than I have ever been.

With that, I will now turn the call over to Jeff.