

ABBOTT LABORATORIES  
Form 8-K  
October 16, 2008

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

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**FORM 8-K**

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

**October 16, 2008**  
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

**ABBOTT LABORATORIES**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Illinois**  
(State or other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**1-2189**  
(Commission File Number)

**36-0698440**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**100 Abbott Park Road**  
**Abbott Park, Illinois 60064-6400**

(Address of principal executive offices)(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(847) 937-6100**

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

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- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

Abbott Laboratories and Zimmer, Inc. have completed the sale of Abbott's spine business to Zimmer for approximately \$360 million in cash. Abbott expects the sale of its spine business to result in a one-time pretax gain of at least \$150 million and intends to treat this gain as a specified item in the fourth quarter 2008.

***Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995***

***A Caution Concerning Forward-Looking Statements***

*Some statements in this Form 8-K may be forward-looking statements for the purposes of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Abbott cautions that these forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated. Economic, competitive, governmental, technological and other factors that may affect Abbott's operations are discussed in Item 1A, Risk Factors, to Abbott's Annual Report on Securities and Exchange Commission Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, and in Item 1A, Risk Factors, to Abbott's Quarterly Report on Securities and Exchange Commission Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008, and are incorporated by reference. Abbott undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to forward-looking statements as a result of subsequent events or developments.*

**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.

**Abbott Laboratories**

Date: October 16, 2008

By: /s/ Thomas C. Freyman  
Thomas C. Freyman  
Executive Vice President, Finance  
and Chief Financial Officer