

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
 Form 424B3  
 March 15, 2004

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 20  
 DATED: March 11, 2004  
 (To Prospectus dated November 17, 2003,  
 and Prospectus Supplement dated November 17, 2003)

Rule 424(b)(3)  
 File No. 333-109793

\$10,668,950,162  
 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.  
 MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

Principal Amount: \$10,000,000 Floating Rate Notes  Book Entry Notes   
 Original Issue Date: 3/15/2004 Fixed Rate Notes  Certificated Notes   
 Maturity Date: 3/20/2009 CUSIP#: 073928E82  
 Option to Extend Maturity: No   
 Yes  Final Maturity Date:  
 Minimum Denominations: \$1,000, increased in multiples of \$1,000.

| Redeemable On | Redemption Price(s) | Optional Repayment Date(s) | Optional Repayment Price(s) |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| -----         | -----               | -----                      | -----                       |
| N/A           | N/A                 | N/A                        | N/A                         |

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:  
 -----

Interest Rate:

Interest Payment Dates:

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:  
 -----

Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A

Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A

Federal Funds Effective Rate

Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s): \*

Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Quarterly

LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): \*\*

LIBOR Telerate Interest Accrual Date(s): \*\*\*

Prime Rate

CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 1.38% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: Three Months

## Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

Spread (plus or minus): +0.27%

- \* Commencing June 20, 2004 and on the 20th of each September, December, March and June thereafter prior to Maturity.
- \*\* Commencing June 19, 2004 and on the 19th of each September, December, March and June thereafter prior to Maturity, provided, that if any Interest Payment Date is not a Business Day, such Interest Payment Date will be deemed to be the immediately preceding Business Day.
- \*\*\* For the initial Interest Payment Date, interest will accrue from the original issue date to, and including June 19, 2004. For each Interest Payment Date thereafter, interest will accrue from, and including, the preceding Interest Reset Date, to, but excluding the following Interest Reset Date. If any Interest Accrual Date is not a Business Day, then the Interest Accrual Date will be postponed to the next Business Day. If the next Business Day is in the next calendar month, the Interest Accrual Date will be the preceding Business Day. No interest will accrue subsequent to March 19, 2009.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.