

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

March 01, 2004

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 17

DATED: February 19, 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: \$214,000,000 Floating Rate Notes  Book Entry Notes

Original Issue Date: 3/1/2004 Fixed Rate Notes  Certificated Notes

Maturity Date: 2/15/2007 CUSIP#: 073928E41

Option to Extend Maturity: No   
Yes  Final Maturity Date:

| Redeemable On<br>----- | Redemption<br>Price(s)<br>----- | Optional<br>Repayment<br>Date(s)<br>----- | Optional<br>Repayment<br>Price(s)<br>----- |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 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

Prime Rate

CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 1.26% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: Three Months

Spread (plus or minus): +0.14%

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\* Commencing May 15, 2004 and on the 15th of each August, November, February and May thereafter prior to Maturity.

\*\* Commencing May 15, 2004 and on the 15th of each August, November, February and May thereafter, including the maturity date.

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