

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
 Form 424B3  
 December 14, 2004

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 40  
 DATED: December 9, 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: \$20,000,000 Floating Rate Notes  Book Entry Notes

Original Issue Date: 12/14/2004 Fixed Rate Notes  Certificated Notes

Maturity Date: 12/8/2006 CUSIP#: 073928H71

Option to Extend Maturity: No   
 Yes  Final Maturity Date:

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: Monthly

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

LIBOR Telerate

Prime Rate

CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 2.4175% Interest Payment Period: Monthly

Index Maturity: One Month

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

Spread (plus or minus): +0.02%

\* Commencing January 8, 2005 and on the 8th of each month thereafter prior to Maturity.

\*\* Commencing January 8, 2005 and on the 8th of each month thereafter, including the maturity date.

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