

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

March 01, 2004

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 18

Rule 424(b) (3)

DATED: February 19, 2004

File No. 333-109793

(To Prospectus dated November 17, 2003,  
and Prospectus Supplement dated November 17, 2003)

\$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: 3/1/2004 Fixed Rate Notes  Certificated Notes

Maturity Date: 3/1/2007 CUSIP#: 073928E58

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:  
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Interest Rate:

Interest Payment Dates:

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:  
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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: 1.26%

Interest Payment Period: Monthly

Index Maturity: One Month

Spread (plus or minus): +0.16%

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\* On the 1st of each month prior to Maturity.

\*\* On the 1st of each month, including the maturity date.

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