

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

December 14, 2004

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 42

Rule 424(b)(3)

DATED: December 9, 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: \$34,000,000 Floating Rate Notes Book Entry Notes

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

Maturity Date: 12/14/2007 CUSIP#: 073928H89

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: Quarterly

LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): **

LIBOR Telerate

Prime Rate

CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 2.58% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: Three Months

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Spread (plus or minus): +0.10%

* On the 14th of each March, June, September and December thereafter prior to Maturity.

** On the 14th of each March, June, September and December, including the maturity date.

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