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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC Form 424B3 May 03, 2004

THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. ${\tt IncomeNotes\,(SM)}$ With Maturities of Nine Months or More from Date of Issue

Registration No. 333-109793 Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) Pricing Supplement No. 21 (To Prospectus dated November 17, 2003, and Prospectus Supplement dated November 17, 2003)

Trade Date: May 3, 2004
Issue Date: May 6, 2004

The date of this Pricing Supplement is May 3, 2004

Fixed Rate Notes

-	CUSIP#	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Price to Public	Discounts & Commissions	Reall
	07387EFA0	3.90%	5/15/2009	100.00%	1.00%	0.
-	07387EFB8	5.71%	5/15/2019	100.00%	2.00%	0.
	07387EFC6	6.00%	5/15/2029	100.00%	2.50%	0.

Subject to Redemption

First Interest Payment Date	-		Yes/No	Date and Terms of Redemption
11/15/2004	\$20.48	Yes	No	N/A
11/15/2004	\$29.98	Yes	Yes	Commencing on 5/15/2007 and on the 15th each month thereafter until Maturity, th Notes may be called in whole at par at toption of the Company on ten calendar danotice.
11/15/2004	\$31.50	Yes	Yes	Commencing on 5/15/2008 and on the 15th each month thereafter until Maturity, th Notes may be called in whole at par at toption of the Company on ten calendar danotice.

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

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