

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
 Form 424B3  
 May 22, 2002

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 23  
 DATED: May 21, 2002  
 (To Prospectus dated January 25, 2002,  
 and Prospectus Supplement dated January 25, 2002)

Rule 424(b) (3)  
 File No. 333-76894

\$10,006,693,162  
 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.  
 MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

Principal Amount: \$125,000,000 Floating Rate Notes  Book Entry Notes   
 Original Issue Date: 5/22/2002 Fixed Rate Notes  Certificated Notes   
 Maturity Date: 5/22/2003 CUSIP#: 073928XD0  
 Option to Extend Maturity: No   
 Yes  Final Maturity Date:

| Redeemable On | Redemption Price(s) | Optional Repayment Date(s) | Optional Repayment Price(s) |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| -----<br>N/A  | -----<br>N/A        | -----<br>N/A               | -----<br>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): Daily  
 Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Daily  
 LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): \*  
 LIBOR Telerate  
 Prime Rate  
 CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 1.83% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): + 0.15%

\* On the 22nd of August, November, February and at Maturity.

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