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BECTON DICKINSON & CO  
Form SC 13G  
February 12, 2004

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
ANNUAL FILING

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY  
(NAME OF ISSUER)  
COMMON  
(TITLE CLASS OF SECURITIES)  
075887109  
(CUSIP NUMBER)  
12/31/2003  
(DATE OF EVENT WHICH REQUIRES FILING OF THIS STATEMENT)

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO DESIGNATE THE RULE PURSUANT TO WHICH THIS  
SCHEDULE IS FILED:

- (X) RULE 13D-1(B)  
 ( ) RULE 13D-1(C)  
 ( ) RULE 13D-1(D)

\*THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL BE FILLED OUT FOR A  
REPORTING PERSON'S INITIAL FILING ON THIS FORM WITH RESPECT TO THE  
SUBJECT CLASS OF SECURITIES, AND FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENT  
CONTAINING INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ALTER THE DISCLOSURES PROVIDED  
IN A PRIOR COVER PAGE.

THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REMAINDER OF THIS COVER PAGE SHALL  
NOT BE DEEMED TO BE "FILED" FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECTION 18 OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 ("ACT") OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO THE  
LIABILITIES OF THAT SECTION OF THE ACT BUT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL  
OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE ACT (HOWEVER, SEE THE NOTES).

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1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF PERSON  
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, ACTING IN VARIOUS FIDUCIARY  
CAPACITIES. 04-1867445
2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP.\*  
  
NOT APPLICABLE A \_\_\_  
B \_\_\_
3. SEC USE ONLY
4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
5. SOLE VOTING POWER  
6,386,624 SHARES
6. SHARED VOTING POWER  
4,890,275 SHARES (INCLUDES 569,535.73 ESOP PFD SHS CONVERTED  
INTO COMMON RATIO OF 1 PFD = 1 COMMON)
7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
14,978,141 SHARES (INCLUDES 569,535.73 ESOP PFD SHS CONVERTED  
INTO COMMON RATIO OF 1 PFD = 6.4 COMMON)
8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
24,415 SHARES
9. AGGREGATED AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
15,002,556 SHARES (INCLUDES 569,535.73 ESOP PFD SHS CONVERTED  
INTO COMMON RATIO OF 1 PFD = 6.4 COMMON)
10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN  
SHARES\*  
NOT APPLICABLE
11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9  
5.8%
12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*  
BK

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ITEM 1.

- (A) NAME OF ISSUER  
BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY
- (B) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
ONE BECTON DRIVE  
FRANKLIN LAKES, NJ 07417-1880

ITEM 2.

- (A) NAME OF PERSON FILING  
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, TRUSTEE
- (B) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IF NONE,  
RESIDENCE  
  
225 FRANKLIN STREET, BOSTON, MA 02110
- (C) CITIZENSHIP

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

(D) TITLE CLASS OF SECURITIES  
COMMON

(E) CUSIP NUMBER  
075887109

ITEM 3. IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B), OR  
13D-2(B), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:

(B)  BANK AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(A)(6) OF THE ACT

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ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP

(A) AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED  
15,002,556 SHARES

(B) PERCENT OF CLASS  
5.8%

(C) NUMBER OF SHARES AS TO WHICH SUCH PERSON HAS:

- (I) SOLE POWER TO VOTE OR TO DIRECT THE VOTE OF  
6,386,624 SHARES
- (II) SHARED POWER TO VOTE OR TO DIRECT THE VOTE OF  
4,890,275 SHARES
- (III) SOLE POWER TO DISPOSE OR TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF  
14,978,141 SHARES
- (IV) SHARED POWER TO DISPOSE OR TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF  
24,415 SHARES

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF A CLASS

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER  
PERSON.

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH  
ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT  
HOLDING COMPANY

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

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ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

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THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION SHALL BE INCLUDED IF THE STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B) :

BY SIGNING BELOW I CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THE SECURITIES REFERRED TO ABOVE WERE ACQUIRED IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AND DO NOT HAVE THE EFFECT OF CHANGING OR INFLUENCING THE CONTROL OF THE ISSUER OF SUCH SECURITIES AND WERE NOT ACQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH OR AS A PARTICIPANT IN ANY TRANSACTION HAVING SUCH PURPOSES OR EFFECT.

THIS REPORT IS NOT AN ADMISSION THAT STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY IS THE BENEFICIAL OWNER OF ANY SECURITIES COVERED BY THIS REPORT, AND STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF ALL SHARES REPORTED HEREIN PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-4.

SIGNATURE

AFTER REASONABLE INQUIRY AND TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT.

12 FEBRUARY 2004

STATE STREET CORPORATION  
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,  
TRUSTEE

/s/ SUSAN C. DANIELS  
VICE PRESIDENT