BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC
Form 424B3
October 24, 2001

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 79 Rule 424(b)(3)
DATED: October 23, 2001 File No. 333-52902
(To Prospectus dated January 11, 2001,
and Prospectus Supplement dated January 11, 2001)

$9,015,893,162
THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.
MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

Principal Amount: $20,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

Original Issue Date: 10/24/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [ ] Certificated Notes [ ]

Maturity Date: 10/24/2002 CUSIP#: 073928VN0

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]
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

[X] 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: 2.68%   Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): + 0.18%

+ Rate for Federal Funds as reported on Telerate Page 5 under the heading "Federal Funds/Open".

++ Interest Determination Dates are the same Business Day as the Interest Reset Dates.

* On the 24th of January, April, July and at Maturity.

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