

LOWES COMPANIES INC  
Form 11-K  
August 17, 2004

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

**Form 11-K**

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**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended May 31, 2004**

or

o

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 [No Fee Required]**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number 1-7898**

A. Full Title of the Plan and the address of the Plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

**Lowe's Companies Employee Stock Purchase Plan - Stock Options for Everyone**

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the Plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**Lowe's Companies, Inc.  
1000 Lowe's Boulevard  
 Mooresville, NC 28117**

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<b>Lowe's Companies</b>
<b>Employee Stock Purchase Plan - Stock Options for Everyone</b>
<b>Form 11-K</b>
<b>May 31, 2004</b>

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<b>Lowe's Companies</b>		
<b>Employee Stock Purchase Plan - Stock Options For Everyone</b>		
<b>Exhibit Index</b>		
<b>Form 11-K for the Year Ended May 31, 2004</b>		
<b>Exhibit No.</b>		<b>Description of Exhibit</b>
23		Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Plan Administrator and Participants in Lowe's Companies

Employee Stock Purchase Plan - Stock Options for Everyone

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Lowe's Companies Employee Stock Purchase Plan - Stock Options for Everyone (the "Plan") as of May 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the period ended May 31, 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of May 31, 2004 and 2003, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the period ended May 31, 2004 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Hickory, North Carolina

July 29, 2004

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**LOWE'S COMPANIES**

**EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN - STOCK OPTIONS FOR EVERYONE**

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
MAY 31, 2004 AND 2003

	May 31, 2004	May 31, 2003
<b>ASSET - Receivable from Plan Sponsor</b>	<b>\$ 949,716</b>	<b>\$ 619,200</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Fractional Share Interest Due to Plan Participants	(787,341)	(500,755)
Withdrawal Amounts Payable	(162,375)	(118,445)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(949,716)</b>	<b>(619,200)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

See the accompanying notes to financial statements.

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**LOWE'S COMPANIES**

**EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN - STOCK OPTIONS FOR EVERYONE**

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED MAY 31, 2004, 2003 AND 2002

	<b>May 31, 2004</b>	<b>May 31, 2003</b>	<b>May 31, 2002</b>
<b>Increases - Employee Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 60,312,167</b>	<b>\$ 56,299,029</b>	<b>\$ 49,207,751</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>			
Purchases of Lowe's Companies, Inc. Common Stock Subsequently Distributed to Plan Participants (1,374,540, 1,454,350 and 1,342,276 shares)	(56,144,602)	(51,863,889)	(45,493,469)
Cash Withdrawals	(3,380,224)	(3,934,385)	(3,196,730)
Fractional Share Interest Due to Plan Participants	(787,341)	(500,755)	(517,552)
<b>Total Decreases</b>	<b>(60,312,167)</b>	<b>(56,299,029)</b>	<b>(49,207,751)</b>
<b>Net Change</b>	-	-	-
<b>Net Assets Available for Benefits:</b>			
Beginning of year	-	-	-
End of year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

See the accompanying notes to financial statements.

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<b>LOWE'S COMPANIES EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN -</b>
<b>STOCK OPTIONS FOR EVERYONE</b>
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED MAY 31, 2004, 2003 AND 2002

1. PLAN DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT PLAN PROVISIONS

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The Board of Directors of Lowe's Companies, Inc. (the "Company") adopted the Lowe's Companies Employee Stock Purchase Plan-Stock Option Plan ("Plan") on December 2, 1999. The Plan was approved by the Company's shareholders at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders on May 26, 2000, and became effective on that date. No option may be granted under the Plan more than ten years after the date the Plan was adopted unless the Plan is extended. There were 10,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock reserved under the Plan with 4,004,326 remaining available at May 31, 2000.

The Plan is intended to assist the Company in recruiting and retaining individuals with ability and initiative by enabling employees to participate in the Plan and to associate their interests with those of the Company and its shareholders. All full-time employees are eligible to participate in the Plan from the date of employment. Part-time employees are eligible after one year of service. There are two six-month offering periods each year. The periods are from November 30, and December 1 through May 31. Employees must be eligible on the first day of the offering period in order to participate in that offering period. Participation in the Plan by eligible employees is voluntary.

Participants in the Plan are allowed to purchase stock at a discount price through the use of payroll deductions only (no lump sum purchases are allowed). The Company makes no contributions to the Plan. Payroll deductions in the amount of 1% to 20% of base pay may be contributed to the Plan, provided the contribution does not exceed the maximum amount of \$10,625 for any offering period. Payroll deductions will continue automatically until the participant stops his or her deductions. If the participant elects to stop payroll deductions during an offering period, all contributions are refunded. Each Plan participant, at the end of each offering period, is considered to be fully vested in the Plan and has a right to all cash amounts withheld from his or her paycheck. Cash proceeds collected from payroll deductions are remitted directly to the Company's operating cash account and are used for general corporate purposes.

The purchase price per share offered under the Plan with respect to any grant date (first day of offering period) is the lower of 85% of the fair market value of a share on such grant date or 85% of the fair market value of the share at the end of the offering period. Payroll deductions that have been accumulated during a particular offering period will be used to purchase shares of the Company's common stock at the discounted price. The Plan will purchase only whole shares of the Company's common stock. Residual amounts in a participant's account shall be applied to the next offering period.

E\*TRADE is the Broker/Administrator of the Plan. Shares are recorded as purchased on the trade date. Once shares are purchased, they are distributed to the participant's E\*TRADE account. At the end of each offering period, E\*TRADE sends participants a confirmation of shares purchased and the purchase price for the offering period. They also provide a statement of each participant's account on a quarterly basis.

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The Plan is a stock plan as defined in Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Plan is not subject to federal income tax. Benefits are provided to participants with respect to the treatment of stock purchased within the Plan if certain holding period requirements are met.

All costs to administer the Plan are paid by the Company.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying financial statements of the Plan have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## 3. INCOME TAXES

The right to purchase shares of common stock under this Plan is intended to be an option granted by the Company in accordance with an "employee stock purchase plan" within the meaning of Section 423 of the Internal Revenue Code, and such shares shall be treated in accordance with these provisions for tax purposes.

Employees participating in the Plan are not considered to have income for federal income tax purposes from the granting of an option to purchase shares of common stock. Deductions from an employee's compensation do not reduce the amount of their income for tax purposes.

## 4. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to amend or terminate the Plan subject to certain restrictions. In the event of Plan termination, participants would be 100% vested in their accounts and any payroll withheld between offering periods would be refunded.

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## **Signatures**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

