BELLSOUTH CORP Form SC 13G February 05, 2004

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

SCHEDULE 13G

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

ANNUAL FILING

BELLSOUTH CORPORATION
(NAME OF ISSUER)
COMMON STOCK
(TITLE CLASS OF SECURITIES)
079860102
(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).

CUSIP NO. 079860102 13G PAGE 2 OF 5 PAGES

- 1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON/EIN 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

- 50,416,201 SHARES
- 6. SHARED VOTING POWER

91,292,401 SHARES

- 7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 144,060,906 SHARES
- 8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 2,963,204 SHARES
- 9. TOTAL BENEFICIALLY OWNED 147,024,110 SHARES
- 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

7.96%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

BK

SCHEDULE 13G PAGE 3 OF 5 PAGES ITEM 1.

- (A) NAME OF ISSUER
 BELLSOUTH CORPORATION
 - (B) ADDRESS OF ISSUER'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES

1155 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. ATLANTA, GA. 30309-3610

ITEM 2.

- (A) NAME OF PERSON FILING (SSB or other)
 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
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
 - (D) TITLE CLASS OF SECURITIES COMMON STOCK
 - (E) CUSIP NUMBER 079860102
- 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) _X_ BANK AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(A)(6) OF THE ACT

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ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP

- (A) AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED 147,024,110 SHARES
- (B) PERCENT OF CLASS 7.96 %
- (C) NUMBER OF SHARES AS TO WHICH SUCH PERSON HAS:
 - (I) SOLE POWER TO VOTE OR TO DIRECT THE VOTE OF 50,416,201 SHARES
- (II) SHARED POWER TO VOTE OR TO DIRECT THE VOTE OF 91,292,401 SHARES
- (III) SOLE POWER TO DISPOSE OR TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF 144,060,906 SHARES
- (IV) SHARED POWER TO DISPOSE OR TO DIRECT THE DISPOSITION OF 2,963,204 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

SCHEDULE 13G

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ITEM 10. CERTIFICATION

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.

5 FEBRUARY 2004

STATE STREET CORPORATION
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,
TRUSTEE

/s/ SUSAN C. DANIELS VICE PRESIDENT