

POPULAR INC
Form S-8
May 13, 2004

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Form S-8

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT
Under
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

POPULAR, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Puerto Rico

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

66-0416582

(I.R.S. employer
identification no.)

209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico
(Address of principal executive
offices)

00918
(Zip code)

POPULAR, INC.

2004 OMNIBUS INCENTIVE PLAN
(Full title of the plan)

Jorge A. Junquera
Senior Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer
209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918
(Name and address of agent for service)

(787) 765-9800

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:

Brunilda Santos de Alvarez
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
209 Muñoz Rivera Avenue
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

- (1) The amount being registered also includes an indeterminate number of shares of Common Stock which may be issuable as a result of stock splits, stock dividends and antidilution provisions and other terms, in accordance with Rule 416 under the Securities Act.
 - (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee. Such estimate has been computed in accordance with Rule 457(h) based upon the average of the high and low price of the Common Stock on the NASDAQ National Market System on May 10, 2004, namely \$40.17.
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PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(A) PROSPECTUS

As permitted by Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), this Registration Statement omits the information specified in Part I of Form S-8. The documents containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered to the participants in the plan covered by this Registration Statement as required by Rule 428(b). Such documents are not being filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act.

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**PART II
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT**

Item 3. INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following documents filed with the Commission by Popular, Inc. (the Company) are incorporated herein by reference:

(1) The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 filed with the Commission on March 15, 2004;

(2) The Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10 Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2004 filed with the Commission on May 10, 2004; and

(2) The Company's Current Reports on Form 8-K dated as of January 16, 2004, March 19, 2004, April 5, 2004, April 14, 2004 and April 28, 2004 filed pursuant to Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act).

All documents filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, subsequent to the date of this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

Not applicable. The Company's Common Stock is registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act.

Item 5. INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL

The validity of the shares of the Company to be issued in connection with this Registration Statement will be passed upon for the Company by Brunilda Santos de Alvarez, Esq., its Executive Vice President and General Counsel. As of April 30, 2004, Ms. Santos de Alvarez beneficially owned approximately 8,635 shares of Common Stock of the Company and is entitled to participate in the Plan covered by this Registration Statement.

Item 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

(a) Article ELEVENTH of the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides the following:

(1) The Company shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Company) by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, or is or was serving at the written request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no

reasonable cause to believe his conduct

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was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

(2) The Company shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Company to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, or is or was serving at the written request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Company, except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to the Company unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which such court shall deem proper.

(3) To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article ELEVENTH, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection therewith.

(4) Any indemnification under paragraph 1 or 2 of this Article ELEVENTH (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the Company only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth therein. Such determination shall be made (a) by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, or (b) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (c) by the stockholders.

(5) Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the Company in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee or agent to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he is entitled to be indemnified by the Company as authorized in this Article ELEVENTH.

(6) The indemnification provided by this Article ELEVENTH shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any statute, by-law, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

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(7) By action of its Board of Directors, notwithstanding any interest of the directors in the action, the Company may purchase and maintain insurance, in such amounts as the Board of Directors deems appropriate, on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company, or is or was serving at the written request of the Company, as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the Company would have the power or would be required to indemnify him against such liability under the provisions of this Article ELEVENTH or of the General Corporation Law of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or of any other state of the United States or foreign country as may be applicable.

(b) Article 1.02(B)(6) of the Puerto Rico General Corporation Act (the PR-GCA) provides that a corporation may include in its certificate of incorporation a provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of members of its board of directors or governing body for breach of a director's fiduciary duty of care. However, no such provision may eliminate or limit the liability of a director for breaching his duty of loyalty, failing to act in good faith, engaging in intentional misconduct or knowingly violating a law, paying an unlawful dividend or approving an unlawful stock repurchase or obtaining an improper personal benefit.

(c) Article 4.08 of the PR-GCA authorizes a Puerto Rico Corporation authorizes a Puerto Rico corporation to indemnify its officers and directors against liabilities arising out of pending or threatened actions, suits or proceedings to which such officers and directors may be made parties by reason of being officers or directors. Such rights of indemnification are not exclusive of any other rights to which such officers or directors may be entitled under any by-law, agreement, vote of stockholders or otherwise.

(d) The Company maintains a directors and officers liability insurance policy.

Item 7. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION CLAIMED

Not applicable.

Item 8. EXHIBITS

The Exhibits accompanying this Registration Statement are listed on the accompanying Exhibit Index.

Item 9. UNDERTAKINGS

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act);

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if

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the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high and of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective Registration Statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person against the registrant in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

The Registrant. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of San Juan, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, on this 12th day of May, 2004.

POPULAR, INC.
(Registrant)

By /s/ Jorge A. Junquera
Name: Jorge A. Junquera
Title: Senior Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Richard L. Carrion, David H. Chafey, Jr., Jorge A. Junquera and Brunilda Santos de Alvarez, and each of them individually, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power and in any and all capacities, to sign this Registration Statement and any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement, and to file such Registration Statement and all such amendments or supplements, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, thereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them, or their or his substitutes or substitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Richard L. Carrión	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer	May 12, 2004
Richard L. Carrión /s/ Juan J. Bermúdez	Director	May 12, 2004
Juan J. Bermúdez /s/ José B. Carrión, Jr.	Director	May 12, 2004
José B. Carrión, Jr. /s/ María Luisa Ferré	Director	May 12, 2004
María Luisa Ferré		

/s/ Manuel Morales, Jr.

Director

May 12, 2004

Manuel Morales, Jr.

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Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Francisco M. Rexach, Jr.	Director	May 12, 2004
Francisco M. Rexach, Jr. /s/ Frederic V. Salerno	Director	May 12, 2004
Frederic V. Salerno	Director	May 12, 2004
Félix J. Serrallés Nevares /s/ José R. Vizcarrondo	Director	May 12, 2004
José R. Vizcarrondo /s/ Jorge A. Junquera	Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	May 12, 2004
Jorge A. Junquera /s/ Ileana González	Senior Vice President and Comptroller (Principal Accounting Officer)	May 12, 2004
Ileana González		

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description of Exhibits
4.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4(a) to the registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Nos. 333-26941, 333-26941-01 and 333-26941-02) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 12, 1997.
4.2	By-laws of the Company, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. 333-80169) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 8, 1999.
4.3	Specimen of Certificate of the registrant's Common Stock, par value \$6 per share, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998 (File No. 000-13818).
4.4	Popular, Inc. 2004 Omnibus Incentive Plan.
5	Opinion of Brunilda Santos de Alvarez, Esq.
23.1	Consent of Brunilda Santos de Alvarez, Esq., (Included in Exhibit 5).
23.2	Consent of the Company's Independent Accountants.
24	Powers of Attorney (included on pages II-5 through II-6).