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POPULAR INC  
Form 11-K  
June 28, 2004

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

Form 11-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003

or

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

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

Commission file number 000-13818

POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES

(Full title of the Plan and address of the Plan, if  
different from that of the issuer named below)

POPULAR, INC.

209 MUNOZ RIVERA AVENUE  
HATO REY, PUERTO RICO 00918

(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the  
plan and the address of principal executive office)

POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR  
PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE  
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE  
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\* Other schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA have been omitted because they are not applicable.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Participants and Administrator of Popular, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan for Puerto Rico Subsidiaries

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Popular, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan for Puerto Rico Subsidiaries (the "Plan"), at December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 of these statements in accordance with the 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, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. This supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
San Juan, Puerto Rico
June 18, 2004

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STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

	2003	2002
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	\$46,768,704	\$32,636,820
Receivables		
Contribution receivable	154,223	-
Profit sharing contribution receivable	2,861,942	2,188,186
Dividend and interest receivable	129,221	125,636
	-----	-----
	49,914,090	34,950,642
Cash and cash equivalents	55,275	131,441
	-----	-----
Net assets available for benefits	\$49,969,365	\$35,082,083
	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

Additions to net assets	
Investment income	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 8,114,368
Interest and dividends	699,971
	-----
Total investment income	8,814,339
	-----
Contributions	
Employer	4,826,583
Participants	3,296,856
Rollovers from other qualified plans	222,284
	-----
Total contributions	8,345,723
	-----
Total additions	17,160,062
Deductions from net assets	
Benefits and withdrawals paid to participants	2,272,780
	-----
Net increase	14,887,282
Net assets available for benefits	
Beginning of year	35,082,083
	-----
End of year	\$ 49,969,365
	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Popular, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan for Puerto Rico Subsidiaries (the "Plan"), provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of its provisions.

### GENERAL

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of the Puerto Rico subsidiaries of Popular Inc., except Banco Popular de Puerto Rico (the "Companies") who have three months of service, are at least eighteen years old and are residents of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The Plan was created for the purpose of providing retirement benefits to employees and to encourage and assist them in adopting a regular savings plan that qualifies under the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The Plan is subject to the provisions of Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Plan participants may authorize the Company to make pre-tax and after-tax payroll deductions ranging from 1% to 10% of their monthly compensation, as defined. At no time may participant pre-tax contributions exceed the lesser of 10% of the participant's annual compensation, as defined, or \$8,000.

The Companies match participant's pre-tax contributions at the rate of 50 cents for each dollar saved as follows:

SUBSIDIARY	ON THE FIRST PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPANT'S COMPENSATION
Popular Insurance, Inc.	6%
Popular Mortgage, Inc.	6%
Levitt Mortgage Corporation	6%
EVERTEC, INC. (formerly GM Group, Inc.)	6%
Popular Finance, Inc.	5%
Popular Auto, Inc.	8%
Popular Securities, Inc.	10%

In addition, each Company may make other discretionary contributions to its own employees out of its net profits in such amounts as each Company's Board of Directors may determine.

### PARTICIPANT ACCOUNTS

Each participant account is credited with its contribution and allocation of (a) its own Company matching and profit sharing contribution, and (b) plan earnings.

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POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
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Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

### VESTING

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Companies matching and discretionary contributions plus actual earnings thereon is based on years of service. The Companies contributions vest in accordance with the following schedule:

YEARS OF SERVICE	VESTING %
Less than 1	0
At least 1	20
At least 2	40
At least 3	60
At least 4	80
At least 5	100

### PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Plan participants are permitted to make withdrawals from the Plan, subject to provisions in the Plan agreement and only from after-tax contributions. If a participant suffers financial hardship, as defined in the Plan agreement, the participant may request a withdrawal from his or her contributions. Upon termination of service due to disability, retirement or other reasons, a participant may elect to receive either a lump sum distribution in cash, shares of Popular, Inc. common stock, if applicable, or a combination of both. In the case of participant termination because of death, the entire vested amount is paid to the person or persons legally entitled thereto.

### PLAN EXPENSES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Companies are responsible for the general administration of the Plan and for carrying out the provisions thereof.

Contributions are held and managed by a trustee appointed by the Boards of Directors of the Companies, which invests cash received, interest and dividend income and makes distributions to participants. Banco Popular de Puerto Rico is the trustee and recordkeeper of the Plan. Banco Santander de Puerto Rico is the trustee for the investment in Popular, Inc. common stock. All expenses of the Plan are borne by the Companies.

POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Edgar Filing: POPULAR INC - Form 11-K

DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Plan's financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

#### USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### INVESTMENT VALUATION AND INCOME RECOGNITION

Plan investments are presented at fair value. Shares of registered investment companies are presented at quoted market prices which represent the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at the reporting date. Popular, Inc.'s common stock is valued at its quoted market price. The plan presents in the statement of changes in assets available for benefits the net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of its investments which consists of the realized gains or losses and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on them.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on the trade date basis. Dividends and interest earned are recorded under the accrual basis and credited to each participant's account, as defined.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Employee and employer matching contributions are recorded in the period in which the Companies makes the payroll deductions from the participants earnings.

#### TRANSFER OF ASSETS TO OTHER PLANS

Terminated employees or retirees may elect to transfer their savings to other plans qualified by the Puerto Rico Department of the Treasury.

#### PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Benefits are recorded when paid.

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POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

### 3. INVESTMENTS

The following table presents the Plan's investments that represent five percent or more of the Plan's assets at December 31:

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	2003		2002	
	# OF SHARES	VALUE	# OF SHARES	VALUE
Mutual Funds				
Vanguard 500 Index Fund	\$ 24,861.229	\$ 2,552,502	*	
Federated Government Obligations Fund	12,242,373.058	\$ 12,242,373	9,351,493.057	\$ 9,351,493,057
Common stock				
Popular, Inc. **	479,777.816	\$ 21,518,035	442,234.590	\$ 14,211,493,057

\* Investment does not exceed 5% or more of the Plan assets at December 31, 2002

\*\* Party-in-interest

During 2003, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold) appreciated in value as follows:

Mutual funds	\$ 2,982,162
Common stock	5,132,206
	-----
	\$ 8,114,368
	=====

4. PLAN TERMINATION

Although they have not expressed any intent to do so, the Companies have the right under the Plan to discontinue their contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event the Plan terminates, the interest of each participant in the Plan shall be fully vested and such termination shall not reduce the interest of any participating employee or their beneficiaries accrued under the Plan up to the date of such termination.

5. TAX STATUS

The Plan obtained a favorable determination letter from the Department of Treasury of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The letter dated January 29, 2002 indicates that the Plan is designed in accordance with the applicable income tax law and is, therefore, exempt from income taxes. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. The Plan Administrator, based on the Plan's tax counsel's advice, however, believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the income tax law. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

6. PROFIT SHARING CONTRIBUTION RECEIVABLE

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The Boards of Directors of the Companies approved profit sharing contributions amounting to \$2,906,672 in the aggregate based on their 2003 subsidiaries profits. The Companies used forfeitures amounting to \$44,730 to reduce its profit sharing contributions. These forfeitures were allocated to participants in 2004. The amount recorded as a receivable in the accompanying financial statements was subsequently collected in 2004.

### 7. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan's investments are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the values of investments, it is at least reasonably possible that changes these factors in the near term would materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of assets available for benefits and the statement of changes in assets available for benefits.

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### SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE SCHEDULE I

POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN FOR  
PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES  
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) AT DECEMBER 31, 2003  
(SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i ON FORM 5500)

IDENTITY OF ISSUE	DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT	CURRENT VALUE
Aim Basic Value Fund	Mutual Fund - 37,732.883 Units	\$ 1,103,309
American Century Ultra Fund	Mutual Fund - 30,144.675 Units	803,356
Dreyfus Emerging Leaders Fund	Mutual Fund - 61,813.150 Units	2,393,405
Federated Government Obligations Fund	Mutual Fund - 12,242,373.058 Units	12,242,373
Fidelity Advisor Mid Cap Fund	Mutual Fund - 58,924.623 Units	1,320,501
Fidelity Advisor Equity Growth Fund	Mutual Fund - 311.992 Units	14,517
MFS Capital Opportunities Fund	Mutual Fund - 7,644.546 Units	90,970
MFS Massachusetts Investors Growth Stock	Mutual Fund - 18,739.052 Units	212,126
MFS Research International A Equity Fund	Mutual Fund - 13,955.861 Units	192,033
Oppenheimer Global Fund	Mutual Fund - 4,778.831 Units	246,110
Pimco Total Return	Mutual Fund - 59,175.322 Units	633,768
Scudder International Equity	Mutual Fund - 9.472 Units	189
State Street Research Aurora Fund	Mutual Fund - 31,005.848 Units	1,197,136
Vanguard Long Term Treasury Fund	Mutual Fund - 63,200.616 Units	718,591



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Vanguard 500 Index Fund	Mutual Fund - 24,861.229 Units	2,552,502
Van Kampen Common Stock Fund	Mutual Fund - 95,911.170 Units	1,529,783
Popular, Inc. *	Common Stock - 479,777.816 Shares	21,518,035
		-----
		\$ 46,768,704
		=====

\* Party in-interest

SIGNATURE

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

POPULAR, INC. RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN  
FOR PUERTO RICO SUBSIDIARIES

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(Name of Plan)

By: /s/ Vilma De La Torriente

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Vilma De La Torriente  
Authorized Representative

Dated: June 28, 2004