SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) April 22, 2004

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

- ------

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<TABLE>

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code </TABLE>

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (201) 847-6800

.

(Former name or former addresses if changed since last report.)

- Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.
 - (c) Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1-Press release dated April 22, 2004 announcing financial results for the second fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2004, which is furnished pursuant to Item 12.

Item 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On April 22, 2004, the Company issued a press release announcing its financial results for the second fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2004. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report and is incorporated herein by reference.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY (Registrant)

By: /s/ Dean J. Paranicas

Dean J. Paranicas
Vice President,
Corporate Secretary and
Public Policy

Date: April 22, 2004

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

Exhibit

Number Description of Exhibits

<S> <C>

99.1 Press release issued April 22, 2004

</TABLE>

STATEMENT OF DIFFERENCES

The trademark symbol shall be expressed as.....'TM'

1 Becton Drive Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 www.bd.com

News Release

[BD LOGO]
Helping all people
live healthy lives

Contact:

Patricia A. Spinella, Investor Relations - 201-847-5453 Colleen White, Corporate Communications - 201-847-5369

BD ANNOUNCES FISCAL SECOND QUARTER RESULTS

Franklin Lakes, NJ (April 22, 2004) - BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) (NYSE: BDX) today reported record quarterly revenues of \$1.271 billion for the fiscal second quarter ended March 31, 2004, an increase of 12 percent from the same period a year ago. At constant foreign exchange rates, revenues increased 6 percent. Revenue growth in all segments benefited from favorable foreign currency translation, particularly with respect to the Euro.

"We are pleased with the Company's continued strong performance in the second quarter. Solid revenue growth in our BD Medical and BD Biosciences segments reflects contributions from several key areas - prefillable drug delivery devices, diabetes related products and our BD FACSAria'TM' cell sorter," said Edward J. Ludwig, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Strong revenue growth in nearly all of our international regions was another driving force."

Diluted earnings per share and net income for the quarter were 62 cents and \$165 million, respectively. For the same period in fiscal 2003, diluted earnings per share were 54 cents and net income was \$142 million.

Q2 Segment Results

In the BD Medical segment, worldwide revenues for the quarter were \$683 million, representing an increase of 13 percent over the prior year period. Included in BD Medical revenues were U.S. safety-engineered product sales of \$107 million, as compared with \$98 million in the prior year's quarter, which was offset in part by reduced sales of certain conventional devices in the U.S. due to the transition to safety-engineered devices. Also contributing to the growth of the segment were increased sales of diabetes related products and prefillable drug delivery devices.

In the BD Diagnostics segment, worldwide revenues for the quarter were \$383 million, representing an increase of 7 percent over the prior year period. Revenue growth of 11 percent in the Preanalytical Systems unit of the segment included U.S. safety-engineered device sales of \$75 million, compared with \$68 million in the prior year's quarter, which was offset in part by reduced sales of conventional devices in the U.S. due to the transition to safety-engineered devices. After having experienced a 31 percent increase in the first quarter, due in large part to earlier than usual and exceptionally strong sales of respiratory and flu diagnostic tests in the U.S. and Japan, revenues in the Diagnostic Systems unit of the segment increased 3 percent in the second quarter. For the first half of fiscal 2004, the Diagnostic Systems unit reported 17 percent revenue growth.

In the BD Biosciences segment, worldwide revenues were \$205 million, representing an increase of 17 percent over the prior year period. These results reflected broad market acceptance of the BD FACSAria'TM' cell sorter, which BD Biosciences began shipping at the end of the second fiscal quarter of 2003, along with strong sales of flow cytometry reagents in the Immunocytometry Systems and Pharmingen units. Revenue growth was also driven by Discovery Labware products.

Q2 Geographic Results

Second quarter revenues in the U.S. of \$619 million represented an increase of 7 percent over the prior year period. Revenues outside the U.S. of \$651 million represented an increase of 17 percent over the prior year period, or 4 percent at constant foreign exchange rates. International revenues in the second quarter benefited from favorable foreign exchange in substantially all regions. Excluding the impact of favorable foreign exchange, revenues increased in substantially all regions.

Six-month Results

For the six-month period ended March 31, 2004, reported revenues were \$2.470 billion, a 13 percent increase over the same period a year ago, or 6 percent at

constant foreign exchange rates. Diluted earnings per share for the six-month period were \$1.10. For the same period in fiscal 2003, diluted earnings per share were 97 cents. Included in the first half results of fiscal 2004 was a first quarter charge of 11 cents related to certain actions taken in connection with our blood glucose monitoring products. Excluding the charge of 11 cents, pro forma diluted earnings per share for the first half of fiscal 2004 were \$1.21.

Fiscal 2004 Outlook

The Company estimates that its reported diluted earnings per share for fiscal 2004, which includes a charge of 11 cents per share relating to its blood glucose monitoring products, will increase in the range of 10 to 12 percent over the prior period. This estimate is based on fiscal 2003 pro forma earnings per share of \$2.15, which excludes 8 cents of non-cash charges related to the write-down of certain intangible assets and inventory in the BD Biosciences segment.

Conference Call Information

A conference call regarding BD's second quarter results and its expectations for the full fiscal year will be broadcast live on BD's website, www.bd.com/investors, at 10:00 a.m. (ET) Thursday, April 22, 2004. The conference call will be available for replay on BD's website at www.bd.com/investors or at 1-800-283-9732 (domestic) and 1-402-998-1159 (international) through April 29, 2004.

This news release contains certain non-GAAP financial measures. A reconciliation of these and other measures to the comparable GAAP measures is included in the attached financial tables.

BD is a medical technology company that serves healthcare institutions, life science researchers, clinical laboratories, industry and the general public. BD manufactures and sells a broad range of medical supplies, devices, laboratory equipment and diagnostic products. For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003, BD reported total revenues of \$4.528 billion.

* * *

This press release, including the section entitled "Fiscal 2004 Outlook," contains certain forward-looking statements (as defined under Federal securities laws) regarding BD's performance, including future revenues, products and income, or events or developments that BD expects to occur or anticipates occurring in the future. All such statements are based upon current expectations of BD and involve a number of business risks and uncertainties. Actual results could vary materially from anticipated results described, implied or projected in any forward-looking statement. Factors that could cause actual results to vary materially from any forward-looking statement include, but are not limited to: competitive factors; pricing and market share pressures; uncertainties of litigation; changes in BD's sales volume and product mix; BD's ability to achieve its cost savings objectives; changes in regional, national or foreign economic conditions; increases in energy costs; fluctuations in costs and availability of raw materials and in BD's ability to maintain favorable supplier arrangements and relationships; changes in interest or foreign currency exchange rates; delays in product introductions; and changes in healthcare or other governmental regulation, as well as other factors discussed in this press release and in BD's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not intend to update any forward-looking statements.

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS
(Unaudited; Amounts in thousands, except per-share data)

<TABLE>

CAPTION	Three Months Ended March 31,			
	2004	2003	% Change	
<\$> REVENUES	<c> \$1,270,523</c>	<c> \$1,134,041</c>	<c> 12.0</c>	
Cost of products sold Selling and administrative Research and development	638,049 338,628 62,554	578,428 298,798 60,034	10.3 13.3 4.2	

TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES	1	,039,231	937,260	10.9
OPERATING INCOME		231 292	 196,781	17 5
Interest expense, net Other expense, net		(7,961)	(8,653) (1,847)	(8.0)
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES		220,213	 186,281	18.2
Income tax provision		55 , 053	 44,241	24.4
NET INCOME			142,040	
EARNINGS PER SHARE				
Basic Diluted			0.56 0.54	
AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING			 	
Basic Diluted		253,294 265,055		

 _ | - | | **_** |</TABLE>

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands, except per-share data)

<TABLE>

<caption></caption>						
		Six Mo	nth	s Ended Ma	ırcl	h 31,
		2004		2003	엉	Change
<s> REVENUES</s>		> ,470,054	<c \$2</c 	> ,185,689		<c> 13.0</c>
Cost of products sold Selling and administrative Research and development	1	,278,933 668,248 123,207	1	,128,467 582,979 119,879		13.3 14.6 2.8
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS AND EXPENSES		,070,388	1	,831,325		13.1
OPERATING INCOME		399,666		354,364		12.8
Interest expense, net Other expense, net				(17,286) (1,763)		
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES Income tax provision				335,315 79,637		
NET INCOME	 \$	290,562				
EARNINGS PER SHARE						
Basic Diluted	\$ \$	1.15 1.10	\$ \$	1.00		15.0 13.4
AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING						

252,710 Basic 254,994

263,763 263,328 Diluted _ ______

</TABLE>

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION REVENUES BY SEGMENT AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<table></table>
<caption></caption>

<caption></caption>	Three M	ee Months Ended March 31,		
	2004	2003	% Change	
<s> BD MEDICAL</s>		<c></c>		
United States International	361,954	\$ 292,794 309,025	17.1	
TOTAL		\$ 601,819	13.4	
BD DIAGNOSTICS				
United States International	\$ 211,419 171,456	\$ 206,206 150,594		
TOTAL	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$ 356,800	7.3	
BD BIOSCIENCES				
United States International		\$ 78,545 96,877		
TOTAL	\$ 205,007	\$ 175,422	16.9	
TOTAL REVENUES				
United States International	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$ 577,545 556,496		
 TOTAL	\$1 , 270 , 523	\$1,134,041	12.0	

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION REVENUES BY SEGMENT AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

Six Months Ended March 31

	Six Months Ended March 31,					
		2004		2003	용 (Change
<s> BD MEDICAL</s>	<c:< th=""><th>></th><th><c:< th=""><th>></th><th><</th><th>(C></th></c:<></th></c:<>	>	<c:< th=""><th>></th><th><</th><th>(C></th></c:<>	>	<	(C>
United States International	\$	624,435 685,074	\$	589,220 584,236	1	6.0 L7.3
TOTAL	\$1,	,309,509	\$1	,173,456	1	11.6
BD DIAGNOSTICS United States International	\$	424,336 359,484	\$	397,738 290,716		6.7 23.7
TOTAL	\$	783 , 820	\$	688,454	1	13.9

BD BIOSCIENCES United States International	\$ 162,346 214,379	\$ 147,882 175,897	9.8 21.9
TOTAL	\$ 376,725	\$ 323 , 779	16.4
TOTAL REVENUES United States International		\$1,134,840 1,050,849	6.7 19.8
TOTAL	\$2,470,054	\$2,185,689	13.0

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United States

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION REVENUES BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS AND UNITS Three Months Ended March 31, (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

	onited beates				
	2004	2003	_		
<\$>		<c></c>			
BD MEDICAL					
Medical Surgical Systems	· ·	\$180,731			
Diabetes Care	•	83 , 658			
Pharmaceutical Systems		22 , 795			
Ophthalmic Systems	5,263	5,610	(6.2)		
TOTAL	\$320,687	\$292,794	9.5		
DD DIACNOCHICC					
BD DIAGNOSTICS Preanalytical Systems	\$100 464	\$102 , 958	6 3		
Diagnostic Systems		103,248			
			(1.3)		
TOTAL	\$211,419	\$206 , 206	2.5		
BD BIOSCIENCES					
Discovery Labware	\$ 24,465	\$ 23,226	5.3		
Immunocytometry Systems	36,129	29,141	24.0		
Clontech	8,234	8,399	(2.0)		
Pharmingen	18,489	17,779	4.0		
TOTAL	\$ 87 , 317	\$ 78 , 545	11.2		
TOTAL UNITED STATES	\$619,423	\$577 , 545	7.3		

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION REVENUES BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS AND UNITS Three Months Ended March 31, (continued) (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

International _____ % Change _____

	2004	2003	Reported	FX Neutral	FX Impact
<s> BD MEDICAL</s>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>
Medical Surgical Systems	\$187 , 062	\$160,667	16.4	4.6	11.8
	61,338	,		7.5	14.8
Pharmaceutical Systems					
Ophthalmic Systems	8,454	7,173	17.9	4.0	13.9
TOTAL		\$309 , 025	17.1	3.7	13.4
BD DIAGNOSTICS	A 06 450	4 72 000	10.0	4 1	14.0
Preanalytical Systems					
Diagnostic Systems	84,977	//,495	9./	(1.5)	11.2
TOTAL	\$171,456	\$150,594	13.9	1.2	12.7
BD BIOSCIENCES	+ 0.4 0.00	+ 00 450	40.5		40.0
Discovery Labware Immunocytometry Systems	•	•			
Clontech	•	•		(14.3)	
Pharmingen				14.7	
TOTAL	\$117 , 690	\$ 96 , 877	21.5	7.9	13.6
TOTAL INTERNATIONAL	\$651 , 100	\$556 , 496	17.0	3.8	13.2

</TABLE>

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION REVENUES BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS AND UNITS Three Months Ended March 31, (continued) (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

Total

	_							
						% Change		
		2004		2003	Reported	FX Neutral	FX Impact	
<\$>	<(: :>	 <c< th=""><th>:></th><th><c></c></th><th><c></c></th><th><c></c></th></c<>	:>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	
BD MEDICAL								
Medical Surgical Systems	\$	383,480	\$	341,398	12.3	6.7	5.6	
Diabetes Care					12.1	6.6	5.5	
Pharmaceutical Systems					19.0	6.6	12.4	
Ophthalmic Systems		13,717		12,783	7.3	(0.5)	7.8	
TOTAL	\$	682 , 641	\$	601,819	13.4	6.5	6.9	
BD DIAGNOSTICS								
Preanalytical Systems	\$							
Diagnostic Systems		186 , 932		180,743	3.4	(1.4)	4.8	
TOTAL	\$	382 , 875	\$	356,800	7.3	2.0	5.3	
BD BIOSCIENCES								
	Ś	48,553	Ś	43 386	11.9	5.8	6.1	
Immunocytometry Systems	Ų	103,563		•		15.2	8.9	
Clontech		16,787		•	(2.9)	(8.3)	5.4	
Pharmingen		•		31,268		8.6	6.9	
TOTAL	\$	205,007	\$	175,422	16.9	9.4	7.5	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1	,270,523	\$1	,134,041	12.0	5.5	6.5	

</TABLE>

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY
SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION
REVENUES BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS AND UNITS
Six Months Ended March 31,
(Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

TTm	4 +	_ ~	C+	atac

 <0 \$	2004	 <c< th=""><th>2003</th><th>% Change</th></c<>	2003	% Change	
	:>	 <c< th=""><th></th><th></th></c<>			
Ś			.>	<c></c>	
,	163,579 54,631			2.8 23.3	
\$	624,435	\$	589 , 220	6.0	
\$			193,757		
\$	424,336			6.7	
\$	64,897 15,087		52,340 16,262	24.0 (7.2)	
\$	162,346	\$	147,882	9.8	
\$1	,211,117	\$1	,134,840	6.7	
	\$	\$ 47,880 64,897 15,087 34,482 \$ 162,346	\$ 47,880 \$ 47,880 \$ 47,880 \$ 64,897 \$ 15,087 \$ 34,482 \$ 162,346 \$	\$ 424,336 \$ 397,738 \$ 47,880 \$ 46,346 644,897 52,340 15,087 16,262 34,482 32,934	

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION REVENUES BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS AND UNITS Six Months Ended March 31, (continued) (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

International

					% Change		
		2004		2003	Reported	FX Neutral	FX Impact
<s> BD MEDICAL</s>	<c< td=""><td>!></td><td><c< td=""><td>></td><td><c></c></td><td><c></c></td><td><c></c></td></c<></td></c<>	!>	<c< td=""><td>></td><td><c></c></td><td><c></c></td><td><c></c></td></c<>	>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>
Medical Surgical Systems Diabetes Care Pharmaceutical Systems Ophthalmic Systems	\$	363,386 119,515 185,944 16,229	\$	313,435 94,223 162,729 13,849	15.9 26.8 14.3 17.2	4.0 11.2 (1.4) 3.9	11.9 15.6 15.7 13.3
TOTAL	\$	685,074	\$	584,236	17.3	3.6	13.7
BD DIAGNOSTICS Preanalytical Systems Diagnostic Systems	\$	164,832 194,652	\$	139,279 151,437	18.3 28.5	4.3 15.5	14.0 13.0
TOTAL	\$	359,484	\$	290,716	23.7	10.1	13.6

BD BIOSCIENCES							
Discovery Labware	\$	45,556	\$	38,915	17.1	3.8	13.3
Immunocytometry Systems		120,810		95,192	26.9	13.3	13.6
Clontech		16,053		16,781	(4.3)	(14.7)	10.4
Pharmingen		31,960		25,009	27.8	11.8	16.0
TOTAL	\$	214,379	\$	175,897	21.9	8.3	13.6
TOTAL INTERNATIONAL	\$1	,258,937	\$1	,050,849	19.8	6.2	13.6

</TABLE>

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BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE INFORMATION REVENUES BY BUSINESS SEGMENTS AND UNITS Six Months Ended March 31, (continued) (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

Total

						% Change		
					Reported	FX Neutral	FX Impact	
<\$>						<c></c>		
BD MEDICAL Medical Surgical Systems Diabetes Care Pharmaceutical Systems Ophthalmic Systems		283,094 240,575		253,377 207,051	11.7 16.2	4.9 5.9 3.8 (1.6)	5.8 12.4	
TOTAL		,309,509	\$1	,173,456		4.8		
BD DIAGNOSTICS Preanalytical Systems Diagnostic Systems		402,897		345,194	16.7	5.3 11.0	5.7	
TOTAL		783 , 820	\$	688,454	13.9	8.1	5.8	
BD BIOSCIENCES Discovery Labware Immunocytometry Systems Clontech Pharmingen		185,707 31,140 66,442		147,532 33,043 57,943	25.9 (5.8) 14.7	3.6 17.1 (11.0) 7.8	8.8 5.2 6.9	
TOTAL	\$	376,725	\$	323,779	16.4	9.0	7.4	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2					6.5		

 | | | | | | |Page 10

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY RECONCILIATION TO PRO FORMA AMOUNTS Six Months Ended March 31, (Unaudited)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

2004

As Reported	BGM Charges *	Excluding Charges
<c> \$1.10</c>	<c> \$0.11</c>	<c> \$1.21</c>

<S> Diluted EPS </TABLE> * $\,$ Relates to the fiscal 2004 charge associated with blood glucose monitoring (BGM) products.

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY RECONCILIATION TO PRO FORMA AMOUNTS Twelve Months Ended September 30, (Unaudited)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

	2003	
As Reported	Non-cash Charges**	Excluding Charges
<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>
\$2.07	\$0.08	\$2.15

** Relates to the fiscal 2003 write-down of certain intangible assets and inventory in the BD Biosciences segment.

BECTON DICKINSON AND COMPANY SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION Six Months Ended March 31, (Unaudited; Amounts in thousands)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

</TABLE>

2004 -----As BGM Excluding Reported Charges * Charges <S> <C> <C> <C> <C> \$1,191,121 \$45,024 \$1,236,145 Gross Profit as a % of revenues 48.2% 50.0% 399,666 45,024 444,690 Operating Income as a % of revenues 16.2% Net Income 290,562 27,915 318,477 as a % of revenues 11.8% 12.9%

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 $^{^{\}star}$ $\,$ Relates to the fiscal 2004 charge associated with blood glucose monitoring (BGM) products.