

CENDANT CORP
Form 11-K
June 24, 2005

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

Form 11-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004

OR

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

For the transition period from ____ to ____

Commission File No. 1-10308

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

**Avis Voluntary Investment
Savings Plan**

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

**Cendant Corporation
9 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019**

AVIS VOLUNTARY INVESTMENT SAVINGS PLAN

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All other schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 have been omitted because they are not applicable.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Trustee and Participants of the
Avis Voluntary Investment Savings Plan:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Avis Voluntary Investment Savings Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 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. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also 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, 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 December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2004, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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) as of December 31, 2004 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 schedule is the responsibility of the Plan s management. Such schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic 2004 financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP
New York, New York
June 22, 2005

Table of Contents**AVIS VOLUNTARY INVESTMENT SAVINGS PLAN****STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2003**

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS: | | |
| Investments: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 52,362 | \$ 509,203 |
| Mutual funds | 26,198,361 | 25,299,986 |
| Common/collective trusts | 24,331,254 | 22,243,965 |
| Guaranteed investment contracts | 18,279,435 | 22,104,879 |
| Cendant Corporation common stock | 292,991 | 207,377 |
| Loans to participants | 2,120,402 | 1,879,543 |
| Total investments | 71,274,805 | 72,244,953 |
| Receivables: | | |
| Participant contributions | 42,877 | 127,389 |
| Employer contributions | 61,549 | 187,379 |
| Interest and dividends | 22,748 | 19,668 |
| Total receivables | 127,174 | 334,436 |
| NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS | \$ 71,401,979 | \$ 72,579,389 |

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

Table of Contents**AVIS VOLUNTARY INVESTMENT SAVINGS PLAN****STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004**

ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS:

Net investment income:

Interest and dividends \$ 2,300,440

Net appreciation in fair value of investments 2,673,290

Net investment income 4,973,730

Contributions:

Participants 2,755,686

Employer 3,016,916

Rollovers 56,392

Total contributions 5,828,994

Total additions 10,802,724

DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS:

Benefits paid to participants 6,805,069

Transfers of participant account balances to affiliated plans 5,163,945

Administrative expenses 11,120

Total deductions 11,980,134

NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS (1,177,410)

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS,
BEGINNING OF YEAR 72,579,389

END OF YEAR \$ 71,401,979

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

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AVIS VOLUNTARY INVESTMENT SAVINGS PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Avis Voluntary Investment Savings Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description or the Plan document which are available from Avis Rent A Car System, Inc. (the Company or Plan sponsor) for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions. The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cendant Corporation (Cendant).

The Plan is a defined contribution plan and provides Internal Revenue Code (the IRC) Section 401(k) employee salary deferral benefits and additional employer contributions for the Company's eligible employees. The Cendant Employee Benefits Committee is the Plan administrator (Plan Administrator). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Merrill Lynch Trust Company FSB (the Trustee) is the Plan's trustee.

During 2004, the Plan was amended to allow for certain of the Company's employee account balances to be transferred to and assumed by the Cendant Car Rental Operations Support, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan (the CCROS Plan), as a result of Cendant Car Rental Operations Support Inc.'s establishment of the CCROS Plan on April 1, 2004. The Plan's Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits includes transfers of participant account balances to affiliated plans, which consists primarily of net assets of \$5,077,705 transferred to the CCROS Plan during 2004.

The following is a summary of certain Plan provisions:

Eligibility Each employee may elect to become a contributing participant after having met all of the following requirements: (i) the status of a non-union employee, (ii) the attainment of age 21 and (iii) the completion of one year of service (a year of service means the completion of at least 1,000 hours of service during the first twelve months of employment or the completion of at least 1,000 hours in any Plan year that follows the employment date).

Participant Contributions Participants may elect to make pre-tax contributions up to 16% of specified compensation in 1% increments up to the statutory maximum of \$13,000 for 2004. In addition, employees participating in the Plan may make additional contributions (that are not matched by employer contributions) from 1% to 10% of specified compensation on a current, after-tax basis, subject to certain limitations imposed by law. Certain eligible participants (age 50 and over) can contribute additional amounts as catch up contributions (\$3,000 for 2004).

Employer Contributions The Company contributes to the Plan with respect to each participating employee: (i) an amount equal to the sum of 50% of the first 6% of the participant's compensation that is contributed to the Plan, plus (ii) an amount equal to 3% of the participant's annual compensation. The Company may also make additional matching contributions at the discretion of the Company.

Rollovers All employees, upon commencement of employment, are provided the option of making a rollover contribution into the Plan in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) regulations.

Fund Reallocations Participants can reallocate investments among the various funds or change future contributions on a daily basis. The fund reallocation must be in 1% increments and includes both employee and employer contributions. Only one reallocation is allowed each day.

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Vesting Participants are fully vested at all times with respect to their contributions to the Plan. Company matching contributions are fully vested upon 3 years of service without partial vesting prior thereto. The Company's 3% contribution vests immediately.

Participant Accounts A separate account is maintained for each participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of the Company's contributions and Plan earnings including interest, dividends and net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments. Each participant's account is also charged an allocation of net realized and unrealized depreciation in fair value of investments and certain administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant account balances, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Payment of Benefits to Participants Participants are entitled to withdraw a certain portion of their vested accounts in accordance with the terms of the Plan and applicable law. Participants are permitted to process in-service withdrawals, in accordance with Plan provisions, upon attaining age 59 1/2 or for hardship in certain circumstances, as defined in the Plan document, before that age. Amounts allocated to accounts of persons who elected to withdraw from the Plan but had not yet been paid were \$22,109 at December 31, 2003. At December 31, 2004, no participants had elected to withdraw from the Plan who had not been paid. Distribution of the participant's account may be made in a lump sum payment upon retirement, death or disability, or upon termination of employment, subject to the vesting requirements of the Plan.

Forfeited Accounts Forfeited balances of terminated participants' non-vested accounts are used to reduce future Company contributions. As of December 31, 2004 and 2003, forfeited non-vested account balances were \$49,318 and \$920,583, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2004, employer contributions were reduced by \$877,179 from the utilization of the forfeited non-vested accounts.

Loan Provisions Participants may borrow from their fund accounts up to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested balance provided the vested balance is at least \$2,000. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's vested account and bear interest at rates commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined quarterly by the Plan Administrator. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Administrative Expenses Administrative expenses of the Plan may be paid by the Company; otherwise, such expenses are paid by the Plan.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the accrual basis of accounting.

Cash and Cash Equivalents The Plan considers highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition The Plan's investments in Cendant Corporation common stock, mutual funds, the common/collective trust that does not invest in guaranteed investment contracts, loans to participants and cash and cash equivalents are stated at fair value. Securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the Plan year. Shares of registered investment companies are valued at the quoted market price, which represents the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Loans to participants are valued at cost, which approximates fair value. A portion of the Plan's investments in common/collective trusts consists of a fund that invests primarily in guaranteed investment contracts with high quality insurance companies. The Plan's investment in this common/collective trust is valued at amounts contributed, plus the Plan's pro-rata share of interest income earned by the fund, less

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administrative expenses and withdrawals. The value recorded in the Plan's financial statements for such fund was \$24,090,357 and \$22,119,406 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The Plan's investments in guaranteed investment contracts are recorded at contract value, which equals principal plus accrued interest (see Note 4 Investment Contracts).

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date and interest is recorded when earned. The accompanying Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits presents net appreciation in fair value of investments, which includes unrealized gains and losses on investments held at December 31, 2004 and realized gains and losses on investments sold during the year then ended.

Use of Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported and related disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties The Plan invests in various securities, including mutual funds, common/collective trusts, guaranteed investment contracts and Cendant Corporation common stock. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate and credit risks and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes would materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Benefit Payments Benefits to participants are recorded when paid.

3. INVESTMENTS

The following table presents investments that represent five percent or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits as of December 31:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| * Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust | \$ 24,090,357 | \$ 22,119,406 |
| Peoples Benefit Life Insurance Company | 8,388,941 | 7,797,086 |
| PIMCO CCM Capital Appreciation Fund | 6,186,211 | 6,713,512 |
| John Hancock Life Insurance Company | 5,010,319 | 4,690,505 |
| Principal Life Insurance Company | 4,880,175 | 4,580,956 |
| MFS Value Fund | 4,660,272 | 4,576,843 |
| New York Life Insurance Company | | 5,036,332 |

During 2004, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated in fair value, as follows:

| | 2004 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mutual funds | \$ 2,117,624 |
| Common/collective trusts | 545,908 |
| Cendant Corporation common stock | 9,758 |
| | \$ 2,673,290 |

* Permitted party-in-interest

4. INVESTMENT CONTRACTS

Guaranteed investment contracts provide a guaranteed return on principal invested over a specified time period. All investment contracts are fully benefit responsive and are recorded at contract value, which

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equals principal plus accrued interest. The total contract value at December 31, 2004 and 2003 was \$18,279,435 and \$22,104,879, respectively, which approximates fair value. The crediting interest rates at December 31, 2004 and 2003 for various investment contracts ranged from 6.19% to 7.71% and the average yield of these investments for the 2004 was 6.87%.

5. FEDERAL INCOME TAX STATUS

The IRS determined and informed the Company by letter dated October 25, 2002 that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. The Plan has been amended since receiving this determination letter. However, the Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and that the Plan and related trust continue to be tax-exempt.

6. EXEMPT PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

A portion of the Plan's investments represents shares in funds managed by Merrill Lynch Trust Company FSB, the trustee of the Plan. Therefore, these transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

At December 31, 2004 and 2003, the Plan held 12,532 and 9,312 shares of Cendant Corporation common stock with a cost basis of \$281,557 and \$112,604, respectively.

7. PLAN TERMINATION

Although the Company has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company reserves the right to modify, suspend, amend or terminate the Plan in whole or in part at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. If the Plan is terminated, the amounts credited to the employer contribution accounts of all participants become fully vested.

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EIN: 11-1998661**AVIS VOLUNTARY INVESTMENT SAVINGS PLAN****FORM 5500, PART IV, SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT
END OF YEAR) AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004**

| Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party | Description of Investment | Number of Shares, Units or Par Value | Cost*** | Current Value |
|---|----------------------------------|---|----------------|--------------------------|
| *Cendant Corporation Common Stock | Common stock fund | 12,532 | \$ | 292,991 |
| *Merrill Lynch Equity Index Trust | Common/collective trust | 2,710 | | 240,897 |
| *Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust | Common/collective trust | 24,090,357 | | 24,090,357 |
| John Hancock Life Insurance Company | Guaranteed investment contract | 5,010,319 | | 5,010,319 |
| Peoples Benefit Life Insurance Company | Guaranteed investment contract | 8,388,941 | | 8,388,941 |
| Principal Life Insurance Company | Guaranteed investment contract | 4,880,175 | | 4,880,175 |
| Davis NY Venture Fund | Mutual fund | 81,494 | | 2,501,050 |
| ING International Value Fund | Mutual fund | 107,214 | | 1,892,321 |
| Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund | Mutual fund | 22,087 | | 183,543 |
| MASS Investment Growth Stock Fund | Mutual fund | 27,334 | | 337,847 |
| MFS Mid-Cap Growth Fund | Mutual fund | 18,377 | | 164,289 |
| MFS Value Fund | Mutual fund | 201,395 | | 4,660,272 |
| Oppenheimer Capital Income Fund | Mutual fund | 61,267 | | 2,525,406 |
| Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund | Mutual fund | 32,941 | | 885,447 |
| Oppenheimer International Growth Fund | Mutual fund | 4,163 | | 79,604 |
| Oppenheimer Quest Balance Fund | Mutual fund | 14,872 | | 268,291 |
| PIMCO CCM Capital Appreciation Fund | Mutual fund | 349,109 | | 6,186,211 |
| PIMCO PEA Renaissance Fund | Mutual fund | 23,642 | | 629,347 |
| PIMCO Total Return Fund | Mutual fund | 210,665 | | 2,247,791 |
| Scudder RREEF Real Estate Fund | Mutual fund | 15,511 | | 316,113 |
| State Street Aurora Fund | Mutual fund | 75,903 | | 3,072,549 |
| The Oakmark Equity and Income Fund | Mutual fund | 7,151 | | 167,558 |
| Vanguard Explorer Admiral Fund | Mutual fund | 1,163 | | 80,722 |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Various participants** | Participant loans | 2,120,402 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 52,362 |
| Total | | \$ 71,274,805 |

* Represents a permitted party-in-interest.

** Maturity dates range from January 2005 to July 2019 at interest rates of 4.8% to 10.5%.

*** Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.

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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 duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Avis Voluntary Investment Savings Plan

By: /s/ Terence P. Conley
Terence P. Conley
Executive Vice President,
Human Resources and Corporate
Services
Cendant Corporation

Date: June 24, 2005