

STATE AUTO FINANCIAL CORP  
Form 11-K  
June 29, 2005

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

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FORM 11-K  
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ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2004

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

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

Commission File Number: 333-56336

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

State Auto Insurance Companies Capital Accumulation Plan

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

State Auto Financial Corporation  
518 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3976

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REQUIRED INFORMATION

The following financial statements and supplemental schedules for the  
State Auto Insurance Companies Capital Accumulation Plan are being filed  
herewith:

Financial Statements for each of the three years ended December 31, 2004, and  
Supplemental Schedule for the year ended December 31, 2004

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Audited Financial Statements:

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Supplemental Schedule:  
Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) ..... 11

The following exhibits are being filed herewith:

Exhibit No.	Description	
1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	Included herein

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Plan Administrative Committee  
State Auto Insurance Companies Capital Accumulation Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the State Auto Insurance Companies Capital Accumulation Plan as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the period 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 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. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's 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 includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes 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, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of

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December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2004, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying schedule of net 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 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. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Columbus, Ohio  
June 27, 2005

STATE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31	
	2004	2003
	----	----
-----		
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value:		
Shares of registered investment companies	\$118,745,932	99,720,718
Interest-bearing cash .....	11,161,319	12,174,623
Common / collective trusts .....	15,645,907	15,490,394
Affiliated stock .....	1,306,353	1,087,932
Loans to participants .....	2,361,711	2,422,456
	-----	-----
Total investments .....	149,221,222	130,896,123
Contribution receivables:		
Employee .....	16,000	12,180
Employer .....	7,175	7,000
	-----	-----
Total receivables .....	23,175	19,180
	-----	-----
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS .....	\$149,244,397	130,915,303
	=====	=====

See accompanying notes.

STATE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	2004	Years Ended December 31 2003	2002
	----	----	----
<b>ADDITIONS</b>			
Interest and dividends .....	\$ 3,464,940	2,631,527	2,014,616
<b>Contributions:</b>			
Employee .....	7,621,633	7,027,128	6,609,902
Employer .....	2,824,545	2,688,942	2,597,286
Total contributions .....	10,446,178	9,717,070	9,207,188
Total additions .....	13,911,118	12,348,597	11,221,804
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>			
Benefit payments .....	5,989,685	6,858,337	6,228,766
Participant loan fees .....	14,748	16,258	16,031
Total deductions .....	6,004,433	6,874,595	6,244,797
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments ..	10,422,409	19,867,068	(13,732,511)
Net increase (decrease) .....	18,329,094	25,341,070	(8,755,504)
<b>Net Assets available for benefits:</b>			
Beginning of year .....	130,915,303	105,574,233	114,329,737
End of year .....	\$149,244,397	130,915,303	105,574,233
	=====	=====	=====

See accompanying notes.

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Notes to the Financial Statements  
December 31, 2004

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## 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### ORGANIZATION

The State Auto Insurance Companies Capital Accumulation Plan (the "Plan"), a defined contribution plan, was adopted effective June 1, 1982, by State Automobile Mutual Insurance Company and its affiliates (the "Company") for the purpose of providing a savings plan for the benefit of its employees.

The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan Document for a complete description of the Plan.

### GENERAL

An employee of the company is eligible to participate in the Plan as of the first pay period subsequent to thirty days after the employee's hire date, provided the employee is or will attain age 21 during the calendar year following the employee's hire date.

The Plan was amended and restated effective January 1, 1997 including subsequent amendments through January 1, 2005, to comply with recent legislation, regulation and rulings. See "Contributions" and "Investment Options."

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Each participant may contribute any percentage of their salary between 1% and 50% (basic contribution). Subject to certain limitations, the Company matches the first 2% of basic contributions of participant salary at the rate of 75 cents for each dollar contributed; basic contributions of 3% to 6% are matched at a rate of 50 cents for each dollar contributed. Participants can change their rate of deferral as of any given pay date up to a maximum of four times per calendar year. Participants may also suspend contributions at any time. Participants may elect to make supplemental contributions in the form of after tax salary deferrals. Total participant contributions may not exceed 50% of salary.

Based on a provision of the Plan that became effective in January 2002, as of January 1, 2004, all Plan participants who attain age 50 or older during the calendar year, and are making the maximum Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") pre-tax contribution, may make additional "Catch-up Contributions" each pay period in any whole percentage amount of their compensation from 1% to 25%, up to a dollar limitation on the amount of Catch-up Contribution established by law.

### VESTING

Plan participants are immediately fully vested in employee contributions and related net earnings or losses. Full vesting in employer contributions and related net earnings and losses occurs upon three completed years of service. Any employee terminating prior to three completed years of service vests in employer contributions and related net earnings and losses at percentages set forth by the Plan document.

In addition, employer contributions and related net earnings or losses are fully vested upon retirement at age 65, death or total and permanent disability.

Any forfeitures of non-vested employer contributions and related net earnings or losses reduce future employer contributions.

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### PARTICIPANT'S ACCOUNTS

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of a) the Company's contributions and b) Plan earnings, and is charged with applicable participant loan fees. 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 account.

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### STATE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN Notes to the Financial Statements, Continued

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### PARTICIPANT LOANS

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from 1-5 years, or up to 10 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate commensurate with local prevailing rates as determined quarterly by the Plan Administrative Committee. Principal and interest is paid ratably through bi-weekly payroll deductions.

### INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Under the Plan trust agreement, participants may direct how their plan contributions are to be invested. The following description of the investment options provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a complete description of the investments.

Plan contributions may be invested in the following sixteen funds at December 31, 2004:

Fidelity Puritan Fund: Consists of a diversified portfolio of high-yielding equity securities and bonds.

Fidelity Contrafund: Consists primarily of seemingly undervalued common stocks and convertible securities with potential for market growth.

Fidelity Equity Income Fund: Consists primarily of stocks which may pay a higher than average dividend and stocks with potential for market growth.

Fidelity U.S. Government Reserves Fund: Consists of short-term instruments issued by the U.S. Government and/or its agencies and repurchase agreements secured by U.S. Government obligations.

Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio Fund: Consists primarily of high quality short and long-term investment contracts. Investment contracts have both variable and fixed rates.

Fidelity Aggressive Growth Fund: Consists primarily of equity securities of companies with growth potential.

Spartan U.S. Equity Index Fund: Consists of equity securities that correspond to those listed in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index.

Fidelity Intermediate Bond Fund: Consists primarily of intermediate term,

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investment grade debt securities of U.S. corporations and U.S. Government Agencies.

Fidelity Diversified International Fund: Consists primarily of foreign securities.

State Auto Financial Corporation Common Stock Fund: Consists of publicly traded common stock of the State Auto Financial Corporation, an affiliate to the Company. The stock is traded on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbol, STFC.

Fidelity Freedom Income Fund: Consists of Fidelity bond mutual funds and Fidelity money market mutual funds, and a lesser percentage of Fidelity stock mutual funds.

Fidelity Freedom 2000 Fund: Consists of Fidelity bond mutual funds and Fidelity money market mutual funds and a lesser percentage of Fidelity stock mutual funds.

Fidelity Freedom 2010 Fund: Consists of Fidelity stock mutual funds and Fidelity bond mutual funds and a lesser percentage in Fidelity money market mutual funds. The mix of underlying funds will gradually become more conservative over time.

Fidelity Freedom 2020 Fund: Consists of Fidelity stock mutual funds and a lesser percentage of Fidelity bond mutual funds. The mix of underlying funds will gradually become more conservative over time.

Fidelity Freedom 2030 Fund: Consists largely of Fidelity stock mutual funds and a lesser percentage of Fidelity bond mutual funds. The mix of underlying funds will gradually become more conservative over time.

Fidelity Freedom 2040 Fund: Consists primarily of Fidelity stock mutual funds and a lesser percentage of Fidelity bond mutual funds. The mix of underlying funds will gradually become more conservative over time.

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

All administrative expenses, excluding participant loan fees, and trustee fees are paid by the Company.

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### STATE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN Notes to the Financial Statements, Continued

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### PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Upon termination of service, participants generally receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of their account less outstanding loan balances. Alternatively, qualifying participants can elect to receive their account value less outstanding loan balances in installments over a period not to exceed 10 years or, in the case of a retired participant, over a period not to exceed normal life expectancy.

Participants may semiannually withdraw from their supplemental accumulated contributions and, subject to certain conditions, participants may withdraw from their accumulated basic and supplemental contributions based on

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financial hardship. After participants have been in the plan for five years, and once every two years thereafter, participants may withdraw the vested portion of employer contributions credited to their account.

### PLAN TERMINATION

While the Company has not expressed any intent to terminate the Plan or to discontinue contributions, it is free to do so at any time, subject to the provisions set forth in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Should the Plan be terminated at some future time, all participants become 100% vested in benefits earned as of the termination date.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accounting records of the Plan are maintained in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

### USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### VALUATION OF INVESTMENTS AND RELATED INVESTMENT INCOME

Investments are stated at fair value. The common/collective trust is valued based on quoted redemption value on the last business day of the Plan year. Shares of registered investment companies and shares of the State Auto Financial Corporation Common Stock Fund are valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Loans to plan participants, which must be approved by the Plan Advisory Committee, are valued at their outstanding balances, which approximate fair value.

Investment income, including appreciation and depreciation in fair value of investments, is allocated to participant accounts daily based upon the ratio of each participants account to the total fund balance.

### RECLASSIFICATIONS

Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation. These reclassifications had no effect on net assets available for benefits as previously reported.

### RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.



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3. INVESTMENTS

The following investments, at fair value, represented 5% or more of assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2004 and 2003:

	December 31	
	2004	2003
	-----	-----
Investments in shares of registered investment companies:		
Fidelity Contrafund.....	\$ 43,781,437	37,288,000
Fidelity Equity Income Fund.....	31,872,223	28,000,000
Fidelity Puritan Fund.....	12,315,802	10,000,000
Fidelity U.S. Government Reserves Fund.....	11,161,319	12,000,000
Spartan U.S. Equity Index Fund.....	8,149,088	7,000,000
Fidelity Diversified International Fund.....	7,898,297	5,000,000
Investment in common/collective trusts:		
Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio Fund.....	\$ 15,645,907	15,000,000

During 2004 and 2003, the Plan's investments (including investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated in value as follows:

	2004	
	-----	
Shares of registered investment companies.....	\$ 10,318,956	
Affiliated stock.....	103,453	
	-----	
Total realized and unrealized appreciation.....	\$ 10,422,409	
	=====	

The Plan's current investment strategy does not rely on the use of derivative financial instruments.

4. FEDERAL INCOME TAX STATUS

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated August 16, 2002, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

5. RECONCILIATION TO FORM 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500 as of December 31:

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	2004	
	----	
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 149,244,397	13
Contribution receivables	(23,175)	--
	-----	--
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$ 149,221,222	13
	=====	==

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STATE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN  
Notes to the Financial Statements, Continued

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The following is a reconciliation of the changes in net assets per the financial statements to the Form 5500 for the year ended December 31:

	2004	20
	----	--
Net increase in assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 18,329,094	25,3
Contributions:		
Employee	16,000	
Employer	7,175	
	-----	-----
	23,175	-----
	-----	-----
Net increase in assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$ 18,305,919	25,3
	=====	=====

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STATE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)  
EIN #31-4316080 / Plan # 004

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DECEMBER 31, 2004

IDENTITY OF ISSUE

SHARES

COST

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Shares of Registered Investment Companies:		
Fidelity Puritan Fund	649,910	\$ 11,529,908
Fidelity Contrafund	771,615	34,639,472
Fidelity Equity Income Fund	603,869	27,524,630
Fidelity Intermediate Bond Fund	305,379	3,220,581
Fidelity Aggressive Growth Fund	414,906	11,025,962
Fidelity Diversified International Fund	275,779	6,184,450
Spartan U.S. Equity Index Fund	190,133	7,515,580
Fidelity Freedom Income	1,066	11,919
Fidelity Freedom 2000	20,703	246,293
Fidelity Freedom 2010	153,111	2,025,696
Fidelity Freedom 2020	91,821	1,226,308
Fidelity Freedom 2030	53,159	705,168
Fidelity Freedom 2040	30,386	235,441
Investment in Common/Collective Trusts:		
Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio Fund	15,645,907	15,645,907
Interest Bearing Cash		
Fidelity U.S. Government Reserves Fund	11,161,319	11,161,319
Affiliated Stock		
* State Auto Financial Corporation Common Stock Fund	50,536	999,218
Participant loans (interest rates 3.25% to 10.50%)	--	--
		-----
		\$133,897,852
		=====

\* Indicated a party-in-interest to the Plan.

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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 thereunto duly authorized.

STATE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES  
CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN

Date: June 29, 2005

By /s/ Steven J. Johnston

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Printed Name: Steven J. Johnston  
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Title: Sr. Vice President and CFO  
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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. -----	Description -----	
1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	Included herein

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