

FIRST DATA CORP  
Form 8-K  
October 14, 2003

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# 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): **October 14, 2003**

## FIRST DATA CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

**001-11073**  
(Commission File Number)

**47-0731996**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**6200 South Quebec Street, Greenwood Village, Colorado**  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

**80111**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: **(303) 488-8000**

**Not Applicable**

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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#### Item 5. Other Events.

On October 14, 2003, First Data Corporation issued a press release relating to the Company's earnings for the third quarter of fiscal year 2003 which included information regarding recurring earnings per share. Recurring earnings per share is a non-GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) measure and should be viewed in addition to, and not in lieu of, the Company's reported earnings per share. Recurring earnings per share excludes the cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle and the results of divested and discontinued businesses; restructuring, impairment, significant litigation and regulatory settlement charges; and divestiture and non-operating investment gains and losses. Information on recurring earnings per share enhances the understanding of the Company's performance by providing comparative results that exclude certain items that are not indicative of normal, recurring operating trends.

#### Item 12. Results of Operation and Financial Condition.

On October 14, 2003, First Data Corporation issued a press release relating to the Company's earnings for the third quarter of fiscal year 2003. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99. The information furnished under this Item 12, including the exhibit hereto, shall not be deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Act of 1934, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing

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under the Securities Act of 1933, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference to such filing.

### 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.

FIRST DATA CORPORATION

By: /s/ STANLEY J. ANDERSEN

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Stanley J. Andersen  
Assistant Secretary

Date: October 14, 2003

### Exhibit Index

The following is a list of the Exhibits furnished herewith.

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description of Exhibit</b>                            |
|---------------------------|--|
| 99                        | Press Release issued by the Company on October 14, 2003. |

### QuickLinks

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