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: January 26, 2005 (Date of earliest event reported)

Markel Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Virginia (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 001-15811 (Commission File Number) 54-1959284 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

4521 Highwoods Parkway

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060-6148

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(804) 747-0136

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant s principal executive offices)

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

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- " Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- " Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On January 26, 2005, Markel Corporation issued a press release announcing fourth quarter and year-end 2004 financial results. A copy of this press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1

Item 9.01	Financial Statements and Exhibits.
(a) None	
(b) None	
(c) Exhibit	
No.	Description

Press release issued January 26, 2005.

99.1

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SIGNATURE

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 thereunto duly authorized.

MARKEL CORPORATION

Date: January 26, 2005 By: /s/ Darrell D. Martin

Name: Darrell D. Martin

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 99.1 Press release issued January 26, 2005