

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP

Form 11-K

June 29, 2006

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005  
Commission File Number 000-21923

**WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**  
*(Full title of the plan)*

**WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION**  
**727 NORTH BANK LANE**  
**LAKE FOREST, IL 60045**  
*(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan  
and the address of its principal executive office)*

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**REQUIRED INFORMATION**

**Items 1-3.** Omitted in accordance with Item 4.

**Item 4.** The Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan ( Plan ) is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ( ERISA ). In accordance with Item 4 and in lieu of the requirements of Items 1-3, the following Plan financial statements and schedules prepared in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of ERISA are included herein:

§ Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

§ Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2005 and 2004

§ Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

§ Notes to Financial Statements

§ Supplemental Schedule

The Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 filed herewith are hereby incorporated by reference to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 filed by Wintrust Financial Corporation (Registration No. 333-52652) with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 22, 2000.

**Exhibits**

23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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**SIGNATURES**

*The Plan.* 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.

Date: June 28, 2006

**WINTRUST FINANCIAL  
CORPORATION  
RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN**

/s/ DAVID A. DYKSTRA

David A. Dykstra, Trustee

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule  
Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Plan Administrator  
Wintrust Financial Corporation  
Retirement Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. 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 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, and 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 at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, 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 supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2005, is presented for purposes 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. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. 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.

June 22, 2006

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	<b>December 31</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 10,441	\$ 248
Investments, at fair value	57,308,028	48,419,978
Participant contributions receivable	204,126	129,708
Employer matching contributions receivable	1,976,636	1,628,661
 Total assets	 59,499,231	 50,178,595
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Outstanding trades payable	7,343	
 Net assets available for benefits	 \$ 59,491,888	 \$ 50,178,595

*See notes to financial statements.*

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	<b>Years Ended December 31</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Additions</b>		
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 1,461,030	\$ 4,600,477
Interest and dividends	1,438,078	676,096
	<b>2,899,108</b>	5,276,573
Participant contributions – salary deferral	5,171,723	3,977,567
Participant contributions – rollover	1,025,533	929,633
Employer matching contributions, net of forfeitures	1,984,971	1,630,357
Transfers from Northview Bank & Trust 401(k) Plan	1,433,959	
Transfers from Northview Mortgage LLC 401(k) Plan	136,864	
Transfers from Town Bank 401(k) Plan	250,433	
Transfers from First Northwest Bank 401(k) Plan	808,416	
Transfers from Advantage National Bank 401(k) Plan		409,054
Transfers from Village Bancorp. Inc 401(k) Simple Savings Plan		176,848
Total additions	<b>13,711,007</b>	12,400,032
<b>Deductions</b>		
Benefits paid to participants	4,397,714	1,682,317
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	<b>9,313,293</b>	10,717,715
<b>Net assets available for benefits</b>		
Beginning of year	<b>50,178,595</b>	39,460,880
End of year	<b>\$ 59,491,888</b>	\$ 50,178,595

*See notes to financial statements.*

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements  
Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

**1. Description of the Plan**

The following brief description of the Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan Agreement for a more comprehensive description of the Plan's provisions.

The Plan is a participant-directed, defined-contribution plan covering all eligible employees, as defined in the Plan, of Wintrust Financial Corporation and its eligible subsidiaries (the Company). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

All full-time employees who have completed at least three months of employment and are at least 18 years of age are eligible to participate in the Plan.

In 2005, the Northview Bank & Trust 401(k) Plan, the Northview Mortgage, LLC 401(k) Plan, the Town Bank 401(k) Plan, and the First Northwest Bank 401(k) Plan were merged into the Plan, and in 2004, the Advantage National Bank 401(k) Plan and the Village Bancorp, Inc. 401(k) Simple Savings Plan were merged into the Plan.

**Contributions**

The Plan allows participants to contribute up to the maximum allowable by the Internal Revenue Code (the Code), which during 2005 was \$14,000, plus an additional \$4,000 for participants over the age of 50. During 2004, participant maximum contributions were \$13,000 plus an additional \$3,000 for participants over the age of 50. Participant contributions are tax deferred under the provisions of Code Section 401(k), subject to certain limitations. Participant contributions and earnings thereon are fully vested.

The Company may elect to make matching contributions to the Plan on behalf of all eligible participants. Generally, participants must be employed on the last day of the Plan year to be eligible for matching contributions. For 2005 and 2004, the Company's matching contribution was 60% of a participant's contributions up to a maximum of \$4,000 per participant. Additional amounts may be contributed at the discretion of the Company. In 2005, the Company's matching contribution was offset by approximately \$85,000 of forfeiture balances. These forfeiture balances were acquired from the mergers of other plans.

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**1. Description of the Plan (continued)**

**Investment of Plan Assets**

A trust fund was established for the purposes of holding and investing the Plan's assets in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement between the Company and the Trustee, Wayne Hummer Trust Company, N.A., a subsidiary of the Company and a party in interest.

**Participant Loans**

Participants may borrow from their fund account up to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their account balance. Loan terms are established by the plan administrator in accordance with the Plan Agreement. 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 by the plan administrator.

**Participant Accounts**

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of: (a) the Company's contributions, if any, and (b) the Plan's earnings/losses. 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.

**Payment of Benefits**

On termination of service due to death, disability, or retirement, a participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's account or annual installments. For termination of service due to other reasons, a participant may receive the value of the participant's account as a lump-sum distribution.

**Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions, if any, at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statements are prepared under the accrual basis of accounting.

**Investment Valuation and Income Recognition**

Except for the investment contract, investments are reported at fair value, which equals the quoted market price on the last business day of the Plan year. The shares of mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year-end. The Wintrust Financial Corporation common stock is a unitized fund composed principally of Wintrust Financial Corporation common stock and is valued at the daily unit closing price. The loans to participants are reported at their outstanding balances, which approximate fair value.

The investment contract is recorded at its contract value, which represents contributions and reinvested income, less any withdrawals plus accrued interest. The fair value of the investment contract approximates contract value. The crediting interest rate for the investment contract is reset quarterly by the issuer but cannot be less than zero and was 4.80% for the last quarter of 2005. The average annualized yield approximated the crediting interest rate.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis and are accounted for using the specific identification method. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

**Administrative Expenses**

Administrative expenses of the Plan are paid from the trust fund to the extent they are not paid by the Company. All administrative expenses were paid by the Company for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004.

**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 amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**3. Investments**

The fair value of individual investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits is as follows:

	<b>December 31</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Wintrust Financial Corporation common stock*	<b>\$ 8,956,359</b>	\$ 7,887,471
Metlife Stable Value	<b>7,601,164</b>	6,231,304
Wayne Hummer Growth Fund*	<b>6,314,974</b>	7,160,883
American Funds Growth Funds of America	<b>5,592,196</b>	4,826,181
American Funds Investment Co. of America	<b>4,653,221</b>	4,075,450
Fidelity Spartan 500 Index	<b>4,274,605</b>	
American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund	<b>4,243,419</b>	3,044,327
Federated Total Return Government Bond Fund	<b>3,054,142</b>	

\* Indicates party  
in interest to the  
Plan.

The Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held, during the year) appreciated (depreciated) in value as determined by quoted market prices as follows:

	<b>Years Ended December 31</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Common stock	<b>\$ (171,749)</b>	\$ 1,491,712
Mutual funds	<b>1,632,779</b>	3,108,765
	<b>\$ 1,461,030</b>	\$ 4,600,477

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

**4. Income Tax Status**

The underlying nonstandardized prototype plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated November 27, 2001, stating that the form of the plan is qualified under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code and, therefore, the related trust is tax-exempt. In accordance with Revenue Procedure 2002-6 and Announcement 2001-77, the Plan Sponsor has determined that it is eligible to and has chosen to rely on the current IRS prototype plan opinion letter. 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. Subsequent Event**

In the first quarter of 2006, the State Bank of The Lakes Profit Sharing and Savings Plan was merged into the Plan, increasing the Plan's assets by approximately \$7.5 million.

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Supplemental Schedule

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan  
 Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets  
 (Held at End of Year)  
 December 31, 2005

<b>Description of Investment</b>	<b>Units /Shares</b>	<b>Current Value</b>
Investment contract:		
Metlife Stable Value	60,308	\$ 7,601,164
Common stock:		
Wintrust Financial Corporation*	167,338	8,956,359
Mutual funds:		
Wayne Hummer Growth Fund*	159,873	6,314,974
American Funds Growth Funds of America	181,212	5,592,196
American Funds Investment Co. of America	148,381	4,653,221
Fidelity Spartan 500 Index Fund	49,693	4,274,605
American Funds EuroPacific Growth Fund	103,246	4,243,419
Federated Total Return Government Fund	284,636	3,054,142
Janus Enterprise Fund	59,270	2,484,015
FidelityAdvisor Equity Growth Fund	46,917	2,383,841
Lord Abbett Mid Cap Value Fund	91,881	2,059,046
Ariel Growth Fund	32,767	1,640,621
William Blair Growth Fund	108,893	1,233,762
Value Line Emerging Opportunities Fund	40,666	1,140,679
Aim Basic Value Fund	17,226	589,489
Lord Abbett Large Cap Research Fund	9,104	251,350
Vanguard Windsor II Fund	9	285
Federated Kaufmann Fund	51	284
Participant loans (4% to 10%)		834,576
		\$ 57,308,028

\* Indicates party  
 in interest to the  
 Plan.



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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

*The following exhibits are filed herewith:*

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm