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WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP

Form 11-K

October 21, 2002

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 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001
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)

REQUIRED INFORMATION

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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:

- |X| Report of Independent Auditors
- |X| Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2001 and 2000
- |X| Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000
- |X| Notes to Financial Statements
- |X| Supplemental Schedule

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, and Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000 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 Auditors

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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: October 21, 2002

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, 2001 and 2000
with Report of Independent Auditors

Employer Identification #36-3954651
Plan #001

Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan

Financial Statements
and Supplemental Schedule

Years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

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, 2001 and 2000, 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the 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. 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

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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 at December 31, 2001 and 2000, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

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, 2001, 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.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

August 19, 2002

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	DECEMBER 31	
	2001	2000
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 68,359	\$ 4,
Investments, at fair value	7,295,848	4,
Participant contributions receivable	8,939	
Employer matching contributions receivable	283,295	
Total assets	7,656,441	5,
LIABILITY		
Outstanding trades payable	27,417	
Net assets available for benefits	\$7,629,024	\$5,

See notes to financial statements.

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

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER	
	2001	2000

ADDITIONS		
Investment income (loss):		
Net realized and unrealized appreciation		
(depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 585,701	\$ (
Interest and dividends	86,098	

	671,799	(
Participant contributions - salary deferral	1,183,662	
Participant contributions - rollover	147,190	
Employer matching contributions	282,924	
Transfers from Tricom Funding, Inc.		
401(k) Retirement Savings Plan	442,635	

Total additions	2,728,210	
DEDUCTIONS		
Benefits paid to participants	202,506	
Refund of excess contributions	7,416	

Total deductions	209,922	

Net increase in net assets available for benefits	2,518,288	
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	5,110,736	4,

End of year	\$7,629,024	\$5,
	=====	

See notes to financial statements.

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EIN 36-3954651
 Plan #001

Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Years ended December 31, 2001 and 2000

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

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The following brief description of the Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan (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.

On January 1, 2001, the Tricom Funding, Inc. 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan was merged into the Plan.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Plan allows for contributions by participants of up to 10% of eligible compensation. Contributions are tax-deferred under the provisions of Internal Revenue Code (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 participants. The Company's matching contributions for 2001 and 2000 were \$282,924 and \$123,830, respectively. Participants are immediately vested in the Company's matching contribution and earnings thereon. For 2001, the Company's matching contributions were allocated to participant accounts at a rate of 30% of employee contributions up to a maximum of \$2,000 per participant. For 2000, the Company's matching contributions were allocated to participant accounts at a rate of 20% of employee contributions up to a maximum of \$1,000 per participant.

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Wintrust Financial Corporation Retirement Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENT OF PLAN ASSETS

A trust fund was established for the purposes of holding and investing Plan assets in accordance with the terms of the Trust Agreement between the Company and the Trustee, Wayne Hummer Trust Company, N. A. (Trustee), formerly Wintrust Asset Management 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

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

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. Loans to participants are reported at their outstanding balances, which approximate fair value.

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, 2001 and 2000.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States 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:

	DECEMBER 31	
	2001	2000

Wintrust Financial Corporation Common Stock*	\$2,872,816	\$1,258,560
Fidelity Advisor Equity Growth Fund	1,301,797	1,480,324
Fidelity Spartan 500 Index Fund	820,753	698,188
Fidelity Spartan Money Market Fund	674,183	363,573
William Blair Growth Fund	496,080	447,505
Janus Enterprise Fund	489,577	260,064
Fidelity Intermediate Government Fund	483,344	301,751

*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:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31	
	2001	2000

Common stock	\$ 1,271,669	\$ 53,260
Mutual funds	(685,968)	(261,220)

	\$ 585,701	\$ (207,960)
	=====	

4. INCOME TAXES

The Plan has not received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code. However, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is qualified and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation.

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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, 2001

DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT	UNITS/SHARES	CURR VAL

Short-term investments:		
Fidelity Cash Reserves Fund	4,573	\$
Fidelity Spartan Money Market Fund	674,183	
Common stock:		
Wintrust Financial Corporation*	93,975	2,
Mutual funds:		
Fidelity Advisor Equity Growth Fund	25,896	1,
Fidelity Spartan 500 Index Fund	10,404	
William Blair Growth Fund	45,637	
Janus Enterprise Fund	15,299	
Fidelity Intermediate Government Fund	49,271	
Participant loans (5.0%-9.5%)		----- \$ 7, =====