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Nationwide Financial® named top provider of retirement plans

Columbus, Ohio — Nationwide Financial Services, Inc. (NYSE: NFS) ranks as the largest provider of defined contribution retirement plans based on number of plans, according to *PLANSPPONSOR* magazine's 2005 Recordkeeping Survey.

It marks the fourth straight year that Nationwide Financial has topped the list.

The company has also improved its ranking based on assets. Since 2001, Nationwide Financial has steadily grown its asset base, moving up a total of four spots to rank as the sixth largest provider based on assets.

The findings of the seventh-annual Recordkeeping Survey were published in the June edition of *PLANSPPONSOR* magazine. To gather information and determine rankings, the magazine distributed survey questionnaires to approximately 100 retirement plan providers, and received 79 responses. The questionnaire captures 98 different data elements pertaining to each provider's product and service capabilities.

"Defined contribution plans are playing a greater role in helping individuals achieve a financially secure retirement," said Duane Meek, Nationwide Financial senior vice president for the Retirement Plans business segment. "Our ranking reflects Nationwide's *On Your Side*SM commitment to helping clients as their retirement needs change.

"I'm honored that we've been able to maintain our number one position in today's competitive marketplace. I think it is a testament to the value we place on customer relationships, and our ability to offer plan sponsors, investment professionals and plan participants the tools they need to successfully manage retirement plans," said Meek. "Our continued success depends on our ability to exceed customer expectations."

About Nationwide Financial

Nationwide Financial Services, Inc. (NYSE: NFS), a publicly traded company based in Columbus, Ohio, provides a variety of financial services that help consumers invest and protect their long-term assets, and offers retirement plans and services through both public- and private-sector employers.

It's part of the Nationwide group of companies, which offers diversified insurance and financial services. The group is led by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, which is ranked No. 99 on the *Fortune 100* based on 2004 revenue.ⁱⁱ For more information, visit www.nationwide.com.

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ⁱ Life insurance is issued by Nationwide Life Insurance Company or Nationwide Life and Annuity Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio. The general distributor is Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, member NASD. In MI only: Nationwide Investment Svcs. Corporation.

ⁱⁱ Fortune Magazine, April 2005

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