

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORP  
Form 8-K  
February 29, 2012

**UNITED STATES**  
**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): February 27, 2012**

**WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Illinois**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
  
Incorporation)

**001-35077**  
(Commission  
  
File Number)

**36-3873352**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
  
Identification No.)

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**727 North Bank Lane**

**Lake Forest, Illinois**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code (847) 615-4096**

**60045**  
(Zip Code)

**Not Applicable**

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

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:

- ..  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 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On February 27, 2012, Wintrust Financial Corporation (the Company ) issued a press release announcing that it planned to present certain information regarding the Company at the Keefe, Bruyette & Woods 2012 Boston Bank Conference on February 29, 2012.

Pursuant to Regulation FD, the Company is hereby furnishing the press release as Exhibit 99.1 and the Company's presentation as Exhibit 99.2, each of which is incorporated by reference into this Item 7.01. This information is being furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission and shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act ), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

Exhibits

99.1 Press Release dated February 27, 2012

99.2 Presentation

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Current Report on Form 8-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of federal securities laws. Forward-looking information can be identified through the use of words such as intend, plan, project, expect, anticipate, believe, estimate, contemplate, point, will, may, should, would and could. Forward-looking statements and information are not historical facts, are premised on many facts and assumptions, and represent only management's expectations, estimates and projections regarding future events. Similarly, these statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict, which may include, but are not limited to, those listed below and the Risk Factors discussed in Item 1A of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and in any of the Company's subsequent SEC filings. The Company intends such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and is including this statement for purposes of invoking these safe harbor provisions. Such forward-looking statements may be deemed to include, among other things, statements relating to the Company's future financial performance, the performance of its loan portfolio, the expected amount of future credit reserves and charge-offs, delinquency trends, growth plans, regulatory developments, securities that the Company may offer from time to time, and management's long-term performance goals, as well as statements relating to the anticipated effects on financial condition and results of operations from expected developments or events, the Company's business and growth strategies, including future acquisitions of banks, specialty finance or wealth management businesses, internal growth and plans to form additional *de novo* banks or branch offices. Actual results could differ materially from those addressed in the forward-looking statements as a result of numerous factors, including the following:

negative economic conditions that adversely affect the economy, housing prices, the job market and other factors that may affect the Company's liquidity and the performance of its loan portfolios, particularly in the markets in which it operates;

the extent of defaults and losses on the Company's loan portfolio, which may require further increases in its allowance for credit losses;

estimates of fair value of certain of the Company's assets and liabilities, which could change in value significantly from period to period;

the financial success and economic viability of the borrowers of our commercial and industrial loans;

the extent of commercial and consumer delinquencies and declines in real estate values, which may require further increases in the Company's allowance for loan and lease losses;

changes in the level and volatility of interest rates, the capital markets and other market indices that may affect, among other things, the Company's liquidity and the value of its assets and liabilities;

competitive pressures in the financial services business which may affect the pricing of the Company's loan and deposit products as well as its services (including wealth management services);

failure to identify and complete favorable acquisitions in the future or unexpected difficulties or developments related to the integration of recent or future acquisitions;

unexpected difficulties and losses related to Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-assisted acquisitions, including those resulting from our loss-sharing arrangements with the FDIC;

any negative perception of the Company's reputation or financial strength;

ability to raise additional capital on acceptable terms when needed;

disruption in capital markets, which may lower fair values for the Company's investment portfolio;

ability to use technology to provide products and services that will satisfy customer demands and create efficiencies in operations;

adverse effects on our information technology systems resulting from failures, human error or tampering;

accuracy and completeness of information the Company receives about customers and counterparties to make credit decisions;

the ability of the Company to attract and retain senior management experienced in the banking and financial services industries;

environmental liability risk associated with lending activities;

losses incurred in connection with repurchases and indemnification payments related to mortgages;

the loss of customers as a result of technological changes allowing consumers to complete their financial transactions without the use of a bank;

the soundness of other financial institutions;

the possibility that certain European Union member states will default on their debt obligations, which may affect the Company's liquidity, financial conditions and results of operations;

unexpected difficulties or unanticipated developments related to the Company's strategy of *de novo* bank formations and openings, which typically require over 13 months of operations before becoming profitable due to the impact of organizational and overhead expenses, the startup phase of generating deposits and the time lag typically involved in redeploying deposits into attractively priced loans and other higher yielding earning assets;

examinations and challenges by tax authorities;

changes in accounting standards, rules and interpretations and the impact on the Company's financial statements;

the ability of the Company to receive dividends from its subsidiaries;

a decrease in the Company's regulatory capital ratios, including as a result of further declines in the value of its loan portfolios, or otherwise;

legislative or regulatory changes, particularly changes in regulation of financial services companies and/or the products and services offered by financial services companies, including those resulting from the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act);

restrictions upon our ability to market our products to consumers and limitations on our ability to profitably operate our mortgage business resulting from the Dodd-Frank Act;

increased costs of compliance, heightened regulatory capital requirements and other risks associated with changes in regulation and the current regulatory environment, including the Dodd-Frank Act;

changes in capital requirements resulting from Basel II and III initiatives;

increases in the Company's FDIC insurance premiums, or the collection of special assessments by the FDIC;

delinquencies or fraud with respect to the Company's premium finance business;

credit downgrades among commercial and life insurance providers that could negatively affect the value of collateral securing the Company's premium finance loans;

the Company's ability to comply with covenants under its securitization facility and credit facility;

fluctuations in the stock market, which may have an adverse impact on the Company's wealth management business and brokerage operation; and

significant litigation involving the Company.

Therefore, there can be no assurances that future actual results will correspond to these forward-looking statements. The reader is cautioned not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statement made by or on behalf of the Company. Any such statement speaks only as of the date the statement was made or as of such date that may be referenced within the statement. The Company undertakes no obligation to release revisions to these forward-looking statements or reflect events or circumstances after the date such statement was made. Persons are advised, however, to consult further disclosures management makes on related subjects in its reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in its press releases.

**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 hereunto duly authorized.

WINTRUST FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Lisa Pattis  
Lisa Pattis

Executive Vice President, General Counsel

and Corporate Secretary

Date: February 29, 2012

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

Exhibit

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