

NEWS RELEASE

A.M. BEST COMPANY, OLDWICK, NJ A.M. BEST INTERNATIONAL, LONDON A.M. BEST EUROPE, LONDON A.M. BEST ASIA-PACIFIC, HONG KONG www.ambest.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A.M. Best Affirms Financial Strength & Debt Ratings of Nationwide Group and Nationwide Financial Services

Ratings Supplement

The following financial strength ratings have been affirmed with a stable outlook:

| • | Nationwide Group | A+ (Superior) |
|---|--|-----------------|
| • | Nationwide Life Insurance Company of America | A (Excellent) |
| • | Nationwide Life and Annuity Company of America | A (Excellent) |
| • | Nationwide Insurance Company of Florida | A- (Excellent) |
| • | Nationwide Indemnity Company | B++ (Very Good) |

The following financial strength ratings have been affirmed with a negative outlook:

| • | Nationwide Life Insurance Company | A+ (Superior) |
|---|---|---------------|
| • | Nationwide Life and Annuity Insurance Company | A+ (Superior) |

The following debt ratings have been affirmed with a stable outlook:

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company—

- -- "a" on \$200 million 6.5% surplus notes, due February 2004
- -- "a" on \$300 million 7.5% surplus notes, due February 2024
- -- "a" on \$400 million 8.25% surplus notes, due December 2031
- -- "a" on \$300 million 7.875% surplus notes, due April 2033

Nationwide Life Insurance Company—

-- AMB-1 on commercial paper

The following debt ratings have been affirmed with a negative outlook:

Nationwide Financial Services, Inc.—

- -- "a-" on \$300 million 6.25% senior unsecured notes, due November 2011
- -- "a-" on \$300 million 5.9% senior unsecured notes, due July 2012
- -- "a-" on \$200 million 5.625% senior unsecured notes, due February 2015
- -- "a-"on \$300 million 8% senior unsecured notes, due March 2027



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Nationwide Financial Services Capital Trust—

-- "bbb+" on \$100 million 7.899% capital securities, due March 2037

Nationwide Financial Services Capital Trust II—

-- "bbb+" on \$200 million 7.1% capital securities, due October 2028

The following indicative shelf ratings have been affirmed with a negative outlook:

Nationwide Financial Services, Inc.—

- -- "a-" on senior unsecured debt
- -- "bbb+" on subordinated debt
- -- Nationwide Financial Services Capital Trusts III and IV—"bbb+" on preferred securities
- -- "bbb" on preferred stock

A.M. Best Co., established in 1899, is the world's oldest and most authoritative

insurance rating and information source. For more information, visit A.M. Best's Web site

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