

ADVO INC  
Form 11-K  
June 28, 2005  
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**FORM 11-K**

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

(Mark One)

**Annual Report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the year ended December 31, 2004

or

**Transition Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 1-11720

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**ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)**

(Full title of the plan)

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**ADVO, Inc.**

**One Targeting Centre**

**Windsor, CT 06095**

**(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan  
and the address of its principal executive offices)**

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ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)

Annual Report

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All other schedules required by 29 CFR 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 have been omitted because they are not applicable

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator of

ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001):

We have audited the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits of the ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001) (the Plan ) as of December 31, 2004 and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year 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 audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board of the United States. These 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 made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides 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, 2004 and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental Schedule H, line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2004, 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. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit 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/ Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP

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Manchester, Connecticut

June 17, 2005

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator of

ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan:

We have audited the accompanying statement of net assets available for plan benefits of the ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan as of December 31, 2003. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 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 statement is free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audit 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 includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2003 in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

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Hartford, Connecticut

June 8, 2004

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**ADVO, Inc.**

**401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)**

**Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits**

	<i>December 31,</i>	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Assets		
Participant-Directed Investments:		
Mutual Funds, at Fair Value	\$ 98,387,057	\$ 86,101,422
ADVO Stock Fund	9,694,791	8,134,895
Participant Loans	3,519,815	3,268,596
	<u>111,601,663</u>	<u>97,504,913</u>
Total Participant-Directed Investments	111,601,663	97,504,913
Receivables:		
Employee Contributions	233,180	371,539
Employer Contributions	158,909	244,430
	<u>392,089</u>	<u>615,969</u>
Total Receivables	392,089	615,969
Net Assets Available for Benefits	<u>\$ 111,993,752</u>	<u>\$ 98,120,882</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Table of Contents****ADVO, Inc.****401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)****Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**

	<i>Year Ended</i>
	<u>December 31, 2004</u>
<b>Additions to assets attributed to:</b>	
Investment income:	
Net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 7,616,646
Interest and dividends	2,104,957
Contributions:	
Employee	9,440,229
Employer	5,859,406
Employee rollover	1,230,389
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Total Additions	26,251,627
<b>Deductions to assets attributed to:</b>	
Benefit payments	7,320,619
Administrative expenses	22,972
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Total Deductions	7,343,591
	<hr/>
Net increase in assets before transfers (to)/from other plans	18,908,036
<b>Transfers (to)/from other plans:</b>	
Transfer out of Plan assets to ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Sales Plan (Plan No. 004)	(5,967,318)
Transfer in of Plan assets from Mail Marketing Systems, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan	932,152
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Net transfers	(5,035,166)
	<hr/>
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	13,872,870
Net Assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of the year	98,120,882
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End of the year	\$ 111,993,752
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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**ADVO, Inc.**

**401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2004**

**1. Description of the Plan**

The following description of the ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001) (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

**General**

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees ( participants ) of ADVO, Inc. (the Company ), with the exception of non-highly compensated sales associates who are covered by the ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Plan (Plan Number 004). Participants are eligible to join the Plan on the first day of the month following the date of hire. Participants are eligible for the company match on the first day of the month following six months of continuous employment.

The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

**Plan Transfer**

Effective January 1, 2004, the Company established a new plan, ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 004), for the benefit of non-highly compensated sales associates, with substantially the same provisions as Plan Number 001. As such, on May 18, 2004, the account balances of non-highly compensated sales associates were transferred out of the Plan (Plan Number 001) and into Plan Number 004.

**Plan Merger**

Effective January 2, 2004, the Mail Marketing Systems, Inc. (MMSI) 401(k) Savings Plan merged into the Plan. MMSI's associates are entitled to the provisions of the Plan.

**Contributions**



Participants may contribute up to 16 percent of their annual compensation on a pretax basis, as defined in the Plan. Participants may also contribute amounts representing rollover distributions from other defined contribution plans.

The Company contributes 100 percent of the first 6 percent of a participant's pay deferral contributions to the Plan limited to \$50,000 maximum annual compensation for sales associates.

All investment programs are fully participant directed. Participants direct the investment of their and the Company's contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers fifteen investment options: primarily mutual funds and a fund with Company common stock.

#### Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, the Company's matching contribution, and the Plan's earnings. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

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**ADVO, Inc.**

**401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2004**

**Vesting**

Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions and related employer matching contributions plus actual earnings thereon.

**Payment of Benefits**

Upon termination of service, participants may elect to receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of their account.

**Loans**

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their account balance. 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 quarterly by the plan administrator. Principal and interest are paid ratably through monthly payroll deductions.

**Expenses of the Plan**

Fees and expenses relating to the operation and administration of the Plan are paid by the Company. Loan setup, loan maintenance and loan withdrawal fees are deducted from the accounts of the participants who make the loan or withdrawal.

**ADVO Stock Fund**

The ADVO Stock Fund is an unregistered custom separate account maintained by the Trustee and established by the Company for the benefit of the Plan and any other qualified plan of the Company. Ownership is represented by each plan's proportionate units of participation.

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Although the performance of the ADVO Stock Fund is based on the performance of the underlying common stock, the value of a fund unit is different from the price of one share of common stock. Changes in the unit value of the fund will be affected by price changes in the underlying common stock, earnings, dividends, interest and applicable fees and expenses of the fund. Additionally, the fund maintains highly liquid money market instruments which may contribute to differences in performance between the fund units and net asset value of the underlying common stock.

### **2. Summary of Accounting Policies**

#### Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

#### Valuation of Investments

The fair value of investments in mutual funds is based on the quoted market prices which represent the net asset values of shares held in these funds at year-end.

The fair value of investments in the ADVO Stock Fund is based on the net asset value ( NAV ) of participation units held by the Plan at year-end. These NAVs are calculated based on the current market value of the underlying securities and the current number of units by participants in these funds.

Participant loans are stated at their outstanding principal balances, which approximate fair value.

**Table of Contents****ADVO, Inc****401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2004****Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires plan management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. While management believes that the estimates and related assumptions in the preparation of these financial statements are appropriate, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**3. Investments**

The Plan's investments are primarily held by bank-administered trust funds. The following table presents the fair value of investments. Investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits are separately identified by the following \* .

	<i>December 31,</i>	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
PIMCO Total Return	\$ 1,381,120	\$ 933,762
Calamos Growth Fund - Class A	13,917,844*	10,786,265*
Strong Advisor Small Cap Value Fund - Class Z		654,706
Fidelity Equity Income Fund	983,646	355,367
Fidelity Balanced Fund	12,886,843*	11,613,093*
Fidelity Diversified International Fund	5,883,623*	4,459,540
Fidelity Dividend Growth Fund	15,549,735*	14,434,779*
Fidelity Small Cap Stock Fund	6,224,918*	4,140,533
Fidelity Retirement Money Market Portfolio	16,968,001*	17,519,259*
Fidelity Freedom Income Fund	283,317	103,235
Fidelity Freedom 2010 Fund	577,174	265,902
Fidelity Freedom 2020 Fund	800,521	462,461
Fidelity Freedom 2030 Fund	836,600	294,521
Fidelity Freedom 2040 Fund	307,809	80,870
Spartan U.S. Equity Index Fund	21,785,906*	19,997,129*
ADVO Stock Fund	9,694,791*	8,134,895*
Participant Loans	3,519,815	3,268,596
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 111,601,663</b>	<b>\$ 97,504,913</b>



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**ADVO, Inc**

**401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2004**

During 2004, the Plan's investments (including investments purchased, sold as well as held during the year) appreciated in fair value as determined by quoted market prices as follows:

	<b>Net Realized and Unrealized Appreciation In Fair Value of Investments</b>
	<b>2004</b>
Mutual Funds	\$ 6,480,566
ADVO Stock Fund	1,136,080
	<b>\$ 7,616,646</b>

**4. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

**5. Income Tax Status**

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ) dated October 30, 2002, stating the Plan, as then designed, was qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code ) and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. The Plan has been amended and restated since receiving the determination letter. The Company has applied but has not yet received a determination letter for the amended and restated Plan. The Plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan, as amended, is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

**6. Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of plan termination, participants will remain 100 percent vested in their accounts. After payment of expenses, distributions would be made pro rata based on the value of such accounts.

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**ADVO, Inc**

**401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2004**

**7. Party-in-Interest Transactions**

Fidelity Management Trust Company is the trustee and custodian as defined by the Plan. Therefore, transactions in various Fidelity investment funds qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

**8. Corrective Distribution**

The Plan failed to pass the Average Deferral Percentage Test ( ADP Test ) and the Actual Contribution Percentage Test ( ACP Test ), collectively the nondiscrimination tests, for previous Plan years. In order to correct the failure of the nondiscrimination tests, the Plan distributed contributions totaling \$300,185 relating to the 2001, 2002 and 2003 Plan years to the participants that were considered to be in the highly compensated group. This corrective distribution restored the Plan to the position it would have been in had the failure not occurred and has been included as benefit payments for the year ended December 31, 2004.



**Table of Contents****ADVO, Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)****Employer Identification Number 06-0885252,****Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)****December 31, 2004**

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	PIMCO	Total Return Administrative Class, 129,440 shares	**	1,381,120
*	Calamos	Growth Fund Class A, 262,700 shares	**	13,917,844
*	Fidelity	Equity Income Fund, 18,637 shares	**	983,646
*	Fidelity	Balanced Fund, 723,167 shares	**	12,886,843
*	Fidelity	Diversified International Fund, 205,434 shares	**	5,883,623
*	Fidelity	Dividend Growth Fund, 545,796 shares	**	15,549,735
*	Fidelity	Small Cap Stock Fund, 342,782 shares	**	6,224,918
*	Fidelity	Freedom Income Fund, 25,139 shares	**	283,317
*	Fidelity	Freedom 2010 Fund, 42,377 shares	**	577,174
*	Fidelity	Freedom 2020 Fund, 57,344 shares	**	800,521
*	Fidelity	Freedom 2030 Fund, 59,418 shares	**	836,600
*	Fidelity	Freedom 2040 Fund, 37,220 shares	**	307,809
*	Fidelity	Fidelity Retirement Money Market Portfolio, 16,968,001 shares	**	16,968,001
*	Spartan	U.S. Equity Income Fund, 508,304 shares	**	21,785,906
*	ADVO, Inc.	ADVO Stock Fund, 226,779 units	**	9,694,791
*	Participant Loans	Participant loans bear interest rates ranging from 5.0% to 10.5%.	**	3,519,815
				\$ 111,601,663

\* Denotes a party-in-interest.

\*\* Cost information may be omitted with respect to participant directed transactions under an individual account plan.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the ADVO, Inc. Associate Savings Committee has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ADVO, Inc.  
401(k) Savings Plan (Plan Number 001)

Date: June 28, 2005

By: /s/ JOHN D. SPERIDAKOS

John D. Speridakos  
Vice President and Controller