



# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Optimistic Alliance Benefit Group Enters 2004 Rolling**

Peoria, IL (February 10, 2004) – Alliance Benefit Group (ABG), a leading provider of 401(k) recordkeeping and administration services, continued its trend by growing in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2003. The company ended the year achieving all-time highs in daily valued plans and total plan assets under management

Presently, ABG has fifteen offices across the country with each office being privately owned and operated. To better serve clients, the company gathers data from all offices to identify successes and deficiencies in overall strategy and performance. ABG is pleased to announce the following:

### DAILY VALUATION RECORDKEEPING PLANS

As of the end of December 2003, ABG manages nearly \$4.2 billion in assets within its daily valuation recordkeeping program for 1,730 plans – an increase of more than \$360 million from the third quarter of 2003. Within those plans, there are 144,920 participants with an average of \$28,622 in assets per participant and \$2,400,979 per plan.

### NON-RECORDKEEPING DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLANS

As of the end of December 2003, ABG manages more than \$1.74 billion in assets – an increase of nearly \$71 million from the third quarter 2003 – within its non-recordkeeping program for 1,639 plans. Within those plans, there are 62,649 participants.

### DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS

As of the end of December 2003, ABG manages more than \$500 million in defined benefit plan assets for 164 plans across the country containing 37,946 participants.

“Although participation rates in 401(k) plans have been declining over the past couple of years, 2003 has been an incredibly successful year for Alliance Benefit Group and all of our privately owned offices across the United States,” said John Blossom, president of Alliance Benefit Group. “With the economy rebounding and businesses beginning to recover, we are confident that company-sponsored retirement plans will again flourish. ABG looks forward to helping those companies offer their employees the best retirement plan possible.”

### ABOUT ALLIANCE BENEFIT GROUP

Alliance Benefit Group, headquartered in Peoria, IL, has independently owned and operated offices in more than seventeen cities across the United States and provides retirement plan services for more than 3,300 plans with over \$5.9 billion under investment management. Alliance Benefit Group strives to provide employers with the “perfect plan” through knowledge and independence.

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