

BERNARD BETSY J
Form 4
March 01, 2011

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
BERNARD BETSY J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
711 HIGH STREET
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
02/28/2011

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

DES MOINES, IA 50392

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount or Price (A) or (D)		
Common Stock	02/28/2011		M ⁽¹⁾		2,000 A \$ 27.48	18,662	D
Common Stock	02/28/2011		S ⁽¹⁾		2,000 A \$ 34.05	16,662	D
Common Stock	02/28/2011		M ⁽¹⁾		2,000 A \$ 28.93	18,662	D
Common Stock	02/28/2011		S ⁽¹⁾		2,000 A \$ 34.05	16,662	D

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 27.48	02/28/2011		M ⁽¹⁾	2,000	04/29/2003 04/29/2012	Common Stock	2,000
Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.93	02/28/2011		M ⁽¹⁾	2,000	05/20/2003 05/20/2012	Common Stock	2,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BERNARD BETSY J 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392	X			

Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney 03/01/2011

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Pursuant to a 10b5-1 plan adopted by the reporting person February 22, 2011.

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- The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$34.01 to \$34.09, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide Principal Financial Group, Inc., any security holder of Principal Financial Group, Inc., or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in footnotes (2) and (3) to this Form 4.
- (2)
- (3) The price reported in column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$34.01 to \$34.09, inclusive.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.