

Valdes Luis E.  
Form 3  
March 09, 2012

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * |         | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol                         |                                                                        |
| Â Valdes Luis E.                          |         | (Month/Day/Year)                     | PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]                                        |                                                                        |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle)                             | 03/01/2012                                                                 |                                                                        |
| 711 HIGH STREET                           |         |                                      | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                           | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                   |
| (Street)                                  |         |                                      | (Check all applicable)                                                     |                                                                        |
| DES MOINES,Â IAÂ 50392                    |         |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner       | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)             |
| (City)                                    | (State) | (Zip)                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
|                                           |         |                                      | (give title below) (specify below)                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |
|                                           |         |                                      | President - Principal Int'l                                                |                                                                        |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Stock                    | 26,980 <sup>(1)</sup>                                 | D                                                        | Â                                                     |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            | Date Exercisable                                         | Expiration Date                                                             | Title                                                  | Amount or Number of                                              |                                                       |

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|                                         |              |            |                 | Shares |          | (I)<br>(Instr. 5) |   |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---|
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | 02/24/2007   | 02/24/2014 | Common<br>Stock | 11,250 | \$ 36.3  | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | 02/28/2008   | 02/28/2015 | Common<br>Stock | 14,275 | \$ 39.02 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | 02/27/2009   | 02/27/2016 | Common<br>Stock | 6,270  | \$ 49.25 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | 02/26/2010   | 02/26/2017 | Common<br>Stock | 7,480  | \$ 62.63 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | 02/26/2011   | 02/26/2018 | Common<br>Stock | 10,375 | \$ 60.1  | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | 02/24/2012   | 02/24/2019 | Common<br>Stock | 5,939  | \$ 11.07 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | Â <u>(2)</u> | 02/23/2020 | Common<br>Stock | 18,327 | \$ 22.21 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | Â <u>(3)</u> | 02/28/2021 | Common<br>Stock | 18,390 | \$ 34.26 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option<br>(Right to Buy) | Â <u>(4)</u> | 02/27/2022 | Common<br>Stock | 41,675 | \$ 27.46 | D                 | Â |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                            | Relationships |           |                               |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
|                                                           | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                       | Other |
| Valdes Luis E.<br>711 HIGH STREET<br>DES MOINES, IA 50392 | Â             | Â         | Â President - Principal Int'l | Â     |

## Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of  
Attorney

03/09/2012

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Includes 6,309 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (2) The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning February 23, 2011.
- (3) The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning February 28, 2012.
- (4) The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning February 27, 2013.

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.