

Dunbar Timothy Mark
 Form 3
 January 11, 2013

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 and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Â Dunbar Timothy Mark | | (Month/Day/Year) | PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG] | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 01/01/2013 | |
| 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 |
| | | | SVP & Chief Investment Officer | |

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 | 45,593 ⁽¹⁾ | D | Â |
| Common Stock | 114 | I | By Spouse |

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

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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 | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|--|--|---|---|---|---|

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| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | Security | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/25/2006 | 02/25/2013 | Common Stock | 4,930 | \$ 27.57 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/24/2007 | 02/24/2014 | Common Stock | 4,280 | \$ 36.3 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 11/12/2007 | 11/12/2014 | Common Stock | 685 | \$ 38.74 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/28/2008 | 02/28/2015 | Common Stock | 8,745 | \$ 39.02 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/27/2009 | 02/27/2016 | Common Stock | 8,275 | \$ 49.25 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/26/2010 | 02/26/2017 | Common Stock | 7,925 | \$ 62.63 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/26/2011 | 02/26/2018 | Common Stock | 19,905 | \$ 60.1 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/24/2012 | 02/24/2019 | Common Stock | 17,704 | \$ 11.07 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | Â ⁽²⁾ | 02/23/2020 | Common Stock | 11,400 | \$ 22.21 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | Â ⁽³⁾ | 02/28/2021 | Common Stock | 11,125 | \$ 34.26 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | Â ⁽⁴⁾ | 02/27/2022 | Common Stock | 15,685 | \$ 27.46 | D | Â |
| Phantom Stock Units | Â ⁽⁵⁾ | Â ⁽⁵⁾ | Common Stock | 4,083 | \$ ⁽⁶⁾ | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Dunbar Timothy Mark 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392 | Â | Â | Â SVP & Chief Investment Officer | Â |

Signatures

Timothy M. Dunbar 01/11/2013

 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 2,919 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.

Acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time into another investment alternative under that plan. Interests under the plan will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

(6) Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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