

Houston Daniel Joseph
 Form 4
 January 04, 2013

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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 *
 Houston Daniel Joseph

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)
 01/02/2013

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Pres.-Ret., Ins. & Fin. Svcs.

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)
Common Stock	01/02/2013		M ⁽¹⁾	33,915 A	\$ 27.57	110,745	D
Common Stock	01/02/2013		S ⁽¹⁾	33,915 D	\$ 29.11	76,830	D
Common Stock	01/02/2013		M ⁽¹⁾	43,270 A	\$ 11.07	120,100	D
Common Stock	01/02/2013		S ⁽¹⁾	43,270 D	\$ 28.95	76,830	D
						2,618	I

Common
Stock

By 401(k)
Plan

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

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.

SEC 1474
(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)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Share
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 27.57	01/02/2013		M ⁽¹⁾	33,915	02/25/2006 02/25/2013	Common Stock 33,915
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 11.07	01/02/2013		M ⁽¹⁾	43,270	02/24/2010 02/24/2019	Common Stock 43,270

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Houston Daniel Joseph 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392			Pres.-Ret., Ins. & Fin. Svcs.	

Signatures

Joyce E. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney
01/04/2013

**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 10b5-1 plan adopted December 3, 2012.

The price reported is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$28.96 to \$29.22.

(2) The reporting person undertakes to provide Principal Financial Group security holder thereof, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth within the footnote.

The price reported is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$28.77 to \$29.19.

(3) The reporting person undertakes to provide Principal Financial Group security holder thereof, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth within the footnote.

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.