

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC  
Form 4  
December 11, 2002

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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**

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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

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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>Gersie, Michael H.</b> (Last) (First) (Middle)			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>Principal Financial Group, Inc. (PFG)</b>				6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <b>Executive Vice President</b>		
711 High Street  (Street)			3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)		4. Statement for Month/Day/Year <b>December 9, 2002</b>		7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
Des Moines, IA 50392  (City) (State) (Zip)			5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)						
<b>Table I Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b>									
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 & 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 & 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)		
			Code V	Amount (A) or (D)	Price				

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

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

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**FORM 4 (continued) 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 and Date of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 & 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

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				(Instr. 3, 4 & 5)				Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)					
<b>Phantom Stock Unit</b>	<b>1 for 1</b>	<b>12/09/02</b>		<b>A</b>		<b>.87</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Common Stock</b>	<b>.87</b>	<b>102.87</b>	<b>D</b>

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time into another investment alternative under the Plan. Interests under the Plan will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

By: /s/ **Joyce N. Hoffman**  
**Attorney-in-Fact**

**December 11, 2002**  
 Date

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

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

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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