

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL
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[] 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 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | |
| Valdes Luis E. | | PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG] | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Pres - Int'l Asset Mgmt&Accum | |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) | | | |
| 711 HIGH STREET | | 12/14/2017 | | | |
| (Street) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | |
| DES MOINES, IA 50392 | | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> 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. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. 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 | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 12/14/2017 | | M (1) | | 27662 | A | \$37.38 | 99981 (2) | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/14/2017 | | S (1) | | 27662 | D | \$70.04 (3) | 72319 (2) | D | |
| Common Stock | 12/14/2017 | | S (1) | | 20000 | D | \$70.04 (4) | 52319 (2) | D | |

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

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. 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 | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 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) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|-----|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$37.38 | 12/14/2017 | | M (1) | | 27662 | | 2/22/2017 | 2/22/2026 | Common Stock | 27662 | \$0 | 55323 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- Pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on November 14, 2017.
- Includes 7,987 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$69.77 - 70.52, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to 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 this footnote.
- The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$69.77 - \$70.54, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to 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 this footnote.

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Valdes Luis E. 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392 | | | Pres - Int'l Asset Mgmt&Accum | |

Signatures

Patrick A. Kirchner, by Power of Attorney

12/15/2017

 Signature of Reporting Person

 Date

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).

** 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.

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.