

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC  
 Form 4  
 December 21, 2004

**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, 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 \*  
 ASCHENBRENNER JOHN E

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)  
 12/17/2004

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 President - Ins. & Fin. Svcs.

DES MOINES, IA 50392  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/17/2004		A	V A	\$ 0 (1) 24,557 (2) (3)	D	
Common Stock					7,949	I	By 401(k) Plan
Common Stock					100	I	By Daughter
Common Stock					100	I	By Son

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

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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)	8. P	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Performance Units	(4)	12/17/2004		A	328	(5)	(5)	Common Stock	328
Phantom Stock Units	(4)	12/17/2004		A	1.5	(6)	(6)	Common Stock	1.5

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
ASCHENBRENNER JOHN E 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392			President - Ins. & Fin. Svcs.	

## Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney

12/21/2004

\*\*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) Grant of restricted stock units.
- (2) Includes 1,680 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) Corrects previously inaccurate total.
- (4) Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.

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- (5) The reported performance units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group Long-Term Performance Plan. Units under the Plan will be settled in cash or stock within a five-year period from date of vesting.

- The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time
- (6) 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.

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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