

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC  
Form 4  
March 18, 2003

**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).

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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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

Filed By  
Romeo and Dye's  
Section 16 Filer  
www.section16.net

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>Aschenbrenner, John E.</b> (Last) (First) (Middle) <b>711 High Street</b> (Street) <b>Des Moines, IA 50392</b> (City) (State) (Zip)			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>									
3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)			4. Statement for Month/Day/Year <b>March 17, 2003</b>		5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)			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								
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)			2. Trans-action Date (Month/Day/Year)		2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)		3. Trans-action Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 & 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactions(s) (Instr. 3 & 4)		6. Owner-ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)		7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock			3/17/03				P <sup>(1)</sup>		100 A \$26.94		9,379 <sup>(2)</sup>		D			
Common Stock											7,761		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.

\* 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**

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(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 (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 & 5)			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) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
					Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable					

Explanation of Responses:

(1) Pursuant to 10b5-1 Plan adopted February 8, 2002.

(2) Includes 453 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

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

**March 18, 2003**  
 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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