

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

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FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

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**PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

<b>DELAWARE</b> (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	<b>42-1520346</b> (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
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**711 High Street**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50392**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**The Principal Select Savings Plan For Individual Field**  
**The Principal Select Savings Plan For Employees**  
(Full title of the plans)

**Karen E. Shaff, Esq.**  
**Executive Vice President And General Counsel**  
**Principal Financial Group, Inc.**  
**711 High Street**  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50392**  
**(515) 247-5111**  
(Name, address and telephone number, including area code of agent for service)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act (Check one):

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Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
 Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company   
 (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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 CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered	Proposed maximum offering price per share(3)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(3)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock \$.01 par value (1), (2)	10,000,000 shares	\$23.34	\$233,400,000.00	\$26,748.00

- (1) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement includes an indeterminate number of additional shares as may be issuable as a result of a stock split, stock dividend or similar adjustment of the outstanding common shares of Principal Financial Group, Inc.
- (2) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate number of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to The Principal Select Savings Plan for Individual Field and The Principal Select Savings Plan for Employees.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) and Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act of 1933 based upon the average (\$23.34) of the high (\$23.71) and low (\$22.96) sales prices of the registrant's common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on December 14, 2011.

## PART I

## INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(A) PROSPECTUS

As permitted by Part I of Form S-8, this Registration Statement omits the information specified in Part I. The documents containing the information specified in Part I will be delivered to the participants in the plans covered by this Registration Statement, as required by Rule 428(b) under the Securities Act of 1933. Such documents are not being filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act of 1933.

## PART II

## INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

## ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following documents filed by Principal Financial Group, Inc. are hereby incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement:

- (a) The Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the Commission on February 16, 2011, which contains audited consolidated financial statements for the most recent fiscal year for which such statements have been filed;
- (b) The Principal Select Savings Plan for Employee's Annual Report on Form 11-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the Commission on June 29, 2011;

- (c) The Principal Select Savings Plan for Individual Field's Annual Report on Form 11-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the Commission on June 29, 2011;
  - (d) The Registrant's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2011, June 30, 2011 and September 30, 2011 filed with the Commission on May 4, 2011, August 3, 2011 and November 2, 2011, respectively, and the Registrant's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on January 21, 2011, February 8, 2011, April 18, 2011, April 19, 2011, May 3, 2011, May 23, 2011, July 19, 2011, August 2, 2011, August 18, 2011, September 16, 2011, October 14, 2011, October 27, 2011, and December 1, 2011; and
  - (e) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock and the rights associated with such Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Registration Statements on Form 8-A, dated October 10, 2001, including any amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.
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All documents subsequently filed by Principal Financial Group, Inc. or any of the plans covered by this Registration Statement pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment that indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or that deregisters all securities then remaining unsold shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing such documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein (or in any other subsequently filed document that also is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein) modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

#### ITEM 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

Not applicable (the Registrant's Common Stock is registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

#### ITEM 5. INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL

Not Applicable.

#### ITEM 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The directors and officers of Principal Financial Group, Inc. may be indemnified against liabilities, fines, penalties and claims imposed upon or asserted against them as provided in the Delaware General Corporation Law and the company's certificate of incorporation and restated by-laws. Such indemnification covers all costs and expenses incurred by a director or officer in his or her capacity as such. The board of directors, by a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested directors or, under certain circumstances, independent counsel appointed by the board of directors, must determine that the director or officer seeking indemnification was not guilty of willful misconduct or a knowing violation of the criminal law. In addition, the Delaware General Corporation Law and the company's certificate of incorporation may, under certain circumstances, eliminate the liability of directors and officers in a stockholder or derivative proceeding.

If the person involved is not a director or officer of Principal Financial Group, Inc., the board of directors may cause the company to indemnify, to the same extent allowed for the company's directors and officers, such person who was or is a party to a proceeding by reason of the fact that he or she is or was an employee or agent of the company, or is or was serving at the company's request as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise.

The company has policies in force and effect to insure its directors and officers against such losses that they or any of them will become legally obligated to pay by reason of any actual or

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duty by such directors and officers in the discharge of their duties, solely by reason of their being directors or officers. Such coverage is limited by the specific terms and provisions of the insurance policies.

#### ITEM 7. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION CLAIMED

Not Applicable.

#### ITEM 8. EXHIBITS

An Exhibit Index, containing a list of all exhibits filed with this Registration Statement, is included below on page ten. The company hereby undertakes, with respect to the plans described herein that are or are to be qualified under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code, that it has submitted or will submit such plans and any amendments thereto to the Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner and has made or will make all necessary changes required by the Internal Revenue Service in order to qualify such plans.

#### ITEM 9. UNDERTAKINGS

(a) Rule 415 Offering. The Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, unless the information that would be required to be included in a post-effective amendment is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement, unless the information that would be required to be included in a post-effective amendment is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective Registration Statement;

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(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) Subsequent Exchange Act Documents. The undersigned registrant hereby



/s/ Jocelyn Carter-Miller  
Jocelyn Carter-Miller

Director

December 15, 2011

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/s/ Gary E. Costley  
Gary E. Costley

Director

December 15, 2011

/s/ Michael T. Dan  
Michael T. Dan

Director

December 15, 2011

/s/ Dennis H. Ferro  
Dennis H. Ferro

Director

December 15, 2011

/s/ C. Daniel Gelatt, Jr.  
C. Daniel Gelatt, Jr.

Director

December 15, 2011

/s/ Sandra L. Helton  
Sandra L. Helton

Director

December 15, 2011

/s/ Richard L. Keyser  
Richard L. Keyser

Director

December 15, 2011

/s/ Arjun K. Mathrani  
Arjun K. Mathrani

Director

December 15, 2011

/s/ Elizabeth E. Tallett  
Elizabeth E. Tallett

Director

December 15, 2011

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**The Principal Select Savings Plan for Individual Field.** Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Administrator of The Principal Select Savings Plan for Individual Field certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Des Moines, State of Iowa, on December 15, 2011.

THE PRINCIPAL SELECT SAVINGS  
PLAN FOR INDIVIDUAL FIELD

By Principal Life Insurance Company

By     /s/ Ralph C. Eucher      
Committee Member

**The Principal Select Savings Plan for Employees.** Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Administrator of The Principal Select Savings Plan for Employees certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Des Moines, State of Iowa, on December 15, 2011.

THE PRINCIPAL SELECT SAVINGS  
PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES

By Principal Life Insurance Company  
Benefit Plans Administration Committee

By     /s/ Ralph C. Eucher      
Committee Member

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit	Description	Method of Filing
4.1	Form of Certificate for the Common Stock of Principal Financial Group, Inc. (1)	Incorporated by Reference
23	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP	Electronic Transmission
24	Powers of Attorney	Electronic Transmission

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(1) Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Principal Financial Group, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-62558).





/s/ Gary E. Costley  
Gary E. Costley  
Director

/s/ Arjun K. Mathrani  
Arjun K. Mathrani  
Director

/s/ Michael T. Dan  
Michael T. Dan  
Director

/s/ Elizabeth E. Tallett  
Elizabeth E. Tallett  
Director

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