

FIRST NIAGARA FINANCIAL GROUP INC  
Form SC 13G/A  
February 14, 2012

# **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

## **SCHEDULE 13G**

**Amendment #1**

**Under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934**

**First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.**

(Name of Issuer)

**Common Stock**  
(Title of Class of Securities)

**33582V108**  
(CUSIP Number)

**December 31, 2011**  
(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

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Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

This Schedule is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b)

The information required in the remainder of this cover page (except any items to which the form provides a cross-reference) shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ( Act ) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act.

CUSIP NO. 33582V108

1) Name of Reporting Person

S.S. or I.R.S. Identification No. of Above Person

Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

IRS No. 13-3180631

2) Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group

(a)  (b) \*

\* This filing describes the reporting person's relationship with other persons, but the reporting person does not affirm the existence of a group.

3) SEC Use Only

4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

Delaware

5) Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF

0

SHARES

6) Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

207,078

EACH

7) Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

0

8) Shared Dispositive Power

WITH

4,785,241

9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

4,785,241

10) Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares

Not Applicable

11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount In Row (9)

1.36%

12) Type of Reporting Person

HC

CUSIP NO. 33582V108

1) Name of Reporting Person

S.S. or I.R.S. Identification No. of Above Person

Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC

IRS No. 41-1533211

2) Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group

(a)  (b)

\* This filing describes the reporting person's relationship with other persons, but the reporting person does not affirm the existence of a group.

3) SEC Use Only

4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

Minnesota

5) Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF

0

SHARES

6) Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

207,078

EACH

7) Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

0

8) Shared Dispositive Power

WITH

4,785,241

9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

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4,785,241

10) Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares

Not Applicable

11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount In Row (9)

1.36%

12) Type of Reporting Person

IA

CUSIP NO. 33582V108

1) Name of Reporting Person

S.S. or I.R.S. Identification No. of Above Person

Columbia Marsico 21st Century Fund

IRS No. 13-4108364

2) Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group

(a)  (b)

\* This filing describes the reporting person's relationship with other persons, but the reporting person does not affirm the existence of a group.

3) SEC Use Only

4) Citizenship or Place of Organization

Delaware

5) Sole Voting Power

NUMBER OF

3,285,289

SHARES

6) Shared Voting Power

BENEFICIALLY

OWNED BY

0

EACH

7) Sole Dispositive Power

REPORTING

PERSON

0

8) Shared Dispositive Power

WITH

3,285,289

9) Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person

3,285,289

10) Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares

Not Applicable

11) Percent of Class Represented by Amount In Row (9)

0.93%

12) Type of Reporting Person

IV



1(a) Name of Issuer: First Niagara Financial Group, Inc.  
1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal: 6950 S Transit Rd., P.O. Box 514  
Executive Offices: Lockport, NY 14095  
2(a) Name of Person Filing: (a) Ameriprise Financial, Inc. ( AFI )  
(b) Columbia Management Investment  
Advisers, LLC ( CMIA )  
(c) Columbia Marsico 21st Century Fund ( Fund )  
2(b) Address of Principal Business Office: (a) Ameriprise Financial, Inc.  
145 Ameriprise Financial Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55474  
(b) 225 Franklin St.  
Boston, MA 02110  
(c) 225 Franklin St.  
Boston, MA 02110  
2(c) Citizenship: (a) Delaware  
(b) Minnesota  
(c) Delaware  
2(d) Title of Class of Securities: Common Stock  
2(e) Cusip Number: 33582V108

3 Information if statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b):

(a) Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

A parent holding company in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). (Note: See Item 7)

(b) Columbia Management Investment Advisers, LLC

An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E)

(c) Columbia Marsico 21st Century Fund

An investment company in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(D).

4 Incorporated by reference to Items (5)-(9) and (11) of the cover page pertaining to each reporting person.

CMIA and AFI do not directly own any shares of Common Stock of the issuer. As the investment adviser to the Fund and various other unregistered and registered investment companies and other managed accounts, CMIA may be deemed to beneficially own the shares reported herein by the Fund. Accordingly, the shares reported herein by CMIA include those shares separately reported herein by the Fund.

As the parent holding company of CMIA, AFI may be deemed to beneficially own the shares reported herein by CMIA. Accordingly, the shares reported herein by AFI include those shares separately reported herein by CMIA.

Each of AFI and CMIA, and the subsidiaries identified on the attached Exhibit I, disclaims beneficial ownership of any shares reported on this Schedule.

5 Ownership of 5% or Less of a Class:

If this statement is being filed to report the fact as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following x.

6 Ownership of more than 5% on Behalf of Another Person: Not Applicable

7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:  
AFI: See Exhibit I

8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:  
Not Applicable

9 Notice of Dissolution of Group:  
Not Applicable

10 Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 13, 2012

Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

By: /s/ Wade M. Voigt  
Name: Wade M. Voigt  
Title: Vice President Fund Administration

Financial Reporting

Columbia Management Investment  
Advisers, LLC

By: /s/ Amy Johnson  
Name: Amy Johnson  
Title: Chief Operating Officer

Columbia Marsico 21st Century Fund

By: /s/ Scott R. Plummer  
Name: Scott R. Plummer  
Title: Senior Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal  
Officer

Contact Information

Wade M. Voigt  
Vice President Fund Administration

Financial Reporting  
Telephone: (612) 671-5682

Exhibit Index

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Exhibit I  | Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company. |
| Exhibit II | Joint Filing Agreement   |