

Ritzert Gerald J  
 Form 3  
 December 18, 2009

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â Ritzert Gerald J		(Month/Day/Year)	Northwest Bancshares, Inc. [NWBI]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	12/18/2009	
100 LIBERTY STREET			4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
(Street)			(Check all applicable)	
WARREN, Â PA Â 16365			<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person
			(give title below) (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
			Sr. Vice President, Controller	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	4,379.67	D	Â
Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	665	I	Wife's IRA
Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	3,310.04	I	401-K
Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	493.14	I	ESOP

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying	4. Conversion	5. Ownership	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial
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(Instr. 4)	(Month/Day/Year)		Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	12/15/2004	12/15/2014	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	2,790	\$ 11.33	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	01/19/2006	01/19/2015	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	3,937.5	\$ 10.19	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	01/18/2007	01/18/2016	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	3,937.5	\$ 9.86	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	06/09/2006	08/20/2013	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	1,095.75	\$ 11.26	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	01/17/2008	01/17/2017	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	3,937.5	\$ 11.51	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	04/25/2007	08/20/2013	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	333	\$ 12.29	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	08/22/2007	08/20/2013	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	317.25	\$ 12.92	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	01/16/2009	01/16/2018	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	10,125	\$ 11.12	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	11/19/2009	11/19/2018	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	10,125	\$ 9.79	D	Â
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	02/18/2010	02/18/2019	Northwest Bancshares, Inc.	10,125	\$ 7.48	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Ritzert Gerald J 100 LIBERTY STREET WARREN, PA 16365	Â	Â	Â Sr. Vice President, Controller	Â

## Signatures

Gerald J. Ritzert

12/18/2009

    Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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.

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