

A world of investing.®



Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund

Annual report

8 | 31 | 23



Blend funds invest opportunistically in a variety of stocks, such as growth stocks and value stocks.

FUND SYMBOL
CLASS A
PEMMX

Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund

Annual report

8 | 31 | 23

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Message from the Trustees

October 6, 2023

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

Stocks rose across most global markets in the 12 months ended August 31, 2023. During this time, the U.S. economy continued to expand despite worries about a potential recession. Enthusiasm over the innovation of generative artificial intelligence helped lift investor sentiment. Stock performance in non-U.S. markets generally lagged U.S. markets. Growth in the eurozone stalled in the winter of 2022–2023 amid Russia’s war against Ukraine, while China’s economy struggled given its heavily indebted property sector.

Bond market performance was mostly lackluster over the period, although some sectors posted gains. The U.S. Federal Reserve has continued to raise interest rates but at a more gradual pace compared with 2022. U.S. inflation has eased but is still above the Fed’s 2% target. Against this backdrop, investors are weighing the impact of high borrowing costs and tighter lending conditions at banks.

As active managers, your investment team continues to research attractive opportunities for your fund while monitoring risks. This report offers an update on their efforts.

Thank you for investing with Putnam.

Respectfully yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Reynolds".

Robert L. Reynolds
President and Chief Executive Officer
Putnam Investments

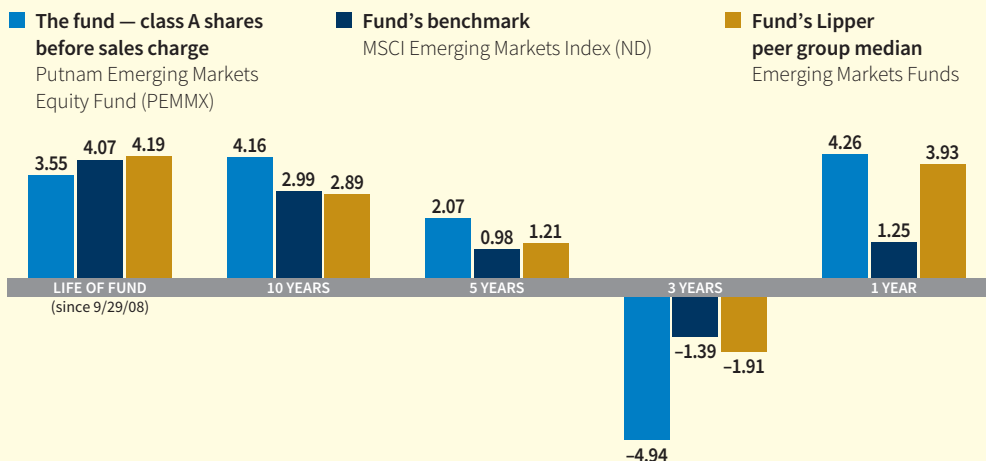


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth R. Leibler".

Kenneth R. Leibler
Chair, Board of Trustees

Performance history as of 8/31/23

Annualized total return (%) comparison

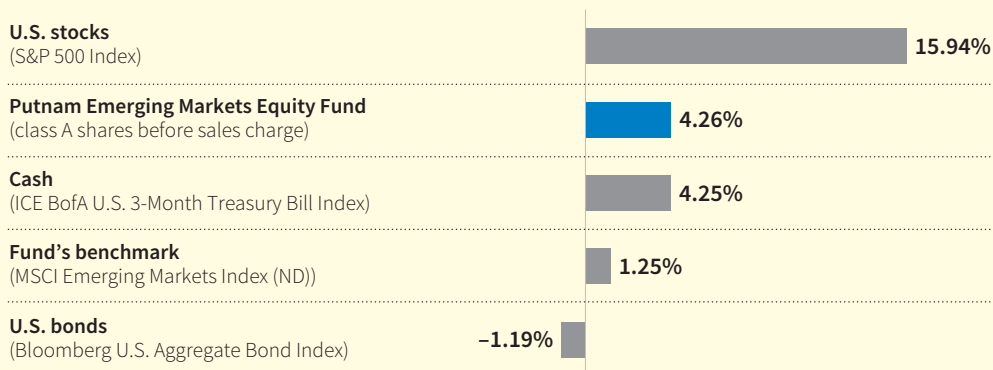


Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance of class A shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. Fund returns in the bar chart do not reflect a sales charge of 5.75%; had they, returns would have been lower. See below and pages 7–9 for additional performance information. For a portion of the periods, the fund had expense limitations, without which returns would have been lower. To obtain the most recent month-end performance, visit putnam.com.

Lipper peer group median is provided by Lipper, a Refinitiv company.

All MSCI indices are provided by MSCI.

Recent broad market index and fund performance



This comparison shows your fund's performance in the context of broad market indexes for the 12 months ended 8/31/23. See above and pages 7–9 for additional fund performance information. Index descriptions can be found on page 12.

All Bloomberg indices are provided by Bloomberg Index Services Limited.

All MSCI indices are provided by MSCI.

Interview with your fund's portfolio manager

Brian Freiwald discusses the investing environment and fund results for the 12 months ended August 31, 2023, as well as his outlook for emerging market [EM] stocks.



Brian S. Freiwald, CFA
Portfolio Manager

Brian has an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a B.S. in Finance from Southern Illinois University. He joined Putnam in 2010 and has been in the investment industry since 2004.

How did emerging market stocks fare for the 12-month reporting period?

Like stocks in most global markets, EM equities faced ongoing macroeconomic challenges such as rising inflation and an uneven global economic recovery. Their performance has strengthened in the 2023 calendar year. Energy, information technology, and financials were among the top-performing sectors in the second half of the period. From a country perspective, Eastern European markets have been strong. Greece was a strong-performing country following its elections in May 2023, as its New Democracy party held on to power. Hungary was another strong performer, with its market seeing strength after an interest-rate cut in June. China equities lagged in the later months of the period, as the country's slower-than-expected recovery continued to weigh on investor optimism, as did ongoing geopolitical tensions with the West. The weakness in China also affected Hong Kong, which was among the weaker-performing regions in the benchmark for the period.

Global composition

● China	20.8%
● India	20.7
● Taiwan	14.1
● South Korea	10.1
● Mexico	5.7
● Brazil	5.5
● United States	3.8
● Indonesia	3.7
● Other countries	15.0
● Cash and net other assets	0.6



Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets as of 8/31/23. Cash and net other assets, if any, represent the market value weights of cash, derivatives, short-term securities, and other unclassified assets in the portfolio. Summary information may differ from the information in the portfolio schedule notes included in the financial statements due to the inclusion of derivative securities, any interest accruals, the exclusion of as-of trades, if any, and rounding. Holdings and allocations may vary over time. Due to rounding, percentages may not equal 100%.

Top 10 holdings

HOLDING (PERCENTAGE OF FUND'S NET ASSETS)	COUNTRY
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (10.0%)	Taiwan
Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (5.8%)	China
ICICI Bank, Ltd. (5.3%)	India
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (4.7%)	South Korea
Grupo Financiero Banorte SAB de CV Class O (2.8%)	Mexico
Reliance Industries, Ltd. (2.3%)	India
LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA (2.2%)	France
Tata Consultancy Services, Ltd. (2.2%)	India
Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (2.2%)	China
Meituan Class B (2.1%)	China

The table shows the fund's top 10 individual holdings and the percentage of the fund's net assets that each represented as of 8/31/23. Short-term investments, to-be-announced (TBA) commitments, and derivatives, if any, are excluded. Holdings may vary over time.

How did the fund perform?

For the 12-month reporting period, the fund's class A shares returned 4.26%, outperforming the fund's benchmark, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND), which returned 1.25%. The fund also outperformed the median return of 3.93% for funds in its Lipper peer group.

What were some stocks that helped fund performance during the reporting period?

Networking equipment company Accton Technology was one of the top contributors during the period. Based in Taiwan, Accton is a leading network switch maker that experienced strong top-line growth and improved margins as well as consistent market share gains over the past few years. We believe the recent surge in demand for generative artificial intelligence is set to spark another strong growth cycle for Accton. We believe its customers are looking to push forward their timelines for network switch upgrades to match next-generation data center build-outs. Because of its strong relationships with key customers and well-recognized research and development capabilities, we believe Accton is on track to post at least 15% annual earnings growth for the next few years.

Another key contributor was PetroChina, a state-owned enterprise [SOE] and the largest integrated oil and gas company in China. The company posted record profits in 2022 as its upstream exploration and production businesses benefited from increasing production volume and higher oil prices. Also, as a result of the Chinese government's SOE reform initiatives, PetroChina took concrete steps to enhance shareholder return and improve return on equity, including authorizing a 10% share buyback program. We believe the stock continues to offer an attractive valuation despite the company's strong operational results and improving shareholder returns.

“ We believe stock prices follow earnings over the long run. Therefore, we believe EM stocks may be poised for compelling growth. ”

What were some holdings that detracted from performance during the reporting period?

A top detractor for the period was Hangzhou Tigermed, the leading pharmaceutical contract research organization [CRO] in China. Our initial thesis was that Tigermed would be a key beneficiary as pharmaceutical and biotech companies increased their dependence on CROs for their research and development needs. However, Tigermed's recent performance was stifled by a weak biotech funding environment due to rising interest rates and weak macroeconomic conditions, particularly in China. We expect the headwinds to persist, with some government initiatives now casting an overhang over hospital operations in China. We sold our position in Tigermed by the close of the period.

Also detracting from fund performance was Meituan, China's leading food delivery and local services company. The stock struggled during the period due to the weak macroeconomic environment in China and declining investor sentiment. Taking a long-term view, we remain confident that Meituan can leverage its position as the dominant services platform in China. We also believe its valuation is attractive. The stock is trading at a historically low forward price-to-earnings ratio, which we believe does not give full credit to the company's strong execution and long growth runway.

What is your outlook for emerging markets?

We are bullish in our outlook for EM stocks. We believe stock prices follow earnings over the long run. Therefore, we believe EM stocks may

be poised for compelling growth. Based on our research, we believe they have the potential to appreciate meaningfully over the next five years. We also believe our focus on identifying mispriced stocks will help fund performance in this environment.

Thank you, Brian, for your time and insights on the fund.

The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of Putnam Management and are subject to change. They are not meant as investment advice.

Please note that the holdings discussed in this report may not have been held by the fund for the entire period. Portfolio composition is subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk.

Statements in the Q&A concerning the fund's performance or portfolio composition relative to those of the fund's Lipper peer group may reference information produced by Lipper, Inc. or through a third party.

Your fund's performance

This section shows your fund's performance, price, and distribution information for periods ended August 31, 2023, the end of its most recent fiscal year. In accordance with regulatory requirements for mutual funds, we also include performance information as of the most recent calendar quarter-end and expense information taken from the fund's current prospectus. Performance should always be considered in light of a fund's investment strategy. Data represent past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. More recent returns may be less or more than those shown. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance information does not reflect any deduction for taxes a shareholder may owe on fund distributions or on the redemption of fund shares. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit the Individual Investors section at putnam.com or call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581. Class R, R6, and Y shares are not available to all investors.

Annualized fund performance Total return for periods ended 8/31/23

	Life of fund	10 years	5 years	3 years	1 year
Class A (9/29/08)					
Before sales charge	3.55%	4.16%	2.07%	-4.94%	4.26%
After sales charge	3.14	3.54	0.87	-6.80	-1.74
Class B (9/29/08)					
Before CDSC	3.14	3.53	1.32	-5.63	3.51
After CDSC	3.14	3.53	0.95	-6.51	-1.49
Class C (9/29/08)					
Before CDSC	3.14	3.53	1.32	-5.63	3.53
After CDSC	3.14	3.53	1.32	-5.63	2.53
Class R (9/29/08)					
Net asset value	3.30	3.89	1.83	-5.15	4.03
Class R6 (5/22/18)					
Net asset value	3.88	4.51	2.52	-4.50	4.77
Class Y (9/29/08)					
Net asset value	3.82	4.42	2.35	-4.67	4.53

Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. After-sales-charge returns for class A shares reflect the deduction of the maximum 5.75% sales charge levied at the time of purchase. Class B share returns after contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) reflect the applicable CDSC, which is 5% in the first year, declining over time to 1% in the sixth year, and is eliminated thereafter. Class C share returns after CDSC reflect a 1% CDSC for the first year that is eliminated thereafter. Class R, R6, and Y shares have no initial sales charge or CDSC. Performance for class R6 shares prior to their inception is derived from the historical performance of class Y shares and has not been adjusted for the lower investor servicing fees applicable to class R6 shares; had it, returns would have been higher.

For a portion of the periods, the fund had expense limitations, without which returns would have been lower.

The fund has had performance fee adjustments that may have had a positive or negative impact on returns.

Class B and C share performance reflects conversion to class A shares after eight years.

Comparative annualized index returns For periods ended 8/31/23

	Life of fund	10 years	5 years	3 years	1 year
MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND)	4.07%	2.99%	0.98%	-1.39%	1.25%
Lipper Emerging Markets Funds category median*	4.19	2.89	1.21	-1.91	3.93

Index and Lipper results should be compared with fund performance before sales charge, before CDSC, or at net asset value.

Lipper peer group median is provided by Lipper, a Refinitiv company.

All MSCI indices are provided by MSCI.

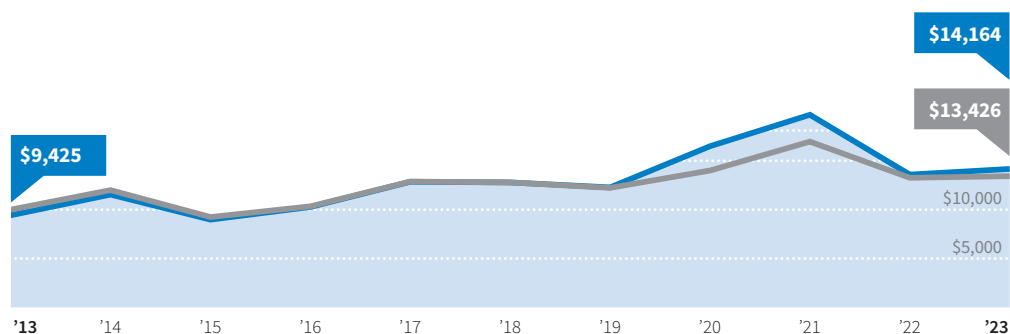
* Over the 1-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year, and life-of-fund periods ended 8/31/23, there were 792, 698, 623, 374, and 204 funds, respectively, in this Lipper category.

Change in the value of a \$10,000 investment (\$9,425 after sales charge)

Cumulative total return from 8/31/13 to 8/31/23

Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund class A shares after sales charge

MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND)



Past performance does not indicate future results. At the end of the same time period, a \$10,000 investment in the fund's class B and C shares would have been valued at \$14,143 and \$14,146, respectively, and no contingent deferred sales charges would apply. A \$10,000 investment in the fund's class R, R6, and Y shares would have been valued at \$14,651, \$15,551, and \$15,409, respectively.

All MSCI indices are provided by MSCI.

Fund price and distribution information For the 12-month period ended 8/31/23

	Class A		Class B	Class C	Class R	Class R6	Class Y
Share value	Before sales charge	After sales charge	Net asset value	Net asset value	Net asset value	Net asset value	Net asset value
8/31/22	\$11.28	\$11.97	\$10.53	\$10.47	\$11.17	\$11.52	\$11.48
8/31/23	11.76	12.48	10.90	10.84	11.62	12.07	12.00

The classification of distributions, if any, is an estimate. Before-sales-charge share value and current dividend rate for class A shares, if applicable, do not take into account any sales charge levied at the time of purchase. After-sales-charge share value, current dividend rate, and current 30-day SEC yield, if applicable, are calculated assuming that the maximum sales charge (5.75% for class A shares) was levied at the time of purchase. Final distribution information will appear on your year-end tax forms.

The fund made no distributions during the period.

Annualized fund performance as of most recent calendar quarter

Total return for periods ended 9/30/23

	Life of fund	10 years	5 years	3 years	1 year
Class A (9/29/08)					
Before sales charge	3.29%	3.04%	1.63%	-5.86%	12.48%
After sales charge	2.89	2.43	0.43	-7.70	6.01
Class B (9/29/08)					
Before CDSC	2.88	2.43	0.85	-6.59	11.57
After CDSC	2.88	2.43	0.48	-7.47	6.57
Class C (9/29/08)					
Before CDSC	2.88	2.43	0.87	-6.60	11.53
After CDSC	2.88	2.43	0.87	-6.60	10.53
Class R (9/29/08)					
Net asset value	3.03	2.78	1.36	-6.13	12.10
Class R6 (5/22/18)					
Net asset value	3.62	3.39	2.05	-5.48	12.89
Class Y (9/29/08)					
Net asset value	3.55	3.30	1.88	-5.65	12.65

See the discussion following the fund performance table on page 7 for information about the calculation of fund performance.

Your fund's expenses

As a mutual fund investor, you pay ongoing expenses, such as management fees, distribution fees (12b-1 fees), and other expenses. In the most recent six-month period, your fund's expenses were limited; had expenses not been limited, they would have been higher. Using the following information, you can estimate how these expenses affect your investment and compare them with the expenses of other funds. You may also pay one-time transaction expenses, including sales charges (loads) and redemption fees, which are not shown in this section and would have resulted in higher total expenses. For more information, see your fund's prospectus or talk to your financial representative.

Expense ratios

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R	Class R6	Class Y
Net expenses for the fiscal year ended 8/31/22*†	1.36%	2.11%	2.11%	1.61%	0.94%	1.11%
Total annual operating expenses for the fiscal year ended 8/31/22*	1.64%	2.39%	2.39%	1.89%	1.22%	1.39%
Annualized expense ratio for the six-month period ended 8/31/23**	1.19%	1.94%	1.94%	1.44%	0.76%	0.94%

Fiscal year expense information in this table is taken from the most recent prospectus, is subject to change, and may differ from that shown for the annualized expense ratio and in the financial highlights of this report.

Prospectus expense information also includes the impact of acquired fund fees and expenses of 0.03%, which is not included in the financial highlights or annualized expense ratios. Expenses are shown as a percentage of average net assets.

* Restated to reflect current fees.

† Reflects Putnam Management's contractual obligation to limit certain fund expenses through 12/30/23.

‡ Expense ratios for each class are for the fund's most recent fiscal half year. As a result of this, ratios may differ from expense ratios based on one-year data in the financial highlights.

Includes a decrease of 0.08% from annualizing the performance fee adjustment for the six months ended 8/31/23.

Expenses per \$1,000

The following table shows the expenses you would have paid on a \$1,000 investment in each class of the fund from 3/1/23 to 8/31/23. It also shows how much a \$1,000 investment would be worth at the close of the period, assuming *actual returns* and expenses.

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R	Class R6	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000*†	\$6.11	\$9.95	\$9.95	\$7.40	\$3.91	\$4.83
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,038.00	\$1,034.20	\$1,034.40	\$1,037.50	\$1,040.50	\$1,039.90

* Expenses for each share class are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio for each class, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the six months ended 8/31/23. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the period (184); and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year (365).

Estimate the expenses you paid

To estimate the ongoing expenses you paid for the six months ended 8/31/23, use the following calculation method. To find the value of your investment on 3/1/23, call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581.

How to calculate the expenses you paid

Value of your investment on 3/1/23 \div **\$1,000** \times **Expenses paid per \$1,000** = **Total expenses paid**

Example Based on a \$10,000 investment in class A shares of your fund.

\$10,000 \div **\$1,000** \times **\$6.11** (see preceding table) = **\$61.10**

Compare expenses using the SEC's method

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has established guidelines to help investors assess fund expenses. Per these guidelines, the following table shows your fund's expenses based on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a *hypothetical 5% annualized return*. You can use this information to compare the ongoing expenses (but not transaction expenses or total costs) of investing in the fund with those of other funds. All mutual fund shareholder reports will provide this information to help you make this comparison. Please note that you cannot use this information to estimate your actual ending account balance and expenses paid during the period.

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R	Class R6	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000**†	\$6.06	\$9.86	\$9.86	\$7.32	\$3.87	\$4.79
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,019.21	\$1,015.43	\$1,015.43	\$1,017.95	\$1,021.37	\$1,020.47

* Expenses for each share class are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio for each class, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the six months ended 8/31/23. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the six-month period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the six-month period (184); and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year (365).

Comparative index definitions

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index of U.S. investment-grade fixed income securities.

ICE BofA (Intercontinental Exchange Bank of America) U.S. 3-Month Treasury Bill Index is an unmanaged index that seeks to measure the performance of U.S. Treasury bills available in the marketplace.

MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance in the global emerging markets. Calculated with net dividends (ND), this total return index reflects the reinvestment of dividends after the deduction of withholding taxes, using a tax rate applicable to non-resident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties.

S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance.

Indexes assume reinvestment of all distributions and do not account for fees. Securities and performance of a fund and an index will differ. You cannot invest directly in an index.

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Lipper, a Refinitiv company, is a third-party industry-ranking entity that ranks funds. Its rankings do not reflect sales charges. Lipper rankings are based on total return at net asset value relative to other funds that have similar current investment styles or objectives as determined by Lipper. Lipper may change a fund’s category assignment at its discretion. Lipper category medians reflect performance trends for funds within a category.

Other information for shareholders

Important notice regarding delivery of shareholder documents

In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations, Putnam sends a single notice of internet availability, or a single printed copy, of annual and semiannual shareholder reports, prospectuses, and proxy statements to Putnam shareholders who share the same address, unless a shareholder requests otherwise. If you prefer to receive your own copy of these documents, please call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581 or, for exchange-traded funds only, 1-833-228-5577. We will begin sending individual copies within 30 days.

Proxy voting

Putnam is committed to managing our funds in the best interests of our shareholders. The Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures, as well as information regarding how your fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the 12-month period ended June 30, 2023, are available in the Individual Investors section of putnam.com and on the SEC's website, www.sec.gov. If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's website, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain the Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures at no charge by calling Putnam's Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581 or, for exchange-traded funds only, 1-833-228-5577.

Fund portfolio holdings

The fund will file a complete schedule of its portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-PORT within 60 days of the end of such fiscal quarter. Shareholders may obtain the fund's Form N-PORT on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

Trustee and employee fund ownership

Putnam employees and members of the Board of Trustees place their faith, confidence, and, most importantly, investment dollars in Putnam funds. As of August 31, 2023, Putnam employees had approximately \$499,000,000 and the Trustees had approximately \$70,000,000 invested in Putnam funds. These amounts include investments by the Trustees' and employees' immediate family members as well as investments through retirement and deferred compensation plans.

Liquidity risk management program

Putnam, as the administrator of the fund's liquidity risk management program (appointed by the Board of Trustees), presented the most recent annual report on the program to the Trustees in May 2023. The report covered the structure of the program, including the program documents and related policies and procedures adopted to comply with Rule 22e-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and reviewed the operation of the program from January 2022 through December 2022. The report included a description of the annual liquidity assessment of the fund that Putnam performed in November 2022. The report noted that there were no material compliance exceptions identified under Rule 22e-4 during the period. The report included a review of the governance of the program and the methodology for classification of the fund's investments. Putnam concluded that the program has been operating effectively and adequately to ensure compliance with Rule 22e-4.

Important notice regarding Putnam's privacy policy

In order to conduct business with our shareholders, we must obtain certain personal information such as account holders' names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth. Using this information, we are able to maintain accurate records of accounts and transactions.

It is our policy to protect the confidentiality of our shareholder information, whether or not a shareholder currently owns shares of our funds. In particular, it is our policy not to sell information about you or your accounts to outside marketing firms. We have safeguards in place designed to prevent unauthorized access

to our computer systems and procedures to protect personal information from unauthorized use.

Under certain circumstances, we must share account information with outside vendors who provide services to us, such as mailings and proxy solicitations. In these cases, the service providers enter into confidentiality agreements with us, and we provide only the information necessary to process transactions and perform other services related to your account. Finally, it is our policy to share account information with your financial representative, if you've listed one on your Putnam account.

Trustee approval of management contracts

Consideration of your fund's new and interim management, sub-management and sub-advisory contracts

At their meeting on June 23, 2023, the Board of Trustees of your fund, including all of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as this term is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act")) of the Putnam mutual funds, closed-end funds and exchange-traded funds (collectively, the "funds") (the "Independent Trustees") approved, subject to approval by your fund's shareholders, a new management contract with Putnam Investment Management ("Putnam Management"), a new sub-management contract between Putnam Management and its affiliate, Putnam Investments Limited ("PIL"), and a new sub-advisory contract among Putnam Management, PIL and another affiliate, The Putnam Advisory Company ("PAC") (collectively, the "New Management Contracts"). The Trustees considered the proposed New Management Contracts in connection with the planned acquisition of Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC ("Putnam Holdings") by a subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. ("Franklin Templeton"). The Trustees considered that, on May 31, 2023, Franklin Templeton and Great-West Lifeco Inc., the parent company of Putnam Holdings, announced that they had entered into a definitive agreement for a subsidiary of Franklin Templeton to acquire Putnam Holdings in a stock and cash transaction (the "Transaction"). The Trustees noted that Putnam Holdings was the parent company of Putnam Management, PIL and PAC. The Trustees were advised that the Transaction would result in a "change of control" of Putnam Management, PIL and PAC and would cause your fund's current Management Contract with Putnam Management, Sub-Management Contract with PIL and Sub-Advisory Contract with PAC (collectively, the "Current Management Contracts") to terminate in accordance with the 1940 Act. The Trustees considered that the New Management Contracts would take effect upon the closing of the Transaction, which was expected to occur in the fourth quarter of 2023.

In addition to the New Management Contracts, the Trustees also approved interim management, sub-management and sub-advisory contracts with Putnam Management, PIL and PAC, respectively (the "Interim Management Contracts"), which would take effect in the event that for any

reason shareholder approval of a New Management Contract was not received by the time of the Transaction closing. The Trustees considered that each Interim Management Contract that became effective would remain in effect until shareholders approved the proposed New Management Contract, or until 150 days elapse after the closing of the Transaction, whichever occurred first. The considerations and conclusions discussed in connection with the Trustees' consideration of the New Management Contracts and the continuance of your fund's Current Management Contracts also apply to the Trustees' consideration of the Interim Management Contracts, supplemented by consideration of the terms, nature and reason for any Interim Management Contract.

The Independent Trustees met with their independent legal counsel, as defined in Rule 0-1(a)(6) under the 1940 Act (their "independent legal counsel"), and representatives of Putnam Management and its parent company, Power Corporation of Canada, to discuss the potential Transaction, including the timing and structure of the Transaction and its implications for Putnam Management and the funds, during their regular meeting on November 18, 2022, and the full Board of Trustees further discussed these matters with representatives of Putnam Management at its regular meeting on December 15, 2022. At a special meeting on December 20, 2022, the full Board of Trustees met with representatives of Putnam Management, Power Corporation of Canada and Franklin Templeton to further discuss the potential Transaction, including Franklin Templeton's strategic plans for Putnam Management's asset management business and the funds, potential sources of synergy between Franklin Templeton and Putnam Management, potential areas of partnership between Power Corporation of Canada and Franklin Templeton, Franklin Templeton's distribution capabilities, Franklin Templeton's existing service provider relationships and Franklin Templeton's recent acquisitions of other asset management firms.

In order to assist the Independent Trustees in their consideration of the New Management Contracts and other anticipated impacts of the Transaction on the funds and their shareholders, independent legal counsel for the Independent Trustees furnished an initial information request to Franklin

Templeton (the “Initial Franklin Request”). At a special meeting of the full Board of Trustees held on January 25, 2023, representatives of Franklin Templeton addressed the firm’s responses to the Initial Franklin Request. At the meeting, representatives of Franklin Templeton discussed, among other things, the business and financial condition of Franklin Templeton and its affiliates, Franklin Templeton’s U.S. registered fund operations, its recent acquisition history, Franklin Templeton’s intentions regarding the operation of Putnam Management and the funds following the completion of the potential Transaction and expected benefits to the funds and Putnam Management that might result from the Transaction.

The Board of Trustees actively monitored developments with respect to the potential Transaction throughout the period leading up to the public announcement of a final sale agreement on May 31, 2023. The Independent Trustees met to discuss these matters at their regular meetings on January 27, April 20 and May 19, 2023. The full Board of Trustees also discussed developments at their regular meeting on February 23, 2023. Following the public announcement of the Transaction on May 31, 2023, independent legal counsel for the Independent Trustees furnished a supplemental information request (the “Supplemental Franklin Request”) to Franklin Templeton. At the Board of Trustees’ regular in-person meeting held on June 22–23, 2023, representatives of Putnam Management and Power Corporation of Canada provided further information regarding, among other matters, the final terms of the Transaction and efforts undertaken to retain Putnam employees. The Contract Committee of the Board of Trustees also met on June 22, 2023 to discuss Franklin Templeton’s responses to the Supplemental Franklin Request. Mr. Reynolds, the only Trustee affiliated with Putnam Management, participated in portions of these meetings to provide the perspective of the Putnam organization, but did not otherwise participate in the deliberations of the Independent Trustees or the Contract Committee regarding the potential Transaction.

After the presentations and after reviewing the written materials provided, the Independent Trustees met at their in-person meeting on June 23, 2023 to consider the New Management

Contracts for each fund, proposed to become effective upon the closing of the Transaction, and the filing of a preliminary proxy statement. At this meeting and throughout the process, the Independent Trustees also received advice from their independent legal counsel regarding their responsibilities in evaluating the potential Transaction and the New Management Contracts. The Independent Trustees reviewed the terms of the proposed New Management Contracts and the differences between the New Management Contracts and the Current Management Contracts. They noted that the terms of the proposed New Management Contracts were substantially identical to the Current Management Contracts, except for certain changes designed largely to address differences among various of the existing contracts, which had been developed and implemented at different times in the past.

In considering the approval of the proposed New Management Contracts, the Board of Trustees took into account a number of factors, including:¹

- (i) Franklin Templeton’s and Putnam Management’s belief that the Transaction would not adversely affect the funds or their shareholders and their belief that the Transaction was likely to result in certain benefits (described below) for the funds and their shareholders;
- (ii) That Franklin Templeton did not intend to make any material change in Putnam Management’s senior investment professionals (other than certain changes related to reporting structure and organization of personnel discussed below), including the portfolio managers of the funds, or to the firm’s operating locations as a result of the Transaction;
- (iii) That Franklin Templeton intended for Putnam Management’s equity investment professionals to continue to operate largely independently from Franklin Templeton, reporting to Franklin Templeton’s Head of Public Markets following the Transaction;
- (iv) That, while Putnam Management’s organizational structure was not expected to change immediately following the Transaction, Franklin Templeton intended to revise Putnam Management’s reporting structure in order to include Putnam Management’s fixed income investment professionals in Franklin Templeton’s fixed

¹All subsequent references to Putnam Management describing the Board of Trustees’ considerations should be deemed to include references to PIL and PAC as necessary or appropriate in the context.

income group and to include Putnam Management's Global Asset Allocation ("GAA") investment professionals in Franklin Templeton's investment solutions group, with both Franklin Templeton groups reporting to Franklin Templeton's Head of Public Markets;

(v) Franklin Templeton's expectation that there would not be any changes in the investment objectives, strategies or portfolio holdings of the funds as a result of the Transaction;

(vi) That neither Franklin Templeton nor Putnam Management had any current plans to propose changes to the funds' existing management fees or expense limitations, or current plans to make changes to the funds' existing distribution arrangements;

(vii) Franklin Templeton's and Putnam Management's representations that, following the Transaction, there was not expected to be any diminution in the nature, quality and extent of services provided to the funds and their shareholders by Putnam Management, PIL and PAC, including compliance and other non-advisory services;

(viii) That Franklin Templeton did not currently plan to change the branding of the funds or to change the lineup of funds in connection with the Transaction but would continue to evaluate how best to position the funds in the market;

(ix) The possible benefits accruing to the funds and their shareholders as a result of the Transaction, including:

a. That the scale of Franklin Templeton's investment operations platform would increase the investment and operational resources available to the funds;

b. That the Putnam open-end funds would benefit from Franklin Templeton's large retail and institutional global distribution capabilities and significant network of intermediary relationships, which may provide additional opportunities for the funds to increase assets and reduce expenses by spreading expenses over a larger asset base; and

c. Potential benefits to shareholders of the Putnam open-end funds that could result from the alignment of certain fund features and shareholder benefits with those of other funds sponsored by Franklin Templeton and its affiliates and access to a broader array of investment opportunities;

(x) The financial strength, reputation, experience and resources of Franklin Templeton and its investment advisory subsidiaries;

(xi) Franklin Templeton's expectation that the Transaction would not impact the capabilities or responsibilities of Putnam Management's Investment Division (other than any impact related to reporting structure changes for Putnam Management's equity, fixed income and GAA investment groups and to including Putnam Management's fixed income and GAA investment professionals in existing Franklin Templeton investment groups, as discussed above) and that any changes to the Investment Division over the longer term would be made in order to achieve perceived operational efficiencies or improvements to the portfolio management process;

(xii) Franklin Templeton's commitment to maintaining competitive compensation arrangements to allow Putnam Management to continue to attract and retain highly qualified personnel and Putnam Management's and Franklin Templeton's efforts to retain personnel, including efforts implemented since the Transaction was announced;

(xiii) That the current senior management teams at Putnam Management and Power Corporation of Canada had indicated their strong support of the Transaction and that Putnam Management had recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the New Management Contracts; and

(xiv) Putnam Management's and Great-West Lifeco Inc.'s commitment to bear all expenses incurred by the funds in connection with the Transaction, including all costs associated with the proxy solicitation in connection with seeking shareholder approval of the New Management Contracts.

Finally, in considering the proposed New Management Contracts, the Board of Trustees also took into account their concurrent deliberations and conclusions, as described below, in connection with their annual review of the funds' Current Management Contracts and the approval of their continuance, effective July 1, 2023, and the extensive materials that they had reviewed in connection with that review process.

Based upon the foregoing considerations, on June 23, 2023, the Board of Trustees, including all of the Independent Trustees, unanimously approved the proposed New Management Contracts and determined to recommend their approval to the shareholders of the funds.

General conclusions — Current Management Contracts

The Board of Trustees oversees the management of each fund and, as required by law, determines annually whether to approve the continuance of your fund's management contract with Putnam Management, the sub-management contract with respect to your fund between Putnam Management and PIL and the sub-advisory contract among Putnam Management, PIL and PAC. (Because PIL and PAC are affiliates of Putnam Management and Putnam Management remains fully responsible for all services provided by PIL and PAC, the Trustees did not attempt to evaluate PIL or PAC as separate entities.) The Board of Trustees, with the assistance of its Contract Committee, requests and evaluates all information it deems reasonably necessary under the circumstances in connection with its annual contract review. The Contract Committee consists solely of Independent Trustees.

At the outset of the review process, members of the Board of Trustees' independent staff and independent legal counsel considered any possible changes to the annual contract review materials furnished to the Contract Committee during the course of the previous year's review and, as applicable, identified those changes to Putnam Management. Following these discussions and in consultation with the Contract Committee, the Independent Trustees' independent legal counsel requested that Putnam Management and its affiliates furnish specified information, together with any additional information that Putnam Management considered relevant, to the Contract Committee. Over the course of several months ending in June 2023, the Contract Committee met on a number of occasions with representatives of Putnam Management, and separately in executive session, to consider the information that Putnam Management provided. Throughout this process, the Contract Committee was assisted by the members of the Board of Trustees' independent staff and by independent legal counsel for the funds and the Independent Trustees.

At the Board of Trustees' June 2023 meeting, the Contract Committee met in executive session to discuss and consider its recommendations with respect to the continuance of the contracts. At that meeting, the Contract Committee also met in executive session with the other Independent Trustees to review a summary of the key financial, performance and other data that the Contract Committee considered in the course of its review.

The Contract Committee recommended, and the Independent Trustees approved, the continuance of your fund's Current Management Contracts, effective July 1, 2023, and the approval of your fund's New Management Contracts and Interim Management Contracts, as discussed above.

The Independent Trustees' approvals were based on the following conclusions:

- That the fee schedule in effect for your fund represented reasonable compensation in light of the nature and quality of the services being provided to the fund, the fees paid by competitive funds, the costs incurred by Putnam Management in providing services to the fund and the application of certain reductions and waivers noted below; and
- That the fee schedule in effect for your fund represented an appropriate sharing between fund shareholders and Putnam Management of any economies of scale as may exist in the management of the fund at current asset levels.

These conclusions were based on a comprehensive consideration of all information provided to the Trustees and were not the result of any single factor. Some of the factors that figured particularly in the Trustees' deliberations and how the Trustees considered these factors are described below, although individual Trustees may have evaluated the information presented differently, giving different weights to various factors. It is also important to recognize that the management arrangements for your fund and the other Putnam mutual funds and closed-end funds are the result of many years of review and discussion between the Independent Trustees and Putnam Management, that some aspects of the arrangements may receive greater scrutiny in some years than others and that the Trustees' conclusions may be based, in part, on their consideration of fee arrangements in previous years. For example, with certain exceptions primarily involving newer funds (including the exchange-traded funds) or repositioned funds, the current fee arrangements under the vast majority of the funds' management contracts were first implemented at the beginning of 2010 following extensive review by the Contract Committee and discussions with representatives of Putnam Management, as well as approval by shareholders. The Trustees also took into account their concurrent deliberations and conclusions, and the materials that they had reviewed, in connection with their approval on June 23, 2023 of the Interim Management Contracts and the

New Management Contracts, which had been proposed in light of the Transaction (which would cause the fund's Current Management Contracts to terminate in accordance with applicable law or the terms of each contract).

Management fee schedules and total expenses

The Trustees reviewed the management fee schedules in effect for all funds, including fee levels and any breakpoints. Under its management contract, your fund has the benefit of breakpoints in its management fee schedule that provide shareholders with reduced fee levels as assets under management in the Putnam family of funds increase. The Trustees also reviewed the total expenses of each Putnam fund, recognizing that in most cases management fees represented the major, but not the sole, determinant of total costs to fund shareholders. (Two mutual funds and each of the exchange-traded funds have implemented so-called "all-in" or unitary management fees covering substantially all routine fund operating costs.)

In reviewing fees and expenses, the Trustees generally focus their attention on material changes in circumstances — for example, changes in assets under management, changes in a fund's investment strategy, changes in Putnam Management's operating costs or profitability, or changes in competitive practices in the fund industry — that suggest that consideration of fee changes might be warranted. The Trustees concluded that the circumstances did not indicate that changes to the management fee schedule for your fund would be appropriate at this time.

Your fund's management contract provides that its management fees will be adjusted up or down depending upon whether your fund's performance is better or worse than the performance of an appropriate index of securities prices specified in the management contract. In the course of reviewing investment performance, the Trustees examined the operation of your fund's performance fees and concluded that these fees were operating effectively to align further Putnam Management's economic interests with those of the fund's shareholders.

As in the past, the Trustees also focused on the competitiveness of each fund's total expense ratio. The Trustees, Putnam Management and the funds' investor servicing agent, Putnam Investor Services, Inc. ("PSERV"), have implemented expense limitations that were in effect during

your fund's fiscal year ending in 2022. These expense limitations were: (i) a contractual expense limitation applicable to specified mutual funds, including your fund, of 25 basis points on investor servicing fees and expenses and (ii) a contractual expense limitation applicable to specified mutual funds, including your fund, of 20 basis points on so-called "other expenses" (i.e., all expenses exclusive of management fees, distribution fees, investor servicing fees, investment-related expenses, interest, taxes, brokerage commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses and extraordinary expenses). These expense limitations attempt to maintain competitive expense levels for the funds. Most funds, including your fund, had sufficiently low expenses that these expense limitations were not operative during their fiscal years ending in 2022. Putnam Management and PSERV have agreed to maintain these expense limitations until at least December 30, 2024. In addition, Putnam Management contractually agreed to waive fees and/or reimburse expenses of your fund to the extent that expenses of the fund (excluding payments under the fund's distribution plans, investor servicing fees, any applicable performance-based upward or downward adjustments to the fund's base management fee, brokerage, interest, taxes, investment-related expenses, extraordinary expenses and acquired fund fees and expenses) would exceed an annual rate of 0.78% of its average net assets through at least December 30, 2024. During its fiscal year ending in 2022, your fund's expenses were reduced as a result of this expense limitation. Putnam Management and PSERV's commitment to these expense limitation arrangements, which were intended to support an effort to have the mutual fund expenses meet competitive standards, was an important factor in the Trustees' decision to approve your fund's New Management Contracts and Interim Management Contracts and the continuance of your fund's Current Management Contracts.

The Trustees reviewed comparative fee and expense information for a custom group of competitive funds selected by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge"). This comparative information included your fund's percentile ranking for effective management fees and total expenses (excluding any applicable 12b-1 fees), which provides a general indication of your fund's relative standing. In the custom peer group, your fund ranked in the second quintile in effective management fees (determined for

your fund and the other funds in the custom peer group based on fund asset size and the applicable contractual management fee schedule) and in the second quintile in total expenses (excluding any applicable 12b-1 fees) as of December 31, 2022. The first quintile represents the least expensive funds and the fifth quintile the most expensive funds. The fee and expense data reported by Broadridge as of December 31, 2022 reflected the most recent fiscal year-end data available in Broadridge's database at that time.

In connection with their review of fund management fees and total expenses, the Trustees also reviewed the costs of the services provided and the profits realized by Putnam Management and its affiliates from their contractual relationships with the funds. This information included trends in revenues, expenses and profitability of Putnam Management and its affiliates relating to the investment management, investor servicing and distribution services provided to the funds, as applicable. In this regard, the Trustees also reviewed an analysis of the revenues, expenses and profitability of Putnam Management and its affiliates, allocated on a fund-by-fund basis, with respect to (as applicable) the funds' management, distribution and investor servicing contracts. For each fund, the analysis presented information about revenues, expenses and profitability in 2022 for each of the applicable agreements separately and for the agreements taken together on a combined basis. The Trustees concluded that, at current asset levels, the fee schedules in place for each of the funds, including the fee schedule for your fund, represented reasonable compensation for the services being provided and represented an appropriate sharing between fund shareholders and Putnam Management of any economies of scale as may exist in the management of the funds at that time.

The information examined by the Trustees in connection with their annual contract review for the funds included information regarding services provided and fees charged by Putnam Management and its affiliates to other clients, including collective investment trusts offered in the defined contribution and defined benefit retirement plan markets, sub-advised mutual funds, private funds sponsored by affiliates of Putnam Management, model-only separately managed accounts and Putnam Management's manager-traded separately managed account programs. This information included, in cases where a product's investment strategy corresponds with a fund's

strategy, comparisons of those fees with fees charged to the funds, as well as an assessment of the differences in the services provided to these clients as compared to the services provided to the funds. The Trustees observed that the differences in fee rates between these clients and the funds are by no means uniform when examined by individual asset sectors, suggesting that differences in the pricing of investment management services to these types of clients may reflect, among other things, historical competitive forces operating in separate marketplaces. The Trustees considered the fact that in many cases fee rates across different asset classes are higher on average for 1940 Act-registered funds than for other clients, and the Trustees also considered the differences between the services that Putnam Management provides to the funds and those that it provides to its other clients. The Trustees did not rely on these comparisons to any significant extent in concluding that the management fees paid by your fund are reasonable.

Investment performance

The quality of the investment process provided by Putnam Management represented a major factor in the Trustees' evaluation of the quality of services provided by Putnam Management under your fund's management contract. The Trustees were assisted in their review of Putnam Management's investment process and performance by the work of the investment oversight committees of the Trustees and the full Board of Trustees, which meet on a regular basis with individual portfolio managers and with senior management of Putnam Management's Investment Division throughout the year. The Trustees concluded that Putnam Management generally provides a high-quality investment process — based on the experience and skills of the individuals assigned to the management of fund portfolios, the resources made available to them and in general Putnam Management's ability to attract and retain high-quality personnel — but also recognized that this does not guarantee favorable investment results for every fund in every time period.

The Trustees considered that, in the aggregate, peer-relative and benchmark-relative Putnam fund performance was generally encouraging in 2022 against a backdrop of volatile equity and fixed income markets, driven by factors such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, increased tensions with China, disruptions in energy markets and broader supply chains, rising inflation and the

significant tightening of monetary policy by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve in an effort to combat inflation. The Trustees further noted that, in the face of these numerous economic headwinds, corporate earnings and employment data had been generally robust throughout 2022. For the one-year period ended December 31, 2022, the Trustees noted that the Putnam funds, on an asset-weighted basis, ranked in the 41st percentile of their peers as determined by Lipper Inc. (“Lipper”) and, on an asset-weighted-basis, outperformed their benchmarks by 1.3% gross of fees over the one-year period. The Committee also noted that the funds’ aggregate performance over longer-term periods continued to be strong, with the funds, on an asset-weighted basis, ranking in the 34th, 27th and 22nd percentiles of their Lipper peers over the three-year, five-year and ten-year periods ended December 31, 2022, respectively. The Trustees further noted that the funds, in the aggregate, outperformed their benchmarks on a gross basis for each of the three-year, five-year and ten-year periods. The Trustees also considered the Morningstar Inc. ratings assigned to the funds and that 40 funds were rated four or five stars at the end of 2022, which represented an increase of 15 funds year-over-year. The Trustees also considered that seven funds were five-star rated at the end of 2022, which was a year-over-year decrease of two funds, and that 83% of the funds’ aggregate assets were in four- or five-star rated funds at year end.

In addition to the performance of the individual Putnam funds, the Trustees considered, as they had in prior years, the performance of The Putnam Fund complex versus competitor fund complexes, as reported in the Barron’s/Lipper Fund Families survey (the “Survey”). The Trustees noted that the Survey ranks mutual fund companies based on their performance across a variety of asset types, and that The Putnam Fund complex had performed exceptionally well in 2022. In this regard, the Trustees considered that the funds had ranked 9th out of 49 fund companies, 3rd out of 49 fund companies and 2nd out of 47 fund companies for the one-year, five-year and ten-year periods, respectively. The Trustees also noted that The Putnam Fund complex had been the only fund family to rank in the top ten in all three time periods. They also noted, however, the disappointing investment performance of some Putnam funds for periods ended December 31, 2022 and considered information provided by

Putnam Management regarding the factors contributing to the underperformance and, where relevant, actions being taken to improve the performance of these particular funds. The Trustees indicated their intention to continue to monitor the performance of those funds.

For purposes of the Trustees’ evaluation of the Putnam funds’ investment performance, the Trustees generally focus on a competitive industry ranking of each fund’s total net return over a one-year, three-year and five-year period. For a number of Putnam funds with relatively unique investment mandates for which Putnam Management informed the Trustees that meaningful competitive performance rankings are not considered to be available, the Trustees evaluated performance based on their total gross and net returns and comparisons of those returns to the returns of selected investment benchmarks. In the case of your fund, the Trustees considered information about your fund’s total return and its performance relative to its benchmark over the one-year, three-year and five-year periods ended December 31, 2022. Your fund’s class A shares’ return, net of fees and expenses, was negative and trailed the return of its benchmark over the one-year period ended December 31, 2022, and was negative but exceeded the return of its benchmark over the three-year and five-year periods ended December 31, 2022. (When considering performance information, shareholders should be mindful that past performance is not a guarantee of future results.)

The Trustees expressed concern about your fund’s significant underperformance relative to its benchmark over the one-year period ended December 31, 2022 and considered the circumstances that may have contributed to this disappointing performance. The Trustees noted Putnam Management’s observation that the fund’s underperformance was mostly due to stock-specific impacts, but that factor exposures also contributed to the fund’s underperformance. With respect to factor exposures, the Trustees considered Putnam Management’s view that the fund’s tilt toward more growth-oriented and expensive stocks weighed on the fund’s relative performance. The Trustees also noted Putnam Management’s observation that stock selection within the communication services, industrials, materials and information technology sectors detracted from the fund’s performance. The Trustees considered Putnam Management’s

statement that, within the information technology sector, the fund's exposure to semiconductors weighed on the fund's relative performance.

The Trustees considered that the fund's near-zero exposure to Russian securities benefited its relative returns. The Trustees also noted Putnam Management's observation that the fund had delivered stronger performance over the three-year, five-year and ten-year periods ended December 31, 2022. The Trustees considered the fund's above-benchmark performance year to date, as of March 31, 2023, noting Putnam Management's observation that a number of the investment strategies that had detracted from the fund's performance in 2022 had begun to recover. The Trustees noted that Putnam Management remained confident in the fund's portfolio manager. The Trustees also considered Putnam Management's continued efforts to support fund performance through certain initiatives, including structuring compensation for portfolio managers to enhance accountability for fund performance, emphasizing accountability in the portfolio management process and affirming its commitment to a fundamental-driven approach to investing.

As a general matter, the Trustees believe that cooperative efforts between the Trustees and Putnam Management represent the most effective way to address investment performance concerns that may arise from time to time. The Trustees noted that investors in the Putnam funds have, in effect, placed their trust in the Putnam organization, under the oversight of the funds' Trustees, to make appropriate decisions regarding the management of the funds. The Trustees also considered that Putnam Management has made changes in light of subpar investment performance when warranted. Based on Putnam Management's willingness to take appropriate measures to address fund performance issues, the Trustees concluded that it continued to be advisable to seek change within Putnam Management to address performance shortcomings. In the Trustees' view, the alternative of engaging a new investment adviser for an underperforming fund, with all the attendant risks and disruptions, would not likely provide any greater assurance of improved investment performance.

Brokerage and soft-dollar allocations; distribution and investor servicing

The Trustees considered various potential benefits that Putnam Management may receive in connection with the services it provides under the management contract with your fund. These include benefits related to brokerage allocation and the use of soft dollars, whereby a portion of the commissions paid by a fund for brokerage may be used to acquire research services that are expected to be useful to Putnam Management in managing the assets of the fund and of other clients. Subject to policies established by the Trustees, soft dollars generated by these means are used predominantly to acquire brokerage and research services (including third-party research and market data) that enhance Putnam Management's investment capabilities and supplement Putnam Management's internal research efforts. The Trustees indicated their continued intent to monitor regulatory and industry developments in this area with the assistance of their Brokerage Committee. In addition, with the assistance of their Brokerage Committee, the Trustees indicated their continued intent to monitor the allocation of the funds' brokerage in order to ensure that the principle of seeking best price and execution remains paramount in the portfolio trading process.

Putnam Management may also receive benefits from payments made to Putnam Management's affiliates by the mutual funds for distribution services and investor services. In conjunction with the review of your fund's management, sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, the Trustees reviewed your fund's investor servicing agreement with PSERV and its distributor's contract and distribution plans with Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership ("PRM"), both of which are affiliates of Putnam Management. The Trustees concluded that the fees payable by the mutual funds to PSERV and PRM for such services were fair and reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of such services, the fees paid by competitive funds and the costs incurred by PSERV and PRM in providing such services. Furthermore, the Trustees were of the view that the investor services provided by PSERV were required for the operation of the mutual funds, and that they were of a quality at least equal to those provided by other providers.

Audited financial statements

These sections of the report, as well as the accompanying Notes, preceded by the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, constitute the fund's audited financial statements.

The fund's portfolio lists all the fund's investments and their values as of the last day of the reporting period. Holdings are organized by asset type and industry sector, country, or state to show areas of concentration and diversification.

Statement of assets and liabilities shows how the fund's net assets and share price are determined. All investment and non-investment assets are added together. Any unpaid expenses and other liabilities are subtracted from this total. The result is divided by the number of shares to determine the net asset value per share, which is calculated separately for each class of shares. (For funds with preferred shares, the amount subtracted from total assets includes the liquidation preference of preferred shares.)

Statement of operations shows the fund's net investment gain or loss. This is done by first adding up all the fund's earnings — from dividends and interest income — and subtracting its operating expenses to determine net investment income

(or loss). Then, any net gain or loss the fund realized on the sales of its holdings — as well as any unrealized gains or losses over the period — is added to or subtracted from the net investment result to determine the fund's net gain or loss for the fiscal period.

Statement of changes in net assets shows how the fund's net assets were affected by the fund's net investment gain or loss, by distributions to shareholders, and by changes in the number of the fund's shares. It lists distributions and their sources (net investment income or realized capital gains) over the current reporting period and the most recent fiscal year-end. The distributions listed here may not match the sources listed in the Statement of operations because the distributions are determined on a tax basis and may be paid in a different period from the one in which they were earned.

Financial highlights provide an overview of the fund's investment results, per-share distributions, expense ratios, net investment income ratios, and portfolio turnover (not required for money market funds) in one summary table, reflecting the five most recent reporting periods. In a semiannual report, the highlights table also includes the current reporting period.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Trustees of Putnam Funds Trust and Shareholders of Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the fund's portfolio, of Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund (one of the funds constituting Putnam Funds Trust, referred to hereafter as the "Fund") as of August 31, 2023, the related statement of operations for the year ended August 31, 2023, the statement of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period ended August 31, 2023, including the related notes, and the financial highlights for each of the four years in the period ended August 31, 2023 (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of August 31, 2023, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period ended August 31, 2023 and the financial highlights for each of the four years in the period ended August 31, 2023 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The financial statements of the Fund as of and for the year ended August 31, 2019 and the financial highlights for each of the periods ended on or prior to August 31, 2019 (not presented herein, other than the financial highlights) were audited by other auditors whose report dated October 8, 2019 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements and financial highlights.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of August 31, 2023 by correspondence with the custodian, transfer agent and brokers; when replies were not received from brokers, we performed other auditing procedures. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Boston, Massachusetts
October 6, 2023

We have served as the auditor of one or more investment companies in the Putnam Investments family of funds since at least 1957. We have not been able to determine the specific year we began serving as auditor.

The fund's portfolio 8/31/23

COMMON STOCKS (99.2%)*	Shares	Value
Automobiles (3.1%)		
BYD Co., Ltd. Class H (China)	215,000	\$6,744,956
Kia Corp. (South Korea)	79,752	4,833,050
		11,578,006
Banks (14.7%)		
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank PJSC (United Arab Emirates)	1,834,302	5,206,356
Alinma Bank (Saudi Arabia)	615,174	6,041,272
Banco do Brasil SA (Brazil)	290,800	2,765,861
Bank Central Asia Tbk PT (Indonesia)	7,455,000	4,513,580
Bank Mandiri Persero Tbk PT (Indonesia)	15,316,900	6,048,259
Grupo Financiero Banorte SAB de CV Class O (Mexico)	1,214,800	10,311,604
ICICI Bank, Ltd. (India)	1,707,017	19,753,930
		54,640,862
Broadline retail (4.3%)		
Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (China) †	704,668	8,186,237
MercadoLibre, Inc. (Brazil) †	4,515	6,196,205
PDD Holdings, Inc. ADR (China) † §	14,900	1,474,653
		15,857,095
Capital markets (0.9%)		
B3 SA — Brasil Bolsa Balcao (Brazil)	1,341,600	3,502,971
		3,502,971
Chemicals (0.6%)		
Hansol Chemical Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	18,802	2,292,237
		2,292,237
Communications equipment (1.2%)		
Accton Technology Corp. (Taiwan)	311,000	4,666,572
		4,666,572
Construction materials (1.1%)		
UltraTech Cement, Ltd. (India)	41,768	4,184,473
		4,184,473
Consumer staples distribution and retail (4.7%)		
Dino Polska SA (Poland) †	36,597	3,349,005
Shoprite Holdings, Ltd. (South Africa)	296,692	4,145,014
Sumber Alfaria Trijaya Tbk PT (Indonesia)	16,567,900	3,153,319
WalMart de Mexico (Walmex) SAB de CV (Mexico)	1,738,100	6,852,297
		17,499,635
Electrical equipment (1.9%)		
KEL Industries, Ltd. (India)	221,202	7,232,408
		7,232,408
Electronic equipment, instruments, and components (4.2%)		
E Ink Holdings, Inc. (Taiwan)	182,000	1,038,178
Elite Material Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	176,000	2,401,931
Samsung SDI Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	14,333	6,645,665
Sinbon Electronics Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	554,000	5,385,625
		15,471,399
Gas utilities (0.8%)		
China Resources Gas Group, Ltd. (China)	1,120,000	3,136,784
		3,136,784

COMMON STOCKS (99.2%)* cont.	Shares	Value
Health care equipment and supplies (0.4%)		
Shenzhen Mindray Bio-Medical Electronics Co., Ltd. Class A (China)	36,000	\$1,332,815
		1,332,815
Health care providers and services (2.4%)		
Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Ltd. (India)	51,886	3,019,423
Max Healthcare Institute, Ltd. (India) †	838,673	5,971,972
		8,991,395
Hotels, restaurants, and leisure (6.8%)		
Alsea SAB de CV (Mexico) †	599,700	2,118,057
H World Group, Ltd. ADR (China) †	127,100	5,119,588
Indian Hotels Co., Ltd. (India)	1,509,555	7,670,993
MakeMyTrip, Ltd. (India) † ^s	62,900	2,494,614
Meituan Class B (China) †	480,110	7,964,427
		25,367,679
Insurance (2.8%)		
AIA Group, Ltd. (Hong Kong)	613,000	5,534,696
Ping An Insurance Group Co. of China, Ltd. Class H (China)	815,000	4,893,414
		10,428,110
Interactive media and services (5.8%)		
Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (China)	523,100	21,728,816
		21,728,816
IT Services (2.2%)		
Tata Consultancy Services, Ltd. (India)	202,691	8,219,709
		8,219,709
Machinery (0.3%)		
Shenzhen Inovance Technology Co., Ltd. Class A (China)	107,760	1,007,716
		1,007,716
Metals and mining (1.7%)		
Anglo American PLC (United Kingdom)	105,059	2,817,414
APL Apollo Tubes, Ltd. (India)	172,736	3,494,675
		6,312,089
Oil, gas, and consumable fuels (5.1%)		
PetroChina Co., Ltd. Class H (China)	10,664,000	7,677,291
PRIO SA (Brazil) †	288,300	2,702,494
Reliance Industries, Ltd. (India)	294,827	8,547,971
		18,927,756
Passenger airlines (1.4%)		
Copa Holdings SA Class A (Panama) ^s	52,508	5,340,064
		5,340,064
Pharmaceuticals (4.1%)		
AstraZeneca PLC (United Kingdom)	36,633	4,942,267
Eli Lilly and Co.	13,100	7,260,020
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. (India)	219,260	2,939,406
		15,141,693
Professional services (0.8%)		
Centre Testing International Group Co., Ltd. Class A (China)	1,116,856	2,979,381
		2,979,381
Real estate management and development (1.0%)		
Phoenix Mills, Ltd. (The) (India)	174,422	3,793,636
		3,793,636

COMMON STOCKS (99.2%)* cont.	Shares	Value
Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment (13.0%)		
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. †	43,900	\$4,641,108
SK Hynix, Inc. (South Korea)	72,063	6,634,344
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	2,159,889	37,221,767
		48,497,219
Software (0.7%)		
Totvs SA (Brazil)	462,820	2,592,588
		2,592,588
Technology hardware, storage, and peripherals (5.2%)		
AURAS Technology Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	213,000	1,896,411
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	344,395	17,422,513
		19,318,924
Textiles, apparel, and luxury goods (6.1%)		
Arezzo Industria e Comercio SA (Brazil)	182,200	2,600,150
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA (France)	9,793	8,282,702
PRADA SpA (Italy)	839,500	5,466,227
Shenzhou International Group Holdings, Ltd. (China)	613,500	6,265,584
		22,614,663
Transportation infrastructure (1.9%)		
Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte SAB de CV (Mexico)	174,700	2,026,153
International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (Philippines)	1,363,350	4,990,116
		7,016,269
Total common stocks (cost \$323,807,008)		\$369,672,964
INVESTMENT COMPANIES (0.7%)*	Shares	Value
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF	49,600	\$2,433,376
Total investment companies (cost \$2,441,934)		\$2,433,376
SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS (2.6%)*	Shares	Value
Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC 5.56% ^d	3,564,875	\$3,564,875
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund Class P 5.57% ^L	6,198,433	6,198,433
Total short-term investments (cost \$9,763,308)		\$9,763,308
TOTAL INVESTMENTS		
Total investments (cost \$336,012,250)		\$381,869,648

Key to holding's abbreviations

- ADR American Depository Receipts: Represents ownership of foreign securities on deposit with a custodian bank.
- ETF Exchange Traded Fund
- PJSC Public Joint Stock Company

Notes to the fund's portfolio

Unless noted otherwise, the notes to the fund's portfolio are for the close of the fund's reporting period, which ran from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023 (the reporting period). Within the following notes to the portfolio, references to "Putnam Management" represent Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund's manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC and references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*.

* Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$372,650,029.

† This security is non-income-producing.

- d Affiliated company. See Notes 1 and 5 to the financial statements regarding securities lending. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.
- L Affiliated company (Note 5). The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.
- S Security on loan, in part or in entirety, at the close of the reporting period (Note 1).

DIVERSIFICATION BY COUNTRY

Distribution of investments by country of risk at the close of the reporting period, excluding collateral received, if any (as a percentage of Portfolio Value):

China	20.8%	Saudi Arabia	1.6%
India	20.4	Hong Kong	1.5
Taiwan	13.9	Italy	1.4
South Korea	10.0	Panama	1.4
Mexico	5.6	United Arab Emirates	1.4
United States	5.4	Philippines	1.3
Brazil	5.4	South Africa	1.1
Indonesia	3.6	Poland	0.9
France	2.2	Total	100.0%
United Kingdom	2.1		

ASC 820 establishes a three-level hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of the fund's investments. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Valuations based on quoted prices for identical securities in active markets.

Level 2: Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the fund's net assets as of the close of the reporting period:

Investments in securities:	Valuation inputs		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stocks*:			
Communication services	\$—	\$21,728,816	\$—
Consumer discretionary	20,003,267	55,414,176	—
Consumer staples	6,852,297	10,647,338	—
Energy	2,702,494	16,225,262	—
Financials	16,580,436	51,991,507	—
Health care	7,260,020	18,205,883	—
Industrials	7,366,217	16,209,621	—
Information technology	7,233,696	91,532,715	—
Materials	—	12,788,799	—
Real estate	—	3,793,636	—
Utilities	—	3,136,784	—
Total common stocks	67,998,427	301,674,537	—
Investment companies	2,433,376	—	—
Short-term investments	—	9,763,308	—
Totals by level	\$70,431,803	\$311,437,845	\$—

* Common stock classifications are presented at the sector level, which may differ from the fund's portfolio presentation.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of assets and liabilities 8/31/23

ASSETS

Investment in securities, at value, including \$3,510,693 of securities on loan (Note 1):	
Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$326,248,942)	\$372,106,340
Affiliated issuers (identified cost \$9,763,308) (Notes 1 and 5)	9,763,308
Foreign currency (cost \$149,049) (Note 1)	147,562
Dividends, interest and other receivables	532,858
Foreign tax reclaim	122,466
Receivable for shares of the fund sold	218,320
Prepaid assets	24,743
Total assets	382,915,597

LIABILITIES

Payable for investments purchased	3,362,109
Payable for shares of the fund repurchased	688,310
Payable for compensation of Manager (Note 2)	57,643
Payable for custodian fees (Note 2)	139,182
Payable for investor servicing fees (Note 2)	139,907
Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	167,491
Payable for administrative services (Note 2)	1,304
Payable for distribution fees (Note 2)	90,877
Payable for foreign capital gains taxes	1,948,370
Collateral on securities loaned, at value (Note 1)	3,564,875
Other accrued expenses	105,500
Total liabilities	10,265,568
Net assets	\$372,650,029

REPRESENTED BY

Paid-in capital (Unlimited shares authorized) (Notes 1 and 4)	\$435,048,264
Total distributable earnings (Note 1)	(62,398,235)
Total — Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding	\$372,650,029

COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE AND OFFERING PRICE

Net asset value and redemption price per class A share ((\$187,270,048 divided by 15,918,140 shares)	\$11.76
Offering price per class A share (100/94.25 of \$11.76)*	\$12.48
Net asset value and offering price per class B share (\$657,515 divided by 60,326 shares)**	\$10.90
Net asset value and offering price per class C share (\$5,542,369 divided by 511,510 shares)**	\$10.84
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R share ((\$4,660,295 divided by 401,163 shares)	\$11.62
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R6 share ((\$27,784,220 divided by 2,302,646 shares)	\$12.07
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class Y share ((\$146,735,582 divided by 12,233,042 shares)	\$12.00

*On single retail sales of less than \$50,000. On sales of \$50,000 or more the offering price is reduced.

**Redemption price per share is equal to net asset value less any applicable contingent deferred sales charge.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of operations Year ended 8/31/23

INVESTMENT INCOME	
Dividends (net of foreign tax of \$1,093,116)	\$7,816,623
Interest (including interest income of \$184,995 from investments in affiliated issuers) (Note 5)	184,995
Securities lending (net of expenses) (Notes 1 and 5)	17,005
Total investment income	8,018,623
EXPENSES	
Compensation of Manager (Note 2)	3,380,560
Investor servicing fees (Note 2)	837,713
Custodian fees (Note 2)	266,082
Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	16,507
Distribution fees (Note 2)	567,609
Administrative services (Note 2)	11,708
Other	347,368
Fees waived and reimbursed by Manager (Note 2)	(1,167,743)
Total expenses	4,259,804
Expense reduction (Note 2)	(5,236)
Net expenses	4,254,568
Net investment income	3,764,055
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)	
Net realized gain (loss) on:	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers (net of foreign tax of \$146,780) (Notes 1 and 3)	(28,180,330)
Foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(194,125)
Total net realized loss	(28,374,455)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers (net of increase in deferred foreign taxes of \$836,372)	40,480,422
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	21,443
Total change in net unrealized appreciation	40,501,865
Net gain on investments	12,127,410
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$15,891,465

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in net assets

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	Year ended 8/31/23	Year ended 8/31/23
Operations		
Net investment income	\$3,764,055	\$2,353,396
Net realized loss on investments and foreign currency transactions	(28,374,455)	(77,029,303)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	40,501,865	(108,426,441)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	15,891,465	(183,102,348)
Distributions to shareholders (Note 1):		
From ordinary income		
Net investment income		
Class A	—	(129,587)
Class B	—	(1,142)
Class C	—	(5,588)
Class R	—	(2,730)
Class R6	—	(16,951)
Class Y	—	(99,009)
Net realized short-term gain on investments		
Class A	—	(7,112,162)
Class B	—	(62,676)
Class C	—	(306,689)
Class R	—	(149,816)
Class R6	—	(930,304)
Class Y	—	(5,434,022)
From capital gain on investments		
Net realized long-term gain on investments		
Class A	—	(7,205,641)
Class B	—	(63,499)
Class C	—	(310,719)
Class R	—	(151,784)
Class R6	—	(942,531)
Class Y	—	(5,505,442)
Decrease from capital share transactions (Note 4)	(18,748,857)	(46,019,426)
Total decrease in net assets	(2,857,392)	(257,552,066)
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of year	375,507,421	633,059,487
End of year	\$372,650,029	\$375,507,421

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Financial highlights

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

Period ended	INVESTMENT OPERATIONS				LESS DISTRIBUTIONS
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Net investment income (loss) ^a	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	Total from investment operations	From net investment income
Class A					
August 31, 2023	\$11.28	.10	.38	.48	—
August 31, 2022	17.25	.05	(5.20)	(5.15)	(.01)
August 31, 2021	14.68	(.01)	2.86	2.85	(.02)
August 31, 2020	11.05	.08 ^e	3.69	3.77	(.14)
August 31, 2019	11.75	.09	(.57)	(.48)	(.01)
Class B					
August 31, 2023	\$10.53	.01	.36	.37	—
August 31, 2022	16.28	(.07) ^e	(4.86)	(4.93)	(.01)
August 31, 2021	13.95	(.13)	2.72	2.59	—
August 31, 2020	10.52	(.05)	3.54	3.49	(.06)
August 31, 2019	11.27	.02	(.56)	(.54)	—
Class C					
August 31, 2023	\$10.47	.01	.36	.37	—
August 31, 2022	16.19	(.06)	(4.84)	(4.90)	(.01)
August 31, 2021	13.88	(.13)	2.70	2.57	—
August 31, 2020	10.48	(.05)	3.52	3.47	(.07)
August 31, 2019	11.23	.02	(.56)	(.54)	—
Class R					
August 31, 2023	\$11.17	.07	.38	.45	—
August 31, 2022	17.13	.02	(5.16)	(5.14)	(.01)
August 31, 2021	14.62	(.06)	2.86	2.80	(.03)
August 31, 2020	10.97	.01	3.70	3.71	(.06)
August 31, 2019	11.68	.08	(.58)	(.50)	—
Class R6					
August 31, 2023	\$11.52	.16	.39	.55	—
August 31, 2022	17.53	.11	(5.30)	(5.19)	(.01)
August 31, 2021	14.88	.05	2.92	2.97	(.06)
August 31, 2020	11.22	.10	3.77	3.87	(.21)
August 31, 2019	11.89	.17	(.61)	(.44)	(.02)
Class Y					
August 31, 2023	\$11.48	.13	.39	.52	—
August 31, 2022	17.49	.08	(5.27)	(5.19)	(.01)
August 31, 2021	14.86	.02	2.91	2.93	(.04)
August 31, 2020	11.19	.06	3.79	3.85	(.18)
August 31, 2019	11.88	.13	(.59)	(.46)	(.02)

See notes to financial highlights at the end of this section.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

				RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA			
From net realized gain on investments	Total distributions	Net asset value, end of period	Total return at net asset value (%) ^b	Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) ^{c,d}	Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets (%) ^c	Portfolio turnover (%)
—	—	\$11.76	4.26	\$187,270	1.25	.90	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.28	(31.05)	197,474	1.33	.38	127
(.26)	(.28)	17.25	19.50	315,105	1.29	(.07)	124
—	(.14)	14.68	34.30	269,748	1.31	.60 ^e	127
(.21)	(.22)	11.05	(3.96)	36,325	1.26	.80	175
—	—	\$10.90	3.51	\$658	2.00	.10	63
(.81)	(.82)	10.53	(31.57)	1,227	2.08	(.49) ^e	127
(.26)	(.26)	16.28	18.65	2,993	2.04	(.81)	124
—	(.06)	13.95	33.26	3,493	2.06	(.43)	127
(.21)	(.21)	10.52	(4.67)	1,998	2.01	.17	175
—	—	\$10.84	3.53	\$5,542	2.00	.13	63
(.81)	(.82)	10.47	(31.55)	7,088	2.08	(.42)	127
(.26)	(.26)	16.19	18.60	13,498	2.04	(.82)	124
—	(.07)	13.88	33.27	11,606	2.06	(.47)	127
(.21)	(.21)	10.48	(4.69)	6,546	2.01	.19	175
—	—	\$11.62	4.03	\$4,660	1.50	.65	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.17	(31.21)	4,510	1.58	.17	127
(.26)	(.29)	17.13	19.25	6,419	1.54	(.35)	124
—	(.06)	14.62	33.86	1,119	1.56	.11	127
(.21)	(.21)	10.97	(4.16)	1,093	1.51	.74	175
—	—	\$12.07	4.77	\$27,784	.81	1.33	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.52	(30.77)	27,655	.91	.81	127
(.26)	(.32)	17.53	20.06	41,708	.89	.31	124
—	(.21)	14.88	34.81	22,945	.89	.76	127
(.21)	(.23)	11.22	(3.55)	10,143	.82	1.47	175
—	—	\$12.00	4.53	\$146,736	1.00	1.13	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.48	(30.84)	137,553	1.08	.60	127
(.26)	(.30)	17.49	19.84	253,336	1.04	.13	124
—	(.18)	14.86	34.66	82,640	1.06	.46	127
(.21)	(.23)	11.19	(3.74)	69,989	1.01	1.17	175

Financial highlights *cont.*

- ^a Per share net investment income (loss) has been determined on the basis of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period.
- ^b Total return assumes dividend reinvestment and does not reflect the effect of sales charges.
- ^c Reflects an involuntary contractual expense limitation in effect during the period. As a result of such limitation, the expenses of each class reflect a reduction of the following amounts (Note 2):

	Percentage of average net assets
August 31, 2023	0.31%
August 31, 2022	0.29
August 31, 2021	0.27
August 31, 2020	0.48
August 31, 2019	0.45

- ^d Includes amounts paid through expense offset and/or brokerage/service arrangements, if any (Note 2). Also excludes acquired fund fees and expenses, if any.
- ^e The net investment income ratio and per share amount shown for the period ending may not correspond with the expected class specific differences for the period due to the timing of subscriptions into or redemptions out of the class.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to financial statements 8/31/23

Unless otherwise noted, the “reporting period” represents the period from September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. The following table defines commonly used references within the Notes to financial statements:

References to	Represent
Putnam Management	Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund’s manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC
State Street	State Street Bank and Trust Company
JPMorgan	JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
the SEC	the Securities and Exchange Commission
OTC	over-the-counter
PAC	The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC, an affiliate of Putnam Management
PIL	Putnam Investments Limited, an affiliate of Putnam Management

Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund (the fund) is a non-diversified series (prior to September 29, 2022, the fund was a diversified series) of Putnam Funds Trust (the Trust), a Massachusetts business trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as an open-end management investment company. The goal of the fund is to seek long-term capital appreciation. The fund invests mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of emerging market companies of any size that Putnam Management believes have favorable investment potential. For example, the fund may purchase stocks of companies with stock prices that reflect a value lower than that which Putnam Management places on the company. Putnam Management may also consider other factors that Putnam Management believes will cause the stock price to rise. Under normal circumstances, Putnam Management invests at least 80% of the fund’s net assets in equity securities of emerging market companies. This policy may be changed only after 60 days’ notice to shareholders. Emerging markets include countries in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index or that Putnam Management considers to be emerging markets based on Putnam Management’s evaluation of their level of economic development or the size and nature of their securities markets. Putnam Management may consider, among other factors, a company’s valuation, financial strength, growth potential, competitive position in its industry, projected future earnings, cash flows and dividends when deciding whether to buy or sell investments. The fund may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, certain foreign currency transactions, warrants and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes. The fund is “non-diversified,” which means it may invest a greater percentage of its assets in fewer issuers than a “diversified” fund.

The fund offers the following share classes. The expenses for each class of shares may differ based on the distribution and investor servicing fees of each class, which are identified in Note 2.

Share class	Sales charge	Contingent deferred sales charge	Conversion feature
Class A	Up to 5.75%	1.00% on certain redemptions of shares bought with no initial sales charge	None
Class B*	None	5.00% phased out over six years	Converts to class A shares after 8 years
Class C	None	1.00% eliminated after one year	Converts to class A shares after 8 years
Class R†	None	None	None
Class R6†	None	None	None
Class Y†	None	None	None

* Purchases of class B shares are closed to new and existing investors except by exchange from class B shares of another Putnam fund or through dividend and/or capital gains reinvestment.

† Not available to all investors.

In the normal course of business, the fund enters into contracts that may include agreements to indemnify another party under given circumstances. The fund’s maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be, but have not yet been, made against the fund. However, the fund’s management team expects the risk of material loss to be remote.

The fund has entered into contractual arrangements with an investment adviser, administrator, distributor, shareholder servicing agent and custodian, who each provide services to the fund. Unless expressly stated otherwise, shareholders are not parties to, or intended beneficiaries of these contractual arrangements, and these contractual arrangements are not intended to create any shareholder right to enforce them against the service providers or to seek any remedy under them against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the fund.

Under the Trust's Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust, any claims asserted by a shareholder against or on behalf of the Trust (or its series), including claims against Trustees and Officers, must be brought in state and federal courts located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Note 1: Significant accounting policies

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The preparation of financial statements is in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Subsequent events after the Statement of assets and liabilities date through the date that the financial statements were issued have been evaluated in the preparation of the financial statements.

Investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses and expenses of the fund are borne pro-rata based on the relative net assets of each class to the total net assets of the fund, except that each class bears expenses unique to that class (including the distribution fees applicable to such classes). Each class votes as a class only with respect to its own distribution plan or other matters on which a class vote is required by law or determined by the Trustees. If the fund were liquidated, shares of each class would receive their pro-rata share of the net assets of the fund. In addition, the Trustees declare separate dividends on each class of shares.

Security valuation Portfolio securities and other investments are valued using policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees have formed a Pricing Committee to oversee the implementation of these procedures and have delegated responsibility for valuing the fund's assets in accordance with these procedures to Putnam Management. Putnam Management has established an internal Valuation Committee that is responsible for making fair value determinations, evaluating the effectiveness of the pricing policies of the fund and reporting to the Pricing Committee.

Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last reported sales price on their principal exchange, or official closing price for certain markets, and are classified as Level 1 securities under Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (ASC 820). If no sales are reported, as in the case of some securities that are traded OTC, a security is valued at its last reported bid price and is generally categorized as a Level 2 security.

Investments in open-end investment companies (excluding exchange-traded funds), if any, which can be classified as Level 1 or Level 2 securities, are valued based on their net asset value. The net asset value of such investment companies equals the total value of their assets less their liabilities and divided by the number of their outstanding shares.

Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close prior to the scheduled close of the New York Stock Exchange and therefore the closing prices for securities in such markets or on such exchanges may not fully reflect events that occur after such close but before the scheduled close of the New York Stock Exchange. Accordingly, on certain days, the fund will fair value certain foreign equity securities taking into account multiple factors including movements in the U.S. securities markets, currency valuations and comparisons to the valuation of American Depository Receipts, exchange-traded funds and futures contracts. The foreign equity securities, which would generally be classified as Level 1 securities, will be transferred to Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy when they are valued at fair value. The number of days on which fair value prices will be used will depend on market activity and it is possible that fair value prices will be used by the fund to a significant extent. At the close of the reporting period, fair value pricing was used for certain foreign securities in the portfolio. Securities quoted in foreign currencies, if any, are translated into U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate. Short-term securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued using an independent pricing service approved by the Trustees, and are classified as Level 2 securities.

To the extent a pricing service or dealer is unable to value a security or provides a valuation that Putnam Management does not believe accurately reflects the security's fair value, the security will be valued at fair value

by Putnam Management, which has been designated as valuation designee pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Trustees. Certain investments, including certain restricted and illiquid securities and derivatives, are also valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. These valuations consider such factors as significant market or specific security events such as interest rate or credit quality changes, various relationships with other securities, discount rates, U.S. Treasury, U.S. swap and credit yields, index levels, convexity exposures, recovery rates, sales and other multiples and resale restrictions. These securities are classified as Level 2 or as Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs.

To assess the continuing appropriateness of fair valuations, the Valuation Committee reviews and affirms the reasonableness of such valuations on a regular basis after considering all relevant information that is reasonably available. Such valuations and procedures are reviewed periodically by the Trustees. The fair value of securities is generally determined as the amount that the fund could reasonably expect to realize from an orderly disposition of such securities over a reasonable period of time. By its nature, a fair value price is a good faith estimate of the value of a security in a current sale and does not reflect an actual market price, which may be different by a material amount.

Security transactions and related investment income Security transactions are recorded on the trade date (the date the order to buy or sell is executed). Gains or losses on securities sold are determined on the identified cost basis.

Interest income, net of any applicable withholding taxes, if any, is recorded on the accrual basis. Amortization and accretion of premiums and discounts on debt securities, if any, is recorded on the accrual basis.

Dividend income, net of any applicable withholding taxes, is recognized on the ex-dividend date except that certain dividends from foreign securities, if any, are recognized as soon as the fund is informed of the ex-dividend date. Non-cash dividends, if any, are recorded at the fair value of the securities received. Dividends representing a return of capital or capital gains, if any, are reflected as a reduction of cost and/or as a realized gain.

Foreign currency translation The accounting records of the fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. The fair value of foreign securities, currency holdings, and other assets and liabilities is recorded in the books and records of the fund after translation to U.S. dollars based on the exchange rates on that day. The cost of each security is determined using historical exchange rates. Income and withholding taxes are translated at prevailing exchange rates when earned or incurred. The fund does not isolate that portion of realized or unrealized gains or losses resulting from changes in the foreign exchange rate on investments from fluctuations arising from changes in the market prices of the securities. Such gains and losses are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss on investments. Net realized gains and losses on foreign currency transactions represent net realized exchange gains or losses on disposition of foreign currencies, currency gains and losses realized between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions and the difference between the amount of investment income and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the fund's books and the U.S. dollar equivalent amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies arise from changes in the value of assets and liabilities other than investments at the period end, resulting from changes in the exchange rate.

Securities lending The fund may lend securities, through its agent, to qualified borrowers in order to earn additional income. The loans are collateralized by cash in an amount at least equal to the fair value of the securities loaned. The fair value of securities loaned is determined daily and any additional required collateral is allocated to the fund on the next business day. The remaining maturities of the securities lending transactions are considered overnight and continuous. The risk of borrower default will be borne by the fund's agent; the fund will bear the risk of loss with respect to the investment of the cash collateral. Income from securities lending, net of expenses, is included in investment income on the Statement of operations. Cash collateral is invested in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC, a limited liability company managed by an affiliate of Putnam Management. Investments in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC are valued at its closing net asset value each business day. There are no management fees charged to Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC. At the close of the reporting period, the fund received cash collateral of \$3,564,875 and the value of securities loaned amounted to \$3,510,693.

Interfund lending The fund, along with other Putnam funds, may participate in an interfund lending program pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the SEC. This program allows the fund to borrow from or lend to other Putnam funds that permit such transactions. Interfund lending transactions are subject to each fund's investment policies and borrowing and lending limits. Interest earned or paid on the interfund lending

transaction will be based on the average of certain current market rates. During the reporting period, the fund did not utilize the program.

Lines of credit The fund participates, along with other Putnam funds, in a \$320 million syndicated unsecured committed line of credit, provided by State Street (\$160 million) and JPMorgan (\$160 million), and a \$235.5 million unsecured uncommitted line of credit, provided by State Street. Prior to May 2, 2023, the fund participated, along with other Putnam funds, in a \$100 million unsecured committed line of credit and a \$235.5 million unsecured uncommitted line of credit, both provided by State Street. Borrowings may be made for temporary or emergency purposes, including the funding of shareholder redemption requests and trade settlements. Interest is charged to the fund based on the fund's borrowing at a rate equal to 1.25% plus the higher of (1) the Federal Funds rate and (2) the Overnight Bank Funding Rate for the committed line of credit and 1.30% plus the higher of (1) the Federal Funds rate and (2) the Overnight Bank Funding Rate for the uncommitted line of credit. A closing fee equal to 0.04% of the committed line of credit and 0.04% of the uncommitted line of credit has been paid by the participating funds and a \$75,000 fee has been paid by the participating funds to State Street as agent of the syndicated committed line of credit. In addition, a commitment fee of 0.21% per annum on any unutilized portion of the committed line of credit is allocated to the participating funds based on their relative net assets and paid quarterly. During the reporting period, the fund had no borrowings against these arrangements.

Federal taxes It is the policy of the fund to distribute all of its taxable income within the prescribed time period and otherwise comply with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), applicable to regulated investment companies. It is also the intention of the fund to distribute an amount sufficient to avoid imposition of any excise tax under Section 4982 of the Code.

The fund is subject to the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 740 *Income Taxes* (ASC 740). ASC 740 sets forth a minimum threshold for financial statement recognition of the benefit of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The fund did not have a liability to record for any unrecognized tax benefits in the accompanying financial statements. No provision has been made for federal taxes on income, capital gains or unrealized appreciation on securities held nor for excise tax on income and capital gains. Each of the fund's federal tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remains subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

The fund may also be subject to taxes imposed by governments of countries in which it invests. Such taxes are generally based on either income or gains earned or repatriated. The fund accrues and applies such taxes to net investment income, net realized gains and net unrealized gains as income and/or capital gains are earned. In some cases, the fund may be entitled to reclaim all or a portion of such taxes, and such reclaim amounts, if any, are reflected as an asset on the fund's books. In many cases, however, the fund may not receive such amounts for an extended period of time, depending on the country of investment.

Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010, the fund will be permitted to carry forward capital losses incurred for an unlimited period and the carry forwards will retain their character as either short-term or long-term capital losses. At August 31, 2023, the fund had the following capital loss carryovers available, to the extent allowed by the Code, to offset future net capital gain, if any:

Loss carryover		
Short-term	Long-term	Total
\$79,259,327	\$22,538,332	\$101,797,659

Distributions to shareholders Distributions to shareholders from net investment income, if any, are recorded by the fund on the ex-dividend date. Distributions from capital gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-dividend date and paid at least annually. The amount and character of income and gains to be distributed are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. These differences include temporary and/or permanent differences from losses on wash sale transactions, from foreign currency gains and losses and from realized gains and losses on passive foreign investment companies. Reclassifications are made to the fund's capital accounts to reflect income and gains available for distribution (or available capital loss carryovers) under income tax regulations. At the close of the reporting period, the fund reclassified \$13,518 to increase undistributed net investment income and \$13,518 to increase accumulated net realized loss.

Tax cost of investments includes adjustments to net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) which may not necessarily be final tax cost basis adjustments, but closely approximate the tax basis unrealized gains and losses

that may be realized and distributed to shareholders. The tax basis components of distributable earnings and the federal tax cost as of the close of the reporting period were as follows:

Unrealized appreciation	\$55,510,949
Unrealized depreciation	(17,244,191)
Net unrealized appreciation	38,266,758
Undistributed ordinary income	3,092,166
Capital loss carryforward	(101,797,659)
Cost for federal income tax purposes	\$343,602,890

Expenses of the Trust Expenses directly charged or attributable to any fund will be paid from the assets of that fund. Generally, expenses of the Trust will be allocated among and charged to the assets of each fund on a basis that the Trustees deem fair and equitable, which may be based on the relative assets of each fund or the nature of the services performed and relative applicability to each fund.

Note 2: Management fee, administrative services and other transactions

The fund pays Putnam Management a management fee (base fee) (based on the fund's average net assets and computed and paid monthly) at annual rates that may vary based on the average of the aggregate net assets of all open-end mutual funds sponsored by Putnam Management (excluding net assets of funds that are invested in, or that are invested in by, other Putnam funds to the extent necessary to avoid "double counting" of those assets). Such annual rates may vary as follows:

1.080%	of the first \$5 billion,	0.880%	of the next \$50 billion,
1.030%	of the next \$5 billion,	0.860%	of the next \$50 billion,
0.980%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.850%	of the next \$100 billion and
0.930%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.845%	of any excess thereafter.

In addition, the monthly management fee consists of the monthly base fee plus or minus a performance adjustment for the month. The performance adjustment is determined based on performance over the thirty-six month period then ended. Each month, the performance adjustment is calculated by multiplying the performance adjustment rate and the fund's average net assets over the performance period and dividing the result by twelve. The resulting dollar amount is added to, or subtracted from the base fee for that month. The performance adjustment rate is equal to 0.03 multiplied by the difference between the fund's annualized performance (measured by the fund's class A shares) and the annualized performance of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (ND) each measured over the performance period. The maximum annualized performance adjustment rate is +/- 0.21%. The monthly base fee is determined based on the fund's average net assets for the month, while the performance adjustment is determined based on the fund's average net assets over the thirty-six month performance period. This means it is possible that, if the fund underperforms significantly over the performance period, and the fund's assets have declined significantly over that period, the negative performance adjustment may exceed the base fee. In this event, Putnam Management would make a payment to the fund.

In connection with the merger of Putnam International Growth Fund ("acquired fund") into the fund on May 18, 2020, the management contract was amended such that, after completion of the merger, the combined fund's performance adjustment will be calculated based on the combined assets of the fund and the acquired fund for any portion of a performance period that is prior to the merger, unless the use of the combined assets results in a fee payable by the fund under the amended management contract that is higher than the management fee that would have been paid under the fund's current management contract. Under those circumstances, Putnam Management has agreed to reduce its management fee to reflect the lower amount that would have been payable under the fund's current fee schedule, which would only take into account the assets of the fund for the period prior to the closing of the mergers. As a result of these management contract changes, the fund's shareholders may pay a lower management fee, but would never pay a higher management fee, under the amended management contract than they would have paid under the fund's current management contract.

Because the performance adjustment is based on the fund's performance relative to its applicable benchmark index, and not its absolute performance, the performance adjustment could increase Putnam Management's fee even if the fund's shares lose value during the performance period provided that the fund outperformed

its benchmark index, and could decrease Putnam Management's fee even if the fund's shares increase in value during the performance period provided that the fund underperformed its benchmark index.

For the reporting period, the management fee represented an effective rate (excluding the impact of any expense waiver in effect) of 0.901% of the fund's average net assets, which included an effective base fee of 0.921% and a decrease of 0.020% (\$73,557) based on performance.

Putnam Management has contractually agreed, through December 30, 2024, to waive fees and/or reimburse the fund's expenses to the extent necessary to limit the cumulative expenses of the fund, exclusive of brokerage, interest, taxes, investment-related expenses, extraordinary expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses and payments under the fund's investor servicing contract, investment management contract and distribution plans, on a fiscal year-to-date basis to an annual rate of 0.20% of the fund's average net assets over such fiscal year-to-date period. During the reporting period, the fund's expenses were not reduced as a result of this limit.

Putnam Management has also contractually agreed to waive fees (and, to the extent necessary, bear other expenses) of the fund through December 30, 2024, to the extent that total expenses of the fund (before any applicable performance-based adjustment to the fund's base management fee and excluding brokerage, interest, taxes, investment-related expenses, payments under distribution plans, extraordinary expenses, payments under the fund's investor servicing contract and acquired fund fees and expenses, but including payments under the fund's investment management contract) would exceed an annual rate of 0.78% of the fund's average net assets. During the reporting period, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$1,167,743 as a result of this limit.

PIL is authorized by the Trustees to manage a separate portion of the assets of the fund as determined by Putnam Management from time to time. PIL did not manage any portion of the assets of the fund during the reporting period. If Putnam Management were to engage the services of PIL, Putnam Management would pay a quarterly sub-management fee to PIL for its services at an annual rate of 0.25% of the average net assets of the portion of the fund managed by PIL.

PAC is authorized by the Trustees to manage a separate portion of the assets of the fund, as designated from time to time by Putnam Management or PIL. PAC did not manage any portion of the assets of the fund during the reporting period. If Putnam Management or PIL were to engage the services of PAC, Putnam Management or PIL, as applicable, would pay a quarterly sub-advisory fee to PAC for its services at the annual rate of 0.25% of the average net assets of the portion of the fund's assets for which PAC is engaged as sub-adviser.

The fund reimburses Putnam Management an allocated amount for the compensation and related expenses of certain officers of the fund and their staff who provide administrative services to the fund. The aggregate amount of all such reimbursements is determined annually by the Trustees.

Custodial functions for the fund's assets are provided by State Street. Custody fees are based on the fund's asset level, the number of its security holdings and transaction volumes.

Putnam Investor Services, Inc., an affiliate of Putnam Management, provides investor servicing agent functions to the fund. Putnam Investor Services, Inc. received fees for investor servicing for class A, class B, class C, class R and class Y shares that included (1) a per account fee for each direct and underlying non-defined contribution account (retail account) of the fund; (2) a specified rate of the fund's assets attributable to defined contribution plan accounts; and (3) a specified rate based on the average net assets in retail accounts. Putnam Investor Services, Inc. has agreed that the aggregate investor servicing fees for each fund's retail and defined contribution accounts for these share classes will not exceed an annual rate of 0.25% of the fund's average assets attributable to such accounts.

Class R6 shares paid a monthly fee based on the average net assets of class R6 shares at an annual rate of 0.05%.

During the reporting period, the expenses for each class of shares related to investor servicing fees were as follows:

Class A	\$450,405	Class R	10,923
Class B	2,104	Class R6	13,649
Class C	14,482	Class Y	346,150
		Total	\$837,713

The fund has entered into expense offset arrangements with Putnam Investor Services, Inc. and State Street whereby Putnam Investor Services, Inc.'s and State Street's fees are reduced by credits allowed on cash balances. For the reporting period, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$5,236 under the expense offset arrangements.

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual Trustee fee, of which \$329, as a quarterly retainer, has been allocated to the fund, and an additional fee for each Trustees meeting attended. Trustees also are reimbursed for expenses they incur relating to their services as Trustees.

The fund has adopted a Trustee Fee Deferral Plan (the Deferral Plan) which allows the Trustees to defer the receipt of all or a portion of Trustees fees payable on or after July 1, 1995. The deferred fees remain invested in certain Putnam funds until distribution in accordance with the Deferral Plan.

The fund has adopted an unfunded noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Pension Plan) covering all Trustees of the fund who have served as a Trustee for at least five years and were first elected prior to 2004. Benefits under the Pension Plan are equal to 50% of the Trustee's average annual attendance and retainer fees for the three years ended December 31, 2005. The retirement benefit is payable during a Trustee's lifetime, beginning the year following retirement, for the number of years of service through December 31, 2006. Pension expense for the fund is included in Trustee compensation and expenses in the Statement of operations. Accrued pension liability is included in Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses in the Statement of assets and liabilities. The Trustees have terminated the Pension Plan with respect to any Trustee first elected after 2003.

The fund has adopted distribution plans (the Plans) with respect to the following share classes pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940. The purpose of the Plans is to compensate Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC, for services provided and expenses incurred in distributing shares of the fund. The Plans provide payments by the fund to Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership at an annual rate of up to the following amounts (Maximum %) of the average net assets attributable to each class. The Trustees have approved payment by the fund at the following annual rate (Approved %) of the average net assets attributable to each class. During the reporting period, the class-specific expenses related to distribution fees were as follows:

	Maximum %	Approved %	Amount
Class A	0.35%	0.25%	\$474,742
Class B	1.00%	1.00%	8,835
Class C	1.00%	1.00%	60,989
Class R	1.00%	0.50%	23,043
Total			\$567,609

For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received net commissions of \$14,007 from the sale of class A shares and received \$2 and \$80 in contingent deferred sales charges from redemptions of class B and class C shares, respectively.

A deferred sales charge of up to 1.00% is assessed on certain redemptions of class A shares. For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received \$157 on class A redemptions.

Note 3: Purchases and sales of securities

During the reporting period, the cost of purchases and the proceeds from sales, excluding short-term investments, were as follows:

	Cost of purchases	Proceeds from sales
Investments in securities (Long-term)	\$235,062,302	\$248,614,255
U.S. government securities (Long-term)	—	—
Total	\$235,062,302	\$248,614,255

The fund may purchase or sell investments from or to other Putnam funds in the ordinary course of business, which can reduce the fund's transaction costs, at prices determined in accordance with SEC requirements and policies approved by the Trustees. During the reporting period, purchases or sales of long-term securities from or to other Putnam funds, if any, did not represent more than 5% of the fund's total cost of purchases and/or total proceeds from sales.

Note 4: Capital shares

At the close of the reporting period, there were an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest authorized. Transactions, including, if applicable, direct exchanges pursuant to share conversions, in capital shares were as follows:

	YEAR ENDED 8/31/23		YEAR ENDED 8/31/22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Class A				
Shares sold	769,925	\$8,714,154	1,258,435	\$17,433,752
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	921,455	13,821,819
	769,925	8,714,154	2,179,890	31,255,571
Shares repurchased	(2,354,145)	(26,657,936)	(2,940,252)	(41,411,921)
Net decrease	(1,584,220)	\$(17,943,782)	(760,362)	\$(10,156,350)

	YEAR ENDED 8/31/23		YEAR ENDED 8/31/22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Class B				
Shares sold	2	\$19	120	\$1,822
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	8,914	125,508
	2	19	9,034	127,330
Shares repurchased	(56,159)	(595,279)	(76,387)	(1,033,582)
Net decrease	(56,157)	\$(595,260)	(67,353)	\$(906,252)

	YEAR ENDED 8/31/23		YEAR ENDED 8/31/22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Class C				
Shares sold	42,073	\$447,193	84,220	\$1,144,148
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	44,515	622,763
	42,073	447,193	128,735	1,766,911
Shares repurchased	(207,607)	(2,173,342)	(285,337)	(3,806,631)
Net decrease	(165,534)	\$(1,726,149)	(156,602)	\$(2,039,720)

	YEAR ENDED 8/31/23		YEAR ENDED 8/31/22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Class R				
Shares sold	119,868	\$1,362,262	84,628	\$1,159,465
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	20,445	304,229
	119,868	1,362,262	105,073	1,463,694
Shares repurchased	(122,508)	(1,389,619)	(75,968)	(1,055,025)
Net increase (decrease)	(2,640)	\$(27,357)	29,105	\$408,669

Class R6	YEAR ENDED 8/31/23		YEAR ENDED 8/31/22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	548,424	\$6,437,314	561,880	\$7,822,008
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	123,758	1,889,786
	548,424	6,437,314	685,638	9,711,794
Shares repurchased	(646,104)	(7,544,131)	(664,658)	(9,651,094)
Net increase (decrease)	(97,680)	\$(1,106,817)	20,980	\$60,700

Class Y	YEAR ENDED 8/31/23		YEAR ENDED 8/31/22	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	6,314,563	\$72,068,778	9,695,017	\$138,513,328
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	723,385	11,017,149
	6,314,563	72,068,778	10,418,402	149,530,477
Shares repurchased	(6,068,554)	(69,418,270)	(12,915,527)	(182,916,950)
Net increase (decrease)	246,009	\$2,650,508	(2,497,125)	\$(33,386,473)

Note 5: Affiliated transactions

Transactions during the reporting period with any company which is under common ownership or control were as follows:

Name of affiliate	Fair value as of 8/31/22	Purchase cost	Sale proceeds	Investment income	Shares outstanding and fair value as of 8/31/23
Short-term investments					
Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC*	\$5,251,990	\$94,925,007	\$96,612,122	\$291,422	\$3,564,875
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund**	4,451,141	131,163,462	129,416,170	184,995	6,198,433
Total Short-term investments	\$9,703,131	\$226,088,469	\$226,028,292	\$476,417	\$9,763,308

* No management fees are charged to Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC (Note 1). Investment income shown is included in securities lending income on the Statement of operations. There were no realized or unrealized gains or losses during the period.

** Management fees charged to Putnam Short Term Investment Fund have been waived by Putnam Management. There were no realized or unrealized gains or losses during the period.

Note 6: Market, credit and other risks

In the normal course of business, the fund trades financial instruments and enters into financial transactions where risk of potential loss exists due to changes in the market (market risk) or failure of the contracting party to the transaction to perform (credit risk). The fund may be exposed to additional credit risk that an institution or other entity with which the fund has unsettled or open transactions will default. Investments in foreign securities involve certain risks, including those related to economic instability, unfavorable political developments, and currency fluctuations.

Note 7: Of special note

On May 31, 2023, Franklin Resources, Inc. (“Franklin Resources”) and Great-West Lifeco Inc., the parent company of Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC (“Putnam Holdings”), announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement for a subsidiary of Franklin Resources to acquire Putnam Holdings in a stock and cash transaction.

As part of this transaction, Putnam Management, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Holdings and investment manager to the Putnam family of funds (the “Putnam Funds”), would become an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources.

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of applicable regulatory approvals. Subject to such approvals and the satisfaction of these conditions, the transaction is currently expected to be consummated in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, consummation of the transaction will result in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management and any related sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, where applicable. In anticipation of this automatic termination, on June 23, 2023, the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Funds approved a new investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management (and new sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, if applicable), which will be presented to the shareholders of each Putnam Fund for their approval at shareholder meetings currently expected to occur in October 2023. Proxy solicitation materials related to these meetings have been made available to shareholders that held shares of the fund at the close of business on July 24, 2023.

Federal tax information (Unaudited)

For the reporting period, total interest and dividend income from foreign countries were \$8,751,028, or \$0.28 per share (for all classes of shares). Taxes paid to foreign countries were \$1,239,896, or \$0.04 per share (for all classes of shares).

For the reporting period, the fund hereby designates 100%, or the maximum amount allowable, of its taxable ordinary income distributions as qualified dividends taxed at the individual net capital gain rates.

The Form 1099 that will be mailed to you in January 2024 will show the tax status of all distributions paid to your account in calendar 2023.

Shareholder meeting results (Unaudited)

September 29, 2022 special meeting

A proposal to change the fund's sub-classification under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, from "diversified" to "non-diversified" was approved as follows:

Votes for	Votes against	Abstentions	Broker non-votes
13,146,623	537,088	670,879	5,224,153

All tabulations are rounded to the nearest whole number.

About the Trustees

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES



Liaquat Ahamed

Born 1952, Trustee since 2012

Principal occupations during past

five years: Author; won Pulitzer Prize for *Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World*.

Other directorships: Chair of the Sun Valley Writers Conference, a literary not-for-profit organization, and a Trustee of the Journal of Philosophy.



Barbara M. Baumann

Born 1955, Trustee since 2010, Vice Chair since 2022

Principal occupations during past

five years: President of Cross Creek Energy Corporation, a strategic consultant to domestic energy firms and direct investor in energy projects.

Other directorships: Director of Devon Energy Corporation, a publicly traded independent natural gas and oil exploration and production company; Director of National Fuel Gas Company, a publicly traded energy company that engages in the production, gathering, transportation, distribution, and marketing of natural gas; Senior Advisor to the energy private equity firm First Reserve; member of the Finance Committee of the Children's Hospital of Colorado; member of the Investment Committee of the Board of The Denver Foundation; and previously a Director of publicly traded companies Buckeye Partners LP, UNS Energy Corporation, CVR Energy Company, and SM Energy Corporation.



Katinka Domotorffy

Born 1975, Trustee since 2012

Principal occupations during past

five years: Voting member of the Investment Committees of the Anne Ray Foundation and Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, part of the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

Other directorships: Director of the Great Lakes Science Center and of College Now Greater Cleveland.



Catharine Bond Hill

Born 1954, Trustee since 2017

Principal occupations during past

five years: Managing Director of Ithaka S+R, a not-for-profit service that helps the academic community navigate economic and technological change. From 2006 to 2016, Dr. Hill served as the 10th president of Vassar College.

Other directorships: Director of Yale-NUS College and Trustee of Yale University.



Kenneth R. Leibler

Born 1949, Trustee since 2006, Vice Chair from 2016 to 2018, Chair since 2018

Principal occupations during past

five years: Vice Chair Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston. Member of the Investment Committee of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation.

Other directorships: Director of Eversource Corporation, which operates New England's largest energy delivery system; previously the Chairman of the Boston Options Exchange, an electronic marketplace for the trading of listed derivatives securities; previously the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Boston Stock Exchange; and previously the President and Chief Operating Officer of the American Stock Exchange.



Jennifer Williams Murphy

Born 1964, Trustee since 2022

Principal occupations during past

five years: Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Runa Digital Assets, LLC, an institutional investment advisory firm specializing in active management of digital assets. Until 2021, Chief Operating Officer of Western Asset Management, LLC, a global investment advisor, and Chief Executive Officer and President of Western Asset Mortgage Capital Corporation, a mortgage finance real estate investment trust.

Other directorships: Previously, a Director of Western Asset Capital Corporation.



Marie Pillai

Born 1954, Trustee since 2022

Principal occupations during past

five years: Senior Advisor, Hunter Street Partners, LP, an asset-oriented private investment firm; Specialty Leader and Member of the Curriculum Committee of the Center for Board Certified Fiduciaries, a public benefit corporation providing coursework for developing fiduciaries. Until 2019, Vice President, Chief Investment Officer, and Treasurer of General Mills, Inc., a global food company.

Other directorships: Member of the Investment Committee of the Bush Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting community problem-solving in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; Member of the Finance Council and Corporate Board of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis; previously a Board Member of Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Director of the Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota; and Investment Advisory Board Member of the University of Minnesota.

**George Putnam III***Born 1951, Trustee since 1984***Principal occupations during past****five years:** Chair of New Generation

Research, Inc., a publisher of financial advisory and other research services, and President of New Generation Advisors, LLC, a registered investment advisor to private funds.

Other directorships: Director of The Boston Family Office, LLC, a registered investment advisor; a Director of the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute; a Trustee of the Lowell Observatory Foundation; and previously a Trustee of the Marine Biological Laboratory.

**Manoj P. Singh***Born 1952, Trustee since 2017***Principal occupations during past****five years:** Until 2015, Chief Operating

Officer and Global Managing Director at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Ltd., a global professional services organization, serving on the Deloitte U.S. Board of Directors and the boards of Deloitte member firms in China, Mexico, and Southeast Asia.

Other directorships: Director of ReNew Energy Global plc, a publicly traded renewable energy company; Director of Abt Associates, a global research firm working in the fields of health, social and environmental policy, and international development; Trustee of Carnegie Mellon University; Director of Pratham USA, an organization dedicated to children's education in India; member of the advisory board of Altimetrik, a business transformation and technology solutions firm; and Director of DXC Technology, a global IT services and consulting company.

**Mona K. Sutphen***Born 1967, Trustee since 2020***Principal occupations during past five****years:** Partner, Investment Strategies, at

The Vistria Group, a private investment firm focused on middle-market companies in the health care, education, and financial services industries. From 2014 to 2018, Partner at Macro Advisory Partners, a global consulting firm.

Other directorships: Director of Spotify Technology S.A., a publicly traded audio content streaming service; Director of Unitek Learning, a private nursing and medical services education provider in the United States; Board Member, International Rescue Committee; Co-Chair of the Board of Human Rights First; Trustee of Mount Holyoke College; member of the Advisory Board for the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs; previously Director of Pattern Energy and Pioneer Natural Resources, publicly traded energy companies; and previously Managing Director of UBS AG.

INTERESTED TRUSTEE**Robert L. Reynolds****Born 1952, Trustee since 2008, President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments since 2008***Principal occupations during past five**

years: President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments; member of Putnam Investments' Board of Directors; and Chair of Great-West Lifeco U.S. LLC. Prior to 2019, also President and Chief Executive Officer of Great-West Financial, a financial services company that provides retirement savings plans, life insurance, and annuity and executive benefits products, and of Great-West Lifeco U.S. LLC, a holding company that owns Putnam Investments and Great-West Financial, and a member of Great-West Financial's Board of Directors.

Other directorships: Director of the Concord Museum; Director of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; Director of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Foundation; Chair of the Boston Advisory Board of the American Ireland Fund; Council Co-Chair of the American Enterprise Institute; Member of U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness; Chair of Massachusetts High Technology Council; Member of the Chief Executives Club of Boston; Member of the Massachusetts General Hospital President's Council; Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ron Burton Training Village; Director and former Chair of the Massachusetts Competitive Partnership; former Chair of the West Virginia University Foundation; and former Executive Committee Member of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

* Mr. Reynolds is an "interested person" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940) of the fund and Putnam Investments. He is President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments, as well as the President of your fund and each of the other Putnam funds.

The address of each Trustee is 100 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110.

As of August 31, 2023, there were 89 mutual funds, 4 closed-end funds, and 12 exchange-traded funds in the Putnam funds complex. Each Trustee serves as Trustee of all funds in the Putnam funds complex.

Each Trustee serves for an indefinite term, until his or her resignation, retirement at age 75, removal, or death.

Officers

In addition to Robert L. Reynolds, the other officers of the fund are shown below:

James F. Clark *(Born 1974)*

Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer

Since 2016

Chief Compliance Officer and Chief Risk Officer, Putnam Investments, and Chief Compliance Officer, Putnam Management

Michael J. Higgins *(Born 1976)*

Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk

Since 2010

Jonathan S. Horwitz *(Born 1955)*

Executive Vice President, Principal Executive Officer, and Compliance Liaison

Since 2004

Richard T. Kircher *(Born 1962)*

Vice President and BSA Compliance Officer

Since 2019

Assistant Director, Operational Compliance, Putnam Investments and Putnam Retail Management

Martin Lemaire *(Born 1984)*

Vice President and Derivatives Risk Manager

Since 2022

Risk Manager and Risk Analyst, Putnam Investments

Susan G. Malloy *(Born 1957)*

Vice President and Assistant Treasurer

Since 2007

Head of Accounting and Middle Office Services, Putnam Investments and Putnam Management

Alan G. McCormack *(Born 1964)*

Vice President and Derivatives Risk Manager

Since 2022

Head of Quantitative Equities and Risk, Putnam Investments

Denere P. Poulack *(Born 1968)*

Assistant Vice President, Assistant Clerk, and Assistant Treasurer

Since 2004

Janet C. Smith *(Born 1965)*

Vice President, Principal Financial Officer, Principal Accounting Officer, and Assistant Treasurer

Since 2007

Head of Fund Administration Services, Putnam Investments and Putnam Management

Stephen J. Tate *(Born 1974)*

Vice President and Chief Legal Officer

Since 2021

General Counsel, Putnam Investments, Putnam Management, and Putnam Retail Management

Mark C. Trenchard *(Born 1962)*

Vice President

Since 2002

Director of Operational Compliance, Putnam Investments and Putnam Retail Management

The principal occupations of the officers for the past five years have been with the employers as shown above, although in some cases they have held different positions with such employers. The address of each officer is 100 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110.

Fund information

Founded over 85 years ago, Putnam Investments was built around the concept that a balance between risk and reward is the hallmark of a well-rounded financial program. We manage funds across income, value, blend, growth, sustainable, and asset allocation categories.

Investment Manager

Putnam Investment Management, LLC
100 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110

Investment Sub-Advisors

Putnam Investments Limited
16 St James's Street
London, England SW1A 1ER

The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC
100 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110

Marketing Services

Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership
100 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110

Custodian

State Street Bank and Trust Company

Legal Counsel

Ropes & Gray LLP

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Trustees

Kenneth R. Leibler, *Chair*
Barbara M. Baumann, *Vice Chair*
Liaquat Ahamed
Katinka Domotorffy
Catharine Bond Hill
Jennifer Williams Murphy
Marie Pillai
George Putnam III
Robert L. Reynolds
Manoj P. Singh
Mona K. Sutphen

Officers

Robert L. Reynolds
President

James F. Clark
Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer

Michael J. Higgins
Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk

Jonathan S. Horwitz
Executive Vice President, Principal Executive Officer, and Compliance Liaison

Richard T. Kircher
Vice President and BSA Compliance Officer

Martin Lemaire
Vice President and Derivatives Risk Manager

Susan G. Malloy
Vice President and Assistant Treasurer

Alan G. McCormack
Vice President and Derivatives Risk Manager

Denere P. Poulack
Assistant Vice President, Assistant Clerk, and Assistant Treasurer

Janet C. Smith
Vice President, Principal Financial Officer, Principal Accounting Officer, and Assistant Treasurer

Stephen J. Tate
Vice President and Chief Legal Officer

Mark C. Trenchard
Vice President

This report is for the information of shareholders of Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund. It may also be used as sales literature when preceded or accompanied by the current prospectus, the most recent copy of Putnam's Quarterly Performance Summary, and Putnam's Quarterly Ranking Summary. For more recent performance, please visit putnam.com. Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund, which are described in its prospectus. For this and other information or to request a prospectus or summary prospectus, call 1-800-225-1581 toll free. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. The fund's Statement of Additional Information contains additional information about the fund's Trustees and is available without charge upon request by calling 1-800-225-1581.

