

A world of investing.®



Putnam Global Telecommunications Fund

Annual report

8 | 31 | 18



This **global sector fund** invests in stocks of telecommunications companies worldwide.

FUND SYMBOL
CLASS A
PGBZX

Putnam Global Telecommunications Fund

Annual report

8 | 31 | 18

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Consider these risks before investing: International investing involves currency, economic, and political risks. Emerging-market securities carry illiquidity and volatility risks. Investments in small and/or midsize companies increase the risk of greater price fluctuations. The telecommunications industry may be affected by government regulation, intense competition, equipment incompatibility, changing consumer preferences, technological obsolescence, and large capital expenditures and debt burdens. The fund concentrates on a limited group of industries and is non-diversified. Because the fund may invest in fewer issuers than a diversified fund, it is vulnerable to common economic forces and may result in greater losses and volatility. Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and value stocks may fail to rebound. The use of short selling may result in losses if the securities appreciate in value. Risks associated with derivatives include increased investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) and, in the case of over-the-counter instruments, the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions and the potential failure of the other party to the instrument to meet its obligations. Stock prices may fall or fail to rise over time for several reasons, including general financial market conditions, changing market perceptions, changes in government intervention in the financial markets, and factors related to a specific issuer or industry. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund's portfolio holdings. You can lose money by investing in the fund.

Message from the Trustees

October 9, 2018

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

During 2018, we have seen conditions for global financial markets begin to move in different directions. The S&P 500 Index rose to a record high during the summer after a choppy start in January and February. International stocks have lagged behind, however, due in part to uncertainty surrounding U.S. trade policy and interest rates. In addition, fixed-income markets have faced new headwinds as the Federal Reserve has continued its path of normalizing policy. Fortunately, navigating a change in market trends is nothing new to Putnam's experienced investment professionals, who continue to monitor risks and seek opportunities.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Jameson A. Baxter, who retired from her position as Chair of your Board of Trustees on June 30, 2018. It is hard to express in a few words the extent of Jamie's commitment to protecting the interests of Putnam shareholders like you. In addition to her professional and directorship experience, Jamie brought intelligence, insight, and compassion to a board she served for decades. Jamie began as a Trustee in 1994, served as Vice Chair for six years, and became Chair in 2011. We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Kenneth R. Leibler as your new Board of Trustees Chair. Ken became a Trustee in 2006, has served as Vice Chair since 2016, and now leads the Board in overseeing your fund and protecting your interests.

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

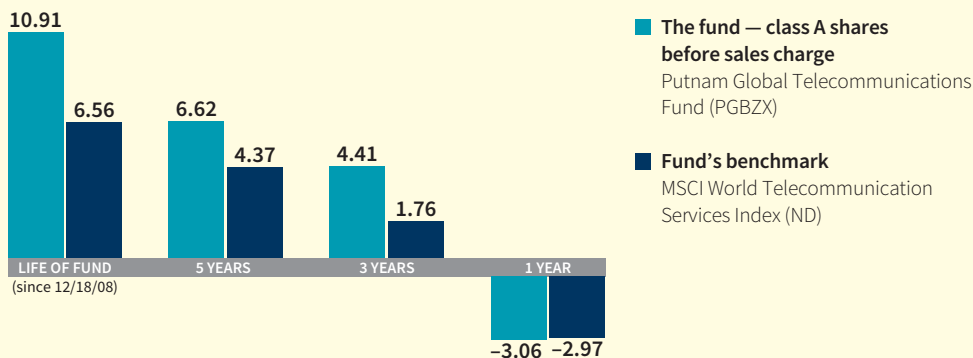


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth R. Leibler".

Kenneth R. Leibler
Chair, Board of Trustees

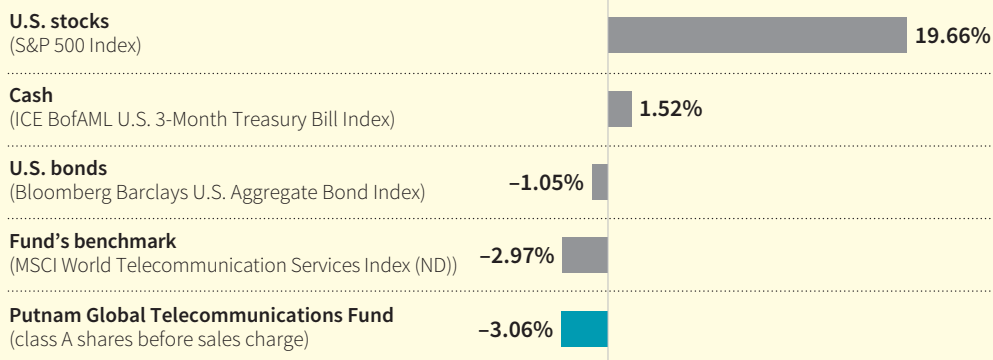
Performance history as of 8/31/18

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 8–10 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.

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 8/31/18. See above and pages 8–10 for additional fund performance information. Index descriptions can be found on page 12.

Interview with your fund's portfolio manager

Vivek Gandhi discusses the investing environment and fund performance for the 12-month period ended August 31, 2018, as well as his outlook for global telecom stocks in the months ahead.



Vivek Gandhi, CFA
Portfolio Manager

Vivek has an M.B.A. from Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur, India, and a B. Eng. from Regional Engineering College, Bhopal, India. He joined Putnam in 1999 and has been in the investment industry since 1994.

What was the investing environment like for global stocks during the reporting period?

Conditions across global stock markets were generally positive for the period. In the United States, strong wage growth, declining unemployment, and a strengthening housing market helped boost investor optimism. The U.S. economy got another lift in the final weeks of calendar 2017 when Congress passed a \$1.4 trillion tax reform bill. For calendar year 2017, all three major U.S. stock indexes — the S&P 500 Index, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and the Nasdaq Composite Index — recorded their best annual returns since 2013.

A short-lived market downturn in early February 2018 pushed stocks into correction territory. In the United States, despite solid economic performance and higher corporate earnings, volatility returned in isolated bursts during the second half of the period. European growth lagged that of the United States. Political uncertainties, including the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union and global trading tensions between the United States and China, reduced investor appetite for international stocks. In June 2018, the U.S. Federal Reserve expressed plans to continue its

Global composition

● United States	45.6%
● Japan	10.7
● China	9.9
● Netherlands	6.8
● United Kingdom	6.1
● Spain	4.8
● Finland	4.3
● Mexico	3.8
● Other countries	5.0
● Cash and net other assets	3.0



Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets as of 8/31/18. 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.

Top 10 holdings

HOLDING (PERCENTAGE OF FUND'S NET ASSETS)	COUNTRY	OVER/UNDERWEIGHT VS. BENCHMARK
Verizon Communications, Inc. (26.1%)	United States	5.1%
T-Mobile US, Inc. (9.8%)	United States	7.7%
SoftBank Corp. (7.3%)	Japan	0.2%
Vodafone Group PLC (6.1%)	United Kingdom	0.7%
Charter Communications, Inc. (4.9%)	United States	4.9%
AT&T, Inc. (4.9%)	United States	-16.8%
Cellnex Telecom (4.8%)	Spain	4.8%
DNA Oyj (4.3%)	Finland	4.3%
China Tower Corp., Ltd. (4.2%)	China	4.2%
InterXion Holding NV (4.0%)	Netherlands	4.0%

This table shows the fund's top 10 holdings by percentage of the fund's net assets as of 8/31/18. Short-term investments and derivatives, if any, are excluded. Holdings may vary over time.

tightening policy by announcing the likelihood of more interest-rate hikes each quarter into 2019. At the same time, the European Central Bank said it would keep interest rates at historic lows through at least the summer of 2019, signaling the expectation of an interest-rate hike in late 2019. The global effect of central bank tightening caused emerging-market currencies to decline by more than 10% from February 2018 to June 2018. Argentina and Turkey experienced even steeper currency declines and sharp losses in foreign investment. The U.S. dollar, however, continued to strengthen over the euro and other major currencies through period-end.

How did the global telecommunications sector and the fund perform during the period?

During the reporting period, the global telecommunications sector was faced with a number of challenges. In the United States, competition intensified among larger incumbents, including AT&T and Verizon, which struggled to reduce customer turnover, differentiate product lines, and secure new revenues in a saturated market. In Europe, the highly fragmented telecommunications sector faced limited opportunity for consolidation given a strict regulatory environment. Intense competition overseas also led to deeply discounted offerings, which helped drive down profits in the international wireless industry.

For the reporting period, the global telecommunications sector reported a loss of -2.97%, as measured by the fund's benchmark, the MSCI World Telecommunication Services Index [ND]. Putnam Global Telecommunications Fund's class A shares posted a return of -3.06%, slightly underperforming its benchmark. For the three-year annualized period ended August 31, 2018, the fund's class A shares returned 4.41%, which outperformed the benchmark's return of 1.76%.

“ Europe’s stricter regulatory environment relative to that of the United States may limit the ability of companies in the region to consolidate and grow, in our view. ”

Vivek Gandhi

What were some specific stocks that contributed to fund performance?

An underweight position in AT&T, the U.S.-based industry conglomerate, aided overall results. We held an underweight position in AT&T because of its unattractive mix of business, with more growth-oriented wireless services representing only 30% of the firm. Organic growth also had slowed since the firm's 2015 acquisition of paid-TV provider DirecTV, which lost market share, in part, to competing digital streaming content platforms. AT&T stock declined by as much as 20% over the period as investors reacted to downbeat earnings and poor growth prospects.

The portfolio's overweight position in wireless service provider T-Mobile also contributed positively to results. In April 2018, the firm announced a planned merger with mobile communications firm Sprint, which helped move T-Mobile's stock price higher. Another top contributor was our out-of-benchmark position in Com Hem Holding AB, a seller of residential broadband services in Sweden. During the period, Com Hem impressed investors with its ability to boost its average revenue per unit, while reducing overall customer churn. By period-end, a larger firm acquired Com Hem and we sold our position.

What were some specific stocks that detracted from fund performance?

The largest detractor from fund performance was Altice Europe NV, a Netherlands-based telecommunications company. The stock declined as the company's subsidiary, SFR Group, a French telecom operator, underperformed.

Investors also became increasingly concerned about SFR Group's debt levels and plans for additional acquisitions. We sold our position in Altice during the period. Performance was also dampened by our decision to hold an underweight position in the first half of the period in Verizon. Verizon performed well over the period as investors anticipated potential benefits from U.S. tax cuts and improved customer retention. In the second half of the period, we built an overweight position in Verizon.

Also detracting from results was our out-of-benchmark position in U.S. cable operator Comcast. Comcast reported higher video subscriber losses in late [calendar] 2017 as consumers continued to flock to more robust, lower-cost digital content providers like Netflix and Hulu. Investors were further cautioned by Comcast's inability to secure a significant merger-and-acquisition deal, which it lost to a competing firm. We sold our position in Comcast by period-end.

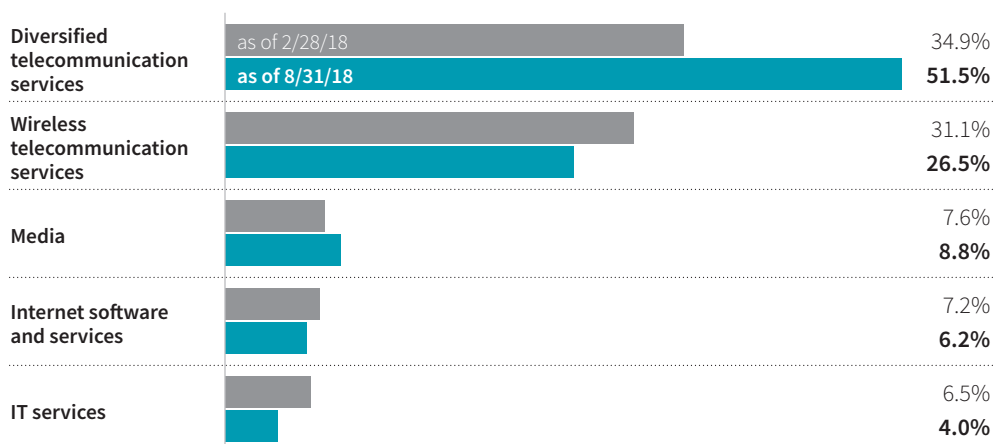
How did the fund use derivatives during the period?

We used currency forward contracts to hedge portions of our foreign currency exposures. Currency forwards allow us to pursue strategies that can help protect the fund from adverse movements in exchange rates. The use of these derivatives had a negative impact on overall fund performance.

As the fund enters a new fiscal year, what is your outlook?

In the United States, we believe the telecommunications industry will continue to perform better in calendar 2018 compared with calendar 2017. We see strong potential for consolidation among smaller operators, like Sprint and T-Mobile. Mergers can help generate higher profit margins and increase shareholder value for the combined entity, in our view. We are also monitoring the impact of next-generation [5G] mobile network developments in the United States and international markets, including China and Europe. Increased network speed is not the only benefit of 5G. It also offers low latency, higher device density,

Comparison of top industry weightings



This chart shows how the fund's top weightings have changed over the past six months. Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets. Current period summary information may differ from the portfolio schedule included in the financial statements due to the inclusion of derivative securities, any interest accruals, the exclusion of as-of trades, if any, the use of different classifications of securities for presentation purposes, and rounding. Holdings and allocations may vary over time.

improved spectrum [radio-waves used for communication], and power efficiency. Its development will enable autonomous vehicles, Internet of Things [interconnection of everyday objects], and augmented reality, and may lead to many more innovations, in our view.

As far as new opportunities, we will continue to evaluate telecom companies on a country-by-country basis in the context of government regulations, competition, company fundamentals, and local business climate. Additionally, we plan to invest in infrastructure providers and service firms to global telecom companies. Within the eurozone, we do not believe regulatory pressures are likely to ease up, at least in the near term. Europe's stricter regulatory environment relative to that of the United States may limit the ability of companies in the region to consolidate and grow, in our view. As such, our outlook for the United States remains slightly more positive than for Europe. We believe the recent corporate tax cut is likely to provide a tailwind for the U.S. telecom sector, including increased corporate spending and a boost in 5G infrastructure investing.

Thank you, Vivek, for your time and insights today.

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.

Shareholders were informed through a supplement to the fund's prospectus that Putnam Management has recommended, and the fund's Board of Trustees has approved, changes to the fund's investment strategy and fundamental investment restriction on industry concentration. (The changes to the fundamental investment restriction on industry concentration are subject to approval by shareholders of the fund.) In connection with these changes, the fund's name will change to Putnam Global Communications Fund. Putnam Management anticipates that the changes will be effective on or about November 30, 2018. These changes to the fund relate to changes to the composition of the fund's benchmark effective November 30, 2018. See the prospectus supplement for more information.

Your fund's performance

This section shows your fund's performance, price, and distribution information for periods ended August 31, 2018, 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 and Y shares are not available to all investors. See the Terms and definitions section in this report for definitions of the share classes offered by your fund.

Fund performance Total return for periods ended 8/31/18

	Life of fund	Annual average	5 years	Annual average	3 years	Annual average	1 year
Class A (12/18/08)							
Before sales charge	173.09%	10.91%	37.78%	6.62%	13.82%	4.41%	-3.06%
After sales charge	157.39	10.24	29.86	5.36	7.27	2.37	-8.63
Class B (12/18/08)							
Before CDSC	157.28	10.23	32.69	5.82	11.25	3.62	-3.80
After CDSC	157.28	10.23	30.86	5.53	8.25	2.68	-8.61
Class C (12/18/08)							
Before CDSC	153.95	10.08	32.66	5.81	11.19	3.60	-3.80
After CDSC	153.95	10.08	32.66	5.81	11.19	3.60	-4.77
Class M (12/18/08)							
Before sales charge	160.29	10.36	34.45	6.10	12.08	3.88	-3.58
After sales charge	151.18	9.96	29.75	5.35	8.16	2.65	-6.96
Class R (12/18/08)							
Net asset value	166.50	10.63	36.05	6.35	12.89	4.12	-3.38
Class Y (12/18/08)							
Net asset value	179.86	11.19	39.56	6.89	14.63	4.66	-2.85

Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. After-sales-charge returns for class A and M shares reflect the deduction of the maximum 5.75% and 3.50% sales charge, respectively, 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 and Y shares have no initial sales charge or CDSC.

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

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

Comparative index returns For periods ended 8/31/18

	Life of fund	Annual average	5 years	Annual average	3 years	Annual average	1 year
MSCI World Telecommunication Services Index (ND)	85.31%	6.56%	23.84%	4.37%	5.36%	1.76%	-2.97%

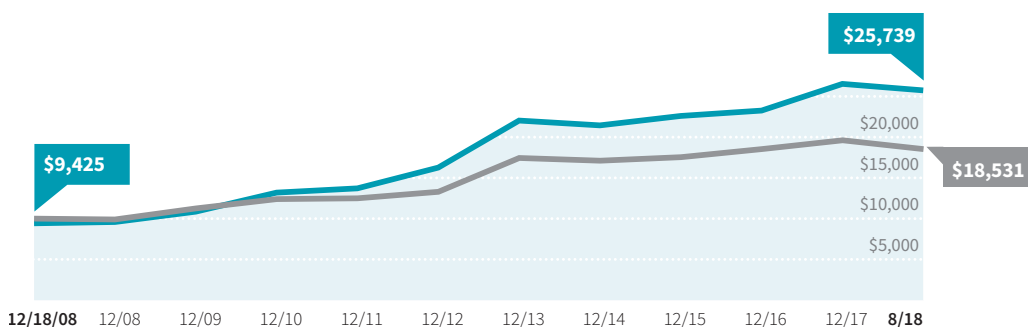
Index results should be compared with fund performance before sales charge, before CDSC, or at net asset value.

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

Cumulative total return from 12/18/08 (commencement of operations) to 8/31/18

Putnam Global Telecommunications Fund class A shares after sales charge

MSCI World Telecommunication Services 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 \$25,728 and \$25,395, respectively, and no contingent deferred sales charges would apply. A \$10,000 investment in the fund's class M shares (\$9,650 after sales charge) would have been valued at \$25,118. A \$10,000 investment in the fund's class R and Y shares would have been valued at \$26,650 and \$27,986, respectively.

Fund price and distribution information For the 12-month period ended 8/31/18

Distributions	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class M	Class R	Class Y		
Number	1	—	—	—	—	1		
Income	\$0.040	—	—	—	—	\$0.082		
Capital gains	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Total	\$0.040	—	—	—	—	\$0.082		
Share value	Before sales charge	After sales charge	Net asset value	Net asset value	Before sales charge	After sales charge	Net asset value	Net asset value
8/31/17	\$16.06	\$17.04	\$15.53	\$15.51	\$15.91	\$16.49	\$16.26	\$16.15
8/31/18	15.53	16.48	14.94	14.92	15.34	15.90	15.71	15.61

The classification of distributions, if any, is an estimate. Before-sales-charge share value and current dividend rate for class A and M 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 and 3.50% for class M shares) was levied at the time of purchase. Final distribution information will appear on your year-end tax forms.

Fund performance as of most recent calendar quarter Total return for periods ended 9/30/18

	Life of fund	Annual average	5 years	Annual average	3 years	Annual average	1 year
Class A (12/18/08)							
Before sales charge	178.37%	11.03%	32.20%	5.74%	22.34%	6.95%	0.95%
After sales charge	162.36	10.36	24.60	4.50	15.31	4.86	-4.85
Class B (12/18/08)							
Before CDSC	162.25	10.36	27.38	4.96	19.60	6.15	0.20
After CDSC	162.25	10.36	25.63	4.67	16.60	5.25	-4.80
Class C (12/18/08)							
Before CDSC	158.71	10.20	27.35	4.95	19.66	6.16	0.20
After CDSC	158.71	10.20	27.35	4.95	19.66	6.16	-0.80
Class M (12/18/08)							
Before sales charge	165.04	10.48	28.87	5.20	20.43	6.39	0.39
After sales charge	155.77	10.08	24.36	4.46	16.22	5.14	-3.13
Class R (12/18/08)							
Net asset value	171.59	10.75	30.53	5.47	21.37	6.67	0.63
Class Y (12/18/08)							
Net asset value	185.24	11.31	33.84	6.00	23.25	7.22	1.15

See the discussion following the fund performance table on page 8 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 M	Class R	Class Y
Net expenses for the fiscal year ended 8/31/17*	1.30%	2.05%	2.05%	1.80%	1.55%	1.05%
Total annual operating expenses for the fiscal year ended 8/31/17	1.74%	2.49%	2.49%	2.24%	1.99%	1.49%
Annualized expense ratio for the six-month period ended 8/31/18†	1.31%	2.06%	2.06%	1.81%	1.56%	1.06%

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.

Expenses are shown as a percentage of average net assets.

* Reflects Putnam Management's contractual obligation to limit certain fund expenses through 12/30/18.

† 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.

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 3/1/18 to 8/31/18. 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 M	Class R	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000*†	\$6.56	\$10.29	\$10.29	\$9.05	\$7.80	\$5.31
Ending value (after expenses)	\$985.40	\$981.60	\$981.60	\$983.30	\$983.70	\$986.70

* 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 8/31/18. 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; and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year.

Estimate the expenses you paid

To estimate the ongoing expenses you paid for the six months ended 8/31/18, use the following calculation method. To find the value of your investment on 3/1/18, call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581.

How to calculate the expenses you paid

Value of your investment on 3/1/18 ÷ **\$1,000** X **Expenses paid per \$1,000** = **Total expenses paid**

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

\$10,000 ÷ **\$1,000** X **\$6.56** (see preceding table) = **\$65.60**

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 M	Class R	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000*†	\$6.67	\$10.46	\$10.46	\$9.20	\$7.93	\$5.40
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,018.60	\$1,014.82	\$1,014.82	\$1,016.08	\$1,017.34	\$1,019.86

* 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 8/31/18. 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; and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year.

Terms and definitions

Important terms

Total return shows how the value of the fund's shares changed over time, assuming you held the shares through the entire period and reinvested all distributions in the fund.

Before sales charge, or net asset value, is the price, or value, of one share of a mutual fund, without a sales charge. Before-sales-charge figures fluctuate with market conditions, and are calculated by dividing the net assets of each class of shares by the number of outstanding shares in the class.

After sales charge is the price of a mutual fund share plus the maximum sales charge levied at the time of purchase. After-sales-charge performance figures shown here assume the 5.75% maximum sales charge for class A shares and 3.50% for class M shares.

Contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) is generally a charge applied at the time of the redemption of class B or C shares and assumes redemption at the end of the period. Your fund's class B CDSC declines over time from a 5% maximum during the first year to 1% during the sixth year. After the sixth year, the CDSC no longer applies. The CDSC for class C shares is 1% for one year after purchase.

Share classes

Class A shares are generally subject to an initial sales charge and no CDSC (except on certain redemptions of shares bought without an initial sales charge).

Class B shares are closed to new investments and are only available by exchange from another Putnam fund or through dividend and/or capital gains reinvestment. They are not subject to an initial sales charge and may be subject to a CDSC.

Class C shares are not subject to an initial sales charge and are subject to a CDSC only if the shares are redeemed during the first year.

Class M shares have a lower initial sales charge and a higher 12b-1 fee than class A shares and no CDSC.

Class R shares are not subject to an initial sales charge or CDSC and are only available to employer-sponsored retirement plans.

Class Y shares are not subject to an initial sales charge or CDSC and carry no 12b-1 fee. They are generally only available to corporate and institutional clients and clients in other approved programs.

Comparative indexes

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

ICE BofAML (Intercontinental Exchange Bank of America Merrill Lynch) 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 World Telecommunication Services Index (ND) is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets in the telecommunications sector. 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.

ICE Data Indices, LLC ("ICE BofAML"), used with permission. ICE BofAML permits use of the ICE BofAML indices and related data on an "as is" basis; makes no warranties regarding same; does not guarantee the suitability, quality, accuracy, timeliness, and/or completeness of the ICE BofAML indices or any data included in, related to, or derived therefrom; assumes no liability in connection with the use of the foregoing; and does not sponsor, endorse, or recommend Putnam Investments, or any of its products or services.

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.

Other information for shareholders

Proxy voting

Putnam is committed to managing our mutual 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, 2018, are available in the Individual Investors section of putnam.com and on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) 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.

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-Q. Shareholders may obtain the fund's Form N-Q on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. In addition, the fund's Form N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about the SEC's website or the operation of the Public Reference Room.

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 mutual funds. As of August 31, 2018, Putnam employees had approximately \$508,000,000 and the Trustees had approximately \$69,000,000 invested in Putnam mutual funds. These amounts include investments by the Trustees' and employees' immediate family members as well as investments through retirement and deferred compensation plans.

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 contract

General conclusions

The Board of Trustees of The Putnam Funds 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 Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management"), the sub-management contract with respect to your fund between Putnam Management and its affiliate, Putnam Investments Limited ("PIL"), and the sub-advisory contract among Putnam Management, PIL, and another affiliate, The Putnam Advisory Company ("PAC"). The Board, 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 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 Funds ("Independent Trustees").

At the outset of the review process, members of the Board's independent staff and independent legal counsel discussed with representatives of Putnam Management the annual contract review materials furnished to the Contract Committee during the course of the previous year's review, identifying possible changes in these materials that might be necessary or desirable for the coming year. 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 2018, 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's independent staff and by independent legal counsel for The Putnam Funds and the Independent Trustees.

In May 2018, the Contract Committee met in executive session to discuss and consider its recommendations with respect to the continuance of the contracts. At the Trustees'

June 2018 meeting, the Contract Committee 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 then presented its written report, which summarized the key factors that the Committee had considered and set forth its recommendations. The Contract Committee recommended, and the Independent Trustees approved, the continuance of your fund's management, sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, effective July 1, 2018. (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 have not attempted to evaluate PIL or PAC as separate entities, and all subsequent references to Putnam Management below should be deemed to include reference to PIL and PAC as necessary or appropriate in the context.)

The Independent Trustees' approval was 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 such 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 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 some minor exceptions, the funds' current fee arrangements under the 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.

Management fee schedules and total expenses

The Trustees reviewed the management fee schedules in effect for all Putnam funds, including fee levels and breakpoints. 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. (In a few instances, funds have implemented so-called "all-in" 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 mutual 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 structure for your fund would be appropriate at this time.

Under its management contract, your fund has the benefit of breakpoints in its management fee schedule that provide shareholders with economies of scale in the form of reduced fee rates as assets under management in the Putnam family of funds increase. The Trustees concluded that the fee schedule in effect for your fund represented an appropriate sharing of economies of scale between fund shareholders and Putnam Management.

As in the past, the Trustees also focused on the competitiveness of each fund's total expense ratio. In order to support the effort to have fund expenses meet competitive standards, the Trustees and Putnam Management have implemented expense limitations that were in effect during your fund's fiscal year ending in 2017. These expense

limitations were: (i) a contractual expense limitation applicable to all open-end funds of 25 basis points on investor servicing fees and expenses and (ii) a contractual expense limitation applicable to specified open-end 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 had sufficiently low expenses that these expense limitations were not operative during their fiscal years ending in 2017. However, in the case of your fund, the second of the expense limitations was operative during its fiscal year ending in 2017. Putnam Management has agreed to maintain these expense limitations until at least December 30, 2019. Putnam Management's support for these expense limitation arrangements was an important factor in the Trustees' decision to approve the continuance of your fund's management, sub-management and sub-advisory 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 fee), which provides a general indication of your fund's relative standing. In the custom peer group, your fund ranked in the first 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, 2017. 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, 2017 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. In this regard, the Trustees also reviewed an analysis of Putnam Management's revenues, expenses and profitability, allocated on a fund-by-fund basis, with respect to the funds' management, distribution, and investor servicing contracts. For each fund, the analysis presented information about revenues, expenses and profitability for each of the 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 represented reasonable compensation for the services being provided and represented an appropriate sharing between fund shareholders and Putnam Management of such economies of scale as may exist in the management of the Putnam funds at that time.

The information examined by the Trustees in connection with their annual contract review for the Putnam funds included information regarding fees charged by Putnam Management and its affiliates to institutional clients, including defined benefit pension and profit-sharing plans and sub-advised mutual funds. This information included, in cases where an institutional product's investment strategy corresponds with a fund's strategy, comparisons of those fees with fees charged to the Putnam funds, as well as an assessment of the differences in the services provided to these different types of clients as compared to the services provided to the Putnam funds. The Trustees observed that the differences in fee rates between these clients and the Putnam 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 markets. The Trustees considered the fact that in many cases fee rates across different asset classes are higher on average for mutual funds than for institutional clients, as well as the differences between the services that Putnam Management provides to the Putnam 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 the Putnam funds' 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 the funds' portfolio teams and with the Chief Investment Officers and other senior members 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 2017 was a strong year for the performance of the Putnam funds, with generally favorable results for most asset classes, including U.S. equity, international and global equity, taxable and tax exempt fixed income, and global asset allocation Funds. In this regard, the Trustees considered that, for the one-year period ended December 31, 2017, the Putnam open-end Funds' performance, on an asset-weighted basis, ranked in the 32nd percentile of their Lipper peers (excluding those Putnam funds that are evaluated based on their total returns and/or comparisons of those returns versus selected investment benchmarks or targeted annual returns). The Trustees observed that this strong performance has continued a positive trend that began in mid-year 2016 across most Putnam funds. They noted that the longer-term performance of the Putnam funds continued to be strong, exemplified by the fact that the Putnam funds were ranked by the Barron's/Lipper Fund Families survey as the 7th-best performing mutual fund complex out of 55 complexes for the five-year period ended December 31, 2017 and the 9th-best performing mutual fund complex out of 50 complexes for the ten-year period ended 2017. In addition, the survey ranked the Putnam funds 7th out of 59 mutual fund complexes for the one-year period ended 2017; the Putnam funds have ranked 1st

or 2nd in the survey for the one-year period three times since 2009 (most recently in 2013). They also noted, however, the disappointing investment performance of some funds for periods ended December 31, 2017 and considered information provided by Putnam Management regarding the factors contributing to the underperformance and actions being taken to improve the performance of these particular funds. The Trustees indicated their intention to continue to monitor closely the performance of those funds, including the effectiveness of any efforts Putnam Management has undertaken to address underperformance and whether additional actions to address areas of underperformance are warranted.

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, in most cases, comparisons of those returns with 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, 2017. Your fund's class A shares' return net of fees and expenses was positive and exceeded the return of its benchmark over the one-year, three-year and five-year periods. (When considering performance information, shareholders should be mindful that past performance is not a guarantee of future results.)

The Trustees considered Putnam Management's continued efforts to support fund performance through initiatives including structuring compensation for portfolio managers and research analysts to enhance accountability for fund performance, emphasizing accountability in the portfolio management process, and affirming its commitment to a fundamental-driven approach to investing. The Trustees noted further that Putnam Management continued to strengthen its fundamental research capabilities by adding new investment personnel.

Brokerage and soft-dollar allocations; 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. However, the Trustees noted that a portion of available soft dollars continues to be used to pay fund expenses. The Trustees indicated their continued intent to monitor regulatory and industry developments in this area with the assistance of their Brokerage Committee. The Trustees also indicated their continued intent to monitor the allocation of the Putnam 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 that the funds make to Putnam Management's affiliates for investor or distribution services. In conjunction with the annual review of your fund's management, sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, the Trustees reviewed your fund's investor servicing agreement with Putnam Investor Services, Inc. ("PSERV") and its distributor's contracts 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 funds to PSERV and PRM, as applicable, for such services are 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, as applicable, in providing such services. Furthermore, the Trustees were of the view that the services provided were required for the operation of the funds, and that they were of a quality at least equal to those provided by other providers.

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 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 year.

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 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

The Board of Trustees and Shareholders
Putnam Funds Trust:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Putnam Global Telecommunications Fund (the “fund”), a series of the Putnam Funds Trust, including the fund’s portfolio, as of August 31, 2018, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the related notes (collectively, the “financial statements”) and the financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended. In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the fund as of August 31, 2018, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the fund’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights 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 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 and financial highlights 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 and financial highlights, 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 and financial highlights. Such procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of August 31, 2018, by correspondence with the custodians and brokers or by other appropriate auditing procedures. 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 and financial highlights. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The logo for KPMG LLP, featuring the letters 'KPMG' in a large, bold, black, handwritten-style font, followed by 'LLP' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

We have served as the auditor of one or more Putnam investment companies since 1999.

Boston, Massachusetts
October 9, 2018

The fund's portfolio 8/31/18

COMMON STOCKS (97.2%)*	Shares	Value
Diversified telecommunication services (51.6%)		
AT&T, Inc.	34,316	\$1,096,053
Cellnex Telecom, SA 144A (Spain)	41,423	1,063,568
China Tower Corp., Ltd. (China) †	6,184,000	945,475
China Unicom Hong Kong, Ltd. (China)	500,000	581,621
DNA Oyj (Finland)	45,382	965,572
Koninklijke KPN NV (Netherlands)	244,974	625,862
Orange SA (France)	25,996	420,939
Verizon Communications, Inc.	106,800	5,806,716
		11,505,806
Internet software and services (6.2%)		
Tencent Holdings, Ltd. ADR (China)	16,100	694,554
Yandex NV Class A (Russia) †	21,400	687,582
		1,382,136
IT Services (4.0%)		
InterXion Holding NV (Netherlands) †	13,500	890,055
		890,055
Media (8.8%)		
Charter Communications, Inc. Class A †	3,542	1,099,437
Megacable Holdings SAB de CV (Units) (Mexico)	182,400	859,718
		1,959,155
Wireless telecommunication services (26.6%)		
KDDI Corp. (Japan)	29,100	770,256
SoftBank Corp. (Japan)	17,500	1,622,266
T-Mobile US, Inc. †	33,000	2,179,320
Vodafone Group PLC (United Kingdom)	637,944	1,360,519
		5,932,361
Total common stocks (cost \$18,974,721)		\$21,669,513
SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS (3.2%)*		
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund 2.16% ^L	703,119	\$703,119
Total short-term investments (cost \$703,119)		\$703,119
TOTAL INVESTMENTS		
Total investments (cost \$19,677,840)		\$22,372,632

Key to holding's abbreviations

ADR American Depository Receipts: represents ownership of foreign securities on deposit with a custodian bank.

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, 2017 through August 31, 2018 (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 \$22,285,182.

† This security is non-income-producing.

^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.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund maintained liquid assets totaling \$33,651 to cover certain derivative contracts.

144A after the name of an issuer represents securities exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

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):

United States	48.6%	Finland	4.3%
Japan	10.7	Mexico	3.8
China	9.9	Russia	3.1
Netherlands	6.8	France	1.9
United Kingdom	6.1	Total	100.0%
Spain	4.8		

△ Methodology differs from that used for purposes of complying with the fund's policy regarding investments in securities of foreign issuers, as discussed further in the fund's prospectus.

FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 8/31/18 (aggregate face value \$10,284,850)

Counterparty	Currency	Contract type*	Delivery date	Value	Aggregate face value	Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation)
Bank of America N.A.						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	\$124,588	\$126,824	\$(2,236)
	British Pound	Sell	9/19/18	206,378	211,947	5,569
	Euro	Sell	9/19/18	57,865	61,315	3,450
	Japanese Yen	Buy	11/19/18	458,319	456,756	1,563
	Norwegian Krone	Buy	9/19/18	49,121	50,593	(1,472)
Barclays Bank PLC						
	Euro	Sell	9/19/18	171,966	171,442	(524)
	Hong Kong Dollar	Buy	11/19/18	145,108	145,231	(123)
	Swiss Franc	Buy	9/19/18	289,947	286,815	3,132
Citibank, N.A.						
	British Pound	Sell	9/19/18	80,554	83,183	2,629
	Euro	Buy	9/19/18	714,706	724,174	(9,468)
	Japanese Yen	Buy	11/19/18	323,670	324,502	(832)
Credit Suisse International						
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	91,263	90,235	1,028
	Norwegian Krone	Buy	9/19/18	134,596	138,638	(4,042)
Goldman Sachs International						
	Australian Dollar	Sell	10/17/18	40,475	41,212	737
	British Pound	Sell	9/19/18	234,915	256,704	21,789
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	22,624	22,368	256
	Euro	Sell	9/19/18	556,334	563,713	7,379
	Japanese Yen	Buy	11/19/18	384,308	383,005	1,303
	New Zealand Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	21,304	21,713	(409)
JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	23,940	24,379	(439)
	British Pound	Sell	9/19/18	275,906	284,926	9,020
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	176,315	174,311	2,004

FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 8/31/18 (aggregate face value \$10,284,850) cont.

Counterparty	Currency	Contract type*	Delivery date	Value	Aggregate face value	Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation)
JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. cont.						
	Euro	Buy	9/19/18	\$599,907	\$607,625	\$(7,718)
	Japanese Yen	Buy	11/19/18	582,640	579,559	3,081
	New Zealand Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	77,078	78,559	(1,481)
	Norwegian Krone	Buy	9/19/18	117,271	120,782	(3,511)
	Singapore Dollar	Buy	11/19/18	447,930	451,819	(3,889)
	Swedish Krona	Buy	9/19/18	620,136	637,629	(17,493)
	Swiss Franc	Sell	9/19/18	31,608	31,346	(262)
NatWest Markets PLC						
	Euro	Sell	9/19/18	167,899	168,788	889
State Street Bank and Trust Co.						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	94,178	95,898	(1,720)
	British Pound	Buy	9/19/18	1,120,747	1,157,581	(36,834)
	Euro	Sell	9/19/18	669,390	683,192	13,802
	Israeli Shekel	Buy	10/17/18	63,987	63,512	475
	Japanese Yen	Sell	11/19/18	113,208	120,322	7,114
	Norwegian Krone	Buy	9/19/18	40,864	42,081	(1,217)
	Singapore Dollar	Sell	11/19/18	49,535	49,953	418
	Swedish Krona	Sell	9/19/18	168,826	176,278	7,452
UBSAG						
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	206,225	203,863	2,362
WestPac Banking Corp.						
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	10/17/18	164,658	162,787	1,871
	Euro	Sell	9/19/18	206,592	209,290	2,698
Unrealized appreciation						100,021
Unrealized (depreciation)						(93,670)
Total						\$6,351

* The exchange currency for all contracts listed is the United States Dollar.

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:

	Valuation inputs		
Investments in securities:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stocks*:			
Consumer discretionary	\$1,959,155	\$—	\$—
Information technology	2,272,191	—	—
Telecommunication services	17,438,167	—	—
Total common stocks	21,669,513	—	—
Short-term investments	703,119	—	—
Totals by level	\$22,372,632	\$—	\$—

	Valuation inputs		
Other financial instruments:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Forward currency contracts	\$—	\$6,351	\$—
Totals by level	\$—	\$6,351	\$—

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

During the reporting period, transfers within the fair value hierarchy, if any (other than certain transfers involving non-U.S. equity securities as described in Note 1), did not represent, in the aggregate, more than 1% of the fund's net assets measured as of the end of the period. Transfers are accounted for using the end of period pricing valuation method.

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

Statement of assets and liabilities 8/31/18

ASSETS

Investment in securities, at value (Notes 1 and 8):	
Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$18,974,721)	\$21,669,513
Affiliated issuers (identified cost \$703,119) (Notes 1 and 5)	703,119
Dividends, interest and other receivables	4,752
Receivable for shares of the fund sold	29,197
Receivable from Manager (Note 2)	8,429
Unrealized appreciation on forward currency contracts (Note 1)	100,021
Prepaid assets	24,627
Total assets	22,539,658

LIABILITIES

Payable for shares of the fund repurchased	70,147
Payable for custodian fees (Note 2)	5,923
Payable for investor servicing fees (Note 2)	8,566
Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	3,903
Payable for administrative services (Note 2)	89
Payable for distribution fees (Note 2)	8,976
Payable for auditing and tax fees	51,696
Unrealized depreciation on forward currency contracts (Note 1)	93,670
Other accrued expenses	11,506
Total liabilities	254,476
Net assets	\$22,285,182

REPRESENTED BY

Paid-in capital (Unlimited shares authorized) (Notes 1 and 4)	\$19,098,983
Undistributed net investment income (Note 1)	130,377
Accumulated net realized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	354,681
Net unrealized appreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	2,701,141
Total — Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding	\$22,285,182

COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE AND OFFERING PRICE

Net asset value and redemption price per class A share (\$10,572,331 divided by 680,925 shares)	\$15.53
Offering price per class A share (100/94.25 of \$15.53)*	\$16.48
Net asset value and offering price per class B share (\$2,148,024 divided by 143,803 shares)**	\$14.94
Net asset value and offering price per class C share (\$2,423,714 divided by 162,444 shares)**	\$14.92
Net asset value and redemption price per class M share (\$54,729 divided by 3,569 shares)†	\$15.34
Offering price per class M share (100/96.50 of \$15.34)*	\$15.90
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R share (\$309,646 divided by 19,705 shares)	\$15.71
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class Y share (\$6,776,738 divided by 434,172 shares)	\$15.61

*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.

†Net asset value may not recalculate due to rounding of fractional shares.

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

Statement of operations Year ended 8/31/18

INVESTMENT INCOME	
Dividends (net of foreign tax of \$38,272)	\$670,359
Interest (including interest income of \$14,094 from investments in affiliated issuers) (Note 5)	14,094
Securities lending (net of expenses) (Notes 1 and 5)	7,145
Total investment income	691,598
EXPENSES	
Compensation of Manager (Note 2)	152,043
Investor servicing fees (Note 2)	55,167
Custodian fees (Note 2)	12,590
Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	1,172
Distribution fees (Note 2)	86,409
Administrative services (Note 2)	719
Auditing and tax fees	54,408
Blue sky expense	82,641
Other	20,961
Fees waived and reimbursed by Manager (Note 2)	(123,396)
Total expenses	342,714
Expense reduction (Note 2)	(81)
Net expenses	342,633
Net investment income	348,965
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)	
Net realized gain (loss) on:	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers (Notes 1 and 3)	2,000,953
Foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(6,974)
Forward currency contracts (Note 1)	(159,093)
Total net realized gain	1,834,886
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers	(3,063,482)
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	(40)
Forward currency contracts	55,346
Total change in net unrealized depreciation	(3,008,176)
Net loss on investments	(1,173,290)
Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations	\$(824,325)

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

Statement of changes in net assets

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	Year ended 8/31/18	Year ended 8/31/17
Operations		
Net investment income	\$348,965	\$113,990
Net realized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions	1,834,886	110,871
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	(3,008,176)	3,127,672
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	(824,325)	3,352,533
Distributions to shareholders (Note 1):		
From ordinary income		
Net investment income		
Class A	(35,115)	(577,661)
Class B	—	(84,646)
Class C	—	(107,113)
Class M	—	(1,205)
Class R	—	(6,035)
Class Y	(29,617)	(160,897)
From return of capital		
Class A	—	(35,110)
Class B	—	(5,145)
Class C	—	(6,511)
Class M	—	(73)
Class R	—	(367)
Class Y	—	(9,780)
Decrease from capital share transactions (Note 4)	(4,456,870)	(7,743,852)
Total decrease in net assets	(5,345,927)	(5,385,862)
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of year	27,631,109	33,016,971
End of year (including undistributed net investment income of \$130,377 and \$12,179, respectively)	\$22,285,182	\$27,631,109

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						RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA			
	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	From net realized gain on investments	From return of capital	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 (%)
Class A														
August 31, 2018	\$16.06	.24	(.73)	(.49)	(.04)	—	—	(.04)	\$15.53	(3.06)	\$10,572	1.30	1.55	74
August 31, 2017	14.64	.08	1.90	1.98	(.53)	—	(.03)	(.56)	16.06	14.11	14,617	1.30	.54	55
August 31, 2016	14.89	.44 ^h	(.03)	.41	(.19)	(.47)	—	(.66)	14.64	2.89	17,135	1.28 ^g	3.05 ^{g,h}	49
August 31, 2015	17.87	.15	.74	.89	(2.05)	(1.82)	—	(3.87)	14.89	5.79	16,941	1.26	.93	64
August 31, 2014	16.68	1.90 ⁱ	.52	2.42	(.11)	(1.12)	—	(1.23)	17.87	14.43	15,365	1.29	10.46 ⁱ	75
Class B														
August 31, 2018	\$15.53	.12	(.71)	(.59)	—	—	—	—	\$14.94	(3.80)	\$2,148	2.05	.80	74
August 31, 2017	14.19	(.03)	1.85	1.82	(.45)	—	(.03)	(.48)	15.53	13.25	2,700	2.05	(.21)	55
August 31, 2016	14.49	.40 ^h	(.11)	.29	(.12)	(.47)	—	(.59)	14.19	2.11	2,841	2.03 ^g	2.84 ^{g,h}	49
August 31, 2015	17.44	.04	.71	.75	(1.88)	(1.82)	—	(3.70)	14.49	5.03	1,017	2.01	.29	64
August 31, 2014	16.34	1.58 ⁱ	.65	2.23	(.01)	(1.12)	—	(1.13)	17.44	13.56	796	2.04	8.84 ⁱ	75
Class C														
August 31, 2018	\$15.51	.12	(.71)	(.59)	—	—	—	—	\$14.92	(3.80)	\$2,424	2.05	.80	74
August 31, 2017	14.13	(.03)	1.84	1.81	(.41)	—	(.02)	(.43)	15.51	13.25	2,990	2.05	(.18)	55
August 31, 2016	14.44	.32 ^h	(.04)	.28	(.12)	(.47)	—	(.59)	14.13	2.06	4,481	2.03 ^g	2.28 ^{g,h}	49
August 31, 2015	17.46	.04	.71	.75	(1.95)	(1.82)	—	(3.77)	14.44	5.01	4,338	2.01	.23	64
August 31, 2014	16.34	1.47 ⁱ	.77	2.24	—	(1.12)	—	(1.12)	17.46	13.61	1,754	2.04	8.24 ⁱ	75
Class M														
August 31, 2018	\$15.91	.15	(.72)	(.57)	—	—	—	—	\$15.34	(3.58)	\$55	1.80	.97	74
August 31, 2017	14.44	— ^e	1.91	1.91	(.41)	—	(.03)	(.44)	15.91	13.63	74	1.80	(.03)	55
August 31, 2016	14.72	.33 ^h	(.01)	.32	(.13)	(.47)	—	(.60)	14.44	2.30	56	1.78 ^g	2.34 ^{g,h}	49
August 31, 2015	17.69	.10	.71	.81	(1.96)	(1.82)	—	(3.78)	14.72	5.30	143	1.76	.61	64
August 31, 2014	16.53	1.73 ⁱ	.58	2.31	(.03)	(1.12)	—	(1.15)	17.69	13.91	65	1.79	9.56 ⁱ	75
Class R														
August 31, 2018	\$16.26	.21	(.76)	(.55)	—	—	—	—	\$15.71	(3.38)	\$310	1.55	1.31	74
August 31, 2017	14.47	.09 ^f	1.89	1.98	(.18)	—	(.01)	(.19)	16.26	13.88	402	1.55	.58 ^f	55
August 31, 2016	14.77	.42 ^h	(.06)	.36	(.19)	(.47)	—	(.66)	14.47	2.60	3,205	1.53 ^g	2.97 ^{g,h}	49
August 31, 2015	17.73	.12	.72	.84	(1.98)	(1.82)	—	(3.80)	14.77	5.52	584	1.51	.74	64
August 31, 2014	16.57	1.76 ⁱ	.61	2.37	(.09)	(1.12)	—	(1.21)	17.73	14.21	536	1.54	9.75 ⁱ	75
Class Y														
August 31, 2018	\$16.15	.27	(.73)	(.46)	(.08)	—	—	(.08)	\$15.61	(2.85)	\$6,777	1.05	1.73	74
August 31, 2017	14.72	.12	1.91	2.03	(.57)	—	(.03)	(.60)	16.15	14.42	6,849	1.05	.76	55
August 31, 2016	14.97	.46 ^h	(.02)	.44	(.22)	(.47)	—	(.69)	14.72	3.12	5,299	1.03 ^g	3.17 ^{g,h}	49
August 31, 2015	17.96	.19	.74	.93	(2.10)	(1.82)	—	(3.92)	14.97	6.07	5,338	1.01	1.23	64
August 31, 2014	16.74	1.94 ⁱ	.54	2.48	(.14)	(1.12)	—	(1.26)	17.96	14.78	3,983	1.04	10.58 ⁱ	75

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

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

Financial highlights *cont.*

^a Per share net investment income 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, 2018	0.51%
August 31, 2017	0.44
August 31, 2016	0.29
August 31, 2015	0.53
August 31, 2014	0.39

^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 Amount represents less than \$0.01 per share.

^f The net investment income and per share amount shown for the period ending August 31, 2017, may not correspond with the expected class specific differences for the period due to the timing of redemptions out of the class.

^g Reflects a voluntary waiver of certain fund expenses in effect during the period. As a result of such waivers, the expenses of each class reflect a reduction of less than 0.01% as a percentage of average net assets.

^h Reflects a dividend received by the fund from a single issuer which amounted to the following amounts:

	Per share	Percentage of average net assets
Class A	\$0.17	1.20%
Class B	0.25	1.79
Class C	0.16	1.17
Class M	0.11	0.74
Class R	0.19	1.31
Class Y	0.14	0.94

ⁱ Reflects a dividend received by the fund from a single issuer which amounted to the following amounts:

	Per share	Percentage of average net assets
Class A	\$1.77	9.73%
Class B	1.56	8.74
Class C	1.45	8.12
Class M	1.67	9.23
Class R	1.66	9.17
Class Y	1.75	9.54

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

Notes to financial statements 8/31/18

Within the following Notes to financial statements, references to “State Street” represent State Street Bank and Trust Company, references to “the SEC” represent the Securities and Exchange Commission, 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 “OTC”, if any, represent over-the-counter. Unless otherwise noted, the “reporting period” represents the period from September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018.

Putnam Global Telecommunications Fund (the fund) is a non-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 capital appreciation. The fund concentrates in the telecommunications industries and invests mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of large and midsize companies worldwide that Putnam Management believes have favorable investment potential. Under normal circumstances, Putnam Management invests at least 80% of the fund’s net assets in securities of companies in the telecommunication industries. This policy may be changed only after 60 days’ notice to shareholders. Potential investments include companies that develop, manufacture or sell communications services or communications equipment, and companies that bundle video with communications services. 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 it believes will cause the stock price to rise. 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, and may engage in short sales of securities.

The fund offers class A, class B, class C, class M, class R and class Y shares. The fund registered class T shares in February 2017, however, as of the date of this report, class T shares had not commenced operations and are not available for purchase. 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. Class A and class M shares are sold with a maximum front-end sales charge of 5.75% and 3.50%, respectively. Class A shares generally are not subject to a contingent deferred sales charge, and class M, class R and class Y shares are not subject to a contingent deferred sales charge. Class B shares, which convert to class A shares after approximately eight years, are not subject to a front-end sales charge and are subject to a contingent deferred sales charge if those shares are redeemed within six years of purchase. Class C shares are subject to a one-year 1.00% contingent deferred sales charge and generally convert to class A shares after approximately ten years. Prior to April 1, 2018, class C shares did not convert to class A shares. Class R shares, which are not available to all investors, are sold at net asset value. The expenses for class A, class B, class C, class M and class R shares may differ based on the distribution fee of each class, which is identified in Note 2. Class Y shares, which are sold at net asset value, are generally subject to the same expenses as class A, class B, class C, class M and class R shares, but do not bear a distribution fee. Class Y shares are 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 fund’s Amended and Restated Agreement and Declaration of Trust, any claims asserted against or on behalf of the Putnam Funds, 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. 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 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, 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.

Forward currency contracts The fund buys and sells forward currency contracts, which are agreements between two parties to buy and sell currencies at a set price on a future date. These contracts are used to hedge foreign exchange risk.

The U.S. dollar value of forward currency contracts is determined using current forward currency exchange rates supplied by a quotation service. The fair value of the contract will fluctuate with changes in currency exchange rates. The contract is marked to market daily and the change in fair value is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss. The fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed when the contract matures or by delivery of the currency. The fund could be exposed to risk if the value of the currency changes unfavorably, if the counterparties to the contracts are unable to meet the terms of their contracts or if the fund is unable to enter into a closing position. Risks may exceed amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

Forward currency contracts outstanding at period end, if any, are listed after the fund's portfolio.

Master agreements The fund is a party to ISDA (International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc.) Master Agreements (Master Agreements) with certain counterparties that govern OTC derivative and foreign exchange contracts entered into from time to time. The Master Agreements may contain provisions regarding, among other things, the parties' general obligations, representations, agreements, collateral requirements, events of default and early termination. With respect to certain counterparties, in accordance with the terms of the Master Agreements, collateral posted to the fund is held in a segregated account by the fund's custodian and, with respect to those amounts which can be sold or repledged, is presented in the fund's portfolio.

Collateral pledged by the fund is segregated by the fund's custodian and identified in the fund's portfolio. Collateral can be in the form of cash or debt securities issued by the U.S. Government or related agencies or other securities as agreed to by the fund and the applicable counterparty. Collateral requirements are determined based on the fund's net position with each counterparty.

Termination events applicable to the fund may occur upon a decline in the fund's net assets below a specified threshold over a certain period of time. Termination events applicable to counterparties may occur upon a decline in the counterparty's long-term and short-term credit ratings below a specified level. In each case, upon occurrence, the other party may elect to terminate early and cause settlement of all derivative and foreign exchange contracts outstanding, including the payment of any losses and costs resulting from such early termination, as reasonably determined by the terminating party. Any decision by one or more of the fund's counterparties to elect early termination could impact the fund's future derivative activity.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund had a net liability position of \$41,883 on open derivative contracts subject to the Master Agreements. There was no collateral posted by the fund at period end for these agreements.

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 had no securities out on loan.

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 \$317.5 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 LIBOR for the committed line of credit and the Federal Funds rate plus 1.30% 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. 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.

Distributions to shareholders Distributions to shareholders from net investment income 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 and from foreign currency gains and losses. 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 \$166,035 to decrease undistributed net investment income and \$166,035 to increase accumulated net realized gain.

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	\$3,569,822
Unrealized depreciation	(923,358)
Net unrealized appreciation	2,646,464
Undistributed ordinary income	140,323
Undistributed long-term gain	399,414
Cost for federal income tax purposes	\$19,732,519

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 (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:

0.780%	of the first \$5 billion,	0.580%	of the next \$50 billion,
0.730%	of the next \$5 billion,	0.560%	of the next \$50 billion,
0.680%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.550%	of the next \$100 billion and
0.630%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.545%	of any excess thereafter.

For the reporting period, the management fee represented an effective rate (excluding the impact from any expense waivers in effect) of 0.623% of the fund’s average net assets.

Putnam Management has contractually agreed, through December 30, 2019, 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 reduced by \$123,396 as a result of this limit.

Putnam Investments Limited (PIL), an affiliate of Putnam Management, 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. Putnam Management pays a quarterly sub-management fee to PIL for its services at an annual rate of 0.35% of the average net assets of the portion of the fund managed by PIL.

The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (PAC), an affiliate of Putnam Management, 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 0.35% 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 M, 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.

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

Class A	\$29,256	Class R	732
Class B	5,467	Class Y	13,302
Class C	6,267	Total	\$55,167
Class M	143		

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. The fund also reduced expenses through brokerage/service arrangements. For the reporting period, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$81 under the expense offset arrangements and by no monies under the brokerage/service arrangements.

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual Trustee fee, of which \$16, 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%	\$32,373
Class B	1.00%	1.00%	24,197
Class C	1.00%	1.00%	27,744
Class M	1.00%	0.75%	474
Class R	1.00%	0.50%	1,621
Total			\$86,409

For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received net commissions of \$5,514 and \$12 from the sale of class A and class M shares, respectively, and received \$1,394 and \$92 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 no monies 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)	\$17,461,884	\$21,607,142
U.S. government securities (Long-term)	—	—
Total	\$17,461,884	\$21,607,142

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:

Class A	YEAR ENDED 8/31/18		YEAR ENDED 8/31/17	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	98,870	\$1,562,168	114,949	\$1,706,939
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	2,155	34,227	41,988	591,604
	101,025	1,596,395	156,937	2,298,543
Shares repurchased	(329,985)	(5,198,730)	(417,612)	(6,167,057)
Net decrease	(228,960)	\$(3,602,335)	(260,675)	\$(3,868,514)

Class B	YEAR ENDED 8/31/18		YEAR ENDED 8/31/17	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	5,289	\$80,047	12,907	\$182,330
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	4,636	63,470
	5,289	80,047	17,543	245,800
Shares repurchased	(35,298)	(533,111)	(43,993)	(630,589)
Net decrease	(30,009)	\$(453,064)	(26,450)	\$(384,789)

Class C	YEAR ENDED 8/31/18		YEAR ENDED 8/31/17	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	21,457	\$327,883	20,881	\$305,466
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	7,760	106,075
	21,457	327,883	28,641	411,541
Shares repurchased	(51,745)	(780,203)	(153,083)	(2,187,022)
Net decrease	(30,288)	\$(452,320)	(124,442)	\$(1,775,481)

Class M	YEAR ENDED 8/31/18		YEAR ENDED 8/31/17	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	1,285	\$20,010	1,796	\$27,064
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	91	1,278
	1,285	20,010	1,887	28,342
Shares repurchased	(2,343)	(36,572)	(1,154)	(15,920)
Net increase (decrease)	(1,058)	\$(16,562)	733	\$12,422

Class R	YEAR ENDED 8/31/18		YEAR ENDED 8/31/17	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	5,378	\$85,872	19,295	\$292,209
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	341	4,876
	5,378	85,872	19,636	297,085
Shares repurchased	(10,413)	(164,882)	(216,381)	(3,111,290)
Net decrease	(5,035)	\$(79,010)	(196,745)	\$(2,814,205)

Class Y	YEAR ENDED 8/31/18		YEAR ENDED 8/31/17	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	296,121	\$4,716,334	312,636	\$4,832,416
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	1,778	28,326	11,949	168,956
	297,899	4,744,660	324,585	5,001,372
Shares repurchased	(287,791)	(4,598,239)	(260,533)	(3,914,657)
Net increase	10,108	\$146,421	64,052	\$1,086,715

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 8/31/17	Purchase cost	Sale proceeds	Investment income	Shares outstanding and fair value as of 8/31/18
Short-term investments					
Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC*	\$2,386,850	\$23,386,130	\$25,772,980	\$21,938	\$—
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund**	619,510	14,502,987	14,419,378	14,094	703,119
Total Short-term investments	\$3,006,360	\$37,889,117	\$40,192,358	\$36,032	\$703,119

* 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. The fund concentrates a majority of its investments in the telecommunications sector, which involves more risk than a fund that invests more broadly.

Note 7: Summary of derivative activity

The volume of activity for the reporting period for any derivative type that was held during the period is listed below and was based on an average of the holdings at the end of each fiscal quarter:

Forward currency contracts (contract amount)	\$14,200,000
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The following is a summary of the fair value of derivative instruments as of the close of the reporting period:

Fair value of derivative instruments as of the close of the reporting period				
	ASSET DERIVATIVES		LIABILITY DERIVATIVES	
	Statement of assets and liabilities location	Fair value	Statement of assets and liabilities location	Fair value
Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815				
Foreign exchange contracts	Receivables	\$100,021	Payables	\$93,670
Total		\$100,021		\$93,670

The following is a summary of realized and change in unrealized gains or losses of derivative instruments in the Statement of operations for the reporting period (Note 1):

Amount of realized gain or (loss) on derivatives recognized in net gain or (loss) on investments		
Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815	Forward currency contracts	Total
Foreign exchange contracts	\$(159,093)	\$(159,093)
Total	\$(159,093)	\$(159,093)

Change in unrealized appreciation or (depreciation) on derivatives recognized in net gain or (loss) on investments		
Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815	Forward currency contracts	Total
Foreign exchange contracts	\$55,346	\$55,346
Total	\$55,346	\$55,346

Note 8: Offsetting of financial and derivative assets and liabilities

The following table summarizes any derivatives, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements, at the end of the reporting period, that are subject to an enforceable master netting agreement or similar agreement. For securities lending transactions or borrowing transactions associated with securities sold short, if any, see Note 1. For financial reporting purposes, the fund does not offset financial assets and financial liabilities that are subject to the master netting agreements in the Statement of assets and liabilities.

	Bank of America N.A.	Barclays Bank PLC	Citibank, N.A.	Credit Suisse International	Goldman Sachs International	JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.	NatWest Markets PLC	State Street Bank and Trust Co.	UBSAG	WestPac Banking Corp.	Total
Assets:											
Forward currency contracts#	\$10,582	\$3,132	\$2,629	\$1,028	\$31,464	\$14,105	\$889	\$29,261	\$2,362	\$4,569	\$100,021
Total Assets	\$10,582	\$3,132	\$2,629	\$1,028	\$31,464	\$14,105	\$889	\$29,261	\$2,362	\$4,569	\$100,021
Liabilities:											
Forward currency contracts#	3,708	647	10,300	4,042	409	34,793	—	39,771	—	—	93,670
Total Liabilities	\$3,708	\$647	\$10,300	\$4,042	\$409	\$34,793	\$—	\$39,771	\$—	\$—	\$93,670
Total Financial and Derivative Net Assets	\$6,874	\$2,485	\$(7,671)	\$(3,014)	\$31,055	\$(20,688)	\$889	\$(10,510)	\$2,362	\$4,569	\$6,351
Total collateral received (pledged)###	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
Net amount	\$6,874	\$2,485	\$(7,671)	\$(3,014)	\$31,055	\$(20,688)	\$889	\$(10,510)	\$2,362	\$4,569	\$—
Controlled collateral received (including TBA commitments)**	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
Uncontrolled collateral received	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
Collateral (pledged) (including TBA commitments)**	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—

**Included with Investments in securities on the Statement of assets and liabilities.

† Additional collateral may be required from certain brokers based on individual agreements.

Covered by master netting agreement (Note 1).

Any over-collateralization of total financial and derivative net assets is not shown. Collateral may include amounts related to unsettled agreements.

Note 9: Strategy, investment policy, and name change

Shareholders were informed through a supplement to the fund's prospectus that Putnam Management has recommended, and the fund's Board of Trustees has approved, changes to the fund's investment strategy and fundamental investment restriction on industry concentration. (The changes to the fundamental investment restriction on industry concentration are subject to approval by the shareholders of the fund.) In connection with these changes, the fund's name will change to Putnam Global Communications Fund. Putnam Management anticipates that the changes will be effective on or about November 30, 2018. These changes to the fund relate to changes to composition of the fund's benchmark effective November 30, 2018. See the prospectus supplement for more information.

Federal tax information (Unaudited)

Pursuant to §852 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, the fund hereby designates \$439,355 as a capital gain dividend with respect to the taxable year ended August 31, 2018, or, if subsequently determined to be different, the net capital gain of such year.

For the reporting period, total interest and dividend income from foreign countries were \$429,203, or \$0.30 per share (for all classes of shares). Taxes paid to foreign countries were \$38,272, or \$0.03 per share (for all classes of shares).

The fund designated 100% of ordinary income distributions as qualifying for the dividends received deduction for corporations.

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 2019 will show the tax status of all distributions paid to your account in calendar 2018.

About the Trustees

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES



Liaquat Ahamed

Born 1952, Trustee since 2012

Principal occupations during past five years: Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who*

Broke the World, whose articles on economics have appeared in such publications as the *New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, and the *Financial Times*. Trustee of the Brookings Institution.

Other directorships: The Rohatyn Group, an emerging-market fund complex that manages money for institutions



Ravi Akhoury

Born 1947, Trustee since 2009

Principal occupations during past five years: Trustee of the Rubin Museum.

From 1992 to 2007, was Chairman and CEO of MacKay Shields, a multi-product investment management firm.

Other directorships: English Helper, Inc., a private software company



Barbara M. Baumann

Born 1955, Trustee since 2010

Principal occupations during past five years: President and Owner of Cross Creek Energy Corporation, a strategic

consultant to domestic energy firms and direct investor in energy projects. Current Board member of The Denver Foundation. Former Chair and current Board member of Girls Incorporated of Metro Denver. Member of the Finance Committee, the Children's Hospital of Colorado.

Other directorships: Buckeye Partners, L.P., a publicly traded master limited partnership focused on pipeline transport, storage, and distribution of petroleum products; Devon Energy Corporation, a leading independent natural gas and oil exploration and production company



Katinka Domotorffy

Born 1975, Trustee since 2012

Principal occupations during past five years: Voting member of the Investment Committees of the Anne Ray Charitable

Trust and Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, part of the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. Until 2011, Partner, Chief Investment Officer, and Global Head of Quantitative Investment Strategies at Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

Other directorships: Great Lakes Science Center; College Now Greater Cleveland



Catharine Bond Hill

Born 1954, Trustee since 2017

Principal occupations during past five years: Managing Director of Ithaca S+R, a not-for-profit service that helps

the academic community navigate economic and technological change. From 2006 to 2016, served as the 10th President of Vassar College. Prior to 2006, was Provost of Williams College.

Other directorships: Director of Yale-NUS College; Alumni Fellow to the Yale Corporation



Dr. Paul L. Joskow

Born 1947, Trustee since 1997

Principal occupations during past five years: Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics, Emeritus at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Until 2017, President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a philanthropic institution focused primarily on research and education issues related to science, technology, and economic performance. Prior to 2007, served as the Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research at MIT. Prior to 1998, served as Head of the Department of Economics at MIT.

Other directorships: Yale University; Exelon Corporation, an energy company focused on power services; Boston Symphony Orchestra; Prior to April 2013, served as Director of TransCanada Corporation and TransCanada Pipelines Ltd., energy companies focused on natural gas transmission, oil pipelines and power services

**Kenneth R. Leibler**

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

Principal occupations during past

five years: Founder and former Chairman of Boston Options Exchange, an electronic marketplace for the trading of derivative securities. Vice Chair Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and former Director of Beth Israel Deaconess Care Organization. Until November 2010, Director of Ruder Finn Group, a global communications and advertising firm.

Other directorships: Eversource Corporation, which operates New England's largest energy delivery system

**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. Served 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 Abt Associates, a global research firm focused on health, social and environmental policy, and international development. Trustee of Carnegie Mellon University. Trustee of Rubin Museum of Art. 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. Director of DXC Technology, a global IT services and consulting company

**Robert E. Patterson**

Born 1945, Trustee since 1984

Principal occupations during past

five years: Co-Chairman of Cabot Properties, Inc., a private equity firm investing in commercial real estate, and Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Investment Committees for various Cabot Funds. Past Chairman and Trustee of the Joslin Diabetes Center.

**George Putnam, III**

Born 1951, Trustee since 1984

Principal occupations during past

five years: Chairman of New Generation Research, Inc., a publisher of financial advisory and other research services. Founder and President of New Generation Advisors, LLC, a registered investment advisor to private funds. Director of The Boston Family Office, LLC, a registered investment advisor.

INTERESTED TRUSTEE**Robert L. Reynolds***

*Born 1952, Trustee since 2008 and
President of the Putnam Funds since 2009*

Principal occupations during past five

years: President and Chief Executive Officer of Putnam Investments since 2008 and, since 2014, 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. Inc., a holding company that owns Putnam Investments and Great-West Financial. Prior to joining Putnam Investments, served as Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of Fidelity Investments from 2000 to 2007.

* 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, 2018, there were 100 Putnam funds. All Trustees serve as Trustees of all Putnam funds.

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:

Jonathan S. Horwitz *(Born 1955)*

Executive Vice President, Principal Executive Officer,
and Compliance Liaison
Since 2004

Robert T. Burns *(Born 1961)*

Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
Since 2011
General Counsel, Putnam Investments,
Putnam Management, and Putnam Retail Management

James F. Clark *(Born 1974)*

Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer
Since 2016
Chief Compliance Officer, Putnam Investments
and Putnam Management

Michael J. Higgins *(Born 1976)*

Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk
Since 2010

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

Susan G. Malloy *(Born 1957)*

Vice President and Assistant Treasurer
Since 2007
Head of Accounting, Middle Office, & Control Services,
Putnam Investments and Putnam Management

Mark C. Trenchard *(Born 1962)*

Vice President and BSA Compliance Officer
Since 2002
Director of Operational Compliance, Putnam
Investments and Putnam Retail Management

Nancy E. Florek *(Born 1957)*

Vice President, Director of Proxy Voting and Corporate
Governance, Assistant Clerk, and Assistant Treasurer
Since 2000

Denere P. Poulack *(Born 1968)*

Assistant Vice President, Assistant Clerk,
and Assistant Treasurer
Since 2004

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.

Services for shareholders

Investor services

Systematic investment plan Tell us how much you wish to invest regularly — weekly, semimonthly, or monthly — and the amount you choose will be transferred automatically from your checking or savings account. There's no additional fee for this service, and you can suspend it at any time. This plan may be a great way to save for college expenses or to plan for your retirement.

Please note that regular investing does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss in a declining market. Before arranging a systematic investment plan, consider your financial ability to continue making purchases in periods when prices are low.

Systematic exchange You can make regular transfers from one Putnam fund to another Putnam fund. There are no additional fees for this service, and you can cancel or change your options at any time.

Dividends PLUS You can choose to have the dividend distributions from one of your Putnam funds automatically reinvested in another Putnam fund at no additional charge.

Free exchange privilege You can exchange money between Putnam funds free of charge, as long as they are the same class of shares. A signature guarantee is required if you are exchanging more than \$500,000. The fund reserves the right to revise or terminate the exchange privilege.

Reinstatement privilege If you've sold Putnam shares or received a check for a dividend or capital gain, you may reinvest the proceeds with Putnam within 90 days of the

transaction and they will be reinvested at the fund's current net asset value — with no sales charge. However, reinstatement of class B shares may have special tax consequences. Ask your financial or tax representative for details.

Check-writing service You have ready access to many Putnam accounts. It's as simple as writing a check, and there are no special fees or service charges. For more information about the check-writing service, call Putnam or visit our website.

Dollar cost averaging When you're investing for long-term goals, it's time, not timing, that counts. Investing on a systematic basis is a better strategy than trying to figure out when the markets will go up or down. This means investing the same amount of money regularly over a long period. This method of investing is called dollar cost averaging. When a fund's share price declines, your investment dollars buy more shares at lower prices. When it increases, they buy fewer shares. Over time, you will pay a lower average price per share.

For more information

Visit the Individual Investors section at putnam.com A secure section of our website contains complete information on your account, including balances and transactions, updated daily. You may also conduct transactions, such as exchanges, additional investments, and address changes. Log on today to get your password.

Call us toll free at 1-800-225-1581 Ask a helpful Putnam representative or your financial advisor for details about any of these or other services, or see your prospectus.

Putnam family of funds

The following is a list of Putnam's open-end mutual funds offered to the public. *Investors should carefully consider the investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund before investing. For a prospectus, or a summary prospectus if available, containing this and other information for any Putnam fund or product, contact your financial advisor or call Putnam Investor Services at 1-800-225-1581. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing.*

Blend

Capital Spectrum Fund
Emerging Markets Equity Fund
Equity Spectrum Fund
Europe Equity Fund
Global Equity Fund
International Capital Opportunities Fund
International Equity Fund
Multi-Cap Core Fund
Research Fund

Global Sector

Global Consumer Fund
Global Financials Fund
Global Health Care Fund
Global Industrials Fund
Global Natural Resources Fund
Global Sector Fund
Global Technology Fund
Global Telecommunications Fund
Global Utilities Fund

Growth

Growth Opportunities Fund
International Growth Fund
Small Cap Growth Fund
Sustainable Future Fund
Sustainable Leaders Fund

Value

Convertible Securities Fund
Equity Income Fund
International Value Fund
Small Cap Value Fund

Income

Diversified Income Trust
Emerging Markets Income Fund
Floating Rate Income Fund
Global Income Trust
Government Money Market Fund*
High Yield Fund
Income Fund
Money Market Fund†
Mortgage Securities Fund
Short Duration Bond Fund
Short Duration Income Fund

Tax-free Income

AMT-Free Municipal Fund
Intermediate-Term Municipal Income Fund
Short-Term Municipal Income Fund
Tax Exempt Income Fund
Tax-Free High Yield Fund

State tax-free income funds‡:

California, Massachusetts, Minnesota,
New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Absolute Return

Fixed Income Absolute Return Fund
Multi-Asset Absolute Return Fund

Putnam PanAgora**

Putnam PanAgora Managed Futures Strategy
Putnam PanAgora Market Neutral Fund
Putnam PanAgora Risk Parity Fund

Asset Allocation

Dynamic Risk Allocation Fund
George Putnam Balanced Fund

Dynamic Asset Allocation Balanced Fund
Dynamic Asset Allocation Conservative Fund
Dynamic Asset Allocation Growth Fund

Retirement Income Fund Lifestyle 1

RetirementReady® 2060 Fund
RetirementReady® 2055 Fund
RetirementReady® 2050 Fund
RetirementReady® 2045 Fund
RetirementReady® 2040 Fund
RetirementReady® 2035 Fund
RetirementReady® 2030 Fund
RetirementReady® 2025 Fund
RetirementReady® 2020 Fund

* You could lose money by investing in the fund. Although the fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it cannot guarantee it will do so. An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. The fund's sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the fund, and you should not expect that the sponsor will provide financial support to the fund at any time.

† You could lose money by investing in the fund. Although the fund seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it cannot guarantee it will do so. The fund may impose a fee upon sale of your shares or may temporarily suspend your ability to sell shares if the fund's liquidity falls below required minimums because of market conditions or other factors. An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. The fund's sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the fund, and you should not expect that the sponsor will provide financial support to the fund at any time.

‡ Not available in all states.

** Sub-advised by PanAgora Asset Management.

Check your account balances and the most recent month-end performance in the Individual Investors section at putnam.com.

Fund information

Founded over 80 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 100 funds across income, value, blend, growth, asset allocation, absolute return, and global sector categories.

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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
100 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110

Custodian

State Street Bank and Trust Company

Legal Counsel

Ropes & Gray LLP

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

KPMG LLP

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Denere P. Poulack
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Clerk, and Assistant Treasurer*

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