

Putnam Research Fund

Semiannual report

1 | 31 | 24

The Securities and Exchange Commission has adopted new regulations that will result in changes to the design and delivery of annual and semiannual shareholder reports beginning in July 2024.

If you have previously elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will continue to do so and need not take any action.

Otherwise, paper copies of the Fund's shareholder reports will be mailed to you beginning in July 2024.



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

FUND SYMBOL
CLASS A
PNRAX

Putnam Research Fund

Semiannual report

1 | 31 | 24

| | |
|--|----|
| Message from the Trustees | 1 |
| Your fund at a glance | 2 |
| Your fund's expenses | 3 |
| Other information for shareholders | 5 |
| Important notice regarding Putnam's privacy policy | 6 |
| Financial statements | 7 |
| Shareholder meeting results | 38 |

Message from the Trustees

March 8, 2024

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

We are pleased to report that on January 1, 2024, Franklin Resources, Inc., a leading global asset management firm operating as Franklin Templeton, acquired Putnam Investments. With complementary capabilities and an established infrastructure serving over 150 countries, Franklin Templeton enhances Putnam's investment, risk management, operations, and technology platforms. Together, our firms are committed to delivering strong fund performance and more choices for our investors.

We are also excited to welcome Jane E. Trust as an interested trustee to your Board of Trustees. Ms. Trust contributes over 30 years of investment management experience to The Putnam Funds, and has served as Senior Vice President, Fund Board Management, at Franklin Templeton since 2020.

As we enter this new chapter, you can rest assured that your fund continues to be actively managed by the same experienced professionals. Your investment team is exploring new and attractive opportunities for your fund while monitoring changing market conditions.

Thank you for investing with Putnam.

Respectfully yours,



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

Robert L. Reynolds
President, The Putnam Funds



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

Kenneth R. Leibler
Chair, Board of Trustees

Your fund at a glance

Sector allocations

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| ● Information technology | 28.9% |
| ● Health care | 13.1 |
| ● Financials | 13.1 |
| ● Consumer discretionary | 10.9 |
| ● Communication services | 8.5 |
| ● Industrials | 6.9 |
| ● Consumer staples | 6.5 |
| ● Energy | 3.9 |
| ● Materials | 3.3 |
| ● Utilities | 2.6 |
| ● Real estate | 1.0 |
| ● Cash and net other assets | 1.3 |



Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets as of 1/31/24. 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 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. Due to rounding, percentages may not equal 100%.

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. Using the following information, you can estimate how these expenses affect your investment and compare them with the expenses of other funds. You may also pay one-time transaction expenses, including sales charges (loads) and redemption fees, which are not shown in this section and would have resulted in higher total expenses. For more information, see your fund's prospectus or talk to your financial representative.

Expense ratios

| | Class A | Class B | Class C | Class R | Class R6 | Class Y |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Total annual operating expenses for the fiscal year ended 7/31/23 | 1.04% | 1.79% | 1.79% | 1.29% | 0.68% | 0.79% |
| Annualized expense ratio for the six-month period ended 1/31/24 | 1.02% | 1.77% | 1.77% | 1.27% | 0.67% | 0.77% |

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.

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 8/1/23 to 1/31/24. It also shows how much a \$1,000 investment would be worth at the close of the period, assuming *actual returns* and expenses.

| | Class A | Class B | Class C | Class R | Class R6 | Class Y |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Expenses paid per \$1,000 [†] | \$5.35 | \$9.27 | \$9.27 | \$6.66 | \$3.52 | \$4.04 |
| Ending value (after expenses) | \$1,086.70 | \$1,082.60 | \$1,082.50 | \$1,085.30 | \$1,088.60 | \$1,088.00 |

* 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 1/31/24. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the period (184); and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year (366).

Estimate the expenses you paid

To estimate the ongoing expenses you paid for the six months ended 1/31/24, use the following calculation method. To find the value of your investment on 8/1/23, call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581.

How to calculate the expenses you paid

Value of your investment on 8/1/23 \div \$1,000 \times Expenses paid per \$1,000 = Total expenses paid

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

\$10,000 \div \$1,000 \times \$5.35 (see preceding table) = \$53.50

Compare expenses using the SEC's method

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

| | Class A | Class B | Class C | Class R | Class R6 | Class Y |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Expenses paid per \$1,000** | \$5.18 | \$8.97 | \$8.97 | \$6.44 | \$3.40 | \$3.91 |
| Ending value (after expenses) | \$1,020.01 | \$1,016.24 | \$1,016.24 | \$1,018.75 | \$1,021.77 | \$1,021.27 |

* 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 1/31/24. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the six-month period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the six-month period (184); and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year (366).

Other information for shareholders

Important notice regarding delivery of shareholder documents

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

Proxy voting

The Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures, as well as information regarding how your fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the 12-month

period ended June 30, 2023, are available in the Individual Investors section of putnam.com and on the SEC's website, www.sec.gov.

If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's website, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain the Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures at no charge by calling Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581 or, for exchange-traded funds only, 1-833-228-5577.

Fund portfolio holdings

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

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.

Financial statements

These sections of the report, as well as the accompanying Notes, 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 period.

Statement of changes in net assets shows how the fund's net assets were affected by the fund's net investment gain or loss, by distributions to shareholders, and by changes in the number of the fund's shares. It lists distributions and their sources (net investment income or realized capital gains) over the current reporting period and the most recent fiscal year-end. The distributions listed here may not match the sources listed in the Statement of operations because the distributions are determined on a tax basis and may be paid in a different period from the one in which they were earned. Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. Actual results may vary. Any non-taxable return of capital cannot be determined until final tax calculations are completed after the end of the fund's fiscal period.

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

The fund's portfolio 1/31/24 (Unaudited)

| COMMON STOCKS (98.6%)* | Shares | Value |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Aerospace and defense (1.2%) | | |
| Boeing Co. (The) † | 2,811 | \$593,233 |
| Howmet Aerospace, Inc. | 22,514 | 1,266,638 |
| Northrop Grumman Corp. | 5,673 | 2,534,469 |
| RTX Corp. | 15,968 | 1,455,004 |
| | | 5,849,344 |
| Air freight and logistics (0.8%) | | |
| FedEx Corp. | 15,870 | 3,829,272 |
| | | 3,829,272 |
| Automobiles (1.2%) | | |
| General Motors Co. | 17,240 | 668,912 |
| Tesla, Inc. † | 27,450 | 5,141,111 |
| | | 5,810,023 |
| Banks (2.2%) | | |
| Bank of America Corp. | 113,042 | 3,844,558 |
| Citigroup, Inc. | 126,837 | 7,124,434 |
| | | 10,968,992 |
| Beverages (2.3%) | | |
| Coca-Cola Co. (The) | 84,137 | 5,005,310 |
| PepsiCo, Inc. | 38,361 | 6,464,979 |
| | | 11,470,289 |
| Biotechnology (2.3%) | | |
| AbbVie, Inc. | 40,341 | 6,632,060 |
| Ascendis Pharma A/SADR (Denmark) † | 13,925 | 1,809,275 |
| Biogen, Inc. † | 4,674 | 1,152,889 |
| Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. † | 1,610 | 1,517,876 |
| | | 11,112,100 |
| Broadline retail (4.0%) | | |
| Amazon.com, Inc. † | 125,803 | 19,524,626 |
| | | 19,524,626 |
| Building products (0.3%) | | |
| Johnson Controls International PLC | 28,731 | 1,513,836 |
| | | 1,513,836 |
| Capital markets (3.2%) | | |
| Charles Schwab Corp. (The) | 64,034 | 4,029,019 |
| Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (The) | 13,349 | 5,126,149 |
| KKR & Co., Inc. | 29,849 | 2,584,326 |
| Quilter PLC (United Kingdom) | 853,979 | 1,132,722 |
| S&P Global, Inc. | 6,537 | 2,930,864 |
| | | 15,803,080 |
| Chemicals (1.7%) | | |
| Corteva, Inc. | 30,525 | 1,388,277 |
| DuPont de Nemours, Inc. | 21,978 | 1,358,240 |
| Eastman Chemical Co. | 13,200 | 1,102,860 |
| Linde PLC | 1,970 | 797,515 |
| PPG Industries, Inc. | 9,740 | 1,373,730 |
| Sherwin-Williams Co. (The) | 7,832 | 2,383,904 |
| | | 8,404,526 |

| COMMON STOCKS (98.6%)* cont. | Shares | Value |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Construction materials (0.4%) | | |
| CRH PLC (Ireland) | 25,054 | \$1,797,875 |
| | | 1,797,875 |
| Consumer finance (0.3%) | | |
| Capital One Financial Corp. | 11,483 | 1,553,880 |
| | | 1,553,880 |
| Consumer staples distribution and retail (2.1%) | | |
| BJ's Wholesale Club Holdings, Inc. † | 10,795 | 694,550 |
| Costco Wholesale Corp. | 3,906 | 2,714,201 |
| Target Corp. | 12,914 | 1,796,079 |
| Walmart, Inc. | 29,790 | 4,922,798 |
| | | 10,127,628 |
| Containers and packaging (0.7%) | | |
| Avery Dennison Corp. | 5,514 | 1,099,767 |
| Ball Corp. | 23,468 | 1,301,301 |
| Berry Global Group, Inc. | 12,817 | 839,001 |
| | | 3,240,069 |
| Electric utilities (2.2%) | | |
| Exelon Corp. | 51,571 | 1,795,186 |
| NextEra Energy, Inc. | 37,985 | 2,227,061 |
| NRG Energy, Inc. | 82,834 | 4,393,515 |
| PG&E Corp. | 86,862 | 1,465,362 |
| PPL Corp. | 25,576 | 670,091 |
| | | 10,551,215 |
| Electronic equipment, instruments, and components (0.5%) | | |
| Vontier Corp. | 64,969 | 2,247,278 |
| | | 2,247,278 |
| Energy equipment and services (0.3%) | | |
| Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc. † | 114,463 | 1,396,449 |
| | | 1,396,449 |
| Entertainment (0.9%) | | |
| Netflix, Inc. † | 4,776 | 2,694,189 |
| Walt Disney Co. (The) | 19,475 | 1,870,574 |
| | | 4,564,763 |
| Financial services (4.4%) | | |
| Apollo Global Management, Inc. | 46,678 | 4,686,471 |
| Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. Class B † | 8,460 | 3,246,440 |
| Mastercard, Inc. Class A | 19,683 | 8,842,194 |
| Visa, Inc. Class A | 16,964 | 4,635,583 |
| | | 21,410,688 |
| Food products (0.2%) | | |
| General Mills, Inc. | 18,858 | 1,224,073 |
| | | 1,224,073 |
| Ground transportation (1.2%) | | |
| Canadian Pacific Kansas City, Ltd. (Canada) | 23,053 | 1,855,075 |
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc. † ^S | 106,339 | 887,931 |
| Union Pacific Corp. | 12,558 | 3,063,273 |
| | | 5,806,279 |

| COMMON STOCKS (98.6%)* cont. | Shares | Value |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Health care equipment and supplies (2.3%) | | |
| Abbott Laboratories | 13,788 | \$1,560,112 |
| Boston Scientific Corp. † | 48,183 | 3,048,057 |
| Dexcom, Inc. † | 11,345 | 1,376,716 |
| Intuitive Surgical, Inc. † | 7,226 | 2,733,018 |
| Medtronic PLC | 8,531 | 746,804 |
| Stryker Corp. | 4,780 | 1,603,594 |
| | | 11,068,301 |
| Health care providers and services (3.5%) | | |
| Cigna Group (The) | 3,289 | 989,825 |
| Elevance Health, Inc. | 1,419 | 700,191 |
| Humana, Inc. | 7,355 | 2,780,631 |
| McKesson Corp. | 8,578 | 4,288,057 |
| UnitedHealth Group, Inc. | 16,881 | 8,638,683 |
| | | 17,397,387 |
| Hotels, restaurants, and leisure (1.9%) | | |
| Booking Holdings, Inc. † | 1,098 | 3,851,202 |
| Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc. † | 1,153 | 2,777,312 |
| Hilton Worldwide Holdings, Inc. | 12,912 | 2,465,676 |
| | | 9,094,190 |
| Household durables (1.1%) | | |
| PulteGroup, Inc. | 49,337 | 5,158,676 |
| | | 5,158,676 |
| Household products (1.6%) | | |
| Procter & Gamble Co. (The) | 49,248 | 7,738,831 |
| | | 7,738,831 |
| Industrial conglomerates (0.8%) | | |
| General Electric Co. | 7,640 | 1,011,689 |
| Honeywell International, Inc. | 13,886 | 2,808,582 |
| | | 3,820,271 |
| Insurance (2.9%) | | |
| AIA Group, Ltd. (Hong Kong) | 453,800 | 3,528,547 |
| Assured Guaranty, Ltd. | 74,044 | 6,007,190 |
| AXA SA (France) | 94,917 | 3,195,523 |
| Prudential PLC (United Kingdom) | 157,983 | 1,627,802 |
| | | 14,359,062 |
| Interactive media and services (6.3%) | | |
| Alphabet, Inc. Class A † | 136,432 | 19,114,123 |
| Meta Platforms, Inc. Class A † | 30,614 | 11,943,746 |
| | | 31,057,869 |
| Life sciences tools and services (1.5%) | | |
| Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. Class A † | 3,371 | 1,081,720 |
| Danaher Corp. | 10,434 | 2,503,221 |
| Mettler-Toledo International, Inc. † | 499 | 597,398 |
| Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. | 5,942 | 3,202,619 |
| | | 7,384,958 |
| Machinery (1.7%) | | |
| Fortive Corp. | 31,092 | 2,430,773 |
| Ingersoll Rand, Inc. | 26,808 | 2,140,887 |
| Otis Worldwide Corp. | 44,462 | 3,932,219 |
| | | 8,503,879 |

| COMMON STOCKS (98.6%)* cont. | Shares | Value |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Media (0.4%) | | |
| Charter Communications, Inc. Class A † 5 | 5,571 | \$2,065,225 |
| | | 2,065,225 |
| Metals and mining (0.6%) | | |
| Agnico-Eagle Mines, Ltd. (Canada) | 28,740 | 1,412,577 |
| Anglo American PLC (London Exchange) (United Kingdom) | 21,046 | 499,540 |
| Glencore PLC (United Kingdom) | 170,357 | 906,469 |
| | | 2,818,586 |
| Multi-utilities (0.4%) | | |
| Ameren Corp. | 14,401 | 1,001,878 |
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc. | 17,812 | 497,667 |
| CMS Energy Corp. | 8,517 | 486,832 |
| | | 1,986,377 |
| Office REITs (0.2%) | | |
| Vornado Realty Trust RS | 43,471 | 1,181,976 |
| | | 1,181,976 |
| Oil, gas, and consumable fuels (3.6%) | | |
| BP PLC (United Kingdom) | 230,161 | 1,348,092 |
| Cenovus Energy, Inc. (Canada) | 172,909 | 2,801,115 |
| ConocoPhillips | 25,676 | 2,872,374 |
| Exxon Mobil Corp. | 83,708 | 8,606,019 |
| Shell PLC (United Kingdom) | 70,108 | 2,176,641 |
| | | 17,804,241 |
| Passenger airlines (0.3%) | | |
| Southwest Airlines Co. | 42,471 | 1,269,458 |
| | | 1,269,458 |
| Personal care products (0.3%) | | |
| Kenvue, Inc. | 62,682 | 1,301,278 |
| | | 1,301,278 |
| Pharmaceuticals (3.5%) | | |
| 4Front Ventures Corp. † | 1,724,209 | 196,387 |
| Eli Lilly and Co. | 8,841 | 5,707,838 |
| Innoviva, Inc. † | 149,356 | 2,419,567 |
| Johnson & Johnson | 19,862 | 3,156,072 |
| Merck & Co., Inc. | 38,300 | 4,625,874 |
| Zoetis, Inc. | 6,159 | 1,156,722 |
| | | 17,262,460 |
| Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment (8.8%) | | |
| Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. † | 43,611 | 7,313,129 |
| Broadcom, Inc. | 9,415 | 11,109,700 |
| NVIDIA Corp. | 28,492 | 17,530,273 |
| Qualcomm, Inc. | 49,696 | 7,380,353 |
| | | 43,333,455 |
| Software (14.3%) | | |
| Adobe, Inc. † | 7,939 | 4,904,555 |
| Fair Isaac Corp. † | 1,981 | 2,374,882 |
| Microsoft Corp. | 101,087 | 40,190,169 |
| Oracle Corp. | 109,084 | 12,184,683 |
| Salesforce, Inc. † | 37,855 | 10,640,662 |
| | | 70,294,951 |

| COMMON STOCKS (98.6%)* cont. | Shares | Value |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Specialized REITs (0.7%) | | |
| American Tower Corp. ^R | 2,720 | \$532,168 |
| Gaming and Leisure Properties, Inc. ^R | 64,907 | 2,963,004 |
| | | 3,495,172 |
| Specialty retail (2.3%) | | |
| CarMax, Inc. ^{† S} | 14,639 | 1,042,004 |
| Home Depot, Inc. (The) | 22,683 | 8,006,192 |
| O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. [†] | 1,000 | 1,023,050 |
| TJX Cos., Inc. (The) | 10,179 | 966,089 |
| WarbyParker, Inc. Class A [†] | 11,698 | 149,150 |
| | | 11,186,485 |
| Technology hardware, storage, and peripherals (5.4%) | | |
| Apple, Inc. | 114,491 | 21,112,140 |
| Seagate Technology Holdings PLC | 62,917 | 5,390,729 |
| | | 26,502,869 |
| Textiles, apparel, and luxury goods (0.6%) | | |
| Levi Strauss & Co. Class A | 26,003 | 423,329 |
| Lululemon Athletica, Inc. (Canada) [†] | 1,598 | 725,204 |
| Nike, Inc. Class B | 14,469 | 1,469,038 |
| On Holding AG Class A (Switzerland) ^{† S} | 9,615 | 255,374 |
| | | 2,872,945 |
| Trading companies and distributors (0.4%) | | |
| United Rentals, Inc. | 3,448 | 2,156,379 |
| | | 2,156,379 |
| Wireless telecommunication services (0.8%) | | |
| T-Mobile US, Inc. | 25,821 | 4,163,122 |
| | | 4,163,122 |
| Total common stocks (cost \$286,623,419) | | \$483,484,688 |

| PURCHASED OPTIONS OUTSTANDING (0.1%)* | Expiration date/strike price | Notional amount | Contract amount | Value |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Citibank, N.A. | | | | |
| Oracle Corp. (Call) | Jan-25/\$140.00 | \$14,203,214 | \$127,155 | \$517,745 |
| UBSAG | | | | |
| BP PLC (Call) | Jun-24/45.00 | 837,240 | 23,853 | 2,186 |
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc. (Call) | Jun-24/25.00 | 364,002 | 43,593 | 786 |
| Total purchased options outstanding (cost \$515,630) | | | | \$520,717 |

| SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS (2.4%)* | Principal amount/ shares | Value |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC 5.52% ^d | Shares | 5,353,800 |
| Putnam Short Term Investment Fund Class P 5.47% ^L | Shares | 5,530,922 |
| State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund, Premier Class 5.30% ^P | Shares | 220,000 |
| U.S. Treasury Bills 5.443%, 2/22/24 ^{#Δ} | | \$700,000 |
| Total short-term investments (cost \$11,802,564) | | \$11,802,574 |

| TOTAL INVESTMENTS | Value |
|---|----------------------|
| Total investments (cost \$298,941,613) | \$495,807,979 |

Key to holding's abbreviations

ADR American Depositary 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 August 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024 (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 Franklin Resources, Inc., and references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*.

* Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$490,453,356.

† This security is non-income-producing.

This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the broker to cover margin requirements for futures contracts at the close of the reporting period. Collateral at period end totaled \$96,690 and is included in Investments in securities on the Statement of assets and liabilities (Notes 1 and 8).

Δ This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the custodian for collateral on certain derivative contracts at the close of the reporting period. Collateral at period end totaled \$70,773 and is included in Investments in securities on the Statement of assets and liabilities (Notes 1 and 8).

d Affiliated company. See Notes 1 and 5 to the financial statements regarding securities lending. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

L Affiliated company (Note 5). The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

P This security was pledged, or purchased with cash that was pledged, to the fund for collateral on certain derivative contracts. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

R Real Estate Investment Trust.

S Security on loan, in part or in entirety, at the close of the reporting period (Note 1).

Unless otherwise noted, the rates quoted in Short-term investments security descriptions represent the weighted average yield to maturity.

The dates shown on debt obligations are the original maturity dates.

FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 1/31/24 (aggregate face value \$24,234,806) (Unaudited)

| Counterparty | Currency | Contract type* | Delivery date | Value | Aggregate face value | Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation) |
|---|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|---|
| Bank of America N.A. | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Sell | 3/20/24 | \$6,476,139 | \$6,440,366 | \$(35,773) |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 4/17/24 | 475,310 | 478,640 | 3,330 |
| | Danish Krone | Sell | 3/20/24 | 1,165,500 | 1,165,344 | (156) |
| Barclays Bank PLC | | | | | | |
| | Euro | Sell | 3/20/24 | 1,004,882 | 1,006,590 | 1,708 |
| Citibank, N.A. | | | | | | |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 4/17/24 | 1,624,944 | 1,636,214 | 11,270 |
| | Euro | Sell | 3/20/24 | 1,464,443 | 1,466,774 | 2,331 |
| HSBC Bank USA, National Association | | | | | | |
| | Hong Kong Dollar | Sell | 2/21/24 | 2,562,118 | 2,562,561 | 443 |
| JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. | | | | | | |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 4/17/24 | 1,944,870 | 1,958,292 | 13,422 |
| Morgan Stanley & Co. International PLC | | | | | | |
| | Euro | Sell | 3/20/24 | 557,666 | 558,505 | 839 |

FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 1/31/24 (aggregate face value \$24,234,806) (Unaudited) cont.

| Counterparty | Currency | Contract type* | Delivery date | Value | Aggregate face value | Unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) |
|--|------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|--|
| NatWest Markets PLC | | | | | | |
| | Danish Krone | Sell | 3/20/24 | \$925,171 | \$928,908 | \$3,737 |
| State Street Bank and Trust Co. | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Buy | 3/20/24 | 549,704 | 560,974 | (11,270) |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 4/17/24 | 1,306,209 | 1,315,497 | 9,288 |
| | Hong Kong Dollar | Sell | 2/21/24 | 947,524 | 947,982 | 458 |
| UBSAG | | | | | | |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 4/17/24 | 1,047,558 | 1,054,823 | 7,265 |
| | Euro | Sell | 3/20/24 | 887,826 | 889,337 | 1,511 |
| WestPac Banking Corp. | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Sell | 3/20/24 | 1,271,064 | 1,263,999 | (7,065) |
| Unrealized appreciation | | | | | | 55,602 |
| Unrealized (depreciation) | | | | | | (54,264) |
| Total | | | | | | \$1,338 |

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

FUTURES CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 1/31/24 (Unaudited)

| | Number of contracts | Notional amount | Value | Expiration date | Unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|--|
| S&P 500 Index E-Mini (Long) | 3 | \$726,848 | \$730,575 | Mar-24 | \$(93) |
| Unrealized appreciation | | | | | — |
| Unrealized (depreciation) | | | | | (93) |
| Total | | | | | \$(93) |

WRITTEN OPTIONS OUTSTANDING at 1/31/24 (premiums \$294,797) (Unaudited)

| Counterparty | Expiration date/strike price | Notional amount | Contract amount | Value |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Citibank, N.A. | | | | |
| Oracle Corp. (Call) | Jan-25/\$150.00 | \$14,203,214 | \$127,155 | \$318,195 |
| UBSAG | | | | |
| BP PLC (Call) | Jun-24/50.00 | 837,240 | 23,853 | 789 |
| Hertz Global Holdings, Inc. (Call) | Jun-24/30.00 | 364,002 | 43,593 | 286 |
| Total | | | | \$319,270 |

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

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

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

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

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

| Investments in securities: | Valuation inputs | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Common stocks*: | | | |
| Communication services | \$41,850,979 | \$— | \$— |
| Consumer discretionary | 53,646,945 | — | — |
| Consumer staples | 31,862,099 | — | — |
| Energy | 15,675,957 | 3,524,733 | — |
| Financials | 54,611,108 | 9,484,594 | — |
| Health care | 64,225,206 | — | — |
| Industrials | 32,748,718 | — | — |
| Information technology | 142,378,553 | — | — |
| Materials | 14,855,047 | 1,406,009 | — |
| Real estate | 4,677,148 | — | — |
| Utilities | 12,537,592 | — | — |
| Total common stocks | 469,069,352 | 14,415,336 | — |
| Purchased options outstanding | — | 520,717 | — |
| Short-term investments | 220,000 | 11,582,574 | — |
| Totals by level | \$469,289,352 | \$26,518,627 | \$— |

| Other financial instruments: | Valuation inputs | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Forward currency contracts | \$— | \$1,338 | \$— |
| Futures contracts | (93) | — | — |
| Written options outstanding | — | (319,270) | — |
| Totals by level | \$(93) | \$(317,932) | \$— |

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

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

Statement of assets and liabilities 1/31/24 (Unaudited)

ASSETS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Investment in securities, at value, including \$5,063,706 of securities on loan (Notes 1 and 8): | |
| Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$288,056,891) | \$484,923,257 |
| Affiliated issuers (identified cost \$10,884,722) (Note 5) | 10,884,722 |
| Foreign currency (cost \$10) (Note 1) | 9 |
| Dividends, interest and other receivables | 270,749 |
| Receivable for shares of the fund sold | 275,819 |
| Receivable for investments sold | 3,373,508 |
| Unrealized appreciation on forward currency contracts (Note 1) | 55,602 |
| Prepaid assets | 48,014 |
| Total assets | 499,831,680 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Payable for investments purchased | 2,292,554 |
| Payable for shares of the fund repurchased | 530,217 |
| Payable for compensation of Manager (Note 2) | 224,110 |
| Payable for custodian fees (Note 2) | 11,138 |
| Payable for investor servicing fees (Note 2) | 116,030 |
| Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2) | 87,758 |
| Payable for administrative services (Note 2) | 6,700 |
| Payable for distribution fees (Note 2) | 93,245 |
| Payable for variation margin on futures contracts (Note 1) | 93 |
| Unrealized depreciation on forward currency contracts (Note 1) | 54,264 |
| Written options outstanding, at value (premiums \$294,797) (Note 1) | 319,270 |
| Collateral on securities loaned, at value (Note 1) | 5,353,800 |
| Collateral on certain derivative contracts, at value (Notes 1 and 8) | 220,000 |
| Other accrued expenses | 69,145 |
| Total liabilities | 9,378,324 |
| Net assets | \$490,453,356 |

REPRESENTED BY

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Paid-in capital (Unlimited shares authorized) (Notes 1 and 4) | \$286,410,118 |
| Total distributable earnings (Note 1) | 204,043,238 |
| Total — Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding | \$490,453,356 |

(Continued on next page)

Statement of assets and liabilities *cont.*

COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE AND OFFERING PRICE

| | |
|--|---------|
| Net asset value and redemption price per class A share (\$396,585,301 divided by 8,633,244 shares) | \$45.94 |
| Offering price per class A share (100/94.25 of \$45.94)* | \$48.74 |
| Net asset value and offering price per class B share (\$821,787 divided by 20,224 shares)** | \$40.63 |
| Net asset value and offering price per class C share (\$10,818,662 divided by 267,727 shares)** | \$40.41 |
| Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R share (\$1,118,853 divided by 24,836 shares) | \$45.05 |
| Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R6 share (\$26,336,471 divided by 562,453 shares) | \$46.82 |
| Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class Y share (\$54,772,282 divided by 1,176,882 shares) | \$46.54 |

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

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

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

Statement of operations Six months ended 1/31/24 (Unaudited)

| INVESTMENT INCOME | |
|---|---------------------|
| Dividends (net of foreign tax of \$11,303) | \$3,249,258 |
| Interest (including interest income of \$239,725 from investments in affiliated issuers) (Note 5) | 259,257 |
| Securities lending (net of expenses) (Notes 1 and 5) | 12,031 |
| Total investment income | 3,520,546 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Compensation of Manager (Note 2) | 1,289,259 |
| Investor servicing fees (Note 2) | 344,080 |
| Custodian fees (Note 2) | 17,501 |
| Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2) | 10,377 |
| Distribution fees (Note 2) | 528,521 |
| Administrative services (Note 2) | 9,744 |
| Other | 129,969 |
| Total expenses | 2,329,451 |
| Expense reduction (Note 2) | (8,680) |
| Net expenses | 2,320,771 |
| Net investment income | 1,199,775 |
| REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) | |
| Net realized gain (loss) on: | |
| Securities from unaffiliated issuers (Notes 1 and 3) | 11,371,935 |
| Foreign currency transactions (Note 1) | (4,695) |
| Forward currency contracts (Note 1) | 44,979 |
| Futures contracts (Note 1) | (255,597) |
| Written options (Note 1) | 13,113 |
| Net increase from payments by affiliates (Note 2) | 1,057 |
| Total net realized gain | 11,170,792 |
| Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on: | |
| Securities from unaffiliated issuers | 26,932,228 |
| Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies | 2,216 |
| Forward currency contracts | 445,347 |
| Futures contracts | (52,547) |
| Written options | (13,469) |
| Total change in net unrealized appreciation | 27,313,775 |
| Net gain on investments | 38,484,567 |
| Net increase in net assets resulting from operations | \$39,684,342 |

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

Statement of changes in net assets

| INCREASE IN NET ASSETS | Six months ended 1/31/24* | Year ended 7/31/23 |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Operations | | |
| Net investment income | \$1,199,775 | \$2,227,403 |
| Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions | 11,170,792 | (831,995) |
| Change in net unrealized appreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies | 27,313,775 | 57,745,411 |
| Net increase in net assets resulting from operations | 39,684,342 | 59,140,819 |
| Distributions to shareholders (Note 1): | | |
| From ordinary income | | |
| Net investment income | | |
| Class A | (1,100,924) | (3,408,769) |
| Class B | — | (1,861) |
| Class C | — | (39,133) |
| Class R | (297) | (9,231) |
| Class R6 | (151,279) | (296,304) |
| Class Y | (343,042) | (698,743) |
| Net realized short-term gain on investments | | |
| Class A | — | (531,421) |
| Class B | — | (3,395) |
| Class C | — | (19,381) |
| Class R | — | (1,817) |
| Class R6 | — | (33,783) |
| Class Y | — | (87,382) |
| From capital gain on investments | | |
| Net realized long-term gain on investments | | |
| Class A | — | (23,247,618) |
| Class B | — | (148,512) |
| Class C | — | (847,859) |
| Class R | — | (79,474) |
| Class R6 | — | (1,477,894) |
| Class Y | — | (3,822,627) |
| Increase (decrease) from capital share transactions (Note 4) | (26,252,083) | 12,229,603 |
| Total increase in net assets | 11,836,717 | 36,615,218 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Beginning of period | 478,616,639 | 442,001,421 |
| End of period | \$490,453,356 | \$478,616,639 |

*Unaudited.

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

Financial highlights

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

| Period ended | INVESTMENT OPERATIONS | | | | LESS DISTRIBUTIONS |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Net asset value, beginning of period | Net investment income (loss) ^a | Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments | Total from investment operations | From net investment income |
| Class A | | | | | |
| January 31, 2024** | \$42.40 | .10 | 3.57 | 3.67 | (.13) |
| July 31, 2023 | 40.54 | .19 | 4.97 | 5.16 | (.41) |
| July 31, 2022 | 46.80 | .15 | (2.87) | (2.72) | — ^d |
| July 31, 2021 | 35.33 | .12 | 12.16 | 12.28 | (.25) |
| July 31, 2020 | 33.64 | .22 | 3.94 | 4.16 | (.34) |
| July 31, 2019 | 35.35 | .23 | 2.23 | 2.46 | (.12) |
| Class B | | | | | |
| January 31, 2024** | \$37.53 | (.05) | 3.15 | 3.10 | — |
| July 31, 2023 | 36.14 | (.08) | 4.40 | 4.32 | (.04) |
| July 31, 2022 | 42.39 | (.17) | (2.54) | (2.71) | — |
| July 31, 2021 | 32.10 | (.17) | 11.03 | 10.86 | (.01) |
| July 31, 2020 | 30.75 | (.02) | 3.57 | 3.55 | (.07) |
| July 31, 2019 | 32.79 | — ^d | 2.01 | 2.01 | — |
| Class C | | | | | |
| January 31, 2024** | \$37.33 | (.05) | 3.13 | 3.08 | — |
| July 31, 2023 | 36.06 | (.09) | 4.38 | 4.29 | (.13) |
| July 31, 2022 | 42.30 | (.16) | (2.54) | (2.70) | — |
| July 31, 2021 | 32.04 | (.17) | 11.00 | 10.83 | (.01) |
| July 31, 2020 | 30.72 | (.02) | 3.58 | 3.56 | (.11) |
| July 31, 2019 | 32.77 | (.01) | 2.01 | 2.00 | — |
| Class R | | | | | |
| January 31, 2024** | \$41.52 | .05 | 3.49 | 3.54 | (.01) |
| July 31, 2023 | 39.77 | .09 | 4.87 | 4.96 | (.32) |
| July 31, 2022 | 46.07 | .04 | (2.80) | (2.76) | — |
| July 31, 2021 | 34.81 | .02 | 11.96 | 11.98 | (.16) |
| July 31, 2020 | 33.17 | .14 | 3.88 | 4.02 | (.25) |
| July 31, 2019 | 34.88 | .15 | 2.20 | 2.35 | (.01) |
| Class R6 | | | | | |
| January 31, 2024** | \$43.27 | .18 | 3.64 | 3.82 | (.27) |
| July 31, 2023 | 41.32 | .33 | 5.08 | 5.41 | (.57) |
| July 31, 2022 | 47.63 | .31 | (2.91) | (2.60) | (.17) |
| July 31, 2021 | 35.94 | .27 | 12.36 | 12.63 | (.38) |
| July 31, 2020 | 34.17 | .35 | 4.01 | 4.36 | (.46) |
| July 31, 2019 | 35.86 | .37 | 2.25 | 2.62 | (.26) |

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

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

| | | | | RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|------------------------|
| From net realized gain on investments | Total distributions | Net asset value, end of period | Total return at net asset value (%) ^b | Net assets, end of period (in thousands) | Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) ^c | Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets (%) | Portfolio turnover (%) |
| — | (.13) | \$45.94 | 8.67* | \$396,585 | .51* | .24* | 16* |
| (2.89) | (3.30) | 42.40 | 14.24 | 379,121 | 1.04 | .49 | 35 |
| (3.54) | (3.54) | 40.54 | (6.55) | 341,880 | 1.02 ^e | .33 | 46 |
| (.56) | (.81) | 46.80 | 35.18 | 388,700 | 1.03 | .29 | 54 |
| (2.13) | (2.47) | 35.33 | 12.92 | 297,393 | 1.08 | .67 | 90 |
| (4.05) | (4.17) | 33.64 | 8.65 | 270,420 | 1.10 | .72 | 86 |
| — | — | \$40.63 | 8.26* | \$822 | .89* | (.12)* | 16* |
| (2.89) | (2.93) | 37.53 | 13.38 | 1,141 | 1.79 | (.24) | 35 |
| (3.54) | (3.54) | 36.14 | (7.25) | 2,222 | 1.77 ^e | (.43) | 46 |
| (.56) | (.57) | 42.39 | 34.16 | 4,007 | 1.78 | (.45) | 54 |
| (2.13) | (2.20) | 32.10 | 12.07 | 4,491 | 1.83 | (.06) | 90 |
| (4.05) | (4.05) | 30.75 | 7.85 | 5,582 | 1.85 | (.01) | 86 |
| — | — | \$40.41 | 8.25* | \$10,819 | .89* | (.14)* | 16* |
| (2.89) | (3.02) | 37.33 | 13.39 | 10,630 | 1.79 | (.25) | 35 |
| (3.54) | (3.54) | 36.06 | (7.24) | 11,460 | 1.77 ^e | (.42) | 46 |
| (.56) | (.57) | 42.30 | 34.13 | 13,750 | 1.78 | (.46) | 54 |
| (2.13) | (2.24) | 32.04 | 12.13 | 11,234 | 1.83 | (.08) | 90 |
| (4.05) | (4.05) | 30.72 | 7.82 | 10,106 | 1.85 | (.03) | 86 |
| — | (.01) | \$45.05 | 8.53* | \$1,119 | .64* | .12* | 16* |
| (2.89) | (3.21) | 41.52 | 13.94 | 1,111 | 1.29 | .23 | 35 |
| (3.54) | (3.54) | 39.77 | (6.76) | 1,122 | 1.27 ^e | .09 | 46 |
| (.56) | (.72) | 46.07 | 34.80 | 906 | 1.28 | .05 | 54 |
| (2.13) | (2.38) | 34.81 | 12.66 | 1,061 | 1.33 | .44 | 90 |
| (4.05) | (4.06) | 33.17 | 8.40 | 1,257 | 1.35 | .46 | 86 |
| — | (.27) | \$46.82 | 8.86* | \$26,336 | .34* | .42* | 16* |
| (2.89) | (3.46) | 43.27 | 14.65 | 25,843 | .68 | .85 | 35 |
| (3.54) | (3.71) | 41.32 | (6.22) | 22,074 | .67 ^e | .69 | 46 |
| (.56) | (.94) | 47.63 | 35.65 | 24,078 | .66 | .65 | 54 |
| (2.13) | (2.59) | 35.94 | 13.39 | 15,440 | .69 | 1.05 | 90 |
| (4.05) | (4.31) | 34.17 | 9.08 | 10,999 | .70 | 1.13 | 86 |

Financial highlights *cont.*

| Period ended | INVESTMENT OPERATIONS | | | LESS DISTRIBUTIONS | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Net asset value, beginning of period | Net investment income (loss) ^a | Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments | Total from investment operations | From net investment income |
| Class Y | | | | | |
| January 31, 2024** | \$43.00 | .17 | 3.60 | 3.77 | (.23) |
| July 31, 2023 | 41.07 | .29 | 5.05 | 5.34 | (.52) |
| July 31, 2022 | 47.37 | .26 | (2.90) | (2.64) | (.12) |
| July 31, 2021 | 35.74 | .23 | 12.28 | 12.51 | (.32) |
| July 31, 2020 | 34.00 | .30 | 3.99 | 4.29 | (.42) |
| July 31, 2019 | 35.71 | .32 | 2.24 | 2.56 | (.22) |

* Not annualized.

** Unaudited.

^a Per share net investment income (loss) has been determined on the basis of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period.

^b Total return assumes dividend reinvestment and does not reflect the effect of sales charges.

^c Includes amounts paid through expense offset and/or brokerage/service arrangements, if any (Note 2). Also excludes acquired fund fees and expenses, if any.

^d Amount represents less than \$0.01 per share.

^e Includes one-time proxy cost of 0.01%.

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

| | | | | RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|------------------------|
| From net realized gain on investments | Total distributions | Net asset value, end of period | Total return at net asset value (%) ^b | Net assets, end of period (in thousands) | Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) ^c | Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets (%) | Portfolio turnover (%) |
| — | (.23) | \$46.54 | 8.80* | \$54,772 | .39* | .39* | 16* |
| (2.89) | (3.41) | 43.00 | 14.54 | 60,771 | .79 | .75 | 35 |
| (3.54) | (3.66) | 41.07 | (6.32) | 63,244 | .77 ^e | .60 | 46 |
| (.56) | (.88) | 47.37 | 35.49 | 58,216 | .78 | .54 | 54 |
| (2.13) | (2.55) | 35.74 | 13.23 | 41,773 | .83 | .91 | 90 |
| (4.05) | (4.27) | 34.00 | 8.93 | 32,115 | .85 | .97 | 86 |

Notes to financial statements 1/31/24 (Unaudited)

Unless otherwise noted, the “reporting period” represents the period from August 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. The following table defines commonly used references within the Notes to financial statements:

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

Putnam Research Fund (the fund) is a diversified series of Putnam Investment Funds (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 invests mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of large U.S. companies that Putnam Management believes have favorable investment potential. For example, the fund may purchase stocks of companies with stock prices that reflect a value lower than that which Putnam Management places on the company. Putnam Management may also consider other factors 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 offers the following share classes. The expenses for each class of shares may differ based on the distribution and investor servicing fees of each class, which are identified in Note 2.

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

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

† Not available to all investors.

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

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

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

Note 1: Significant accounting policies

The fund follows the accounting and reporting guidance in Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946, *Financial Services – Investment Companies* (ASC 946) and applies the specialized accounting and reporting guidance in U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (U.S. GAAP), including, but not limited to, ASC 946. 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.

Market quotations are not considered to be readily available for certain debt obligations (including short-term investments with remaining maturities of 60 days or less) and other investments; such investments are valued on the basis of valuations furnished by an independent pricing service approved by the Trustees or dealers selected by Putnam Management. Such services or dealers determine valuations for normal institutional-size trading units of such securities using methods based on market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships, generally recognized by institutional traders, between securities (which consider such factors as security prices, yields, maturities and ratings). These securities will generally be categorized as Level 2.

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

To the extent a pricing service or dealer is unable to value a security or provides a valuation that Putnam Management does not believe accurately reflects the security's fair value, the security will be valued at fair value by Putnam Management, which has been designated as valuation designee pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Trustees. Certain investments, including certain restricted and illiquid securities and derivatives, are also valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. These valuations consider such factors as significant market or specific security events such as interest rate or credit quality changes, various relationships with other securities, discount rates, U.S. Treasury, U.S. swap and credit yields, index levels, convexity exposures, recovery rates, sales and other multiples and resale restrictions. These securities are classified as Level 2 or as Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs.

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

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

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

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

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

Options contracts The fund uses options contracts to gain exposure to securities and to manage downside risks.

The potential risk to the fund is that the change in value of options contracts may not correspond to the change in value of the hedged instruments. In addition, losses may arise from changes in the value of the underlying instruments if there is an illiquid secondary market for the contracts, if interest or exchange rates move unexpectedly or if the counterparty to the contract is unable to perform. Realized gains and losses on purchased options are included in realized gains and losses on investment securities. If a written call option is exercised, the premium originally received is recorded as an addition to sales proceeds. If a written put option is exercised, the premium originally received is recorded as a reduction to the cost of investments.

Exchange-traded options are valued at the last sale price or, if no sales are reported, the last bid price for purchased options and the last ask price for written options. OTC traded options are valued using prices supplied by dealers.

Options on swaps are similar to options on securities except that the premium paid or received is to buy or grant the right to enter into a previously agreed upon interest rate or credit default contract. Forward premium swap option contracts include premiums that have extended settlement dates. The delayed settlement of the

premiums is factored into the daily valuation of the option contracts. In the case of interest rate cap and floor contracts, in return for a premium, ongoing payments between two parties are based on interest rates exceeding a specified rate, in the case of a cap contract, or falling below a specified rate in the case of a floor contract.

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

Futures contracts The fund uses futures contracts to equitize cash.

The potential risk to the fund is that the change in value of futures contracts may not correspond to the change in value of the hedged instruments. In addition, losses may arise from changes in the value of the underlying instruments, if there is an illiquid secondary market for the contracts, if interest or exchange rates move unexpectedly or if the counterparty to the contract is unable to perform. With futures, there is minimal counterparty credit risk to the fund since futures are exchange traded and the exchange's clearinghouse, as counterparty to all exchange traded futures, guarantees the futures against default. Risks may exceed amounts recognized on the Statement of assets and liabilities. When the contract is closed, 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.

Futures contracts are valued at the quoted daily settlement prices established by the exchange on which they trade. The fund and the broker agree to exchange an amount of cash equal to the daily fluctuation in the value of the futures contract. Such receipts or payments are known as "variation margin."

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

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 that govern OTC derivative and foreign exchange contracts and Master Securities Forward Transaction Agreements that govern transactions involving mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities that may result in delayed delivery (Master Agreements) with certain counterparties 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 pledged 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, are 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.

With respect to ISDA Master Agreements, 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 or 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 \$41,188 on open derivative contracts subject to the Master Agreements. Collateral pledged by the fund at period end for these agreements totaled \$70,773 and may include amounts related to unsettled 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, if any, is net of expenses and is included in investment income on the Statement of operations. Cash collateral is invested in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC, a limited liability company managed by an affiliate of Putnam Management. Investments in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC are valued at its closing net asset value each business day. There are no management fees charged to Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC. At the close of the reporting period, the fund received cash collateral of \$5,353,800 and the value of securities loaned amounted to \$5,063,706.

Interfund lending The fund, along with other Putnam funds, may participate in an interfund lending program pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the SEC. This program allows the fund to borrow from or lend to other Putnam funds that permit such transactions. Interfund lending transactions are subject to each fund's investment policies and borrowing and lending limits. Interest earned or paid on the interfund lending transaction will be based on the average of certain current market rates. During the reporting period, the fund did not utilize the program.

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

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

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

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

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

| Loss carryover | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Short-term | Long-term | Total |
| \$728,408 | \$— | \$728,408 |

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 aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$302,971,553, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$201,817,442 and \$9,299,041, respectively, or net unrealized appreciation of \$192,518,401.

Distributions to shareholders Distributions to shareholders from net investment income, if any, are recorded by the fund on the ex-dividend date. Distributions from capital gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-dividend date and paid at least annually. The amount and character of income and gains to be distributed are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. Actual results may vary. Any non-taxable return of capital cannot be determined until final tax calculations are completed after the end of the fund's fiscal year. 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.

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:

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 0.710% | of the first \$5 billion, | 0.510% | of the next \$50 billion, |
| 0.660% | of the next \$5 billion, | 0.490% | of the next \$50 billion, |
| 0.610% | of the next \$10 billion, | 0.480% | of the next \$100 billion and |
| 0.560% | of the next \$10 billion, | 0.475% | 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 0.276% of the fund's average net assets.

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

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

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

On January 1, 2024, a subsidiary of Franklin Templeton acquired Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC ("Putnam Holdings"), the parent company of Putnam Management, PIL, and PAC, in a stock and cash transaction (the "Transaction"). As a result of the Transaction, Putnam Management, PIL and PAC became indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries of Franklin Templeton. The Transaction also resulted in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between the fund and Putnam Management, the sub-management contract for the fund between Putnam Management and PIL, and the sub-advisory contract for the fund among Putnam Management, PIL and

PAC that were in place for the fund before the Transaction. However, Putnam Management, PIL and PAC continue to provide uninterrupted services with respect to the fund pursuant to new investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts that were approved by fund shareholders at a shareholder meeting held in connection with the Transaction and that took effect on January 1, 2024. The terms of the new investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts are substantially similar to those of the previous investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts, and the fee rates payable under the new investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts are the same as the fee rates under the previous investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts.

Putnam Management voluntarily reimbursed the fund \$1,057 for a trading error which occurred during the reporting period. The effect of the loss incurred and the reimbursement by Putnam Management of such amount had no material impact on total return.

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

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

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

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

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

| | | | |
|---------|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| Class A | \$285,013 | Class R | 800 |
| Class B | 703 | Class R6 | 6,260 |
| Class C | 7,743 | Class Y | 43,561 |
| | | Total | \$344,080 |

The fund has entered into expense offset arrangements with Putnam Investor Services, Inc. and State Street whereby Putnam Investor Services, Inc.'s and State Street's fees are reduced by credits allowed on cash balances. For the reporting period, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$8,680 under the expense offset arrangements.

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual Trustee fee, of which \$405, 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 from July 1, 1995 through December 31, 2023. 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 Franklin Templeton, 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% | \$470,123 |
| Class B | 1.00% | 1.00% | 4,636 |
| Class C | 1.00% | 1.00% | 51,125 |
| Class R | 1.00% | 0.50% | 2,637 |
| Total | | | \$528,521 |

For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received net commissions of \$18,331 from the sale of class A shares and received no monies and \$321 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 \$63 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) | \$75,651,730 | \$99,249,346 |
| U.S. government securities (Long-term) | — | — |
| Total | \$75,651,730 | \$99,249,346 |

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 | SIX MONTHS ENDED 1/31/24 | | YEAR ENDED 7/31/23 | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Shares sold | 284,673 | \$12,122,754 | 768,786 | \$29,023,030 |
| Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions | 25,031 | 1,068,069 | 735,014 | 26,313,509 |
| | 309,704 | 13,190,823 | 1,503,800 | 55,336,539 |
| Shares repurchased | (618,999) | (26,597,755) | (995,052) | (38,062,510) |
| Net increase (decrease) | (309,295) | \$(13,406,932) | 508,748 | \$17,274,029 |

| Class B | SIX MONTHS ENDED 1/31/24 | | YEAR ENDED 7/31/23 | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Shares sold | 1 | \$55 | 94 | \$3,098 |
| Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions | — | — | 4,790 | 152,576 |
| | 1 | 55 | 4,884 | 155,674 |
| Shares repurchased | (10,167) | (378,172) | (35,965) | (1,213,351) |
| Net decrease | (10,166) | \$(378,117) | (31,081) | \$(1,057,677) |

| Class C | SIX MONTHS ENDED 1/31/24 | | YEAR ENDED 7/31/23 | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Shares sold | 16,959 | \$625,143 | 38,868 | \$1,291,976 |
| Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions | — | — | 28,566 | 904,964 |
| | 16,959 | 625,143 | 67,434 | 2,196,940 |
| Shares repurchased | (34,015) | (1,239,429) | (100,455) | (3,305,138) |
| Net decrease | (17,056) | \$(614,286) | (33,021) | \$(1,108,198) |

| Class R | SIX MONTHS ENDED 1/31/24 | | YEAR ENDED 7/31/23 | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Shares sold | 2,003 | \$80,056 | 5,749 | \$213,447 |
| Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions | 7 | 297 | 2,578 | 90,522 |
| | 2,010 | 80,353 | 8,327 | 303,969 |
| Shares repurchased | (3,932) | (155,670) | (9,790) | (358,326) |
| Net decrease | (1,922) | \$(75,317) | (1,463) | \$(54,357) |

| Class R6 | SIX MONTHS ENDED 1/31/24 | | YEAR ENDED 7/31/23 | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Shares sold | 64,740 | \$2,771,611 | 138,546 | \$5,350,748 |
| Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions | 3,480 | 151,263 | 49,588 | 1,807,981 |
| | 68,220 | 2,922,874 | 188,134 | 7,158,729 |
| Shares repurchased | (102,955) | (4,433,526) | (125,133) | (4,911,494) |
| Net increase (decrease) | (34,735) | \$(1,510,652) | 63,001 | \$2,247,235 |

| Class Y | SIX MONTHS ENDED 1/31/24 | | YEAR ENDED 7/31/23 | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount |
| Shares sold | 618,618 | \$26,088,742 | 288,298 | \$11,291,818 |
| Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions | 7,892 | 341,079 | 126,363 | 4,580,671 |
| | 626,510 | 26,429,821 | 414,661 | 15,872,489 |
| Shares repurchased | (862,996) | (36,696,600) | (541,105) | (20,943,918) |
| Net decrease | (236,486) | \$(10,266,779) | (126,444) | \$(5,071,429) |

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 7/31/23 | Purchase cost | Sale proceeds | Investment income | Shares outstanding and fair value as of 1/31/24 |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| Short-term investments | | | | | |
| Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC* | \$8,137,724 | \$31,870,779 | \$34,654,703 | \$164,540 | \$5,353,800 |
| Putnam Short Term Investment Fund Class P† | 8,857,497 | 48,987,941 | 52,314,516 | 239,725 | 5,530,922 |
| Total Short-term investments | \$16,995,221 | \$80,858,720 | \$86,969,219 | \$404,265 | \$10,884,722 |

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

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

Note 6: Market, credit and other risks

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

Note 7: 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:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Purchased equity option contracts (contract amount) | \$120,000 |
| Written equity option contracts (contract amount) | \$120,000 |
| Futures contracts (number of contracts) | 8 |
| Forward currency contracts (contract amount) | \$26,000,000 |

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 | \$55,602 | Payables | \$54,264 |
| Equity contracts | Investments | 520,717 | Payables, Net assets — Unrealized depreciation | 319,363* |
| Total | | \$576,319 | | \$373,627 |

* Includes cumulative depreciation of futures contracts as reported in the fund's portfolio. Only current day's variation margin is reported within the Statement of assets and liabilities.

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 | Options | Futures | Forward currency contracts | Total |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Foreign exchange contracts | \$— | \$— | \$44,979 | \$44,979 |
| Equity contracts | 42,081 | (255,597) | — | \$(213,516) |
| Total | \$42,081 | \$(255,597) | \$44,979 | \$(168,537) |

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 | Options | Futures | Forward currency contracts | Total |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Foreign exchange contracts | \$— | \$— | \$445,347 | \$445,347 |
| Equity contracts | (20,278) | (52,547) | — | \$(72,825) |
| Total | \$(20,278) | \$(52,547) | \$445,347 | \$372,522 |

This page left blank intentionally.

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 | BofA Securities, Inc. | Citibank, N.A. | HSBC Bank USA, National Association |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Futures contracts [§] | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| Forward currency contracts [#] | 3,330 | 1,708 | — | 13,601 | 443 |
| Purchased options ^{**#} | — | — | — | 517,745 | — |
| Total Assets | \$3,330 | \$1,708 | \$— | \$531,346 | \$443 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Futures contracts [§] | — | — | 93 | — | — |
| Forward currency contracts [#] | 35,929 | — | — | — | — |
| Written options [#] | — | — | — | 318,195 | — |
| Total Liabilities | \$35,929 | \$— | \$93 | \$318,195 | \$— |
| Total Financial and Derivative Net Assets | \$(32,599) | \$1,708 | \$(93) | \$213,151 | \$443 |
| Total collateral received (pledged) ^{†##} | \$(32,599) | \$— | \$— | \$213,151 | \$— |
| Net amount | \$— | \$1,708 | \$(93) | \$— | \$443 |
| <i>Controlled collateral received (including TBA commitments)**</i> | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$220,000 | \$— |
| <i>Uncontrolled collateral received</i> | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| <i>Collateral (pledged) (including TBA commitments)**</i> | \$(70,773) | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |

** 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.

§ Includes current day's variation margin only as reported on the Statement of assets and liabilities, which is not collateralized. Cumulative appreciation/(depreciation) for futures contracts is represented in the table listed after the fund's portfolio. Collateral pledged for initial margin on futures contracts, which is not included in the table above, amounted to \$96,690.

| JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A. | Morgan Stanley & Co. International PLC | NatWest Markets PLC | State Street Bank and Trust Co. | UBS AG | WestPac Banking Corp. | Total |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| 13,422 | 839 | 3,737 | 9,746 | 8,776 | — | 55,602 |
| — | — | — | — | 2,972 | — | 520,717 |
| \$13,422 | \$839 | \$3,737 | \$9,746 | \$11,748 | \$— | \$576,319 |
| — | — | — | — | — | — | 93 |
| — | — | — | 11,270 | — | 7,065 | 54,264 |
| — | — | — | — | 1,075 | — | 319,270 |
| \$— | \$— | \$— | \$11,270 | \$1,075 | \$7,065 | \$373,627 |
| \$13,422 | \$839 | \$3,737 | \$(1,524) | \$10,673 | \$(7,065) | \$202,692 |
| \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | |
| \$13,422 | \$839 | \$3,737 | \$(1,524) | \$10,673 | \$(7,065) | |
| \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$220,000 |
| \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$(70,773) |

Shareholder meeting results (Unaudited)

November 17, 2023 special meeting

At the meeting, a new Management Contract for your fund with Putnam Investment Management, LLC was approved, as follows:

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions/Votes withheld |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5,526,298 | 184,895 | 272,098 |

At the meeting, a new Sub-Management Contract for your fund between Putnam Investment Management, LLC and Putnam Investments Limited was approved, as follows:

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions/Votes withheld |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5,486,830 | 210,535 | 285,927 |

At the meeting, a new Sub-Advisory Contract for your fund between Putnam Investment Management, LLC, Putnam Investments Limited and The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC was approved, as follows:

| Votes for | Votes against | Abstentions/Votes withheld |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5,489,498 | 207,946 | 285,847 |

All tabulations are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Fund information

Investment Manager

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

Investment Sub-Advisors

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

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

Marketing Services

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

Custodian

State Street Bank
and Trust Company

Legal Counsel

Ropes & Gray LLP

Trustees

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

Officers

Robert L. Reynolds
President, The Putnam Funds

Kevin R. Blatchford
*Vice President and
Assistant Treasurer*

James F. Clark
*Vice President and
Chief Compliance Officer*

Michael J. Higgins
*Vice President, Treasurer,
and Clerk*

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

Kelley Hunt
AML Compliance Officer

Martin Lemaire
*Vice President and
Derivatives Risk Manager*

Alan G. McCormack
*Vice President and
Derivatives Risk Manager*

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

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

Stephen J. Tate
*Vice President and
Chief Legal Officer*

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

This page left blank intentionally.

This page left blank intentionally.

