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# Putnam Emerging Markets ex-China ETF

Semiannual report

10 | 31 | 23



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

FUND SYMBOL  
PEMX

# Putnam Emerging Markets ex-China ETF

## Semiannual report

10 | 31 | 23

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# Message from the Trustees

December 12, 2023

Dear Shareholder:

The U.S. economy has defied expectations of a recession year to date, with the pace of growth picking up speed in the third quarter. At the same time, volatility in financial markets has increased. Stock prices fell in late summer and early fall. Bond prices also declined during this time, while yields, which move in the opposite direction, rose. In October 2023, the 10-year U.S. Treasury yield, a key benchmark for setting mortgage rates, briefly rose above 5% for the first time since 2007.

Markets have been pressured by inflation, which has moderated but remains above the U.S. Federal Reserve's target rate of 2%. In its continuing effort to bring down inflation, the Fed has indicated short-term interest rates will remain high heading into next year. This restrictive policy may keep the risk of recession alive in 2024 unless the U.S. economy slows without contracting.

Your investment team is analyzing shifting market conditions, actively navigating risks, and identifying attractive opportunities for your fund. An update on your fund is in the report that follows.

Thank you for investing with Putnam.

Respectfully yours,



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

**Robert L. Reynolds**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Putnam Investments



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

**Kenneth R. Leibler**  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# Your fund at a glance

## Sector allocations

● Information technology	34.2%
● Financials	18.3
● Consumer discretionary	13.6
● Health care	7.7
● Industrials	7.6
● Materials	5.8
● Consumer staples	5.2
● Energy	3.4
● Real estate	1.5
● Cash and net other assets	2.7



Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets as of 10/31/23. Cash and net other assets, if any, represent the market value weights of cash, derivatives, short-term securities, and other unclassified assets in the portfolio. Summary information may differ from the 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 an investor, you pay ongoing expenses, such as management fees, and other expenses (with certain exceptions). In the most recent period, your fund's expenses were limited; had expenses not been limited, they would have been higher. Using the following information, you can estimate how these expenses affect your investment and compare them with the expenses of other funds. You may also pay brokerage commissions in connection with your purchase or sale of shares of the fund, which are not shown in this section and would have resulted in higher total expenses. The expenses shown in the example also do not reflect transaction costs, which would have resulted in higher total expenses. For more information, see your fund's prospectus or talk to your financial representative.

### Expense ratios

Estimated total operating expenses for the fiscal year ended 4/30/24*	0.85%
Annualized expense ratio for the period from 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23	0.85%

Estimated 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 are based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year.

### Expenses per \$1,000

The following table shows the expenses you would have paid on a \$1,000 investment in the fund from 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23. It also shows how much a \$1,000 investment would be worth at the close of the period, assuming *actual returns* and expenses.

Expenses paid per \$1,000*†	\$3.89
Ending value (after expenses)	\$992.20

\* Expenses are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the period from 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23.

† 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 (168); 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 period from 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23, use the following calculation method. To find the value of your investment on 5/17/23, call 1-833-228-5577.

### How to calculate the expenses you paid

Value of your investment on 5/17/23 (commencement of operations)  $\div$  \$1,000  $\times$  Expenses paid per \$1,000 = Total expenses paid

**Example** Based on a \$10,000 investment in your fund.

\$10,000  $\div$  \$1,000  $\times$  \$3.89 (see preceding table) = \$38.90

## 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 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.

Expenses paid per \$1,000 <sup>†</sup>	\$4.32
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,020.86

\* Expenses are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the period from 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23.

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

### Proxy voting

Putnam is committed to managing our funds in the best interests of our shareholders. The Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures, as well as information regarding how your fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the period from May 17, 2023 (commencement of operations) to June 30, 2023, are available in the Individual Investors section of [putnam.com](http://putnam.com) and on the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's website, you may call the SEC at

1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain the Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures at no charge by calling Putnam's Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581 or, for exchange-traded funds only, 1-833-228-5577.

### Fund portfolio holdings

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

### Trustee and employee fund ownership

Putnam employees and members of the Board of Trustees place their faith, confidence, and, most importantly, investment dollars in Putnam funds. As of October 31, 2023, Putnam employees had approximately \$466,000,000 and the Trustees had approximately \$64,000,000 invested in Putnam funds. These amounts include investments by the Trustees' and employees' immediate family members as well as investments through retirement and deferred compensation plans.

## Important notice regarding Putnam's privacy policy

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

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

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

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



## Trustee approval of management contracts

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

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

In addition to the New Management Contracts, the Trustees also approved interim management and sub-management contracts with Putnam Management and PIL, respectively (the "Interim Management Contracts"), which would take effect in the event that for any reason shareholder approval of a New Management Contract was not received by the time of the Transaction closing. The Trustees considered that each Interim Management Contract that became effective would remain in effect until shareholders

approved the proposed New Management Contract, or until 150 days elapse after the closing of the Transaction, whichever occurred first. The considerations and conclusions discussed in connection with the Trustees' consideration of the New Management Contracts and the continuance of your fund's Current Management Contracts also apply to the Trustees' consideration of the Interim Management Contracts, supplemented by consideration of the terms, nature and reason for any Interim Management Contract.

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

In order to assist the Independent Trustees in their consideration of the New Management Contracts and other anticipated impacts of the Transaction on the funds and their shareholders, independent legal counsel for the Independent Trustees furnished an initial information request to Franklin Templeton (the "Initial Franklin Request"). At a special meeting of the full Board of Trustees held on January 25, 2023, representatives of Franklin Templeton addressed the firm's responses to the Initial Franklin Request. At the meeting, representatives of Franklin Templeton

discussed, among other things, the business and financial condition of Franklin Templeton and its affiliates, Franklin Templeton's U.S. registered fund operations, its recent acquisition history, Franklin Templeton's intentions regarding the operation of Putnam Management and the funds following the completion of the potential Transaction and expected benefits to the funds and Putnam Management that might result from the Transaction.

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

After the presentations and after reviewing the written materials provided, the Independent Trustees met at their in-person meeting on June 23, 2023 to consider the New Management Contracts for each fund, proposed to become effective upon the closing of the Transaction, and the filing of a preliminary proxy statement. At this meeting and throughout the process, the Independent Trustees also received advice from

their independent legal counsel regarding their responsibilities in evaluating the potential Transaction and the New Management Contracts. The Independent Trustees reviewed the terms of the proposed New Management Contracts and the differences between the New Management Contracts and the Current Management Contracts. They noted that the terms of the proposed New Management Contracts were substantially identical to the Current Management Contracts, except for certain changes designed largely to address differences among various of the existing contracts, which had been developed and implemented at different times in the past.

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

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

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

groups reporting to Franklin Templeton's Head of Public Markets;

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

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

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

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

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

- a. That the scale of Franklin Templeton's investment operations platform would increase the investment and operational resources available to the funds;
- b. That the Putnam open-end funds would benefit from Franklin Templeton's large retail and institutional global distribution capabilities and significant network of intermediary relationships, which may provide additional opportunities for the funds to increase assets and reduce expenses by spreading expenses over a larger asset base; and
- c. Potential benefits to shareholders of the Putnam open-end funds that could result from the alignment of certain fund features and shareholder benefits with those of other funds sponsored by Franklin Templeton and its affiliates and access to a broader array of investment opportunities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **General conclusions — Current Management Contracts**

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

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

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

of your fund's Current Management Contracts, effective July 1, 2023, and the approval of your fund's New Management Contracts and Interim Management Contracts, as discussed above.

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

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

These conclusions were based on a comprehensive consideration of all information provided to the Trustees and were not the result of any single factor. Some of the factors that figured particularly in the Trustees' deliberations and how the Trustees considered these factors are described below, although individual Trustees may have evaluated the information presented differently, giving different weights to various factors. The Trustees also took into account their concurrent deliberations and conclusions, and the materials that they had reviewed, in connection with their approval on June 23, 2023 of the Interim Management Contracts and the New Management Contracts, which had been proposed in light of the Transaction (which would cause the fund's Current Management Contracts to terminate in accordance with applicable law or the terms of each contract).

### **Management fee schedules and total expenses**

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

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

Under its management contract, your fund pays a management fee at a fixed rate of 85 basis points to Putnam Management. Putnam Management is obligated to pay, out of the management fee, all of the fund’s organizational and other operating expenses with limited exceptions, which include fees, if any, payable under the fund’s distribution plan, interest, taxes, brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, fund proxy expenses, litigation expenses, extraordinary expenses and acquired fund fees and expenses.

As in the past, the Trustees also focused on the competitiveness of each fund’s total expense ratio. The Trustees noted that the exchange-traded funds are subject to unitary management fees, as noted above, and that none of the exchange-traded funds have a contractual expense limitation at present. The Trustees also considered pro forma comparative fee and expense information for a custom group of competitive funds selected by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., noting that the Fund had only recently commenced operations in May 2023.

In connection with their review of fund management fees and total expenses, the Trustees also reviewed the costs of the services provided and the profits realized by Putnam Management and its affiliates from their contractual relationships with the funds. This information included trends in revenues, expenses and profitability of Putnam Management and its affiliates relating to the investment management, investor servicing and distribution services provided to the funds, as applicable. In this regard, the Trustees also reviewed an analysis of the revenues, expenses and profitability of Putnam Management and its affiliates, allocated on a fund-by-fund basis, with respect to (as applicable) the funds’ management, distribution and investor servicing contracts. For each fund, the analysis presented information about revenues, expenses and profitability in 2022 for each of the applicable agreements separately

and for the agreements taken together on a combined basis. The Trustees concluded that, at current asset levels, the fee schedules in place for each of the funds, including the fee schedule for your fund, represented reasonable compensation for the services being provided and represented an appropriate sharing between fund shareholders and Putnam Management of any economies of scale as may exist in the management of the funds at that time.

The information examined by the Trustees in connection with their annual contract review for the funds included information regarding services provided and fees charged by Putnam Management and its affiliates to other clients, including collective investment trusts offered in the defined contribution and defined benefit retirement plan markets, sub-advised mutual funds, private funds sponsored by affiliates of Putnam Management, model-only separately managed accounts and Putnam Management’s manager-traded separately managed account programs. This information included, in cases where a product’s investment strategy corresponds with a fund’s strategy, comparisons of those fees with fees charged to the funds, as well as an assessment of the differences in the services provided to these clients as compared to the services provided to the funds. The Trustees observed that the differences in fee rates between these clients and the funds are by no means uniform when examined by individual asset sectors, suggesting that differences in the pricing of investment management services to these types of clients may reflect, among other things, historical competitive forces operating in separate marketplaces. The Trustees considered the fact that in many cases fee rates across different asset classes are higher on average for 1940 Act-registered funds than for other clients, and the Trustees also considered the differences between the services that Putnam Management provides to the funds and those that it provides to its other clients. The Trustees did not rely on these comparisons to any significant extent in concluding that the management fees paid by your fund are reasonable.

### **Investment performance**

The quality of the investment process provided by Putnam Management represented a major factor in the Trustees’ evaluation of the quality of services provided by Putnam Management under your fund’s management contract. The Trustees were assisted in their review of Putnam

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

The Trustees considered that, in the aggregate, peer-relative and benchmark-relative Putnam fund performance was generally encouraging in 2022 against a backdrop of volatile equity and fixed income markets, driven by factors such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, increased tensions with China, disruptions in energy markets and broader supply chains, rising inflation and the significant tightening of monetary policy by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve in an effort to combat inflation. The Trustees further noted that, in the face of these numerous economic headwinds, corporate earnings and employment data had been generally robust throughout 2022. For the one-year period ended December 31, 2022, the Trustees noted that the Putnam funds, on an asset-weighted basis, ranked in the 41st percentile of their peers as determined by Lipper Inc. ("Lipper") and, on an asset-weighted-basis, outperformed their benchmarks by 1.3% gross of fees over the one-year period. The Committee also noted that the funds' aggregate performance over longer-term periods continued to be strong, with the funds, on an asset-weighted basis, ranking in the 34th, 27th and 22nd percentiles of their Lipper peers over the three-year, five-year and ten-year periods ended December 31, 2022, respectively. The Trustees further noted that the funds, in the aggregate, outperformed their benchmarks on a gross basis for each of the three-year, five-year and ten-year periods. The Trustees also considered the Morningstar Inc. ratings assigned to the funds and that 40 funds were rated four or five stars at the end of 2022, which represented an increase of 15 funds year-over-year. The Trustees also considered that seven funds were five-star rated

at the end of 2022, which was a year-over-year decrease of two funds, and that 83% of the funds' aggregate assets were in four- or five-star rated funds at year end.

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

For purposes of the Trustees' evaluation of the Putnam funds' investment performance, the Trustees generally focus on a competitive industry ranking of each fund's total net return over a one-year, three-year and five-year period. For a number of Putnam funds with relatively unique investment mandates for which Putnam Management informed the Trustees that meaningful competitive performance rankings are not considered to be available, the Trustees evaluated performance based on their total gross and net returns and comparisons of those returns to the returns of selected investment benchmarks. Because your fund had only recently commenced operations (the fund commenced operations on May 17, 2023), the Trustees did not consider your fund's recent performance in connection with their consideration of your fund's management and sub-management contracts.

The Trustees also considered Putnam Management's continued efforts to support fund performance through certain initiatives,

including structuring compensation for portfolio managers to enhance accountability for fund performance, emphasizing accountability in the portfolio management process and affirming its commitment to a fundamental-driven approach to investing.

### **Brokerage and soft-dollar allocations**

The Trustees considered various potential benefits that Putnam Management may receive in connection with the services it provides under the management contract with your fund. These include benefits related to brokerage allocation and the use of soft dollars, whereby a portion of the commissions paid by a fund for brokerage may be used to acquire research services that are expected to be useful to Putnam Management in managing the assets of the fund and of other

clients. Subject to policies established by the Trustees, soft dollars generated by these means are used predominantly to acquire brokerage and research services (including third-party research and market data) that enhance Putnam Management's investment capabilities and supplement Putnam Management's internal research efforts. The Trustees indicated their continued intent to monitor regulatory and industry developments in this area with the assistance of their Brokerage Committee. In addition, with the assistance of their Brokerage Committee, the Trustees indicated their continued intent to monitor the allocation of the funds' brokerage in order to ensure that the principle of seeking best price and execution remains paramount in the portfolio trading process.

## 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 10/31/23 (Unaudited)

<b>COMMON STOCKS (97.3%)*</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Air freight and logistics (0.9%)</b>		
InPost SA (Poland) †	5,581	\$55,302
		<b>55,302</b>
<b>Automobiles (2.1%)</b>		
Kia Corp. (South Korea)	2,217	126,877
		<b>126,877</b>
<b>Banks (17.3%)</b>		
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank PJSC (United Arab Emirates)	54,235	152,000
Alinma Bank (Saudi Arabia)	14,352	125,902
Banco do Brasil SA (Brazil)	7,900	75,760
Bank Central Asia Tbk PT (Indonesia)	151,000	83,250
Bank Mandiri Persero Tbk PT (Indonesia)	349,900	125,391
Grupo Financiero Banorte SAB de CV Class O (Mexico)	22,804	184,732
ICICI Bank, Ltd. (India)	25,749	283,153
		<b>1,030,188</b>
<b>Broadline retail (1.9%)</b>		
MercadoLibre, Inc. (Brazil) †	92	114,148
		<b>114,148</b>
<b>Capital markets (1.1%)</b>		
B3 SA — Brasil Bolsa Balcao (Brazil)	28,079	61,819
		<b>61,819</b>
<b>Chemicals (2.7%)</b>		
Hansol Chemical Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	386	43,307
Supreme Industries, Ltd. (India)	2,203	114,646
		<b>157,953</b>
<b>Communications equipment (3.2%)</b>		
Accton Technology Corp. (Taiwan)	12,000	187,007
		<b>187,007</b>
<b>Construction and engineering (1.0%)</b>		
Larsen & Toubro, Ltd. (India)	1,677	59,029
		<b>59,029</b>
<b>Construction materials (1.1%)</b>		
UltraTech Cement, Ltd. (India)	662	67,027
		<b>67,027</b>
<b>Consumer staples distribution and retail (5.2%)</b>		
Dino Polska SA (Poland) †	625	59,257
Shoptite Holdings, Ltd. (South Africa)	8,365	107,199
Sumber Alfaria Trijaya Tbk PT (Indonesia)	450,800	81,984
WalMart de Mexico (Walmex) SAB de CV (Mexico)	16,869	60,444
		<b>308,884</b>
<b>Electrical equipment (3.3%)</b>		
KEI Industries, Ltd. (India)	6,746	194,604
		<b>194,604</b>
<b>Electronic equipment, instruments, and components (4.7%)</b>		
Elite Material Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	5,000	55,523
Samsung SDI Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	355	113,308
Sinbon Electronics Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	13,000	111,093
		<b>279,924</b>

<b>COMMON STOCKS (97.3%)* cont.</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Health care providers and services (3.2%)</b>		
Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Ltd. (India)	1,062	\$61,377
Max Healthcare Institute, Ltd. (India)	18,902	130,241
		<b>191,618</b>
<b>Hotels, restaurants, and leisure (5.1%)</b>		
Alsea SAB de CV (Mexico) †	23,959	79,522
Indian Hotels Co., Ltd. (India)	34,765	160,239
MakeMyTrip, Ltd. (India) †	1,686	65,299
		<b>305,060</b>
<b>IT Services (2.5%)</b>		
Tata Consultancy Services, Ltd. (India)	3,690	149,706
		<b>149,706</b>
<b>Metals and mining (2.0%)</b>		
Anglo American PLC (London Exchange) (United Kingdom)	2,503	63,892
APL Apollo Tubes, Ltd. (India)	3,017	56,757
		<b>120,649</b>
<b>Oil, gas, and consumable fuels (3.4%)</b>		
PRIOS SA (Brazil) †	11,900	112,586
Reliance Industries, Ltd. (India)	3,287	90,660
		<b>203,246</b>
<b>Passenger airlines (0.9%)</b>		
Copa Holdings SA Class A (Panama)	649	52,991
		<b>52,991</b>
<b>Pharmaceuticals (4.5%)</b>		
AstraZeneca PLC (United Kingdom)	695	86,872
Eli Lilly and Co.	204	113,002
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. (India)	5,156	67,479
		<b>267,353</b>
<b>Real estate management and development (1.5%)</b>		
Phoenix Mills, Ltd. (The) (India)	4,154	90,541
		<b>90,541</b>
<b>Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment (16.1%)</b>		
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. †	991	97,614
SK Hynix, Inc. (South Korea)	2,300	200,930
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	40,000	659,025
		<b>957,569</b>
<b>Software (1.8%)</b>		
Synopsys, Inc. †	120	56,333
Totvs SA (Brazil)	10,214	51,275
		<b>107,608</b>
<b>Specialty retail (1.6%)</b>		
JUMBO SA (Greece)	3,695	97,211
		<b>97,211</b>
<b>Technology hardware, storage, and peripherals (5.9%)</b>		
AURAS Technology Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	5,000	44,710
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	6,187	308,519
		<b>353,229</b>

<b>COMMON STOCKS (97.3%)* cont.</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Textiles, apparel, and luxury goods (2.8%)</b>		
Arezzo Industria e Comercio SA (Brazil)	4,038	\$46,765
LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA (France)	164	117,370
		<b>164,135</b>
<b>Transportation infrastructure (1.5%)</b>		
International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (Philippines)	25,110	89,135
		<b>89,135</b>
<b>Total common stocks (cost \$5,846,806)</b>		<b>\$5,792,813</b>

<b>SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS (2.7%)*</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
Putnam Government Money Market Fund Class P 5.05% <sup>L</sup>	162,245	\$162,245
<b>Total short-term investments (cost \$162,245)</b>		<b>\$162,245</b>

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>		
<b>Total investments (cost \$6,009,051)</b>		<b>\$5,955,058</b>

#### Key to holding's abbreviations

PJSC Public Joint Stock Company

#### Notes to the fund's portfolio

Unless noted otherwise, the notes to the fund's portfolio are for the close of the fund's reporting period, which ran from May 17, 2023 (commencement of operations) through October 31, 2023 (the reporting period). Within the following notes to the portfolio, references to "Putnam Management" represent Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund's manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC and references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*.

\* Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$5,953,067.

† This security is non-income-producing.

<sup>L</sup> Affiliated company (Note 6). The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

#### DIVERSIFICATION BY COUNTRY

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

India	26.7%	Saudi Arabia	2.1%
Taiwan	17.8	France	2.0
South Korea	13.3	Poland	1.9
Brazil	7.8	South Africa	1.8
United States	7.2	Greece	1.6
Mexico	5.5	Philippines	1.5
Indonesia	4.9	Panama	0.9
United Arab Emirates	2.6	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
United Kingdom	2.4		

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*:			
Consumer discretionary	\$305,734	\$501,697	\$—
Consumer staples	60,444	248,440	—
Energy	112,586	90,660	—
Financials	322,311	769,696	—
Health care	113,002	345,969	—
Industrials	52,991	398,070	—
Information technology	205,222	1,829,821	—
Materials	—	345,629	—
Real estate	—	90,541	—
<b>Total common stocks</b>	<b>1,172,290</b>	<b>4,620,523</b>	<b>—</b>
Short-term investments	162,245	—	—
<b>Totals by level</b>	<b>\$1,334,535</b>	<b>\$4,620,523</b>	<b>\$—</b>

\* 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 10/31/23 (Unaudited)

### ASSETS

Investment in securities, at value (Note 1):	
Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$5,846,806)	\$5,792,813
Affiliated issuers (identified cost \$162,245) (Note 6)	162,245
Foreign currency (cost \$9) (Note 1)	9
Dividends and interest receivable	2,375
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>5,957,442</b>

### LIABILITIES

Payable for compensation of Manager (Note 2)	4,375
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4,375</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$5,953,067</b>

### REPRESENTED BY

Paid-in capital (Unlimited shares authorized) (Notes 1, 4 and 5)	\$6,000,000
Total distributable earnings (Note 1)	(46,933)
<b>Total — Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding</b>	<b>\$5,953,067</b>

### COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE

Net asset value per share	
(\$5,953,067 divided by 150,000 shares)	\$39.69

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

**Statement of operations For the period 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23**

<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	
Dividends (net of foreign tax of \$10,933)	\$58,998
Interest (including interest income of \$1,220 from investments in affiliated issuers) (Note 6)	1,220
<b>Total investment income</b>	<b>60,218</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Compensation of Manager (Note 2)	24,567
Fees waived and reimbursed by Manager (Note 2)	(71)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>24,496</b>
<b>Net investment income</b>	<b>35,722</b>
<b>REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)</b>	
<b>Net realized gain (loss) on:</b>	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers (net of foreign tax of \$1,831) (Notes 1 and 3)	(18,327)
Foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(10,335)
<b>Total net realized loss</b>	<b>(28,662)</b>
<b>Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:</b>	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers	(53,993)
<b>Total change in net unrealized depreciation</b>	<b>(53,993)</b>
<b>Net loss on investments</b>	<b>(82,655)</b>
<b>Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$(46,933)</b>

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

## Statement of changes in net assets

	For the period 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23*
<b>DECREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>Operations</b>	
Net investment income	\$35,722
Net realized loss on investments and foreign currency transactions	(28,662)
Change in net unrealized depreciation of investments	(53,993)
<b>Net decrease in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>(46,933)</b>
Proceeds from shares sold (Note 4)	—
Decrease from shares redeemed (Note 4)	—
<b>Total decrease in net assets</b>	<b>(46,933)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Beginning of period (Note 5)	6,000,000
<b>End of period</b>	<b>\$5,953,067</b>
<b>NUMBER OF FUND SHARES</b>	
Shares outstanding at beginning of period (Note 5)	150,000
Shares sold (Note 4)	—
Shares redeemed (Note 4)	—
Shares outstanding at end of period	150,000

\*Unaudited.

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

## Financial highlights

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

PER-SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE	
	For the period 5/17/23 (commencement of operations) to 10/31/23**
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Investment operations:</b>	
Net investment income (loss) <sup>a</sup>	.24
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(.55)
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>(.31)</b>
<b>Less distributions:</b>	
From net investment income	—
From net realized gain on investments	—
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Other capital</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	<b>\$39.69</b>
<b>Total return at net asset value (%)<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>(0.78)<sup>*</sup></b>

RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	
<b>Net assets, end of period (in thousands)</b>	<b>\$5,953</b>
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) <sup>c,d</sup>	.39 <sup>*</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets (%) <sup>d</sup>	.57 <sup>*</sup>
Portfolio turnover (%) <sup>e</sup>	15 <sup>*</sup>

\* Not annualized.

\*\* Unaudited.

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

<sup>b</sup> Total return assumes dividend reinvestment.

<sup>c</sup> Excludes acquired fund fees and expenses, if any.

<sup>d</sup> Reflects waivers of certain fund expenses in connection with investments in Putnam Government Money Market Fund during the period. As a result of such waivers, the expenses of the fund reflect a reduction of less than 0.01% as a percentage of average net assets (Note 2).

<sup>e</sup> Portfolio turnover excludes securities received or delivered in-kind, if any.

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



## Notes to financial statements 10/31/23 (Unaudited)

Unless otherwise noted, the “reporting period” represents the period from May 17, 2023 (commencement of operations) through October 31, 2023. The following table defines commonly used references within the Notes to financial statements:

References to	Represent
Putnam Management	Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund’s manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC
ETF	exchange-traded fund
OTC	over-the-counter
PIL	Putnam Investments Limited, an affiliate of Putnam Management

Putnam Emerging Markets ex-China ETF (the “fund”) is a non-diversified, open-end series of Putnam ETF Trust (the “Trust”), a Delaware statutory trust organized under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The fund is an actively managed ETF. The fund’s investment objective is to seek long-term capital appreciation. The fund invests mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of emerging market companies of any size that Putnam Management believes have favorable investment potential. Growth stocks are stocks of companies whose earnings are expected to grow faster than those of similar firms, and whose business growth and other characteristics may lead to an increase in stock price. Value stocks are issued by companies that Putnam Management believes are currently undervalued by the market. If Putnam Management is correct and other investors ultimately recognize the value of the company, the price of its stock may rise.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of the fund’s net assets in securities of emerging market companies excluding companies domiciled, or whose stock is listed for trading on an exchange, in China, as well as companies domiciled in Hong Kong. This policy is non-fundamental and may be changed only after 60 days’ notice to shareholders. Emerging markets include countries in the MSCI Emerging Market ex-China Index or that Putnam Management considers to be emerging markets based on its evaluation of their level of economic development or the size and experience of their securities markets. Putnam Management invests significantly in small and mid-size companies. In evaluating potential investments, Putnam Management seeks high-quality companies with mispriced earnings growth that can potentially deliver excess return over the fund’s benchmark. Putnam Management focuses on companies that it believes to have a durable competitive advantage, strong balance sheets and a potential for above-average profitability. From time to time, the fund may invest a significant portion of its assets in companies in one or more related industries or sectors, including the information technology and financials sectors.

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 is “non-diversified,” which means it may invest a greater percentage of its assets in fewer issuers than a “diversified” fund.

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, transfer 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 courts of the State of Delaware.

### **Note 1: Significant accounting policies**

The fund is an investment company and applies the accounting and reporting guidance of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946 *Financial Services - Investment Companies*. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

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.

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 financial reporting and tax basis is the same.

**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 the Manager an annual all-inclusive management fee of 0.85% based on the fund's average daily net assets computed and paid monthly. The management fee covers investment management services and all of the fund's organizational and other operating expenses with certain exceptions, including but not limited to: payments under distribution plans, interest expenses, taxes, brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, fund proxy expenses, litigation expenses, extraordinary expenses and acquired fund fees and expenses.

For the reporting period, the management fee represented an effective rate (excluding the impact from any expense waivers in effect) of 0.390% of the fund's average net assets.

The fund invests in Putnam Government Money Market Fund, an open-end management investment company managed by Putnam Management. Management fees paid by the fund are reduced by an amount equal to the management fees paid by Putnam Government Money Market Fund with respect to assets invested by the fund in Putnam Government Money Market Fund. During the reporting period, management fees paid were reduced by \$71 relating to the fund's investment in Putnam Government Money Market Fund.

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.

The fund has adopted a distribution and service plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act that authorizes the fund to pay distribution fees in connection with the sale and distribution of its shares and service fees in connection with the provision of ongoing shareholder support services. No Rule 12b-1 fees are currently paid by the fund.

### Note 3: Purchases and sales of securities

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

	Cost of purchases	Proceeds from sales
Investments in securities (Long-term)	\$6,665,238	\$801,935
U.S. government securities (Long-term)	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,665,238</b>	<b>\$801,935</b>

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

Shares of the fund are listed and traded on NYSE Arca, Inc., and individual fund shares may only be bought and sold in the secondary market through a broker or dealer at market price. These transactions, which do not involve the fund, are made at market prices that may vary throughout the day, rather than at net asset value (NAV). Shares of the fund may trade at a price greater than the fund's NAV (premium) or less than the fund's NAV (discount). An investor may incur costs attributable to the difference between the highest price a buyer is willing to pay to purchase shares (bid) and the lowest price a seller is willing to accept for shares (ask) when buying or selling fund shares in the secondary market (the "bid-ask spread"). The fund will issue and redeem shares in large blocks of 25,000 shares called "Creation Units" on a continuous basis, at NAV, with authorized participants who have entered into agreements with the fund's distributor. The fund will generally issue and redeem Creation Units in return for a designated portfolio of securities (and an amount of cash) that the fund specifies each day. The fund generally imposes a transaction fee on investors purchasing or redeeming Creation Units. Investors transacting in Creation Units for cash may also pay an additional variable charge to compensate the fund for certain transaction costs and market impact expenses relating to investing in portfolio securities. Such variable charges, if any, are included in Other capital in the Statement of changes in net assets.

At the close of the reporting period, Putnam Investment Holdings, LLC owned 130,000 shares of the fund (86.7% of shares outstanding), valued at \$5,159,700.

### Note 5: Initial capitalization and offering of shares

The fund was established as a series of the Trust on September 23, 2022. The fund had no operations other than those related to organizational matters, including the initial capital contribution of \$6,000,000 by Putnam Investment Holdings, LLC and the issuance of 150,000 shares on May 17, 2023.

## Note 6: 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 5/17/23 (commencement of operations)	Purchase cost	Sale proceeds	Investment income	Shares outstanding and fair value as of 10/31/23
<b>Short-term investments</b>					
Putnam Government Money Market Fund*	\$—	\$831,424	\$669,179	\$1,220	\$162,245
<b>Total Short-term investments</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$831,424</b>	<b>\$669,179</b>	<b>\$1,220</b>	<b>\$162,245</b>

\* Management fees paid by the fund are reduced by an amount equal to the management fees paid by Putnam Government Money Market Fund with respect to assets invested by the fund in Putnam Government Money Market Fund (Note 2). There were no realized or unrealized gains or losses during the period.

## Note 7: 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 8: Of special note

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

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

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including receipt of applicable regulatory approvals. Subject to such approvals and the satisfaction of these conditions, the transaction is currently expected to be consummated in the fourth quarter of 2023 or early 2024.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, consummation of the transaction will result in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management and any related sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, where applicable. In anticipation of this automatic termination, on June 23, 2023, the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Funds approved a new investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management (and new sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, if applicable).

On October 20, 2023, the fund’s shareholders approved the new investment management contract with Putnam Management and the new sub-management contract for the fund between Putnam Management and PIL, each to take effect upon the consummation of the transaction. The terms of the new investment management and sub-management contracts are substantially similar to those of the previous investment management and sub-management contracts, and the fee rates payable under the new investment management and sub-management contracts are the same as the fee rates under the previous investment management and sub-management contracts.

# Shareholder meeting results (Unaudited)

## October 20, 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
146,001	—	—

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
146,001	—	—

All tabulations are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Fund information

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

### Investment Manager

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

### Investment Sub-Advisor

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

### Distribution Services

Forside Fund Services, LLC  
Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100  
Portland, ME 04101

### 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  
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Mona K. Sutphen

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*President*  
  
James F. Clark  
*Vice President and  
Chief Compliance Officer*  
  
Michael J. Higgins  
*Vice President, Treasurer,  
and Clerk*  
  
Jonathan S. Horwitz  
*Executive Vice President,  
Principal Executive Officer,  
and Compliance Liaison*

Richard T. Kircher  
*Vice President and  
BSA Compliance Officer*

Martin Lemaire  
*Vice President and  
Derivatives Risk Manager*

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

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

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

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

Mark C. Trenchard  
*Vice President*

Call 1-833-228-5577 (toll free) Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time or visit [putnam.com](http://putnam.com) anytime for up-to-date information about the fund's NAV.

