

George Putnam Balanced Fund

Summary prospectus

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Before you invest, you may wish to review the fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the fund and its risks. You may obtain the prospectus and other information about the fund, including the statement of additional information (SAI) and most recent reports to shareholders, at no cost by visiting putnam.com/funddocuments, calling 1-800-225-1581, or e-mailing Putnam at funddocuments@putnam.com.

The fund's prospectus and SAI, both dated 11/30/23, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.

FUND SYMBOLS	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C	CLASS M	CLASS R	CLASS R5	CLASS R6	CLASS Y
	PGEOX	PGE BX	PGPCX	PGEMX	PGPRX	PGELX	PGEJX	PGEYX

George Putnam Balanced Fund	Putnam Research Fund
Putnam BDC Income ETF	Putnam Small Cap Value Fund
Putnam BioRevolution ETF	Putnam Sustainable Future ETF
Putnam Convertible Securities Fund	Putnam Sustainable Future Fund
Putnam Core Equity Fund	Putnam Sustainable Leaders ETF
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation Balanced Fund	Putnam Sustainable Leaders Fund
Putnam Dynamic Asset Allocation Growth Fund	Putnam Ultra Short Duration Income Fund
Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund	Putnam VT Core Equity Fund
Putnam Emerging Markets ex-China ETF	Putnam VT Diversified Income Fund
Putnam ESG Core Bond ETF	Putnam VT Emerging Markets Equity Fund
Putnam ESG High Yield ETF	Putnam VT Focused International Equity Fund
Putnam ESG Ultra Short ETF	Putnam VT George Putnam Balanced Fund
Putnam Focused International Equity Fund	Putnam VT Global Asset Allocation Fund
Putnam Focused Large Cap Growth ETF	Putnam VT Global Health Care Fund
Putnam Global Health Care Fund	Putnam VT Government Money Market Fund
Putnam Government Money Market Fund	Putnam VT High Yield Fund
Putnam High Yield Fund	Putnam VT Income Fund
Putnam Income Fund	Putnam VT International Equity Fund
Putnam International Capital Opportunities Fund	Putnam VT International Value Fund
Putnam International Equity Fund	Putnam VT Large Cap Growth Fund
Putnam Large Cap Growth Fund	Putnam VT Large Cap Value Fund
Putnam Large Cap Value Fund	Putnam VT Mortgage Securities Fund
Putnam Money Market Fund	Putnam VT Research Fund
Putnam Mortgage Opportunities Fund	Putnam VT Small Cap Growth Fund
Putnam Multi-Asset Income Fund	Putnam VT Small Cap Value Fund
	Putnam VT Sustainable Future Fund
	Putnam VT Sustainable Leaders Fund

On January 1, 2024 (the “Effective Date”), a subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. (“Franklin Resources”) acquired Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC (“Putnam Holdings”) in a stock and cash transaction (the “Transaction”). As a result of the Transaction, Putnam Investment Management, LLC (“Putnam Management”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam

Holdings and the investment manager to the Putnam family of funds (the “Putnam Funds”), Putnam Investments Limited (“PIL”), an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Holdings and a sub-adviser to certain of the Putnam Funds, and The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (“PAC”), an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Holdings and a sub-adviser to certain of the Putnam Funds, became indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries of Franklin Resources.

Franklin Resources, whose principal executive offices are at One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, California 94403, is a global investment management organization operating, together with its subsidiaries, as Franklin Templeton. As of November 30, 2023, after giving effect to the Transaction, Franklin Templeton’s asset management operations had aggregate assets under management of approximately \$1.546 trillion. As a result of the Transaction, Putnam Management, PIL, and PAC will be able to draw on the broader investment resources, including portfolio management, investment research, trading expertise and other capabilities, of Franklin Templeton to the benefit of the Putnam Funds.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), the Transaction resulted in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management and any related sub-advisory contracts that were in place for each Putnam Fund before the Transaction. However, Putnam Management and, where applicable, the Putnam Funds’ sub-adviser(s) continue to provide uninterrupted services with respect to the Putnam Funds listed above pursuant to new investment management and sub-advisory contracts that were previously approved by shareholders of each above-listed Putnam Fund at shareholder meetings held in connection with the Transaction. The terms of the new investment management and sub-advisory contracts are substantially similar to those of the previous investment management and sub-advisory contracts.

The Summary Prospectus for each of the Putnam Funds listed above is amended to reflect the foregoing.

Shareholders should retain this Supplement for future reference.

George Putnam Balanced Fund

Goal

George Putnam Balanced Fund seeks to provide a balanced investment composed of a well-diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds which produce both capital growth and current income.

Fees and expenses

The following tables describe the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy, hold and sell shares of the fund. You may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the tables and examples below. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$50,000 in Putnam funds. More information about these and other discounts is available from your financial professional and in *How do I buy fund shares?* beginning on page 18 of the fund's prospectus, in the Appendix to the fund's prospectus, and in *How to buy shares* beginning on page II-1 of the fund's statement of additional information (SAI).

Shareholder fees *(fees paid directly from your investment)*

Share class	Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	Maximum deferred sales charge (load) (as a percentage of original purchase price or redemption proceeds, whichever is lower)
Class A	5.75%	1.00%*
Class B	NONE	5.00%**
Class C	NONE	1.00%***
Class M	3.50%	NONE
Class R	NONE	NONE
Class R5	NONE	NONE
Class R6	NONE	NONE
Class Y	NONE	NONE

Annual fund operating expenses

(expenses you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Share class	Management fees	Distribution and service (12b-1) fees	Other expenses	Total annual fund operating expenses
Class A	0.52%	0.25%	0.19%	0.96%
Class B	0.52%	1.00%	0.19%	1.71%
Class C	0.52%	1.00%	0.19%	1.71%
Class M	0.52%	0.75%	0.19%	1.46%
Class R	0.52%	0.50%	0.19%	1.21%
Class R5	0.52%	N/A	0.20%	0.72%
Class R6	0.52%	N/A	0.10%	0.62%
Class Y	0.52%	N/A	0.19%	0.71%

* Applies only to certain redemptions of shares bought with no initial sales charge.

** This charge is phased out over six years.

*** This charge is eliminated after one year.

Example

The following hypothetical example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other funds. It assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and then, except as indicated, redeem all your shares at the end of those periods. It assumes a 5% return on your investment each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. Your actual costs may be higher or lower.

Share class	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Class A	\$667	\$863	\$1,075	\$1,685
Class B	\$674	\$839	\$1,128	\$1,821
Class B (no redemption)	\$174	\$539	\$928	\$1,821
Class C	\$274	\$539	\$928	\$1,821
Class C (no redemption)	\$174	\$539	\$928	\$1,821
Class M	\$493	\$796	\$1,120	\$2,035
Class R	\$123	\$384	\$665	\$1,466
Class R5	\$74	\$230	\$401	\$894
Class R6	\$63	\$199	\$346	\$774
Class Y	\$73	\$227	\$395	\$883

Portfolio turnover

The fund pays transaction-related costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when the fund's shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or the above example, affect fund performance. The fund's turnover rate in the most recent fiscal year was 47%.

Investments, risks, and performance

Investments

We invest mainly in a combination of bonds and common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of large U.S. companies, with a greater focus on common stocks. For example, we may purchase stocks of companies with stock prices that reflect a value lower than that which we place on the company. We may also consider other factors that we believe will cause the stock price to rise. We buy bonds of governments and private companies that are mostly investment-grade in quality with intermediate- to long-term maturities (three years or longer). We 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 equity investments, and, among other factors, credit, interest rate and prepayment risks, as well as general market conditions, when deciding whether to buy or sell fixed-income investments. We may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, warrants and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes.

Risks

It is important to understand that you can lose money by investing in the fund.

The value of investments in the fund's portfolio may fall or fail to rise over extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including general economic, political or financial market conditions, investor sentiment and market perceptions, government actions, geopolitical events or changes, outbreaks of infectious illnesses or other widespread public health issues, and factors related to a specific issuer, geography, industry or sector. These and other factors may lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund's portfolio holdings, may negatively impact the fund's performance, and may exacerbate other risks to which the fund is subject. Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and value stocks may fail to rebound.

Bond investments are subject to interest rate risk, which is the risk that the value of the fund's bond investments is likely to fall if interest rates rise. Bond investments also are subject to credit risk, which is the risk that the issuer of the bond may default on payment of interest or principal. Bond investments may be more susceptible to downgrades or defaults during economic downturns or other periods of economic stress. Interest rate risk is generally greater for longer-term bonds, and credit risk is generally greater for below-investment-grade bonds (sometimes referred to as "junk bonds"), which can be more sensitive to changes in markets, credit conditions, and interest rates and which may be considered speculative.

Our use of derivatives may increase the risks of investing in the fund by increasing investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) or, in the case of many over-the-counter instruments, because of the potential inability to terminate or sell derivatives positions and the potential failure of the other party to the instrument to meet its obligations. The risk of a party failing to meet its obligations may increase if the fund has significant investment exposure to that counterparty. The value of derivatives may move in unexpected ways due to unanticipated market movements, the use of leverage, imperfect correlation between the derivative instrument and the reference asset, or other factors, especially in unusual market conditions, and volatility in the value of derivatives could adversely impact the fund's returns, obligations and exposures. Derivatives are also subject to other risks, including liquidity risk (e.g., liquidity demands arising from the requirement to make payments to a derivative counterparty), operational risk (e.g., settlement issues or system failures), and legal risk (e.g., insufficient legal documentation or contract enforceability issues).

There is no guarantee that the investment techniques, analyses, or judgments that we apply in making investment decisions for the fund will produce the intended outcome or that the investments we select for the fund will perform as well as other securities that were not selected for the fund. We, or the fund's other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the fund.

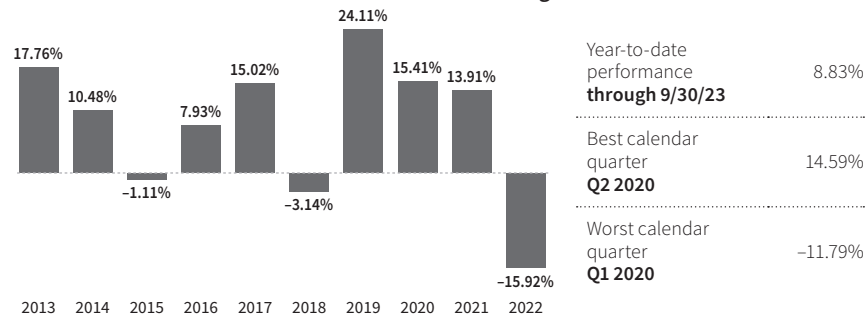
The fund may not achieve its goal, and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. An investment in the fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

Performance

The performance information below gives some indication of the risks associated with an investment in the fund by showing the fund's performance year to year and over time. The bar chart does not reflect the impact of sales charges. If it did,

performance would be lower. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily an indication of future results. Monthly performance figures for the fund are available at putnam.com.

Annual total returns for class A shares before sales charges



Average annual total returns after sales charges (for periods ended 12/31/22)

Share class	1 year	5 years	10 years
Class A before taxes	-20.76%	4.60%	7.18%
Class A after taxes on distributions	-21.29%	2.78%	6.07%
Class A after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares	-11.90%	3.24%	5.57%
Class B before taxes	-20.65%	4.75%	7.17%
Class C before taxes	-17.39%	5.06%	7.17%
Class M before taxes	-19.27%	4.58%	6.90%
Class R before taxes	-16.16%	5.58%	7.54%
Class R5 before taxes*	-15.70%	6.13%	8.11%
Class R6 before taxes*	-15.67%	6.22%	8.19%
Class Y before taxes	-15.72%	6.12%	8.09%
George Putnam Blended Index (no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	-15.56%	6.21%	8.25%
S&P 500® Index (no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	-18.11%	9.42%	12.56%
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index† (no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	-13.01%	0.02%	1.06%

* Performance for class R5 and class R6 shares prior to their inception (12/2/13) is derived from the historical performance of class Y shares and has not been adjusted for the lower investor servicing fees applicable to class R5 and class R6 shares; had it, returns would have been higher.

† Source: Bloomberg Index Services Limited.

The fund's performance is compared to the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, an unmanaged index of U.S. investment-grade fixed income securities. The fund's performance is also compared to the S&P 500® Index, an unmanaged index of large U.S. company stocks. In addition, the fund's performance is compared to the George Putnam Blended Index, an unmanaged index administered by Putnam Management, 60% of which is the S&P 500 Index and 40% of which is the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

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After-tax returns reflect the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor’s tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns are shown for class A shares only and will vary for other classes. These after-tax returns do not apply if you hold your fund shares through a 401(k) plan, an IRA, or another tax-advantaged arrangement.

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

Your fund’s management

Investment advisor

Putnam Investment Management, LLC

Portfolio managers

Kathryn Lakin

Director of Equity Research, portfolio manager of the fund since 2019

Andrew Benson

Portfolio Manager, portfolio manager of the fund since 2021

Sub-advisor

Putnam Investments Limited*

* Though the investment advisor has retained the services of Putnam Investments Limited (PIL), PIL does not currently manage any assets of the fund.

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 Investment Management, LLC (“Putnam Management”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Putnam Holdings and investment manager to the Putnam family of funds (the “Putnam Funds”), including your fund, would become an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources.

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

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, consummation of the transaction will result in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management and any related sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, where applicable. In anticipation of this automatic termination, on June 23, 2023, the Board of Trustees of the Putnam Funds approved a new investment management contract between each Putnam Fund and Putnam Management (and new sub-management and sub-advisory contracts, if applicable), which will be presented to the shareholders of each Putnam Fund for their approval at shareholder meetings in October 2023 or at any adjourned sessions of such meetings. Proxy solicitation materials related to these meetings

have been made available to shareholders that held shares of the fund at the close of business on July 24, 2023.

Purchase and sale of fund shares

You can open an account, purchase and/or sell fund shares, or exchange them for shares of another Putnam fund by contacting your financial professional or by calling Putnam Investor Services at 1-800-225-1581. 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.

When opening an account, you must complete and mail a Putnam account application, along with a check made payable to the fund, to: Putnam Investments, P.O. Box 219697, Kansas City, MO 64121-9697. The minimum initial investment of \$500 is currently waived, although Putnam reserves the right to reject initial investments under \$500 at its discretion. There is no minimum for subsequent investments.

You can sell your shares back to the fund or exchange them for shares of another Putnam fund any day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open. Shares may be sold or exchanged by mail, by phone, or, for exchanges only, online at putnam.com. Some restrictions may apply.

Tax information

The fund's distributions will be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains unless you hold the shares through a tax-advantaged arrangement, in which case you will generally be taxed only upon withdrawal of monies from the arrangement.

Financial intermediary compensation

If you purchase the fund through a broker/dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or financial professional), the fund and its related companies may pay that intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. Please bear in mind that these payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker/dealer or other intermediary to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your advisor or visit your advisor's website for more information.

Information about the Summary Prospectus, Prospectus, and SAI

The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI for a fund provide information concerning the fund. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and SAI are updated at least annually and any information provided in a summary prospectus, prospectus, or SAI can be changed without a shareholder vote unless specifically stated otherwise. The summary prospectus, prospectus, and the SAI are not contracts between the fund and its shareholders and do not give rise to any contractual rights or obligations or any shareholder rights other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

Additional information, including current performance, is available at [putnam.com/funddocuments](https://www.putnam.com/funddocuments), by calling 1-800-225-1581, or by e-mailing Putnam at funddocuments@putnam.com.

