

Putnam Global Communications Fund*

Summary prospectus

12 | 30 | 18

*Prior to November 30, 2018, the fund was known as Putnam Global Telecommunications Fund.

FUND SYMBOLS	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C	CLASS M	CLASS R	CLASS Y
	PGBZX	PGBBX	PGBNX	PGBMX	PGBTX	PGBYX

Putnam Global Communications Fund

Prospectuses dated December 30, 2018

Putnam Investment Management, LLC (“Putnam Management”), the investment manager of Putnam Global Communications Fund (“Global Communications Fund” or the “fund”), has recommended, and the fund’s Board of Trustees has approved and recommended that shareholders approve, the proposed merger of Global Communications Fund with and into Putnam Global Technology Fund (“Global Technology Fund”). Putnam Management and the fund’s Board of Trustees believe that the proposed merger is in the best interests of Global Communications Fund and its shareholders.

Global Communications Fund and Global Technology Fund have identical investment objectives and pursue substantially similar investment strategies, though Global Communications Fund concentrates its investments in securities of companies in the communications industries worldwide, while Global Technology Fund concentrates its investments in securities of companies in the technology industries worldwide. A full description of Global Technology Fund, the similarities and differences between it and Global Communications Fund and the terms of the proposed merger will be contained in a prospectus/proxy statement (the “prospectus/proxy statement”), which is expected to be mailed to shareholders in early April 2019. The prospectus/proxy statement will solicit Global Communication shareholder votes to approve the merger.

Completion of the proposed merger is subject to a number of conditions, including approval by shareholders of Global Communications Fund. A special meeting of shareholders of Global Communications Fund is currently scheduled for May 29, 2019, although the shareholder meeting may be adjourned to a later date. The proposed merger is expected to be a tax-free reorganization for federal income tax purposes. If shareholders of the fund do not approve the proposed merger, the merger will not proceed.

If shareholders approve the proposed merger, Putnam Management currently expects that Global Communications Fund may make dispositions of certain portfolio holdings prior to the merger. These sales, which are anticipated to commence in early June 2019 and will not occur unless and until shareholders approve the proposed merger, would result in brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, and may result in the realization of capital gains that would be distributed to shareholders as taxable distributions.

Global Communications Fund will be closed to new accounts on or about May 20, 2019. At any time prior to the close of the proposed merger, 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 is open. Shares may be sold or exchanged by mail, by phone, or online at putnam.com. Some restrictions may apply. Such exchanges will be taxable transactions.

The foregoing is not an offer to sell, nor a solicitation of an offer to buy, shares of Global Technology Fund, nor is it a solicitation of any proxy. For more information regarding Global Technology Fund, or to receive a free copy of the prospectus/proxy statement relating to the proposed merger (and containing important information about fees, expenses and risk considerations) once a registration statement relating to the proposed merger has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and becomes effective, please call 1-800-225-1581. The prospectus/proxy statement relating to the proposed merger will also be available for free on the Securities and Exchange Commission's web site (<http://www.sec.gov>). Please read the prospectus/proxy statement relating to the proposed merger carefully before making any investment decisions.

Shareholders should retain this Supplement for future reference.

Putnam Global Communications Fund

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 12/30/18, are incorporated by reference into this summary prospectus.

Goal

Putnam Global Communications Fund seeks capital appreciation.

Fees and expenses

The following table describes the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. 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 advisor and in *How do I buy fund shares?* beginning on page 49 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 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	Expense reimbursement [#]	Total annual fund operating expenses after expense reimbursement
Class A	0.62%	0.25%	0.94%	1.81%	(0.51)%	1.30%
Class B	0.62%	1.00%	0.94%	2.56%	(0.51)%	2.05%
Class C	0.62%	1.00%	0.94%	2.56%	(0.51)%	2.05%
Class M	0.62%	0.75%	0.94%	2.31%	(0.51)%	1.80%
Class R	0.62%	0.50%	0.94%	2.06%	(0.51)%	1.55%
Class Y	0.62%	N/A	0.94%	1.56%	(0.51)%	1.05%

* 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.

Reflects Putnam Investment Management, LLC's contractual obligation to limit certain fund expenses through 12/30/2019. This obligation may be modified or discontinued only with approval of the Board of Trustees.

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. Only the first year of each period in the example takes into account the expense reimbursement described above. Your actual costs may be higher or lower.

Share class	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
Class A	\$700	\$1,065	\$1,454	\$2,540
Class B	\$708	\$1,048	\$1,515	\$2,673
Class B (no redemption)	\$208	\$748	\$1,315	\$2,673
Class C	\$308	\$748	\$1,315	\$2,857
Class C (no redemption)	\$208	\$748	\$1,315	\$2,857
Class M	\$526	\$999	\$1,497	\$2,865
Class R	\$158	\$597	\$1,062	\$2,349
Class Y	\$107	\$443	\$802	\$1,813

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 74%.

Investments, risks, and performance

Investments

For this non-diversified fund concentrating in the communication industries, we invest mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of large and midsize companies worldwide that we believe have favorable investment potential. Under normal circumstances, we invest at least 80% of the fund's net assets in securities of companies in the communication industries. This policy may be changed only after 60 days' notice to shareholders. Potential investments include companies that develop, manufacture or sell communications services or communications equipment, and companies that facilitate communication and offer related content and information through various media. 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 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. We may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, certain foreign currency transactions, warrants and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes, and may engage in short sales of securities.

The use of the term "global" in the fund's name is meant to emphasize that we look for investment opportunities on a worldwide basis and that our investment strategies are not constrained by the countries or regions in which companies are located. Under normal market conditions, the fund intends to invest in at least five different countries and at least 40% of its net assets in securities of foreign companies (or, if less, at least the percentage of net assets that is 10% less than the percentage of the fund's benchmark represented by foreign companies, as determined by the providers of the benchmark).

Risks

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

The value of stocks in the fund's portfolio may fall or fail to rise over extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including general financial market conditions, changing market perceptions, changes in government intervention in the financial markets, and factors related to a specific issuer or industry. These and other factors may also lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund's portfolio holdings. Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and value stocks may fail to rebound. These risks are generally greater for small and midsize companies. The communication industry may be affected by general market conditions, government regulation, intense competition, equipment incompatibility, changing consumer preferences, demographic and product trends, short product cycles, technological obsolescence and large capital expenditures and debt burdens. Our policy of concentrating on a limited group of industries and the fund's

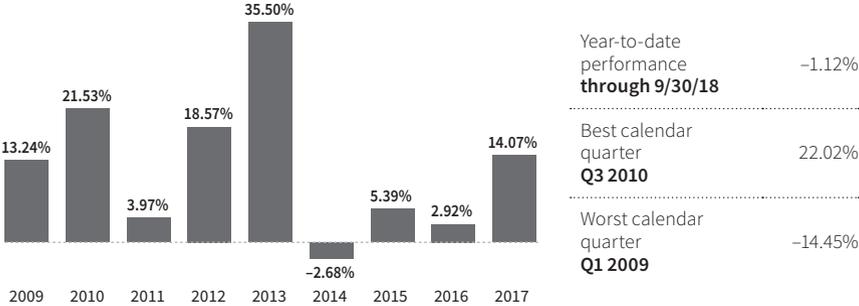
“non-diversified” status, which means the fund may invest a greater percentage of its assets in fewer issuers than a “diversified fund,” can increase the fund’s vulnerability to adverse developments affecting a single industry or issuer, which may result in greater losses and volatility for the fund. The value of international investments traded in foreign currencies may be adversely impacted by fluctuations in exchange rates. International investments, particularly investments in emerging markets, may carry risks associated with potentially less stable economies or governments (such as the risk of seizure by a foreign government, the imposition of currency or other restrictions, or high levels of inflation), and may be illiquid. 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. Our use of short selling may result in losses if the securities appreciate in value.

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 12/31/17)

Share class	1 year	5 years	Since inception (12/18/08)
Class A before taxes	7.52%	8.99%	11.41%
Class A after taxes on distributions	7.54%	6.60%	9.74%
Class A after taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares	4.40%	6.37%	8.96%
Class B before taxes	8.24%	9.19%	11.40%
Class C before taxes	12.26%	9.47%	11.30%
Class M before taxes	9.62%	8.97%	11.15%
Class R before taxes	13.81%	10.02%	11.86%
Class Y before taxes	14.40%	10.57%	12.43%
MSCI World Communication Services Index (ND)* (no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes, other than withholding taxes on reinvested dividends)	5.82%	8.09%	7.74%

* Before November 30, 2018, the MSCI World Communication Services Index (ND) was known as the MSCI World Telecommunication Services Index (ND). The name and composition of the index was changed effective November 30, 2018 to reflect MSCI's decision to broaden the telecommunication services sector to add selected companies previously classified in the consumer discretionary or information technology sectors and to rename it the communication services sector. Performance of the index for periods prior to November 30, 2018 reflects the composition of the index then in effect.

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

Your fund's management

Investment advisor

Putnam Investment Management, LLC

Sub-advisors

Putnam Investments Limited

The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC*

Portfolio manager

Vivek Gandhi

Portfolio Manager, Analyst, portfolio manager of the fund since 2008

* Though the investment advisor has retained the services of The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC (PAC), PAC does not currently manage any assets of the fund.

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 advisor 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 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 advisor), 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, by calling 1-800-225-1581, or by e-mailing Putnam at funddocuments@putnam.com.

