



Katherine Collins, CFA, MTS
Portfolio Manager
(industry since 1990)



Stephanie Dobson
Portfolio Manager
(industry since 2011)

Objective

The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

Lipper category

VP (Underlying Funds)– Multi-Cap Growth funds

Current unit value

Class IA: \$41.13
Class IB: \$39.82

Number of holdings

66

Net assets

\$859.36M

Putnam VT Sustainable Leaders Fund

Investing in growing companies committed to sustainable practices

Committed companies

The fund invests in companies with strong fundamentals linked to leadership in financially material sustainability issues.

Active strategy

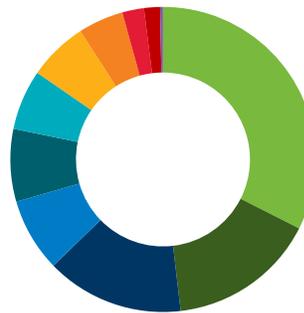
An investment framework focused on material sustainability themes and embedded within the fundamental research process drives portfolio decisions.

Experienced team

An experienced, dedicated sustainable investing team is integrated with Putnam's equity research and quantitative/risk analysis groups.

Diversification across market sectors

Information technology	32.5%
Consumer discretionary	15.7
Health care	14.6
Financials	7.8
Industrials	7.7
Materials	6.4
Consumer staples	6.3
Utilities	4.8
Communication services	2.3
Real estate	1.7
Cash and net other assets	0.3



Allocations will vary over time. Due to rounding, percentages may not equal 100%. The unclassified sector (where applicable) includes exchange traded funds and other securities not able to be classified by sector.

Top ten holdings

- Microsoft
- Apple
- Amazon
- Danaher
- Adobe
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Visa
- BlackRock
- Alphabet
- Fidelity National Information Services

Holdings represent 36.6% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

Growth of a \$10,000 investment

The fund has returned an average of 9.3% annually since inception. (Class IB)



Current performance may be lower or higher than the quoted past performance, which cannot guarantee future results. Share price, principal value, and return will vary, and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. All total return figures are at net asset value. The charges and expenses of the insurance company separate account level are not reflected. Performance for class IB shares for periods prior to their inception is based on class IA shares, adjusted to reflect the fees paid by class IB shares including a 12b-1 fee of 0.25%. To obtain the most recent month-end performance, contact your variable annuity provider, who has more information about their variable annuity and variable life products that invest in Putnam managed products. For a portion of the period, this fund limited expenses, without which returns would have been lower.

**Not FDIC insured
May lose value
No bank guarantee**

Market-cap breakdown

Over \$95B	56.24%
\$22B-\$95B	28.82%
\$4.7B-\$22B	13.06%
\$1.5B-\$4.7B	0.65%
Less than \$1.5B	0.95%
Cash and other assets	0.29%

“Cash and other assets” includes cash, short-term securities, ETFs, bonds excluding convertible bonds, and other securities not able to be classified by market capitalization.

Beta

1.00

Price to earnings

26.02

Projected 5-yr EPS growth

10.00

The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. The Russell 3000 Growth-S&P 500 Linked Benchmark represents performance of the Russell 3000 Growth Index from the inception date of the fund, May 2, 1994, through July 31, 2019, and performance of the S&P 500 Index from August 1, 2019, forward. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Beta is defined as a fund's sensitivity to market movements and is used to evaluate market related, or systematic, risk. It is a historical measure of the variability of return earned by an investment portfolio. Risk statistics are measured using a 5-year regression analysis. For funds with shorter track records, Since Inception analysis is used. The **price-earnings ratio** of a firm's common stock is calculated as the current stock price divided by projected earnings per share for the coming year. The projections used are based on street consensus estimates provided by IBES. **Earnings per share (EPS)** is found by taking the net income and dividing it by the basic or diluted number of shares outstanding, as reported. You can also take “expected” earnings for the current year or for future years to calculate other P/E ratios.

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

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Putnam Retail Management
FS013_VT 323427 10/20

Annual performance at net asset value (all distributions reinvested)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 YTD
Class IA	-4.9%	17.1%	36.7%	13.8%	-0.1%	8.1%	29.6%	-1.3%	36.7%	16.0%
Class IB	-5.1	16.8	36.4	13.5	-0.3	7.8	29.2	-1.5	36.4	15.8
S&P 500 Index	2.1	16.0	32.4	13.7	1.4	12.0	21.8	-4.4	31.5	5.6
Russell 3000 Growth - S&P 500 Linked Benchmark	2.2	15.2	34.2	12.4	5.1	7.4	29.6	-2.1	36.5	5.6

Annualized total return performance

	Class IA NAV Inception 5/2/94	Class IB NAV Inception 4/30/98	S&P 500 Index	Russell 3000 Growth - S&P 500 Linked Benchmark
1 year	26.99%	26.70%	15.15%	15.15%
3 years	18.44	18.14	12.28	14.91
5 years	18.41	18.12	14.15	16.01
10 years	15.75	15.45	13.74	15.19
Life of fund	9.57	9.33	10.00	9.87

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Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

Consider these risks before investing: 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, 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. Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and the market may not favor growth-style investing. Investments in small and/or midsize companies increase the risk of greater price fluctuations. International investing involves currency, economic, and political risks. Emerging-market securities have illiquidity and volatility risks. The fund's investment strategy of investing in companies that exhibit a commitment to sustainable business practices may result in the fund investing in securities or industry sectors that underperform the market as a whole or underperform other funds that do not invest with a sustainable focus. From time to time, the fund may invest a significant portion of its assets in companies in one or more related industries or sectors, which would make the fund more vulnerable to adverse developments affecting those industries or sectors. In evaluating an investment opportunity, we may make investment decisions based on information and data that is incomplete or inaccurate. Due to changes in the products or services of the companies in which the fund invests, the fund may temporarily hold securities that are inconsistent with its sustainable investment criteria. Our investment techniques, analyses, and judgments may not produce the outcome we intend. The investments we select for the fund may not perform as well as other securities that we do not select for the fund. We, or the fund's other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could have a negative effect on the fund. You can lose money by investing in the fund.

Your clients should carefully consider the investment objective, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund before investing. For a prospectus containing this and other information for any variable annuity or variable life product that invests in Putnam managed products, call the Putnam Client Engagement Center at 1-800-354-4000. Your clients should read the prospectus carefully before investing.