



The fund received a 5-star Overall Morningstar Rating as of 12/31/20 among 636 funds in the Allocation--50% to 70% Equity category (Y shares, based on risk-adjusted returns)

Portfolio Managers

Kathryn B. Lakin
(industry since 2008)

Paul D. Scanlon, CFA
(industry since 1986)

Emily E. Shanks
(industry since 1999)

Objective

The 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.

Morningstar category

Allocation--50% to 70% Equity

Lipper category

Balanced

Primary benchmark

George Putnam Blended Index

Secondary benchmark

S&P 500 Index

Fund symbols

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Class A | PGEOX |
| Class B | PGEBX |
| Class C | PGPCX |
| Class M | PGEMX |
| Class R | PGPRX |
| Class R6 | PGEJX |
| Class Y | PGEYX |

Net assets

\$1,728.87M

Number of holdings

552

Dividend frequency

Quarterly

Current allocation

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Stocks | 61.28% |
| Bonds | 34.49% |
| Cash and other net assets | 4.23% |

George Putnam Balanced Fund

A prudent balance of stocks and bonds since 1937

Balanced approach

One of the pioneering mutual funds, it offers a mix of stocks and bonds in a classic balanced portfolio.

Seeks lower volatility

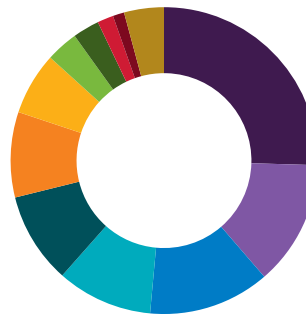
A focus on high-quality bonds helps manage volatility, while high-conviction stocks can help drive relative returns.

Disciplined process

Experienced portfolio managers and a team of sector experts use rigorous fundamental research to find opportunities and manage risk.

Sector weightings

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Information technology | 25.5% |
| Consumer discretionary | 13.2 |
| Health care | 12.8 |
| Communication services | 10.1 |
| Financials | 9.6 |
| Industrials | 9.0 |
| Consumer staples | 6.6 |
| Utilities | 3.4 |
| Materials | 2.8 |
| Energy | 1.7 |
| Real estate | 1.2 |
| Cash and net other assets | 4.2 |



Equity sectors only. 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 |
| Amazon |
| Apple |
| Alphabet |
| U.S. Treasury 2.75 08/15/2042 |
| U.S. Treasury 1.50 03/31/2023 |
| U.S. Treasury 1.75 06/30/2022 |
| PayPal Holdings |
| U.S. Treasury 1.75 09/30/2022 |
| U.S. Treasury 2.13 12/31/2022 |

Holdings represent 19.11% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

Annualized total return performance

| | 1 year | 3 years | 5 years | 10 years | Life of fund |
|--|--------|---------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Y shares (Inception 3/31/94) | 15.78% | 11.83% | 11.77% | 10.12% | 8.86% |
| A shares (Inception 11/5/37) before sales charge | 15.41 | 11.53 | 11.49 | 9.84 | 8.77 |
| A shares after sales charge | 8.77 | 9.35 | 10.17 | 9.20 | 8.70 |
| Primary benchmark | 15.68 | 11.36 | 11.33 | 10.22 | — [*] |
| Secondary benchmark | 18.40 | 14.18 | 15.22 | 13.88 | — |

^{*} The fund's benchmark was introduced on 12/31/69, which post-dates the inception of the fund.

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

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. Performance of class A and Y shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. After-sales-charge returns for class A reflect a maximum 5.75% load. Returns for class Y shares prior to their inception are derived from the historical performance of class A shares, which have not been adjusted for their lower expenses; had they, returns would have been higher. Class Y shares, available to investors through an asset-based fee program or for institutional clients, are sold without an initial sales charge and have no CDSC. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit putnam.com.

Morningstar rankings

(Y shares, based on total return)

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| 1 year | 21% (132/673) |
| 3 years | 9% (46/636) |
| 5 years | 9% (40/575) |
| 10 years | 7% (28/414) |

Total expense ratio(Y shares)
0.72%(A shares)
0.97%**Standard deviation**(Y shares)
11.92**Beta**

1.07

30-day SEC yield(Y shares)
0.63%**Annual performance (all distributions reinvested)**

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Y shares at net asset value | 3.0% | 12.6% | 18.1% | 10.8% | -0.9% | 8.2% | 15.3% | -2.9% | 24.4% | 15.8% |
| A shares before sales charge | 2.7 | 12.4 | 17.8 | 10.5 | -1.1 | 7.9 | 15.0 | -3.1 | 24.1 | 15.4 |
| Primary benchmark | 5.2 | 11.4 | 17.6 | 10.8 | 1.4 | 8.4 | 14.3 | -2.3 | 22.2 | 15.7 |
| Secondary benchmark | 2.1 | 16.0 | 32.4 | 13.7 | 1.4 | 12.0 | 21.8 | -4.4 | 31.5 | 18.4 |

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. Performance of class A and Y shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. After-sales-charge returns for class A reflect a maximum 5.75% load. Returns for class Y shares prior to their inception are derived from the historical performance of class A shares, which have not been adjusted for their lower expenses; had they, returns would have been higher. Class Y shares, available to investors through an asset-based fee program or for institutional clients, are sold without an initial sales charge and have no CDSC. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit putnam.com.

Highlights of five-year performance periods (11/5/37–12/31/20)*

| | Best 5-year return | Best period end date | Worst 5-year return | Worst period end date | Average 5-year return | % of 5-year periods with positive returns | Number of positive 5-year periods | Number of negative 5-year periods |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Y shares | 22.26% | 6/30/87 | -6.01% | 3/31/09 | 9.13% | 94% | 294 | 19 |
| A shares | 22.26 | 6/30/87 | -6.23 | 3/31/09 | 9.05 | 94 | 293 | 20 |

* Based on annualized returns for quarterly rolling periods.

The George Putnam Blended Index is an unmanaged index administered by Putnam Management, 60% of which is the Standard and Poor's 500 Index and 40% of which is the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The Bloomberg (BBG) Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index of U.S. investment-grade fixed-income securities. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. You cannot invest directly in an index.

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating," is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. Ratings do not take into account the effects of sales charges and loads. Putnam George Putnam Balanced Fund received 5, 5, and 5 stars for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods among 636, 575, and 414 Allocation–50% to 70% Equity funds, respectively.

Morningstar rankings for class Y shares are based on total return without sales charge relative to all share classes of funds with similar objectives as determined by Morningstar. Morningstar rankings may differ significantly from Morningstar's risk-adjusted star ratings. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

Standard deviation measures how widely a set of values varies from the mean. It is a historical measure of the variability of return earned by an investment portfolio. **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 3-year regression analysis. For funds with shorter track records, Since Inception analysis is used.

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 value stocks may fail to rebound. Bond investments are subject to interest-rate risk (the risk of bond prices falling if interest rates rise) and credit risk (the risk of an issuer defaulting on interest or principal payments). Interest-rate risk is generally greater for longer-term bonds, and credit risk is generally greater for below-investment-grade bonds. Risks associated with derivatives include increased investment exposure (which may be considered leverage) and, in the case of over-the-counter instruments, 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 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.

Request a prospectus or a summary prospectus, if available, from your financial representative or by calling Putnam at 1-800-225-1581. These prospectuses include investment objectives, risks, fees, expenses, and other information that you should read and consider carefully before investing.

Putnam Investments | 100 Federal Street | Boston, MA 02110 | 1-800-225-1581 | putnam.com

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

Putnam Retail Management
FS021_YA 324267 1/21