



The fund received a 5-star Overall Morningstar Rating as of 12/31/18 among 1,208 funds in the Large Blend category (Y shares, based on risk-adjusted returns)

**Portfolio Managers**

**Aaron M. Cooper, CFA**  
(industry since 1999)

**Samuel Cox**  
(industry since 2002)

**Kathryn B. Lakin**  
(industry since 2008)

**Jacquelyne J. Cavanaugh**  
(industry since 1995)

**Andrew N. O'Brien, CFA**  
(industry since 2011)

**Walter D. Scully, CPA**  
(industry since 1996)

**Objective**

The fund seeks capital appreciation.

**Morningstar category**

Large Blend

**Lipper category**

Large-Cap Core

**Fund symbols**

Class A	PNRAX
Class B	PRFBX
Class C	PRACX
Class M	PRFMX
Class R	PRSRX
Class R6	PLJMX
Class Y	PURYX

**Number of holdings**

144

**Net assets**

\$281.25M

**Dividend frequency**

Annually

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

# Putnam Research Fund

Seeking to capitalize on the expertise of Putnam's research organization

**A best-ideas fund**

The fund invests in stocks that represent the highest conviction ideas from Putnam's Equity Research team.

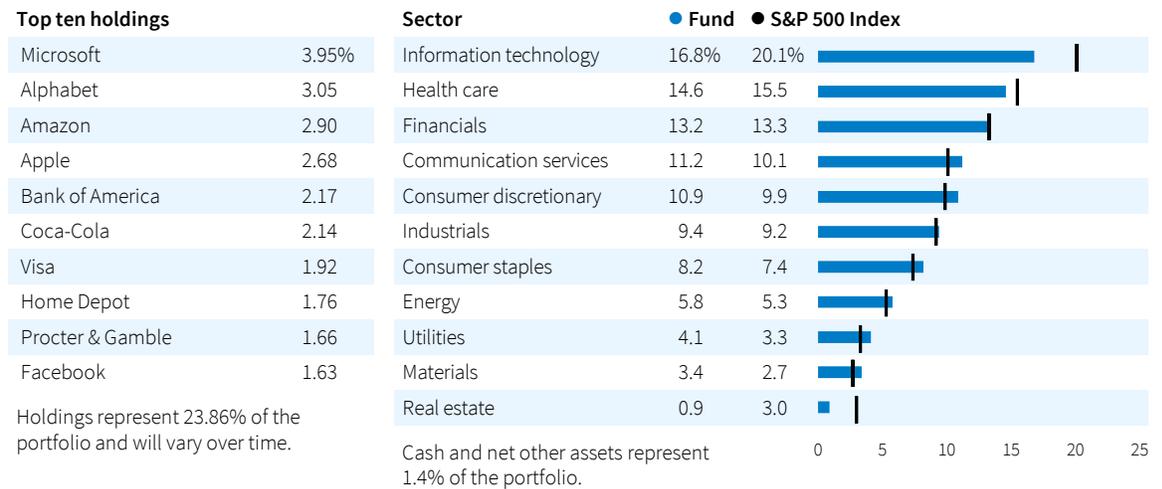
**Sector neutral**

The fund is managed with a sector-neutral approach, with the flexibility to own both growth and value stocks.

**Differentiated research**

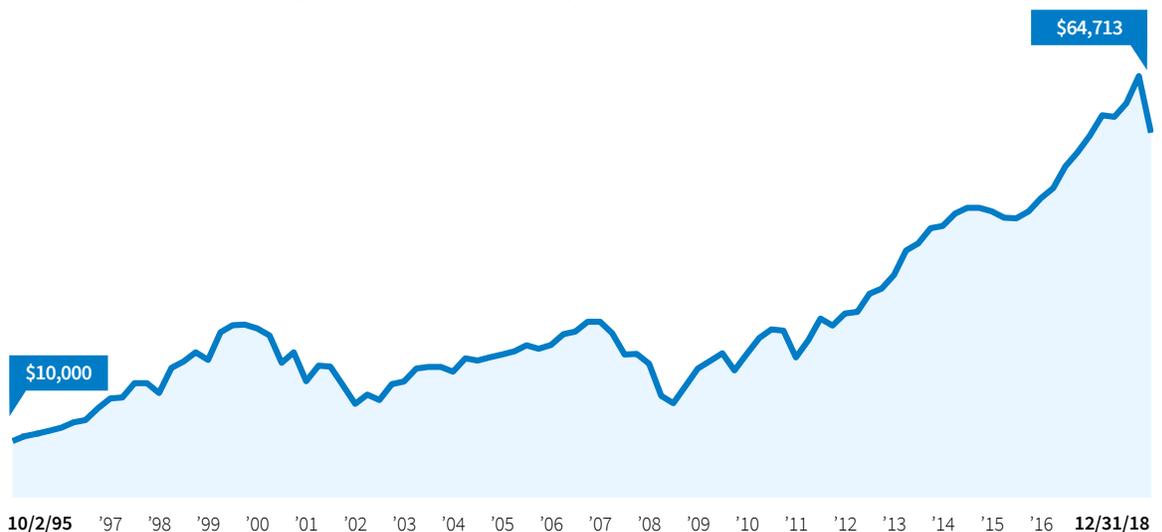
The portfolio managers select stocks in a collaborative effort that emphasizes non-consensus critical thinking.

**Fundamental investment research determines top holdings and sector weightings**



**Growth of a \$10,000 investment**

The fund has returned an average of 8.4% annually since inception.



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 Y shares assumes reinvestment of distributions and does not account for taxes. 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. Performance for class Y shares before their inception are derived from the historical performance of class A shares (inception 10/2/95), which have not been adjusted for the lower expenses; had they, returns would have been higher. Recent performance may have benefited from one or more legal settlements. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit putnam.com.

**Lipper rankings**

(Y shares, based on total return)

1 year	32% (235/735)
3 years	20% (126/634)
5 years	21% (117/565)
10 years	11% (46/442)

**Total expense ratio**

(Y shares)

0.86%

**Market-cap breakdown**

Over \$95B	47.62%
\$22B–\$95B	30.12%
\$4.7B–\$22B	17.81%
\$1.5B–\$4.7B	1.90%
Less than \$1.5B	1.14%
Cash and other assets	1.41%

“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**

0.99

**Price to earnings**

14.50

**Projected 5-yr EPS growth**

13.50

**Annual performance at net asset value (all distributions reinvested)**

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Y shares	34.6%	16.6%	-1.2%	17.9%	33.2%	14.9%	-1.5%	10.5%	23.5%	-4.6%
S&P 500 Index	26.5	15.1	2.1	16.0	32.4	13.7	1.4	12.0	21.8	-4.4

**Annualized total return performance**

Inception 4/4/00	Class Y shares	S&P 500 Index
1 year	-4.55%	-4.38%
3 years	9.22	9.26
5 years	8.09	8.49
10 years	13.64	13.12
Life of fund	8.37	8.53

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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 Research Fund received 4, 4, and 5 stars for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods among 1,208, 1,071, and 805 Large Blend funds, respectively.

Lipper 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 Lipper.

**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. 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. **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.

Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

**Consider these risks before investing:** Growth stocks may be more susceptible to earnings disappointments, and value stocks may fail to rebound. Stock prices 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 lead to increased volatility and reduced liquidity in the fund’s portfolio holdings. 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.**

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

Putnam Retail Management  
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