



The fund received a 4-star Overall Morningstar Rating as of 6/30/19 among 363 funds in the Mid-Cap Value category (IB shares, based on risk-adjusted returns)



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



**Stephanie Dobson**  
Assistant Portfolio Manager  
(industry since 2011)

**Objective**

The fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Lipper category**

Multi-Cap Growth

**Current unit value**

Class IA: \$15.87  
Class IB: \$15.83

**Number of holdings**

58

**Net assets**

\$33.81M

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

# Putnam VT Sustainable Future Fund

Investing in growing companies solving sustainability challenges

**Committed companies**

The fund invests in growth companies that directly demonstrate positive impact in social, environmental, or economic development.

**Active strategy**

The managers utilize bottom-up research to identify companies with attractive sustainability, fundamental, and valuation characteristics.

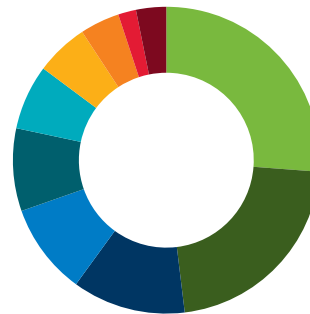
**Veteran team**

A dedicated sustainable investing team is backed by Putnam's equity research and quantitative/risk analysis groups.

**Diversification across market sectors**

Information technology	26.2%
Health care	21.9
Financials	11.9
Consumer discretionary	9.6
Materials	8.7
Consumer staples	6.8
Industrials	5.6
Communication services	4.2
Utilities	1.9
Cash and net other assets	3.2

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.



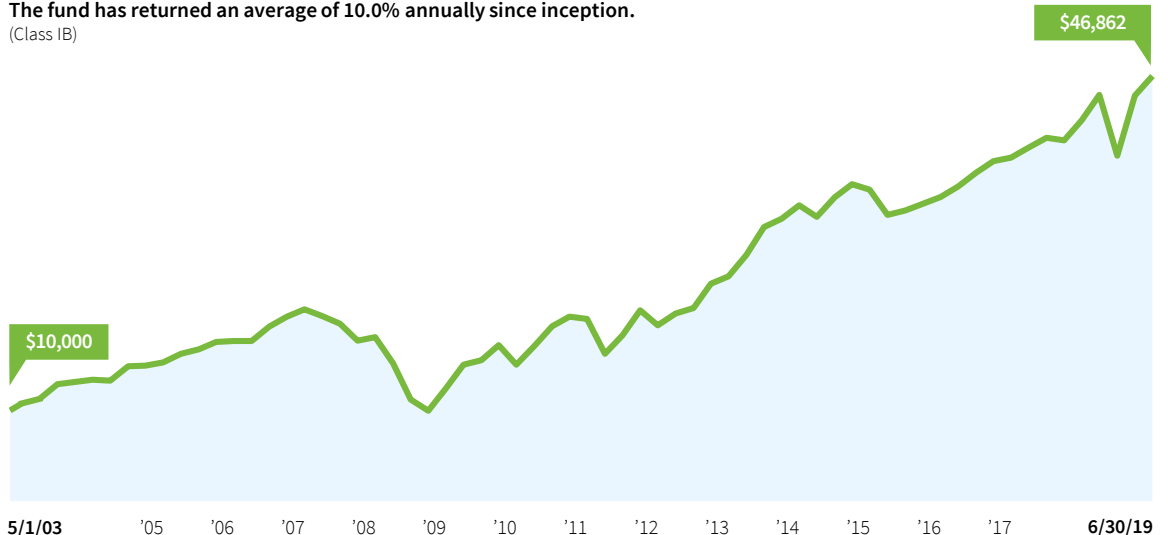
**Top ten holdings**

- Danaher
- Salesforce.com
- McCormick & Co.
- Mastercard
- Novozymes
- Vail Resorts
- Unilever
- Penumbra
- First Republic Bank
- Adobe

Holdings represent 34.4% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

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

The fund has returned an average of 10.0% 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. 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.

**Market-cap breakdown**

Over \$95B	22.82%
\$22B–\$95B	20.26%
\$4.7B–\$22B	38.69%
\$1.5B–\$4.7B	12.32%
Less than \$1.5B	2.74%
Cash and other assets	3.18%

“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**

0.87

**Price to earnings**

26.79

**Projected 5-yr EPS growth**

11.47

**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.

Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

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Putnam Retail Management  
FS075\_VT 317148 7/19

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

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 YTD
Class IA	24.3%	-4.9%	16.5%	42.4%	11.1%	-4.1%	13.2%	10.9%	-4.6%	23.2%
Class IB	24.1	-5.1	16.3	42.1	10.8	-4.3	12.9	10.7	-4.9	23.0
Russell Midcap Growth Index	26.4	1.6	15.8	35.7	11.9	-0.2	7.3	25.3	-4.8	26.1
Russell 3000 Value – Russell Midcap Growth Linked Benchmark	16.2	-0.1	17.6	32.7	12.7	-4.1	18.4	13.2	-8.0	26.1

**Annualized total return performance**

	Class IA NAV Inception 5/1/03	Class IB NAV Inception 5/1/03	Russell Midcap Growth Index	Russell 3000 Value – Russell Midcap Growth Linked Benchmark
1 year	11.90%	11.60%	13.94%	13.94%
3 years	12.10	11.82	16.49	13.53
5 years	7.80	7.52	11.10	9.26
10 years	14.47	14.18	16.02	14.16
Life of fund	10.30	10.03	11.86	9.68

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The Russell Midcap Growth Index is an unmanaged index of those companies in the Russell Midcap Index chosen for their growth orientation. The Russell 3000 Value - Russell Midcap Growth Linked Benchmark represents performance of the Russell 3000 Value Index from inception date of the fund, May 1, 2003, through April 29, 2018, and performance of the Russell Midcap Growth Index from April 30, 2018, and thereafter. You cannot invest directly in an index. Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks, and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. Russell® is a trademark of Frank Russell Company.

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. Putnam VT Sustainable Future IB received 5, 4, and 4 stars for the 3-, 5-, and 10-year periods among 363, 321, and 217 Mid-Cap Value funds, respectively.

**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, technological obsolescence, falling prices and profits, and the market may not favor growth-style investing. Investments in small and 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 sustainable and environmental, social, and/or corporate governance (ESG) investment strategy may cause the fund to forego otherwise attractive investment opportunities or may increase or decrease the fund's exposure to certain types of companies and, therefore, to underperform funds that do not invest with a similar 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. 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.**