

## Portfolio Managers

**D. William Kohli**  
(industry since 1988)

**Michael V. Salm**  
(industry since 1989)

**Albert Chan, CFA**  
(industry since 2002)

**Paul D. Scanlon, CFA**  
(industry since 1986)

## Objective

The fund seeks positive total return.

## Morningstar category

Nontraditional Bond

## Lipper category

Absolute Return

## Benchmark

ICE BofA U.S. Treasury Bill Index

## Fund symbols

Class A	PTRNX
Class B	PTRBX
Class C	PTRGX
Class R	PTRKX
Class R6	PTREX
Class Y	PYTRX

**Serves investors with a horizon of at least three years, and who may be considering:**

- A bond fund
- An investment to diversify a portfolio of traditional funds
- A fund that can use modern strategies to seek to reduce market volatility

# Putnam Fixed Income Absolute Return Fund

## Seeking positive results balanced with lower volatility over time

### Global diversification

The fund can invest across global fixed-income sectors and can adjust dynamically as opportunities change.

### Invests across global bond sectors

Agency pass-through	36.3%
Commercial MBS	20.6
Agency CMO	18.6
High-yield corporate bonds	11.9
Investment-grade corporate bonds	11.0
Residential MBS (non-agency)	9.6
Bank loans	7.6
Emerging-market bonds	5.8
Asset-backed securities (ABS)	4.4
Convertible securities	3.0
Collateralized loan obligations	1.6
Net cash	12.2

Net cash includes money market funds. Allocations will vary over time.

Allocations may not total 100% of net assets because the table includes the notional value of derivatives (the economic value for purposes of calculating periodic payment obligations), in addition to the market value of securities.

### Independent of indexes

The portfolio managers have the flexibility to mitigate a variety of risks, and are not constrained by traditional benchmarks.

### Diverse risk strategies (% of total risk)

Prepayments	44.3%
Corporate credit	30.2
MBS credit	22.7
Emerging markets	5.4
Term structure	0.2
Foreign exchange	-2.8
<b>Total risk (ex-ante)</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

### Risk hedging

The fund's hedging and market neutral strategies can offer volatility dampening benefits to client portfolios.

### Top ten holdings

	Sector
Net cash	Net cash
FNMA TBA 3.50% 05/01/2051	Agency pass-through
FNMA TBA 4.00% 04/01/2051	Agency pass-through
FNMA TBA 4.00% 05/01/2051	Agency pass-through
FNMA TBA 2.50% 05/01/2051	Agency pass-through
FNMA TBA 2.50% 04/01/2051	Agency pass-through
FNMA TBA 3.50% 04/01/2051	Agency pass-through
FNMA TBA 3.00% 04/01/2051	Agency pass-through
UBS London P/P 144A 1.75% 04/21/2022	Investment-grade corporate bonds
FNMA TBA 3.00% 05/01/2051	Agency pass-through

Holdings represent 46.4% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

### The fund's strategy has resulted in low correlations to a variety of bond indexes

#### Correlation of Putnam Fixed Income Absolute Return Fund (Y shares) versus:

	1 year	3 years	5 years
BBG Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	0.85	0.31	0.20
BBG Barclays U.S. Treasury Index	-0.18	-0.40	-0.39
BBG Barclays Global Aggregate Index	0.31	0.39	0.25

Source: Bloomberg Index Services Limited.

Correlation is a measure of how similar the historical performances of two different asset classes or securities have been. The maximum correlation is 1.0 and the minimum is 0 with values between 0 and -1 indicating negative correlation. A positive correlation close to 1.0 indicates that the historical returns of the two asset classes being compared have been very similar. A negative correlation close to -1.0 indicates that the historical returns of the two asset classes being compared have been opposite each other; for example, when one gained 5%, the other declined 5%. Correlations near zero indicate that there has been little discernible relationship between the two asset classes being compared.

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

**Morningstar rankings**

(Y shares, based on total return)

1 year	59% (189/313)
3 years	46% (110/270)
5 years	31% (75/247)
10 years	61% (65/106)

**Total expense ratio**

(Y shares)

0.54%

(A shares)

0.79%

**Adjustable management fees**

Fee adjusts lower if fund underperforms (and adjusts higher if it outperforms) the Treasury Bill Index plus, five percent.

Base fee 0.60%

Higher fee for outperformance 0.64%

Lower fee for underperformance 0.56%

Maximum performance adjustment +/-0.12%

**Net assets**

\$485.91M

**Number of holdings**

1,387

**Dividend frequency**

Monthly

**Average effective duration**

-0.69

**Standard deviation**

(Y shares)

5.17

**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. **Average effective duration** provides a measure of a fund's interest-rate sensitivity. The longer a fund's duration, the more sensitive the fund is to shifts in interest rates.

Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

Putnam Retail Management  
FS109\_YA 325791 4/21

**Annual performance (all distributions reinvested)**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 YTD
Y shares at net asset value	5.9%	4.6%	1.8%	-1.7%	2.2%	5.5%	0.9%	9.4%	0.8%	1.4%
A shares before sales charge	5.6	4.4	1.5	-1.9	2.0	5.2	0.7	9.0	0.6	1.4
Benchmark	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.9	2.4	0.7	0.0

**Annualized total return performance**

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Life of fund
Y shares (Inception 12/23/08)	10.60%	3.53%	4.64%	2.40%	3.08%
A shares (Inception 12/23/08) before sales charge	10.32	3.29	4.39	2.16	2.83
A shares after sales charge	7.84	2.51	3.92	1.93	2.64
Benchmark	0.12	1.55	1.21	0.66	0.58

**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 2.25% load. 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 a portion of the periods, the fund had expense limitations, without which returns would have been lower. For the most recent month-end performance, please visit putnam.com.**

**Highlights of five-year performance periods (12/23/08–3/31/21)\***

	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	4.64%	3/31/21	0.21%	3/31/16	2.46%	100%	30	0
A shares	4.39	3/31/21	-0.03	3/31/16	2.20	97	29	1

\* Based on annualized returns for quarterly rolling periods.

The ICE BofA U.S. Treasury Bill Index is an unmanaged index that tracks the performance of U.S.-dollar-denominated U.S. Treasury bills publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market. Qualifying securities must have a remaining term of at least one month to final maturity and a minimum amount outstanding of \$1 billion. ICE Data Indices, LLC (ICE BofA), used with permission. ICE BofA permits use of the ICE BofA indices and related data on an "as is" basis; makes no warranties regarding same; does not guarantee the suitability, quality, accuracy, timeliness, and/or completeness of the ICE BofA indices or any data included in, related to, or derived therefrom; assumes no liability in connection with the use of the foregoing; and does not sponsor, endorse, or recommend Putnam Investments, or any of its products or services. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Because the dollar amount of the monthly performance fee adjustment is based on the fund's average assets during the rolling performance period, the amount of any dollar adjustment as a percentage of a fund's current assets could exceed the "maximum annualized performance adjustment rates." Performance fee adjustments will not commence until a fund has been operating under a shareholder-approved management contract with a performance fee adjustment for at least 12 months.

The fund is not intended to outperform stocks and bonds during strong market rallies.

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.

**Consider these risks before investing:** Allocation of assets among fixed-income strategies and sectors may hurt performance. 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. 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. Unlike bonds, funds that invest in bonds have fees and expenses. Lower-rated bonds may offer higher yields in return for more risk. Funds that invest in government securities are not guaranteed. Mortgage-backed investments, unlike traditional debt investments, are subject to prepayment risk, which means that they may increase in value less when interest rates decline and decline in value more when interest rates rise. International investing involves currency, economic, and political risks. Emerging-market securities have illiquidity and volatility risks. The fund may not achieve its goal, and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. 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. The fund's efforts to produce lower-volatility returns may not be successful and may make it more difficult at times for the fund to achieve its targeted return. Under certain market conditions, the fund may accept greater-than-typical volatility to seek its targeted return. Our investment techniques, analyses, and judgments may not produce the intended outcome, and the investments we select for the fund may not perform as well as other securities that were not selected for the fund. We, or the fund's other service providers, may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the fund. You can lose money by investing in the fund. The fund is not intended to outperform stocks and bonds during strong market rallies. The fund's prospectus lists additional risks.

**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.**