

Objective

The fund seeks a positive return of 5% above the return of U.S. T-bills, over a reasonable period of time, generally at least three years, regardless of market condition.

Portfolio Managers

Robert J. Schoen
(industry since 1990)

James A. Fetch
(industry since 1994)

Jason R. Vaillancourt, CFA
(industry since 1993)

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

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

Fund symbols

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Class A | PJMDX |
| Class B | PJMBX |
| Class C | PJMCX |
| Class M | PJMMX |
| Class R | PJMRX |
| Class Y | PJMYX |

† Long/short equity, fixed-income, commodity, and currency alpha strategies are pairings of positive and “negative,” or short-selling, positions. They may focus on individual securities, groups of securities or sectors, different indexes, currencies, commodities, or segments of the commodity futures curve. Regional long/short positions are top-down (as opposed to fundamentally driven “bottom up”) long-short trades; they may involve two different countries or groups of countries. Alternative beta strategies are market-neutral strategies that seek non-traditional sources of risk premia.

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

Putnam Absolute Return 500 Fund*

Seeking positive results balanced with lower volatility over time

A wide range of securities for diversification

The fund can invest across multiple asset classes and can adjust dynamically as opportunities change.

Invests across global asset classes‡

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| U.S. stocks | 21.4% |
| U.S. Treasury/agency | 17.1% |
| Commodities | 9.5% |
| Agency pass-through | 6.1% |
| Commercial MBS | 5.9% |
| Agency CMO | 4.1% |
| Bank loans | 3.6% |
| International Treasury/agency | 3.1% |
| International stocks | 2.6% |
| Emerging-market bonds | 1.4% |
| Residential MBS (non-agency) | 0.8% |
| Investment-grade corp. bonds | 0.5% |
| Asset-backed securities (ABS) | 0.2% |
| Emerging-market stocks | -0.4% |
| High-yield corporate bonds | -3.4% |
| Net cash* | 53.7% |

* Includes money market funds. Allocations will vary over time. A negative percentage reflects the effect of fund strategies that are designed to enhance performance if certain securities decline in value.

Ultimate flexibility to be independent of indexes

Freed from the constraints of traditional benchmarks that may carry unwanted risks, the portfolio managers can invest across diverse securities, asset classes, and strategies.

Diverse risk strategies† (% of total risk)

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Directional | 39.7% |
| Equity | 19.3% |
| Credit | 1.7% |
| Rates | 12.4% |
| Inflation | 6.3% |
| Non-directional | 60.3% |
| Equity selection alpha | 42.8% |
| Fixed income selection alpha | 3.6% |
| Fixed income sector alpha | 0.9% |
| Regional equity long/short | 3.8% |
| Regional fixed income long/short | 4.7% |
| Commodity alpha | 2.5% |
| Currency alpha | 0.6% |
| Alternative beta | 1.3% |
| Ex-ante total risk | 2.3% |

‡ 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

Modern investment tools seeking reduced risk

With the ability to hedge and use market neutral strategies, the fund can provide a new type of diversification to traditional portfolios.

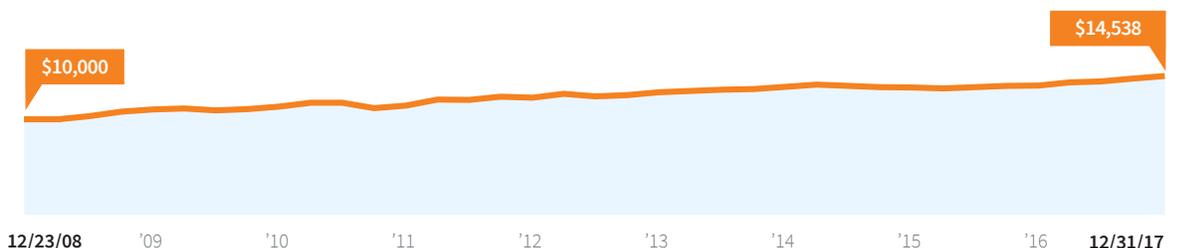
Top ten holdings

| Top ten holdings | Sector |
|---|----------------------|
| Net cash* | Net cash* |
| FNMA TBA 3.50% 02/01/2048 | Agency pass-through |
| Utilities Select Sector SPDR | U.S. stocks |
| Dow Jones/UBS Long F3-Short 3X 144A Note 01/29/2018 | Commodities |
| FNMA TBA 2.50% 01/01/2048 | Agency pass-through |
| S&P GSCI Total Return 3X 144A Note 12/10/2018 | Commodities |
| iShares MSCI India ETF | International stocks |
| Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR | U.S. stocks |
| Technology Select Sector SPDR | U.S. stocks |
| Health Care Select Sector SPDR | U.S. stocks |

Holdings represent 68.9% of the portfolio and will vary over time.

Growth of a \$10,000 investment

The fund has returned an average of 4.2% 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. 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.

Expense ratio

(Y shares)
Total expense ratio
0.85%

What you pay
0.82%

"What you pay" reflects Putnam Management's decision to contractually limit expenses through 2/28/18.

Number of holdings

754

Net assets

\$931.93M

Dividend frequency

Annually

Standard deviation

3.06

Beta

0.19

Sharpe ratio

0.77

Beta measures volatility in relation to the fund's benchmark. A beta of less than 1.0 indicates lower volatility; a beta of more than 1.0, higher volatility than the benchmark. **Sharpe ratio** is a measure of historical adjusted performance calculated by dividing the fund's return minus the risk free rate (ML 3mth T-Bill) by the standard deviation of the fund's return. The higher the ratio, the better the fund's return per unit of risk. **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. For fixed income and equity funds, risk statistics are measured using a 3- and 5-year regression analysis, respectively. For funds with shorter track records, Since Inception analysis is used.

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.

Annual performance at net asset value (all distributions reinvested)

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|
| Y shares | — | 10.3% | 2.9% | 0.9% | 7.2% | 4.6% | 4.4% | -0.4% | 1.4% | 7.5% |
| ICE BofAML U.S. Treasury Bill Index | 2.5% | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.8 |

Annualized total return performance

| Inception 12/23/08 | Class Y shares | ICE BofAML U.S. Treasury Bill Index |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 year | 7.46% | 0.81% |
| 3 years | 2.77 | 0.42 |
| 5 years | 3.45 | 0.28 |
| Life of fund | 4.23 | 0.24 |

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. 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.

Shareholder-friendly, adjustable management fee

Putnam Absolute Return 500 Fund has an innovative management fee structure — the fee adjusts based on fund performance. This feature aligns the interests of fund managers and shareholders.

Performance fee information

| | |
|---|----------|
| Base management fee | 0.72% |
| Example of lower fee if fund underperforms its target by 1% | 0.68% |
| Example of higher fee if fund outperforms its target by 1% | 0.76% |
| Maximum performance adjustment | +/-0.20% |

The ICE BofAML 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. You cannot invest directly in an index. ICE Data Indices, LLC ("ICE BofAML"), used with permission. ICE BofAML permits use of the ICE BofAML 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 BofAML 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.

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 Absolute Return funds are not intended to outperform stocks and bonds during strong market rallies.

Not all share classes are available on all platforms.

Consider these risks before investing: Allocation of assets among asset classes may hurt performance. The value of stocks and bonds in the fund's portfolio may fall or fail to rise over extended periods of time for a variety of reasons, including general financial market conditions, changing market perceptions (including, in the case of bonds, perceptions about the risk of default and expectations about monetary policy or interest rates), changes in government intervention in the financial markets, and factors related to a specific issuer or industry. These and other factors may also 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 greater for longer-term bonds, and credit risk is 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 securities are subject to prepayment risk and the risk 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. Our alpha strategy may lose money or not earn a return sufficient to cover associated trading and other costs. Our use of leverage obtained through derivatives increases these risks by increasing investment exposure. 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. The fund may not achieve its goal, and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. You can lose money by investing in the fund. 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.