

# Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund

## Semiannual report

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The Securities and Exchange Commission has adopted new regulations that will result in changes to the design and delivery of annual and semiannual shareholder reports beginning in July 2024.

If you have previously elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will continue to do so and need not take any action.

Otherwise, paper copies of the Fund's shareholder reports will be mailed to you beginning in July 2024.



**Blend funds** invest opportunistically in a variety of stocks, such as growth stocks and value stocks.

FUND SYMBOL  
CLASS A  
PEMMX

# Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund

## Semiannual report

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# Message from the Trustees

April 5, 2024

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

We are pleased to report that on January 1, 2024, Franklin Resources, Inc., a leading global asset management firm operating as Franklin Templeton, acquired Putnam Investments. With complementary capabilities and an established infrastructure serving over 150 countries, Franklin Templeton enhances Putnam's investment, risk management, operations, and technology platforms. Together, our firms are committed to delivering strong fund performance and more choices for our investors.

We are also excited to welcome Jane E. Trust as an interested trustee to your Board of Trustees. Ms. Trust contributes over 30 years of investment management experience to The Putnam Funds, and has served as Senior Vice President, Fund Board Management, at Franklin Templeton since 2020.

As we enter this new chapter, you can rest assured that your fund continues to be actively managed by the same experienced professionals. Your investment team is exploring new and attractive opportunities for your fund while monitoring changing market conditions.

Thank you for investing with Putnam.

Respectfully yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Reynolds".

**Robert L. Reynolds**  
President, The Putnam Funds



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth R. Leibler".

**Kenneth R. Leibler**  
Chair, Board of Trustees

# Your fund at a glance

## Global composition

● India	22.1%
● China	18.6
● Taiwan	16.1
● South Korea	11.0
● United States	5.1
● Brazil	4.5
● Mexico	4.3
● Indonesia	3.5
● Other countries	14.6
● Cash and net other assets	0.2



Allocations are shown as a percentage of the fund's net assets as of 2/29/24. Cash and net other assets, if any, represent the market value weights of cash, derivatives, short-term securities, and other unclassified assets in the portfolio. Summary information may differ from the information in the portfolio schedule notes included in the financial statements due to the inclusion of derivative securities, any interest accruals, the exclusion of as-of trades, if any, and rounding. Holdings and allocations may vary over time. Due to rounding, percentages may not equal 100%.

## Your fund's expenses

As a mutual fund investor, you pay ongoing expenses, such as management fees, distribution fees (12b-1 fees), and other expenses. In the most recent six-month period, your fund's expenses were limited; had expenses not been limited, they would have been higher. Using the following information, you can estimate how these expenses affect your investment and compare them with the expenses of other funds. You may also pay one-time transaction expenses, including sales charges (loads) and redemption fees, which are not shown in this section and would have resulted in higher total expenses. For more information, see your fund's prospectus or talk to your financial representative.

### Expense ratios

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R	Class R6	Class Y
Net expenses for the fiscal year ended 8/31/23*†	1.27%	2.02%	2.02%	1.52%	0.83%	1.02%
Total annual operating expenses for the fiscal year ended 8/31/23*	1.57%	2.32%	2.32%	1.82%	1.13%	1.32%
Annualized expense ratio for the six-month period ended 2/29/24‡	1.15%	1.90%	1.90%	1.40%	0.71%	0.90%

Fiscal year expense information in this table is taken from the most recent prospectus, is subject to change, and may differ from that shown for the annualized expense ratio and in the financial highlights of this report.

Prospectus expense information also includes the impact of acquired fund fees and expenses of 0.02%, which is not included in the financial highlights or annualized expense ratios. Expenses are shown as a percentage of average net assets.

\* Restated to reflect current fees.

† Reflects Putnam Management's contractual obligation to limit certain fund expenses through 12/30/24.

‡ Includes a decrease of 0.12% from annualizing the performance fee adjustment for the six months ended 2/29/24.

### Expenses per \$1,000

The following table shows the expenses you would have paid on a \$1,000 investment in each class of the fund from 9/1/23 to 2/29/24. It also shows how much a \$1,000 investment would be worth at the close of the period, assuming *actual returns* and expenses.

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R	Class R6	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000*†	\$5.96	\$9.83	\$9.82	\$7.25	\$3.68	\$4.67
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,084.40	\$1,079.80	\$1,079.70	\$1,082.30	\$1,086.00	\$1,085.00

\* Expenses for each share class are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio for each class, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the six months ended 2/29/24. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the period (182); and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year (366).

## Estimate the expenses you paid

To estimate the ongoing expenses you paid for the six months ended 2/29/24, use the following calculation method. To find the value of your investment on 9/1/23, call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581.

### How to calculate the expenses you paid

Value of your investment on 9/1/23  $\div$  \$1,000  $\times$  Expenses paid per \$1,000 = Total expenses paid

**Example** Based on a \$10,000 investment in class A shares of your fund.

\$10,000  $\div$  \$1,000  $\times$  \$5.96 (see preceding table) = \$59.60

## Compare expenses using the SEC's method

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has established guidelines to help investors assess fund expenses. Per these guidelines, the following table shows your fund's expenses based on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a *hypothetical 5% annualized return*. You can use this information to compare the ongoing expenses (but not transaction expenses or total costs) of investing in the fund with those of other funds. All mutual fund shareholder reports will provide this information to help you make this comparison. Please note that you cannot use this information to estimate your actual ending account balance and expenses paid during the period.

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class R	Class R6	Class Y
Expenses paid per \$1,000**†	\$5.77	\$9.52	\$9.52	\$7.02	\$3.57	\$4.52
Ending value (after expenses)	\$1,019.14	\$1,015.42	\$1,015.42	\$1,017.90	\$1,021.33	\$1,020.39

\* Expenses for each share class are calculated using the fund's annualized expense ratio for each class, which represents the ongoing expenses as a percentage of average net assets for the six months ended 2/29/24. The expense ratio may differ for each share class.

† Expenses are calculated by multiplying the expense ratio by the average account value for the six-month period; then multiplying the result by the number of days in the six-month period (182); and then dividing that result by the number of days in the year (366).

## Other information for shareholders

### Important notice regarding delivery of shareholder documents

In accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regulations, your fund's manager sends a single notice of internet availability, or a single printed copy, of annual and semiannual shareholder reports, prospectuses, and proxy statements to shareholders who share the same address, unless a shareholder requests otherwise. If you prefer to receive your own copy of these documents, please call 1-800-225-1581 or, for exchange-traded funds only, 1-833-228-5577. We will begin sending individual copies within 30 days.

### Proxy voting

The Putnam Funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures, as well as information regarding how your fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the 12-month

period ended June 30, 2023, are available in the Individual Investors section of [putnam.com](http://putnam.com) and on the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's website, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain The Putnam Funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures at no charge by calling Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581 or, for exchange-traded funds only, 1-833-228-5577.

### Fund portfolio holdings

The fund will file a complete schedule of its portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-PORT within 60 days of the end of such fiscal quarter. Shareholders may obtain the fund's Form N-PORT on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

## Important notice regarding Putnam's privacy policy

In order to conduct business with our shareholders, we must obtain certain personal information such as account holders' names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth. Using this information, we are able to maintain accurate records of accounts and transactions.

It is our policy to protect the confidentiality of our shareholder information, whether or not a shareholder currently owns shares of our funds. In particular, it is our policy not to sell information about you or your accounts to outside marketing firms. We have safeguards in place designed to prevent unauthorized access

to our computer systems and procedures to protect personal information from unauthorized use.

Under certain circumstances, we must share account information with outside vendors who provide services to us, such as mailings and proxy solicitations. In these cases, the service providers enter into confidentiality agreements with us, and we provide only the information necessary to process transactions and perform other services related to your account. Finally, it is our policy to share account information with your financial representative, if you've listed one on your Putnam account.



## Financial statements

**These sections of the report, as well as the accompanying Notes, constitute the fund's financial statements.**

**The fund's portfolio** lists all the fund's investments and their values as of the last day of the reporting period. Holdings are organized by asset type and industry sector, country, or state to show areas of concentration and diversification.

**Statement of assets and liabilities** shows how the fund's net assets and share price are determined. All investment and non-investment assets are added together. Any unpaid expenses and other liabilities are subtracted from this total. The result is divided by the number of shares to determine the net asset value per share, which is calculated separately for each class of shares. (For funds with preferred shares, the amount subtracted from total assets includes the liquidation preference of preferred shares.)

**Statement of operations** shows the fund's net investment gain or loss. This is done by first adding up all the fund's earnings — from dividends and interest income — and subtracting its operating expenses to determine net investment income (or loss). Then, any net gain or loss the fund realized on the sales of its holdings — as well as any unrealized gains or losses over the period — is added to or subtracted from the net investment result to determine the fund's net gain or loss for the fiscal period.

**Statement of changes in net assets** shows how the fund's net assets were affected by the fund's net investment gain or loss, by distributions to shareholders, and by changes in the number of the fund's shares. It lists distributions and their sources (net investment income or realized capital gains) over the current reporting period and the most recent fiscal year-end. The distributions listed here may not match the sources listed in the Statement of operations because the distributions are determined on a tax basis and may be paid in a different period from the one in which they were earned. Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. Actual results may vary. Any non-taxable return of capital cannot be determined until final tax calculations are completed after the end of the fund's fiscal period.

**Financial highlights** provide an overview of the fund's investment results, per-share distributions, expense ratios, net investment income ratios, and portfolio turnover (not required for money market funds) in one summary table, reflecting the five most recent reporting periods. In a semiannual report, the highlights table also includes the current reporting period.

## The fund's portfolio 2/29/24 (Unaudited)

<b>COMMON STOCKS (96.9%)*</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Automobiles (2.5%)</b>		
BYD Co., Ltd. Class H (China)	135,500	\$3,345,316
Kia Corp. (South Korea)	61,877	5,785,286
		<b>9,130,602</b>
<b>Banks (16.5%)</b>		
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank PJSC (United Arab Emirates)	1,834,302	5,613,350
Alinma Bank (Saudi Arabia)	467,086	5,473,810
Banco do Brasil SA (Brazil)	387,100	4,505,563
Bank Central Asia Tbk PT (Indonesia)	7,455,000	4,684,577
Bank Mandiri Persero Tbk PT (Indonesia)	13,359,900	5,950,958
Bank of China, Ltd. Class H (China)	20,867,000	8,208,744
Grupo Financiero Banorte SAB de CV Class O (Mexico)	1,046,700	10,826,713
ICICI Bank, Ltd. (India)	1,135,071	14,403,952
		<b>59,667,667</b>
<b>Broadline retail (4.6%)</b>		
Alibaba Group Holding, Ltd. (China)	748,368	6,968,009
MercadoLibre, Inc. (Brazil) †	2,715	4,331,240
PDD Holdings, Inc. ADR (China) †	42,700	5,317,858
		<b>16,617,107</b>
<b>Capital markets (0.4%)</b>		
B3 SA — Brasil Bolsa Balcao (Brazil)	574,200	1,481,963
		<b>1,481,963</b>
<b>Chemicals (0.6%)</b>		
Hansol Chemical Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	15,919	2,035,901
		<b>2,035,901</b>
<b>Construction and engineering (1.2%)</b>		
Larsen & Toubro, Ltd. (India)	100,896	4,231,630
		<b>4,231,630</b>
<b>Construction materials (1.4%)</b>		
UltraTech Cement, Ltd. (India)	44,006	5,250,177
		<b>5,250,177</b>
<b>Consumer staples distribution and retail (3.6%)</b>		
Dino Polska SA (Poland) †	36,597	4,259,003
Shoprite Holdings, Ltd. (South Africa)	270,214	3,637,886
Sumber Alfaria Trijaya Tbk PT (Indonesia)	13,126,600	2,297,051
WalMart de Mexico (Walmex) SAB de CV (Mexico)	695,000	2,776,045
		<b>12,969,985</b>
<b>Electrical equipment (1.6%)</b>		
KEL Industries, Ltd. (India) †	150,100	5,812,293
		<b>5,812,293</b>
<b>Electronic equipment, instruments, and components (2.6%)</b>		
Dexerials Corp. (Japan)	60,200	2,419,725
Elite Material Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	210,000	3,288,568
Sinbon Electronics Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	442,000	3,614,641
		<b>9,322,934</b>
<b>Financial services (2.0%)</b>		
Meritz Financial Group, Inc. (South Korea)	53,965	3,367,747
REC, Ltd. (India)	702,743	3,746,522
		<b>7,114,269</b>

<b>COMMON STOCKS (96.9%)* cont.</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Gas utilities (1.6%)</b>		
China Resources Gas Group, Ltd. (China)	1,907,900	\$5,775,239
		<b>5,775,239</b>
<b>Ground transportation (0.4%)</b>		
Uber Technologies, Inc. †	18,900	1,502,550
		<b>1,502,550</b>
<b>Health care providers and services (2.2%)</b>		
Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, Ltd. (India)	73,306	5,394,406
Max Healthcare Institute, Ltd. (India)	270,767	2,590,723
		<b>7,985,129</b>
<b>Hotels, restaurants, and leisure (6.1%)</b>		
Alsea SAB de CV (Mexico) †	582,600	2,239,579
H World Group, Ltd. ADR (China)	164,800	6,025,088
Indian Hotels Co., Ltd. (India)	1,234,098	8,732,248
MakeMyTrip, Ltd. (India) †	46,500	2,868,585
Zomato, Ltd. (India) †	1,230,638	2,455,599
		<b>22,321,099</b>
<b>Independent power and renewable electricity producers (1.4%)</b>		
NTPC, Ltd. (India)	1,229,767	4,977,430
		<b>4,977,430</b>
<b>Insurance (1.8%)</b>		
AIA Group, Ltd. (Hong Kong)	798,200	6,483,878
		<b>6,483,878</b>
<b>Interactive media and services (5.5%)</b>		
Tencent Holdings, Ltd. (China)	563,800	19,961,091
		<b>19,961,091</b>
<b>IT Services (2.6%)</b>		
Tata Consultancy Services, Ltd. (India)	194,609	9,611,425
		<b>9,611,425</b>
<b>Metals and mining (1.2%)</b>		
Anglo American PLC (United Kingdom)	112,256	2,459,273
APL Apollo Tubes, Ltd. (India)	99,156	1,850,649
		<b>4,309,922</b>
<b>Oil, gas, and consumable fuels (3.3%)</b>		
PetroChina Co., Ltd. Class H (China)	9,834,000	7,749,637
Petroleo Brasileiro SA (Preference) (Brazil)	280,500	2,264,945
PRIO SA (Brazil)	210,900	1,854,406
		<b>11,868,988</b>
<b>Passenger airlines (0.9%)</b>		
Copa Holdings SA Class A (Panama)	35,308	3,441,471
		<b>3,441,471</b>
<b>Pharmaceuticals (1.9%)</b>		
AstraZeneca PLC (United Kingdom)	14,355	1,808,951
Eli Lilly and Co.	1,800	1,356,624
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. (India)	187,717	3,572,376
		<b>6,737,951</b>
<b>Professional services (0.4%)</b>		
Benefit Systems SA (Poland)	2,396	1,404,082
		<b>1,404,082</b>

<b>COMMON STOCKS (96.9%)* cont.</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Real estate management and development (1.5%)</b>		
Phoenix Mills, Ltd. (The) (India)	160,857	\$5,355,741
		<b>5,355,741</b>
<b>Semiconductors and semiconductor equipment (16.8%)</b>		
Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. †	5,600	1,078,168
MediaTek, Inc. (Taiwan)	168,000	6,058,938
Novatek Microelectronics Corp. (Taiwan)	152,000	2,890,017
SK Hynix, Inc. (South Korea)	83,167	9,755,696
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	1,887,889	41,210,503
		<b>60,993,322</b>
<b>Software (0.6%)</b>		
Totvs SA (Brazil)	348,120	2,149,183
		<b>2,149,183</b>
<b>Specialty retail (0.4%)</b>		
JUMBO SA (Greece)	56,228	1,643,253
		<b>1,643,253</b>
<b>Technology hardware, storage, and peripherals (5.9%)</b>		
Asia Vital Components Co., Ltd. (Taiwan)	118,000	1,985,985
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (South Korea)	351,001	19,347,757
		<b>21,333,742</b>
<b>Textiles, apparel, and luxury goods (3.7%)</b>		
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA (France)	3,541	3,225,489
PRADA SpA (Italy)	748,100	5,283,853
Shenzhou International Group Holdings, Ltd. (China)	587,500	4,843,620
		<b>13,352,962</b>
<b>Transportation infrastructure (1.7%)</b>		
International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (Philippines)	1,239,000	6,369,669
		<b>6,369,669</b>
<b>Total common stocks (cost \$292,588,154)</b>		<b>\$351,212,655</b>
<b>INVESTMENT COMPANIES (4.1%)*</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF <sup>S</sup>	295,600	\$14,880,504
<b>Total investment companies (cost \$14,586,725)</b>		<b>\$14,880,504</b>
<b>SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS (3.1%)*</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Value</b>
Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC 5.53% <sup>d</sup>	11,121,840	\$11,121,840
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund Class P 5.51% <sup>L</sup>	49,856	49,856
<b>Total short-term investments (cost \$11,171,696)</b>		<b>\$11,171,696</b>
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>		
<b>Total investments (cost \$318,346,575)</b>		<b>\$377,264,855</b>

#### Key to holding's abbreviations

- ADR American Depository Receipts: Represents ownership of foreign securities on deposit with a custodian bank.
- ETF Exchange Traded Fund
- PJSC Public Joint Stock Company

## Notes to the fund's portfolio

Unless noted otherwise, the notes to the fund's portfolio are for the close of the fund's reporting period, which ran from September 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024 (the reporting period). Within the following notes to the portfolio, references to "Putnam Management" represent Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund's manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc., and references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*.

- \* Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$362,476,943.
- † This security is non-income-producing.
- ‡ Affiliated company. See Notes 1 and 5 to the financial statements regarding securities lending. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.
- § Affiliated company (Note 5). The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.
- ¶ Security on loan, in part or in entirety, at the close of the reporting period (Note 1).

## DIVERSIFICATION BY COUNTRY

Distribution of investments by country of risk at the close of the reporting period, excluding collateral received, if any (as a percentage of Portfolio Value):

India	22.1%	United Arab Emirates	1.5%
China	18.6	Saudi Arabia	1.5
Taiwan	16.1	Italy	1.4
South Korea	11.0	United Kingdom	1.2
United States	5.2	South Africa	1.0
Brazil	4.5	Panama	0.9
Mexico	4.3	France	0.9
Indonesia	3.5	Japan	0.7
Hong Kong	1.8	Greece	0.5
Philippines	1.7	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Poland	1.6		

ASC 820 establishes a three-level hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of the fund's investments. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Valuations based on quoted prices for identical securities in active markets.

Level 2: Valuations based on quoted prices in markets that are not active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the fund's net assets as of the close of the reporting period:

Investments in securities:	Valuation inputs		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stocks*:			
Communication services	\$19,961,091	\$—	\$—
Consumer discretionary	63,065,023	—	—
Consumer staples	12,969,985	—	—
Energy	11,868,988	—	—
Financials	74,747,777	—	—
Health care	14,723,080	—	—
Industrials	22,761,695	—	—
Information technology	103,410,606	—	—
Materials	11,596,000	—	—
Real estate	5,355,741	—	—
Utilities	10,752,669	—	—
<b>Total common stocks</b>	<b>351,212,655</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Investment companies	14,880,504	—	—
Short-term investments	—	11,171,696	—
<b>Totals by level</b>	<b>\$366,093,159</b>	<b>\$11,171,696</b>	<b>\$—</b>

\* Common stock classifications are presented at the sector level, which may differ from the fund's portfolio presentation.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Statement of assets and liabilities 2/29/24 (Unaudited)

### ASSETS

Investment in securities, at value, including \$10,913,712 of securities on loan (Note 1):	
Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$307,174,879)	\$366,093,159
Affiliated issuers (identified cost \$11,171,696) (Notes 1 and 5)	11,171,696
Foreign currency (cost \$5,267,783) (Note 1)	5,266,954
Dividends, interest and other receivables	510,394
Foreign tax reclaim	115,380
Receivable for shares of the fund sold	277,416
Receivable for investments sold	4,913,845
Prepaid assets	46,858
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>388,395,702</b>

### LIABILITIES

Payable for investments purchased	5,766,123
Payable for shares of the fund repurchased	4,991,661
Payable for compensation of Manager (Note 2)	76,473
Payable for custodian fees (Note 2)	113,325
Payable for investor servicing fees (Note 2)	128,690
Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	163,791
Payable for administrative services (Note 2)	1,156
Payable for distribution fees (Note 2)	85,822
Payable for foreign capital gains taxes	3,403,676
Collateral on securities loaned, at value (Note 1)	11,121,840
Other accrued expenses	66,202
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>25,918,759</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$362,476,943</b>

### REPRESENTED BY

Paid-in capital (Unlimited shares authorized) (Notes 1 and 4)	\$399,045,255
Total distributable earnings (Note 1)	(36,568,312)
<b>Total — Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding</b>	<b>\$362,476,943</b>

### COMPUTATION OF NET ASSET VALUE AND OFFERING PRICE

Net asset value and redemption price per class A share (\$192,084,885 divided by 15,180,806 shares)	\$12.65
Offering price per class A share (100/94.25 of \$12.65)*	\$13.42
Net asset value and offering price per class B share (\$412,314 divided by 35,023 shares)**	\$11.77
Net asset value and offering price per class C share (\$5,146,862 divided by 439,892 shares)**	\$11.70
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R share (\$5,291,449 divided by 423,180 shares)	\$12.50
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class R6 share (\$23,829,364 divided by 1,839,575 shares)	\$12.95
Net asset value, offering price and redemption price per class Y share (\$135,712,069 divided by 10,527,016 shares)	\$12.89

\*On single retail sales of less than \$50,000. On sales of \$50,000 or more the offering price is reduced.

\*\*Redemption price per share is equal to net asset value less any applicable contingent deferred sales charge.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Statement of operations Six months ended 2/29/24 (Unaudited)

<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>	
Dividends (net of foreign tax of \$403,830)	\$2,577,569
Interest (including interest income of \$124,380 from investments in affiliated issuers) (Note 5)	125,545
Securities lending (net of expenses) (Notes 1 and 5)	2,016
<b>Total investment income</b>	<b>2,705,130</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Compensation of Manager (Note 2)	1,426,133
Investor servicing fees (Note 2)	393,221
Custodian fees (Note 2)	141,209
Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	8,185
Distribution fees (Note 2)	269,816
Administrative services (Note 2)	7,162
Other	145,468
Fees waived and reimbursed by Manager (Note 2)	(545,634)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,845,560</b>
Expense reduction (Note 2)	(2,713)
<b>Net expenses</b>	<b>1,842,847</b>
<b>Net investment income</b>	<b>862,283</b>
<b>REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)</b>	
<b>Net realized gain (loss) on:</b>	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers (net of foreign tax of \$427,223) (Notes 1 and 3)	16,655,937
Foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(86,106)
<b>Total net realized gain</b>	<b>16,569,831</b>
<b>Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on:</b>	
Securities from unaffiliated issuers (net of increase in deferred foreign taxes of \$1,455,306)	11,605,576
Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	(17,615)
<b>Total change in net unrealized appreciation</b>	<b>11,587,961</b>
<b>Net gain on investments</b>	<b>28,157,792</b>
<b>Net increase in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>\$29,020,075</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



## Statement of changes in net assets

DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	Six months ended 2/29/24*	Year ended 8/31/23
<b>Operations</b>		
Net investment income	\$862,283	\$3,764,055
Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions	16,569,831	(28,374,455)
Change in net unrealized appreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	11,587,961	40,501,865
<b>Net increase in net assets resulting from operations</b>	<b>29,020,075</b>	<b>15,891,465</b>
Distributions to shareholders (Note 1):		
From ordinary income		
Net investment income		
Class A	(1,513,002)	—
Class B	—	—
Class C	(1,834)	—
Class R	(29,663)	—
Class R6	(350,852)	—
Class Y	(1,294,801)	—
Decrease from capital share transactions (Note 4)	(36,003,009)	(18,748,857)
<b>Total decrease in net assets</b>	<b>(10,173,086)</b>	<b>(2,857,392)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Beginning of period	372,650,029	375,507,421
<b>End of period</b>	<b>\$362,476,943</b>	<b>\$372,650,029</b>

\*Unaudited.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Financial highlights

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

Period ended	INVESTMENT OPERATIONS				LESS DISTRIBUTIONS
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Net investment income (loss) <sup>a</sup>	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	Total from investment operations	From net investment income
<b>Class A</b>					
February 29, 2024**	<b>\$11.76</b>	.02	.97	<b>.99</b>	(.10)
August 31, 2023	<b>11.28</b>	.10	.38	<b>.48</b>	—
August 31, 2022	<b>17.25</b>	.05	(5.20)	<b>(5.15)</b>	(.01)
August 31, 2021	<b>14.68</b>	(.01)	2.86	<b>2.85</b>	(.02)
August 31, 2020	<b>11.05</b>	.08 <sup>e</sup>	3.69	<b>3.77</b>	(.14)
August 31, 2019	<b>11.75</b>	.09	(.57)	<b>(.48)</b>	(.01)
<b>Class B</b>					
February 29, 2024**	<b>\$10.90</b>	(.02)	.89	<b>.87</b>	—
August 31, 2023	<b>10.53</b>	.01	.36	<b>.37</b>	—
August 31, 2022	<b>16.28</b>	(.07) <sup>e</sup>	(4.86)	<b>(4.93)</b>	(.01)
August 31, 2021	<b>13.95</b>	(.13)	2.72	<b>2.59</b>	—
August 31, 2020	<b>10.52</b>	(.05)	3.54	<b>3.49</b>	(.06)
August 31, 2019	<b>11.27</b>	.02	(.56)	<b>(.54)</b>	—
<b>Class C</b>					
February 29, 2024**	<b>\$10.84</b>	(.02)	.88	<b>.86</b>	— <sup>f</sup>
August 31, 2023	<b>10.47</b>	.01	.36	<b>.37</b>	—
August 31, 2022	<b>16.19</b>	(.06)	(4.84)	<b>(4.90)</b>	(.01)
August 31, 2021	<b>13.88</b>	(.13)	2.70	<b>2.57</b>	—
August 31, 2020	<b>10.48</b>	(.05)	3.52	<b>3.47</b>	(.07)
August 31, 2019	<b>11.23</b>	.02	(.56)	<b>(.54)</b>	—
<b>Class R</b>					
February 29, 2024**	<b>\$11.62</b>	.01	.94	<b>.95</b>	(.07)
August 31, 2023	<b>11.17</b>	.07	.38	<b>.45</b>	—
August 31, 2022	<b>17.13</b>	.02	(5.16)	<b>(5.14)</b>	(.01)
August 31, 2021	<b>14.62</b>	(.06)	2.86	<b>2.80</b>	(.03)
August 31, 2020	<b>10.97</b>	.01	3.70	<b>3.71</b>	(.06)
August 31, 2019	<b>11.68</b>	.08	(.58)	<b>(.50)</b>	—
<b>Class R6</b>					
February 29, 2024**	<b>\$12.07</b>	.05	.98	<b>1.03</b>	(.15)
August 31, 2023	<b>11.52</b>	.16	.39	<b>.55</b>	—
August 31, 2022	<b>17.53</b>	.11	(5.30)	<b>(5.19)</b>	(.01)
August 31, 2021	<b>14.88</b>	.05	2.92	<b>2.97</b>	(.06)
August 31, 2020	<b>11.22</b>	.10	3.77	<b>3.87</b>	(.21)
August 31, 2019	<b>11.89</b>	.17	(.61)	<b>(.44)</b>	(.02)

See notes to financial highlights at the end of this section.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

				RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA			
From net realized gain on investments	Total distributions	Net asset value, end of period	Total return at net asset value (%) <sup>b</sup>	Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) <sup>c,d</sup>	Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets (%) <sup>c</sup>	Portfolio turnover (%)
—	(.10)	\$12.65	8.44*	\$192,085	.57*	.18*	30*
—	—	11.76	4.26	187,270	1.25	.90	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.28	(31.05)	197,474	1.33	.38	127
(.26)	(.28)	17.25	19.50	315,105	1.29	(.07)	124
—	(.14)	14.68	34.30	269,748	1.31	.60 <sup>e</sup>	127
(.21)	(.22)	11.05	(3.96)	36,325	1.26	.80	175
—	—	\$11.77	7.98*	\$412	.94*	(.15)*	30*
—	—	10.90	3.51	658	2.00	.10	63
(.81)	(.82)	10.53	(31.57)	1,227	2.08	(.49) <sup>e</sup>	127
(.26)	(.26)	16.28	18.65	2,993	2.04	(.81)	124
—	(.06)	13.95	33.26	3,493	2.06	(.43)	127
(.21)	(.21)	10.52	(4.67)	1,998	2.01	.17	175
—	— <sup>f</sup>	\$11.70	7.97*	\$5,147	.94*	(.19)*	30*
—	—	10.84	3.53	5,542	2.00	.13	63
(.81)	(.82)	10.47	(31.55)	7,088	2.08	(.42)	127
(.26)	(.26)	16.19	18.60	13,498	2.04	(.82)	124
—	(.07)	13.88	33.27	11,606	2.06	(.47)	127
(.21)	(.21)	10.48	(4.69)	6,546	2.01	.19	175
—	(.07)	\$12.50	8.23*	\$5,291	.70*	.05*	30*
—	—	11.62	4.03	4,660	1.50	.65	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.17	(31.21)	4,510	1.58	.17	127
(.26)	(.29)	17.13	19.25	6,419	1.54	(.35)	124
—	(.06)	14.62	33.86	1,119	1.56	.11	127
(.21)	(.21)	10.97	(4.16)	1,093	1.51	.74	175
—	(.15)	\$12.95	8.60*	\$23,829	.36*	.40*	30*
—	—	12.07	4.77	27,784	.81	1.33	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.52	(30.77)	27,655	.91	.81	127
(.26)	(.32)	17.53	20.06	41,708	.89	.31	124
—	(.21)	14.88	34.81	22,945	.89	.76	127
(.21)	(.23)	11.22	(3.55)	10,143	.82	1.47	175

## Financial highlights *cont.*

Period ended	INVESTMENT OPERATIONS			LESS DISTRIBUTIONS	
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Net investment income (loss) <sup>a</sup>	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	Total from investment operations	From net investment income
<b>Class Y</b>					
February 29, 2024**	<b>\$12.00</b>	.04	.97	<b>1.01</b>	(.12)
August 31, 2023	<b>11.48</b>	.13	.39	<b>.52</b>	—
August 31, 2022	<b>17.49</b>	.08	(5.27)	<b>(5.19)</b>	(.01)
August 31, 2021	<b>14.86</b>	.02	2.91	<b>2.93</b>	(.04)
August 31, 2020	<b>11.19</b>	.06	3.79	<b>3.85</b>	(.18)
August 31, 2019	<b>11.88</b>	.13	(.59)	<b>(.46)</b>	(.02)

\* Not annualized.

\*\* Unaudited.

<sup>a</sup> Per share net investment income (loss) has been determined on the basis of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the period.

<sup>b</sup> Total return assumes dividend reinvestment and does not reflect the effect of sales charges.

<sup>c</sup> Reflects an involuntary contractual expense limitation in effect during the period. As a result of such limitation, the expenses of each class reflect a reduction of the following amounts (Note 2):

	Percentage of average net assets
February 29, 2024	0.15%
August 31, 2023	0.31
August 31, 2022	0.29
August 31, 2021	0.27
August 31, 2020	0.48
August 31, 2019	0.45

<sup>d</sup> Includes amounts paid through expense offset and/or brokerage/service arrangements, if any (Note 2). Also excludes acquired fund fees and expenses, if any.

<sup>e</sup> The net investment income ratio and per share amount shown for the period ending may not correspond with the expected class specific differences for the period due to the timing of subscriptions into or redemptions out of the class.

<sup>f</sup> Amount represents less than \$0.01 per share.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

				RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA			
From net realized gain on investments	Total distributions	Net asset value, end of period	Total return at net asset value (%) <sup>b</sup>	Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) <sup>c,d</sup>	Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets (%) <sup>c</sup>	Portfolio turnover (%)
—	(.12)	\$12.89	8.50 <sup>*</sup>	\$135,712	.45 <sup>*</sup>	.31 <sup>*</sup>	30 <sup>*</sup>
—	—	12.00	4.53	146,736	1.00	1.13	63
(.81)	(.82)	11.48	(30.84)	137,553	1.08	.60	127
(.26)	(.30)	17.49	19.84	253,336	1.04	.13	124
—	(.18)	14.86	34.66	82,640	1.06	.46	127
(.21)	(.23)	11.19	(3.74)	69,989	1.01	1.17	175

## Notes to financial statements 2/29/24 (Unaudited)

Unless otherwise noted, the “reporting period” represents the period from September 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024. The following table defines commonly used references within the Notes to financial statements:

References to	Represent
Franklin Templeton	Franklin Resources, Inc.
JPMorgan	JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
OTC	Over-the-counter
PAC	The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC, an affiliate of Putnam Management
PIL	Putnam Investments Limited, an affiliate of Putnam Management
Putnam Management	Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund’s manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Templeton
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
State Street	State Street Bank and Trust Company

Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund (the fund) is a non-diversified series of Putnam Funds Trust (the Trust), a Massachusetts business trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as an open-end management investment company. The goal of the fund is to seek long-term capital appreciation. The fund invests mainly in common stocks (growth or value stocks or both) of emerging market companies of any size that Putnam Management believes have favorable investment potential. For example, the fund may purchase stocks of companies with stock prices that reflect a value lower than that which Putnam Management places on the company. Putnam Management may also consider other factors that Putnam Management believes will cause the stock price to rise. Under normal circumstances, Putnam Management invests at least 80% of the fund’s net assets in equity securities of emerging market companies. This policy may be changed only after 60 days’ notice to shareholders. Emerging markets include countries in the MSCI Emerging Market Index or that Putnam Management considers to be emerging markets based on Putnam Management’s evaluation of their level of economic development or the size and nature of their securities markets. Putnam Management may consider, among other factors, a company’s valuation, financial strength, growth potential, competitive position in its industry, projected future earnings, cash flows and dividends when deciding whether to buy or sell investments. The fund may also use derivatives, such as futures, options, warrants and swap contracts, for both hedging and non-hedging purposes. The fund is “non-diversified,” which means it may invest a greater percentage of its assets in fewer issuers than a “diversified” fund.

The fund offers the following share classes. The expenses for each class of shares may differ based on the distribution and investor servicing fees of each class, which are identified in Note 2.

Share class	Sales charge	Contingent deferred sales charge	Conversion feature
Class A	Up to 5.75%	1.00% on certain redemptions of shares bought with no initial sales charge	None
Class B*	None	5.00% phased out over six years	Converts to class A shares after 8 years
Class C	None	1.00% eliminated after one year	Converts to class A shares after 8 years
Class R†	None	None	None
Class R6†	None	None	None
Class Y†	None	None	None

\* Purchases of class B shares are closed to new and existing investors except by exchange from class B shares of another Putnam fund or through dividend and/or capital gains reinvestment.

† Not available to all investors.

In the normal course of business, the fund enters into contracts that may include agreements to indemnify another party under given circumstances. The fund’s maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be, but have not yet been, made against the fund. However, the fund’s management team expects the risk of material loss to be remote.

The fund has entered into contractual arrangements with an investment adviser, administrator, distributor, shareholder servicing agent and custodian, who each provide services to the fund. Unless expressly stated otherwise, shareholders are not parties to, or intended beneficiaries of these contractual arrangements, and these contractual arrangements are not intended to create any shareholder right to enforce them against the service providers or to seek any remedy under them against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the fund.

Under the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, any claims asserted by a shareholder against or on behalf of the Trust (or its series), including claims against Trustees and Officers, must be brought in courts located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### **Note 1: Significant accounting policies**

The fund follows the accounting and reporting guidance in Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946, *Financial Services – Investment Companies* (ASC 946) and applies the specialized accounting and reporting guidance in U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (U.S. GAAP), including, but not limited to, ASC 946. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The preparation of financial statements is in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Subsequent events after the Statement of assets and liabilities date through the date that the financial statements were issued have been evaluated in the preparation of the financial statements.

Investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses and expenses of the fund are borne pro-rata based on the relative net assets of each class to the total net assets of the fund, except that each class bears expenses unique to that class (including the distribution fees applicable to such classes). Each class votes as a class only with respect to its own distribution plan or other matters on which a class vote is required by law or determined by the Trustees. If the fund were liquidated, shares of each class would receive their pro-rata share of the net assets of the fund. In addition, the Trustees declare separate dividends on each class of shares.

**Security valuation** Portfolio securities and other investments are valued using policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees have formed a Pricing Committee to oversee the implementation of these procedures and have delegated responsibility for valuing the fund's assets in accordance with these procedures to Putnam Management. Putnam Management has established an internal Valuation Committee that is responsible for making fair value determinations, evaluating the effectiveness of the pricing policies of the fund and reporting to the Pricing Committee.

Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last reported sales price on their principal exchange, or official closing price for certain markets, and are classified as Level 1 securities under Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (ASC 820). If no sales are reported, as in the case of some securities that are traded OTC, a security is valued at its last reported bid price and is generally categorized as a Level 2 security.

Investments in open-end investment companies (excluding exchange-traded funds), if any, which can be classified as Level 1 or Level 2 securities, are valued based on their net asset value. The net asset value of such investment companies equals the total value of their assets less their liabilities and divided by the number of their outstanding shares.

Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close prior to the scheduled close of the New York Stock Exchange and therefore the closing prices for securities in such markets or on such exchanges may not fully reflect events that occur after such close but before the scheduled close of the New York Stock Exchange. Accordingly, on certain days, the fund will fair value certain foreign equity securities taking into account multiple factors including movements in the U.S. securities markets, currency valuations and comparisons to the valuation of American Depositary Receipts, exchange-traded funds and futures contracts. The foreign equity securities, which would generally be classified as Level 1 securities, will be transferred to Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy when they are valued at fair value. The number of days on which fair value prices will be used will depend on market activity and it is possible that fair value prices will be used by the fund to a significant extent. Securities quoted in foreign currencies, if any, are translated into U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate. Short-term securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued using an independent pricing service approved by the Trustees, and are classified as Level 2 securities.

To the extent a pricing service or dealer is unable to value a security or provides a valuation that Putnam Management does not believe accurately reflects the security's fair value, the security will be valued at fair value by Putnam Management, which has been designated as valuation designee pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, in accordance with policies and procedures approved by the Trustees. Certain investments, including certain restricted and illiquid securities and derivatives, are also valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. These valuations consider such factors as significant market or specific security events such as interest rate or credit quality changes, various relationships with other securities, discount rates, U.S. Treasury, U.S. swap and credit yields, index levels, convexity exposures, recovery rates, sales and other multiples and resale restrictions. These securities are classified as Level 2 or as Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs.

To assess the continuing appropriateness of fair valuations, the Valuation Committee reviews and affirms the reasonableness of such valuations on a regular basis after considering all relevant information that is reasonably available. Such valuations and procedures are reviewed periodically by the Trustees. The fair value of securities is generally determined as the amount that the fund could reasonably expect to realize from an orderly disposition of such securities over a reasonable period of time. By its nature, a fair value price is a good faith estimate of the value of a security in a current sale and does not reflect an actual market price, which may be different by a material amount.

**Security transactions and related investment income** Security transactions are recorded on the trade date (the date the order to buy or sell is executed). Gains or losses on securities sold are determined on the identified cost basis.

Interest income, net of any applicable withholding taxes, if any, is recorded on the accrual basis. Amortization and accretion of premiums and discounts on debt securities, if any, is recorded on the accrual basis.

Dividend income, net of any applicable withholding taxes, is recognized on the ex-dividend date except that certain dividends from foreign securities, if any, are recognized as soon as the fund is informed of the ex-dividend date. Non-cash dividends, if any, are recorded at the fair value of the securities received. Dividends representing a return of capital or capital gains, if any, are reflected as a reduction of cost and/or as a realized gain.

**Foreign currency translation** The accounting records of the fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. The fair value of foreign securities, currency holdings, and other assets and liabilities is recorded in the books and records of the fund after translation to U.S. dollars based on the exchange rates on that day. The cost of each security is determined using historical exchange rates. Income and withholding taxes are translated at prevailing exchange rates when earned or incurred. The fund does not isolate that portion of realized or unrealized gains or losses resulting from changes in the foreign exchange rate on investments from fluctuations arising from changes in the market prices of the securities. Such gains and losses are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss on investments. Net realized gains and losses on foreign currency transactions represent net realized exchange gains or losses on disposition of foreign currencies, currency gains and losses realized between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions and the difference between the amount of investment income and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the fund's books and the U.S. dollar equivalent amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized appreciation and depreciation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies arise from changes in the value of assets and liabilities other than investments at the period end, resulting from changes in the exchange rate.

**Securities lending** The fund may lend securities, through its agent, to qualified borrowers in order to earn additional income. The loans are collateralized by cash in an amount at least equal to the fair value of the securities loaned. The fair value of securities loaned is determined daily and any additional required collateral is allocated to the fund on the next business day. The remaining maturities of the securities lending transactions are considered overnight and continuous. The risk of borrower default will be borne by the fund's agent; the fund will bear the risk of loss with respect to the investment of the cash collateral. Income from securities lending, if any, is net of expenses and is included in investment income on the Statement of operations. Cash collateral is invested in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC, a limited liability company managed by an affiliate of Putnam Management. Investments in Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC are valued at its closing net asset value each business day. There are no management fees charged to Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC. At the close of the reporting period, the fund received cash collateral of \$11,121,840 and the value of securities loaned amounted to \$10,913,712.

**Interfund lending** The fund, along with other Putnam funds, may participate in an interfund lending program pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the SEC. This program allows the fund to borrow from or lend to other Putnam funds that permit such transactions. Interfund lending transactions are subject to each fund's investment policies and borrowing and lending limits. Interest earned or paid on the interfund lending



transaction will be based on the average of certain current market rates. During the reporting period, the fund did not utilize the program.

**Lines of credit** The fund participates, along with other Putnam funds, in a \$320 million syndicated unsecured committed line of credit, provided by State Street (\$160 million) and JPMorgan (\$160 million), and a \$235.5 million unsecured uncommitted line of credit, provided by State Street. Borrowings may be made for temporary or emergency purposes, including the funding of shareholder redemption requests and trade settlements. Interest is charged to the fund based on the fund's borrowing at a rate equal to 1.25% plus the higher of (1) the Federal Funds rate and (2) the Overnight Bank Funding Rate for the committed line of credit and 1.30% plus the higher of (1) the Federal Funds rate and (2) the Overnight Bank Funding Rate for the uncommitted line of credit. A closing fee equal to 0.04% of the committed line of credit and 0.04% of the uncommitted line of credit has been paid by the participating funds and a \$75,000 fee has been paid by the participating funds to State Street as agent of the syndicated committed line of credit. In addition, a commitment fee of 0.21% per annum on any unutilized portion of the committed line of credit is allocated to the participating funds based on their relative net assets and paid quarterly. During the reporting period, the fund had no borrowings against these arrangements.

**Federal taxes** It is the policy of the fund to distribute all of its taxable income within the prescribed time period and otherwise comply with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), applicable to regulated investment companies. It is also the intention of the fund to distribute an amount sufficient to avoid imposition of any excise tax under Section 4982 of the Code.

The fund is subject to the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 740 *Income Taxes* (ASC 740). ASC 740 sets forth a minimum threshold for financial statement recognition of the benefit of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The fund did not have a liability to record for any unrecognized tax benefits in the accompanying financial statements. No provision has been made for federal taxes on income, capital gains or unrealized appreciation on securities held nor for excise tax on income and capital gains. Each of the fund's federal tax returns for the prior three fiscal years remains subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service.

The fund may also be subject to taxes imposed by governments of countries in which it invests. Such taxes are generally based on either income or gains earned or repatriated. The fund accrues and applies such taxes to net investment income, net realized gains and net unrealized gains as income and/or capital gains are earned. In some cases, the fund may be entitled to reclaim all or a portion of such taxes, and such reclaim amounts, if any, are reflected as an asset on the fund's books. In many cases, however, the fund may not receive such amounts for an extended period of time, depending on the country of investment.

Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010, the fund will be permitted to carry forward capital losses incurred for an unlimited period and the carry forwards will retain their character as either short-term or long-term capital losses. At August 31, 2023, the fund had the following capital loss carryovers available, to the extent allowed by the Code, to offset future net capital gain, if any:

Loss carryover		
Short-term	Long-term	Total
\$79,259,327	\$22,538,332	\$101,797,659

Tax cost of investments includes adjustments to net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) which may not necessarily be final tax cost basis adjustments, but closely approximate the tax basis unrealized gains and losses that may be realized and distributed to shareholders. The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$325,937,215, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$68,713,152 and \$17,385,512, respectively, or net unrealized appreciation of \$51,327,640.

**Distributions to shareholders** Distributions to shareholders from net investment income, if any, are recorded by the fund on the ex-dividend date. Distributions from capital gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-dividend date and paid at least annually. The amount and character of income and gains to be distributed are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. Dividend sources are estimated at the time of declaration. Actual results may vary. Any non-taxable return of capital cannot be determined until final tax calculations are completed after the end of the fund's fiscal year. Reclassifications are made to the fund's capital accounts to reflect income and gains available for distribution (or available capital loss carryovers) under income tax regulations.

**Expenses of the Trust** Expenses directly charged or attributable to any fund will be paid from the assets of that fund. Generally, expenses of the Trust will be allocated among and charged to the assets of each fund on a basis

that the Trustees deem fair and equitable, which may be based on the relative assets of each fund or the nature of the services performed and relative applicability to each fund.

**Note 2: Management fee, administrative services and other transactions**

The fund pays Putnam Management a management fee (base fee) (based on the fund’s average net assets and computed and paid monthly) at annual rates that may vary based on the average of the aggregate net assets of all open-end mutual funds sponsored by Putnam Management (excluding net assets of funds that are invested in, or that are invested in by, other Putnam funds to the extent necessary to avoid “double counting” of those assets). Such annual rates may vary as follows:

1.080%	of the first \$5 billion,	0.880%	of the next \$50 billion,
1.030%	of the next \$5 billion,	0.860%	of the next \$50 billion,
0.980%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.850%	of the next \$100 billion and
0.930%	of the next \$10 billion,	0.845%	of any excess thereafter.

In addition, the monthly management fee consists of the monthly base fee plus or minus a performance adjustment for the month. The performance adjustment is determined based on performance over the thirty-six month period then ended. Each month, the performance adjustment is calculated by multiplying the performance adjustment rate and the fund’s average net assets over the performance period and dividing the result by twelve. The resulting dollar amount is added to, or subtracted from the base fee for that month. The performance adjustment rate is equal to 0.03 multiplied by the difference between the fund’s annualized performance (measured by the fund’s class A shares) and the annualized performance of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (Net Dividends) each measured over the performance period. The maximum annualized performance adjustment rate is +/- 0.21%. The monthly base fee is determined based on the fund’s average net assets for the month, while the performance adjustment is determined based on the fund’s average net assets over the thirty-six month performance period. This means it is possible that, if the fund underperforms significantly over the performance period, and the fund’s assets have declined significantly over that period, the negative performance adjustment may exceed the base fee. In this event, Putnam Management would make a payment to the fund.

In connection with the merger of Putnam International Growth Fund (“acquired fund”) into the fund on May 18, 2020, the management contract was amended such that, after completion of the merger, the combined fund’s performance adjustment will be calculated based on the combined assets of the fund and the acquired fund for any portion of a performance period that is prior to the merger, unless the use of the combined assets results in a fee payable by the fund under the amended management contract that is higher than the management fee that would have been paid under the fund’s current management contract. Under those circumstances, Putnam Management has agreed to reduce its management fee to reflect the lower amount that would have been payable under the fund’s current fee schedule, which would only take into account the assets of the fund for the period prior to the closing of the mergers. As a result of these management contract changes, the fund’s shareholders may pay a lower management fee, but would never pay a higher management fee, under the amended management contract than they would have paid under the fund’s current management contract.

Because the performance adjustment is based on the fund’s performance relative to its applicable benchmark index, and not its absolute performance, the performance adjustment could increase Putnam Management’s fee even if the fund’s shares lose value during the performance period provided that the fund outperformed its benchmark index, and could decrease Putnam Management’s fee even if the fund’s shares increase in value during the performance period provided that the fund underperformed its benchmark index.

For the reporting period, the management fee represented an effective rate (excluding the impact of any expense waiver in effect) of 0.398% of the fund’s average net assets, which included an effective base fee of 0.456% and a decrease of 0.058% (\$207,474) based on performance.

Putnam Management has contractually agreed, through December 30, 2024, to waive fees and/or reimburse the fund’s expenses to the extent necessary to limit the cumulative expenses of the fund, exclusive of brokerage, interest, taxes, investment-related expenses, extraordinary expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses and payments under the fund’s investor servicing contract, investment management contract and distribution plans, on a fiscal year-to-date basis to an annual rate of 0.20% of the fund’s average net assets over such fiscal year-to-date period. During the reporting period, the fund’s expenses were not reduced as a result of this limit.

Putnam Management has also contractually agreed to waive fees (and, to the extent necessary, bear other expenses) of the fund through December 30, 2024, to the extent that total expenses of the fund (before any

applicable performance-based adjustment to the fund's base management fee and excluding brokerage, interest, taxes, investment-related expenses, payments under distribution plans, extraordinary expenses, payments under the fund's investor servicing contract and acquired fund fees and expenses, but including payments under the fund's investment management contract) would exceed an annual rate of 0.78% of the fund's average net assets. During the reporting period, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$545,634 as a result of this limit.

PIL is authorized by the Trustees to manage a separate portion of the assets of the fund as determined by Putnam Management from time to time. PIL did not manage any portion of the assets of the fund during the reporting period. If Putnam Management were to engage the services of PIL, Putnam Management would pay a quarterly sub-management fee to PIL for its services at an annual rate of 0.25% of the average net assets of the portion of the fund managed by PIL.

PAC is authorized by the Trustees to manage a separate portion of the assets of the fund, as designated from time to time by Putnam Management or PIL. PAC did not manage any portion of the assets of the fund during the reporting period. If Putnam Management or PIL were to engage the services of PAC, Putnam Management or PIL, as applicable, would pay a quarterly sub-advisory fee to PAC for its services at the annual rate of 0.25% of the average net assets of the portion of the fund's assets for which PAC is engaged as sub-adviser.

On January 1, 2024, a subsidiary of Franklin Templeton acquired Putnam U.S. Holdings I, LLC ("Putnam Holdings"), the parent company of Putnam Management, PIL and PAC, in a stock and cash transaction (the "Transaction"). As a result of the Transaction, Putnam Management, PIL and PAC became indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries of Franklin Templeton. The Transaction also resulted in the automatic termination of the investment management contract between the fund and Putnam Management, the sub-management contract for the fund between Putnam Management and PIL, and the sub-advisory contract for the fund among Putnam Management, PIL and PAC that were in place for the fund before the Transaction. However, Putnam Management, PIL and PAC continued to provide uninterrupted services with respect to the fund pursuant to new investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts that were approved by fund shareholders at a shareholder meeting held in connection with the Transaction and that took effect on January 1, 2024. The terms of the new investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts are substantially similar to those of the previous investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts, and the fee rates payable under the new investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts are the same as the fee rates under the previous investment management, sub-management, and sub-advisory contracts.

The fund reimburses Putnam Management an allocated amount for the compensation and related expenses of certain officers of the fund and their staff who provide administrative services to the fund. The aggregate amount of all such reimbursements is determined annually by the Trustees.

Custodial functions for the fund's assets are provided by State Street. Custody fees are based on the fund's asset level, the number of its security holdings and transaction volumes.

Putnam Investor Services, Inc., an affiliate of Putnam Management, provides investor servicing agent functions to the fund. Putnam Investor Services, Inc. received fees for investor servicing for class A, class B, class C, class R and class Y shares that included (1) a per account fee for each direct and underlying non-defined contribution account (retail account) of the fund; (2) a specified rate of the fund's assets attributable to defined contribution plan accounts; and (3) a specified rate based on the average net assets in retail accounts. Putnam Investor Services, Inc. has agreed that the aggregate investor servicing fees for each fund's retail and defined contribution accounts for these share classes will not exceed an annual rate of 0.25% of the fund's average assets attributable to such accounts.

Class R6 shares paid a monthly fee based on the average net assets of class R6 shares at an annual rate of 0.05%.

During the reporting period, the expenses for each class of shares related to investor servicing fees were as follows:

Class A	\$215,873	Class R	5,560
Class B	590	Class R6	6,986
Class C	6,026	Class Y	158,186
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$393,221</b>

The fund has entered into expense offset arrangements with Putnam Investor Services, Inc. and State Street whereby Putnam Investor Services, Inc.'s and State Street's fees are reduced by credits allowed on cash balances. For the reporting period, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$2,713 under the expense offset arrangements.

Each Independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual Trustee fee, of which \$303, as a quarterly retainer, has been allocated to the fund, and an additional fee for each Trustees meeting attended. Trustees also are reimbursed for expenses they incur relating to their services as Trustees.

The fund has adopted a Trustee Fee Deferral Plan (the Deferral Plan) which allows the Trustees to defer the receipt of all or a portion of Trustees fees payable from July 1, 1995 through December 31, 2023. The deferred fees remain invested in certain Putnam funds until distribution in accordance with the Deferral Plan.

The fund has adopted an unfunded noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Pension Plan) covering all Trustees of the fund who have served as a Trustee for at least five years and were first elected prior to 2004. Benefits under the Pension Plan are equal to 50% of the Trustee's average annual attendance and retainer fees for the three years ended December 31, 2005. The retirement benefit is payable during a Trustee's lifetime, beginning the year following retirement, for the number of years of service through December 31, 2006. Pension expense for the fund is included in Trustee compensation and expenses in the Statement of operations. Accrued pension liability is included in Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses in the Statement of assets and liabilities. The Trustees have terminated the Pension Plan with respect to any Trustee first elected after 2003.

The fund has adopted distribution plans (the Plans) with respect to the following share classes pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940. The purpose of the Plans is to compensate Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Franklin Templeton, for services provided and expenses incurred in distributing shares of the fund. The Plans provide payments by the fund to Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership at an annual rate of up to the following amounts (Maximum %) of the average net assets attributable to each class. The Trustees have approved payment by the fund at the following annual rate (Approved %) of the average net assets attributable to each class. During the reporting period, the class-specific expenses related to distribution fees were as follows:

	Maximum %	Approved %	Amount
Class A	0.35%	0.25%	\$229,808
Class B	1.00%	1.00%	2,511
Class C	1.00%	1.00%	25,661
Class R	1.00%	0.50%	11,836
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$269,816</b>

For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received net commissions of \$6,986 from the sale of class A shares and received no monies and \$82 in contingent deferred sales charges from redemptions of class B and class C shares, respectively.

A deferred sales charge of up to 1.00% is assessed on certain redemptions of class A shares. For the reporting period, Putnam Retail Management Limited Partnership, acting as underwriter, received \$16 on class A redemptions.

### Note 3: Purchases and sales of securities

During the reporting period, the cost of purchases and the proceeds from sales, excluding short-term investments, were as follows:

	Cost of purchases	Proceeds from sales
Investments in securities (Long-term)	\$105,156,948	\$141,306,818
U.S. government securities (Long-term)	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$105,156,948</b>	<b>\$141,306,818</b>

The fund may purchase or sell investments from or to other Putnam funds in the ordinary course of business, which can reduce the fund's transaction costs, at prices determined in accordance with SEC requirements and policies approved by the Trustees. During the reporting period, purchases or sales of long-term securities from or to other Putnam funds, if any, did not represent more than 5% of the fund's total cost of purchases and/or total proceeds from sales.

**Note 4: Capital shares**

At the close of the reporting period, there were an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest authorized. Transactions, including, if applicable, direct exchanges pursuant to share conversions, in capital shares were as follows:

Class A	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/29/24		YEAR ENDED 8/31/23	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	418,983	\$4,941,115	769,925	\$8,714,154
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	119,644	1,442,956	—	—
	538,627	6,384,071	769,925	8,714,154
Shares repurchased	(1,275,961)	(15,173,941)	(2,354,145)	(26,657,936)
<b>Net decrease</b>	<b>(737,334)</b>	<b>\$(8,789,870)</b>	<b>(1,584,220)</b>	<b>\$(17,943,782)</b>

Class B	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/29/24		YEAR ENDED 8/31/23	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	—	\$—	2	\$19
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	—	—	—	—
	—	—	2	19
Shares repurchased	(25,303)	(275,942)	(56,159)	(595,279)
<b>Net decrease</b>	<b>(25,303)</b>	<b>\$(275,942)</b>	<b>(56,157)</b>	<b>\$(595,260)</b>

Class C	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/29/24		YEAR ENDED 8/31/23	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	14,966	\$164,622	42,073	\$447,193
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	164	1,834	—	—
	15,130	166,456	42,073	447,193
Shares repurchased	(86,748)	(948,401)	(207,607)	(2,173,342)
<b>Net decrease</b>	<b>(71,618)</b>	<b>\$(781,945)</b>	<b>(165,534)</b>	<b>\$(1,726,149)</b>

Class R	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/29/24		YEAR ENDED 8/31/23	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	55,982	\$658,837	119,868	\$1,362,262
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	2,486	29,663	—	—
	58,468	688,500	119,868	1,362,262
Shares repurchased	(36,451)	(421,141)	(122,508)	(1,389,619)
<b>Net increase (decrease)</b>	<b>22,017</b>	<b>\$267,359</b>	<b>(2,640)</b>	<b>\$(27,357)</b>

Class R6	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/29/24		YEAR ENDED 8/31/23	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	278,488	\$3,371,599	548,424	\$6,437,314
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	28,419	350,687	—	—
	306,907	3,722,286	548,424	6,437,314
Shares repurchased	(769,978)	(9,697,357)	(646,104)	(7,544,131)
<b>Net decrease</b>	<b>(463,071)</b>	<b>\$(5,975,071)</b>	<b>(97,680)</b>	<b>\$(1,106,817)</b>

Class Y	SIX MONTHS ENDED 2/29/24		YEAR ENDED 8/31/23	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	1,224,977	\$14,896,251	6,314,563	\$72,068,778
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	105,034	1,289,823	—	—
	1,330,011	16,186,074	6,314,563	72,068,778
Shares repurchased	(3,036,037)	(36,633,614)	(6,068,554)	(69,418,270)
<b>Net increase (decrease)</b>	<b>(1,706,026)</b>	<b>\$(20,447,540)</b>	<b>246,009</b>	<b>\$2,650,508</b>

#### Note 5: Affiliated transactions

Transactions during the reporting period with any company which is under common ownership or control were as follows:

Name of affiliate	Fair value as of 8/31/23	Purchase cost	Sale proceeds	Investment income	Shares outstanding and fair value as of 2/29/24
<b>Short-term investments</b>					
Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC*	\$3,564,875	\$23,671,290	\$16,114,325	\$49,392	\$11,121,840
Putnam Short Term Investment Fund Class P†	6,198,433	69,119,533	75,268,110	124,380	49,856
<b>Total Short-term investments</b>	<b>\$9,763,308</b>	<b>\$92,790,823</b>	<b>\$91,382,435</b>	<b>\$173,772</b>	<b>\$11,171,696</b>

\* No management fees are charged to Putnam Cash Collateral Pool, LLC (Note 1). Investment income shown is included in securities lending income on the Statement of operations. There were no realized or unrealized gains or losses during the period.

† Management fees charged to Putnam Short Term Investment Fund have been waived by Putnam Management. There were no realized or unrealized gains or losses during the period.

#### Note 6: Market, credit and other risks

In the normal course of business, the fund trades financial instruments and enters into financial transactions where risk of potential loss exists due to changes in the market (market risk) or failure of the contracting party to the transaction to perform (credit risk). The fund may be exposed to additional credit risk that an institution or other entity with which the fund has unsettled or open transactions will default. Investments in foreign securities involve certain risks, including those related to economic instability, unfavorable political developments, and currency fluctuations.

## Shareholder meeting results (Unaudited)

### December 21, 2023 special meeting

At the meeting, a new Management Contract for your fund with Putnam Investment Management, LLC was approved, as follows:

<b>Votes for</b>	<b>Votes against</b>	<b>Abstentions/Votes withheld</b>
14,905,892	401,703	1,160,784

At the meeting, a new Sub-Management Contract for your fund between Putnam Investment Management, LLC and Putnam Investments Limited was approved, as follows:

<b>Votes for</b>	<b>Votes against</b>	<b>Abstentions/Votes withheld</b>
14,840,719	414,927	1,212,733

At the meeting, a new Sub-Advisory Contract for your fund between Putnam Investment Management, LLC, Putnam Investments Limited and The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC was approved, as follows:

<b>Votes for</b>	<b>Votes against</b>	<b>Abstentions/Votes withheld</b>
14,837,232	449,490	1,181,657

All tabulations are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Fund information

### Investment Manager

Putnam Investment  
Management, LLC  
100 Federal Street  
Boston, MA 02110

### Investment Sub-Advisors

Putnam Investments Limited  
16 St James's Street  
London, England SW1A 1ER

The Putnam Advisory Company, LLC  
100 Federal Street  
Boston, MA 02110

### Marketing Services

Putnam Retail Management  
Limited Partnership  
100 Federal Street  
Boston, MA 02110

### Custodian

State Street Bank  
and Trust Company

### Legal Counsel

Ropes & Gray LLP

### Trustees

Kenneth R. Leibler, *Chair*  
Barbara M. Baumann, *Vice Chair*  
Liaquat Ahamed  
Katinka Domotorffy  
Catharine Bond Hill  
Jennifer Williams Murphy  
Marie Pillai  
George Putnam III  
Robert L. Reynolds  
Manoj P. Singh  
Mona K. Sutphen  
Jane E. Trust

### Officers

Robert L. Reynolds  
*President, The Putnam Funds*

Kevin R. Blatchford  
*Vice President and  
Assistant Treasurer*

James F. Clark  
*Vice President and  
Chief Compliance Officer*

Michael J. Higgins  
*Vice President, Treasurer,  
and Clerk*

Jonathan S. Horwitz  
*Executive Vice President,  
Principal Executive Officer,  
and Compliance Liaison*

Kelley Hunt  
*AML Compliance Officer*

Martin Lemaire  
*Vice President and  
Derivatives Risk Manager*

Alan G. McCormack  
*Vice President and  
Derivatives Risk Manager*

Denere P. Poulack  
*Assistant Vice President,  
Assistant Clerk, and  
Assistant Treasurer*

Janet C. Smith  
*Vice President,  
Principal Financial Officer,  
Principal Accounting Officer,  
and Assistant Treasurer*

Stephen J. Tate  
*Vice President and  
Chief Legal Officer*

*This report is for the information of shareholders of Putnam Emerging Markets Equity Fund. It may also be used as sales literature when preceded or accompanied by the current prospectus, the most recent copy of the fund's Quarterly Performance Summary, and the fund's Quarterly Ranking Summary. For more recent performance, please visit [putnam.com](http://putnam.com) or [franklintempleton.com](http://franklintempleton.com). Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of a fund, which are described in its prospectus. For this and other information or to request a prospectus or summary prospectus, call 1-800-225-1581 toll free. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. The fund's Statement of Additional Information contains additional information about the fund's Trustees and is available without charge upon request by calling 1-800-225-1581.*



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