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PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

Form NSAR-B

September 27, 2001

PAGE 1  
000 B000000 07/31/2001  
000 C000000 0000827773  
000 D000000 N  
000 E000000 NF  
000 F000000 Y  
000 G000000 N  
000 H000000 N  
000 I000000 6.1  
000 J000000 U  
001 A000000 PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST  
001 B000000 811-5452  
001 C000000 6172921000  
002 A000000 ONE POST OFFICE SQUARE  
002 B000000 BOSTON  
002 C000000 MA  
002 D010000 02109  
003 000000 N  
004 000000 N  
005 000000 N  
006 000000 N  
007 A000000 N  
007 B000000 0  
007 C010100 1  
007 C010200 2  
007 C010300 3  
007 C010400 4  
007 C010500 5  
007 C010600 6  
007 C010700 7  
007 C010800 8  
007 C010900 9  
007 C011000 10  
008 A000001 PUTNAM INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC  
008 B000001 A  
008 C000001 801-7974  
008 D010001 BOSTON  
008 D020001 MA  
008 D030001 02109  
011 A000001 PUTNAM RETAIL MANAGEMENT  
011 B000001 8-5088  
011 C010001 BOSTON  
011 C020001 MA  
011 C030001 02109  
012 A000001 PUTNAM INVESTOR SERVICES  
012 B000001 84-401299  
012 C010001 BOSTON  
012 C020001 MA  
012 C030001 02109  
013 A000001 KPMG LLP  
013 B010001 BOSTON  
013 B020001 MA  
PAGE 2  
013 B030001 02110  
014 A000001 DELETE  
015 A000001 PUTNAM FIDUCIARY TRUST COMPANY  
015 B000001 C  
015 C010001 BOSTON  
015 C020001 MA

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015 C030001 02109  
015 E010001 X  
018 000000 Y  
019 A000000 Y  
019 B000000 97  
019 C000000 PUTNAMFUND  
020 A000001 MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC.  
020 B000001 13-5674085  
020 C000001 8  
020 A000002 J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES, INC.  
020 B000002 13-3224016  
020 C000002 5  
020 A000003 GOLDMAN SACHS  
020 B000003 13-5108880  
020 C000003 5  
020 A000004 J.P. MORGAN AND CHASE & CO  
020 C000004 3  
020 A000005 SALOMON SMITH BARNEY  
020 C000005 3  
020 A000006 CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON  
020 C000006 2  
020 A000007 WARBURG DILLON READ  
020 C000007 2  
020 A000008 LEHMAN BROTHERS  
020 B000008 13-2518466  
020 C000008 1  
020 A000009 MORGAN STANLEY, INC.  
020 B000009 13-2655998  
020 C000009 1  
020 A000010 FIMAT FUTURES USA INC.  
020 C000010 1  
021 000000 34  
022 A000001 WARBURG DILLON READ  
022 C000001 3552034  
022 D000001 49306  
022 A000002 CREDIT SUISSE FIRST BOSTON  
022 C000002 2668069  
022 D000002 186219  
022 A000003 LEHMAN BORTHERS  
022 B000003 13-2518466  
022 C000003 1611912  
022 D000003 889550  
022 A000004 MERRILL LYNCH, PIERCE, FENNER & SMITH, INC  
022 B000004 13-5674085  
022 C000004 1462246  
PAGE 3  
022 D000004 185104  
022 A000005 MORGAN STANLEY, INC.  
022 B000005 13-2655998  
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022 D000005 85559  
022 A000006 GOLDMAN SACHS  
022 B000006 13-5108880  
022 C000006 1116263  
022 D000006 68059  
022 A000007 J.P. MORGAN SECURITIES INC  
022 B000007 13-3224016  
022 C000007 655193  
022 D000007 9345  
022 A000008 J.P. MORGAN AND CHASE & CO.  
022 C000008 426126  
022 D000008 29241

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|     |         |                               |   |
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| 022 | A000009 | SALOMON SMITH BARNEY          |   |
| 022 | C000009 | 151532                        |   |
| 022 | D000009 | 113897                        |   |
| 022 | A000010 | DEUTSCHE BANC ALEX BROWN INC. |   |
| 022 | C000010 | 143064                        |   |
| 022 | D000010 | 95892                         |   |
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| 023 | D000000 | 1927977                       |   |
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| 035 | 000000  | 0       |
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| 048 | F020000 | 0.000   |
| 048 | G010000 | 0       |
| 048 | G020000 | 0.000   |
| 048 | H010000 | 0       |
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| 048 | J010000 | 0       |
| 048 | J020000 | 0.000   |
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| 051 | 000000  | N       |
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| 054 | B000000 | Y       |
| 054 | C000000 | Y       |
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| 054 | F000000 | N       |
| 054 | G000000 | N       |
| 054 | H000000 | N       |
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| 054 | K000000 | N       |
| 054 | L000000 | Y       |
| 054 | M000000 | Y       |
| 054 | N000000 | N       |
| 054 | O000000 | Y       |

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|     |         |   |      |
|-----|---------|---|------|
| 055 | A000000 | N |      |
| 055 | B000000 | N |      |
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| 059 | 000000  | Y |      |
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| 060 | B000000 | N |      |
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| 062 | Q000000 |   | 31.1 |
| 062 | R000000 |   | 3.0  |
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| 070 | B020000 | N |      |
| 070 | C010000 | Y |      |
| 070 | C020000 | Y |      |
| 070 | D010000 | N |      |
| 070 | D020000 | N |      |
| 070 | E010000 | Y |      |
| 070 | E020000 | Y |      |
| 070 | F010000 | N |      |
| 070 | F020000 | N |      |
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| 070 | G020000 | Y |      |
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| 070 | H020000 | N |      |
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| 070 | I020000 | N |      |
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| 070 | J020000 | Y |      |
| 070 | K010000 | Y |      |
| 070 | K020000 | N |      |
| 070 | L010000 | Y |      |
| 070 | L020000 | Y |      |
| 070 | M010000 | Y |      |

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070 M020000 Y  
 070 N010000 Y  
 070 N020000 Y  
 070 O010000 Y  
 070 O020000 N  
     PAGE 7  
 070 P010000 Y  
 070 P020000 N  
 070 Q010000 N  
 070 Q020000 N  
 070 R010000 N  
 070 R020000 N  
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 074 A000000 1614  
 074 B000000 43792  
 074 C000000 33  
 074 D000000 862880  
     PAGE 8  
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|           |                  |                                       |
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| 074       | R040000          | 12011                                 |
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| 077       | B000000          | Y                                     |
| 078       | 000000           | N                                     |
| 080       | A000000          | FEDERAL INSURANCE COMPANY             |
| 080       | B000000          | NATIONAL UNION FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY |
| 080       | C000000          | 0                                     |
| 081       | A000000          | Y                                     |
| 081       | B000000          | 96                                    |
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| 086       | F010000          | 0                                     |
| 086       | F020000          | 0                                     |
| 087       | A010000          | SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST         |
| 087       | A020000          | 746853100                             |
| 087       | A030000          | PIT                                   |
| 088       | A000000          | Y                                     |
| 088       | B000000          | N                                     |
| 088       | C000000          | N                                     |
| 088       | D000000          | Y                                     |
| SIGNATURE | MICHAEL T. HEALY |                                       |

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TITLE

MANAGING DIRECTOR