

PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

Form N-CSR

September 27, 2004

Putnam
Premier
Income
Trust

Item 1. Report to Stockholders:

The following is a copy of the report transmitted to stockholders pursuant to Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940:

ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK

7-31-04

[GRAPHIC OMITTED: WATCH]

[SCALE LOGO OMITTED]

From the Trustees

[GRAPHIC OMITTED: PHOTO OF JOHN A. HILL AND GEORGE PUTNAM, III]

John A. Hill and
George Putnam, III

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

Fixed-income markets demonstrated impressive resilience during your fund's fiscal year, which ended July 31, 2004. Although there was concern that the economy's resurgence would jeopardize the performance of bonds, especially given that bonds had posted impressive returns for several years in a row, most fixed-income sectors performed well over the 12-month period. High-yield bonds did particularly well, as the economy's strength diminished worries about credit and default risk, and the generous yield of these securities insulated them from interest-rate volatility. Government bonds and other issues with high credit ratings treaded water until the spring of 2004, when a surge in new job creation caused interest rates to spike. However, after that abrupt rise in rates, economic indicators cooled considerably and rates again fell. While interest rates for bonds of all maturities have risen in the past year, most investment-grade bond indexes nevertheless had positive performance.

The recent volatility in the fixed-income market reminds us how difficult it can be to forecast short-term market movements. The managers of Putnam Premier Income Trust rely on training, experience, and Putnam's analytical tools in an effort to keep the portfolio positioned to take advantage of opportunities and risks in the market. The fund's diversification across multiple sectors of the bond market allows the management team to pull many levers in pursuit of strong performance. This capability was particularly helpful during the past 12 months, when market conditions changed significantly. For example, during the first half of the period, when high-yield bonds and emerging-market securities performed strongly, the fund benefited from being well positioned in these sectors -- especially high yield, in which the fund was overweighted relative to its benchmark. In the second half of the period, your fund's managers grew wary of excessive valuations in these sectors and reduced their weightings, focusing more on security selection. These strategies helped the fund produce strong

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

absolute and relative returns during a challenging and volatile 12-month period.

Respectfully yours,

/S/ JOHN A. HILL

/S/ GEORGE PUTNAM, III

John A. Hill
Chairman of the Trustees

George Putnam, III
President of the Funds

September 15, 2004

Report from Fund Management

Fund highlights

- * During the fiscal year ended July 31, 2004, Putnam Premier Income Trust had a total return at net asset value (NAV) of 11.98%. The fund's return at market price was 7.18%.
- * Due to its portfolio of lower-quality, higher-yielding securities, as well as strong security selection, especially in the high-yield bond sector, the fund significantly outperformed at NAV the 3.86% return of its primary benchmark, the Lehman Government Bond Index.
- * At NAV, the fund also outperformed the 10.66% average return of funds in the Lipper Flexible Income Funds (closed-end) category.
- * See the Performance Summary beginning on page 8 for additional fund performance, comparative performance, and Lipper data.

Performance commentary

During its fiscal year, Putnam Premier Income Trust performed well amid significant changes in the U.S. and international bond markets. During the first six months, the fund benefited from a variety of factors that drove strong returns in the global bond markets, especially among lower-quality bond sectors. In the second half of the year, however, the bond market became skittish, as investors became increasingly concerned about higher interest rates and the potential for inflation, especially in the United States. Consequently, nearly all bond sectors saw flat to slightly positive returns during that period. The exception has been the high-yield market, where year-to-date returns are in the low single digits. In this uncertain environment, your fund's management team focused on investing in specific securities and sectors that it believed could outperform. This strategy produced strong relative and absolute returns for the fund. A fund's performance at market price may differ from its results at NAV. Although market price performance generally reflects investment results, it may also be influenced by several other factors, including changes in investor perceptions of the fund or its investment advisor, market conditions, fluctuations in supply and demand for the fund's shares, and changes in fund distributions.

FUND PROFILE

Putnam Premier Income Trust is designed for investors seeking a high level of current income. The fund maintains flexibility across three sectors -- U.S. government and agencies, high-yield corporate, and international -- to seek maximum current income without undue risk to capital. The fund may be appropriate for investors seeking a higher level of income who can accept a moderately higher level of risk.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Market overview

In the past 12 months, international bond market performance has been generally positive, although sluggish growth in Europe and rising interest rates in the U.K. sent mixed signals to investors. Low inflation in Europe reduced the likelihood of a rate increase by the European Central Bank, and European government and government agency bonds had solid returns. In emerging markets, the strengthening global economy boosted commodities exports, helping performance in both the stock and bond markets of these countries in the first half. Concerns about high valuations and geopolitical conflicts, however, have dampened enthusiasm for this sector since the beginning of the calendar year.

In the United States, low inflation and an accommodative Federal Reserve Board monetary policy helped bond yields decline in the first half of the period, but a strengthening economy and rising interest rates dampened returns in the second half. The U.S. dollar weakened for much of the period as the country's trade deficit ballooned, but it gained value relative to other major currencies toward the end of the fund's fiscal year.

U.S. high-yield corporate bonds were strong during the first half of the period, but in the second half performance slowed, although returns were still positive. Default rates continued to decline throughout the 12-month period, and credit quality improved as companies retired or refinanced debt. Responding to the strong performance, investor demand for high-yield bonds remained generally strong, and there were ample new high-yield issues. U.S. Treasury, agency, and mortgage-backed securities (MBSs) saw moderate returns, with Treasuries losing steam in the face of rising interest rates in the second half.

MARKET SECTOR PERFORMANCE 12 MONTHS ENDED 7/31/04

Bonds

Lehman Government Bond Index (U.S. Treasury and agency securities)	3.86%
--	-------

Citigroup Non-U.S. World Government Bond Index (international government bonds)	9.48%
--	-------

JP Morgan Global High Yield Index (global high-yield corporate bonds)	13.83%
---	--------

JP Morgan Global Diversified Emerging Markets Index (global emerging-market securities)	11.24%
--	--------

Equities

S&P 500 Index (broad stock market)	13.17%
------------------------------------	--------

MSCI EAFE Index (international stocks)	25.05%
--	--------

Russell 2000 Index (stocks of small and midsize companies)	17.06%
--	--------

These indexes provide an overview of performance in different market sectors for the 12 months ended 7/31/04.

Strategy overview

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Over the 12-month period, we continued to emphasize U.S. high-yield corporate bonds. Although we reduced the fund's exposure to this sector during the second half of the period, it still made a substantial contribution to results for the year. By the end of the fiscal year, high-yield bonds -- still the fund's largest single sector weighting -- outperformed the other sectors in which the fund invests, primarily due to the strong economy, improving credit quality among high-yield issuers, declining default rates, and generally strong demand. We reduced the fund's high-yield allocation primarily because we believed that high-yield bonds were not as attractively valued as they had been over the past few years. We used the proceeds of the sales to increase the fund's weighting in MBSs, asset-backed securities (ABSs), and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBSs), all of which saw improved performance in the second half of the year after solid, albeit unspectacular, returns in the first half.

In a period characterized by uncertainty about the economy's strength, the impact of U.S. Federal Reserve interest-rate increases, and continued geopolitical turmoil, we avoided positioning the portfolio based on an analysis of interest rates and the economy -- the so called "top-down" approach. Instead, we focused on finding specific securities and sectors that we believed could outperform, such as high-yield bonds issued by companies with strong cash flows; certain types of MBSs and ABSs; and international government bonds from countries we felt had sound economies and strong currencies.

[GRAPHIC OMITTED: horizontal bar chart SECTOR WEIGHTINGS COMPARED]

SECTOR WEIGHTINGS COMPARED

	as of 1/31/04	as of 7/31/04
High yield	47.3%	40.9%
U.S. investment grade	33.2%	39.1%
International*	19.5%	20.0%

Footnotes read:

This chart shows how the fund's top weightings have changed over the last six months. Weightings are shown as a percentage of net assets. Holdings will vary over time.

* Includes emerging markets.

How fund holdings and sectors affected performance

In the first half of the period, the U.S. economy was recovering strongly and the equity and high-yield bond markets responded with impressive returns. During this period, the fund's U.S. high-yield corporate bond holdings (its largest single sector weighting) significantly outperformed all other bond sectors and contributed strongly to the fund's returns. High-yield bonds, especially those with lower credit quality, outperformed Treasuries in each of the six months from August 2003 through January 2004. Within this sector, we sought, on a selective basis, opportunities in lower-quality bonds that offered both higher yields and the potential for an improvement in credit quality. Our primary rationale was that, in an environment of economic recovery and declining corporate default rates, these securities offered

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

the greatest total return potential within the high-yield universe. As the economy and stock market improved, many high-yield bonds -- especially those with lower ratings and higher yields -- had impressive price gains in addition to their attractive yields. To take advantage of this trend, we generally de-emphasized BB-rated bonds and emphasized those with CCC ratings. We also sought bonds issued by companies with adequate liquidity and a strong ability to meet their obligations. Bonds with CCC ratings were among the strongest performers in the high-yield market during the first half of the fund's fiscal year.

[GRAPHIC OMITTED: TOP HOLDINGS]

TOP HOLDINGS

(Percent of fund's net assets as of 7/31/04)

High-Yield Sector

- 1 Consec Finance Securitizations Corp. (1.1%)
Series 00-4, Class A6, 8.31%, 2032
- 2 PSF Group Holdings, Inc. (1.0%)
144A, Class A
- 3 Qwest Corp. (1.0%)
144A notes 9.125%, 2012

International Sector

- 1 France (Government of) (0.4%)
Bonds, 4%, 2013
- 2 United Kingdom (0.4%)
Treasury bonds, 7.25%, 2007
- 3 United Kingdom (0.4%)
Treasury bonds, 4.5%, 2007

U.S. Investment-Grade Sector

- 1 Federal National Mortgage Association (5.0%)
Pass-through certificates, 5%, TBA, August 15, 2019
- 2 Federal National Mortgage Association (5.0%)
Pass-through certificates, 6.5%, TBA
August 15, 2034
- 3 U.S. government Treasury bonds (3.8%)
6.25%, May 15, 2030

Footnote reads:

Holdings will vary over time.

In the second half of the year, we reduced the fund's exposure to high-yield bonds and increased the fund's allocation to mortgage-backed securities (MBSs), asset-backed securities (ABSs), and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBSs). Within the MBS group, we acquired high-coupon Government National Mortgage Association securities (GNMAs), which were less likely to be prepaid and therefore performed well. The fund also owned reperforming GNMAs, which are traditional MBSs in which

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

the borrowers have become delinquent in making payments for a period of time and, as a result, the securities are less likely to be refinanced. We believed these securities did not represent a major credit risk, and the fund benefited from the higher income that they produced. Lower-quality, BBB-rated MBSs also performed well for the fund, as did manufactured housing bonds issued by Conesco. These ABSs benefited from problems that affected Conesco on a corporate level but did not jeopardize the near-term income stream of the securities. We acquired them at attractive valuation levels, and the fund benefited both from their high coupons as well as price appreciation, which occurred when investors realized their intrinsic value in early 2004. Also in the first quarter of 2004, we added to the fund's international government bond holdings, including bonds from the United Kingdom and Australia, both of which saw strong economic growth through the first seven months of 2004. These securities made positive contributions to performance.

In the first six months of the year, the fund's emerging-markets weighting was neutral, or roughly the same as many of the fund's competitors, and this sector contributed strongly to returns during this period. These securities had surged as a result of strong growth in many emerging-market countries, due in large part to gains in manufacturing and exports to other rapidly growing countries. In the second half of the period, the fund's emerging-markets holdings did not make as strong a contribution because investors generally became more cautious.

Finally, the fund's currency strategy positioned the portfolio to benefit from a weakening U.S. dollar and euro, and rising value in Japanese yen, British sterling, and Australian dollar. These positions generally made solid positive contributions to returns.

Please note that all holdings discussed in this report are subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

MERGER WITH PUTNAM MASTER INCOME TRUST PROPOSED

The fund's Trustees have approved in principle the merger of Putnam Master Income Trust into your fund. Putnam Master Income Trust is a closed-end, multi-sector fixed-income fund whose objectives, strategy and investments are substantially similar to those of your fund. The merger may result in lower expenses for shareholders of each fund due to the larger asset base of the combined fund. A prospectus/proxy statement containing more information about the proposed merger is expected to be sent to shareholders of each fund in November. Completion of the merger is subject to a number of conditions, including final approval by each fund's Trustees and approval by shareholders of each fund at a joint shareholder meeting expected to be held within the coming months.

This report is not an offer to sell, nor a solicitation of an offer to buy, shares of any fund, nor is it a solicitation of a proxy. To receive a free copy of the prospectus/proxy statement relating to the proposed merger (which contains important information about fees, expenses and risk considerations) after a registration statement has been filed with the SEC and becomes effective, please call 1-800-255-1581. The prospectus/proxy statement will also be available without charge on the SEC's website (www.sec.gov). Read the prospectus/proxy statement carefully before making any investment decisions.

The fund's management team

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

The fund is managed by the Putnam Core Fixed-Income Team. The members of the team are D. William Kohli (Portfolio Leader), David Waldman (Portfolio Member), Carl Bell, Rob Bloemker, Andrea Burke, Kevin Cronin, Steve Horner, Michael Salm, and John Van Tassel.

The outlook for your fund

The following commentary reflects anticipated developments that could affect your fund over the next six months, as well as your management team's plans for responding to them.

The past 18 months have seen strong returns in the U.S. equity markets, emerging markets, and the high-yield corporate bond market, all of which reflect an economic recovery in the United States and generally strong growth overseas. At this point, however, we believe there are certain headwinds that could have a negative impact on the performance of lower-quality bond sectors. The most important of these are rising interest rates in the United States, high U.S. federal and consumer debt, the inflationary impact of high energy prices, and the persistent threat of terrorism around the world.

We have changed the portfolio's composition significantly from a year ago. The primary change has been to improve overall credit quality by reducing the fund's allocation to high-yield bonds and emerging-market securities and using the proceeds to increase the fund's MBS and ABS weightings. We believe this more defensive positioning should help the fund better withstand any shocks to the lower-rated sectors of the global fixed-income markets.

Despite our concerns, our outlook is not necessarily pessimistic. International economic growth is generally on a sound footing -- especially in Japan and other parts of Asia -- while U.S. growth is slowing but moderate, which may cause interest rates to rise at a slower pace than what had been expected this past spring. As returns from different global fixed-income sectors continue to fluctuate, we believe the fund's diversified portfolio of sectors and holdings can be beneficial for shareholders.

The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of Putnam Management. They are not meant as investment advice. International investing involves certain risks, such as currency fluctuations, economic instability, and political developments. Mutual funds that invest in bonds are subject to certain risks, including interest-rate risk, credit risk, and inflation risk. As interest rates rise, the prices of bonds fall. Long-term bonds are more exposed to interest-rate risk than short-term bonds. Unlike bonds, bond funds have ongoing fees and expenses. Lower-rated bonds may offer higher yields in return for more risk. Mutual funds that invest in government securities are not guaranteed. Mortgage-backed securities are subject to prepayment risk.

Performance summary

This section shows your fund's performance during its fiscal year, which ended July 31, 2004. In accordance with regulatory requirements, we also include performance for the most current calendar quarter-end. Performance should always be considered in light of a fund's investment strategy. Data represents past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. More recent returns may be less or more than those shown. Investment return, net asset value, and market price will

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

fluctuate and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares.

TOTAL RETURN FOR PERIODS ENDED 7/31/04

	NAV	Market price
1 year	11.98%	7.18%
5 years	43.09	35.73
Annual average	7.43	6.30
10 years	103.81	98.27
Annual average	7.38	7.08
Annual average Life of fund (since 2/29/88)	8.35	7.14

Performance does not reflect taxes on reinvested distributions.

COMPARATIVE INDEX RETURNS FOR PERIODS ENDED 7/31/04

	Lehman Government Bond Index	Citigroup Non- U.S. World Government Bond Index	JP Morgan Global High Yield Index*	Lipper Flexible Income Funds (closed-end) category average+
1 year	3.86%	9.48%	13.83%	10.66%
5 years	39.95	33.28	34.41	32.29
Annual average	6.95	5.91	6.09	5.57
10 years	97.87	79.41	112.79	103.44
Annual average	7.06	6.02	7.84	7.25
Annual average Life of fund (since 2/29/88)	7.68	7.07	--	8.12

Index and Lipper results should be compared to fund performance at net asset value.

* The inception date of the JP Morgan Global High Yield Index was 12/31/93.

+ Over the 1-, 5-, and 10-year periods ended 7/31/04, there were 11, 11, and 11 funds, respectively, in this Lipper category.

PRICE AND DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION 12 MONTHS ENDED 7/31/04

Putnam Premier Income Trust

Distributions (number) 12

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Income	\$0.468	
Capital gains	--	
Total	\$0.468	
Share value:	NAV	Market price
7/31/03	\$6.75	\$6.31
7/31/04	7.03	6.29
Current return (end of period)		
Current dividend rate 1	6.66%	7.44%

1 Most recent distribution, excluding capital gains, annualized and divided by NAV or market price at end of period.

TOTAL RETURN FOR PERIODS ENDED 6/30/04 (MOST RECENT CALENDAR QUARTER)

	NAV	Market price
1 year	8.94%	-1.71%
5 years	41.11	21.53
Annual average	7.13	3.98
10 years	103.53	89.80
Annual average	7.37	6.62
Annual average Life of fund (since 2/29/88)	8.32	6.89

Terms and definitions

Total return shows how the value of the fund's shares changed over time, assuming you held the shares through the entire period and reinvested all distributions in the fund.

Net asset value (NAV) is the value of all your fund's assets, minus any liabilities, divided by the number of outstanding shares.

Market price is the current trading price of one share of the fund. Market prices are set by transactions between buyers and sellers on exchanges such as the American Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange.

Comparative indexes

Citigroup Non-U.S. World Government Bond Index is an unmanaged index of government bonds from 10 countries.

JP Morgan Global Diversified Emerging Markets Index is an unmanaged index of global emerging-market fixed-income securities.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

JP Morgan Global High Yield Index is an unmanaged index used to mirror the investable universe of the U.S. dollar global high-yield corporate debt market of both developed and emerging markets.

Lehman Government Bond Index is an unmanaged index of U.S. Treasury and agency securities.

Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) EAFE Index is an unmanaged index of international stocks from Europe, Australasia, and the Far East.

Russell 2000 Index is an unmanaged index of common stocks that generally measure performance of small to midsize companies within the Russell 3000 Index.

S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance.

Indexes assume reinvestment of all distributions and do not account for fees. Securities and performance of a fund and an index will differ. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Lipper is a third-party industry ranking entity that ranks funds (without sales charges) with similar current investment styles or objectives as determined by Lipper. Lipper category averages reflect performance trends for funds within a category and are based on results at net asset value.

Putnam's policy on confidentiality

In order to conduct business with our shareholders, we must obtain certain personal information such as account holders' addresses, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, and the names of their financial advisors. We use this information to assign an account number and to help us maintain accurate records of transactions and account balances.

It is our policy to protect the confidentiality of your information, whether or not you currently own shares of our funds, and in particular, 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 share this information with outside vendors who provide services to us, such as mailing and proxy solicitation. In those 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. We may also share this information with our Putnam affiliates to service your account or provide you with information about other Putnam products or services. It is also our policy to share account information with your financial advisor, if you've listed one on your Putnam account.

If you would like clarification about our confidentiality policies or have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us at 1-800-225-1581, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., or Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Proxy voting

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Putnam is committed to managing our mutual funds in the best interests of our shareholders. 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, 2004, are available on the Putnam Individual Investor Web site, www.putnaminvestments.com/individual, and on the SEC's Web site, www.sec.gov. If you have questions about finding forms on the SEC's Web site, you may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain the Putnam funds' proxy voting guidelines and procedures by calling Putnam's Shareholder Services at 1-800-225-1581.

Fund portfolio holdings

For periods ending on or after July 9, 2004, 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-Q. Shareholders may obtain the fund's Forms N-Q on the SEC's Web site at www.sec.gov. In addition, the fund's Forms N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about the SEC's Web site or the operation of the public reference room.

A guide to the financial statements

These sections of the report, as well as the accompanying Notes, preceded by the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, 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 noninvestment 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 net assets allocated to remarketed 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 year.

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.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Financial highlights provide an overview of the fund's investment results, per-share distributions, expense ratios, net investment income ratios, and portfolio turnover in one summary table, reflecting the five most recent reporting periods. In a semiannual report, the highlight table also includes the current reporting period. For open-end funds, a separate table is provided for each share class.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Trustees and Shareholders
Putnam Premier Income Trust:

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Putnam Premier Income Trust, including the fund's portfolio, as of July 31, 2004, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of July 31, 2004 by correspondence with the custodian and brokers or by other appropriate auditing procedures. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Putnam Premier Income Trust as of July 31, 2004, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

KPMG LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
September 3, 2004

The fund's portfolio
July 31, 2004

Corporate bonds and notes (40.9%) (a)
Principal amount

Value

Basic Materials (4.3%)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	\$850,000 Acetex Corp. sr. notes 10 7/8s, 2009 (Canada)	\$928,625
	1,085,000 AK Steel Corp. company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2009	1,033,463
	575,000 AK Steel Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2012	531,875
	915,000 Avecia Group PLC company guaranty 11s, 2009 (United Kingdom)	699,975
	815,000 BCP Caylux Holdings Luxembourg SCA 144A sr. sub. notes 9 5/8s, 2014 (Luxembourg)	843,525
	1,035,000 Compass Minerals Group, Inc. company guaranty 10s, 2011	1,148,850
	400,000 Compass Minerals International, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (12s, 6/1/08), 2013 (STP)	312,000
	1,070,000 Compass Minerals International, Inc. sr. notes stepped-coupon zero % (12 3/4s, 12/15/07), 2012 (STP)	877,400
	1,603,487 Doe Run Resources Corp. company guaranty Ser. A1, 11 3/4s, 2008 (PIK)	1,202,615
	1,065,000 Dow Chemical Co. (The) notes 5 3/4s, 2009	1,122,225
	265,000 Equistar Chemicals LP notes 8 3/4s, 2009	273,613
	2,345,000 Equistar Chemicals LP/Equistar Funding Corp. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2008	2,556,050
	600,000 Georgia-Pacific Corp. bonds 7 3/4s, 2029	600,000
	1,340,000 Georgia-Pacific Corp. debs. 7.7s, 2015	1,447,200
	4,000 Georgia-Pacific Corp. sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2008	4,300
	950,000 Gerdau Ameristeel Corp. sr. notes 10 3/8s, 2011 (Canada)	1,059,250
	222,750 Graphics Packaging bank term loan FRN 4.35s, 2010 (acquired 8/6/03, cost \$222,750) (RES)	225,998
	349,125 Hercules, Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.497s, 2010 (acquired 4/7/04, cost \$349,125) (RES)	350,871
	1,385,000 Hercules, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/8s, 2007	1,620,450
	280,000 Huntsman Advanced Materials, LLC 144A sec. FRN 11.86, 2008	294,000
	330,000 Huntsman Advanced Materials, LLC 144A sec. notes 11s, 2010	374,550
	1,099,000 Huntsman Co., LLC sr. disc. notes zero %, 2008	637,420
	695,000 Huntsman ICI Chemicals, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2009	707,163
	2,190,000 Huntsman ICI Holdings sr. disc. notes zero %, 2009	1,095,000
EUR	590,000 Huntsman International, LLC sr. sub. notes Ser. EXCH, 10 1/8s, 2009	709,236
	\$555,000 Huntsman LLC company guaranty 11 5/8s, 2010	617,438
	415,000 Huntsman, LLC 144A company guaranty 11 1/2s, 2012	417,075
	180,000 International Steel Group, Inc. 144A	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2014	170,550
1,910,000	ISP Chemco, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 1/4s, 2011	2,129,650
80,000	Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2006 (In default) (NON)	84,400
910,000	Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s, 2003 (In default) (DEF) (NON)	172,900
100,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. bonds 11 1/8s, 2012	111,625
980,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008	1,025,325
895,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. notes Ser. A, 9 5/8s, 2007	945,344
EUR 610,000	MDP Acquisitions PLC sr. notes 10 1/8s, 2012 (Ireland)	813,325
\$125,000	MDP Acquisitions PLC sr. notes 9 5/8s, 2012 (Ireland)	140,000
515,217	MDP Acquisitions PLC sub. notes 15 1/2s, 2013 (Ireland) (PIK)	600,228
1,390,000	Millennium America, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2008	1,501,200
210,000	Millennium America, Inc. 144A sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2008	226,800
186,761	Nalco Co. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.126s, 2010 (acquired 11/6/03, cost \$186,761) (RES)	189,475
EUR 100,000	Nalco Co. 144A sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2011	126,410
EUR 100,000	Nalco Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 9s, 2013	125,928
\$1,490,000	Nalco Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2013	1,564,500
795,000	Norska Skog Canada Ltd. sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2014 (Canada)	791,025
609,379	PCI Chemicals Canada sec. sr. notes 10s, 2008 (Canada)	591,098
192,965	Pioneer Companies, Inc. sec. FRN 5.086s, 2006	182,352
1,095,000	Potlatch Corp. company guaranty 10s, 2011	1,231,875
180,000	Resolution Performance Products, LLC sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2010	188,100
EUR 620,000	SGL Carbon SA 144A sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2012 (Luxembourg)	725,518
\$233,752	SGL Carbon, LLC bank term loan FRN 4.22s, 2009 (acquired 2/26/04, cost \$234,921) (RES)	233,752
310,000	Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2012	330,925
55,000	Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. company guaranty 7 1/2s, 2013	55,825
965,000	Steel Dynamics, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2009	1,071,150
207,976	Sterling Chemicals, Inc. sec. notes 10s, 2007 (PIK)	195,497
710,000	Stone Container Corp. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2011	784,550
345,000	Stone Container Corp. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2012	369,150
210,000	Stone Container Finance 144A company	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	guaranty 7 3/8s, 2014 (Canada)	213,675
1,225,000	Ucar Finance, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2012	1,372,000
550,000	United Agri Products 144A sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2011	596,750
706,000	United States Steel Corp. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2010	785,425
350,000	Wellman 1st. lien bank term loan FRN 6s, 2009 (acquired 2/4/04, cost \$350,000) (RES)	355,104
380,000	Wellman 2nd. lien bank term loan FRN 8 3/4s, 2010 (acquired 2/4/04, cost \$372,400) (RES)	371,133
77,422	Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. sr. notes 6s, 2010	52,647
147,827	Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. sr. notes 5s, 2011	99,044
260,000	WHX Corp. sr. notes 10 1/2s, 2005	241,800

		42,456,222

Capital Goods (3.4%)

698,000	AEP Industries, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2007	715,450
1,340,093	Air2 US 144A sinking fund Ser. D, 12.266s, 2020 (In default) (NON)	13
209,491	Allied Waste Industries, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.136s, 2010 (acquired 4/25/03, cost \$209,491) (RES)	212,070
35,357	Allied Waste Industries, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 1.369s, 2010 (acquired 4/25/03, cost \$35,357) (RES)	35,902
1,670,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2008	1,824,475
765,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc. sec. notes 6 1/2s, 2010	757,350
297,000	Amsted Industries bank term loan FRN 5.364s, 2010 (acquired 8/12/03 cost \$295,515) (RES)	303,311
775,000	Argo-Tech Corp. 144A sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2011	809,875
840,000	BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2008	850,500
285,000	BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2011	277,875
660,000	BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8s, 2008	636,900
190,000	Berry Plastics Corp. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2012	211,375
1,195,000	Blount, Inc. company guaranty 13s, 2009	1,284,625
345,000	Blount, Inc. company guaranty 7s, 2005	352,763
970,000	Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. debs. 7.4s, 2035	863,300
880,000	Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2008	897,600
285,000	Crown Cork & Seal Company, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.586s, 2008	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

		(acquired 2/21/03, cost \$282,150) (RES)	288,919
EUR	115,000	Crown Holdings SA bonds 10 1/4s, 2011 (France)	156,101
	\$1,240,000	Crown Holdings SA notes 10 7/8s, 2013 (France)	1,422,900
	545,000	Crown Holdings SA notes 9 1/2s, 2011 (France)	596,775
	1,310,000	Decrane Aircraft Holdings Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 12s, 2008	851,500
	214,772	EaglePicher bank term loan FRN 4.41s, 2009 (acquired 8/6/03, cost \$216,085) (RES)	216,249
	985,000	Earle M. Jorgensen Co. sec. notes 9 3/4s, 2012	1,083,500
	840,000	FIMEP SA sr. notes 10 1/2s, 2013 (France)	966,000
EUR	500,000	Flender Holdings 144A sr. notes 11s, 2010 (Germany)	686,524
	\$181,134	Flowserve Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 4.212s, 2009 (acquired various dates from 4/30/02 to 2/26/04, cost \$182,534) (RES)	183,285
	770,000	Flowserve Corp. company guaranty 12 1/4s, 2010	872,025
	297,895	Graham Packaging bank term loan FRN 4.291s, 2010 (acquired 2/18/03, cost \$296,405) (RES)	299,260
	915,000	Hexcel Corp. sr. sub. notes 9 3/4s, 2009	958,463
DEM	1,075,000	Impress Metal Packaging Holding NV sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2007 (Netherlands)	638,550
	\$159,668	Invensys, PLC bank term loan FRN 5.477s, 2009 (acquired 3/11/04, cost \$159,268) (United Kingdom) (RES)	162,063
	1,370,000	Invensys, PLC notes 9 7/8s, 2011 (United Kingdom)	1,380,275
	710,000	K&F Industries, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2010	775,675
	1,025,000	Legrand SA debs. 8 1/2s, 2025 (France)	1,081,375
	120,000	Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The) company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2012	136,800
EUR	240,000	Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The) company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2011	321,152
	\$305,000	Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The) sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2013	309,575
	188,991	Mueller Group bank term loan FRN 4.559s, 2011 (acquired 4/22/04, cost \$188,991) (RES)	190,526
	265,000	Mueller Group Inc. 144A sec. FRN 5.919s, 2011	272,950
	370,000	Mueller Group Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 10s, 2012	388,500
	775,000	Owens-Brockway Glass company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2013	811,813
	725,000	Owens-Brockway Glass company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2011	768,500
	955,000	Owens-Brockway Glass sr. sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2012	1,050,500

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

715,000	Pliant Corp. sec. notes 11 1/8s, 2009	772,200
195,000	Roper bank term loan FRN 3.61s, 2008 (acquired 12/22/03, cost \$195,000) (RES)	197,600
1,650,000	Sequa Corp. sr. notes 9s, 2009	1,782,000
325,000	Siebe PLC 144A sr. unsub. 6 1/2s, 2010 (United Kingdom)	292,500
199,500	Solo Cup Co. bank term loan FRN 3.945s, 2011 (acquired 2/19/04, cost \$200,639) (RES)	201,661
210,000	Solo Cup Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/2s, 2014	193,200
1,090,000	Tekni-Plex, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 12 3/4s, 2010	1,062,750
640,000	Tekni-Plex, Inc. 144A sr. sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2013	620,000
265,000	Terex Corp. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2011	294,813
995,000	Terex Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 3/8s, 2011	1,109,425
74,625	Transdigm, Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.61s, 2010 (acquired 4/19/04, cost \$74,625) (RES)	75,512
575,000	Trimas Corp. company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2012	600,875
510,000	Vought Aircraft Industries, Inc. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2011	499,800
		----- 34,605,475
 Communication Services (3.3%)		

469,000	Alamosa Delaware, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2010	512,383
371,000	Alamosa Delaware, Inc. company guaranty stepped-coupon zero % (12s, 7/31/05), 2009 (STP)	362,653
580,000	Alamosa Delaware, Inc. 144A sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2012	566,950
270,000	American Cellular Corp. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2009	232,200
1,115,000	American Cellular Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 10s, 2011	970,050
515,000	American Tower Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2012	505,988
1,040,000	American Towers, Inc. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2011	1,047,800
770,000	Asia Global Crossing, Ltd. sr. notes 13 3/8s, 2010 (Bermuda) (In default) (NON)	69,300
1,245,000	Centennial Cellular Operating Co. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2013	1,282,350
205,000	Cincinnati Bell Telephone Co. company guaranty 6.3s, 2028	178,350
505,000	Cincinnati Bell, Inc. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2013	470,913
565,000	Cincinnati Bell, Inc. notes 7 1/4s, 2023	502,850
1,145,000	Cincinnati Bell, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 3/8s, 2014	1,007,600
441,450	Colo.com, Inc. 144A sr. notes	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	13 7/8s, 2010 (In default) (NON)	44
100,000	Consolidated Communications bank term loan FRN 4.081s, 2012 (acquired 4/7/04, cost \$100,000) (RES)	101,750
148,875	Crown Castle International Corp. bank term loan FRN 5.09s, 2010 (acquired 10/3/03, cost \$148,875) (RES)	149,061
1,060,000	Crown Castle International Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2011	1,195,150
148,875	Dobson Communications Corp. bank term loan FRN 4.915s, 2010 (acquired 10/20/03, cost \$148,875) (RES)	149,038
585,000	Dobson Communications Corp. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2013	447,525
365,000	Eircom Funding notes 8 1/4s, 2013 (Ireland)	383,250
540,000	Fairpoint Communications, Inc. sr. sub. notes 12 1/2s, 2010	588,600
337,135	Firstworld Communication Corp. sr. disc. notes zero %, 2008 (In default) (NON)	34
300,220	Globix Corp. company guaranty 11s, 2008 (PIK)	250,684
1,200,000	Inmarsat Finance PLC 144A company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2012 (United Kingdom)	1,149,000
420,000	iPCS, Inc. 144A sr. notes 11 1/2s, 2012	433,650
1,055,000	Level 3 Financing Inc. 144A sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2011	902,025
1,005,000	Madison River Capital Corp. sr. notes 13 1/4s, 2010	1,067,813
1,458,000	MCI, Inc. sr. notes 7.735s, 2014	1,314,023
358,000	MCI, Inc. sr. notes 6.688s, 2009	329,808
1,000	MCI, Inc. sr. notes 5.908s, 2007	969
348,250	Nextel bank term loan FRN Ser. E, 3.813s, 2010 (acquired 12/19/02, cost \$322,044) (RES)	350,489
2,080,000	Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2015	2,184,000
58,000	Nextel Partners, Inc. sr. notes 12 1/2s, 2009	67,570
1,765,000	Nextel Partners, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2011	1,817,950
1,160,000	PanAmSat Corp. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2012	1,338,350
268,125	Qwest Communications International, Inc. bank term loan FRN 6 1/2s, 2007 (acquired 6/5/03, cost \$265,444) (RES)	277,677
1,765,000	Qwest Communications International, Inc. 144A sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2014	1,650,275
240,000	Qwest Communications International, Inc. 144A sr. notes FRN 4.75s, 2009	229,200
3,360,000	Qwest Corp. 144A notes 9 1/8s, 2012	3,695,945
505,000	Qwest Services Corp. 144A notes 14 1/2s, 2014	606,000
380,000	Rogers Wireless, Inc. sec. notes 9 5/8s, 2011 (Canada)	427,500

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

420,000	Rural Cellular Corp. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2008	399,000
225,000	SBA Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2009	232,875
100,000	SBA Senior Finance, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.687s, 2008 (acquired 2/3/04, cost \$100,000) (RES)	100,656
445,000	SBA Telecommunications Inc./SBA Communication Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (9 3/4s, 12/15/07), 2011	337,088
540,000	Triton PCS, Inc. company guaranty 8 3/4s, 2011	417,150
935,000	TSI Telecommunication Services, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 12 3/4s, 2009	1,005,125
577,000	UbiquiTel Operating Co. bonds stepped-coupon zero % (14s, 4/15/05), 2010 (STP)	579,885
510,000	UbiquiTel Operating Co. sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2011	506,175
765,000	Western Wireless Corp. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2013	782,213

		33,176,934

Consumer Cyclical (9.9%)

84,124	Advance Stores bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 3.312s, 2007 (acquired 3/4/03, cost \$84,124) (RES)	85,123
395,000	Ameristar Casinos, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009	444,375
230,000	Argosy Gaming Co. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2011	255,300
915,000	Argosy Gaming Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 7s, 2014	911,569
640,000	Asbury Automotive Group, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8s, 2014	601,600
1,230,000	Autonation, Inc. company guaranty 9s, 2008	1,389,900
210,000	Beazer Homes USA, Inc. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2012	224,700
237,336	Borgata Resorts bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.126s, 2007 (acquired 6/5/02, cost \$236,742) (RES)	238,967
820,000	Boyd Gaming Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2012	885,600
230,000	Boyd Gaming Corp. sr. sub. notes 7 3/4s, 2012	236,900
450,000	Building Materials Corp. company guaranty 8s, 2008	450,000
500,000	Chumash Casino & Resort Enterprise 144A sr. notes 9s, 2010	545,000
188,259	Coinmach Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.316s, 2009 (acquired 1/31/02, cost \$188,024) (RES)	189,765
1,655,000	Coinmach Corp. sr. notes 9s, 2010	1,679,825
1,090,000	Collins & Aikman Products company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2011	1,100,900
73,858	Corrections Corporation of America	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	bank term loan FRN 3.36s, 2008 (acquired 8/5/03, cost \$73,858) (RES)	74,874
145,000	D.R. Horton, Inc. company guaranty 8s, 2009	161,675
880,000	D.R. Horton, Inc. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2011	976,800
220,000	D.R. Horton, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2013	228,250
600,000	D.R. Horton, Inc. sr. notes 5 7/8s, 2013	584,250
220,000	Dana Corp. notes 10 1/8s, 2010	250,800
785,000	Dana Corp. notes 9s, 2011	926,300
135,000	Dana Corp. notes 7s, 2029	133,650
405,000	Dana Corp. notes 6 1/2s, 2009	425,250
780,000	Dayton Superior Corp. sec. notes 10 3/4s, 2008	799,500
295,000	Delco Remy International, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2009	316,388
740,000	Delco Remy International, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 3/8s, 2012	714,100
661,675	Derby Cycle Corp. (The) sr. notes 10s, 2008 (In default) (NON)	66
DEM 1,700,694	Derby Cycle Corp. (The) sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2008 (In default) (NON)	105
\$1,545,000	Dex Media East, LLC/Dex Media East Finance Co. sr. notes Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2010	1,699,500
267,361	Dex Media West, LLC bank term loan FRN 3.691s, 2010 (acquired 9/9/03, cost \$267,361) (RES)	272,207
705,000	Dex Media, Inc. 144A disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (9s, 11/15/08), 2013 (STP)	489,975
805,000	Dex Media, Inc. 144A notes 8s, 2013	809,025
265,000	Dura Operating Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 5/8s, 2012	262,350
710,000	Dura Operating Corp. company guaranty Ser. D, 9s, 2009	678,050
140,000	FelCor Lodging LP company guaranty 10s, 2008 (R)	147,700
680,000	Finlay Fine Jewelry Corp. 144A sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2012	714,000
965,000	Gaylord Entertainment Co. sr. notes 8s, 2013	992,744
160,000	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (The) bank term loan FRN 6.059s, 2006 (acquired 2/19/04, cost \$160,000) (RES)	161,550
1,700,000	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (The) notes 7.857s, 2011	1,581,000
285,000	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. (The) notes 6 3/8s, 2008	267,900
236,225	Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc. bank term loan FRN 5.1s, 2009 (acquired 6/3/03, cost \$233,863) (RES)	240,581
565,000	Herbst Gaming, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/8s, 2012	557,938
1,175,000	Hilton Hotels Corp. notes 7 5/8s, 2012	1,296,906
1,235,000	HMH Properties, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 7 7/8s, 2008	1,268,963

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

1,848,767	Hollinger Participation Trust 144A sr. notes 12 1/8s, 2010 (Canada) (PIK)	2,163,057
1,370,000	Hollywood Park, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2007	1,404,250
1,250,000	Horseshoe Gaming Holdings company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2009	1,303,125
389,000	Host Marriott LP sr. notes Ser. E, 8 3/8s, 2006 (R)	411,368
1,050,000	Host Marriott LP 144A sr. notes 7s, 2012	1,036,875
475,000	Houghton Mifflin Co. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2013	488,063
1,205,000	Icon Health & Fitness company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2012	1,313,450
148,875	IESI Corp. bank term loan FRN 4.601s, 2010 (acquired various dates from 10/20/03 to 10/21/03, cost \$149,719) (RES)	151,108
895,000	IESI Corp. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2012	971,075
385,000	Inn of the Mountain Gods sr. notes 12s, 2010	431,200
725,000	ITT Corp. debs. 7 3/8s, 2015	741,313
815,000	ITT Corp. notes 6 3/4s, 2005	844,544
1,370,000	JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7.95s, 2017	1,548,100
245,000	JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7.65s, 2016	269,500
615,000	JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7 1/8s, 2023	639,600
40,000	JC Penney Co., Inc. notes 8s, 2010	44,900
2,245,000	John Q. Hammons Hotels LP/John Q. Hammons Hotels Finance Corp. III 1st mtge. Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2012	2,469,500
1,310,000	Jostens Holding Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (10 1/4s, 12/1/08), 2013 (STP)	877,700
258,638	Jostens, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.869s, 2010 (acquired 7/28/03, cost \$258,638) (RES)	261,871
730,000	Jostens, Inc. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s, 2010	824,900
180,000	K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2007	207,900
795,000	K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2012	868,538
540,000	K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 6 3/8s, 2014	504,900
405,000	K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2014	383,738
500,000	K2, Inc. 144A sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2014	508,750
1,885,000	Laidlaw International, Inc. sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2011	2,087,638
244,444	Lamar Media Corp. bank term loan FRN 3 3/8s, 2010 (acquired 2/27/03, cost \$244,444) (RES)	246,644
780,000	Lamar Media Corp. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2013	805,350
100,000	Landsource bank term loan FRN 4s, 2010 (acquired 1/12/04, cost \$100,000) (RES)	101,313

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

1,310,000	Levi Strauss & Co. sr. notes 12 1/4s, 2012	1,329,650
600,000	Mandalay Resort Group sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2011	612,000
985,000	Meristar Hospitality Corp. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2011 (R)	1,017,013
530,000	Meristar Hospitality Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2008 (R)	548,550
410,000	Meritage Corp. company guaranty 9 3/4s, 2011	453,050
275,000	Meritage Corp. sr. notes 7s, 2014	264,000
560,000	Meritor Automotive, Inc. notes 6.8s, 2009	562,800
875,000	Metaldyne Corp. 144A sr. notes 10s, 2013	875,000
1,085,000	MGM Mirage, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2010	1,198,925
680,000	MGM Mirage, Inc. company guaranty 6s, 2009	674,900
75,000	Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2006	80,438
270,000	Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 8 3/8s, 2011	307,125
165,000	Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 8s, 2012	179,231
1,605,000	Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 6 3/8s, 2009	1,615,031
760,000	Nortek Holdings, Inc. 144A sr. notes stepped-coupon zero % (10s, 11/15/07), 2011 (STP)	635,360
555,000	Nortek, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2011	647,963
415,000	Owens Corning bonds 7 1/2s, 2018 (In default) (NON)	180,525
1,185,000	Owens Corning notes 7 1/2s, 2005 (In default) (NON)	515,475
635,000	Oxford Industries, Inc. 144A sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	676,275
1,250,000	Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2009	1,362,500
680,000	Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. notes 7s, 2013	709,750
545,000	Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2008	606,313
5,000	Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 1/8s, 2011	5,519
189,118	Penn National Gaming, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.07s, 2010 (acquired 2/19/03, cost \$188,882) (RES)	191,766
640,000	Penn National Gaming, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 1/8s, 2008	702,400
1,320,000	Penn National Gaming, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2010	1,443,750
310,000	Phillips-Van Heusen Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 1/4s, 2011	316,200
157,325	Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.84s, 2009 (acquired 12/15/03, cost \$157,325) (RES)	159,291
765,000	Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2013	761,175
360,000	Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2012	345,600

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

190,762	PRIMEDIA, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4 1/4s, 2009 (acquired 2/10/03, cost \$182,654) (RES)	182,654
1,515,000	PRIMEDIA, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2011	1,488,488
1,110,000	PRIMEDIA, Inc. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2013	1,032,300
510,000	Reader's Digest Association, Inc. (The) sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2011	504,900
995,000	Resorts International Hotel and Casino, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/2s, 2009	1,119,375
369,472	RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.786s, 2010 (acquired 12/4/02, cost \$369,472) (RES)	373,513
175,000	RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2010	192,500
1,290,000	RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I 144A sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010	1,419,000
650,000	RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I 144A sr. sub. notes 10 7/8s, 2012	760,500
920,000	Russell Corp. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2010	984,400
1,538,000	Saks, Inc. company guaranty 7s, 2013	1,507,240
1,665,000	Samsonite Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	1,694,138
530,000	Schuler Homes, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2011	606,850
370,327	Scientific Gaming bank term loan FRN 3.84s, 2008 (acquired 12/11/02, cost \$368,475) (RES)	374,338
155,714	Sealy Mattress Co. bank term loan FRN 4.221s, 2012 (acquired 4/2/04, cost \$155,714) (RES)	157,920
1,545,000	Sealy Mattress Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2014	1,545,000
138,175	SPX Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3 3/8s, 2009 (acquired various dates from 7/23/02 to 8/26/03, cost \$138,175) (RES)	140,162
590,000	Standard Pacific Corp. sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2013	606,225
70,000	Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2012	75,425
535,000	Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. company guaranty 7 3/8s, 2007	564,425
665,000	Station Casinos, Inc. sr. notes 6s, 2012	648,375
715,000	Station Casinos, Inc. sr. sub. notes 6 7/8s, 2016	695,338
470,000	Technical Olympic USA, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2012	497,025
305,000	Technical Olympic USA, Inc. company guaranty 9s, 2010	314,150
EUR 185,000	Teksid Aluminum 144A company guaranty 11 3/8s, 2011 (Luxembourg)	192,654
\$1,040,000	Tenneco Automotive, Inc. sec. notes Ser. B, 10 1/4s, 2013	1,185,600
1,700,000	Trump Atlantic City Associates company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2006	1,496,000
745,000	Trump Casino Holdings, LLC company	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	guaranty 12 5/8s, 2010	761,763
154,613	TRW Automotive bank term loan FRN 4 1/8s, 2011 (acquired 1/7/04, cost \$154,613) (RES)	157,222
715,000	United Auto Group, Inc. company guaranty 9 5/8s, 2012	782,925
1,215,000	Vertis, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2009	1,327,388
1,015,000	Vertis, Inc. sub. notes 13 1/2s, 2009	1,035,300
370,000	Von Hoffman Press, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2007	373,700
1,060,000	Von Hoffman Press, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2009	1,155,400
534,185	Von Hoffman Press, Inc. debts. 13s, 2009 (PIK)	520,830
1,135,000	WCI Communities, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2012	1,222,963
552,000	William Carter Holdings Co. (The) company guaranty Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2011	621,000
220,000	WRC Media Corp. bank term loan FRN 6.761s, 2009 (acquired 3/25/04, cost \$220,000) (RES)	219,313
770,000	WRC Media Corp. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s, 2009	700,700
87,000	Yell Finance BV sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2011 (Netherlands)	99,920

		98,496,685
 Consumer Staples (5.8%)		

110,000	Adelphia Communications Corp. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2005 (In default) (NON)	94,600
560,000	Adelphia Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 7/8s, 2010 (In default) (NON)	490,000
25,000	Adelphia Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2011 (In default) (NON)	22,375
75,000	Adelphia Communications Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2009 (In default) (NON)	65,625
1,505,000	Adelphia Communications Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 7 3/4s, 2009 (In default) (NON)	1,264,200
47,669	Affinity Group Holdings bank term loan FRN Ser. B1, 5.528s, 2009 (acquired 5/27/03, cost \$47,550) (RES)	48,086
119,173	Affinity Group Holdings bank term loan FRN Ser. B2, 5.321s, 2009 (acquired 5/27/03, cost \$118,875) (RES)	120,215
765,000	Affinity Group, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9s, 2012	792,731
915,000	AMC Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2012	937,875
770,000	AMC Entertainment, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8s, 2014	710,325

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

440,565	American Seafood Group, LLC bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.59s, 2009 (acquired 4/11/02, cost \$440,124) (RES)	441,574
239,400	AMF Bowling Worldwide bank term loan FRN 4.372s, 2009 (acquired 2/25/04, cost \$239,400) (RES)	241,196
458,590	Archibald Candy Corp. company guaranty 10s, 2007 (In default) (NON) (PIK)	302,669
890,000	Armkel, LLC/Armkel Finance sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2009	967,875
790,000	Brand Services, Inc. company guaranty 12s, 2012	908,500
945,000	Cablevision Systems Corp. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2012	928,463
700,000	Capital Records, Inc. 144A company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2009	755,082
1,120,000	Century Cable Holdings bank term loan FRN 6 1/4s, 2009 (acquired various dates from 5/22/02 to 6/11/02, cost \$980,796) (RES)	1,081,033
320,000	Charter bank term loan FRN 4.42s, 2011 (acquired 4/21/04, cost \$320,000) (RES)	315,160
360,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (12 1/8s, 1/15/07), 2012 (STP)	195,300
735,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (11 3/4s, 5/15/06), 2011 (STP)	433,650
980,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 11 1/8s, 2011	776,650
1,195,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2009	961,975
585,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2010	454,838
2,310,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 10s, 2011	1,749,825
265,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2009	200,075
910,000	Cinemark USA, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2013	998,725
1,385,000	Cinemark, Inc. 144A sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (9 3/4s, 3/15/09), 2014 (STP)	914,100
154,685	Constellation Brands, Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.213s, 2008 (acquired 11/3/03, cost \$154,685) (RES)	156,812
420,000	Constellation Brands, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8s, 2008	458,850
595,000	Constellation Brands, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/8s, 2012	641,113
600,000	CSC Holdings, Inc. debs. 7 5/8s, 2018	568,500

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

515,000	CSC Holdings, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 7 5/8s, 2011	520,150
515,000	CSC Holdings, Inc. 144A sr. notes 6 3/4s, 2012	496,975
240,000	Dean Foods Co. sr. notes 6 5/8s, 2009	248,400
310,000	Del Monte Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2011	337,900
780,000	Del Monte Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 5/8s, 2012	850,200
239,688	Del Monte Foods Co. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.505s, 2010 (acquired 12/16/02, cost \$238,490) (RES)	242,984
202,350	DirectTV bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.607s, 2010 (acquired various dates from 3/4/03 to 8/5/03, cost \$202,350) (RES)	204,930
3,586,000	Diva Systems Corp. sr. disc. notes Ser. B, 12 5/8s, 2008 (In default) (NON)	4,483
1,150,000	Doane Pet Care Co. sr. sub. debs. 9 3/4s, 2007	1,081,000
22,277	Dole Food Co. bank term loan FRN Ser. D, 4.386s, 2009 (acquired 3/28/03, cost \$22,278) (RES)	22,612
365,000	Dole Food Co. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	385,988
275,000	Dole Food Co. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2009	288,750
160,000	Dole Holding Co. bank term loan FRN 6.61s, 2010 (acquired 7/20/04, cost \$159,200) (RES)	159,300
678,000	Domino's, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2011	725,460
175,000	Duane Reade, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 3/4s, 2011	174,563
560,000	Eagle Family Foods company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2008	392,000
1,305,000	Echostar DBS Corp. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2011	1,295,213
350,000	Elizabeth Arden, Inc. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2014	357,438
2,035,000	Granite Broadcasting Corp. sec. notes 9 3/4s, 2010	1,862,025
104,475	Insight Midwest LP/Insight Capital, Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.938s, 2009 (acquired 11/5/01, cost \$104,279) (RES)	105,941
500,000	Jean Coutu Group, Inc. 144A sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2012 (Canada)	503,750
1,005,000	Jean Coutu Group, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/2s, 2014 (Canada)	996,206
1,515,000	Kabel Deutsheland GmbH 144A sr. notes 10 5/8s, 2014 (Germany)	1,554,769
59,690	Knology, Inc. 144A sr. notes 12s, 2009 (PIK)	56,109
815,000	Land O'Lakes, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2011	753,875
850,000	Mediacom LLC/Mediacom Capital Corp. sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2013	786,250
240,000	MGM bank term loan FRN 3.84s, 2011 (acquired 4/21/04, cost \$240,000) (RES)	241,020
1,270,000	News America Holdings, Inc. company	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	guaranty 9 1/4s, 2013	1,605,893
515,000	North Atlantic Trading Co. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2012	504,700
465,000	Olympus Cable bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 6 1/4s, 2010 (acquired various dates from 6/20/02 to 11/06/02, cost \$374,206) (RES)	448,559
965,000	Pinnacle Foods Holding Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2013	926,400
1,165,000	Playtex Products, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/8s, 2011	1,173,738
1,075,000	Playtex Products, Inc. 144A secd. notes 8s, 2011	1,115,313
900,000	Premier International Foods PLC sr. notes 12s, 2009 (United Kingdom)	958,500
1,030,000	Prestige Brands, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 1/4s, 2012	1,045,450
45,000	Quebecor Media, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (13 3/4s, 7/15/06), 2011 (Canada) (STP)	42,188
800,000	Quebecor Media, Inc. sr. notes 11 1/8s, 2011 (Canada)	916,000
144,309	Rayovac Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.903s, 2009 (acquired 9/26/02, cost \$144,165) (RES)	145,933
1,030,000	Remington Arms Co., Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2011	1,009,400
164,587	Rite Aid Corp. bank term loan FRN 4.408s, 2008 (acquired 5/16/03, cost \$164,382) (RES)	167,879
780,000	Rite Aid Corp. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2011	856,050
50,000	Rite Aid Corp. debs. 6 7/8s, 2013	45,750
105,000	Rite Aid Corp. notes 7 1/8s, 2007	106,838
525,000	Rite Aid Corp. sec. notes 8 1/8s, 2010	549,938
710,000	Rite Aid Corp. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2013	743,725
55,000	Rite Aid Corp. 144A notes 6s, 2005	55,275
293,263	Roundy's bank term loan FRN 3.11s, 2009 (acquired 6/3/02, cost \$293,263) (RES)	295,646
1,220,000	Sbarro, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2009	1,079,700
119,700	Scotts Co. (The) bank term loan FRN 3.328s, 2010 (acquired 10/16/03, cost \$119,700) (RES)	120,256
355,000	Scotts Co. (The) sr. sub. notes 6 5/8s, 2013	358,550
127,328	Six Flags, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.87s, 2009 (acquired 1/15/03, cost \$127,169) (RES)	128,495
1,350,000	Six Flags, Inc. sr. notes 9 5/8s, 2014	1,252,125
3,140,000	Six Flags, Inc. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010	2,908,425
235,736	Sum Media bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.42s, 2009 (acquired 2/4/03, cost \$235,736) (RES)	237,603
405,000	Videotron Ltee company guaranty 6 7/8s, 2014 (Canada)	392,850

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

165,000	Vivendi Universal SA bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.07s, 2008 (acquired 6/23/03, cost \$165,000) (France) (RES)	165,619
1,070,000	Vivendi Universal SA sr. notes 6 1/4s, 2008 (France)	1,139,550
399,000	Warner Music bank term loan FRN 4.173s, 2011 (acquired 4/8/04, cost \$400,812) (RES)	404,486
1,010,000	Williams Scotsman, Inc. company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2007	999,900
1,068,000	Young Broadcasting, Inc. company guaranty 10s, 2011	1,078,680
510,000	Young Broadcasting, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2014	484,500

		57,110,202
Energy (3.8%)		

1,105,000	Arch Western Finance, LLC 144A sr. notes 7 1/4s, 2013	1,121,575
300,000	Belden & Blake Corp. 144A sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2012	305,625
890,000	BRL Universal Equipment sec. notes 8 7/8s, 2008	950,075
795,000	CHC Helicopter Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 7 3/8s, 2014 (Canada)	793,013
475,000	Chesapeake Energy Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2012	542,688
371,000	Chesapeake Energy Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2015	392,333
1,365,000	Chesapeake Energy Corp. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2013	1,450,313
400,000	Chesapeake Energy Corp. sr. notes 7s, 2014	403,000
720,000	Comstock Resources, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2012	707,400
240,000	Dresser, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.68s, 2010 (acquired 2/27/04, cost \$241,683) (RES)	244,380
975,000	Dresser, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/8s, 2011	1,053,000
208,000	El Paso Energy Partners LP company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2011	227,760
755,000	Encore Acquisition Co. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2012	819,175
360,000	Encore Acquisition Co. 144A sr. sub. notes 6 1/4s, 2014	346,500
1,020,000	Exco Resources, Inc. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2011	1,055,700
480,000	Forest Oil Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2014	498,000
320,000	Forest Oil Corp. sr. notes 8s, 2011	344,800
275,000	Forest Oil Corp. sr. notes 8s, 2008	295,625
450,000	Forest Oil Corp. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2011	484,875
1,190,000	Gazprom OAO 144A notes 9 5/8s, 2013 (Russia)	1,245,038
555,000	Hanover Compressor Co. sr. notes 9s, 2014	584,138
495,000	Hanover Compressor Co. sr. notes	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	8 5/8s, 2010	524,700
745,000	Hanover Compressor Co. sub. notes zero %, 2007	607,175
495,000	Hanover Equipment Trust sec. notes Ser. A, 8 1/2s, 2008	528,413
670,000	Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc. sr. notes 10 5/8s, 2008	733,650
515,000	KCS Energy, Inc. 144A sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2012	515,000
410,000	Key Energy Services, Inc. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2013	386,425
91,928	Magellan Midstream Holdings bank term loan FRN 4.65s, 2008 (acquired 6/13/03, cost \$91,009) (RES)	93,077
765,000	Massey Energy Co. sr. notes 6 5/8s, 2010	780,300
980,000	Newfield Exploration Co. sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2011	1,053,500
655,000	Offshore Logistics, Inc. company guaranty 6 1/8s, 2013	635,350
804,693	Oslo Seismic Services, Inc. 1st mtge. 8.28s, 2011	748,364
505,000	Pacific Energy Partners/Pacific Energy Finance Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2014	516,363
150,000	Parker Drilling Co. bank term loan FRN 5.72s, 2007 (acquired 10/22/03, cost \$150,000) (RES)	150,469
755,000	Parker Drilling Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 1/8s, 2009	800,300
122,203	Peabody Energy Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.252s, 2010 (acquired 3/20/03, cost \$122,203) (RES)	123,425
1,065,000	Peabody Energy Corp. sr. notes 5 7/8s, 2016	985,125
880,000	Pemex Project Funding Master Trust company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2022	941,600
795,000	Petro Geo-Services notes 10s, 2010 (Norway)	842,700
1,626,000	Petroleos Mexicanos company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2027 (Mexico)	1,869,900
1,410,000	Petronas Capital, Ltd. company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2022 (Malaysia)	1,570,458
315,000	Petronas Capital, Ltd. company guaranty 7s, 2012 (Malaysia)	345,335
350,000	Petronas Capital, Ltd. 144A company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2022 (Malaysia)	389,830
525,000	Plains All American Pipeline LP/Plains All American Finance Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2012	592,582
800,000	Plains Exploration & Production Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2012	880,000
420,000	Plains Exploration & Production Co. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2012	462,000
520,000	Plains Exploration & Production Co. 144A sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2014	534,300
920,000	Pogo Producing Co. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/4s, 2011	1,007,400
925,000	Pride International, Inc. 144A sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2014	953,906
830,000	Seabulk International, Inc. company	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	guaranty 9 1/2s, 2013	859,050
420,000	Seven Seas Petroleum, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 12 1/2s, 2005 (In default) (NON)	4
1,285,000	Star Gas Partners LP/Star Gas Finance Co. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2013	1,374,950
465,385	Star Gas Propane 1st Mtge. 8.04s, 2009	500,288
205,000	Universal Compression, Inc. sr. notes 7 1/4s, 2010	213,200
900,000	Vintage Petroleum, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2012	963,000
205,000	Vintage Petroleum, Inc. sr. sub. notes 7 7/8s, 2011	212,175
		37,559,327
 Financial (0.7%)		
435,000	Crescent Real Estate Equities LP notes 7 1/2s, 2007 (R)	441,525
1,075,000	Crescent Real Estate Equities LP sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2009 (R)	1,128,750
1,255,000	E(a)Trade Finance Corp. 144A sr. notes 8s, 2011	1,261,275
2,305,466	Finova Group, Inc. notes 7 1/2s, 2009	1,302,588
326,916	Hilb, Rogal & Hamilton Co. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3 7/8s, 2007 (acquired 6/20/02, cost \$326,916) (RES)	331,003
792,000	iStar Financial, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2008 (R)	891,000
180,000	iStar Financial, Inc. sr. notes 7s, 2008 (R)	190,800
595,000	iStar Financial, Inc. sr. notes 6s, 2010 (R)	596,488
760,000	Western Financial Bank sub. debs. 9 5/8s, 2012	836,000
		6,979,429
 Government (0.2%)		
1,750,000	Aries Vermogensverwaltnng 144A notes 9.6s, 2014 (Germany)	1,850,625
 Health Care (3.4%)		
116,293	Alderwoods Group, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.17s, 2008 (acquired 9/9/03, cost \$116,293) (RES)	117,940
1,183,400	Alderwoods Group, Inc. company guaranty 12 1/4s, 2009	1,306,178
805,000	AmerisourceBergen Corp. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2012	839,213
780,000	AmerisourceBergen Corp. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2008	846,300
1,375,000	Ardent Health Services, Inc. sr. sub. notes 10s, 2013	1,491,875
186,094	Beverly Enterprises, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.258s, 2008 (acquired	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	10/20/03, cost \$185,629) (RES)	188,575
442,125	Community Health Systems, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.6s, 2010 (acquired 7/11/02, cost \$442,125) (RES)	442,263
297,000	Concentra bank term loan FRN 4.957s, 2009 (acquired 8/12/03, cost \$297,000) (RES)	300,836
230,846	Dade Behring, Inc. company guaranty 11.91s, 2010	263,164
495,684	DaVita, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.483s, 2009 (acquired various dates from 7/17/03 to 1/30/04, cost \$497,997) (RES)	500,110
470,000	Extencicare Health Services, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2010	523,463
745,000	Extencicare Health Services, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 6 7/8s, 2014	711,475
165,993	Fisher Scientific International, Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.34s, 2010 (acquired 2/13/03, cost \$165,993) (RES)	166,685
160,000	Fisher Scientific International, Inc. bank term loan FRN 2.61s, 2011 (acquired 6/15/04, cost \$160,000) (RES)	161,300
148,875	Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.34s, 2009 (acquired 9/29/03, cost \$148,875) (RES)	149,681
1,070,000	Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/8s, 2009	1,075,350
920,000	HCA, Inc. debs. 7.19s, 2015	964,816
350,000	HCA, Inc. notes 8.36s, 2024	376,507
750,000	HCA, Inc. notes 7.69s, 2025	752,219
1,385,000	HCA, Inc. notes 7s, 2007	1,477,525
285,000	HCA, Inc. notes 5 3/4s, 2014	274,594
1,365,000	Healthsouth Corp. notes 7 5/8s, 2012	1,279,688
705,000	Healthsouth Corp. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2008	699,713
340,000	Healthsouth Corp. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2011	328,100
290,000	Healthsouth Corp. sr. notes 7s, 2008	281,300
565,000	IASIS Healthcare/IASIS Capital Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2014	587,600
515,000	Insight Health Services Corp. 144A company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2011	554,913
186,375	Kinetic Concepts, Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.59s, 2011 (acquired 8/5/03, cost \$186,891) (RES)	188,705
340,845	Magellan Health Services, Inc. sr. notes Ser. A, 9 3/8s, 2008	365,556
200,000	MedCath Holdings Corp. 144A sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2012	203,500
204,188	Medex, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.38s, 2009 (acquired various dates from 5/16/03 to 6/16/03, cost \$204,090) (RES)	205,655
940,000	Mediq, Inc. debs. 13s, 2009 (In default) (NON)	94
1,285,000	MedQuest, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 7/8s, 2012	1,458,475
260,000	Omega Health Care Investors 144A sr.	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	notes 7s, 2014	247,650
1,045,000	Omnicare, Inc. sr. sub. notes 6 1/8s, 2013	992,750
1,022,000	PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009	1,162,525
1,055,000	Province Healthcare Co. sr. sub. notes 7 1/2s, 2013	1,033,900
390,000	Service Corp. International debs. 7 7/8s, 2013	398,775
105,000	Service Corp. International notes 7.2s, 2006	109,725
35,000	Service Corp. International notes 6 7/8s, 2007	36,138
155,000	Service Corp. International notes 6 1/2s, 2008	158,100
370,000	Service Corp. International notes Ser. (a), 7.7s, 2009	389,425
1,085,000	Service Corp. International 144A sr. notes 6 3/4s, 2016	1,023,969
1,010,000	Stewart Enterprises, Inc. notes 10 3/4s, 2008	1,122,363
530,000	Tenet Healthcare Corp. notes 7 3/8s, 2013	490,250
25,000	Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2012	22,125
645,000	Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2011	575,663
1,240,000	Tenet Healthcare Corp. 144A sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2014	1,288,050
1,150,000	Triad Hospitals, Inc. sr. notes 7s, 2012	1,175,875
2,275,000	Triad Hospitals, Inc. sr. sub. notes 7s, 2013	2,240,875
740,000	Universal Hospital Services, Inc. sr. notes 10 1/8s, 2011	745,550
425,000	Ventas Realty LP/Capital Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2012	471,750
80,000	VWR International Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.77s, 2011 (acquired 4/5/04, cost \$80,000) (RES)	81,460
480,000	VWR International, Inc. 144A sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2012	484,800

		33,335,086

Technology (1.3%)

	625,000 AMI Semiconductor, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2013	728,125
1,030,000	Celestica Inc. sr.sub. notes 7 7/8s, 2011 (Canada)	1,053,175
705,000	DigitalNet Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 9s, 2010	752,588
1,000,000	Freescale Semiconductor, Inc. 144A sr. notes 7 1/8s, 2014	1,015,000
305,000	Iron Mountain, Inc. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2013	327,875
770,000	Iron Mountain, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2011	799,838
100,000	Lucent Technologies, Inc. debs. 6 1/2s, 2028	76,000
1,435,000	Lucent Technologies, Inc. debs.	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	6.45s, 2029	1,094,188
75,000	Lucent Technologies, Inc. notes 5 1/2s, 2008	70,875
530,000	Nortel Networks Corp. notes 6 1/8s, 2006 (Canada)	529,338
711,000	ON Semiconductor Corp. company guaranty 13s, 2008	801,653
465,000	SCG Holding Corp. 144A notes zero %, 2011	646,350
855,000	Seagate Technology Hdd Holdings company guaranty 8s, 2009 (Cayman Islands)	887,063
850,000	UGS Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 10s, 2012	901,000
1,075,000	Xerox Capital Trust I company guaranty 8s, 2027	972,875
255,000	Xerox Corp. company guaranty 9 3/4s, 2009	290,700
555,000	Xerox Corp. notes Ser. MTN, 7.2s, 2016	530,025
1,565,000	Xerox Corp. sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2013	1,604,125

		13,080,793
 Transportation (0.5%)		

65,000	Allied Holdings, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 5/8s, 2007	56,550
760,000	American Airlines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 01-1, 6.817s, 2011	680,200
1,365,000	Calair, LLC/Calair Capital Corp. company guaranty 8 1/8s, 2008	1,037,400
445,000	Delta Air Lines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 00-1, 7.779s, 2005	274,888
325,588	Delta Air Lines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 02-1, 7.779s, 2012	169,306
1,270,000	Kansas City Southern Railway Co. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008	1,384,300
260,000	Kansas City Southern Railway Co. company guaranty 7 1/2s, 2009	261,625
770,000	Northwest Airlines, Inc. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2005	746,900
332,615	NWA Trust sr. notes Ser. A, 9 1/4s, 2012	330,952
207,221	Pacer International, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.356s, 2010 (acquired 6/10/03, cost \$208,157) (RES)	209,811
260,000	Travel Centers of America, Inc. company guaranty 12 3/4s, 2009	301,600

		5,453,532
 Utilities & Power (4.3%)		

77,000	AES Corp. (The) sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011	81,428
43,000	AES Corp. (The) sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2008	45,150
1,085,000	AES Corp. (The) 144A sec. notes 9s,	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	2015	1,182,650
1,530,000	AES Corp. (The) 144A sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2013	1,671,525
740,000	Allegheny Energy Supply 144A bonds 8 1/4s, 2012	743,700
475,000	Allegheny Energy Supply 144A sec. notes 10 1/4s, 2007	517,750
299,250	Allegheny Energy, Inc. bank term loan FRB 5.622s, 2011 (acquired 3/5/04, cost \$299,250) (RES)	304,425
800,000	Calpine Canada Energy Finance company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2008 (Canada)	500,000
225,000	Calpine Corp. 144A sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2013	180,000
2,315,000	Calpine Corp. 144A sec. notes 8 1/2s, 2010	1,863,575
390,000	CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. debs. 6 1/2s, 2008	415,967
335,000	CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 7 7/8s, 2013	387,039
130,000	CMS Energy Corp. pass-through certificates 7s, 2005	130,813
1,190,000	CMS Energy Corp. sr. notes 8.9s, 2008	1,270,325
315,000	CMS Energy Corp. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2011	330,750
250,000	CMS Energy Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2010	255,625
875,000	DPL, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2011	890,313
160,000	Dynegy Holdings, Inc. bank term loan FRN 5.36s, 2010 (acquired 6/8/04, cost \$160,000) (RES)	162,800
425,000	Dynegy Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2011	382,500
1,990,000	Dynegy Holdings, Inc. 144A sec. notes 10 1/8s, 2013	2,193,975
525,000	Dynegy-Roseton Danskamme company guaranty Ser. A, 7.27s, 2010	509,250
800,000	Dynegy-Roseton Danskamme company guaranty Ser. B, 7.67s, 2016	704,000
370,000	Edison Mission Energy sr. notes 10s, 2008	419,950
15,000	Edison Mission Energy sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2011	16,800
560,000	El Paso Corp. sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2012	499,800
1,275,000	El Paso Corp. sr. notes Ser. MTN, 7 3/4s, 2032	1,035,938
265,000	El Paso Natural Gas Co. debs. 8 5/8s, 2022	268,313
240,000	El Paso Natural Gas Co. sr. notes Ser. A, 7 5/8s, 2010	248,400
1,390,000	El Paso Production Holding Co. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2013	1,323,975
910,000	Ferrellgas Partners LP/Ferrellgas Partners Finance 144A sr. notes 6 3/4s, 2014	880,425
300,000	Kansas Gas & Electric debs. 8.29s, 2016	312,257
1,765,000	Midwest Generation LLC 144A sec. notes 8 3/4s, 2034	1,870,900
1,180,000	Mission Energy Holding Co. sec.	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	notes 13 1/2s, 2008	1,463,200
560,000	Monongahela Power Co. 144A 1st. mtge. 6.7s, 2014	570,904
930,000	Nevada Power Co. 2nd mtge. 9s, 2013	1,036,950
1,400,000	Northwest Pipeline Corp. company guaranty 8 1/8s, 2010	1,552,250
90,000	Northwestern Corp. debs. 6.95s, 2028 (In default) (NON)	78,075
160,000	Northwestern Corp. notes 8 3/4s, 2012 (In default) (NON)	140,000
655,000	Northwestern Corp. notes 7 7/8s, 2007 (In default) (NON)	573,125
2,795,000	NRG Energy, Inc. 144A sr. sec. notes 8s, 2013	2,857,888
805,000	Orion Power Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 12s, 2010	966,000
1,185,000	PG&E Corp. sec. notes 6 7/8s, 2008	1,257,581
220,000	PG&E Gas Transmission Northwest sr. notes 7.1s, 2005	224,950
850,000	PSEG Energy Holdings, Inc. notes 7 3/4s, 2007	896,750
670,000	SEMCO Energy, Inc. sr. notes 7 3/4s, 2013	703,500
210,000	Sierra Pacific Power Co. 144A general ref. mtge. 6 1/4s, 2012	205,800
1,285,000	Sierra Pacific Resources 144A sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2014	1,329,975
130,000	Southern California Edison Co. notes 6 3/8s, 2006	136,030
440,000	Teco Energy, Inc. notes 10 1/2s, 2007	503,800
250,000	Teco Energy, Inc. notes 7.2s, 2011	256,875
400,000	Teco Energy, Inc. notes 7s, 2012	403,000
105,000	Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co. debs. 7s, 2028	93,319
181,538	Teton Power Funding bank term loan FRN 4.8s, 2011 (acquired 2/4/04, cost \$181,538) (RES)	183,127
135,000	Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp. debs. 7 1/4s, 2026	135,000
160,000	Unisource Energy bank term loan FRN 5.652s, 2011 (acquired 3/25/04, cost \$158,400) (RES)	157,800
1,460,000	Utilicorp Canada Finance Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2011 (Canada)	1,361,450
510,000	Utilicorp United, Inc. sr. notes 9.95s, 2011	517,650
547,000	Western Resources, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2007	623,165
200,000	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 8 3/4s, 2032	210,750
210,000	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 8 1/8s, 2012	229,425
755,000	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 7 5/8s, 2019	762,550
975,000	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2010	1,094,438
163,354	Williams Products bank term loan FRN 3.88s, 2007 (acquired 6/4/03, cost \$163,354) (RES)	165,260
334,976	York Power Funding 144A notes 12s,	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

2007 (Cayman Islands) (In default) (NON)	34
	42,290,939
Total Corporate bonds and notes (cost \$401,372,494)	\$406,395,249

Foreign government bonds and notes (14.2%) (a) Principal amount	Value
AUD 4,500,000 Australia (Government of) bonds 6 1/4s, 2015	\$3,237,550
EUR 6,000,000 Austria (Republic of) 144A notes Ser. EMTN, 3.8s, 2013	6,999,908
USD 980,000 Brazil (Federal Republic of) bonds 10 1/2s, 2014	979,020
USD 940,000 Brazil (Federal Republic of) bonds 10 1/8s, 2027	871,850
USD 1,360,000 Brazil (Federal Republic of) unsub. notes 11s, 2040	1,334,840
USD 1,300,000 Bulgaria (Republic of) 144A bonds 8 1/4s, 2015	1,537,250
CAD 2,725,000 Canada (Government of) bonds 5 1/2s, 2010	2,166,793
CAD 930,000 Canada (Government of) bonds Ser. WL43, 5 3/4s, 2029	744,882
USD 220,000 Colombia (Republic of) bonds 10 3/8s, 2033	224,400
USD 1,145,000 Colombia (Republic of) bonds Ser. NOV, 9 3/4s, 2009	1,249,768
USD 3,010,000 Colombia (Republic of) notes 10 3/4s, 2013	3,360,665
EUR 400,000 Colombia (Republic of) unsub. bonds Ser. 15A, 11 3/8s, 2008	551,145
USD 460,000 Dominican (Republic of) notes 9.04s, 2013	296,700
USD 2,085,000 Ecuador (Republic of) bonds stepped-coupon Ser. REGS, 7s (8s, 8/15/04), 2030 (STP)	1,546,028
USD 380,000 El Salvador (Republic of) 144A bonds 8 1/4s, 2032	359,100
EUR 1,845,000 France (Government of) bonds 5 3/4s, 2032	2,529,942
EUR 4,830,000 France (Government of) bonds 5 1/2s, 2010	6,367,247
EUR 9,000,000 France (Government of) bonds 4s, 2013	10,726,749
EUR 1,080,000 France (Government of) deb. 4s, 2009	1,326,216
EUR 7,250,000 Germany (Federal Republic of) bonds Ser. 97, 6s, 2007	9,448,358
EUR 6,340,000 Germany (Federal Republic of) bonds Ser. 97, 6s, 2007	8,189,915
EUR 1,875,000 Hellenic Greece (Republic of) bonds 3 1/2s, 2008	2,272,436
USD 260,000 Indonesia (Republic of) FRN 2.005s, 2006	246,350
USD 645,000 Indonesia (Republic of) FRN 2.005s, 2005	627,263
USD 2,250,000 Indonesia (Republic of) 144A sr. notes 6 3/4s, 2014	2,081,250
NZD 7,610,000 New Zealand (Government of) bonds	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	Ser. 1106, 8s, 2006	5,004,131
NZD	8,036,000 New Zealand (Government of) bonds Ser. 709, 7s, 2009	5,246,076
USD	520,000 Peru (Republic of) bonds 8 3/4s, 2033	466,700
USD	495,000 Philippines (Republic of) bonds 9 7/8s, 2019	509,850
USD	845,000 Philippines (Republic of) sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2015	840,775
USD	5,772,500 Russia (Federation of) 144A unsub. stepped-coupon 5s (7 1/2s, 3/31/07), 2030 (STP)	5,296,269
USD	1,335,000 Russia (Ministry of Finance) deb. Ser. V, 3s, 2008	1,174,800
USD	2,705,000 South Africa (Republic of) notes 7 3/8s, 2012	2,956,565
USD	740,000 South Africa (Republic of) notes 6 1/2s, 2014	760,350
SEK	43,075,000 Sweden (Government of) bonds Ser. 1041, 6 3/4s, 2014	6,569,135
SEK	37,600,000 Sweden (Government of) bonds Ser. 3101, 4s, 2008	6,058,864
USD	935,000 Turkey (Republic of) notes 9s, 2011	979,413
USD	470,408 Ukraine (Government of) sr. notes Ser. REGS, 11s, 2007	506,159
USD	1,025,000 Ukraine (Government of) 144A bonds 7.65s, 2013	984,000
USD	1,515,000 Ukraine (Government of) 144A unsub. notes 6 7/8s, 2011	1,441,144
GBP	1,055,000 United Kingdom treasury bonds 8 3/4s, 2017	2,584,776
GBP	5,000,000 United Kingdom treasury bonds 7 1/4s, 2007	9,691,006
GBP	1,100,000 United Kingdom treasury bonds 5s, 2012	1,985,020
GBP	2,625,000 United Kingdom treasury bonds 7 1/2s, 2006	5,030,505
GBP	5,400,000 United Kingdom treasury bonds 4 1/2s, 2007	9,690,642
USD	1,855,000 United Mexican States bonds Ser. MTN, 8.3s, 2031	2,003,400
USD	570,000 Venezuela (Republic of) bonds 9 3/8s, 2034	501,600
USD	650,000 Venezuela (Republic of) notes 10 3/4s, 2013	674,700
USD	1,020,000 Venezuela (Republic of) unsub. bonds 5 3/8s, 2010	844,050

	Total Foreign government bonds and notes (cost \$132,628,270)	\$141,075,555

Asset-backed securities (6.5%) (a)

Principal amount	Value

\$380,732 ABSC NIMS Trust 144A Ser. 03-HE5, Class A, 7s, 2033	\$382,636
Aegis Asset Backed Securities Trust 144A	
193,449 Ser. 04-1N, Class NOTE, 5s, 2034	193,237
421,202 Ser. 04-2N, Class N1, 4 1/2s, 2034	419,622
8,983,636 Amortizing Residential Collateral Trust Ser. 02-BC1, Class A,	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	Interest Only (IO), 6s, 2005	170,653
	AQ Finance NIM Trust 144A	
152,366	Ser. 03-N2, Class NOTE, 9.3s, 2033	153,318
121,104	Ser. 03-N9A, Class NOTE, 7.385s, 2033	121,861
20,625	Arc Net Interest Margin Trust 144A	
	Ser. 02-8A, Class A1, 7 3/4s, 2032	20,455
	Arcap REIT, Inc. 144A	
535,000	Ser. 03-1A, Class E, 7.11s, 2038 (R)	555,564
304,000	Ser. 04-1A, Class E, 6.42s, 2039 (R)	301,767
	Argent NIM Trust 144A	
241,883	Ser. 03-N6, Class A, 6.4s, 2034	241,883
126,516	Ser. 04-WN2, Class A, 4.55s, 2034	126,042
	Asset Backed Funding Corp. NIM Trust 144A	
63,077	Ser. 03-WF1, Class N1, 8.35s, 2032	63,077
220,000	Ser. 04-0PT1, Class N2, 6.9s, 2033	220,000
444,757	Aviation Capital Group Trust 144A	
	FRB Ser. 03-2A, Class G1, 2.12s, 2033	446,425
480,000	Bank One Issuance Trust FRB Ser. 03-C4, Class C4, 2.41s, 2011	488,121
	Bayview Financial Acquisition Trust	
694,990	Ser. 02-CA, Class A, IO, 5.1s, 2004	8,144
30,816,172	Ser. 03-X, Class A, IO, 0.89s, 2006	520,023
594,000	Bear Stearns Asset Backed Securities NIM Trust 144A Ser. 04-HE6, Class A1, 5 1/4s, 2034 (Cayman Islands)	594,000
	CARSSX Finance, Ltd. 144A	
170,000	FRB Ser. 04-AA, Class B3, 4.73s, 2011 (Cayman Islands)	170,000
220,000	FRB Ser. 04-AA, Class B4, 6.88s, 2011 (Cayman Islands)	220,000
490,000	Chase Credit Card Master Trust FRB Ser. 03-3, Class C, 2.46s, 2010	499,972
	Chase Funding Net Interest Margin 144A	
58,649	Ser. 03-2A, Class NOTE, 8 3/4s, 2035	58,649
323,268	Ser. 03-4A, Class NOTE, 6 3/4s, 2036	323,268
	Conseco Finance Securitizations Corp.	
524,000	Ser. 00-2, Class A4, 8.48s, 2021	536,383
4,469,000	Ser. 00-4, Class A6, 8.31s, 2032	3,823,000
1,535,000	Ser. 00-6, Class M2, 8.2s, 2032	207,225
32,000	Ser. 01-04, Class A4, 7.36s, 2033	31,271
697,000	Ser. 01-1, Class A5, 6.99s, 2032	634,806
18,000	Ser. 01-3, Class A3, 5.79s, 2033	17,756
1,594,000	Ser. 01-3, Class A4, 6.91s, 2033	1,471,872
400,000	Ser. 01-3, Class M2, 7.44s, 2033	76,000
1,436,000	Ser. 01-4, Class B1, 9.4s, 2010	215,400
3,325,679	Ser. 02-1, Class A, 6.681s, 2033	3,411,180
414,000	FRB Ser. 01-4, Class M1, 3.11s, 2033	170,775
1,100,000	Consumer Credit Reference IDX Securities FRB Ser. 02-1A, Class A, 3.55s, 2007	1,113,970
419,396	Countrywide Asset Backed Certificates 144A Ser. 04-BC1N, Class NOTE, 5 1/2s, 2035	418,085
603,000	Crest, Ltd. 144A Ser. 03-2A, Class E2, 8s, 2038	552,122
371,490	First Franklin NIM Trust 144A Ser. 03-FF3A, Class A, 6 3/4s, 2033	370,048
	Fremont NIM Trust 144A	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	89,375 Ser. 03-B, Class NOTE, 5.65s, 2033	89,152
	700,457 Ser. 04-A, Class NOTE, 4 3/4s, 2034 Granite Mortgages PLC	698,356
GBP	1,505,000 FRB Ser. 03-2, Class 3C, 6.38s, 2043 (United Kingdom)	2,813,831
EUR	2,005,000 FRN Ser. 03-2, Class 2C1, 5.2s, 2043 (United Kingdom)	2,445,199
	\$490,000 FRB Ser. 02-1, Class 1C, 2.93s, 2042 (United Kingdom) Green Tree Financial Corp.	498,345
	248,473 Ser. 95-F, Class B2, 7.1s, 2021	223,470
	162,816 Ser. 99-3, Class A5, 6.16s, 2031	164,851
	1,739,000 Ser. 99-5, Class A5, 7.86s, 2030 Greenpoint Manufactured Housing	1,523,684
	2,616,493 Ser. 00-3, Class IA, 8.45s, 2031	2,376,406
	50,000 Ser. 99-5, Class A4, 7.59s, 2028	52,767
	1,663,000 GS Auto Loan Trust 144A Ser. 04-1, Class D, 5s, 2011 GSAMP Trust 144A	1,635,647
	160,693 Ser. 03-HE1N, Class NOTE, 7 1/4s, 2033	160,308
	537,128 Ser. 04, Class NOTE, 5 1/2s, 2032	536,323
	332,856 Ser. 04-FM1N, Class NOTE, 5 1/4s, 2033	332,510
	300,000 Ser. 04-HE1N, Class N1, 5s, 2034	299,640
	331,000 Holmes Financing PLC FRB Ser. 8, Class 2C, 2.32s, 2040 (United Kingdom) Holmes Financing PLC FRB	331,104
	300,000 Ser. 4, Class 3C, 2.9s, 2040 (United Kingdom)	304,294
	690,000 Ser. 5, Class 2C, 3.05s, 2040 (United Kingdom) Home Equity Asset Trust 144A	694,960
	312,535 Ser. 02-5N, Class A, 8s, 2033	314,879
	135,226 Ser. 03-4N, Class A, 8s, 2033	136,240
	340,751 Ser. 03-7N, Class A, 5 1/4s, 2034	340,751
	188,432 Ser. 04-1N, Class A, 5s, 2034	187,961
	1,755,000 LNR CDO, Ltd. FRB Ser. 02-1A, Class FFL, 4.2s, 2037 (Cayman Islands)	1,685,502
	1,070,000 LNR CDO, Ltd. 144A FRB Ser. 03-1A, Class EFL, 4.433s, 2036 (Cayman Islands) Long Beach Asset Holdings Corp. 144A	1,126,817
	433,870 Ser. 04-2, Class N1, 4.94s, 2034	433,870
	201,387 Ser. 03-2, Class N1, 7.627s, 2033	201,387
	131,516 Long Beach Asset Holdings Corp. NIM Trust 144A Ser. 03-4, Class N1, 6.535s, 2033	131,680
	2,800,000 Long Beach Mortgage Loan Trust Ser. 04-3, Class S1, IO, 4 1/2s, 2006	196,980
GBP	1,200,000 Lothian Mortgages PLC 144A Ser. 3A, Class D, 5.458s, 2039 (United Kingdom)	2,181,840
\$	1,457,253 Madison Avenue Manufactured Housing Contract FRB Ser. 02-A, Class B1, 4.7s, 2032	801,489
	490,000 MBNA Credit Card Master Note Trust FRN Ser. 03-C5, Class C5, 2.56s, 2010	499,953
	194,554 Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors, Inc. Ser. 03-WM3N, Class N1, 8s,	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	2005	196,257
252,149	Mid-State Trust Ser. 11, Class B, 8.221s, 2038	249,903
	Morgan Stanley ABS Capital I 144A	
92,423	Ser. 03-NC9N, Class NOTE, 7.6s, 2033	92,827
117,297	Ser. 04-NC2N, Class NOTE, 6 1/4s, 2033	117,553
	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Capital I	
545,000	FRN Ser. 01-NC3, Class B1, 3.9s, 2031	539,136
499,000	FRN Ser. 01-NC4, Class B1, 3.95s, 2032	491,282
196,925	New Century Mortgage Corp. NIM Trust 144A Ser. 03-B, Class NOTE, 6 1/2s, 2033	198,094
304,064	Novastar NIM Trust 144A Ser. 04-N1, Class NOTE, 4.458s, 2034	304,064
	Oakwood Mortgage Investors, Inc.	
2,111,934	Ser. 01-C, Class A2, 5.92s, 2017	1,357,762
2,897,455	Ser. 02-C, Class A1, 5.41s, 2032	2,557,004
1,098,362	Ser. 99-B, Class A4, 6.99s, 2026	986,604
	Option One Mortgage Securities Corp. NIM Trust 144A	
114,311	Ser. 03-5, Class NOTE, 6.9s, 2033	114,883
71,538	Ser. 03-2B, Class N1, 7.63s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	71,538
578,892	Pass-Through Amortizing Credit Card Trust Ser. 02-1A, Class A4FL, 6.91s, 2012	580,529
	Permanent Financing PLC FRB	
380,000	Ser. 1, Class 3C, 2.61s, 2042 (United Kingdom)	384,216
490,000	Ser. 3, Class 3C, 2.56s, 2042 (United Kingdom)	498,422
1,848,000	Providian Gateway Master Trust Ser. 02, Class B, zero %, 2006	1,552,181
4,003,279	Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc. Ser. 03-RZ1, Class A, IO, 5 3/4s, 2005	161,382
413,647	Rural Housing Trust Ser. 87-1, Class D, 6.33s, 2026	427,995
101,462	SAIL Net Interest Margin Notes Ser. 03-4, Class A, 7 1/2s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	101,350
	SAIL Net Interest Margin Notes 144A	
594,349	Ser. 03-10A, Class A, 7 1/2s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	594,317
247,112	Ser. 03-12A, Class A, 7.35s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	247,038
150,509	Ser. 03-6A, Class A, 7s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	149,390
317,515	Ser. 03-7A, Class A, 7s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	315,159
87,215	Ser. 03-8A, Class A, 7s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	86,776
231,165	Ser. 03-9A, Class A, 7s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	229,963
417,270	Ser. 03-BC2A, Class A, 7 3/4s, 2033	416,057
596,519	Ser. 04-2A, Class A, 5 1/2s, 2034 (Cayman Islands)	596,519
1,136,159	Ser. 04-4A, Class A, 5s, 2034 (Cayman Islands)	1,134,455

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

42,898	Sasco Arc Net Interest Margin Notes Ser. 02-BC10, Class A, 7 3/4s, 2033	42,508
	Sasco Arc Net Interest Margin Notes 144A	
244,880	Ser. 03-3, Class A, 7 3/4s, 2033	243,651
507,188	Ser. 03-5, Class A, 7.35s, 2033 (Cayman Islands)	507,040
367,911	Ser. 03-AM1, Class A, 7 3/4s, 2033	366,118
381,740	Sasco Arc Net Interest Margin Trust 144A Ser. 03-BC1, Class B, zero %, 2033	273,362
226,947	Saxon Net Interest Margin Trust 144A Ser. 03-A, Class A, 6.656s, 2033	226,947
291,196	Sharp SP I, LLC Net Interest Margin Trust Ser. 03-NC1N, Class N, 7 1/4s, 2033	292,826
	Sharp SP I, LLC Net Interest Margin Trust 144A	
152,403	Ser. 03-0P1N, Class NA, 4.45s, 2033	152,387
159,868	Ser. 03-HS1N, Class N, 7.48s, 2033	160,268
75,774	Ser. 03-TC1N, Class N, 7.45s, 2033	75,774
72,633	Ser. 04-HS1N, Class NOTE, 5.92s, 2034	72,633
200,000	South Coast Funding FRB Ser. 3A, Class A2, 2.38s, 2038	202,500
	Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust	
389,075	Ser. 03-BC1A, Class A, 7 3/4s, 2033	387,184
9,912,019	Ser. 03-BC2, Class A, IO, 6s, 2005	258,221
3,360,837	Ser. 03-BC8, Class A, IO, 6s, 2005	133,076
20,615,000	Ser. 04-1, Class A, IO, 6s, 2005	1,099,763
544,000	TIAA Commercial Real Estate Securitization Ser. 02-1A, Class IV, 6.84s, 2037	422,553
650,000	TIAA Commercial Real Estate Securitization 144A Ser. 03-1A, Class E, 8s, 2038	583,146
4,068,400	Washington Mutual Ser. 03-S1, Class All, IO, 5 1/2s, 2033	301,316
1,180,243	Whole Auto Loan Trust 144A Ser. 03-1, Class D, 6s, 2010	1,180,981
	Total Asset-backed securities (cost \$67,969,803)	\$64,503,716

Collateralized mortgage obligations (5.4%) (a)
Principal amount

Value

\$490,000	Bear Stearns Commercial Mortgage Securitization Corp. 144A Ser. 04-ESA, Class K, 3.88s, 2016	\$490,000
6,084,854	Commercial Mortgage Acceptance Corp. Ser. 97-ML1, IO, 0.84s, 2017	135,958
402,000	Commercial Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates 144A FRB Ser. 01-FL4A, Class E, 2.68s, 2013	357,780
1,858,000	Criimi Mae Commercial Mortgage Trust Ser. 98-C1, Class A2, 7s, 2011	1,982,254
2,814,000	Criimi Mae Commercial Mortgage Trust 144A Ser. 98-C1, Class B, 7s, 2033	2,917,881
501,000	CS First Boston Mortgage Securities Corp. 144A FRB Ser. 03-TF2A, Class	

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	L, 5.38s, 2014	497,471
55,274,206	Deutsche Mortgage & Asset Receiving Corp. Ser. 98-C1, Class X, IO, 1.104s, 2023	1,500,093
	DLJ Commercial Mortgage Corp. 399,789 Ser. 98-CF2, Class B4, 6.04s, 2031	326,015
1,281,541	Ser. 98-CF2, Class B5, 5.95s, 2031 Fannie Mae	786,195
	816,744 Ser. 02-36, Class SJ, 16 1/2s, 2029	895,053
3,119,157	Ser. 329, Class 2, IO, 5.5s, 2033	780,765
	712,461 Ser. 03-W3, Class 1A3, 7 1/2s, 2042	768,380
	13,870 Ser. 03-W2, Class 1A3, 7 1/2s, 2042	14,959
	1,554 Ser. 02-W1, Class 2A, 7 1/2s, 2042	1,676
	5,972 Ser. 02-14, Class A2, 7 1/2s, 2042	6,441
	851,806 Ser. 01-T10, Class A2, 7 1/2s, 2041	918,662
	3,839 Ser. 02-T4, Class A3, 7 1/2s, 2041	4,140
	9,567 Ser. 01-T8, Class A1, 7 1/2s, 2041	10,318
3,304,268	Ser. 01-T7, Class A1, 7 1/2s, 2041	3,563,612
	499,183 Ser. 01-T3, Class A1, 7 1/2s, 2040	538,363
1,487,683	Ser. 01-T1, Class A1, 7 1/2s, 2040	1,604,448
	607,881 Ser. 99-T2, Class A1, 7 1/2s, 2039	655,592
	314,313 Ser. 00-T6, Class A1, 7 1/2s, 2030	338,982
1,473,190	Ser. 01-T4, Class A1, 7 1/2s, 2028	1,588,817
	3,071 Ser. 02-W3, Class A5, 7 1/2s, 2028	3,312
6,878,864	Ser. 338, Class 2, IO, 5.5s, 2033	1,792,804
2,663,700	Ser. 03-24, Class IC, IO, 5s, 2015	517,249
4,382,360	Ser. 03-34, Class SG, IO, 5.55s, 2033	392,358
	532,189 Ser. 01-74, Class MI, IO, 6s, 2015	39,899
5,052,618	Ser. 03-49, Class TS, IO, 6 1/4s, 2018	605,525
	1,721,632 Ser. 03-26, Class IG, IO, 6s, 2033	323,075
	1,769,611 Ser. 02-36, Class QH, IO, 6.6s, 2029	110,949
23,630,034	Ser. 02-T18, IO, 0.519s, 2042	341,641
	1,741,291 Ser. 345, Class 1, IO, 5s, 2033	477,767
	7,691,395 Ser. 345, Class 3, IO, 5s, 2033	2,076,677
13,114,305	Ser. 03-34, Class SP, IO, 5.65s, 2032	1,124,961
	640,000 Ser. 03-6, Class IB, IO, 5 1/2s, 2022	41,990
	1,232 Ser. 92-15, Class L, IO, 10.38s, 2022	15,136
4,413,638	Ser. 03-41, Class SP, IO, 5 3/4s, 2015	294,473
	1,537,421 Ser. 318, Class 2, IO, 6s, 2032	357,030
2,136,717	Ser. 03-118, Class SF, IO, 6.65s, 2033	312,849
8,135,205	Ser. 03-W17, Class 12, IO, 1.162s, 2033	270,380
1,915,048	Ser. 03-118, Class S, IO, 6.65s, 2033	277,682
	3,122,429 Ser. 03-45, Class PI, IO, 5.5s, 2029	368,025
4,146,072	Ser. 03-37, Class IC, IO, 5.5s, 2027	447,001
	200,829 Ser. 98-51, Class SG, IO, 23.72s, 2022	90,100
	1,206,657 Ser. 322, Class 2, IO, 6s, 2032	279,417
14,845,384	Ser. 03-W10, Class 3A, IO, 1.913s, 2043	491,753
13,315,531	Ser. 00-T6, IO, 0.74s, 2030	239,263
12,485,363	Ser. 03-W10, Class 1A, IO, 1.922s, 2043	401,873
	168,328 Ser. 03-7, Class SM, IO, 6.3s, 2023	973

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

6,402,748	Ser. 03-23, Class AI, IO, 5s, 2017	809,216
391,480	Ser. 03-23, Class SC, IO, 6.1s, 2033	5,872
1,528,271	Ser. 03-58, Class ID, IO, 6s, 2033	350,308
2,014,030	Ser. 03-14, Class KS, IO, 6.15s, 2017	150,108
10,745,022	Ser. 03-34, Class ES, IO, 5.55s, 2033	956,978
254,384	Ser. 99-51, Class N, PO, zero %, 2029	213,166
133,908	Ser. 99-52, Class MO, PO, zero %, 2026	128,960
	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Structured Pass-Through Securities	
18,484	Ser. T-58, Class 4A, 7 1/2s, 2043	19,935
7,725,698	Ser. T-57, Class 1AX, IO, 0.439s, 2043	83,896
19,819,760	FFCA Secured Lending Corp. Ser. 00-1, Class X, IO, 1.603s, 2020	1,266,515
589,733	First Chicago Lennar Trust 144A Ser. 97-CHL1, Class E, 7.922s, 2039	550,848
	Freddie Mac	
776,442	Ser. 2763, Class SC, 23.08s, 2032	925,877
3,003,531	Ser. 2448, Class SM, IO, 6.4s, 2032	315,371
3,296,003	Ser. 2579, Class GS, IO, 6.05s, 2017	306,224
1,033,400	Ser. 2590, Class IH, IO, 5 1/2s, 2028	266,101
4,756,941	Ser. 216, Class IO, IO, 6s, 2032	1,080,903
2,619,000	Ser. 2596, Class IQ, IO, 5 1/2s, 2026	277,197
2,008,400	Ser. 2515, Class IG, IO, 5 1/2s, 2032	662,584
352,770	Ser. 2478, Class SY, IO, 6.55s, 2021	19,805
561,982	Ser. 215, Class PO, Principal Only (PO), zero %, 2031	502,316
515,000	Ser. 2235, PO, zero %, 2030	415,299
5	Ser. 2078, Class KC, PO, zero %, 2023	5
739,550	GMAC Commercial Mortgage Securities, Inc. 144A Ser. 99-C3, Class G, 6.974s, 2036	544,185
	Government National Mortgage Association	
244,234	Ser. 02-51, Class SA, IO, 6.68s, 2032	2,858
6,327,802	Ser. 03-83, Class SI, IO, 4.9s, 2032	435,036
945,932	Ser. 02-63, Class ST, IO, 4.03s, 2024	9,641
2,297,323	Ser. 02-47, Class SM, IO, 4.55s, 2032	117,379
3,001,517	Ser. 01-19, Class S, IO, 5.9s, 2031	281,392
953,445	Ser. 01-43, Class SJ, IO, 6.18s, 2029	23,687
252,907	Ser. 98-2, Class EA, PO, zero %, 2028	209,439
300,000	GS Mortgage Securities Corp. II 144A FRB Ser. 03-FL6A, Class L, 4.63s, 2015	300,375
GBP 1,837,845	Hermione (European Loan Conduit No. 14) 144A FRB Class A, 5.33s, 2011 (Ireland)	3,361,620
\$355,850	LB Commercial Conduit Mortgage Trust 144A Ser. 99-C1, Class G, 6.41s, 2031	273,570

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Mach One Commercial Mortgage Trust		
144A		
594,000	Ser. 04-1A, Class J, 5.45s, 2040	476,291
297,000	Ser. 04-1A, Class K, 5.45s, 2040	239,955
135,000	Ser. 04-1A, Class L, 5.45s, 2040	95,644
9,514,193	Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors, Inc. Ser. 96-C2, Class JS, IO, 3.459s, 2028	549,654
1,440,985	Mezz Cap Commercial Mortgage Trust 144A Ser. 04-C1, Class X, IO, 7.85s, 2037	667,581
2,430,000	Morgan Stanley Capital I 144A Ser. 04-RR, Class F7, 6s, 2039	1,722,008
7,700,770	Mortgage Capital Funding, Inc. Ser. 97-MC2, Class X, IO, 1.282s, 2012	227,918
459,501	Mortgage Capital Funding, Inc. FRB Ser. 98-MC2, Class E, 7.139s, 2030	496,852
Starwood Asset Receivables Trust		
144A		
245,003	FRB Ser. 03-1A, Class F, 2.55s, 2022	245,395
308,522	FRB Ser. 03-1A, Class E, 2 1/2s, 2022	309,016
STRIPS 144A		
229,000	Ser. 03-1A, Class M, 5s, 2018 (Cayman Islands)	187,872
272,000	Ser. 03-1A, Class N, 5s, 2018	200,709
245,000	Ser. 04-1A, Class M, 5s, 2018	201,782
235,000	Ser. 04-1A, Class N, 5s, 2018	174,605
271,000	Trizechahn Office Properties Trust 144A Ser. 01-TZHA, Class D3, 6.943s, 2013	287,767

Total Collateralized mortgage obligations (cost \$57,350,223)		\$53,327,732
Common stocks (0.7%) (a)		
Number of shares		Value

2,767	AboveNet, Inc. (NON)	\$85,749
3,074	Alderwoods Group, Inc. (NON)	27,312
1,005,000	AMRESKO Creditor Trust (acquired 6/17/99, cost \$174,438) (RES) (NON) (R)	1,005
19	Arch Wireless, Inc. Class A (NON)	536
2,452	Archibald Candy Corp. (NON)	123
1,522	Birch Telecom, Inc. (NON)	15
643	Comdisco Holding Co., Inc. (S)	15,464
3,390,037	Contifinancial Corp. Liquidating Trust Units	67,801
21,241	Covad Communications Group, Inc. (NON) (S)	40,358
2,407	Crown Castle International Corp. (NON) (S)	33,987
1,529	Genesis HealthCare Corp. (NON) (S)	41,054
64,253	Globix Corp. (NON) (S)	205,610
21,372	iPCS, Inc. (NON)	461,251
750,000	iPCS Escrow, Inc. (NON)	750
282	Knology, Inc. (NON)	1,230
147	Leucadia National Corp. (S)	7,569
9,031	Lodgian, Inc. (NON)	88,504
160,000	Loewen Group International, Inc. (NON)	16

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

1,112 Polymer Group, Inc. Class A (NON)	14,678
2,502 PSF Group Holdings, Inc. 144A Class A (NON)	3,753,720
74,020 Regal Entertainment Group (acquired 5/9/02, cost \$74,020) (RES)	1,393,797
368 Sterling Chemicals, Inc. (NON)	8,832
1,195 Sun Healthcare Group, Inc. (NON)	8,257
1,292,251 VFB LLC (acquired various dates from 1/20/00 to 12/8/03, cost \$955,585) (RES) (NON)	245,528
6,378 Washington Group International, Inc. (NON)	213,153

Total Common stocks (cost \$18,814,084)	\$6,716,299
 Preferred stocks (0.5%) (a)	
Number of shares	Value

41,533 Avecia Group PLC \$4.00 pfd. (United Kingdom) (PIK)	\$539,929
15,119 Doane Pet Care Co. \$7.125 pfd.	634,998
38 Dobson Communications Corp. 13.00% pfd. (PIK)	24,738
540 First Republic Capital Corp. 144A 10.50% pfd.	558,900
17,777 iStar Financial, Inc. \$1.95 cum. pfd.	444,425
132 Paxson Communications Corp. 13.25% cum. pfd. (PIK) (S)	1,151,700
277 Rural Cellular Corp. Ser. B, 11.375% cum. pfd.	232,680
1,901 Rural Cellular Corp. 12.25% pfd. (PIK)	1,197,630

Total Preferred stocks (cost \$5,399,667)	\$4,785,000
 Brady bonds (0.4%) (a)	
Principal amount	Value

\$1,181,181 Brazil (Federal Republic of) FRB 2 1/8s, 2012	\$1,026,210
1,515,300 Brazil (Federal Republic of) govt. guaranty FRB Ser. RG, 2 1/8s, 2012	1,316,492
985,000 Peru (Republic of) coll. FLIRB Ser. 20YR, 4 1/2s, 2017	815,088
882,700 Peru (Republic of) FRB Ser. PDI, 5s, 2017	767,949

Total Brady bonds (cost \$3,273,044)	\$3,925,739
 Convertible preferred stocks (0.2%) (a)	
Number of shares	Value

12,672 Crown Castle International Corp. \$3.125 cv. pfd.	\$574,992
7,495 Omnicare, Inc. \$2.00 cv. pfd.	359,760
89 Paxson Communications Corp. 144A 9.75% cv. pfd. (PIK)	631,900
9,530 Williams Cos., Inc. (The) 144A \$2.75 cv. pfd.	681,395

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Total Convertible preferred stocks (cost \$2,107,187)		\$2,248,047
Convertible bonds and notes (0.1%) (a)		
Principal amount		Value

\$155,000 AES Corp. (The) cv. sub. notes 4 1/2s, 2005		\$153,450
725,000 Amkor Technologies, Inc. cv. notes 5 3/4s, 2006		664,281
3,080,000 Cybernet Internet Services International, Inc. 144A cv. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (13s, 8/15/04) 2009 (Denmark) (In default) (NON) (STP)		31
380,000 WCI Communities, Inc. cv. sr. sub. notes 4s, 2023		408,975

Total Convertible bonds and notes (cost \$3,803,181)		\$1,226,737
Units (--%) (a)		
Number of units		Value

1,250,000 Morrison Knudsen Corp., 2032 951 XCL Equity Units		\$65,625 422,079

Total Units (cost \$2,515,898)		\$487,704
Warrants (--%) (a) (NON)	Expiration	
Number of warrants	date	Value

1,001 AboveNet, Inc.	9/8/08	\$5,005
1,178 AboveNet, Inc.	9/8/10	1,178
1,420 Dayton Superior Corp. 144A	6/15/09	1
4 Doe Run Resources Corp. 144A	12/31/12	1
1,654 Huntsman Co., LLC 144A	5/15/11	314,260
694 MDP Acquisitions PLC 144A (Ireland)	10/1/13	19,259
550 Mikohn Gaming Corp. 144A	8/15/08	165
560 ONO Finance PLC 144A (United Kingdom)	2/15/11	6
570 Pliant Corp. 144A	6/1/10	6
682 Solutia, Inc. 144A	7/15/09	7
690 Travel Centers of America, Inc. 144A	5/1/09	3,450
2,310 Ubiquitel, Inc. 144A	4/15/10	1
3,937 Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. A	1/25/06	28,543
4,500 Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. B	1/25/06	25,650
2,432 Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. C	1/25/06	11,430
800 XM Satellite Radio Holdings, Inc. 144A	3/15/10	42,800

Total Warrants (cost \$1,029,372)		\$451,762
U.S. government and agency mortgage obligations (12.4%) (a)		
Principal amount		Value

\$19,116 Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation 7 1/2s, March 1, 2026		\$20,637

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

	Federal National Mortgage Association	
	Pass-Through Certificates	
149,784	7 1/2s, with due dates from October 1, 2022 to January 1, 2030	160,989
18,995,667	6 1/2s, with due dates from April 1, 2024 to November 1, 2033	19,873,362
47,100,000	6 1/2s, TBA, August 15, 2034	49,149,585
212,176	5s, June 1, 2019	214,049
49,000,000	5s, TBA, August 15, 2019	49,340,702
5,047,024	4 1/2s, with due dates from August 1, 2033 to June 1, 2034	4,771,655
	Total U.S. government and agency mortgage obligations (cost \$123,173,947)	\$123,530,979
U.S. Treasury obligations (13.8%) (a)		
Principal amount		Value
	U.S. Treasury Bonds	
\$21,600,000	7 1/2s, November 15, 2016	\$26,929,126
33,514,000	6 1/4s, May 15, 2030	38,048,863
12,260,000	6 1/4s, August 15, 2023	13,752,272
22,594,000	4 1/4s, August 15, 2013	22,293,925
	U.S. Treasury Notes	
23,410,000	3 1/4s, August 15, 2008	23,238,082
6,273,000	1 1/8s, June 30, 2005	6,223,012
20,460,000	U.S. Treasury Strip zero %, November 15, 2024	6,686,146
	Total U.S. Treasury obligations (cost \$137,236,894)	\$137,171,426
Short-term investments (17.6%) (a)		
Principal amount		Value
	\$171,516,53 Putnam Prime Money Market Fund (e)	\$171,516,532
1,317,039	Short-term investments held as collateral for loaned securities with yields ranging from 1.28% to 1.52% and due dates ranging from August 2, 2004 to August 23, 2004 (d)	1,316,566
1,900,000	U.S. Treasury Bill zero %, August 5, 2004 (SEG)	1,899,766
	Total Short-term investments (cost \$174,732,864)	\$174,732,864
	Total Investments (cost \$1,131,406,928)	\$1,120,578,809

(a) Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$992,675,806.

(DEF) Security is in default of principal and interest.

(NON) Non-income-producing security.

(STP) The interest rate and date shown parenthetically represent the new

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

interest rate to be paid and the date the fund will begin accruing interest income at this rate.

- (RES) Restricted, excluding 144A securities, as to public resale. The total market value of restricted securities held at July 31, 2004 was \$20,966,002 or 2.1% of net assets.
- (PIK) Income may be received in cash or additional securities at the discretion of the issuer.
- (SEG) This security was pledged and segregated with the custodian to cover margin requirements for futures contracts at July 31, 2004.
- (R) Real Estate Investment Trust.
- (S) Securities on loan, in part or in entirety, at July 31, 2004.
- (d) See Note 1 to the financial statements.
- (e) See Note 4 to the financial statements regarding investments in the Putnam Prime Money Market Fund.

144A after the name of a security represents those exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. These securities may be resold in transactions exempt from registration, normally to qualified institutional buyers.

TBA after the name of a security represents to be announced securities (Note 1).

FLIRB represents Front Loaded Interest Reduction Bond.

The rates shown on Floating Rate Bonds (FRB) and Floating Rate Notes (FRN) are the current interest rates at July 31, 2004.

Forward currency contracts to buy at July 31, 2004
(aggregate face value \$55,156,865)

	Value	Aggregate face value	Delivery date	Unreal apprecia (deprecia
Australian Dollar	\$10,703,542	\$10,767,426	9/15/04	\$ (63
British Pound	4,934,461	4,954,404	9/15/04	(19
Danish Krone	1,625,806	1,649,315	9/15/04	(23
Euro	6,999,341	7,134,813	9/15/04	(135
Japanese Yen	29,023,373	28,898,333	9/15/04	125
Norwegian Krone	467,789	490,647	9/15/04	(22
Polish Zloty	634,031	604,876	9/15/04	29
Swiss Franc	642,067	657,051	9/15/04	(14
				\$ (126

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Forward currency contracts to sell at July 31, 2004
(aggregate face value \$104,172,131)

	Value	Aggregate face value	Delivery date	Unreal apprecia (deprecia
Australian Dollar	\$5,414,359	\$5,515,410	9/15/04	\$101
British Pound	24,315,776	24,400,083	9/15/04	84
Canadian Dollar	1,320,801	1,288,907	9/15/04	(31
Euro	49,069,847	49,332,699	9/15/04	262
Japanese Yen	1,212,436	1,245,830	9/15/04	33
New Zealand Dollar	9,972,087	9,783,991	9/15/04	(188
Swedish Kronor	12,238,784	12,605,211	9/15/04	366
				\$628

Futures contracts outstanding at July 31, 2004

	Value	Aggregate face value	Delivery date	Unreal apprecia (deprecia
Euro-Bobl 5 yr (Long)	\$18,705,230	\$18,532,054	Sep-04	\$173
Euro-Bund 10 yr (Long)	19,944,103	19,757,008	Sep-04	187
Interest Rate Swap 10 yr (Long)	2,474,656	2,393,312	Sep-04	81
Japanese Government Bond 10 yr-TSE (Long)	7,259,758	7,260,419	Sep-04	
Japanese Government Bond 10 yr (Long)	8,951,709	8,971,230	Sep-04	(19
U.K. Gilt (Long)	29,660,669	29,586,470	Sep-04	74
U.S. Treasury Bond (Long)	19,046,500	18,376,437	Sep-04	670
U.S. Treasury Note 10 yr (Long)	35,651,438	34,738,384	Sep-04	913
U.S. Treasury Note 10 yr (Short)	25,908,188	25,760,108	Sep-04	(148
U.S. Treasury Note 5 yr (Short)	94,717,500	93,321,258	Sep-04	(1,396
				\$534

Interest rate swap contracts outstanding at July 31, 2004

	Notional amount	Termination date	Unreal apprecia (deprecia
--	--------------------	---------------------	---------------------------------

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Agreement with Bank of America, N.A. dated March 25, 2004 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 3.075% and receive quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD-LIBOR.	\$23,700,000	3/30/09	\$800
Agreement with Bank of America, N.A. dated January 22, 2004 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 1.97375% and receive quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD-LIBOR.	17,400,000	1/26/06	194
Agreement with Bank of America, N.A. dated December 2, 2003 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 2.444% and receive quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD LIBOR.	8,912,000	12/4/05	5
Agreement with Bank of America, N.A. dated January 22, 2004 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 4.35% and receive quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD-LIBOR.	5,500,000	1/27/14	232
Agreement with Credit Suisse First Boston International dated July 7, 2004 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 4.945% and receive quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD LIBOR.	8,099,800	7/9/14	(15)
Agreement with Credit Suisse First Boston International dated July 7, 2004 to receive semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 2.931% and pay quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD LIBOR.	7,174,500	7/9/06	(6)
Agreement with Lehman Brothers Special Financing, Inc. dated January 22, 2004 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 1.955% and receive quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA.	17,400,000	1/26/06	198
Agreement with Lehman Brothers Special Financing, Inc. dated December 9, 2003 to receive semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 4.641% and pay quarterly the notional amount multiplied by three month USD-LIBOR-BBA.	12,964,000	12/15/13	(195)
Agreement with Lehman Brothers Special Financing, Inc. dated January 22, 2004 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 4.3375% and receive quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA.	5,500,000	1/26/14	240
Agreement with Merrill Lynch Capital Services,			

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Inc. dated September 27, 2002 to receive semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by the six month JPY-LIBOR-BBA and pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by 0.399%.	JPY 3,417,000,000	10/1/07	129
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>			
Agreement with Merrill Lynch Capital Services, Inc. dated November 17, 2000 to pay semi-annually the notional amount multiplied by the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA and receive the notional amount multiplied 6.68%.	\$9,000,000	11/21/05	556
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>			
Agreement with UBS, AG dated April 23, 2004 to receive annually the notional amount multiplied by 3.49% and pay quarterly the notional amount multiplied by the three month SEK-STIBOR-.	SEK 555,000,000	4/27/06	79
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #000;"/>			
			\$2,219

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

Statement of assets and liabilities July 31, 2004

Assets

Investment in securities, at value, including \$1,258,023 of securities on loan (Note 1):	
Unaffiliated issuers (identified cost \$959,890,396)	\$949,062,277
Affiliated issuers (identified cost \$171,516,532) (Note 4)	171,516,532
Cash	1,210,484
Foreign currency (cost \$1,379,720) (Note 1)	1,359,982
Dividends, interest and other receivables	15,168,695
Receivable for securities sold	4,647,295
Receivable for open swap contracts (Note 1)	2,437,135
Receivable for variation margin (Note 1)	291,153
Receivable for open forward currency contracts (Note 1)	1,099,625
Receivable for closed forward currency contracts (Note 1)	339,336
Total assets	1,147,132,514

Liabilities

Distributions payable to shareholders	5,497,322
Payable for securities purchased	144,495,751

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Payable for compensation of Manager (Note 2)	1,679,186
Payable for investor servicing and custodian fees (Note 2)	169,042
Payable for Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	98,773
Payable for administrative services (Note 2)	1,273
Payable for open forward currency contracts (Note 1)	598,039
Payable for closed forward currency contracts (Note 1)	311,459
Payable for open swap contracts (Note 1)	217,793
Collateral on securities loaned, at value (Note 1)	1,316,566
Other accrued expenses	71,504
Total liabilities	154,456,708
Net assets	\$992,675,806
Represented by	
Paid-in capital (Note 1)	\$1,206,712,544
Undistributed net investment income (Note 1)	15,779,069
Accumulated net realized loss on investments and foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(222,203,704)
Net unrealized depreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	(7,612,103)
Total -- Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding	\$992,675,806
Computation of net asset value	
Net asset value per share (\$992,675,806 divided by 141,198,870 shares)	\$7.03

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

Statement of operations
Year ended July 31, 2004

Investment income:

Interest (including interest income of \$304,266 from investments in affiliated issuers) (Note 4)	\$68,118,359
Dividends	1,576,800
Securities lending	2,134
Total investment income	69,697,293

Expenses:

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Compensation of Manager (Note 2)	6,944,320
Investor servicing and custodian fees (Note 2)	884,612
Trustee compensation and expenses (Note 2)	33,083
Administrative services (Note 2)	16,590
Other	405,981
Fees waived and reimbursed by Manager (Note 4)	(44,468)
Total expenses	8,240,118
Expense reduction (Note 2)	(22,769)
Net expenses	8,217,349
Net investment income	61,479,944
Net realized gain on investments (Notes 1 and 3)	26,756,700
Net realized loss on futures contracts (Note 1)	(6,487,131)
Net realized gain on credit default (Note 1)	74,035
Net realized gain on swap contracts (Note 1)	2,018,132
Net realized loss on foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(454,538)
Net unrealized depreciation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies during the year	(429,315)
Net unrealized appreciation of investments, futures contracts, swap contracts, TBA sale commitments and credit default contracts during the year	23,067,710
Net gain on investments	44,545,593
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$106,025,537

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

Statement of changes in net assets

	Year ended July 31	
	2004	2003
Increase in net assets		
Operations:		
Net investment income	\$61,479,944	\$72,453,759
Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions	21,907,198	(11,293,897)
Net unrealized appreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	22,638,395	85,392,998

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	106,025,537	146,552,860
Distributions to shareholders: (Note 1)		
From net investment income	(66,079,263)	(72,810,386)
Increase from issuance of common shares in connection with reinvestment of distributions	--	1,338,341
Total increase in net assets	39,946,274	75,080,815
Net assets		
Beginning of year	952,729,532	877,648,717
End of year (including undistributed net investment income of \$15,779,069 and \$11,156,565, respectively)	\$992,675,806	\$952,729,532
Number of fund shares		
Shares outstanding at beginning of year	141,198,870	140,989,259
Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	--	209,611
Shares outstanding at end of year	141,198,870	141,198,870

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

Financial highlights

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

Per-share operating performance	Year ended July 31			
	2004	2003	2002	2001
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$6.75	\$6.22	\$6.68	\$7.11
Investment operations:				
Net investment income (a)	.44 (e)	.51	.55	.60
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.31	.54	(.47)	(.50)
Total from investment operations	.75	1.05	.08	.10
Less distributions:				

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

From net investment income	(.47)	(.52)	(.53)	(.54)
From return of capital	--	--	(.01)	(.01)
Total distributions	(.47)	(.52)	(.54)	(.54)
Net asset value, end of period	\$7.03	\$6.75	\$6.22	\$6.22
Market price, end of period	\$6.29	\$6.31	\$6.03	\$6.03
Total return at market price (%) (b)	7.18	13.41	4.44	8.54
Ratios and supplemental data				
Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	\$992,676	\$952,730	\$877,649	\$942,120
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) (c)	.83 (e)	.85	.86	.86
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets (%)	6.19 (e)	7.91	8.39	8.84
Portfolio turnover (%)	78.43	96.21 (d)	175.78 (d)	231.50

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

(b) Total return assumes dividend reinvestment.

(c) Includes amounts paid through expense offset arrangements (Note 2).

(d) Portfolio turnover excludes certain treasury note transactions executed in connection with a trading strategy.

(e) Reflects waivers of certain fund expenses during the period. As a result of such waivers, the net investment income for the fund for the period ended July 31, 2004 reflect a reduction of less than 0.01% of average net assets (Note 4).

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

Notes to financial statements
July 31, 2004

Note 1
Significant accounting policies

Putnam Premier Income Trust (the "fund"), a Massachusetts business trust, is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The fund seeks high current income consistent with the preservation of

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

capital by allocating its investments among the U.S. government sector, high yield sector and international sector of the fixed-income securities market. The fund invests in higher yielding, lower-rated bonds that have a higher rate of default due to the nature of the investments.

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 during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

A) Security valuation 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. If no sales are reported -- as in the case of some securities traded over-the-counter -- a security is valued at its last reported bid price. Market quotations are not considered to be readily available for certain debt obligations; such investments are valued at fair value on the basis of valuations furnished by an independent pricing service or dealers, approved by the Trustees. Such services or dealers determine valuations for normal institutional-size trading units of such securities using methods based on market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships, generally recognized by institutional traders, between securities. Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close prior to the 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 close of the New York Stock Exchange. Accordingly, on certain days, the fund will fair value foreign securities taking into account multiple factors, including movements in the U.S. securities markets. 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 are translated into U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate. Short-term investments having remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. Other investments, including restricted securities, are valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. Such valuations and procedures are reviewed periodically by the Trustees.

B) Joint trading account The fund may transfer uninvested cash balances, including cash collateral received under security lending arrangements, into a joint trading account along with the cash of other registered investment companies and certain other accounts managed by Putnam Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management"), the fund's manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam, LLC. These balances may be invested in issuers of high-grade short-term investments having maturities of up to 397 days for collateral received under security lending arrangements and up to 90 days for other cash investments.

C) Repurchase agreements The fund, or any joint trading account, through its custodian, receives delivery of the underlying securities, the market value of which at the time of purchase is required to be an amount at least equal to the resale price, including accrued interest. Collateral for certain tri-party repurchase agreements is held at the counterparty's custodian in a segregated account for the benefit of the fund and the counterparty. Putnam Management is responsible for determining that the

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

value of these underlying securities is at all times at least equal to the resale price, including accrued interest.

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

Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividend income, net of applicable withholding taxes, is recognized on the ex-dividend date except that certain dividends from foreign securities are recognized as soon as the fund is informed of the ex-dividend date. Non-cash dividends, if any, are recorded at the fair market value of the securities received.

All premiums/discounts are amortized /accreted on a yield-to-maturity basis.

E) Foreign currency translation The accounting records of the fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. The market value of foreign securities, currency holdings, and other assets and liabilities are 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 closed forward currency contracts, 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 open forward currency contracts and assets and liabilities other than investments at the period end, resulting from changes in the exchange rate. Investments in foreign securities involve certain risks, including those related to economic instability, unfavorable political developments, and currency fluctuations, not present with domestic investments.

F) Forward currency contracts The fund may buy and sell forward currency contracts, which are agreements between two parties to buy and sell currencies at a set price on a future date. These contracts are used to protect against a decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar of the currencies in which its portfolio securities are denominated or quoted (or an increase in the value of a currency in which securities a fund intends to buy are denominated, when a fund holds cash reserves and short term investments). The U.S. dollar value of forward currency contracts is determined using current forward currency exchange rates supplied by a quotation service. The market value of the contract will fluctuate with changes in currency exchange rates. The contract is marked to market daily and the change in market value is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss. When the contract is closed, the fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed. The fund could be exposed to risk if the value of the currency changes unfavorably, if the counterparties to the contracts are unable

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

to meet the terms of their contracts or if the fund is unable to enter into a closing position. Forward currency contracts outstanding at period end, if any, are listed after the fund's portfolio.

G) Futures and options contracts The fund may use futures and options contracts to hedge against changes in the values of securities the fund owns or expects to purchase. The fund may also write options on securities it owns or in which it may invest to increase its current returns.

The potential risk to the fund is that the change in value of futures and options contracts may not correspond to the change in value of the hedged instruments. In addition, losses may arise from changes in the value of the underlying instruments, if there is an illiquid secondary market for the contracts, or if the counterparty to the contract is unable to perform. Risks may exceed amounts recognized on the statement of assets and liabilities. When the contract is closed, the fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed. Realized gains and losses on purchased options are included in realized gains and losses on investment securities.

Futures contracts are valued at the quoted daily settlement prices established by the exchange on which they trade. The fund and the broker agree to exchange an amount of cash equal to the daily fluctuation in the value of the futures contract. Such receipts or payments are known as "variation margin." Exchange traded options are valued at the last sale price, or if no sales are reported, the last bid price for purchased options and the last ask price for written options. Options traded over-the-counter are valued using prices supplied by dealers. Futures and written option contracts outstanding at period end, if any, are listed after the fund's portfolio.

H) Interest rate swap contracts The fund may enter into interest rate swap contracts, which are arrangements between two parties to exchange cash flows based on a notional principal amount, to manage the fund's exposure to interest rates. Interest rate swap contracts are marked to market daily based upon quotations from market makers and the change, if any, is recorded as unrealized gain or loss. Payments received or made are recorded as realized gains or loss. The fund could be exposed to credit or market risk due to unfavorable changes in the fluctuation of interest rates or if the counterparty defaults on its obligation to perform. Risks may exceed amounts recognized on the statement of assets and liabilities. Interest rate swap contracts outstanding at period end, if any, are listed after the fund's portfolio.

I) Credit default contracts The fund may enter into credit default contracts where one party, the protection buyer, makes an upfront payment to a counter party, the protection seller, in exchange for the right to receive a contingent payment. The maximum amount of the payment may equal the notional amount, at par, of the underlying index or security as a result of a related credit event. An upfront payment received by the fund, as the protection seller, is recorded as a liability on the fund's books. An upfront payment made by the fund, as the protection buyer, is recorded as an asset on the fund's books. The credit default contracts are marked to market daily based upon quotations from market makers and the change, if any, is recorded as unrealized gain or loss. Payments received or made as a result of a credit event or termination of the contract are recognized, net of a proportional amount of the upfront payment, as realized gains or losses. In addition to bearing the risk that the credit event will occur, the fund could be exposed to market risk due to unfavorable changes in

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

interest rates or in the price of the underlying security or index, the possibility that the fund may be unable to close out its position at the same time or at the same price as if it had purchased comparable publicly traded securities or that the counterparty may default on its obligation to perform. The risk of loss may exceed the fair value of these contracts recognized on the statement of assets and liabilities. Credit default contracts outstanding at period end, if any, are listed after the fund's portfolio.

J) TBA purchase commitments The fund may enter into "TBA" (to be announced) commitments to purchase securities for a fixed unit price at a future date beyond customary settlement time. Although the unit price has been established, the principal value has not been finalized. However, the amount of the commitments will not significantly differ from the principal amount. The fund holds, and maintains until settlement date, cash or high-grade debt obligations in an amount sufficient to meet the purchase price, or the fund may enter into offsetting contracts for the forward sale of other securities it owns. Income on the securities will not be earned until settlement date. TBA purchase commitments may be considered securities themselves, and involve a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines prior to the settlement date, which risk is in addition to the risk of decline in the value of the fund's other assets. Unsettled TBA purchase commitments are valued at fair value of the underlying securities, according to the procedures described under "Security valuation" above. The contract is "marked-to-market" daily and the change in market value is recorded by the fund as an unrealized gain or loss.

Although the fund will generally enter into TBA purchase commitments with the intention of acquiring securities for its portfolio or for delivery pursuant to options contracts it has entered into, the fund may dispose of a commitment prior to settlement if Putnam Management deems it appropriate to do so.

K) TBA sale commitments The fund may enter into TBA sale commitments to hedge its portfolio positions or to sell mortgage-backed securities it owns under delayed delivery arrangements. Proceeds of TBA sale commitments are not received until the contractual settlement date. During the time a TBA sale commitment is outstanding, equivalent deliverable securities or an offsetting TBA purchase commitment deliverable on or before the sale commitment date, are held as "cover" for the transaction.

Unsettled TBA sale commitments are valued at fair value of the underlying securities, generally according to the procedures described under "Security valuation" above. The contract is "marked-to-market" daily and the change in market value is recorded by the fund as an unrealized gain or loss. If the TBA sale commitment is closed through the acquisition of an offsetting purchase commitment, the fund realizes a gain or loss. If the fund delivers securities under the commitment, the fund realizes a gain or a loss from the sale of the securities based upon the unit price established at the date the commitment was entered into. TBA sale commitments outstanding at period end, if any, are listed after the fund's portfolio.

L) Security lending The fund may lend securities, through its agents, to qualified borrowers in order to earn additional income. The loans are collateralized by cash and/or securities in an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned. The market value of securities loaned is determined daily and any additional required collateral is allocated to the fund on the next business day. The risk of borrower default will be borne by the fund's agents; the fund will

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

bear the risk of loss with respect to the investment of the cash collateral. Income from securities lending is included in investment income on the statement of operations. At July 31, 2004, the value of securities loaned amounted to \$1,258,023. The fund received cash collateral of \$1,316,566 which is pooled with collateral of other Putnam funds into 29 issuers of high grade short-term investments.

M) Federal taxes It is the policy of the fund to distribute all of its taxable income within the prescribed time and otherwise comply with the provisions of the Internal Revenue 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 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), as amended. Therefore, 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.

At July 31, 2004, the fund had a capital loss carryover of \$221,029,478 available to the extent allowed by the Code to offset future net capital gain, if any. The amount of the carryover and the expiration dates are:

Loss Carryover	Expiration
\$26,204,240	July 31, 2007
44,857,570	July 31, 2008
24,930,247	July 31, 2009
44,917,486	July 31, 2010
80,119,935	July 31, 2011

N) Distributions to shareholders Distributions to shareholders from net investment income 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. These differences include temporary and permanent differences of losses on wash sale transactions, foreign currency gains and losses, nontaxable dividends, dividends payable, defaulted bond interest, unrealized and realized gains and losses on certain futures contracts, market discount, interest on payment-in-kind securities, and income on swap contracts. 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. For the year ended July 31, 2004, the fund reclassified \$9,221,823 to increase undistributed net investment income and \$30,095 to increase paid-in-capital, with an increase to accumulated net realized losses of \$9,251,918.

The tax basis components of distributable earnings and the federal tax cost as of period end were as follows:

Unrealized appreciation	\$39,855,708
Unrealized depreciation	(52,382,071)

Net unrealized depreciation	(12,526,363)
Undistributed ordinary income	22,381,555
Capital loss carryforward	(221,029,478)
Cost for federal income tax purposes	\$1,133,105,172

Note 2

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Management fee, administrative services and other transactions

Putnam Management is paid for management and investment advisory services quarterly based on the average net assets of the fund. Such fee is based on the following annual rates: 0.75% of the first \$500 million of average weekly net assets, 0.65% of the next \$500 million, 0.60% of the next \$500 million and 0.55% thereafter.

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 Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company ("PFTC"), a subsidiary of Putnam, LLC. Putnam Investor Services, a division of PFTC, provides investor servicing agent functions to the fund. During the year ended July 31, 2004, the fund paid PFTC \$884,612 for these services.

The fund has entered into an arrangement with PFTC whereby credits realized as a result of uninvested cash balances are used to reduce a portion of the fund's expenses. For the year ended July 31, 2004, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$22,769 under these arrangements.

Each independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual Trustee fee, of which \$1,906, as a quarterly retainer, has been allocated to the fund, and an additional fee for each Trustees meeting attended. Trustees receive additional fees for attendance at certain committee meetings.

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 on or after July 1, 1995. 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. Benefits under the Pension Plan are equal to 50% of the Trustee's average total retainer and meeting fees for the three years preceding retirement. 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.

Note 3

Purchases and sales of securities

During the year ended July 31, 2004, cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of investment securities other than U.S. government securities and short-term investments aggregated \$629,141,583 and \$809,720,866, respectively. Purchases and sales of U.S. government securities aggregated \$90,715,238 and \$14,861,378, respectively.

Note 4

Investment in Putnam
Prime Money Market Fund

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

The fund invests in the Putnam Prime Money Market Fund, an open-end management investment company managed by Putnam Management. Management fees paid by the fund are reduced by an amount equal to the management fees paid by Putnam Prime Money Market Fund with respect to assets invested by the fund in Putnam Prime Money Market Fund. Income distributions earned by the fund are recorded as income in the statement of operations and totaled \$304,266 for the period ended July 31, 2004.

Note 5

Regulatory matters and litigation

On April 8, 2004, Putnam Management entered into agreements with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Massachusetts Securities Division representing a final settlement of all charges brought against Putnam Management by those agencies on October 28, 2003 in connection with excessive short-term trading by Putnam employees and, in the case of the charges brought by the Massachusetts Securities Division, by participants in some Putnam-administered 401(k) plans. The settlement with the SEC requires Putnam Management to pay \$5 million in disgorgement plus a civil monetary penalty of \$50 million, and the settlement with the Massachusetts Securities Division requires Putnam Management to pay \$5 million in restitution and an administrative fine of \$50 million. The settlements also leave intact the process established under an earlier partial settlement with the SEC under which Putnam Management agreed to pay the amount of restitution determined by an independent consultant, which may exceed the disgorgement and restitution amounts specified above, pursuant to a plan to be developed by the independent consultant.

Putnam Management, and not the investors in any Putnam fund, will bear all costs, including restitution, civil penalties and associated legal fees stemming from both of these proceedings. The SEC's and Massachusetts Securities Division's allegations and related matters also serve as the general basis for numerous lawsuits, including purported class action lawsuits filed against Putnam Management and certain related parties, including certain Putnam funds. Putnam Management has agreed to bear any costs incurred by Putnam funds in connection with these lawsuits. Based on currently available information, Putnam Management believes that the likelihood that the pending private lawsuits and purported class action lawsuits will have a material adverse financial impact on the fund is remote, and the pending actions are not likely to materially affect its ability to provide investment management services to its clients, including the Putnam funds.

Review of these matters by counsel for Putnam Management and by separate independent counsel for the Putnam funds and their independent Trustees is continuing.

Federal tax information (Unaudited)

The fund has designated 1.38% of the distributions from net investment income as qualifying for the dividends received deduction for corporations.

For its tax year ended July 31, 2004, the fund hereby designates 1.34%, or the maximum amount allowable, of its net taxable income as qualified dividends taxed at individual net capital gain rates.

The Form 1099 you receive in January 2005 will show the tax status of

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

all distributions paid to your account in calendar 2004.

Results of June 10, 2004
shareholder meeting
(Unaudited)

An annual meeting of shareholders of the fund was held on June 10, 2004. At the meeting, each of the nominees for Trustees was elected, as follows:

	Votes for	Votes withheld
Jameson Adkins Baxter	126,407,006	5,275,000
Charles B. Curtis	126,426,502	5,255,504
John A. Hill	126,418,219	5,263,787
Ronald J. Jackson	126,475,901	5,206,105
Paul L. Joskow	126,483,372	5,198,634
Elizabeth T. Kennan	126,374,928	5,307,078
John H. Mullin, III	126,455,710	5,226,296
Robert E. Patterson	126,466,058	5,215,948
George Putnam, III	126,386,954	5,295,052
A.J.C. Smith	126,379,813	5,302,193
W. Thomas Stephens	126,439,081	5,242,925

All tabulations are rounded to nearest whole number.

About the Trustees

Jameson A. Baxter (9/6/43), Trustee since 1994

Ms. Baxter is the President of Baxter Associates, Inc., a private investment firm that she founded in 1986.

Ms. Baxter serves as a Director of ASHTA Chemicals, Inc., Banta Corporation (a printing and digital imaging firm), Ryerson Tull, Inc. (a steel service corporation), Advocate Health Care and BoardSource, formerly the National Center for Nonprofit Boards. She is Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, Mount Holyoke College, having served as Chairman for five years and as a board member for thirteen years. Until 2002, Ms. Baxter was a Director of Intermatic Corporation (a manufacturer of energy control products).

Ms. Baxter has held various positions in investment banking and corporate finance, including Vice President and Principal of the Regency Group, and Vice President of and Consultant to First Boston Corporation. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College.

Charles B. Curtis (4/27/40), Trustee since 2001

Mr. Curtis is President and Chief Operating Officer of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (a private foundation dealing with national security issues) and serves as Senior Advisor to the United Nations Foundation.

Mr. Curtis is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trustee Advisory Council of the Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University. Until 2003, Mr. Curtis was a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council and the University of Chicago Board of Governors for Argonne National Laboratory. Prior to 2002, Mr. Curtis was a Member of the Board of Directors of the Gas Technology

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Institute and the Board of Directors of the Environment and Natural Resources Program Steering Committee, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Until 2001, Mr. Curtis was a member of the Department of Defense Policy Board and Director of EG&G Technical Services, Inc. (a fossil energy research and development support company).

From August 1997 to December 1999, Mr. Curtis was a Partner at Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., a Washington, D.C. law firm. Prior to May 1997, Mr. Curtis was Deputy Secretary of Energy. He served as Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from 1977 to 1981 and has held positions on the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Treasury Department, and the SEC.

John A. Hill (1/31/42), Trustee since 1985 and Chairman since 2000

Mr. Hill is Vice Chairman of First Reserve Corporation, a private equity buyout firm that specializes in energy investments in the diversified worldwide energy industry.

Mr. Hill is a Director of Devon Energy Corporation, TransMontaigne Oil Company, Continuum Health Partners of New York and various private companies controlled by First Reserve Corporation, as well as a Trustee of TH Lee, Putnam Investment Trust (a closed-end investment company advised by an affiliate of Putnam Management). He is also a Trustee of Sarah Lawrence College.

Prior to acquiring First Reserve Corporation in 1983, Mr. Hill held executive positions in investment banking and investment management with several firms and with the federal government, including Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Deputy Director of the Federal Energy Administration. He is active in various business associations, including the Economic Club of New York, and lectures on energy issues in the United States and Europe. Mr. Hill holds a B.A. degree in Economics from Southern Methodist University and pursued graduate studies there as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow.

Ronald J. Jackson (12/17/43), Trustee since 1996

Mr. Jackson is a private investor.

Mr. Jackson is President of the Kathleen and Ronald J. Jackson Foundation (a charitable trust). He is also a member of the Board of Overseers of WGBH (a public television and radio station) as well as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Peabody Essex Museum.

Mr. Jackson is the former Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Fisher-Price, Inc. (a major toy manufacturer), from which he retired in 1993. He previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Stride-Rite, Inc. (a manufacturer and distributor of footwear) and of Kenner Parker Toys, Inc. (a major toy and game manufacturer). Mr. Jackson was President of Talbots, Inc. (a distributor of women's apparel) and has held financial and marketing positions with General Mills, Inc. and Parker Brothers (a toy and game company). Mr. Jackson is a graduate of the University of Michigan Business School.

Paul L. Joskow (6/30/47), Trustee since 1997

Dr. Joskow is the Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics and Management, and Director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Dr. Joskow serves as a Director of National Grid Transco (a UK-based holding company with interests in electric and gas transmission and distribution and telecommunications infrastructure) and TransCanada Corporation (an energy company focused on natural gas transmission and power services). He also serves on the board of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research (a non-profit research institution) and has been President of the Yale University Council since 1993. Prior to February 2002, he was a Director of State Farm Indemnity Company (an automobile insurance company), and, prior to March 2000, he was a Director of New England Electric System (a public utility holding company).

Dr. Joskow has published five books and numerous articles on topics in industrial organization, government regulation of industry, and competition policy. He is active in industry restructuring, environmental, energy, competition and privatization policies -- serving as an advisor to governments and corporations worldwide. Dr. Joskow holds a Ph.D. and M. Phil from Yale University and B.A. from Cornell University.

Elizabeth T. Kennan (2/25/38), Trustee since 1992

Dr. Kennan is a Partner of Cambus-Kenneth Farm (thoroughbred horse and cattle breeding). She is President Emeritus of Mount Holyoke College.

Dr. Kennan served as Chairman and is now Lead Director of Northeast Utilities and is a Director of Talbots, Inc. She has served as Director on a number of other boards, including Bell Atlantic, Chastain Real Estate, Shawmut Bank, Berkshire Life Insurance and Kentucky Home Life Insurance. She is a Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, of Centre College and of Midway College in Midway, Kentucky. She is also a member of The Trustees of Reservations. Dr. Kennan has served on the oversight committee of the Folger Shakespeare Library, as President of Five Colleges Incorporated, as a Trustee of Notre Dame University and is active in various educational and civic associations.

As a member of the faculty of Catholic University for twelve years, until 1978, Dr. Kennan directed the post-doctoral program in Patristic and Medieval Studies, taught history and published numerous articles. Dr. Kennan holds a Ph.D. from the University of Washington in Seattle, an M.S. from St. Hilda's College at Oxford University and an A.B. from Mount Holyoke College. She holds several honorary doctorates.

John H. Mullin, III (6/15/41), Trustee since 1997

Mr. Mullin is the Chairman and CEO of Ridgeway Farm (a limited liability company engaged in timber and farming).

Mr. Mullin serves as a Director of The Liberty Corporation (a broadcasting company), Progress Energy, Inc. (a utility company, formerly known as Carolina Power & Light) and Sonoco Products, Inc. (a packaging company). Mr. Mullin is Trustee Emeritus of The National Humanities Center and Washington & Lee University, where he served as Chairman of the Investment Committee. Prior to May 2001, he was a Director of Graphic Packaging International Corp. Prior to February 2004, he was a Director of Alex Brown Realty, Inc.

Mr. Mullin is also a past Director of Adolph Coors Company; ACX Technologies, Inc.; Crystal Brands, Inc.; Dillon, Read & Co., Inc.; Fisher-Price, Inc.; and The Ryland Group, Inc. Mr. Mullin is a graduate of Washington & Lee University and The Wharton Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Robert E. Patterson (3/15/45), Trustee since 1984

Mr. Patterson is Senior Partner of Cabot Properties, L.P. and Chairman of Cabot Properties, Inc.

Mr. Patterson serves as Chairman of the Joslin Diabetes Center and as a Director of Brandywine Trust Company. Prior to June 2003, he was a Trustee of Sea Education Association. Prior to December 2001, he was President and Trustee of Cabot Industrial Trust (a publicly traded real estate investment trust). Prior to February 1998, he was Executive Vice President and Director of Acquisitions of Cabot Partners Limited Partnership (a registered investment adviser involved in institutional real estate investments). And, prior to 1990, he served as Executive Vice President of Cabot, Cabot & Forbes Realty Advisors, Inc. (the predecessor company of Cabot Partners) and as a Senior Vice President of the Beal Companies (a real estate management, investment and development firm).

Mr. Patterson practiced law and held various positions in state government and was the founding Executive Director of the Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency. Mr. Patterson is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

W. Thomas Stephens (9/2/42), Trustee since 1997

Mr. Stephens serves on a number of corporate boards.

Effective November 2004, Mr. Stephens is expected to become Chief Executive Officer of Boise Cascade, L.L.C. (a paper, forest products and timberland assets company). Mr. Stephens serves as a Director of Xcel Energy Incorporated (a public utility company) and TransCanada Pipelines Limited. Until 2004, Mr. Stephens was a Director of Qwest Communications and Norske Canada, Inc. (a paper manufacturer). Until 2003, Mr. Stephens was a Director of Mail-Well, Inc. (a diversified printing company). He served as Chairman of Mail-Well until 2001 and as CEO of MacMillan-Bloedel, Ltd. (a forest products company) until 1999.

Prior to 1996, Mr. Stephens was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Johns Manville Corporation. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas.

George Putnam, III* (8/10/51), Trustee since 1984 and President since 2000

Mr. Putnam is President of New Generation Research, Inc. (a publisher of financial advisory and other research services), and of New Generation Advisers, Inc. (a registered investment advisor to private funds). Mr. Putnam founded the New Generation companies in 1986.

Mr. Putnam is a Director of The Boston Family Office, LLC (a registered investment adviser). He is a Trustee of St. Mark's School, Shore Country Day School, and until 2002 was a Trustee of the Sea Education Association.

Mr. Putnam previously worked as an attorney with the law firm of Dechert LLP (formerly known as Dechert Price & Rhoads) in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School.

A.J.C. Smith* (4/13/34), Trustee since 1986

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Mr. Smith is the Chairman of Putnam Investments and Director of and Consultant to Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

Mr. Smith is also a Director of Trident Corp. (a limited partnership with over thirty institutional investors). He is also a Trustee of the Carnegie Hall Society, the Educational Broadcasting Corporation, and the National Museums of Scotland. He is Chairman of the Central Park Conservancy and a Member of the Board of Overseers of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University. Prior to May 2000 and November 1999, Mr. Smith was Chairman and CEO, respectively, of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

The address of each Trustee is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

As of July 31, 2004, there were 102 Putnam Funds.

Each Trustee serves for an indefinite term, until his or her resignation, retirement at age 72, death, or removal.

* Trustees who are or may be deemed to be "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940) of the fund, Putnam Management, Putnam Retail Management, or Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., the parent company of Putnam, LLC and its affiliated companies. Messrs. Putnam, III, and Smith are deemed "interested persons" by virtue of their positions as officers of the fund, Putnam Management, Putnam Retail Management or Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and as shareholders of Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. George Putnam, III is the President of your fund and each of the other Putnam funds. Mr. Smith serves as a Director of and Consultant to Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. and as Chairman of Putnam Investments.

Officers

In addition to George Putnam, III, the other officers of the fund are shown below:

Charles E. Porter (7/26/38)
Executive Vice President, Associate Treasurer
and Principal Executive Officer
Since 1989

Managing Director, Putnam Investments
and Putnam Management

Jonathan S. Horwitz (6/4/55)
Senior Vice President and Treasurer
Since 2004

Managing Director, Putnam Investments

Steven D. Krichmar (6/27/58)
Vice President and Principal Financial Officer
Since 2002

Senior Managing Director, Putnam Investments.
Prior to July 2001, Partner,
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Michael T. Healy (1/24/58)
Assistant Treasurer and Principal

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Accounting Officer
Since 2000

Managing Director, Putnam Investments

Beth S. Mazor (4/6/58)
Vice President
Since 2002

Senior Vice President, Putnam Investments

Daniel T. Gallagher (2/27/62)
Vice President and Legal and Compliance
Liaison Officer
Since 2004

Vice President, Putnam Investments. Prior to
2004, Associate, Ropes & Gray LLP; prior to
2000, Law Clerk, Massachusetts Supreme
Judicial Court

Francis J. McNamara, III (8/19/55)
Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
Since 2004

Senior Managing Director, Putnam
Investments, Putnam Management and
Putnam Retail Management. Prior to 2004,
General Counsel, State Street Research &
Management Company

James P. Pappas (2/24/53)
Vice President
Since 2004

Managing Director, Putnam Investments and
Putnam Management. From 2001 to 2002, Chief
Operating Officer, Atalanta/Sosnoff Management
Corporation; prior to 2001, President and Chief
Executive Officer, UAM Investment Services, Inc.

Richard S. Robie, III (3/30/60)
Vice President
Since 2004

Senior Managing Director, Putnam
Investments, Putnam Management and
Putnam Retail Management. Prior to 2003,
Senior Vice President, United Asset
Management Corporation

Mark C. Trenchard (6/5/62)
Vice President and BSA Compliance Officer
Since 2002

Senior Vice President, Putnam Investments

Judith Cohen (6/7/45)
Clerk and Assistant Treasurer
Since 1993

Clerk and Assistant Treasurer, The Putnam Funds

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

The address of each Officer is One Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02109.

Fund information

About Putnam Investments

One of the largest mutual fund families in the United States, Putnam Investments has a heritage of investment leadership dating back to Judge Samuel Putnam, whose Prudent Man Rule has defined fiduciary tradition and practice since 1830. Founded over 65 years ago, Putnam Investments was built around the concept that a balance between risk and reward is the hallmark of a well-rounded financial program. We presently manage over 100 mutual funds in growth, value, blend, fixed income, and international.

Investment Manager

Putnam Investment
Management, LLC
One Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109

Marketing Services

Putnam Retail Management
One Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109

Custodian

Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company

Legal Counsel

Ropes & Gray LLP

Independent Registered
Public Accounting Firm

KPMG LLP

Trustees

John A. Hill, Chairman
Jameson Adkins Baxter
Charles B. Curtis
Ronald J. Jackson
Paul L. Joskow
Elizabeth T. Kennan
John H. Mullin, III
Robert E. Patterson
George Putnam, III
A.J.C. Smith
W. Thomas Stephens

Officers

George Putnam, III
President

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Charles E. Porter
Executive Vice President,
Associate Treasurer and
Principal Executive Officer

Jonathan S. Horwitz
Senior Vice President
and Treasurer

Steven D. Krichmar
Vice President and Principal
Financial Officer

Michael T. Healy
Assistant Treasurer and
Principal Accounting Officer

Beth S. Mazor
Vice President

Daniel T. Gallagher
Vice President and Legal and
Compliance Liaison Officer

James P. Pappas
Vice President

Richard S. Robie, III
Vice President

Mark C. Trenchard
Vice President and BSA
Compliance Officer

Francis J. McNamara, III
Vice President and Chief
Legal Officer

Judith Cohen
Clerk and Assistant Treasurer

Call 1-800-225-1581 weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time,
or visit our Web site (www.putnaminvestments.com) anytime for up-to-date
information about the fund's NAV.

[LOGO OMITTED]

PUTNAM INVESTMENTS

The Putnam Funds
One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PUTNAM
INVESTMENTS

Do you want to save paper and receive this document faster?
Shareholders can sign up for email delivery of shareholder reports on
www.putnaminvestments.com.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

216497 9/04

Item 2. Code of Ethics:

All officers of the Fund, including its principal executive, financial and accounting officers, are employees of Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the Fund's investment manager. As such they are subject to a comprehensive Code of Ethics adopted and administered by Putnam Investments which is designed to protect the interests of the firm and its clients. The Fund has adopted a Code of Ethics which incorporates the Code of Ethics of Putnam Investments with respect to all of its officers and Trustees who are employees of Putnam Investment Management, LLC. For this reason, the Fund has not adopted a separate code of ethics governing its principal executive, financial and accounting officers.

Item 3. Audit Committee Financial Expert:

The Funds' Audit and Pricing Committee is comprised solely of Trustees who are "independent" (as such term has been defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") in regulations implementing Section 407 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (the "Regulations")). The Trustees believe that each of the members of the Audit and Pricing Committee also possess a combination of knowledge and experience with respect to financial accounting matters, as well as other attributes, that qualify them for service on the Committee. In addition, the Trustees have determined that all members of the Funds' Audit and Pricing Committee meet the financial literacy requirements of the New York Stock Exchange's rules and that Mr. Patterson and Mr. Stephens qualify as "audit committee financial experts" (as such term has been defined by the Regulations) based on their review of their pertinent experience and education. Certain other Trustees, although not on the Audit and Pricing Committee, would also qualify as "audit committee financial experts." The SEC has stated that the designation or identification of a person as an audit committee financial expert pursuant to this Item 3 of Form N-CSR does not impose on such person any duties, obligations or liability that are greater than the duties, obligations and liability imposed on such person as a member of the Audit and Pricing Committee and the Board of Trustees in the absence of such designation or identification.

Item 4. Principal Accountant Fees and Services:

The following table presents fees billed in each of the last two fiscal years for services rendered to the fund by the fund's independent auditors:

Fiscal year ended	Audit Fees	Audit-Related Fees	Tax Fees	All Other Fees
July 31, 2004	\$40,150	\$--	\$4,150	\$176
July 31, 2003	\$34,900	\$--	\$3,600	\$--

For the fiscal years ended July 31, 2004 and July 31, 2003, the fund's independent auditors billed aggregate non-audit fees in the amounts of \$ 4,326 and \$3,600 , respectively, to the fund, Putnam Management and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Putnam Management that provides ongoing services to the fund.

Audit Fees represents fees billed for the fund's last two fiscal years.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Audit-Related Fees represents fees billed in the fund's last two fiscal years for services traditionally performed by the fund's auditor, including accounting consultation for proposed transactions or concerning financial accounting and reporting standards and other audit or attest services not required by statute or regulation.

Tax Fees represent fees billed in the fund's last two fiscal years for tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice services. Tax planning and tax advice services include assistance with tax audits, employee benefit plans and requests for rulings or technical advice from taxing authorities.

All Other Fees Fees represent fees billed for services relating to interfund trading.

Pre-Approval Policies of the Audit and Pricing Committee. The Audit and Pricing Committee of the Putnam funds has determined that, as a matter of policy, all work performed for the funds by the funds' independent auditors will be pre-approved by the Committee and will generally not be subject to pre-approval procedures.

Under certain circumstances, the Audit and Pricing Committee believes that it may be appropriate for Putnam Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management") and certain of its affiliates to engage the services of the funds' independent auditors, but only after prior approval by the Committee. Such requests are required to be submitted in writing to the Committee and explain, among other things, the nature of the proposed engagement, the estimated fees, and why this work must be performed by that particular audit firm. The Committee will review the proposed engagement at its next meeting.

Since May 6, 2003, all work performed by the independent auditors for the funds, Putnam Management and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Putnam Management that provides ongoing services to the fund was pre-approved by the Committee or a member of the Committee pursuant to the pre-approval policies discussed above. Prior to that date, the Committee had a general policy to pre-approve the independent auditor's engagements for non-audit services with the funds, Putnam Management and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with Putnam Management that provides ongoing services to the fund.

The following table presents fees billed by the fund's principal auditor for services required to be approved pursuant to paragraph (c) (7) (ii) of Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

Fiscal year ended	Audit-Related Fees	Tax Fees	All Other Fees	Total Non- Audit Fees
June 30, 2004	\$--	\$--	\$--	\$--
June 30, 2003	\$--	\$--	\$--	\$--

Item 5. Audit Committee

(a) The fund has a separately-designated audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a) (58) (A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Audit Committee of the fund's Board of Trustees is composed of the following persons:

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Paul L. Joskow (Chairperson)
Robert E. Patterson
W. Thomas Stephens
Elizabeth T. Kennan

(b) Not applicable

Item 6. Schedule of Investments: Not applicable

Item 7. Disclosure of Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures For Closed-End

Management Investment Companies:

Proxy Voting Guidelines of the Putnam Funds

The proxy voting guidelines below summarize the Funds' positions on various issues of concern to investors, and give a general indication of how Fund portfolio securities will be voted on proposals dealing with a particular issue. The Funds' proxy voting service is instructed to vote all proxies relating to Fund portfolio securities in accordance with these guidelines, except as otherwise instructed by the Proxy Coordinator.

The proxy voting guidelines are just that - guidelines. The guidelines are not exhaustive and do not include all potential voting issues. Because proxy issues and the circumstances of individual companies are so varied, there may be instances when the Funds may not vote in strict adherence to these guidelines. For example, the proxy voting service is expected to bring to the Proxy Coordinator's attention proxy questions that are company-specific and of a non-routine nature and, although covered by the guidelines, may be more appropriately handled on a case-by-case basis.

Similarly, Putnam Management's investment professionals, as part of their ongoing review and analysis of all Fund portfolio holdings, are responsible for monitoring significant corporate developments, including proxy proposals submitted to shareholders, and notifying the Proxy Coordinator of circumstances where the interests of Fund shareholders may warrant a vote contrary to these guidelines. In such instances, the investment professionals will submit a written recommendation to the Proxy Coordinator and the person or persons designated by Putnam Management's Legal and Compliance Department to assist in processing referral items pursuant to the Funds' "Proxy Voting Procedures." The Proxy Coordinator, in consultation with the Senior Vice President, Executive Vice President and/or the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, as appropriate, will determine how the Funds' proxies will be voted. When indicated, the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee may consult with other members of the Committee or the full board of Trustees.

The following guidelines are grouped according to the types of proposals generally presented to shareholders. Part I deals with proposals which have been approved and recommended by a company's board of directors. Part II deals with proposals submitted by shareholders for inclusion in proxy statements. Part III addresses unique considerations pertaining to foreign issuers.

I. Board-Approved Proposals

The vast majority of matters presented to shareholders for a vote

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

involve proposals made by a company itself (sometimes referred to as "management proposals"), which have been approved and recommended by its board of directors. In view of the enhanced corporate governance practices currently being implemented in public companies and the Funds' intent to hold corporate boards accountable for their actions in promoting shareholder interests, the Funds' proxies generally will be voted in support of decisions reached by independent boards of directors. Accordingly, the Funds' proxies will be voted for board-approved proposals, except as follows:

A. Matters Relating to the Board of Directors

The board of directors has the important role of overseeing management and its performance on behalf of shareholders. The Funds' proxies will be voted for the election of the company's nominees for directors and for board-approved proposals on other matters relating to the board of directors (provided that such nominees and other matters have been approved by an independent nominating committee), except as follows:

- * The Funds will withhold votes for the entire board of directors if
- * The board does not have a majority of independent directors; or
- * The board does not have nominating, audit and compensation committees composed solely of independent directors.

Commentary: While these requirements will likely become mandatory for most public companies in the near future as a result of pending NYSE and NASDAQ rule proposals, the Funds' Trustees believe that there is no excuse for public company boards that fail to implement these vital governance reforms at their next annual meeting. For these purposes, an "independent director" is a director who meets all requirements to serve as an independent director of a company under the pending NYSE rule proposals (i.e., no material business relationships with the company, no present or recent employment relationship with the company (including employment of immediate family members) and, in the case of audit committee members, no compensation for non-board services). As indicated below, the Funds will generally vote on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals where the board fails to meet these basic independence standards.

- * The Funds will withhold votes for any nominee for director who is considered an independent director by the company and who has received compensation from the company other than for service as a director (e.g., investment banking, consulting, legal or financial advisory fees).

Commentary: The Funds' Trustees believe that receipt of compensation for services other than service as a director raises significant independence issues. The Funds will withhold votes for any nominee for director who is considered an independent director by the company and who receives such compensation.

- * The Funds will withhold votes for the entire board of directors if the board has more than 19 members or fewer than five members, absent special circumstances.

Commentary: The Funds' Trustees believe that the size of the board of directors can have a direct impact on the ability of the board to govern effectively. Boards that have too many members can be unwieldy and ultimately inhibit their ability to oversee management performance. Boards that have too few members can stifle innovation and lead to

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

excessive influence by management.

* The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis in contested elections of directors.

* The Funds will withhold votes for any nominee for director who attends less than 75% of board and committee meetings without valid reasons for the absences (i.e., illness, personal emergency, etc.).

Commentary: Being a director of a company requires a significant time commitment to adequately prepare for and attend the company's board and committee meetings. Directors must be able to commit the time and attention necessary to perform their fiduciary duties in proper fashion, particularly in times of crisis.

The Funds' Trustees are concerned about over-committed directors. In some cases, directors may serve on too many boards to make a meaningful contribution. This may be particularly true for senior executives of public companies (or other directors with substantially full-time employment) who serve on more than a few outside boards. The Funds may withhold votes from such directors on a case-by-case basis where it appears that they may be unable to discharge their duties properly because of excessive commitments.

* The Funds will withhold votes for any nominee for director of a public company (Company A) who is employed as a senior executive of another public company (Company B) if a director of Company B serves as a senior executive of Company A (commonly referred to as an "interlocking directorate").

Commentary: The Funds' Trustees believe that interlocking directorships are inconsistent with the degree of independence required for outside directors of public companies.

Board independence depends not only on its members' individual relationships, but also the board's overall attitude toward management. Independent boards are committed to good corporate governance practices and, by providing objective independent judgment, enhancing shareholder value. The Funds may withhold votes on a case-by-case basis from some or all directors that, through their lack of independence, have failed to observe good corporate governance practices or, through specific corporate action, have demonstrated a disregard for the interest of shareholders.

* The Funds will vote against proposals to classify a board, absent special circumstances indicating that shareholder interests would be better served by this structure.

Commentary: Under a typical classified board structure, the directors are divided into three classes, with each class serving a three-year term. The classified board structure results in directors serving staggered terms, with usually only a third of the directors up for re-election at any given annual meeting. The Funds' Trustees generally believe that it is appropriate for directors to stand for election each year, but recognize that, in special circumstances, shareholder interests may be better served under a classified board structure.

B. Executive Compensation

The Funds generally favor compensation programs that relate executive compensation to a company's long-term performance. The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals relating to

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

executive compensation, except as follows:

* Except where the Funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors, the Funds will vote for stock option plans which will result in an average annual dilution of 1.67% or less (including all equity-based plans).

* The Funds will vote against stock option plans that permit replacing or repricing of underwater options (and against any proposal to authorize such replacement or repricing of underwater options).

* The Funds will vote against stock option plans that permit issuance of options with an exercise price below the stock's current market price.

* Except where the Funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors, the Funds will vote for employee stock purchase plans that have the following features: (1) the shares purchased under the plan are acquired for no less than 85% of their market value, (2) the offering period under the plan is 27 months or less, and (3) dilution is 10% or less.

Commentary: Companies should have compensation programs that are reasonable and that align shareholder and management interests over the longer term. Further, disclosure of compensation programs should provide absolute transparency to shareholders regarding the sources and amounts of, and the factors influencing, executive compensation. Appropriately designed equity-based compensation plans can be an effective way to align the interests of long-term shareholders with the interests of management. The Funds may vote against executive compensation proposals on a case-by-case basis where compensation is excessive by reasonable corporate standards, or where a company fails to provide transparent disclosure of executive compensation. In voting on proposals relating to executive compensation, the Funds will consider whether the proposal has been approved by an independent compensation committee of the board.

C. Capitalization

Many proxy proposals involve changes in a company's capitalization, including the authorization of additional stock, the repurchase of outstanding stock or the approval of a stock split. The management of a company's capital structure involves a number of important issues, including cash flow, financing needs and market conditions that are unique to the circumstances of each company. As a result, the Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals involving changes to a company's capitalization, except that where the Funds are not otherwise withholding votes from the entire board of directors:

* The Funds will vote for proposals relating to the authorization of additional common stock (except where such proposals relate to a specific transaction).

* The Funds will vote for proposals to effect stock splits (excluding reverse stock splits.)

* The Funds will vote for proposals authorizing share repurchase programs.

Commentary: A company may decide to authorize additional shares of common stock for reasons relating to executive compensation or for routine business purposes. For the most part, these decisions are best left to the board of directors and senior management. The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis, however, on other proposals to change a

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

company's capitalization, including the authorization of common stock with special voting rights, the authorization or issuance of common stock in connection with a specific transaction (e.g., an acquisition, merger or reorganization) or the authorization or issuance of preferred stock. Actions such as these involve a number of considerations that may impact a shareholder's investment and warrant a case-by-case determination.

D. Acquisitions, Mergers, Reincorporations, Reorganizations and Other Transactions

Shareholders may be confronted with a number of different types of transactions, including acquisitions, mergers, reorganizations involving business combinations, liquidations and sale of all or substantially all of a company's assets, which may require their consent. Voting on such proposals involves considerations unique to each transaction. As a result, the Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on board-approved proposals to effect these types of transactions, except as follows:

* The Funds will vote for mergers and reorganizations involving business combinations designed solely to reincorporate a company in Delaware.

Commentary: A company may reincorporate into another state through a merger or reorganization by setting up a "shell" company in a different state and then merging the company into the new company. While reincorporation into states with extensive and established corporate laws - notably Delaware - provides companies and shareholders with a more well-defined legal framework, generally speaking, shareholders must carefully consider the reasons for a reincorporation into another jurisdiction, including especially offshore jurisdictions.

E. Anti-Takeover Measures

Some proxy proposals involve efforts by management to make it more difficult for an outside party to take control of the company without the approval of the company's board of directors. These include adoption of a shareholder rights plan, requiring supermajority voting on particular issues, adoption of fair price provisions, issuance of blank check preferred stock and creating a separate class of stock with disparate voting rights. Such proposals may adversely affect shareholder rights, lead to management entrenchment, or create conflicts of interest. As a result, the Funds will vote against board-approved proposals to adopt such anti-takeover measures, except as follows:

* The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to ratify or approve shareholder rights plans (commonly referred to as "poison pills"); and

* The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to adopt fair price provisions.

Commentary: The Funds' Trustees recognize that poison pills and fair price provisions may enhance shareholder value under certain circumstances. As a result, the Funds will consider proposals to approve such matters on a case-by-case basis.

F. Other Business Matters

Many proxies involve approval of routine business matters, such as changing the company's name, ratifying the appointment of auditors and procedural matters relating to the shareholder meeting. For the most part, these routine matters do not materially affect shareholder

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

interests and are best left to the board of directors and senior management of the company. The Funds will vote for board-approved proposals approving such matters, except as follows:

* The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to amend a company's charter or bylaws (except for charter amendments necessary or to effect stock splits to change a company's name or to authorize additional shares of common stock).

* The Funds will vote against authorization to transact other unidentified, substantive business at the meeting.

* The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on other business matters where the Funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors.

Commentary: Charter and bylaw amendments and the transaction of other unidentified, substantive business at a shareholder meeting may directly affect shareholder rights and have a significant impact on shareholder value. As a result, the Funds do not view such items as routine business matters. Putnam Management's investment professionals and the Funds' proxy voting service may also bring to the Proxy Coordinator's attention company-specific items which they believe to be non-routine and warranting special consideration. Under these circumstances, the Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis.

II. Shareholder Proposals

SEC regulations permit shareholders to submit proposals for inclusion in a company's proxy statement. These proposals generally seek to change some aspect of a company's corporate governance structure or to change some aspect of its business operations. The Funds will vote in accordance with the recommendation of the company's board of directors on all shareholder proposals, except as follows:

* The Funds will vote for shareholder proposals to declassify a board, absent special circumstances which would indicate that shareholder interests are better served by a classified board structure.

* The Funds will vote for shareholder proposals to require shareholder approval of shareholder rights plans.

* The Funds will vote for shareholder proposals that are consistent with the Fund's proxy voting guidelines for board-approved proposals.

* The Funds will vote on a case-by-case basis on other shareholder proposals where the Funds are otherwise withholding votes for the entire board of directors.

Commentary: In light of the substantial reforms in corporate governance that are currently underway, the Funds' Trustees believe that effective corporate reforms should be promoted by holding boards of directors - and in particular, their independent directors - accountable for their actions, rather than imposing additional legal restrictions on board governance through piecemeal proposals. Generally speaking, shareholder proposals relating to business operations are often motivated primarily by political or social concerns, rather than the interests of shareholders as investors in an economic enterprise. As stated above, the Funds' Trustees believe that boards of directors and management are responsible for ensuring that their businesses are operating in accordance with high legal and ethical standards and should be held accountable for resulting corporate behavior. Accordingly, the Funds

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

will generally support the recommendations of boards that meet the basic independence and governance standards established in these guidelines. Where boards fail to meet these standards, the Funds will generally evaluate shareholder proposals on a case-by-case basis.

III. Voting Shares of Foreign Issuers

Many of the Funds invest on a global basis and, as a result, they may be required to vote shares held in foreign issuers - i.e., issuers that are incorporated under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction and that are not listed a U.S. securities exchange or the NASDAQ stock market. Because foreign issuers are incorporated under the laws of countries and jurisdictions outside the U.S., protection for shareholders may vary significantly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Laws governing foreign issuers may, in some cases, provide substantially less protection for shareholders. As a result, the foregoing guidelines, which are premised on the existence of a sound corporate governance and disclosure framework, may not be appropriate under some circumstances for foreign issuers. The Funds will vote proxies of foreign issuers in accordance with the foregoing guidelines where applicable, except as follows:

- * The Funds will vote for shareholder proposals calling for a majority of the directors to be independent of management.
- * The Funds will vote for shareholder proposals seeking to increase the independence of board nominating, audit and compensation committees.
- * The Funds will vote for shareholder proposals that implement corporate governance standards similar to those established under U.S. federal law and the listing requirements of U.S. stock exchanges, and that do not otherwise violate the laws of the jurisdiction under which the company is incorporated.
- * The Funds will vote on case-by-case basis on proposals relating to (1) the issuance of common stock in excess of 20% of a company's outstanding common stock where shareholders do not have preemptive rights, or (2) the issuance of common stock in excess of 100% of a company's outstanding common stock where shareholders have preemptive rights.

Commentary: In many non-U.S. markets, shareholders who vote proxies for shares of a foreign issuer are not able to trade in that company's stock within a given period of time on or around the shareholder meeting date. This practice is known as "share blocking." In countries where share blocking is practiced, the Funds will vote proxies only with direction from Putnam Management's investment professionals.

As adopted March 14, 2003

Proxy Voting Procedures of the Putnam Funds

The Role of the Funds' Trustees

The Trustees of the Putnam Funds exercise control of the voting of proxies through their Board Policy and Nominating Committee, which is composed entirely of independent Trustees. The Board Policy and Nominating Committee oversees the proxy voting process and participates, as needed, in the resolution of issues which need to be handled on a

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

case-by-case basis. The Committee annually reviews and recommends for approval by the Trustees guidelines governing the Funds' proxy votes, including how the Funds vote on specific proposals and which matters are to be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Trustees are assisted in this process by their independent administrative staff ("Fund Administration"), independent legal counsel, and an independent proxy voting service. The Trustees also receive assistance from Putnam Investment Management, LLC ("Putnam Management"), the Funds' investment adviser, on matters involving investment judgments. In all cases, the ultimate decision on voting proxies rests with the Trustees, acting as fiduciaries on behalf of the shareholders of the Funds.

The Role of the Proxy Voting Service

The Funds have engaged an independent proxy voting service to assist in the voting of proxies. The proxy voting service is responsible for coordinating with the Funds' custodians to ensure that all proxy materials received by the custodians relating to the Funds' portfolio securities are processed in a timely fashion. To the extent applicable, the proxy voting service votes all proxies in accordance with the proxy voting guidelines established by the Trustees. The proxy voting service will refer proxy questions to the Proxy Coordinator (described below) for instructions under circumstances where: (1) the application of the proxy voting guidelines is unclear, (2) a particular proxy question is not covered by the guidelines, or (3) the guidelines call for specific instructions on a case-by-case basis. The proxy voting service is also requested to call to the Proxy Coordinator's attention specific proxy questions which, while governed by a guideline, appear to involve unusual or controversial issues. The Funds also utilize research services relating to proxy questions provided by the proxy voting service and by other firms.

The Role of the Proxy Coordinator

Each year, a member of Fund Administration is appointed Proxy Coordinator to assist in the coordination and voting of the Funds' proxies. The Proxy Coordinator will deal directly with the proxy voting service and, in the case of proxy questions referred by the proxy voting service, will solicit voting recommendations and instructions from Fund Administration, the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee, and Putnam Management's investment professionals, as appropriate. The Proxy Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that these questions and referrals are responded to in a timely fashion and for transmitting appropriate voting instructions to the proxy voting service.

Voting Procedures for Referral Items

As discussed above, the proxy voting service will refer proxy questions to the Proxy Coordinator under certain circumstances. When the application of the proxy voting guidelines is unclear or a particular proxy question is not covered by the guidelines (and does not involve investment considerations), the Proxy Coordinator will assist in interpreting the guidelines and, as appropriate, consult with the Senior Vice President of Fund Administration, the Executive Vice President of Fund Administration and the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee on how the Funds' shares will be voted.

For proxy questions that require a case-by-case analysis pursuant to the guidelines or that are not covered by the guidelines but involve investment considerations, the Proxy Coordinator will refer such questions, through a written request, to Putnam Management's investment professionals for a voting recommendation. Such referrals will be made

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

in cooperation with the person or persons designated by Putnam Management's Legal and Compliance Department to assist in processing such referral items. In connection with each such referral item, the Legal and Compliance Department will conduct a conflicts of interest review, as described below under "Conflicts of Interest," and provide a conflicts of interest report (the "Conflicts Report") to the Proxy Coordinator describing the results of such review. After receiving a referral item from the Proxy Coordinator, Putnam Management's investment professionals will provide a written recommendation to the Proxy Coordinator and the person or persons designated by the Legal and Compliance Department to assist in processing referral items. Such recommendation will set forth (1) how the proxies should be voted, (2) the basis and rationale for such recommendation, and (3) any contacts the investment professionals have had with respect to the referral item with non-investment personnel of Putnam Management or with outside parties (except for routine communications from proxy solicitors). The Proxy Coordinator will then review the investment professionals' recommendation and the Conflicts Report with the Senior Vice President and/or Executive Vice President in determining how to vote the Funds' proxies. The Proxy Coordinator will maintain a record of all proxy questions that have been referred to Putnam Management's investment professionals, the voting recommendation and the Conflicts Report.

In some situations, the Proxy Coordinator, the Senior Vice President and/or the Executive Vice President may determine that a particular proxy question raises policy issues requiring consultation with the Chair of the Board Policy and Nominating Committee who, in turn, may decide to bring the particular proxy question to the Committee or the full board of Trustees for consideration.

Conflicts of Interest

Occasions may arise where a person or organization involved in the proxy voting process may have a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest may exist, for example, if Putnam Management has a business relationship with (or is actively soliciting business from) either the company soliciting the proxy or a third party that has a material interest in the outcome of a proxy vote or that is actively lobbying for a particular outcome of a proxy vote. Any individual with knowledge of a personal conflict of interest (e.g., familial relationship with company management) relating to a particular referral item shall disclose that conflict to the Proxy Coordinator and the Legal and Compliance Department and otherwise remove himself or herself from the proxy voting process. The Legal and Compliance Department will review each item referred to Putnam Management's investment professionals to determine if a conflict of interest exists and will provide the Proxy Coordinator with a Conflicts Report for each referral item that (1) describes any conflict of interest; (2) discusses the procedures used to address such conflict of interest; and (3) discloses any contacts from parties outside Putnam Management (other than routine communications from proxy solicitors) with respect to the referral item not otherwise reported in an investment professional's recommendation. The Conflicts Report will also include written confirmation that any recommendation from an investment professional provided under circumstances where a conflict of interest exists was made solely on the investment merits and without regard to any other consideration.

As adopted March 14, 2003

Item 8. Purchases of Equity Securities by Closed-End Management Investment

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-CSR

Charles E. Porter
Principal Executive Officer

Date: September 27, 2004

By (Signature and Title):

/s/Steven D. Krichmar

Steven D. Krichmar
Principal Financial Officer

Date: September 27, 2004