

PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST
Form N-Q
December 29, 2015

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-Q

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF
REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY**

| | |
|---|--|
| Investment Company Act file number: | (811-05452) |
| Exact name of registrant as specified in charter: | Putnam Premier Income Trust |
| Address of principal executive offices: | One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109 |
| Name and address of agent for service: | Robert T. Burns, Vice President One Post Office Square Boston, Massachusetts 02109 |
| Copy to: | Bryan Chegwiddden, Esq. Ropes & Gray LLP 1211 Avenue of the Americas New York, New York 10036 |
| Registrant's telephone number, including area code: | (617) 292-1000 |
| Date of fiscal year end: | July 31, 2016 |
| Date of reporting period: | October 31, 2015 |

Item 1. Schedule of Investments:

Putnam Premier Income Trust

The fund's portfolio
10/31/15 (Unaudited)

U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY MORTGAGE OBLIGATIONS (78.0%)(a)

Principal
amount Value

FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 10/31/15 (aggregate face value \$236,928,126) (Unaudited)

| Counterparty | Currency | Contract type | Delivery date | Value | Aggregate face value | Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|---|
| Bank of America N.A. | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | \$549,626 | \$545,885 | \$3,741 |
| | Chilean Peso | Sell | 1/20/16 | 510,051 | 511,073 | 1,022 |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 2,899,557 | 2,985,560 | 86,003 |
| | Mexican Peso | Buy | 1/20/16 | 3,217,574 | 3,119,176 | 98,398 |
| | New Taiwan Dollar | Buy | 11/18/15 | 6,431,665 | 6,492,155 | (60,490) |
| | New Taiwan Dollar | Sell | 11/18/15 | 6,516,073 | 6,474,455 | (41,618) |
| | New Zealand Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,919,550 | 1,815,041 | 104,509 |
| | Norwegian Krone | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,223,053 | 1,230,888 | 7,835 |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,100,942 | 1,091,477 | (9,465) |
| Barclays Bank PLC | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 208,845 | 207,407 | 1,438 |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 7,060,726 | 7,216,566 | 155,840 |
| | Japanese Yen | Buy | 11/18/15 | 6,639,840 | 6,593,465 | 46,375 |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 6,639,840 | 6,646,334 | 6,494 |
| | Mexican Peso | Buy | 1/20/16 | 3,124,653 | 3,025,709 | 98,944 |
| | New Zealand Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 1,410,691 | 1,341,038 | (69,653) |
| | Norwegian Krone | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,650,941 | 1,656,546 | 5,605 |
| | Singapore Dollar | Buy | 11/18/15 | 3,496,469 | 3,481,882 | 14,587 |
| | Singapore Dollar | Sell | 11/18/15 | 3,496,469 | 3,547,978 | 51,509 |
| | Swedish Krona | Buy | 12/16/15 | 1,285,048 | 1,383,363 | (98,315) |

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| | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Citibank, N.A. | Swiss Franc | Buy | 12/16/15 | 2,647,790 | 2,693,880 | (46,090) |
| | Brazilian Real | Sell | 1/5/16 | 104,050 | 102,390 | (1,660) |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 1,386,241 | 1,376,604 | 9,637 |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 329,253 | 325,426 | (3,827) |
| | Euro | Buy | 12/16/15 | 230,644 | 237,414 | (6,770) |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 1,419,787 | 1,381,996 | (37,791) |
| | Mexican Peso | Buy | 1/20/16 | 2,604,773 | 2,530,744 | 74,029 |
| | Norwegian Krone | Buy | 12/16/15 | 2,081,089 | 2,146,541 | (65,452) |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 3,467,131 | 3,526,120 | 58,989 |
| | Swiss Franc | Buy | 12/16/15 | 322,387 | 332,013 | (9,626) |
| Credit Suisse International | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 2,255,839 | 2,240,221 | 15,618 |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 1,084,616 | 1,068,856 | (15,760) |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 2,847,289 | 2,943,948 | 96,659 |
| | Indian Rupee | Buy | 11/18/15 | 3,160,471 | 3,158,774 | 1,697 |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 262,681 | 164,678 | (98,003) |
| | New Zealand Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 138,578 | 131,091 | 7,487 |
| | Norwegian Krone | Sell | 12/16/15 | 2,773,072 | 2,858,970 | 85,898 |
| | Singapore Dollar | Buy | 11/18/15 | 3,455,589 | 3,442,575 | 13,014 |
| | Singapore Dollar | Sell | 11/18/15 | 3,455,589 | 3,506,971 | 51,382 |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 115,492 | 117,435 | 1,943 |
| | Swiss Franc | Sell | 12/16/15 | 165,145 | 167,969 | 2,824 |
| Deutsche Bank AG | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 395,188 | 392,445 | 2,743 |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 3,157,681 | 3,120,413 | (37,268) |
| | Czech Koruna | Sell | 12/16/15 | 3,131,314 | 3,204,682 | 73,368 |
| | Euro | Buy | 12/16/15 | 1,200,318 | 1,220,860 | (20,542) |
| | Israeli Shekel | Sell | 1/20/16 | 448,949 | 448,021 | (928) |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 3,146,876 | 3,063,399 | (83,477) |
| | Norwegian Krone | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,039,098 | 1,071,532 | 32,434 |
| | Polish Zloty | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,749,893 | 1,778,547 | 28,654 |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 26,878 | 27,345 | 467 |
| | Swiss Franc | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,753,474 | 1,784,411 | 30,937 |
| Goldman Sachs International | | | | | | |
| | Australian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,251,504 | 1,235,841 | 15,663 |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 3,233,328 | 3,212,089 | 21,239 |
| | Canadian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,179,027 | 1,187,863 | (8,836) |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 4,706,417 | 4,854,144 | 147,727 |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 1,603,281 | 1,658,096 | 54,815 |
| | Norwegian Krone | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,371,429 | 1,414,145 | 42,716 |
| | Swedish Krona | Buy | 12/16/15 | 1,604,412 | 1,619,666 | (15,254) |
| HSBC Bank USA, National Association | | | | | | |
| | British Pound | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,438,953 | 1,428,598 | (10,355) |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 591,998 | 585,018 | (6,980) |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 6,718,501 | 6,915,883 | 197,382 |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 75,390 | 52,362 | (23,028) |
| | New Zealand Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 904,122 | 854,897 | 49,225 |
| | Swedish Krona | Buy | 12/16/15 | 923,644 | 939,724 | (16,080) |
| JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. | | | | | | |
| | Australian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 91,778 | 90,634 | 1,144 |
| | British Pound | Sell | 12/16/15 | 727,954 | 723,108 | (4,846) |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 2,142,630 | 2,090,143 | (52,487) |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 7,044,000 | 7,196,348 | 152,348 |
| | Indian Rupee | Buy | 11/18/15 | 3,179,890 | 3,173,583 | 6,307 |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 338,664 | 532,709 | 194,045 |
| | New Taiwan Dollar | Sell | 11/18/15 | 3,237,053 | 3,303,143 | 66,090 |
| | New Zealand Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 59,862 | 56,621 | 3,241 |
| | Norwegian Krone | Sell | 12/16/15 | 395,429 | 365,852 | (29,577) |
| | Singapore Dollar | Buy | 11/18/15 | 3,562,818 | 3,549,745 | 13,073 |
| | Singapore Dollar | Sell | 11/18/15 | 3,562,818 | 3,612,882 | 50,064 |
| | South African Rand | Buy | 1/20/16 | 939,138 | 926,171 | 12,967 |

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| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| | South Korean Won | Sell | 11/18/15 | 140,955 | 125,349 | (15,606) |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,964,690 | 2,062,115 | 97,425 |
| | Swiss Franc | Buy | 12/16/15 | 335,254 | 341,264 | (6,010) |
| Royal Bank of Scotland PLC (The) | | | | | | |
| | Australian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,554,684 | 1,573,649 | (18,965) |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 2,171,992 | 2,134,922 | 37,070 |
| | Canadian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,714,380 | 1,753,388 | (39,008) |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 5,832,348 | 5,971,304 | 138,956 |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 1,592,953 | 1,690,059 | 97,106 |
| | New Zealand Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,772,757 | 1,730,356 | 42,401 |
| | Norwegian Krone | Sell | 12/16/15 | 656,618 | 637,216 | (19,402) |
| | Singapore Dollar | Buy | 11/18/15 | 1,710,244 | 1,689,240 | 21,004 |
| | Singapore Dollar | Sell | 11/18/15 | 1,710,244 | 1,735,906 | 25,662 |
| | South Korean Won | Sell | 11/18/15 | 32,598 | 56,237 | 23,639 |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,036,406 | 984,076 | (52,330) |
| State Street Bank and Trust Co. | | | | | | |
| | Australian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,144,596 | 1,130,134 | 14,462 |
| | Brazilian Real | Buy | 1/5/16 | 676,553 | 614,856 | 61,697 |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 346,021 | 343,620 | 2,401 |
| | Canadian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 2,050,284 | 2,047,385 | 2,899 |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 7,254,176 | 7,370,756 | 116,580 |
| | Hungarian Forint | Buy | 12/16/15 | 3,361,563 | 3,370,555 | (8,992) |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 557,753 | 474,165 | (83,588) |
| | Norwegian Krone | Buy | 12/16/15 | 47,456 | 48,939 | (1,483) |
| | Singapore Dollar | Buy | 11/18/15 | 4,981,981 | 4,948,823 | 33,158 |
| | Singapore Dollar | Sell | 11/18/15 | 4,981,981 | 5,045,041 | 63,060 |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 1,013,207 | 1,030,808 | 17,601 |
| | Swiss Franc | Sell | 12/16/15 | 688,948 | 700,767 | 11,819 |
| UBS AG | | | | | | |
| | Australian Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,698,744 | 1,746,842 | (48,098) |
| | British Pound | Buy | 12/16/15 | 2,788,048 | 2,768,657 | 19,391 |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 1,842,503 | 1,821,521 | (20,982) |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 5,058,105 | 5,207,396 | 149,291 |
| | Israeli Shekel | Sell | 1/20/16 | 17,641 | 17,397 | (244) |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 1,314,493 | 1,279,211 | (35,282) |
| | Norwegian Krone | Buy | 12/16/15 | 41,587 | 42,858 | (1,271) |
| | Swedish Krona | Sell | 12/16/15 | 137,601 | 87,410 | (50,191) |
| WestPac Banking Corp. | | | | | | |
| | Canadian Dollar | Sell | 1/20/16 | 107,713 | 108,187 | 474 |
| | Euro | Sell | 12/16/15 | 4,278,691 | 4,404,414 | 125,723 |
| | Japanese Yen | Buy | 11/18/15 | 3,466,992 | 3,356,635 | 110,357 |
| | Japanese Yen | Sell | 11/18/15 | 3,466,992 | 3,473,976 | 6,984 |
| | New Zealand Dollar | Buy | 1/20/16 | 1,583,880 | 1,476,027 | 107,853 |
| | South Korean Won | Sell | 11/18/15 | 29,818 | 15,131 | (14,687) |
| Total | | | | | | \$2,334,822 |

FUTURES CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15 (Unaudited)

| | Number of contracts | Value | Expiration date | Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---|
| Euro-Bund 10 yr (Long) | 10 | \$1,728,760 | Dec-15 | \$37,800 |
| U.S. Treasury Bond 30 yr (Long) | 54 | 8,447,625 | Dec-15 | (10,574) |
| U.S. Treasury Bond Ultra 30 yr (Long) | 48 | 7,668,000 | Dec-15 | 20,200 |
| U.S. Treasury Note 10 yr (Short) | 304 | 38,817,000 | Dec-15 | (182,456) |
| Total | | | | \$(135,030) |

WRITTEN SWAP OPTIONS OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15 (premiums \$10,128,356) (Unaudited)

| Counterparty | Fixed Obligation % to receive or (pay)/ Floating rate index/Maturity date | Expiration date/strike | Contract amount | Value |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bank of America N.A. | | | | |
| | 1.798/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Dec-17 | Dec-15/1.798 | \$209,244,000 | \$2091.278/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Dec-17 | Dec-15/1.278 | 52,311,000 | 2,616 |
| Citibank, N.A. | 2.587/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/May-18 | May-16/2.587 | 87,981,400 | 6,159.238/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/May-18 | May-16/2.387 | 87,981,400 | 1,438 |
| Credit Suisse International | 2.515/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Apr-47 | Apr-17/2.515 | 159,241,300 | 887,424 |
| Goldman Sachs International | 2.58625/3 month | | | |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Jun-18 | Jun-16/2.58625 | 175,962,800 | 12,317(1.885)/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Jan-46 | Jan-16/1.885 | 8,552,050 | 19,328.29/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 | Nov-15/2.294 | 1,967,600 | 47,843(0.725)/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Dec-17 | Dec-15/0.725 | 226,793,700 | 88,450(0.8125)/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Dec-17 | Dec-15/0.8125 | 226,793,700 | 185,971(1.435)/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-20 | Nov-15/1.435 | 166,457,000 | 324,591(2.29)/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 | Nov-15/2.294 | 1,967,600 | 844,808 |
| JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. | (0.83)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Dec-17 | Dec-15/0.83 | 106,366,500 | 89,348(0.905)/3 month |
| | month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Dec-17 | Dec-15/0.905 | 106,366,500 | 158,484(2.023)/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 | Nov-15/2.023 | 41,614,200 | 203,077.2/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 | Nov-15/2.023 | 41,614,200 | 459,421(6.00 Floor)/3 month |
| | USD-LIBOR-BBA/Mar-18 | Mar-18/6.00 | 26,070,000 | 3,346,241 |
| Total | | | | \$6,687,725 |

**WRITTEN OPTIONS OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15 (premiums \$1,056,563)
(Unaudited)**

| | Expiration date/strike price | Contract amount | Value |
|--|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/\$99.98 | \$21,000,000 | \$43,491 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/99.92 | 21,000,000 | 40,467 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/99.86 | 21,000,000 | 37,611 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/99.77 | 21,000,000 | 33,684 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/99.19 | 21,000,000 | 16,527 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/99.03 | 21,000,000 | 13,545 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/98.98 | 21,000,000 | 12,747 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association 30 yr 3.0s TBA commitments (Put) | Dec-15/98.86 | 21,000,000 | 10,836 |
| Total | | | \$208,908 |

FORWARD PREMIUM SWAP OPTION CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15 (Unaudited)

| Counterparty | | | Premium | Unrealized |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Fixed right or obligation % to receive or (pay)/ | Expiration | Contract | receivable/ | appreciation/ |
| Floating rate index/Maturity date | date/strike | amount | (payable) | (depreciation) |
| Bank of America N.A. | | | | |
| 2.00/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 (Purchased) | Nov-15/2.00 | \$83,228,400 | \$(332,914) | \$24,969 |
| (2.238)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 (Purchased) | Nov-15/2.238 | 83,228,400 | (332,914) | (98,210) |
| 2.119/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 (Written) | Nov-15/2.119 | 41,614,200 | 332,914 | 71,701 |
| (2.119)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-25 (Written) | Nov-15/2.119 | 41,614,200 | 332,914 | (51,976) |
| Citibank, N.A. | | | | |
| 1.475/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-20 (Purchased) | Nov-15/1.475 | 83,228,400 | (220,555) | 4,161 |
| 1.399/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-20 (Purchased) | Nov-15/1.399 | 83,228,400 | (124,843) | 2,497 |
| (1.551)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Nov-20 (Written) | Nov-15/1.551 | 83,228,400 | 345,398 | (20,807) |
| JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. | | | | |
| 2.117/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-27 (Purchased) | Feb-17/2.117 | 11,591,775 | (284,033) | (2,202) |
| 2.035/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-27 (Purchased) | Feb-17/2.035 | 11,591,775 | (294,535) | (43,817) |
| 1.00/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Apr-27 (Purchased) | Apr-17/1.00 | 21,148,700 | (139,835) | (55,811) |
| 1.00/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Apr-27 (Purchased) | Apr-17/1.00 | 42,297,400 | (297,139) | (128,965) |
| (3.035)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-27 (Purchased) | Feb-17/3.035 | 11,591,775 | (308,434) | (150,287) |
| (3.117)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-27 (Purchased) | Feb-17/3.117 | 11,591,775 | (324,570) | (186,709) |
| 2.655/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-19 (Written) | Feb-17/2.655 | 50,772,000 | 336,365 | 270,412 |
| 2.56/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-19 (Written) | Feb-17/2.56 | 50,772,000 | 324,570 | 246,244 |
| (1.00)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Apr-19 (Written) | Apr-17/1.00 | 84,594,800 | 270,703 | 28,762 |
| | Apr-17/1.00 | 42,297,400 | 129,515 | 9,728 |

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|---|--------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| (1.00)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Apr-19 (Written) | | | | |
| (1.56)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-19 (Written) | Feb-17/1.56 | 50,772,000 | 292,309 | (79,204) |
| (1.655)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Feb-19 (Written) | Feb-17/1.655 | 50,772,000 | 289,400 | (134,546) |
| Total | | | \$(5,684) | \$(294,060) |

TBA SALE COMMITMENTS OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15 (proceeds receivable \$254,950,664) (Unaudited)

| Agency | Principal amount | Settlement date | Value |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Federal National Mortgage Association, 5 1/2s, November 1, 2045 | \$5,000,000 | 11/12/15 | \$5,585,938 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association, 3 1/2s, November 1, 2045 | 55,000,000 | 11/12/15 | 57,247,267 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association, 3s, December 1, 2045 | 1,000,000 | 12/10/15 | 1,008,672 |
| Federal National Mortgage Association, 3s, November 1, 2045 | 188,000,000 | 11/12/15 | 190,041,567 |
| Total | | | \$253,883,444 |

**OTC INTEREST RATE SWAP CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at
10/31/15 (Unaudited)**

**CENTRALLY CLEARED INTEREST RATE SWAP CONTRACTS
OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15 (Unaudited)**

**OTC TOTAL RETURN SWAP CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15
(Unaudited)**

**OTC CREDIT DEFAULT CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 10/31/15
(Unaudited)**

Key to holding's currency abbreviations

| | |
|-----|--------------------|
| AUD | Australian Dollar |
| BRL | Brazilian Real |
| CAD | Canadian Dollar |
| CHF | Swiss Franc |
| CLP | Chilean Peso |
| EUR | Euro |
| GBP | British Pound |
| JPY | Japanese Yen |
| KRW | South Korean Won |
| MXN | Mexican Peso |
| NOK | Norwegian Krone |
| NZD | New Zealand Dollar |
| PLN | Polish Zloty |
| SEK | Swedish Krona |
| ZAR | South African Rand |

Key to holding's abbreviations

| | |
|-----|---|
| ARP | Adjustable Rate Preferred Stock: the rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period |
| bp | Basis Points |

- EMTN Euro Medium Term Notes
- FRB Floating Rate Bonds: the rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period
- FRN Floating Rate Notes: the rate shown is the current interest rate or yield at the close of the reporting period
- IFB Inverse Floating Rate Bonds, which are securities that pay interest rates that vary inversely to changes in the market interest rates. As interest rates rise, inverse floaters produce less current income. The rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period.
- IO Interest Only
- OAO Open Joint Stock Company
- OJSC Open Joint Stock Company
- PO Principal Only
- REGS Securities sold under Regulation S may not be offered, sold or delivered within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933.
- TBA To Be Announced Commitments

Notes to the fund's portfolio

Unless noted otherwise, the notes to the fund's portfolio are for the close of the fund's reporting period, which ran from August 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015 (the reporting period). Within the following notes to the portfolio, references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, references to "Putnam Management" represent Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund's manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC and references to "OTC", if any, represent over-the-counter.

- (a) Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$637,553,151.
- (b) The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$1,175,505,307, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$9,880,679 and \$49,438,219, respectively, or net unrealized depreciation of \$39,557,540.
- (NON) This security is non-income-producing.
- (STP) The interest rate and date shown parenthetically represent the new interest rate to be paid and the date the fund will begin accruing interest at this rate.
- (PIK) Income may be received in cash or additional securities at the discretion of the issuer.
- (AFF) Affiliated company. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period. Transactions during the period with Putnam Short Term Investment Fund, which is under common ownership and control, were as follows:

| Name of affiliate | Fair value at the beginning of the reporting period | Purchase cost | Sale proceeds | Investment income | Fair value at the end of the reporting period |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---|
| Putnam Short Term Investment Fund* | \$28,926,448 | \$60,360,695 | \$62,286,871 | \$7,628 | \$27,000,272 |

* Management fees charged to Putnam Short Term Investment Fund have been waived by Putnam Management.

- (SEG)** This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the broker to cover margin requirements for futures contracts at the close of the reporting period.
- (SEGSF)** This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the custodian for collateral on certain derivative contracts at the close of the reporting period.
- (SEGCCS)** This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the custodian for collateral on the initial margin on certain centrally cleared derivative contracts at the close of the reporting period.
- (FWC)** Forward commitment, in part or in entirety.
- (c)** Senior loans are exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but contain certain restrictions on resale and cannot be sold publicly. These loans pay interest at rates which adjust periodically. The interest rates shown for senior loans are the current interest rates at the close of the reporting period. Senior loans are also subject to mandatory and/or optional prepayment which cannot be predicted. As a result, the remaining maturity may be substantially less than the stated maturity shown. Senior loans are purchased or sold on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis and may be settled a month or more after the trade date, which from time to time can delay the actual investment of available cash balances; interest income is accrued based on the terms of the securities.
- Senior loans can be acquired through an agent, by assignment from another holder of the loan, or as a participation interest in another holder's portion of the loan. When the fund invests in a loan or participation, the fund is subject to the risk that an intermediate participant between the fund and the borrower will fail to meet its obligations to the fund, in addition to the risk that the borrower under the loan may default on its obligations.
- (F)** This security is valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. Securities may be classified as Level 2 or Level 3 for ASC 820 based on the securities' valuation inputs.
- (i)** This security was pledged, or purchased with cash that was pledged, to the fund for collateral on certain derivative contracts.
- (P)** This security was pledged, or purchased with cash that was pledged, to the fund for collateral on certain derivative contracts. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

(R) Real Estate Investment Trust.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund maintained liquid assets totaling \$386,815,491 to cover certain derivative contracts and delayed delivery securities.

Unless otherwise noted, the rates quoted in Short-term investments security descriptions represent the weighted average yield to maturity.

Debt obligations are considered secured unless otherwise indicated.

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

The dates shown on debt obligations are the original maturity dates.

DIVERSIFICATION BY COUNTRY

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

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| United States | 88.1% |
| Greece | 2.2 |
| Russia | 1.5 |
| Argentina | 1.4 |
| Venezuela | 1.0 |
| United Kingdom | 0.8 |
| Canada | 0.7 |
| Luxembourg | 0.5 |
| Mexico | 0.5 |
| Brazil | 0.5 |
| Other | 2.8 |

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

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

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

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

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

| | Valuation inputs | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Investments in securities: | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Common stocks*: | | | |
| Consumer cyclicals | \$— | \$— | \$23,241 |
| Energy | 6,715 | — | 460 |
| Total common stocks | 6,715 | — | 23,701 |
| Convertible bonds and notes | — | 362,594 | — |
| Corporate bonds and notes | — | 209,866,883 | 13 |
| Foreign government and agency bonds and notes | — | 58,720,099 | — |
| Mortgage-backed securities | — | 281,384,070 | 13,038,499 |
| Preferred stocks | 420,125 | 633,271 | — |
| Purchased options outstanding | — | 380,604 | — |
| Purchased swap options outstanding | — | 2,984,993 | — |
| Senior loans | — | 10,964,725 | — |
| U.S. government and agency mortgage obligations | — | 497,561,849 | — |
| U.S. treasury obligations | — | 462,894 | — |
| Short-term investments | 27,270,272 | 31,866,460 | — |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals by level | \$27,697,112 | \$1,095,188,442 | \$13,062,213 |

The following is a reconciliation of Level 3 assets as of the close of the reporting period:

Common stocks*:

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Consumer cyclicals | \$23,241 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| Energy | 1,836 | — | (1,376) | — | — | — | — |
| Total common stocks | \$25,077 | — | (1,376) | — | — | — | — |
| Corporate bonds and notes | \$13 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Mortgage-backed securities | \$7,399,831 | (198,895) | — | 14,724 | 6,883,341 | — | (1,060,502) |
| | | | | | | | |
| Totals | \$7,424,921 | \$(198,895) | \$— | \$13,348 | \$6,883,341 | \$— | \$(1,060,502) |

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

† Transfers during the reporting period are accounted for using the end of period market value and represent, in the aggregate, more than 1% of the fund's net assets measured as of the end of the period.

Includes \$13,348 related to Level 3 securities still held at period end.

During the reporting period, transfers between level 1 and level 2 within the fair value hierarchy, if any, (other than certain transfers involving non-U.S. equity securities as described in Note 1) did not represent, in the aggregate, more than 1% of the fund's net assets measured as of the end of the period. Transfers are accounted for using the end of period pricing valuation method.

Level 3 securities, which are fair valued by Putnam, are not material to the fund.

Fair Value of Derivative Instruments as of the close of the reporting period

| | Asset derivatives | Liability derivatives |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Derivatives not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815 | Fair value | Fair value |
| Credit contracts | \$185,516 | \$2,091,881 |
| Foreign exchange contracts | 3,625,139 | 1,290,317 |
| Interest rate contracts | 13,123,430 | 30,998,808 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Total **\$16,934,085** **\$34,381,006**

The following table summarizes any derivatives, repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements and similar agreement. For securities lending transactions, if applicable, see note "(d)" above, and for other transactions, see note "(e)" above.

| | Bank of America N.A. | Barclays Bank PLC | Barclays Capital Inc. (clearing broker) | Citibank, N.A. | Credit Suisse International | Deutsche Bank AG | Goldman Sachs International |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Assets: | | | | | | | |
| OTC Interest rate swap contracts*# | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$530,920 | \$61,100 |
| Centrally cleared interest rate swap contracts\$ | — | — | 2,473,757 | — | — | — | — |
| OTC Total return swap contracts*# | — | 145,006 | — | 26,173 | 44,994 | — | 227,400 |
| OTC Credit default contracts*# | — | — | — | — | 106,705 | — | 60,700 |
| Futures contracts\$ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Forward currency contracts# | 301,508 | 380,792 | — | 142,655 | 276,522 | 168,603 | 282,100 |
| Forward premium swap option contracts# | 96,670 | — | — | 6,658 | — | — | — |
| Purchased swap options# | 1,046 | — | — | 29,914 | 841,291 | — | 1,270 |
| Purchased options# | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total Assets | \$399,224 | \$525,798 | \$2,473,757 | \$205,400 | \$1,269,512 | \$699,523 | \$1,900,000 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| OTC Interest rate swap contracts*# | — | — | — | — | — | 2,804,199 | — |
| Centrally cleared interest rate swap contracts§ | — | — | 1,890,221 | — | — | — | — |
| OTC Total return swap contracts*# | — | 74,812 | — | — | 12,977 | 2,185 | 361,000 |
| OTC Credit default contracts*# | 23,146 | 9,054 | — | — | 1,624,080 | — | 357,000 |
| Futures contracts§ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Forward currency contracts# | 111,573 | 214,058 | — | 125,126 | 113,763 | 142,215 | 24,000 |
| Forward premium swap option contracts# | 150,186 | — | — | 20,807 | — | — | — |
| Written swap options# | 2,825 | — | — | 17,597 | 887,424 | — | 1,520,000 |
| Written options# | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total Liabilities | \$287,730 | \$297,924 | \$1,890,221 | \$163,530 | \$2,638,244 | \$2,948,599 | \$2,200,000 |
| Total Financial and Derivative Net Assets | \$111,494 | \$227,874 | \$583,536 | \$41,870 | \$(1,368,732) | \$(2,249,076) | \$(350,000) |
| Total collateral received (pledged)##† | \$111,494 | \$197,972 | \$— | \$— | \$(1,368,732) | \$(2,249,076) | \$(350,000) |
| Net amount | \$— | \$29,902 | \$583,536 | \$41,870 | \$— | \$— | \$— |

* Excludes premiums, if any.

† Additional collateral may be required from certain brokers based on individual agreements.

Covered by master netting agreement.

Any over-collateralization of total financial and derivative net assets is not shown. Collateral may

§ Includes current day's variation margin only, which is not collateralized. Cumulative appreciation fund's portfolio.

For additional information regarding the fund please see the fund's most recent annual or semi-annual report or the Commission's Web site, www.sec.gov, or visit Putnam's Individual Investor Web site at www.putnam.com.

Item 2. Controls and Procedures:

(a) The registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded, based on their evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report, that the design and operation of such procedures are generally effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed by the registrant in this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms.

(b) Changes in internal control over financial reporting: Not applicable

Item 3. Exhibits:

Separate certifications for the principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the registrant as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, are filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Putnam Premier Income Trust

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Janet C. Smith
Janet C. Smith
Principal Accounting Officer
Date: December 29, 2015

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Jonathan S. Horwitz
Jonathan S. Horwitz

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Principal Executive Officer
Date: December 29, 2015

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Steven D. Krichmar
Steven D. Krichmar
Principal Financial Officer
Date: December 29, 2015