

PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

Form N-30D

March 14, 2003

Putnam
Premier
Income
Trust

SEMIANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK

1-31-03

[GRAPHIC OMITTED: WATCH]

[SCALE LOGO OMITTED]

FROM THE TRUSTEES

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

Dear Fellow Shareholder:

Over the six months ended January 31, 2003, changing market conditions and shifts in investor sentiment demonstrated the value of Putnam Premier Income Trust's diversified approach to fixed-income investing. The fund's solid returns for the period reflect its ability to benefit from strengths in different sectors of the bond market, as well as the success of the strategic positioning devised by the management team.

For example, during the period, underperformance in the high-yield corporate bond sector initially dampened performance, but was offset by the strength of the fund's U.S. government securities holdings. Later in the period, the high-yield sector recovered and made a valuable contribution to the fund's returns.

Timely moves such as these enabled your fund to outperform its primary benchmark index at net asset value. Details can be found on page 7. In the following report, your fund's management team provides additional details about their strategy, as well as their outlook for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Meanwhile, we would like you to know how much we appreciate your continued confidence in Putnam, especially as we continue to work our way through one of the most challenging periods in recent investment history. We believe those who maintain a long-term focus and a diversified approach to investing should eventually be rewarded for their patience.

Respectfully yours,

/S/ JOHN A. HILL

/S/ GEORGE PUTNAM, III

John A. Hill
Chairman of the Trustees
March 19, 2003

George Putnam, III
President of the Funds

REPORT FROM FUND MANAGEMENT

FUND HIGHLIGHTS

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

- * For the first six months of its 2003 fiscal year, Putnam Premier Income Trust had a total return at net asset value (NAV) of 8.24%. The fund's return at market price was 13.20%.
- * With greater demand in the marketplace for higher-yielding investments, the fund's market price return exceeded its return at NAV.
- * At NAV, the fund outperformed its primary benchmark, the Lehman Government Bond Index, which returned 4.87% during the six-month period.
- * The fund slightly underperformed at NAV the average return for the Lipper Flexible Income Funds (closed-end) category, which was 8.78%.
- * See the Performance Summary on page 7 for complete fund performance, comparative index performance, and Lipper data.

* PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

The fund's solid returns were due to strategic underweighting of U.S. investment-grade bonds, which underperformed during the period, and the fund's overweighting of higher-yielding, lower-rated bonds, such as U.S. high-yield corporate bonds. These securities performed strongly from October through January.

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.

The fund's results should be considered in the context of a generally favorable period for the bond market, especially for those sectors with greater credit risk, which performed well during the final three and a half months of the period. The fund was well served by its sector diversification. The fund's U.S. investment-grade bonds performed well at the outset, benefiting from a weak stock market and a significant flight to quality. Beginning in mid October, however, lower-rated high-yield corporate bonds outperformed, and the fund's holdings of these securities benefited from this trend.

* MARKET OVERVIEW

The bond market experienced a turning point in mid October 2002, which occurred approximately at the midpoint of the fund's semi annual period. In the summer and early fall of 2002, a number of factors contributed to a highly risk-averse psychology in the market: media reports of corporate malfeasance, the prospect of war in Iraq, poor earnings, high default rates, and a significant weakening in the economy. These factors caused investors to flock to high-quality bonds, such as U.S. Treasuries, and to shun equities, U.S. corporate investment-grade bonds, and U.S. corporate high-yield bonds.

As the fourth quarter of calendar 2002 approached, investor sentiment changed. In the fourth quarter, a brighter outlook for profits and the economy also helped boost corporate investment-grade and high-yield bonds -- as well as equities -- contributing to strong returns for these fixed-income sectors from mid October through the end of January 2003. U.S. Treasuries, by comparison, did not fare as well during this period.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Overseas, the European bond markets were generally strong throughout the period, as anemic growth (especially in France and Germany) and low inflation boosted bond returns. In addition, a significant increase in the value of the euro versus the dollar over the past 18 months has helped boost European bond returns for U.S. investors. Some emerging markets performed well, such as Russia, Mexico, and Bulgaria, while others experienced sharp declines due to economic and political woes, including Argentina, Venezuela, and Brazil.

MARKET SECTOR PERFORMANCE, SIX MONTHS ENDED 1/31/03

Equities

Standard & Poor's 500 Index (broad market)	-5.26%
--	--------

Nasdaq Composite Index (technology stocks)	-0.55%
--	--------

Russell 2000 Index (small- and mid-cap stocks)	-4.44%
--	--------

Bonds

Lehman Government Bond Index	4.87%
------------------------------	-------

SSB Non-U.S. World Govt. Bond Index	10.47%
-------------------------------------	--------

JP Morgan Global High Yield Index	8.10%
-----------------------------------	-------

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.

* STRATEGY OVERVIEW

As a multi-sector fixed-income fund, Putnam Premier Income Trust's strategy worked well during the fund's semiannual period because conditions in the bond market changed drastically. As a result, the different sectors within the fund benefited at different times as market conditions varied.

During the first 10 weeks of the period, the fund's high-quality holdings performed well, offsetting the underperformance of the corporate high-yield holdings. During the latter 14 weeks of the period, when the Treasury market saw an enormous rise in yields in October and experienced a great deal of volatility thereafter, the fund's corporate high-yield holdings bolstered returns. Finally, throughout the period, the fund's foreign bonds -- in both the emerging-markets and investment-grade sectors -- performed well, exemplifying the value of geographic diversification.

A notable sector change during the period was a reduction in the fund's mortgage-backed securities (MBS) holdings and a corresponding increase in the fund's corporate investment-grade bonds.

While we believe the fund's strategy worked well during the period, it may have caused the fund to underperform other similar funds within its Lipper peer group category. For example, if the fund's emerging-markets sector weighting had been larger, the fund would have benefited more fully from the strength of these markets in the fourth calendar quarter of 2002. Similarly, within emerging markets, the fund missed the strong returns in Brazil that occurred after that country's elections in October.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

[GRAPHIC OMITTED: horizontal bar chart FUND SECTOR WEIGHTINGS]

FUND SECTOR WEIGHTINGS*

	as of 7/31/02	as of 1/31/03
U.S. investment grade	32.02%	34.49%
Corporate high yield	45.39%	44.15%
Foreign investment grade	14.13%	13.91%
Emerging markets	8.46%	7.45%

Footnote reads:

*This chart shows how the fund's sector weighings have changed over the past six months. Weighings are shown a a percentage of net assets. Holdings will vary over time.

* PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW BY SECTOR

Prior to mid October, the fund's performance was hurt by the fund's large weighting (nearly 50%) in high-yield corporate bonds. Since it is a multi-sector fund, however, the underperformance of this sector was offset by strong performance among the fund's U.S. Treasury and mortgage-backed securities (MBS) holdings. (The fund's MBS holdings consist primarily of "structured" products, including government agency bonds, asset-backed securities, commercial MBSs, and collateralized mortgage obligations.) In addition, the fund's foreign investment-grade bonds in Germany and France performed well because of weakness in those economies and the strength of the euro. In addition, the fund's holdings in Sweden, Canada, and New Zealand had solid performance during the period.

In emerging markets, the fund's performance benefited from being invested in countries that performed well, such as Russia, Mexico, and Bulgaria, and from reduced weightings in countries like Argentina, Venezuela, and Brazil, which experienced difficulties. Brazilian bonds performed well after that country's elections, and we did not capture those gains, but in general we were pleased with our security selection within the emerging-markets sector.

[GRAPHIC OMITTED: TOP SECTOR HOLDINGS]

TOP SECTOR HOLDINGS*

U.S. investment-grade

Federal National Mortgage Association,
7.5%, 8/25/42

U.S. Treasury Bonds, 7.5%, 11/15/16

Federal National Mortgage Association
TBA, 7.0%, 2/1/33

High-yield

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

HMH Properties, Inc. company guaranty
Series B, 7.875%, 2008

Echostar DBS Corp. senior notes,
10.375%, 2007

Pioneer Natural Resources Co. company
guaranty, 9.625%, 2010

International

Sweden (government of) bonds Ser.
1044, 3.5%, 2006

Sweden (government of) bonds Ser.
1037, 8.0%, 2007

Canada (government of) bonds 6.0%, 2011

Footnote reads:

*These holdings represented 13.3% of the fund's net assets as of 1/31/03.
Portfolio holdings will vary over time.

During the first 10 weeks of the period, the fund's weighting in U.S. corporate investment-grade bonds was near zero. However, after the Treasury yield spike in mid October, and the more hopeful outlook for this beleaguered sector, we began adding high-grade corporate bonds to the portfolio. The increase in this weighting benefited performance, as the sector performed very well during the final 14 weeks of the period.

The increase in corporate investment-grade bonds corresponded with a decrease in the fund's holdings of structured fixed-income investments, including commercial MBSs, collateralized mortgage obligations, government agency bonds, and asset-backed securities. We felt that the strong performance of these securities for much of the year had run its course, and we invested the proceeds from these sales in corporate investment-grade bonds.

The fund held a large weighting in corporate high-yield securities throughout the period, as we believed that this sector was due for recovery and should outperform over the next several years. While risks remain significant for this sector, with an uncertain economic recovery, weak corporate spending, high default rates, and slow profit growth, we are managing these risks by maintaining a high level of diversity and not investing too much in any one holding. The fund's large high-yield weighting was a major factor in its strong performance during the period because high-yield bonds outperformed most other fixed-income sectors from mid October through the end of January. Please note that all sector weightings discussed in this report are subject to review in accordance with the fund's investment strategy and may vary in the future.

* THE FUND'S MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

THE OUTLOOK FOR YOUR FUND

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

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.

Looking toward the remainder of 2003, we believe that European government and government agency bonds will continue to outperform U.S. Treasuries, and that the euro will continue rising versus the dollar. As a result, we anticipate maintaining an overweighted position in Europe and de-emphasizing U.S. Treasuries. We also anticipate that we will keep the fund's high-yield exposure at current levels because of our positive views on this sector. Several factors support this view: Default rates are beginning to decrease, companies are retiring debt, and investors are seeking securities with greater yield potential.

We are reducing the fund's corporate investment-grade weighting, as we believe that there are too many uncertainties surrounding the U.S. economy and among individual bonds in this sector. Finally, we have shortened the fund's duration as a precautionary measure against a rise in interest rates this year. (Duration is a measure of interest-rate sensitivity; the shorter a fund's duration, the less sensitive it will be to changes in interest rates.) We anticipate that the other sector weightings will remain the same, but, as always, will make adjustments as conditions warrant.

The views expressed in this report are exclusively those of Putnam Management as of 1/31/03. They are not meant as investment advice. Although the described holdings were viewed favorably as of 1/31/03, there is no guarantee the fund will continue to hold these securities in the future. International investing involves certain risks, such as currency fluctuations, economic instability, and political developments. 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.

A NOTE ABOUT DUPLICATE MAILINGS

In response to investors' requests, the SEC has modified mailing regulations for proxy statements, semiannual and annual reports, and prospectuses. Putnam is now able to send a single copy of these materials to customers who share the same address. This change will automatically apply to all shareholders except those who notify us. If you would prefer to receive your own copy, please call Putnam at 1-800-225-1581.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

This section provides information about your fund's performance during the semiannual period, which ended January 31, 2003. In accordance with NASD 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. A profile of your fund's strategy appears on the first page of the Report from Fund Management. Terms used in this section are defined on page 8.

TOTAL RETURN FOR PERIODS ENDED 1/31/03

	NAV	Market price
6 months	8.24%	13.20%
1 year	7.59	12.72

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

5 years	15.81	19.89
Annual average	2.98	3.70
10 years	83.73	94.87
Annual average	6.27	6.90
Life of fund (since 2/29/88)		
Annual average	7.80	7.37

COMPARATIVE INDEX RETURNS FOR PERIODS ENDED 1/31/03

	Lehman Government Bond Index	SSB Non-U.S. World Govt. Bond Index	JP Morgan Global High Yield Index*	CSFB High Yield Index
6 months	4.87%	10.47%	8.10%	8.86%
1 year	10.51	27.68	4.04	4.94
5 years	42.91	29.63	6.67	8.48
Annual average	7.40	5.33	1.30	1.64
10 years	102.40	87.13	--	87.95
Annual average	7.31	6.47	--	6.51
Life of fund (since 2/29/88)				
Annual average	8.23	6.92	--	8.22

Past performance does not indicate future results. More recent returns may be less or more than those shown. Investment return, net asset value, and market price will fluctuate and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance does not reflect taxes on reinvested distributions.

* This comparative index replaced the CSFB High Yield Index on 12/30/02 because, in Putnam Management's opinion, the securities tracked by this index more accurately reflect the types of securities generally held by the fund. The JP Morgan Global High Yield Index's inception date was 12/31/93.

+ Over the 6-month, and 1-, 5-, and 10-year periods ended 1/31/03, there were 12, 12, 12, and 9 funds, respectively, in this Lipper category.

PRICE AND DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION 6 MONTHS ENDED 1/31/03

Distributions (number)	6
Income	\$0.2700

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Capital gains	--	
Total	\$0.2700	
Share value:	NAV	Market price
7/31/02	\$6.22	\$6.03
1/31/03	6.45	6.54
Current return (end of period)		
Current dividend rate 1	8.37%	8.26%

1 Income portion of most recent distribution, annualized and divided by NAV or market price at end of period.

TOTAL RETURN FOR PERIODS ENDED 12/31/02
(most recent calendar quarter)

	NAV	Market price
6 months	4.74%	1.91%
1 year	6.43	10.93
5 years	14.93	13.82
Annual average	2.82	2.62
10 years	83.97	88.16
Annual average	6.29	6.53
Life of fund (since 2/29/88)		
Annual average	7.71	6.89

Past performance does not indicate future results. More recent returns may be less or more than those shown. Investment return, net asset value, and market price will fluctuate and you may have a gain or a loss when you sell your shares. Performance does not reflect taxes on reinvested distributions.

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 common 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 the New York Stock Exchange.

COMPARATIVE BENCHMARKS

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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

agency securities.

NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged index that tracks broad market performance of those securities sold on the NASDAQ exchange. Since this index includes many companies in the technology sector, where market trends change quickly, this index can be volatile.

Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) High Yield Index is an unmanaged index of high-yield debt securities.

JP Morgan Global High Yield Index is an unmanaged index that is designed to mirror the investable universe of the U.S. dollar-denominated global high-yield corporate debt market, including domestic and international issues.

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

Salomon Smith Barney (SSB) Non-U.S. World Government Bond Index is an unmanaged index of government bonds issued by 10 countries.

Standard & Poor's 500 Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance.

Lipper Inc. is a third-party industry ranking entity that ranks funds (without sales charges) with similar current investment styles or objectives as determined by Lipper.

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.

A GUIDE TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

Statement of assets and liabilities shows how the fund's net assets and share price are determined. All investment and 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 period.

Statement of changes in net assets shows how the fund's net assets were

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

affected 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.

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.

THE FUND'S PORTFOLIO January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)

CORPORATE BONDS AND NOTES (48.4%) (a) PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

Advertising and Marketing Services (0.1%)

\$1,188,235 Interact Operating Co. notes 14s, 2003
(In default) (NON) (PIK)
780,000 Lamar Media Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 7 1/4s, 2013

Automotive (1.0%)

	265,000	American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/4s, 2009
	700,000	Collins & Aikman Products, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/2s, 2006
	1,370,000	Collins & Aikman Products, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2011
	255,000	Dana Corp. notes 10 1/8s, 2010
	370,000	Dana Corp. notes 9s, 2011
	160,000	Dana Corp. notes 7s, 2029
	405,000	Dana Corp. notes 6 1/2s, 2009
	490,000	Dana Corp. notes 6 1/4s, 2004
EUR	170,000	Dana Corp. sr. notes 9s, 2011
	\$230,000	Delco Remy International, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2009
	280,000	Delco Remy International, Inc. company guaranty 10 5/8s, 2006
	100,000	Delco Remy International, Inc. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2007
	890,000	Dura Operating Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 5/8s, 2012
	965,000	Dura Operating Corp. company guaranty Ser. D, 9s, 2009
	730,000	Exide Corp. sr. notes 10s, 2005 (In default) (NON)
	200,000	Federal Mogul Corp. notes 7 7/8s, 2010 (In default) (NON)
	610,000	Federal Mogul Corp. notes 7 3/4s, 2006 (In default) (NON)
	200,000	Hayes Lemmerz International, Inc. 144A company guaranty 11 7/8s, 2006 (In default) (NON)
	1,090,000	Lear Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 8.11s, 2009
	1,160,000	Lear Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 7.96s, 2005
EUR	285,000	Lear Corp. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2008
	\$368,000	Tenneco Automotive, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 5/8s, 2009

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Basic Materials (6.1%)

	15,000	Abitibi-Consolidated Finance LP company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2009
	1,340,000	Acetex Corp. sr. notes 10 7/8s, 2009 (Canada)
	165,000	Airgas, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2011
	1,210,000	AK Steel Corp. company guaranty 7 7/8s, 2009
	785,000	AK Steel Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2012
	249,698	Appleton Papers, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.64s, 2006 (acquired 6/4/02, cost \$250,635) (RES)
	1,460,000	Appleton Papers, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 12 1/2s, 2008
	1,500,000	ARCO Chemical Co. debs. 9.8s, 2020
	1,135,000	Avecia Group PLC company guaranty 11s, 2009 (United Kingdom)
	850,000	Better Minerals & Aggregates Co. company guaranty 13s, 2009
	740,000	Compass Minerals Group, Inc. company guaranty 10s, 2011
	1,250,000	Doe Run Resources Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 1/4s, 2005 (In default) (NON)
	180,000	Doe Run Resources Corp. company guaranty Ser. B(a), 11 1/4s, 2005 (In default) (NON)
	420,000	Doe Run Resources Corp. company guaranty FRN Ser. B, 8.119s, 2003 (In default) (NON)
	1,065,000	Dow Chemical Co. (The) notes 5 3/4s, 2009
	255,000	Equistar Chemicals LP notes 8 3/4s, 2009
	1,930,000	Equistar Chemicals LP/Equistar Funding Corp. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2008
	370,000	Ferro Corp. sr. notes 9 1/8s, 2009
EUR	300,000	Fort James Corp. company guaranty 4 3/4s, 2004
	\$1,125,000	Four M Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 12s, 2006
	1,105,000	Georgia-Pacific Corp. debs. 9 1/2s, 2011
	990,000	Georgia-Pacific Corp. notes 8 7/8s, 2031
	160,000	Georgia-Pacific Corp. notes 7 1/2s, 2006
	290,000	Georgia-Pacific Corp. 144A sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010
	235,000	Haynes International, Inc. sr. notes 11 5/8s, 2004
	300,000	Hercules, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.66s, 2007 (acquired 12/17/02, cost \$299,250) (RES)
	2,065,000	Hercules, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/8s, 2007
	577,119	Huntsman Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. A, 6.004s, 2007 (acquired various dates from 3/1/02 to 7/17/02, cost \$467,029) (RES)
	276,850	Huntsman Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 7.438s, 2007 (acquired various dates from 3/1/02 to 7/17/02, cost \$224,038) (RES)
	1,655,000	Huntsman ICI Chemicals, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2009
	2,025,000	Huntsman ICI Holdings sr. disc. notes zero %, 2009
EUR	695,000	Huntsman International, LLC sr. sub. notes Ser. EXCH, 10 1/8s, 2009
	\$500,000	IMC Global, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 1/4s, 2011
	832,000	IMC Global, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2008
	320,000	IMC Global, Inc. 144A sr. notes 11 1/4s, 2011
	1,910,000	ISP Chemco, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 1/4s, 2011
	320,000	ISP Holdings, Inc. sec. sr. notes Ser. B, 10 5/8s, 2009
	80,000	Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2006 (In default) (NON)
	2,360,000	Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s, 2049 (In default) (NON)
	60,000	Louisiana-Pacific Corp. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010
	472,000	Louisiana-Pacific Corp. sr. sub. notes 10 7/8s, 2008

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

	445,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. bonds 11 1/8s, 2012
	250,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. notes Ser. A, 9 5/8s, 2007
	95,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. sec. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2007
	1,040,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. sr. sub. notes 10 7/8s, 2009
	850,000	Lyondell Chemical Co. 144A sec. notes 9 1/2s, 2008
EUR	1,110,000	MDP Acquisitions PLC sr. notes Ser. REGS, 10 1/8s, 2012 (Ireland)
EUR	310,000	Messer Griesheim Holdings AG sr. notes 10 3/8s, 2011 (Germany)
\$	1,610,000	Millennium America, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2008
	455,000	Millennium America, Inc. company guaranty 7s, 2006
	630,000	Nortek, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2008
	120,000	Nortek, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2011
	460,000	Nortek, Inc. 144A sr. notes Ser. B, 9 1/8s, 2007
	630,000	Noveon, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11s, 2011
	1,315,000	OM Group, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2011
	670,000	Oregon Steel Mills, Inc. company guaranty 10s, 2009
	484,000	P&L Coal Holdings Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2008
	1,630,000	Pacifica Papers, Inc. sr. notes 10s, 2009 (Canada)
	609,379	PCI Chemicals Canada sec. sr. notes 10s, 2008 (Canada)
	260,000	Phelps Dodge Corp. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2011
	203,126	Pioneer Cos., Inc. sec. FRN 4.9s, 2006
	330,000	Polymer Group, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9s, 2007 (In default) (NON)
	160,000	Polymer Group, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2008 (In default) (NON)
	1,095,000	Potlatch Corp. company guaranty 10s, 2011
	1,620,000	Premium Standard Farms, Inc. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2011
	398,000	Riverwood International Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 4.492s, 2007 (acquired 4/24/02, cost \$406,181) (RES)
	400,000	Riverwood International Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 3.861s, 2008 (acquired 4/24/02, cost \$400,000) (RES)
	2,355,000	Riverwood International Corp. company guaranty 10 7/8s, 2008
	1,210,000	Royster-Clark, Inc. 1st mtge. 10 1/4s, 2009
	830,000	Salt Holdings Corp. 144A sr. notes stepped-coupon zero % (12 3/4s, 12/15/07), 2012 (STP)
	365,000	Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2012
	1,040,000	Solutia, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2009
	1,340,000	Steel Dynamics, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2009
	194,941	Sterling Chemicals, Inc. sec. notes 10s, 2007 (PIK)
	1,090,000	Stone Container Corp. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2011
	490,000	Stone Container Corp. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2008
	1,050,000	Stone Container Corp. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2012
	460,000	Stone Container Corp. 144A company guaranty 11 1/2s, 2006 (Canada)
	1,210,000	Tembec Industries, Inc. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2009 (Canada)
	210,000	Tembec Industries, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2011 (Canada)
	70,000	Texas Petrochemical Corp. sr. sub. notes 11 1/8s, 2006
	280,000	Texas Petrochemical Corp. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 11 1/8s, 2006
	515,000	Ucar Finance, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2012
	50,000	United States Steel, LLC sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2008
	710,000	WCI Steel, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 10s, 2004
	55,000	Weirton Steel Corp. sr. notes FRN 10s, 2008
	1,290,000	Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2007 (In default) (NON)
	570,000	WHX Corp. sr. notes 10 1/2s, 2005

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Building Materials (0.5%)

1,510,000	American Standard Cos., Inc. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2010
100,000	American Standard Cos., Inc. company guaranty 7 1/8s, 2003
445,000	Atrium Cos., Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 1/2s, 2009
450,000	Building Materials Corp. company guaranty 8s, 2008
1,230,000	Dayton Superior Corp. company guaranty 13s, 2009
246,875	NCI Building Systems, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.4s, 2008 (acquired 9/4/02, cost \$246,875) (RES)
1,960,000	Owens Corning bonds 7 1/2s, 2018 (In default) (NON)
1,185,000	Owens Corning notes 7 1/2s, 2005 (In default) (NON)

Capital Goods (4.5%)

350,000	Advanced Glass Fiber Yarns bank term loan FRN Ser. A, 6 3/4s, 2004 (acquired 9/12/02, cost \$245,237) (RES)
310,000	Advanced Glass Fiber Yarns sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2009 (In default) (NON)
968,000	AEP Industries, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2007
362,600	Alliant Techsystems, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 3.688s, 2009 (acquired 5/7/02, cost \$362,600) (RES)
54,358	Allied Waste Industries, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.438s, 2007 (acquired 2/27/02, cost \$53,679) (RES)
450,509	Allied Waste Industries, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.188s, 2006 (acquired various dates from 10/22/01 to 2/27/02, cost \$443,167) (RES)
800,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10s, 2009
545,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2008
1,610,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2008
105,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 7 7/8s, 2009
1,975,000	Allied Waste North America, Inc. 144A company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2012
280,000	Amkor Technologies, Inc. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2006
540,000	Amkor Technologies, Inc. Structured Notes (issued by STEERS Credit Linked Trust 2000) 12.58s, 2005
880,000	Applied Extrusion Technologies, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 3/4s, 2011
120,000	Argo-Tech Corp. company guaranty Ser. D, 8 5/8s, 2007
1,750,000	Argo-Tech Corp. 144A company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2007
900,000	BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2008
185,000	BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2011
1,400,000	BE Aerospace, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8s, 2008
770,000	Berry Plastics Corp. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2012
1,635,000	Blount, Inc. company guaranty 13s, 2009
390,000	Blount, Inc. company guaranty 7s, 2005
770,000	Briggs & Stratton company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2011
2,300,000	Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. debs. 7.4s, 2035
880,000	Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2008
187,500	Casella Waste Systems, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.63s, 2010 (acquired 1/22/03, cost \$187,500) (RES)
EUR 160,000	Crown Cork & Seal Finance SA company guaranty 6s, 2004 (France)
\$1,310,000	Decrane Aircraft Holdings Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 12s, 2008
850,000	Earle M. Jorgensen Co. sec. notes 9 3/4s, 2012

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

129,570 Flowserve Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 4.188s, 2009
 (acquired 4/30/02, cost \$129,570) (RES)
 705,000 Flowserve Corp. company guaranty 12 1/4s, 2010
 EUR 135,000 Flowserve Finance BV company guaranty 12 1/4s,
 2010 (Netherlands)
 \$135,000 Fonda Group, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 1/2s, 2007
 1,030,000 Hexcel Corp. sr. sub. notes 9 3/4s, 2009
 730,000 High Voltage Engineering Corp. sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2004
 775,000 IESI Corp. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2012
 650,000 Insilco Holding Co. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero %
 (14s, 8/15/03), 2008 (In default) (NON) (STP)
 490,000 Jackson Products, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 1/2s, 2005
 600,000 Jordan Industries, Inc. sr. notes Ser. D, 10 3/8s, 2007
 420,000 K&F Industries, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2007
 520,000 K&F Industries, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 5/8s, 2010
 1,310,000 L-3 Communications Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 1/2s, 2008
 1,000,000 L-3 Communications Corp. Structured Notes, 8.82s, 2009
 (Issued by COUNTS Trust, Series 2001)
 555,000 Laidlaw, Inc. debs. 8 3/4s, 2025 (Canada) (In default) (NON)
 170,000 Laidlaw, Inc. debs. 8 1/4s, 2023 (Canada) (In default) (NON)
 1,750,000 Laidlaw, Inc. notes 7.65s, 2006 (Canada) (In default) (NON)
 445,000 Manitowoc Co., Inc. (The) 144A sr. sub. notes 10 1/2s, 2012
 472,438 Michigan Electric Transmission Co./Michigan Electric
 Transmission, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.84s, 2007
 (acquired various dates from 4/22/02 to 5/3/02,
 cost \$474,688) (RES)
 570,000 Moog, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 10s, 2006
 1,435,000 Motors and Gears, Inc. sr. notes Ser. D, 10 3/4s, 2006
 1,455,000 Owens-Brockway Glass company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2009
 765,000 Owens-Brockway Glass 144A sec. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2012
 190,000 Owens-Brockway Glass 144A sec. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2012
 330,000 Owens-Illinois, Inc. sr. notes 8.1s, 2007
 825,000 Pliant Corp. company guaranty 13s, 2010
 195,000 Pliant Corp. sr. sub. notes 13s, 2010
 415,000 Remington Arms Co., Inc. 144A company guaranty
 10 1/2s, 2011
 410,000 Rexnord Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 10 1/8s, 2012
 930,000 Roller Bearing Co. of America company guaranty Ser. B,
 9 5/8s, 2007
 63,961 SPX Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.688s, 2009
 (acquired 7/23/02, cost \$63,961) (RES)
 106,548 SPX Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 3.938s, 2010
 (acquired 7/23/02, cost \$106,548) (RES)
 335,000 Sweetheart Cup Co. sr. sub. notes 10 1/2s, 2003
 1,490,000 Tekni-Plex, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 12 3/4s, 2010
 185,000 Terex Corp. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2008
 1,025,000 Terex Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 3/8s, 2011
 370,000 Terex Corp. company guaranty Ser. D, 8 7/8s, 2008
 298,558 Trimas Corp. bank term loan FRN 4.438s, 2009 (acquired 6/5/02,
 cost \$298,558) (RES)
 205,000 Trimas Corp. 144A company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2012
 605,000 Trimas Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2012
 416,258 United Defense Industries, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.6s,
 2009 (acquired various dates from 10/19/01 to 7/1/02,
 cost \$416,289) (RES)

Commercial and Consumer Services (0.2%)

189,225 Coinmach Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.525s, 2009
 (acquired 1/31/02, cost \$188,988) (RES)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

1,660,000 Coinmach Corp. sr. notes 9s, 2010

Communication Services (3.6%)

375,000 Bell Actimedia bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 5.688s, 2010
(acquired 11/26/02, cost \$371,250) (RES)

550,000 Airgate PCS, Inc. sr. sub. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(13 1/2s, 10/1/04), 2009 (STP)

890,000 Alamosa Delaware, Inc. company guaranty 13 5/8s, 2011

400,000 Alamosa Delaware, Inc. company guaranty 12 1/2s, 2011

2,228,000 Alamosa PCS Holdings, Inc. company guaranty stepped-coupon
zero % (12 7/8s, 2/15/05), 2010 (STP)

1,510,000 American Cellular Corp. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2009

660,000 American Tower Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2009

550,000 Arch Communications, Inc. sr. notes 13 3/4s, 2008 (In default) (NON)

770,000 Asia Global Crossing, Ltd. sr. notes 13 3/8s, 2010 (Bermuda)
(In default) (NON)

456,760 Colo.com, Inc. 144A sr. notes 13 7/8s, 2010 (In default) (NON)

1,140,000 Crown Castle International Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon
zero % (10 3/8s, 5/15/04), 2011 (STP)

1,060,000 Crown Castle International Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2011

150,000 Crown Castle International Corp. sr. notes 9s, 2011

3,080,000 Cybernet Internet Services International, Inc. 144A sr. disc. notes
stepped-coupon zero % (13s, 8/15/04), 2009 (Denmark)
(In default) (NON) (STP)

1,220,000 Dobson/Sygnnet Communications, Inc. sr. notes 12 1/4s, 2008

380,000 Firstworld Communication Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon
zero % (13s, 4/15/03), 2008 (In default) (NON) (STP)

413,112 Globix Corp. company guaranty 11s, 2008 (PIK)

220,000 Horizon PCS, Inc. company guaranty 13 3/4s, 2011

125,538 Hughes Electronics bank term loan FRN 5.86s, 2003
(acquired 11/21/02, cost \$123,655) (RES)

90,000 Intermedia Communications, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 8.6s, 2008
(In default) (NON)

1,270,000 iPCS, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(14s, 7/15/05), 2010 (STP)

705,000 IWO Holdings, Inc. company guaranty 14s, 2011

810,000 Leap Wireless International, Inc. company guaranty
12 1/2s, 2010

260,000 Metrocall, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 3/4s, 2007 (In default) (NON)

450,000 Metromedia Fiber Network, Inc. sr. notes 10s, 2009
(In default) (NON)

1,070,000 Metromedia Fiber Network, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 10s,
2008 (In default) (NON)

1,260,000 Microcell Telecommunications sr. disc. notes Ser. B, 14s,
2006 (Canada) (In default) (NON)

320,000 Millicom International Cellular SA sr. disc. notes 13 1/2s,
2006 (Luxembourg)

975,000 Nextel Communications, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. A,
2.688s, 2007 (acquired 11/1/02, cost \$850,688) (RES)

187,031 Nextel Communications, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B,
4.813s, 2008 (acquired 12/19/02, cost \$172,957) (RES)

187,031 Nextel Communications, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. C,
5.063s, 2008 (acquired 12/19/02, cost \$172,957) (RES)

1,495,000 Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. disc. notes 9 3/4s, 2007

25,000 Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon
zero % (9.95s, 2/15/03), 2008 (STP)

1,230,000 Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. notes 12s, 2008

2,075,000 Nextel Communications, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2009

80,000 Nextel Communications, Inc. 144A sr. disc. notes zero %, 2007

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

2,205,000 Nextel Partners, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(14s, 2/1/04), 2009 (STP)
270,000 Nextel Partners, Inc. sr. notes 12 1/2s, 2009
990,000 Orbital Imaging Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 11 5/8s, 2005
(In default) (NON)
690,000 PanAmSat Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.84s, 2009
(acquired 2/21/02, cost \$689,138) (RES)
1,160,000 PanAmSat Corp. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2012
10,000 Qwest Capital Funding, Inc. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2006
1,060,000 Qwest Capital Funding, Inc. company guaranty 7 1/4s, 2011
270,000 Qwest Capital Funding, Inc. company guaranty 6 3/8s, 2008
680,000 Qwest Communications International, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B,
7 1/4s, 2008
1,210,000 Qwest Corp. 144A notes 8 7/8s, 2012
2,807,000 Qwest Services Corp. 144A notes 13 1/2s, 2010
168,564 Rhythms Netconnections, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 14s, 2010
(In default) (NON)
1,075,000 Rogers Cantel, Ltd. sr. sub. notes 8.8s, 2007 (Canada)
450,000 Rogers Wireless, Inc. sec. notes 9 5/8s, 2011 (Canada)
420,000 Rural Cellular Corp. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2008
152,000 Telecorp PCS, Inc. company guaranty 10 5/8s, 2010
45,000 Telecorp PCS, Inc. company guaranty stepped-coupon
zero % (11 5/8s, 4/15/04), 2009 (STP)
2,940,000 Telus Corp. notes 8s, 2011 (Canada)
1,625,000 Telus Corp. notes 7 1/2s, 2007 (Canada)
300,000 Time Warner Telecom, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B,
5.45s, 2009 (acquired 1/15/03, cost \$262,500) (RES)
855,000 Time Warner Telecom, Inc. sr. notes 10 1/8s, 2011
470,000 Time Warner Telecom, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2008
130,000 Triton PCS, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/8s, 2011
1,180,000 Triton PCS, Inc. company guaranty 8 3/4s, 2011
500,000 Triton PCS, Inc. company guaranty zero %, 2008
710,000 TSI Telecommunication Services, Inc. company guaranty
Ser. B, 12 3/4s, 2009
550,000 U S West, Inc. notes 5 5/8s, 2008
2,310,000 UbiquiTel Operating Co. company guaranty stepped-coupon
zero % (14s, 4/15/05), 2010 (STP)
1,250,000 US UnWired, Inc. company guaranty stepped-coupon
Ser. B, zero % (13 3/8s, 11/1/04), 2009 (STP)
210,000 US West Capital Funding, Inc. company guaranty 6 7/8s, 2028
565,000 US West Capital Funding, Inc. company guaranty 6 1/4s, 2005

Conglomerates (0.5%)

230,000 Tyco International Group SA company guaranty
6 3/4s, 2011 (Luxembourg)
2,840,000 Tyco International Group SA company guaranty
6 3/8s, 2006 (Luxembourg)
310,000 Tyco International Group SA company guaranty
6 3/8s, 2005 (Luxembourg)
1,190,000 Tyco International Group SA notes 6 3/8s, 2011
(Luxembourg)

Consumer (0.6%)

1,185,000 Icon Health & Fitness company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2012
343,335 Jostens, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 4.15s, 2009
(acquired 7/30/02, cost \$343,335) (RES)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

1,230,000 Jostens, Inc. sr. sub. notes 12 3/4s, 2010
2,330,000 Samsonite Corp. sr. sub. notes 10 3/4s, 2008

Consumer Staples (8.2%)

70,000 Acme Communications, Inc. sr. disc. notes Ser. B, 12s, 2005
1,440,000 Acme Television company guaranty 10 7/8s, 2004
256,985 Adams Outdoor Advertising bank term loan FRN Ser. B,
4.87s, 2008 (acquired 8/1/01, cost \$256,663) (RES)
110,000 Adelpia Communications Corp. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2005
(In default) (NON)
560,000 Adelpia Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 7/8s, 2010
(In default) (NON)
25,000 Adelpia Communications Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2011
(In default) (NON)
75,000 Adelpia Communications Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2009
(In default) (NON)
35,000 Adelpia Communications Corp. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2009
(In default) (NON)
30,000 Adelpia Communications Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 8 3/8s, 2008
(In default) (NON)
1,790,000 Adelpia Communications Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 7 3/4s, 2009
(In default) (NON)
2,155,000 Affinity Group Holdings sr. notes 11s, 2007
735,000 AMC Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2012
260,000 AMC Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2011
990,000 AMC Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2009
493,861 American Seafood Group, LLC bank term loan FRN Ser. B,
4.667s, 2009 (acquired 4/11/02, cost \$493,367) (RES)
314,237 AMF Bowling Worldwide bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 6.069s,
2008 (acquired 3/1/02, cost \$313,452) (RES)
444,117 Archibald Candy Corp. company guaranty 10s, 2007 (PIK)
890,000 Armkel, LLC/Armkel Finance sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2009
315,000 Aurora Foods, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2007
1,010,000 Aurora Foods, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes Ser. D, 9 7/8s, 2007
535,000 Brand Services, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 12s, 2012
310,000 British Sky Broadcasting PLC company guaranty 8.2s, 2009
(United Kingdom)
2,320,000 British Sky Broadcasting PLC company guaranty 6 7/8s, 2009
(United Kingdom)
299,152 Carmike Cinemas, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 7 3/4s, 2005
(acquired 10/4/02, cost \$291,934) (RES)
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)
2,200,000 Chancellor Media Corp. company guaranty 8s, 2008
250,000 Charter Communications Holdings, LLC bank term loan FRN
Ser. B, 4.12s, 2008 (acquired 1/9/03, cost \$217,188) (RES)
235,000 Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. disc.
notes stepped-coupon zero % (12 1/8s, 1/15/07), 2012 (STP)
1,340,000 Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. disc.
notes stepped-coupon zero % (11 3/4s, 5/15/06), 2011 (STP)
865,000 Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. disc.
notes stepped-coupon zero % (11 3/4s, 1/15/05), 2010 (STP)
2,180,000 Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp.
sr. notes 11 1/8s, 2011
1,195,000 Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp.
sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2009
585,000 Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp.
sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2010

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

	1,060,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 10s, 2011
	795,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 9 5/8s, 2009
	140,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2009
	130,000	Charter Communications Holdings, LLC/Capital Corp. sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2007
	1,805,000	Cinemark USA, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2008
	210,000	Constellation Brands, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2009
	420,000	Constellation Brands, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8s, 2008
	595,000	Constellation Brands, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/8s, 2012
	2,575,000	CSC Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2007
	240,000	Cumulus Media, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.438s, 2007 (acquired 3/20/02, cost \$240,000) (RES)
	240,000	Dean Foods Co. sr. notes 6 5/8s, 2009
	310,000	Del Monte Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2011
	780,000	Del Monte Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 5/8s, 2012
	375,000	Del Monte Foods Co. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 5.117s, 2010 (acquired 12/16/02, cost \$373,125) (RES)
	753,830	Derby Cycle Corp. (The) sr. notes 10s, 2008 (In default) (NON)
EUR	2,042,070	Derby Cycle Corp. (The) sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2008 (In default) (NON)
	\$3,586,000	Diva Systems Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon Ser. B, zero % (12 5/8s, 3/1/03), 2008 (In default) (NON) (STP)
	1,150,000	Doane Pet Care Co. sr. sub. debs. 9 3/4s, 2007
	585,000	Dole Food Co. notes 6 3/8s, 2005
	715,000	Domino's, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 3/8s, 2009
	560,000	Eagle Family Foods company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2008
	4,135,000	Echostar DBS Corp. sr. notes 10 3/8s, 2007
	1,565,000	Echostar DBS Corp. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2009
	2,130,000	Echostar DBS Corp. sr. notes 9 1/8s, 2009
	450,000	Emmis Communications Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 3 5/8s, 2009 (acquired 6/20/02, cost \$449,438) (RES)
	335,000	Emmis Communications Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/8s, 2009
	433,000	Emmis Communications Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (12 1/2s, 3/15/06), 2011 (STP)
	865,000	Fleming Cos., Inc. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2008
	405,000	Fleming Cos., Inc. company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2012
	720,000	Fleming Cos., Inc. sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2010
	290,000	French Fragrances, Inc. company guaranty Ser. D, 10 3/8s, 2007
	325,000	French Fragrances, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 10 3/8s, 2007
	190,000	Granite Broadcasting Corp. sr. sub. notes 10 3/8s, 2005
	840,000	Granite Broadcasting Corp. sr. sub. notes 9 3/8s, 2005
	1,130,000	Granite Broadcasting Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2008
	585,000	Gray Television, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2011
	620,000	Insight Communications Co., Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (12 1/4s, 2/15/06), 2011 (STP)
	105,000	Insight Midwest LP/Insight Capital, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.563s, 2009 (acquired 11/5/01, cost \$104,803) (RES)
	135,000	Insight Midwest LP/Insight Capital, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2009
	49,000	Knology, Inc. 144A sr. notes 12s, 2009 (PIK)
	555,000	Land O'Lakes, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2011
	1,390,000	LIN Holdings Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (10s, 3/1/03), 2008 (STP)
	170,000	LIN Holdings Corp. 144A sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero % (10s, 3/1/03), 2008 (STP)
	350,000	LIN Television Corp. company guaranty 8s, 2008
	450,000	MGM Studios bank term loan FRN 4.39s, 2008 (acquired 6/10/02, cost \$450,000) (RES)
	1,270,000	News America Holdings, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2013
	1,560,000	North Atlantic Trading Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 11s, 2004

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

465,000 Olympus Cable bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 6 1/4s, 2010
(acquired various dates from 6/20/02 to 11/6/02,
cost \$374,206) (RES)

910,000 Outsourcing Solutions, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 11s, 2006
(In default) (NON)

510,000 Pegasus Satellite sr. notes 12 3/8s, 2006

298,500 Playtex Products, Inc. bank term loan FRN 3.63s, 2009
(acquired 6/3/02, cost \$298,500) (RES)

865,000 Playtex Products, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/8s, 2011

630,000 Polaroid Corp. sr. notes 11 1/2s, 2006 (In default) (NON)

900,000 Premier International Foods PLC sr. notes 12s, 2009
(United Kingdom)

365,000 Premier Parks, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(10s, 4/1/03), 2008 (STP)

390,000 Premier Parks, Inc. sr. notes 10s, 2007

2,658,731 Quorum Broadcast Holdings, LLC notes stepped-coupon
zero % (15s, 5/15/06), 2009 (STP)

1,355,000 RAB Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2005
(In default) (NON)

182,333 Rayovac Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 5.134s, 2009
(acquired 9/26/02, cost \$182,151) (RES)

502,000 RCN Corp. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon Ser. B, zero %
(9.8s, 2/15/03), 2008 (STP)

560,000 Regal Cinemas, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 3/8s, 2012

640,000 Revlon Consumer Products sr. notes 9s, 2006

500,000 Revlon Consumer Products sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2006

945,000 Rite Aid Corp. notes 7 1/8s, 2007

260,000 Rite Aid Corp. sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2005

780,000 Rogers Cablesystems, Ltd. sr. notes Ser. B, 10s, 2005 (Canada)

297,752 Roundy's, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.165s, 2009
(acquired 6/3/02, cost \$297,752) (RES)

760,000 Sbarro, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2009

670,000 Scotts Co. (The) company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2009

459,967 Shoppers Drug Mart bank term loan FRN Ser. F, 3.417s,
2009 (acquired various dates from 5/22/02 to 5/29/02,
cost \$461,704) (RES)

1,120,000 Silver Cinemas, Inc. sr. sub. notes 10 1/2s, 2005 (In default) (NON)

300,000 Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B,
3.63s, 2010 (acquired 12/19/02, cost \$300,000) (RES)

440,000 Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. company guaranty 8 3/4s, 2011

525,000 Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. 144A company guaranty 8s, 2012

281,250 Six Flags, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.63s, 2009
(acquired 1/15/03, cost \$280,898) (RES)

210,000 Six Flags, Inc. sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2009

3,360,000 Six Flags, Inc. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010

80,000 Southland Corp. debs. Ser. A, 4 1/2s, 2004

190,000 Southland Corp. sr. sub. debs. 5s, 2003

324,855 Suiza Foods Corp. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 3.65s, 2008
(acquired 12/10/01, cost \$327,021) (RES)

1,840,000 TeleWest Communications PLC debs. 11s, 2007
(United Kingdom) (In default) (NON)

300,000 TeleWest Communications PLC debs. 9 5/8s, 2006
(United Kingdom) (In default) (NON)

255,000 TeleWest Communications PLC sr. notes Ser. S, 9 7/8s, 2010
(United Kingdom) (In default) (NON)

105,000 TeleWest Communications PLC 144A sr. notes 11 1/4s, 2008
(United Kingdom) (In default) (NON)

1,880,000 United Pan-Europe NV sr. disc. notes 12 1/2s, 2009 (Netherlands)
(In default) (NON)

3,010,000 United Pan-Europe NV sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(13 3/4s, 2/1/05), 2010 (Netherlands) (In default) (NON) (STP)

180,000 United Pan-Europe NV 144A bonds 10 7/8s, 2009 (Netherlands)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

(In default) (NON)
400,000 United Rentals (North America), Inc. company guaranty Ser. B,
10 3/4s, 2008
1,220,000 Vlastic Foods International, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 10 1/4s,
2009 (In default) (NON)
945,000 Williams Scotsman, Inc. company guaranty 9 7/8s, 2007
1,663,000 Young Broadcasting, Inc. company guaranty 10s, 2011
113,000 Young Broadcasting, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2007
50,000 Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011
370,000 Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2006
1,470,000 Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 7.65s, 2008
375,000 Yum! Brands, Inc. sr. notes 7.45s, 2005

Energy (3.5%)

990,000 Belco Oil & Gas Corp. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2007
890,000 BRL Universal Equipment sec. notes 8 7/8s, 2008
1,280,000 Chesapeake Energy Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2012
1,055,000 Chesapeake Energy Corp. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2008
215,000 Chesapeake Energy Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2012
1,220,000 Comstock Resources, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2007
180,000 Denbury Resources, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9s, 2008
975,000 Dresser, Inc. company guaranty 9 3/8s, 2011
160,000 El Paso Energy Partners LP company guaranty Ser. B,
8 1/2s, 2011
150,000 El Paso Energy Partners LP 144A company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2011
560,000 Encore Acquisition Co. company guaranty 8 3/8s, 2012
570,000 Forest Oil Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2014
420,000 Forest Oil Corp. sr. notes 8s, 2011
420,000 Forest Oil Corp. sr. notes 8s, 2008
545,000 Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc. sr. notes 10 5/8s, 2008
450,000 Leviathan Gas Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 3/8s, 2009
215,000 Magnum Hunter Resources, Inc. company guaranty 9.6s, 2012
670,000 Mission Resources Corp. company guaranty Ser. C, 10 7/8s, 2007
980,000 Newfield Exploration Co. sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2011
755,000 Parker Drilling Co. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 1/8s, 2009
2,190,000 Petronas Capital, Ltd. 144A company guaranty 7 7/8s,
2022 (Malaysia)
1,735,000 Petronas Capital, Ltd. 144A company guaranty 7s,
2012 (Malaysia)
3,500,000 Pioneer Natural Resources Co. company guaranty 9 5/8s, 2010
160,000 Pioneer Natural Resources Co. company guaranty 6 1/2s, 2008
525,000 Plains All American Pipeline LP/Plains All American Finance
Corp. company guaranty 7 3/4s, 2012
800,000 Plans Exploration & Production Co. company guaranty Ser. B,
8 3/4s, 2012
920,000 Pogo Producing Co. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 1/4s, 2011
1,110,000 Pride Petroleum Services, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2007
420,000 Seven Seas Petroleum, Inc. sr. notes Ser. B, 12 1/2s, 2005
(In default) (NON)
210,000 Stone Energy Corp. company guaranty 8 3/4s, 2007
1,000,000 Stone Energy Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2011
460,000 Swift Energy Co. sr. sub. notes 10 1/4s, 2009
660,000 Swift Energy Co. sr. sub. notes 9 3/8s, 2012
1,030,000 Trico Marine Services, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2012
900,000 Vintage Petroleum, Inc. sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2012
605,000 Vintage Petroleum, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 3/4s, 2009
205,000 Vintage Petroleum, Inc. sr. sub. notes 7 7/8s, 2011
510,000 Westport Resources Corp. company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2011
460,000 Westport Resources Corp. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2011

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

260,000 XTO Energy, Inc. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2012
440,000 XTO Energy, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2009

Financial (1.4%)

1,470,000 Advanta Corp. 144A company guaranty Ser. B, 8.99s, 2026
700,000 Chevy Chase Savings Bank, Inc. sub. debs. 9 1/4s, 2005
42,576 Comdisco Holding Co., Inc./Comdisco, Inc. sec. notes Ser. B, 11s, 2005
530,000 Conseco, Inc. 144A company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009
(In default) (NON)
170,000 Crescent Real Estate Equities LP FRN 7 1/2s, 2007 (R)
1,410,000 Crescent Real Estate Equities LP sr. notes 9 1/4s, 2009 (R)
3,046,000 Finova Group, Inc. notes 7 1/2s, 2009
331,920 Hilb, Rogal & Hamilton Co. bank term loan FRN 4.188s, 2007
(acquired 6/20/02, cost \$331,920) (RES)
420,000 Imperial Credit Industries, Inc. sec. notes 12s, 2005 (In default) (NON)
980,000 iStar Financial, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2008 (R)
338,000 Nationwide Credit, Inc. sr. notes Ser. A, 10 1/4s, 2008 (In default) (NON)
81,000 Ocwen Financial Corp. notes 11 7/8s, 2003
1,070,000 Resource America, Inc. 144A sr. notes 12s, 2004
2,890,000 Sovereign Bancorp, Inc. sr. notes 10 1/2s, 2006
880,000 Superior Financial Corp. 144A sr. notes 8.65s, 2003
612,243 Veridian Corp. bank term loan FRN 4.773s, 2008
(acquired 9/20/02, cost \$612,243) (RES)
760,000 Western Financial Bank sub. debs. 9 5/8s, 2012
135,000 Yell Finance BV sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2011 (Netherlands)

Gaming & Lottery (3.2%)

650,000 Aladdin Gaming Holdings, LLC sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon
Ser. B, zero % (13 1/2s, 3/1/03), 2010 (In default) (NON) (STP)
470,000 Ameristar Casinos, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009
900,000 Argosy Gaming Co. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009
230,000 Argosy Gaming Co. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2011
500,000 Borgata Resorts bank term loan FRN 5.501s, 2007
(acquired 6/5/02, cost \$498,750) (RES)
1,050,000 Boyd Gaming Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2012
420,000 Chumash Casino & Resort Enterprise 144A sr. notes 9s, 2010
935,000 Herbst Gaming, Inc. sec. notes Ser. B, 10 3/4s, 2008
310,000 Herbst Gaming, Inc. 144A sec. sr. notes 10 3/4s, 2008
1,420,000 Hollywood Casino Corp. company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2007
705,000 Hollywood Park, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 1/4s, 2007
1,250,000 Horseshoe Gaming Holdings company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2009
1,010,000 International Game Technology sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2009
2,300,000 International Game Technology sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2004
1,305,000 Majestic Investor Holdings/Capital Corp. company guaranty
11.653s, 2007
110,000 Mandalay Resort Group sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2008
90,000 Mandalay Resort Group sr. sub. notes 9 3/8s, 2010
2,730,000 MGM Mirage, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2010
680,000 Mirage Resorts, Inc. notes 6 3/4s, 2008
75,000 Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2006
1,090,000 Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2009
270,000 Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 8 3/8s, 2011
980,000 Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority sr. sub. notes 8s, 2012
1,300,000 Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. notes 7 1/2s, 2009
655,000 Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2008

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

155,000 Park Place Entertainment Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 1/8s, 2011
200,000 Penn National Gaming, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 11 1/8s, 2008
1,465,000 Penn National Gaming, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2010
305,000 Pinnacle Entertainment, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 1/2s, 2007
1,040,000 Resorts International Hotel and Casino, Inc. company guaranty
11 1/2s, 2009
465,000 Riviera Holdings Corp. company guaranty 11s, 2010
375,000 Scientific Gaming bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.85s, 2008
(acquired 12/11/02, cost \$373,125) (RES)
1,010,000 Station Casinos, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2008
50,000 Station Casinos, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9 7/8s, 2010
570,000 Trump Atlantic City Associates company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2006
130,000 Trump Castle Funding, Inc. sr. sub. notes 11 3/4s, 2003
1,955,000 Venetian Casino Resort, LLC company guaranty 11s, 2010
135,000 Wheeling Island Gaming, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/8s, 2009

Health Care (3.9%)

237,003 Accredo Health, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.12s, 2009
(acquired 3/20/02, cost \$236,766) (RES)
225,000 Advanced Medical Optics, Inc. bank term loan FRN 4.64s, 2008
(acquired 6/17/02, cost \$224,719) (RES)
1,040,000 ALARIS Medical Systems, Inc. sec. notes Ser. B, 11 5/8s, 2006
490,000 ALARIS Medical Systems, Inc. 144A company guaranty 9 3/4s, 2006
350,000 ALARIS Medical, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(11 1/8s, 8/1/03), 2008 (STP)
2,392,600 Alderwoods Group, Inc. company guaranty 12 1/4s, 2009
19,000 Alderwoods Group, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2007
966,000 Alliance Imaging, Inc. sr. sub. notes 10 3/8s, 2011
780,000 AmerisourceBergen Corp. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2008
605,000 AmerisourceBergen Corp. 144A sr. notes 7 1/4s, 2012
510,000 Bio-Rad Labs Corp. sr. sub. notes 11 5/8s, 2007
1,210,000 Biovail Corp. sr. sub. notes 7 7/8s, 2010 (Canada)
448,875 Community Health Systems, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B,
3.93s, 2010 (acquired 7/11/02, cost \$448,875) (RES)
1,270,000 Conmed Corp. company guaranty 9s, 2008
255,000 Dade Behring, Inc. company guaranty 11.91s, 2010
444,607 DaVita, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.604s, 2009
(acquired 4/26/02, cost \$444,051) (RES)
690,000 Extencicare Health Services, Inc. company guaranty
9 1/2s, 2010
52,272 Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. sec. notes FRN 6.38s, 2007
835,000 Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. company guaranty
10 3/8s, 2009
205,000 Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. sr. sub. notes 11 1/4s, 2009
920,000 HCA, Inc. debs. 7.19s, 2015
750,000 HCA, Inc. med. term notes 7.69s, 2025
520,000 HCA, Inc. notes 8 3/4s, 2010
350,000 HCA, Inc. notes 8.36s, 2024
1,385,000 HCA, Inc. notes 7s, 2007
1,990,000 Healthsouth Corp. notes 7 5/8s, 2012
840,000 Healthsouth Corp. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2008
340,000 Healthsouth Corp. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2011
5,000 Healthsouth Corp. sr. sub. notes 10 3/4s, 2008
560,000 IASIS Healthcare Corp. company guaranty 13s, 2009
1,260,000 Integrated Health Services, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. A, 9 1/2s, 2007
(In default) (NON)
620,000 Integrated Health Services, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. A, 9 1/4s, 2008
(In default) (NON)
257,899 Kinetic Concepts, Inc. bank term loan FRN Ser. C, 4.15s, 2005

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

(acquired 11/5/01, cost \$258,221) (RES)

1,015,000 Kinetic Concepts, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 5/8s, 2007

1,855,000 Magellan Health Services, Inc. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2008 (In default) (NON)

365,000 Magellan Health Services, Inc. 144A sr. notes 9 3/8s, 2007

1,070,000 Mediq, Inc. company guaranty 11s, 2008 (In default) (NON)

940,000 Mediq, Inc. debs. stepped-coupon zero % (13s, 6/1/03), 2009
(In default) (NON) (STP)

1,070,000 MedQuest, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 11 7/8s, 2012

2,690,000 Multicare Cos., Inc. sr. sub. notes 9s, 2007 (In default) (NON)

800,000 Omnicare, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/8s, 2011

1,575,000 PacifiCare Health Systems, Inc. company guaranty 10 3/4s, 2009

1,120,000 Rotech Healthcare, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2012

390,000 Service Corp. International debs. 7 7/8s, 2013

115,000 Service Corp. International notes 7.7s, 2009

105,000 Service Corp. International notes 7.2s, 2006

155,000 Service Corp. International notes 6 1/2s, 2008

1,435,000 Service Corp. International notes 6s, 2005

370,000 Service Corp. International notes Ser. (a), 7.7s, 2009

1,010,000 Stewart Enterprises, Inc. notes 10 3/4s, 2008

360,000 Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2012

555,000 Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 6 3/8s, 2011

180,000 Tenet Healthcare Corp. sr. notes 5 3/8s, 2006

2,785,000 Triad Hospitals Holdings company guaranty Ser. B, 11s, 2009

135,000 Triad Hospitals, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2009

Homebuilding (1.1%)

610,000 Beazer Homes USA, Inc. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2011

390,000 D.R. Horton, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2012

10,000 D.R. Horton, Inc. company guaranty 8s, 2009

880,000 D.R. Horton, Inc. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2011

780,000 Del Webb Corp. sr. sub. debs 9 3/8s, 2009

630,000 K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2007

155,000 K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2012

180,000 K. Hovnanian Enterprises, Inc. company guaranty 8s, 2012

860,000 KB Home sr. sub. notes 9 1/2s, 2011

320,000 Lennar Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9.95s, 2010

720,000 Lennar Corp. sr. notes 7 5/8s, 2009

120,000 M.D.C. Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 8 3/8s, 2008

1,130,000 Ryland Group, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2010

180,000 Ryland Group, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2008

615,000 Schuler Homes, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/2s, 2011

50,000 Schuler Homes, Inc. company guaranty 9s, 2008

215,000 Standard Pacific Corp. sr. notes 9 1/2s, 2010

590,000 Toll Corp. company guaranty 8 1/8s, 2009

170,000 Toll Corp. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2011

100,000 WCI Communities, Inc. company guaranty 10 5/8s, 2011

840,000 WCI Communities, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2012

Household Furniture and Appliances (0.2%)

1,000,000 Sealy Mattress Co. company guaranty Ser. B, zero %, 2002

1,220,000 Sealy Mattress Co. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 9 7/8s, 2007

Lodging/Tourism (1.6%)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

50,000 Capstar Hotel Co. sr. sub. notes 8 3/4s, 2007
1,807,000 Felcor Lodging LP company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008 (R)
457,000 Felcor Lodging LP company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2008 (R)
1,175,000 Hilton Hotels Corp. notes 7 5/8s, 2012
6,720,000 HMM Properties, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 7 7/8s, 2008
345,000 HMM Properties, Inc. sr. notes Ser. C, 8.45s, 2008
920,000 ITT Corp. notes 6 3/4s, 2005
2,085,000 John Q. Hammons Hotels LP/John Q. Hammons Hotels
Finance Corp. III 1st mtge. Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2012
275,000 Meristar Hospitality Corp. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2011 (R)
720,000 RFS Partnership LP company guaranty 9 3/4s, 2012
410,000 Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. 144A notes
7 7/8s, 2012
260,000 Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc. 144A notes
7 3/8s, 2007

Publishing (1.9%)

365,000 American Media, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 8 7/8s, 2011
760,000 Garden State Newspapers, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 5/8s, 2011
290,000 Garden State Newspapers, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. B, 8 3/4s, 2009
625,000 Hollinger International Publishing, Inc. 144A sr. notes 9s, 2010
2,548,982 Hollinger Participation Trust 144A sr. notes 12 1/8s, 2010
(Canada) (PIK)
310,000 Houghton Mifflin Co. 144A sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2013
1,135,000 Houghton Mifflin Co. 144A sr. notes 8 1/4s, 2011
740,000 Key3media Group, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2011
(In default) (NON)
680,000 Mail-Well I Corp. company guaranty 9 5/8s, 2012
2,045,000 PRIMEDIA, Inc. company guaranty 8 7/8s, 2011
470,000 PRIMEDIA, Inc. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2008
1,070,000 PRIMEDIA, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 1/2s, 2006
300,000 Quebecor Media, Inc. sr. disc. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(13 3/4s, 7/15/06), 2011 (Canada) (STP)
1,380,000 Quebecor Media, Inc. sr. notes 11 1/8s, 2011 (Canada)
375,000 RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I bank term loan FRN Ser. B,
5.34s, 2010 (acquired 12/4/02, cost \$375,000) (RES)
980,000 RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I 144A sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2010
1,135,000 RH Donnelley Finance Corp. I 144A sr. sub. notes 10 7/8s, 2012
960,000 Vertis, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 10 7/8s, 2009
255,000 Vertis, Inc. 144A sr. notes 10 7/8s, 2009
800,000 Von Hoffman Press, Inc. company guaranty 10 1/4s, 2009
370,000 Von Hoffman Press, Inc. company guaranty FRN 10 3/8s, 2007
439,126 Von Hoffman Press, Inc. debs. zero %, 2009 (PIK)

Retail (1.0%)

670,000 Amazon.com, Inc. sr. sub. notes stepped-coupon zero %
(10s, 5/1/03), 2008 (STP)
800,000 Asbury Automotive Group, Inc. company guaranty 9s, 2012
1,240,000 Autonation, Inc. company guaranty 9s, 2008
460,000 Gap, Inc. (The) notes 6.9s, 2007
520,000 Hollywood Entertainment Corp. sr. sub. notes 9 5/8s, 2011
210,000 JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7.95s, 2017
105,000 JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7.65s, 2016
620,000 JC Penney Co., Inc. debs. 7.4s, 2037
1,000,000 JC Penney Co., Inc. notes 9s, 2012
450,000 JC Penney Co., Inc. notes Ser. A MTN, 7.05s, 2005

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

360,000 Kmart Corp. 144A notes 9 7/8s, 2008 (In default) (NON)
2,190,000 Saks, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/4s, 2008
715,000 United Auto Group, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 9 5/8s, 2012

Technology (1.7%)

880,000 AMI Semiconductor, Inc. 144A sr. sub. notes 10 3/4s, 2013
270,000 Avaya, Inc. sec. sr. notes 11 1/8s, 2009
135,000 Fairchild Semiconductor International, Inc. company guaranty
10 3/8s, 2007
305,000 Iron Mountain, Inc. company guaranty 8 5/8s, 2013
370,000 Iron Mountain, Inc. company guaranty 8 1/8s, 2008 (Canada)
1,890,000 Iron Mountain, Inc. sr. sub. notes 8 1/4s, 2011
100,000 Lucent Technologies, Inc. debs. 6 1/2s, 2028
3,360,000 Lucent Technologies, Inc. debs. 6.45s, 2029
515,000 Lucent Technologies, Inc. notes 7 1/4s, 2006
920,000 Micron Technology, Inc. notes 6 1/2s, 2005
1,460,000 Nortel Networks Corp. notes 6 1/8s, 2006 (Canada)
470,000 ON Semiconductor Corp. 144A company guaranty 12s, 2008
370,000 SCG Holding & Semiconductor Corp. company guaranty
12s, 2009
855,000 Seagate Technology Hdd Holdings company guaranty 8s, 2009
1,760,000 Sequa Corp. sr. notes 9s, 2009
160,000 Sequa Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 8 7/8s, 2008
208,982 Telex Communications Group, Inc. sr. sub. notes Ser. A,
zero %, 2006
446,628 Titan Corp. (The) bank term loan FRN Ser. B, 4.352s, 2009
(acquired various dates from 5/14/02 to 6/3/02,
cost \$448,320) (RES)
135,000 Unisys Corp. sr. notes 8 1/8s, 2006
440,000 Unisys Corp. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2008
250,000 Unisys Corp. sr. notes 7 1/4s, 2005
260,000 Xerox Cap Europe PLC company guaranty 5 7/8s, 2004
(United Kingdom)
785,000 Xerox Corp. notes 5 1/2s, 2003
750,000 Xerox Corp. 144A sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2009
EUR 270,000 Xerox Corp. 144A sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2009
\$250,000 Xerox Credit Corp. sr. notes 6.1s, 2003

Textiles (0.5%)

780,000 Galey & Lord, Inc. company guaranty 9 1/8s, 2008 (In default) (NON)
1,160,000 Levi Strauss & Co. sr. notes 11 5/8s, 2008
1,035,000 Levi Strauss & Co. 144A sr. notes 12 1/4s, 2012
695,000 Russell Corp. company guaranty 9 1/4s, 2010
310,000 Tommy Hilfiger USA, Inc. company guaranty 6 1/2s, 2003
1,200,000 Westpoint Stevens, Inc. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2008
850,000 William Carter Holdings Co. (The) company guaranty Ser. B,
10 7/8s, 2011

Transportation (1.1%)

100,000 Air Canada Corp. sr. notes 10 1/4s, 2011 (Canada)
1,340,093 Airbus Industries 144A sinking fund Ser. D, 12.266s, 2020
585,000 Allied Holdings, Inc. company guaranty Ser. B, 8 5/8s, 2007
1,360,000 Calair, LLC/Calair Capital Corp. company guaranty

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

	8 1/8s, 2008
450,000	Continental Airlines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. D, 7.568s, 2006
1,300,000	CSX Corp. notes 6 1/4s, 2008
550,000	Delta Air Lines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 00-1, Class C, 7.779s, 2005
359,542	Delta Air Lines, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. C, 7.779s, 2012
EUR	500,000 Fixed-Link Finance BV sec. notes FRN Ser. B2-X, 7.85s, 2009 (Netherlands)
\$252,547	Ingram Industries bank term loan FRN 4.046s, 2008 (acquired 6/17/02, cost \$252,547) (RES)
1,530,000	Kansas City Southern Railway Co. company guaranty 9 1/2s, 2008
1,230,000	Navistar International Corp. company guaranty Ser. B, 9 3/8s, 2006
575,000	Navistar International Corp. sr. notes Ser. B, 8s, 2008
770,000	Northwest Airlines, Inc. company guaranty 7 5/8s, 2005
1,170,000	Northwest Airlines, Inc. sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2007
360,092	NWA Trust sr. notes Ser. A, 9 1/4s, 2012
115,000	RailAmerica Transportation company guaranty 12 7/8s, 2010
150,000	Transportation Manufacturing Operations, Inc. company guaranty 11 1/4s, 2009
260,000	Travel Centers of America, Inc. company guaranty 12 3/4s, 2009
780,000	US Air, Inc. pass-through certificates Ser. 93A3, 10 3/8s, 2013 (In default) (NON)

Utilities & Power (2.0%)

375,000	AES Corp. (The) sr. notes 8 7/8s, 2011
230,000	AES Corp. (The) sr. notes 8 3/4s, 2008
1,300,000	Allegheny Energy Supply 144A bonds 8 1/4s, 2012
365,000	Allegheny Energy, Inc. notes 7 3/4s, 2005
340,000	Calpine Canada Energy Finance company guaranty 8 1/2s, 2008 (Canada)
530,000	Calpine Corp. sr. notes 10 1/2s, 2006
1,795,000	Calpine Corp. sr. notes 8 5/8s, 2010
1,490,000	Calpine Corp. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2011
1,050,000	Calpine Corp. sr. notes 7 7/8s, 2008
1,190,000	CMS Energy Corp. sr. notes 8.9s, 2008
440,000	CMS Energy Corp. sr. notes 8 1/2s, 2011
140,000	CMS Panhandle Holding Corp. sr. notes 6 1/2s, 2009
880,000	Consumers Energy bank term loan FRN 6.176s, 2004 (acquired various dates from 9/16/02 to 9/17/02, cost \$844,800) (RES)
730,000	Dynegy Holdings, Inc. sr. notes 6 7/8s, 2011
520,000	Edison Mission Energy sr. notes 10s, 2008
530,000	Edison Mission Energy sr. notes 9 7/8s, 2011
1,740,000	Midland Funding II Corp. debs. Ser. B, 13 1/4s, 2006
340,000	Mission Energy Holding Co. sec. notes 13 1/2s, 2008
186	Northeast Utilities notes Ser. A, 8.58s, 2006
1,060,000	Oncor Electric Delivery Co. 144A notes 6 3/8s, 2012
500,000	Pacific Gas & Electric Co. 144A sr. notes 7 3/8s, 2005 (In default) (NON)
25,000	Sierra Pacific Power Co. general ref. mtge. Ser. A, 8s, 2008
500,000	Southern California Edison Co. bank term loan FRN 4.813s, 2005 (acquired 2/28/02, cost \$499,250) (RES)
1,270,000	Southern California Edison Co. notes 8.95s, 2003
130,000	Southern California Edison Co. notes 6 3/8s, 2006
1,270,000	Tiverton/Rumford Power Associates, LP 144A pass-through

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

	certificates 9s, 2018
1,105,000	Western Resources, Inc. 1st mtge. 7 7/8s, 2007
815,000	Western Resources, Inc. sr. notes 9 3/4s, 2007
790,000	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) FRN Ser. A, 6 3/4s, 2006
365,000	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 9 1/4s, 2004
800,000	Williams Cos., Inc. (The) notes 6 1/2s, 2006
1,651,000	York Power Funding 144A notes 12s, 2007 (Cayman Islands) (In default) (NON)

Total Corporate Bonds and Notes (cost \$485,151,308)

FOREIGN GOVERNMENT BONDS AND NOTES (15.5%) (a)
PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

USD	1,941,787	Argentina (Republic of) unsub. Ser. 2018, 2.89s, 2018 (In default) (NON)
USD	2,630,000	Brazil (Federal Republic of) bonds 10 1/8s, 2027
USD	3,685,000	Bulgaria (Republic of) 144A bonds 8 1/4s, 2015
CAD	11,840,000	Canada (Government of) bonds 6s, 2011
CAD	2,725,000	Canada (Government of) bonds 5 1/2s, 2010
CAD	930,000	Canada (Government of) bonds Ser. WL43, 5 3/4s, 2029
USD	1,300,000	Chile (Republic of) bonds 5 1/2s, 2013
USD	1,875,000	Colombia (Republic of) bonds 11 3/4s, 2020
USD	845,000	Colombia (Republic of) bonds 10 3/8s, 2033
USD	1,665,000	Colombia (Republic of) notes 10 3/4s, 2013
EUR	480,000	Colombia (Republic of) notes Ser. E MTN, 11 1/2s, 2011
USD	420,000	Colombia (Republic of) unsub. 9 3/4s, 2009
EUR	755,000	Colombia (Republic of) unsub. bonds Ser. 15A, 11 3/8s, 2008
USD	820,000	Costa Rica (Republic of) 144A notes 6.914s, 2008
USD	1,585,000	Dominican Republic 144A notes 9.04s, 2013
USD	710,000	Ecuador (Republic of) bonds Ser. REGS, 12s, 2012
USD	3,430,000	Ecuador (Republic of) bonds stepped-coupon Ser. REGS, 6s (7s, 8/15/03), 2030 (STP)
EUR	4,830,000	France (Government of) bonds 5 1/2s, 2010
EUR	1,080,000	France (Government of) deb. 4s, 2009
EUR	7,200,000	Germany (Federal Republic of) bonds 5s, 2012
EUR	950,000	Germany (Federal Republic of) bonds Ser. 94, 6 1/4s, 2024
EUR	6,340,000	Germany (Federal Republic of) bonds Ser. 97, 6s, 2007
EUR	530,000	Italy (Government of) treasury bonds 4 3/4s, 2006
NZD	12,920,000	New Zealand (Government of) bonds 6 1/2s, 2013
NZD	8,036,000	New Zealand (Government of) bonds Ser. 709, 7s, 2009
USD	1,635,000	Peru (Republic of) notes 9 7/8s, 2015
USD	1,470,000	Peru (Republic of) notes 9 1/8s, 2008
USD	1,565,000	Philippines (Republic of) bonds 9s, 2013
USD	3,040,000	Russia (Federation of) unsub. 8 1/4s, 2010
USD	4,805,000	Russia (Federation of) unsub. stepped-coupon 5s (7 1/2s, 3/31/07), 2030 (STP)
USD	8,807,500	Russia (Federation of) 144A unsub. stepped-coupon 5s (7 1/2s, 3/31/07), 2030 (STP)
USD	3,985,000	South Africa (Republic of) notes 7 3/8s, 2012
EUR	710,000	Spain (Kingdom of) bonds 5 3/4s, 2032
EUR	2,360,000	Spain (Kingdom of) bonds 4.8s, 2006
SEK	76,070,000	Sweden (Government of) bonds Ser. 1037, 8s, 2007
SEK	127,250,000	Sweden (Government of) bonds Ser. 1044, 3 1/2s, 2006
USD	705,600	Ukraine (Government of) sr. notes Ser. REGS, 11s, 2007
GBP	4,420,000	United Kingdom treasury bonds 10s, 2003
GBP	1,055,000	United Kingdom treasury bonds 8 3/4s, 2017
GBP	1,100,000	United Kingdom treasury bonds 5s, 2012
GBP	2,800,000	United Kingdom treasury bonds 5s, 2004

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

USD	2,285,000	United Mexican States bonds 11 3/8s, 2016
USD	1,855,000	United Mexican States bonds Ser. MTN, 8.3s, 2031
USD	720,000	United Mexican States notes Ser. A, 9 7/8s, 2010
USD	1,055,000	Venezuela (Republic of) bonds 9 1/4s, 2027

Total Foreign Government Bonds and Notes
(cost \$126,502,133)

U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY OBLIGATIONS (10.3%) (a) PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

U.S. Government and Agency Mortgage Obligations (3.4%)

\$74,653	Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. Pass-Through Certificates 7 1/2s, March 1, 2026
	Federal National Mortgage Association
14,693,000	TBA, 7s, February 1, 2033
3,214,000	TBA, 6 1/2s, February 1, 2032
53,000	TBA, 6 1/2s, February 1, 2017
	Federal National Mortgage Association Pass-Through Certificates
597,050	7 1/2s, with due dates from October 1, 2022 to January 1, 2030
10,728,206	7s, with due dates from March 1, 2028 to June 1, 2032
289,921	6 1/2s, January 1, 2028

U.S. Government and Agency Obligations (0.4%)

2,590,000	Fannie Mae 7 1/4s, January 15, 2010
-----------	-------------------------------------

U.S. Treasury Obligations (6.5%)

	U.S. Treasury Bonds
21,600,000	7 1/2s, November 15, 2016 (SEG)
8,802,000	6 1/4s, May 15, 2030
12,260,000	6 1/4s, August 15, 2023
	U.S. Treasury Notes
55,000	4s, November 15, 2012
20,460,000	U.S. Treasury Strip zero %, November 15, 2024

Total U.S. Government and Agency Obligations
(cost \$88,983,618)

COLLATERALIZED MORTGAGE OBLIGATIONS (10.2%) (a) PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

\$432,429	Arc Net Interest Margin Trust Ser. 02-5A, Class A, 7 3/4s, 2032
592,176	Arc Net Interest Margin Trust 144A Ser. 02-1A, Class A, 7 3/4s, 2032
6,363,607	Commercial Mortgage Acceptance Corp. Ser. 97-ML1, Interest Only (IO), 0.94s, 2017
42,775,709	Commercial Mortgage Asset Trust Ser. 99-C1, Class X, IO, 0.92s, 2020
1,858,000	Criimi Mae Commercial Mortgage Trust Ser. 98-C1, Class A2, 7s, 2011
\$2,814,000	Criimi Mae Commercial Mortgage Trust 144A Ser. 98-C1, Class B, 7s, 2011
66,499,981	Deutsche Mortgage & Asset Receiving Corp. Ser. 98-C1, Class X, IO, 1.19s, 2023
	Euro Loan Conduit 144A
GBP	462,778 FRN Ser. 7A, Class D, 5.69s, 2006 (United Kingdom)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

GBP 462,778 FRN Ser. 7A, Class E, 7.44s, 2006 (United Kingdom)
Fannie Mae
\$4,637,587 Ser. 02-36, Class SJ, 16.744s, 2029
401,925 Ser. 98-1, Class SA, IO, 13.2s, 2024
4,295 Ser. 92-15, Class L, IO, 8s, 2022
26,986,000 7 1/2s, 2042
12,059,722 Ser. 02-9, Class MS, IO, 6 3/4s, 2032
10,048,095 Ser. 02-36, Class QH, IO, 6.7s, 2029
3,079,902 Ser. 02-29, Class SL, IO, 6.7s, 2029
4,919,388 Ser. 02-52, Class SL, IO, 6.65s, 2032
5,107,204 Ser. 02-63, Class SN, IO, 6.65s, 2032
1,304,000 Ser. 01-58, Class HI, IO, 6 1/2s, 2026
3,788,173 Ser. 93-251, Class Z, 6 1/2s, 2023
4,851,593 Ser. 318, Class 2, IO, 6s, 2032
2,232,888 Ser. 01-74, Class MI, IO, 6s, 2015
608,304 Ser. 98-51, Class SG, 2.365s, 2022
23,704,583 Ser. 00-T6, IO, 0.74s, 2030
9,437,577 Ser. 318, Class 1, Principal Only (PO), zero %, 2032
653,396 Ser. 99-51, Class N, PO, zero %, 2029
562,231 Ser. 99-52, Class MO, PO, zero %, 2026
154,605 Ser. 97-92, PO, zero %, 2025
618,981 Ser. 96-5, Class PB, PO, zero %, 2024
228,814 Ser. 93-159, Class D, PO, zero %, 2023
1,127,953 Ser. 93-146, Class H, PO, zero %, 2023
23,947,956 FFCA Secured Lending Corp. Ser. 00-1, Class X, IO, 1.7s, 2020
Freddie Mac
1,844,800 Ser. 2412, Class GS, FRN, 17.4s, 2032
401,552 Ser. 2028, Class SG, IO, 13.4s, 2023
1,759,150 Ser. 2478, Class SY, IO, 6.78s, 2021
4,676,663 Ser. 2448, Class SE, IO, 6.73s, 2029
3,799,300 Ser. 2448, Class SM, IO, 6.63s, 2032
1,327,769 Ser. 1717, Class L, 6 1/2s, 2024
2,008,400 Ser. 2515, Class IG, IO, 5.5s, 2032
277,644 Ser. 2044, Class SG, IO, 4.84s, 2023
1,899,711 Ser. 215, PO, zero %, 2031
1,843,846 Ser. 2235, PO, zero %, 2030
5 Ser. 2078, Class KC, PO, zero %, 2023
1,575,000 GE Capital Mortgage Services, Inc. Ser. 98-11, Class 2A4,
6 3/4s, 2028
Government National Mortgage Association
100,143 Ser. 02-49, Class QS, FRN, 17.5s, 2029
2,990,654 Ser. 02-36, Class SD, IO, 6.79s, 2029
4,478,666 Ser. 02-51, Class SA, IO, 6.74s, 2032
6,331,267 Ser. 01-43, Class SJ, IO, 6.24s, 2029
7,153,447 Ser. 01-43, Class SD, IO, 6.2s, 2028
9,614,581 Ser. 02-47, Class SM, IO, 4.61s, 2032
5,824,144 Ser. 02-63, Class ST, IO, 4.26s, 2024
754,522 Ser. 98-2, Class EA, PO, zero %, 2028
1,495,000 Granite Mortgages PLC FRN Ser. 01-1, Class 1C, 2.77s, 2041
(United Kingdom)
\$7,365,000 Holmes Financing PLC FRB Ser. 1, Class 2C, 2.53s, 2040
14,244,865 Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors, Inc. Ser. 96-C2, IO,
1.95s, 2028
9,307,350 Mortgage Capital Funding, Inc. Ser. 97-MC2, Class X, IO,
1.55s, 2012
25,668 Prudential Home Mortgage Securities Ser. 93-57, Class A4,
5.9s, 2023
747,052 Rural Housing Trust Ser. 87-1, Class D, 6.33s, 2026
332,281 Sasco Arc Net Interest Margin Notes Ser. 02-BC10,
Class A, 7 3/4s, 2033

Total Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (cost \$94,356,177)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES (5.0%) (a)
PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

	Amortizing Residential Collateral Trust
\$40,426,364	Ser. 02-BC1, Class A, IO, 6s, 2005
3,170,000	Ser. 02-BC1, Class M2, FRN, 2.45s, 2032
924,071	Arc Net Interest Margin Trust 144A Ser. 02-8A, Class A1, 7 3/4s, 2032
426,296	Asset Backed Funding Corp. NIM Trust Ser. 02-WF1, 9.32s, 2032
2,571,000	Bank One Issuance Trust FRN Ser. 02-C1, Class C1, 2.33s, 2009
	Bayview Financial Acquisition Trust
1,278,084	Ser. 01-DA, Class M3, FRN, 2.75s, 2031
1,390,000	Ser. 02-CA, Class A, IO, 10.5s, 2004
1,752,996	CDC Mortgage Capital Trust Ser. 02-HE1, Class M, FRN, 2.6s, 2033
463,000	Chase Funding Net Interest Margin Ser. 03-1, 8 3/4s, 2036
	Chase Funding Net Interest Margin 144A
327,212	Ser. 02-1, Class Note, 8 1/2s, 2035
766,406	Ser. 02-2, Class Note, 8 1/2s, 2035
217,371	Ser. 02-C1, Class Note, 8 1/2s, 2035
	Conseco Finance Securitizations Corp.
346,000	Ser. 00-2, Class A4, 8.48s, 2021
4,310,000	Ser. 00-4, Class A6, 8.31s, 2032
1,535,000	Ser. 00-6, Class M2, 8.2s, 2032
32,000	Ser. 01-04, Class A4, 7.36s, 2019
18,000	Ser. 01-3, Class A3, 5.79s, 2024
47,000	Ser. 01-3, Class A4, 6.91s, 2033
1,436,000	Ser. 01-4, Class B1, 9.4s, 2010
4,828,401	Ser. 02-1, Class A, 6.681s, 2032
1,100,000	Consumer Credit Reference IDX Securities Ser. 02-1A, Class A, FRB, 3.4s, 2007
1,301,780	First Plus 144A Ser. 98-A, Class A, 8 1/2s, 2023
	Green Tree Financial Corp.
385,000	Ser. 95-F, Class B2, 7.1s, 2021
45,000	Ser. 99-5, Class A5, 7.86s, 2031
	Greenpoint Manufactured Housing
3,255,306	Ser. 00-3, Class IA, 8.45s, 2031
50,000	Ser. 99-5, Class A4, 7.59s, 2028
456,000	GSAMP Trust Ser. 02-HE2N, Class Note, 8 1/4s, 2032
371,867	Home Equity Asset Trust Ser. 02-1N, Class A, 8s, 2032
1,755,000	LNR CDO, Ltd. Ser. 02-1A, Class FFL, 4.589s, 2037
1,457,253	Madison Avenue Manufactured Housing Contract Ser. 02-A, Class B1, FRN, 4.6s, 2032
825,962	Mid-State Trust Ser. 10, Class B, 7.54s, 2036
	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Capital I
545,000	Ser. 01-NC3, Class B1, FRN, 3.8s, 2031
2,318,000	Ser. 01-NC4, Class B1, FRN, 3.85s, 2032
890,000	Ser. 02-AM2, Class B1, FRN, 3.603s, 2032
1,051,000	Ser. 02-NC3, Class M2, FRN, 2.653s, 2032
	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Capital I 144A
222,221	Ser. 01-AM1N, Class Note, 12 3/4s, 2032
704,900	Ser. 01-NC4N, Class Note, 8 1/2s, 2032
328,503	NovaStar Caps Trust Ser. 02-C1, Class A, 7.15s, 2031
975,872	Option One Mortgage Securities Corp. Ser. 02-2A, Class CFTS, 8.83s, 2032
813,079	Option One Mortgage Securities Corp. 144A Ser. 02-1, Class CTFS, 6 3/4s, 2032
2,070,938	Pass-Through Amortizing Credit Card Trust Ser. 02-1A,

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Class A4FL, 7.339s, 2012
7,400,000 Residential Asset Mortgage Products, Inc. Ser. 03-RZ1,
Class A, IO, 5 3/4s, 2005
544,000 TIAA Commercial Real Estate Securitization Ser. 02-1A,
Class IV, 6.84s, 2037

Total Asset-Backed Securities (cost \$49,486,995)

PREFERRED STOCKS (1.5%) (a) NUMBER OF SHARES

1,377 AmeriKing, Inc. \$3.25 cum. pfd. (In default) (NON) (PIK)
62,400 California Federal Preferred Capital Corp. Ser. A, \$2.281 pfd.
31,190 Chevy Chase Capital Corp. Ser. A, \$5.188 pfd.
3,805 Chevy Chase Savings Bank, Inc. \$3.25 pfd.
28,919 CSC Holdings, Inc. Ser. M, \$11.125 cum. pfd.
1,185 Delta Financial Corp. Ser. A, \$10.00 cum. pfd.
69,460 Diva Systems Corp. Ser. C, 6.00% cum. pfd.
20,000 Doane Pet Care Co. \$7.125 pfd.
1,118 Dobson Communications Corp. 13.00% pfd. (PIK)
658 Dobson Communications Corp. 12.25% pfd. (PIK)
540 First Republic Capital Corp. 144A 10.50% pfd.
510 Granite Broadcasting Corp. 12.75% cum. pfd.
69 Leiner Health Products Ser. C, zero % pfd. (NON)
22,867 Lodgian, Inc. Ser. A, \$7.06 cum. pfd. (PIK)
196 Metrocall Holdings, Inc. Ser. A, 15.00% cum. pfd.
2 Nextel Communications, Inc. Ser. D, 13.00% cum. pfd. (PIK)
1,156 Nextel Communications, Inc. Ser. E, 11.125% pfd. (PIK)
1,703 North Atlantic Trading Co. 12.00% pfd. (PIK)
17 NTL Europe, Inc. Ser. A, zero % cum. pfd.
417 Paxson Communications Corp. 13.25% cum. pfd. (PIK)
1,712 Rural Cellular Corp. 12.25% pfd. (PIK)

Total Preferred Stocks (cost \$17,264,096)

BRADY BONDS (1.5%) (a) PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

\$4,500,000 Argentina (Republic of) govt. guaranty Ser. L-GP, 6s, 2023
(In default) (NON)
1,391,493 Brazil (Federal Republic of) bonds 8s, 2014
1,065,000 Brazil (Federal Republic of) government guaranty
Ser. 30YR, 3.063s, 2024
1,610,000 Brazil (Federal Republic of) govt. guaranty FRB Ser. RG,
3 1/4s, 2012
1,029,000 Peru (Republic of) bonds Ser. PDI, 4s, 2017
1,020,000 Peru (Republic of) coll. FLIRB 3 1/4s, 2017
2,215,000 Peru (Republic of) coll. FLIRB Ser. 20YR, 4s, 2017
1,650,000 United Mexican States bonds Ser. B, 6 1/4s, 2019
5,714,286 Venezuela (Republic of) debs. FRB Ser. DL, 2 7/8s, 2007

Total Brady Bonds (cost \$13,658,217)

COMMON STOCKS (1.2%) (a) NUMBER OF SHARES

Basic Materials (--%)

39,407 Pioneer Cos., Inc. (NON)
368 Sterling Chemicals, Inc. (NON)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Communication Services (0.1%)

136 Arch Wireless, Inc. (NON)
45,677 Arch Wireless, Inc. (NON)
277,865 Celcaribe SA (Colombia)
21,241 Covad Communications Group, Inc. 144A (NON)
8,782 Equinix, Inc. (NON)
2,423 FLAG Telecom Holdings, Ltd. (Bermuda) (NON)
48,165 Globix Corp. (NON)
228 Metrocall Holdings, Inc. (NON)
38,630 NTL, Inc. (NON)
2,169 Vast Solutions, Inc. Class B1 (NON)
2,169 Vast Solutions, Inc. Class B2 (NON)
2,169 Vast Solutions, Inc. Class B3 (NON)
6,160 WilTel Communications, Inc. (NON)

Conglomerates (--%)

11,334 Jasper Energy 144A
2,319 York Research Corp. 144A

Consumer Cyclical (0.5%)

27,093 Lodgian, Inc. (NON)
160,000 Loewen Group International, Inc. (NON)
1,250,000 Morrison Knudsen Corp.
234 Quorum Broadcast Holdings, Inc. Class E (NON)
236,020 Regal Entertainment Group 144A
39,603 Safety Components International, Inc. (NON)
2,437 Washington Group International, Inc. (NON)

Consumer Staples (0.6%)

2,452 Archibald Candy Corp. (NON)
19,924 Aurora Foods, Inc. (NON)
28,440 Daskocil Manufacturing Co., Inc. (NON)
1,186 Premium Holdings (LP) 144A
2,502 PSF Group Holdings, Inc. 144A Class A (NON)

Financial (--%)

1,005,000 AMRESKO Capital Trust, Inc. (NON) (R)
628 Comdisco Holding Co., Inc. (NON)
3,390,037 Contifinancial Corp. Liquidating Trust Units
1,145 Delta Funding Residual Exchange Co., LLC (NON)
1,145 Delta Funding Residual Management, Inc. (NON)

Health Care (--%)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

3,074 Alderwoods Group, Inc. (NON)
 9,649 Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. (NON)
 2,359 Mariner Health Care, Inc. (NON)
 1,195 Sun Healthcare Group, Inc. (NON)

Total Common Stocks (cost \$30,608,062)

CONVERTIBLE BONDS AND NOTES (0.4%) (a)
 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

\$955,000 American Tower Corp. cv. notes 5s, 2010
 690,000 DaVita, Inc. cv. sub. notes 7s, 2009
 1,955,000 Nextel Communications, Inc. cv. sr. notes 5 1/4s, 2010
 985,000 Province Healthcare Co. cv. sub. notes 4 1/2s, 2005
 150,000 Rogers Communications cv. debs. 2s, 2005 (Canada)

Total Convertible Bonds and Notes (cost \$3,491,554)

UNITS (0.2%) (a)
 NUMBER OF UNITS

1,360 American Tower Escrow Corp. units zero %, 2008
 395 MDP Acquisitions PLC 144A units 15 1/2s, 2013 (Ireland) (PIK)
 960 XCL, Ltd. 144A units 13 1/2s, 2004 (In default) (NON)
 7,615 XCL, Ltd. 144A 9.50% units cum. cv. pfd. (In default) (NON) (PIK)

Total Units (cost \$2,688,119)

CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCKS (0.1%) (a)
 NUMBER OF SHARES

77 Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. 6.00% cum. cv. pfd. (PIK)
 847 Hercules Trust II 6.50% units cum. cv. pfd.
 1,900 Interact Electronic Marketing, Inc. 14.00% cum. cv. pfd.
 (In default) (NON)
 2,821 Knology, Inc. 144A Ser. D, zero % cv. pfd.
 6,800 LTV Corp. 144A \$4.125 cv. pfd. (In default) (NON)
 77 Paxson Communications Corp. 144A 9.75% cv. pfd. (PIK)
 9,916 Telex Communications, Inc. zero % cv. pfd. (In default) (NON)
 900 Weirton Steel Corp. Ser. C, zero % cv. pfd.
 1,503 XCL, Ltd. 144A Ser. A, 9.50% cum. cv. pfd. (In default) (NON) (PIK)

Total Convertible Preferred Stocks (cost \$1,544,455)

WARRANTS (--%) (a) (NON)
 NUMBER OF WARRANTS

EXPIRATION
 DATE

780 Birch Telecommunications, Inc. 144A	6/15/08
1,420 Dayton Superior Corp.	6/15/09
2,919 Diva Systems Corp.	5/15/06
8,326 Diva Systems Corp. 144A	3/1/08
1,450 Horizon PCS, Inc.	10/1/10
1,900 Interact Systems, Inc.	8/1/03

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

1,900 Interact Systems, Inc. 144A	12/15/00
1,270 iPCS, Inc. 144A	7/15/10
563 IWO Holdings, Inc.	1/15/11
758 Leap Wireless International, Inc. 144A	4/15/10
550 Mikohn Gaming Corp. 144A	8/15/08
560 ONO Finance PLC 144A (United Kingdom)	2/15/11
1,310 Orion Network Systems	1/15/07
1,600 Paxson Communications Corp. 144A	6/30/03
570 Pliant Corp. 144A	6/1/10
682 Solutia, Inc. 144A	7/15/09
2,987 Sun Healthcare Group, Inc.	2/28/05
690 Travel Centers of America, Inc. 144A	5/1/09
2,310 Ubiquitel, Inc. 144A	4/15/10
1,650,000 United Mexican States Ser. B (Mexico)	6/30/04
1,650,000 United Mexican States Ser. C (Mexico)	6/30/05
1,650,000 United Mexican States Ser. D (Mexico)	6/30/06
1,650,000 United Mexican States Ser. E (Mexico)	6/30/07
1,190 Veraldo Holdings, Inc. 144A	4/15/08
50 Versatel Telecom NV (Netherlands)	5/15/08
1,505 Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. A	1/25/06
1,719 Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. B	1/25/06
929 Washington Group International, Inc. Ser. C	1/25/06
800 XM Satellite Radio Holdings, Inc. 144A	3/15/10

Total Warrants (cost \$1,118,665)

SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS (9.5%) (a)
PRINCIPAL AMOUNT

\$61,612	Short-term investments held as collateral for loaned securities with yields ranging from 1.27% to 1.35% and due dates ranging from February 3, 2003 to March 24, 2003 (d)
86,221,596	Short-term investments held in Putnam commingled cash account with yields ranging from 1.23% to 1.69% and due dates ranging from February 3, 2003 to March 31, 2003 (d)

Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$86,283,181)

Total Investments (cost \$1,001,136,580)

(a) Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$909,289,940.

(NON) Non-income-producing security.

(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.

(RES) Restricted, excluding 144A securities, as to public resale. The total market value of restricted securities held at January 31, 2003 was \$20,636,019 or 2.3% of net assets.

(PIK) Income may be received in cash or additional securities at the discretion of the issuer.

(SEG) A portion of this security was pledged and segregated with with the custodian to cover margin requirements for future contracts at January 31, 2003.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

(R) Real Estate Investment Trust.

(d) See Note 1 to the financial statements.

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 shown at January 31, 2003, which are subject to change based on the terms of the security.

DIVERSIFICATION BY COUNTRY

Distribution of investments by country of issue at January 31, 2003: (as a percentage of Ma

Canada	3.3%
Colombia	0.6
France	0.7
Germany	1.8
Luxembourg	0.5
Mexico	0.8
New Zealand	1.3
Peru	0.7
Russia	1.5
South Africa	0.5
Sweden	2.6
United Kingdom	2.6
United States	70.0
Venezuela	0.5
Other	12.6

Total	100.0%

 Forward Currency Contracts to Buy at January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)
 (aggregate face value \$81,438,490)

	Market Value	Aggregate Face Value	Delivery Date	Unrealized Appreciation
Australian Dollars	\$24,334,696	\$23,272,417	3/19/03	\$1,062,279
British Pounds	666,854	648,580	3/19/03	18,274
Canadian Dollars	16,848,501	16,632,652	3/19/03	215,849
Danish Krone	1,326,721	1,304,400	3/19/03	22,321
Euro	18,169,775	17,240,683	3/19/03	929,092
Japanese Yen	18,540,004	18,427,993	3/19/03	112,011
Korean Won	3,490,245	3,353,942	3/19/03	136,303
Swiss Francs	600,323	557,823	3/19/03	42,500

				\$2,538,629

 Forward Currency Contracts to Sell at January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)
 (aggregate face value \$75,954,991)

	Market Value	Aggregate Face Value	Delivery Date	Unrealized Depreciation

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Australian Dollars	\$1,743,431	\$1,675,408	3/19/03	\$(68,023)
British Pounds	15,550,153	15,085,889	3/19/03	(464,264)
Canadian Dollars	10,160,592	10,079,062	3/19/03	(81,530)
Euro	7,913,616	7,771,428	3/19/03	(142,188)
Japanese Yen	6,769,960	6,767,588	3/19/03	(2,372)
New Zealand Dollars	11,783,153	10,925,431	3/19/03	(857,722)
Swedish Krona	24,918,240	23,650,185	3/19/03	(1,268,055)

 \$(2,884,154)

Futures Contracts Outstanding at January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)

	Market Value	Aggregate Face Value	Expiration Date	Unrealized Appreciation/ (Depreciation)
CBT Interest Rate Swap 10yr (Long)	\$2,578,875	\$2,551,660	Mar-03	\$27,215
Euro-Bobl 5yr (Long)	20,178,983	19,685,716	Mar-03	493,267
Euro-Bund 10yr (Long)	26,363,469	25,771,738	Mar-03	591,731
Euro 90 day (Long)	1,970,400	1,909,134	Sep-03	61,266
Euro 90 day (Short)	1,973,700	1,917,566	Jun-03	(56,134)
Japanese Government Bond 10yr (Long)	9,761,775	9,677,272	Mar-03	84,503
Japanese Government Bond 10yr (Long)	7,144,263	7,080,919	Mar-03	63,344
US Treasury Bond 20yr (Long)	50,596,563	48,685,159	Mar-03	1,911,404
US Treasury Note 5yr (Short)	54,690,188	53,622,158	Mar-03	(1,068,030)
US Treasury Note 10yr (Long)	8,446,406	8,274,627	Mar-03	171,779
US Treasury Note 10yr (Short)	102,954,844	101,029,348	Mar-03	(1,925,496)

 \$354,849

Credit Default Contracts Outstanding at January 31, 2003
 (premiums received \$1,743,437)

	Notional Amount	Market Value
Agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank effective May 14, 2002, maturing on May 15, 2007, to receive a premium equal to 17.171% times the notional amount. For each credit default event related to one of the 100 issues within the HYDI		

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

100 8.75%,
5/15/07 Bond
Index, the fund
makes a payment
of the
proportional
notional amount
times the
difference
between the par
value and the
then-market value
of the defaulted
issue.

\$6,295,000 \$1,631,035

Swap Contracts Outstanding at January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)

	Notional Amount	Termination Date	Unrealized Appreciation
--	--------------------	---------------------	----------------------------

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 by
6.68%.

\$9,000,000 11/21/05 \$1,028,768

Agreement with
Merrill Lynch
Capital Services,
Inc. dated
September 27,
2002 to receive
semiannually the
notional amount
multiplied by the
six month
JPY-LIBOR-BBA and
pay monthly the
notional amount
multiplied by
0.399%.

JPY 3,417,000,00 10/1/07 559,383

Agreement with
Goldman Sachs
Capital Markets,
L.P. dated
September 13,
2002 to pay at
maturity the
notional amount
multiplied by the
six month
USD-LIBOR-BBA and
receive (pay) at

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

maturity the notional amount multiplied by the change in net asset value of the ishares GS InvesTop Corporate Bond Fund.	\$7,089,972	3/21/03	73,389
Agreement with Goldman Sachs Capital Markets, L.P. dated November 8, 2002 to pay at maturity the notional amount multiplied by the six month USD-LIBOR-BBA plus a specified spread and receive (pay) at maturity the notional amount multiplied by the change in net asset value of the ishares GS InvesTop Corporate Bond Fund.	7,581,570	5/14/03	90,758
			\$1,752,298

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

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)

Assets

Investments in securities, at value, including \$59,890 of securities on loan (identified cost \$1,001,136,580) (Note 1)	\$944,118,411
Cash	688,756
Foreign currency (cost \$3,992,532) (Note 1)	4,351,928
Dividends, interest and other receivables	16,316,917
Receivable for securities sold	11,584,185
Receivable for open swap contracts (Note 1)	1,752,298

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Receivable for variation margin (Note 1)	92,357
Receivable for open forward currency contracts (Note 1)	2,601,832
Receivable for closed forward currency contracts (Note 1)	704,610
Total assets	982,211,294
Liabilities	
Distributions payable to shareholders	6,337,238
Payable for securities purchased	59,142,076
Payable for compensation of Manager (Note 2)	1,556,880
Payable for investor servicing and custodian fees (Note 2)	98,988
Payable for compensation of Trustees (Note 2)	73,599
Payable for administrative services (Note 2)	1,381
Payable for open forward currency contracts (Note 1)	2,947,357
Payable for closed forward currency contracts (Note 1)	1,002,444
Credit default contracts outstanding, at value (premiums received \$1,743,437) (Note 1)	1,631,035
Collateral on securities loaned, at value (Note 1)	61,585
Other accrued expenses	68,771
Total liabilities	72,921,354
Net assets	\$909,289,940
Represented by	
Paid-in capital (Note 1)	\$1,205,678,948
Distributions in excess of net investment income (Note 1)	(10,374,243)
Accumulated net realized loss on investments and foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	(230,431,615)
Net unrealized depreciation of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	(55,583,150)
Total -- Representing net assets applicable to capital shares outstanding	\$909,289,940
Computation of net asset value and offering price	
Net asset value per share (\$909,289,940 divided by 141,063,022 shares)	\$6.45

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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Six months ended January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)

Investment income:

Interest	\$38,646,877
Dividends	2,322,148
Securities lending	3,564
Total investment income	40,972,589

Expenses:

Compensation of Manager (Note 2)	3,156,033
Investor servicing and custodian fees (Note 2)	428,156
Compensation of Trustees (Note 2)	14,912
Administrative services (Note 2)	7,036
Other	79,505
Total expenses	3,685,642
Expense reduction (Note 2)	(32,031)
Net expenses	3,653,611
Net investment income	37,318,978
Net realized loss on investments (Notes 1 and 3)	(27,327,840)
Net realized loss on futures contracts (Note 1)	(1,297,367)
Net realized gain on foreign currency transactions (Note 1)	508,429
Net unrealized depreciation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies during the period	(1,067,668)
Net unrealized appreciation of investments, futures contracts, swap contracts and credit default contracts during the period	61,128,014
Net gain on investments	31,943,568
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$69,262,546

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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Six months ended January 31 2003*	Year J

Increase (decrease) in net assets		

Operations:		

Net investment income	\$37,318,978	\$77,4

Net realized loss on investments and foreign currency transactions	(28,116,778)	(55,4

Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	60,060,346	(10,3

Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	69,262,546	11,6

Distributions to shareholders: (Note 1)		

From net investment income	(38,079,406)	(74,6

From return of capital	--	(1,4

Increase from issuance of common shares in connection with reinvestment of distributions	458,083	

Total increase (decrease) in net assets	31,641,223	(64,4

Net assets		

Beginning of period	877,648,717	942,1

End of period (including distributions in excess of net investment income of \$10,374,243 and \$9,613,815, respectively)	\$909,289,940	\$877,6

Number of fund shares		

Shares outstanding at beginning of period	140,989,259	140,9

Shares issued in connection with reinvestment of distributions	73,763	

Shares outstanding at end of period	141,063,022	140,9

* Unaudited

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

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

(For a common share outstanding throughout the period)

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Per-share operating performance	Six months ended January 31 (Unaudited)				
	Year ended July 31				
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$6.22	\$6.68	\$7.19	\$7.62	\$8.71
Investment operations:					
Net investment income (a)	.26	.55	.61	.63	.64
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	.24	(.47)	(.50)	(.39)	(.99)
Total from investment operations	.50	.08	.11	.24	(.35)
Less distributions:					
From net investment income	(.27)	(.53)	(.51)	(.67)	(.62)
From net realized gain on investments	--	--	--	--	(.12)
From return of capital	--	(.01)	(.11)	--	--
Total distributions	(.27)	(.54)	(.62)	(.67)	(.74)
Net asset value, end of period	\$6.45	\$6.22	\$6.68	\$7.19	\$7.62
Total return at market value (%) (b)	13.20*	4.44	8.56	(1.51)	(7.24)
Ratios and supplemental data					
Market value, end of period	\$6.54	\$6.03	\$6.29	\$6.38	\$7.19
Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	\$909,290	\$877,649	\$942,125	\$1,013,487	\$1,073,980
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%) (c)	.42*	.86	.85	.83	.86
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets (%)	4.21*	8.39	8.87	8.48	8.05
Portfolio turnover (%)	99.07 (d) *	175.78 (d)	231.58	133.80	165.79

* Not annualized.

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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

- (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 short-term trading strategy.

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

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS January 31, 2003 (Unaudited)

Note 1

Significant accounting policies

Putnam Premier Income Trust (the "fund") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The fund's investment objective is to seek high current income by allocating its investments among the U.S. government sector, high yield sector and international sector of the fixed-income securities market.

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 market value, which is determined using the last reported sales price on its principal exchange, or if no sales are reported -- as in the case of some securities traded over-the-counter -- the 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, which determine valuations for normal institutional-size trading units of such securities using methods based on market transactions for comparable securities and variable relationships, generally recognized by institutional traders, between securities. For foreign investments, if trading or events occurring in other markets after the close of the principal exchange in which the securities are traded are expected to materially affect the value of the investments, then those investments are valued, taking into consideration these events, at their fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. 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 market value. Other investments, including restricted securities, are valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees.

B) Joint trading account The fund may transfer uninvested cash balances, including cash collateral received under security lending arrangements,

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

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 in 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 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 accounted for 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 is recorded on the ex-dividend date except that certain dividends from foreign securities are recorded 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 accrued 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 engage in 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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

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 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 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. 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 agrees to receive from or pay to the broker 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. Future and written option contracts outstanding at period end are listed after The fund's portfolio.

H) Total return swap contracts The fund may engage in total return swap agreements, which are arrangements to exchange a market linked return for an interest payment, both based on a notional principal amount. To the extent that the total return of the security or index underlying the transaction exceeds or falls short of the offsetting interest rate obligation, the fund will receive a payment from or make a payment to the counterparty, respectively. Total return swap agreements 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 at the end of the measurement period are recorded as realized gains or losses. The fund could be exposed to credit or market risk due to unfavorable changes in the fluctuation of interest rates or in the price of the underlying security or index, the possibility that there is no liquid market for these agreements or that the counterparty may default on its obligation to perform. Total return swap contracts outstanding at period end are listed after The fund's portfolio.

I) Interest rate swap contracts The fund may engage in interest rate swap agreements, which are arrangements between two parties to exchange

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

cash flows based on a notional principal amount, to manage the funds exposure to interest rates. Interest rate swaps are marked to market daily based upon quotations from market makers and the change, if any, is recorded as unrealized gain or loss. Payments made or received are included as part of interest income. A portion of the payments received or made upon early termination are recorded as realized gain 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. Interest rate swap contracts outstanding at period end are listed after The fund's portfolio.

J) Credit default contracts The fund may engage in 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 as a result of a credit event related to a specified security or index. The upfront payment received by the fund, as the protection seller, is recorded as a liability 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 recorded, 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 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 counter party may default on its obligation to perform. Credit default contracts outstanding at period end are listed after The fund's portfolio.

K) TBA purchase commitments The fund may enter into "TBA" (to be announced) purchase 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 in 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 the current market value of the underlying securities, according to the procedures described under "Security valuation" above.

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.

L) 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"

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

for the transaction.

Unsettled TBA sale commitments are valued at the current market 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 are listed after The fund's portfolio.

M) Security lending The fund may lend securities, through its agent Citibank N.A., 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 Citibank N.A. The fund will 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 January 31, 2003, the value of securities loaned amounted to \$59,890. The fund received cash collateral of \$61,585, which is pooled with collateral of other Putnam funds into 23 issuers of high-grade short-term investments.

N) 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, 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, 2002, the fund had a capital loss carryover of approximately \$154,608,000 available to the extent allowed by tax law to offset future capital gains, if any. The amount of the carryover and the expiration dates are:

Loss Carryover	Expiration
-----	-----
\$39,893,000	July 31, 2007
44,858,000	July 31, 2008
24,930,000	July 31, 2009
44,927,000	July 31, 2010

Pursuant to federal income tax regulations applicable to regulated investment companies, the fund has elected to defer to its fiscal year ending July 31, 2003 approximately \$46,453,000 of losses recognized during the period November 1, 2001 to July 31, 2002.

The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$1,004,635,632, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$46,184,634 and \$106,701,855, respectively, or net unrealized depreciation of \$60,517,221.

O) Distributions to shareholders Distributions to shareholders from net investment income are recorded by the fund on the ex-dividend date.

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

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. 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.

Note 2

Management fee, administrative services and other transactions

Compensation of Putnam Management, for management and investment advisory services is paid 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% of any amount over \$1.5 billion.

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 wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam, LLC. Investor servicing agent functions are provided by Putnam Investor Services, a division of PFTC.

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 six months ended January 31, 2003, the fund's expenses were reduced by \$32,031 under these arrangements.

Each independent Trustee of the fund receives an annual Trustee fee, of which \$1,208 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 Compensation of Trustees in the Statement of operations. Accrued pension liability is included in Payable for compensation of Trustees in the Statement of assets and liabilities.

Note 3

Purchases and sales of securities

During the six months ended January 31, 2003, cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of investment securities other than U.S. government obligations and short-term investments aggregated \$404,263,861 and

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

\$557,493,521, respectively. Purchases and sales of U.S. government obligations aggregated \$581,580,417 and \$604,648,777, respectively.

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

TRUSTEES

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

OFFICERS

George Putnam, III
President

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

Patricia C. Flaherty

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

Senior Vice President

Karnig H. Durgarian
Vice President and Principal Executive Officer

Steven D. Krichmar
Vice President and Principal Financial Officer

Michael T. Healy
Assistant Treasurer and Principal Accounting Officer

Brett C. Browchuk
Vice President

Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.
Vice President

Lawrence J. Lasser
Vice President

Richard G. Leibovitch
Vice President

Beth S. Mazor
Vice President

Richard A. Monaghan
Vice President

Stephen M. Oristaglio
Vice President

Gordon H. Silver
Vice President

Mark C. Trenchard
Vice President

Kevin M. Cronin
Vice President

Judith Cohen
Clerk and Assistant Treasurer

Call 1-800-225-1581 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, or
visit our Web site (www.putnaminvestments.com) any time 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

Edgar Filing: PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST - Form N-30D

For account balances, economic forecasts, and the latest on Putnam funds, visit www.putnaminvestments.com

88604 073 3/03