

PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST
Form N-Q
June 28, 2012

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

FORM N-Q

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

Investment Company Act file number: (811-05452)

Exact name of registrant as specified in charter: Putnam Premier Income Trust

Address of principal executive offices: One Post Office Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Name and address of agent for service: Robert T. Burns, Vice President
One Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Copy to: John W. Gerstmayr, Esq.
Ropes & Gray LLP
800 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02199-3600

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (617) 292-1000

Date of fiscal year end: July 31, 2012

Date of reporting period: April 30, 2012

Item 1. Schedule of Investments:

Putnam Premier Income Trust

The fund's portfolio
4/30/12 (Unaudited)

MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES (32.9%)(a)

Principal
amount Value

FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 4/30/12 (aggregate face value \$620,565,826) (Unaudited)

Counterparty	Currency	Contract type	Delivery date	Value	Aggregate face value	Unrealized appreciation/ depreciation
Bank of America, N.A.						
	Australian Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	\$734,001	\$732,231	\$(1,770)
	British Pound	Sell	5/16/12	671,985	663,032	(8,953)
	Euro	Buy	5/16/12	6,690,707	6,723,483	(32,776)
	Japanese Yen	Sell	5/16/12	3,108,757	3,019,594	(89,163)
	Mexican Peso	Buy	5/16/12	106,661	105,033	1,628
	Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	106,661	108,894	2,233
	South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	37,891	37,769	122
	South African Rand	Sell	5/16/12	37,891	37,725	(166)
	Swedish Krona	Sell	5/16/12	1,243,263	1,265,249	21,986
	Swiss Franc	Buy	5/16/12	818,821	822,377	(3,556)
Barclay's Bank, PLC						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	2,881,071	2,939,816	(58,745)
	Brazilian Real	Buy	5/16/12	2,165,194	2,284,211	(119,017)
	British Pound	Sell	5/16/12	4,274,674	4,321,632	46,958
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	5,859,804	5,817,268	42,536
	Chilean Peso	Buy	5/16/12	1,857,887	1,863,926	(6,039)
	Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	2,729,517	2,840,797	111,280
	Euro	Sell	5/16/12	10,978,251	11,077,180	98,929
	Indonesian Rupiah	Buy	5/16/12	1,799,995	1,813,658	(13,663)
	Japanese Yen	Buy	5/16/12	2,487,394	2,458,657	28,737
	Malaysian Ringgit	Sell	5/16/12	10,235	(255)	(10,490)
	Mexican Peso	Buy	5/16/12	28,316	27,879	437

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

	Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	28,316	28,925	609
	New Zealand Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,292,575	1,286,765	(5,810)
	Norwegian Krone	Buy	5/16/12	2,609,699	2,628,657	(18,958)
	Polish Zloty	Buy	5/16/12	1,808,665	1,834,115	(25,450)
	Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	4,182,600	4,135,261	(47,339)
	South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	1,713,050	1,745,756	(32,706)
	South Korean Won	Sell	5/16/12	75,919	43,208	(32,711)
	Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	3,795,262	4,001,848	(206,586)
	Swiss Franc	Sell	5/16/12	2,924,220	2,935,165	10,945
	Taiwan Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,824,242	1,809,489	(14,753)
	Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	2,604,628	2,562,008	42,620
Citibank, N.A.						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	6,967,444	7,102,268	(134,824)
	British Pound	Sell	5/16/12	1,260,398	1,303,334	42,936
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	2,767,454	2,763,860	3,594
	Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	2,776,055	2,841,010	64,955
	Euro	Sell	5/16/12	6,774,766	6,778,851	4,085
	Japanese Yen	Sell	5/16/12	6,453,147	6,167,144	(286,003)
	Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	351,367	373,158	21,791
	Norwegian Krone	Buy	5/16/12	921,060	928,535	(7,475)
	Polish Zloty	Buy	5/16/12	981,184	982,179	(995)
	Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,308,394	2,282,723	(25,671)
	South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	1,073,142	1,069,319	3,823
	South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,816,479	1,826,150	(9,671)
	Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	5,742,946	5,848,150	(105,204)
	Swiss Franc	Buy	5/16/12	1,585,413	1,591,892	(6,479)
	Taiwan Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,822,478	1,804,675	(17,803)
	Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	3,561,090	3,509,102	51,988
Credit Suisse AG						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	2,651,039	2,705,705	(54,666)
	Brazilian Real	Buy	5/16/12	381,044	414,356	(33,312)
	British Pound	Buy	5/16/12	6,061,981	5,995,300	66,681
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	2,862,985	2,862,843	142
	Chilean Peso	Buy	5/16/12	3,698,247	3,695,608	2,639
	Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	3,699,638	3,783,470	83,832
	Euro	Sell	5/16/12	11,687,921	11,733,870	45,949
	Hungarian Forint	Sell	5/16/12	1,893,733	1,867,083	(26,650)
	Japanese Yen	Buy	5/16/12	1,977,382	2,041,695	(64,313)
	Mexican Peso	Buy	5/16/12	10,466	(10,206)	20,672
	New Zealand Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	128,432	137,258	(8,826)
	Norwegian Krone	Sell	5/16/12	3,138,447	3,163,499	25,052
	Polish Zloty	Sell	5/16/12	67,555	54,548	(13,007)
	Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,320,839	2,293,713	(27,126)
	South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	2,386,944	2,388,756	(1,812)
	South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,816,805	1,816,781	24
	Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	6,089,663	6,327,132	(237,469)
	Swiss Franc	Sell	5/16/12	8,181,050	8,215,214	34,164
	Taiwan Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,873,401	1,856,675	(16,726)
	Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	3,577,552	3,493,796	83,756
Deutsche Bank AG						
	Australian Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	3,336,349	3,318,093	(18,256)
	Brazilian Real	Buy	5/16/12	77,852	113,959	(36,107)
	British Pound	Sell	5/16/12	2,174,498	2,145,173	(29,325)
	Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	10,619,892	10,615,289	4,603
	Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	3,688,999	3,770,236	81,237
	Euro	Sell	5/16/12	5,591,320	5,617,126	25,806
	Mexican Peso	Buy	5/16/12	1,876,468	1,859,724	16,744
	Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	1,876,467	1,900,867	24,400
	Peruvian New Sol	Sell	5/16/12	1,982,791	1,961,121	(21,670)
	Polish Zloty	Buy	5/16/12	1,793,336	1,815,887	(22,551)
	Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,308,152	2,282,101	(26,051)
	South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	1,882,807	1,874,528	8,279

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

South African Rand	Sell	5/16/12	1,882,807	1,832,664	(50,143)
South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,826,353	1,834,495	(8,142)
Swedish Krona	Sell	5/16/12	2,246,161	2,285,174	39,013
Swiss Franc	Buy	5/16/12	1,708,164	1,714,065	(5,901)
Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	2,341,741	2,298,674	43,067
Goldman Sachs International					
Australian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	3,530,488	3,522,315	8,173
British Pound	Sell	5/16/12	1,640,772	1,753,446	112,674
Chilean Peso	Buy	5/16/12	827,455	832,862	(5,407)
Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	3,675,101	3,760,417	85,316
Euro	Sell	5/16/12	6,708,313	6,738,261	29,948
Japanese Yen	Buy	5/16/12	183,823	189,345	(5,522)
Norwegian Krone	Buy	5/16/12	4,241,316	4,273,103	(31,787)
Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	3,698,634	3,667,769	(30,865)
South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	1,868,144	1,860,219	7,925
South African Rand	Sell	5/16/12	1,868,144	1,851,669	(16,475)
South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,809,861	1,819,222	(9,361)
Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	9,780,743	9,782,839	(2,096)
Swiss Franc	Buy	5/16/12	86,389	86,723	(334)
Taiwan Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	35,577	32,840	2,737
Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	2,993,309	2,948,858	44,451
HSBC Bank USA, National Association					
Australian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	5,855,182	5,891,282	(36,100)
British Pound	Buy	5/16/12	1,188,363	1,219,371	(31,008)
Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	6,189,860	6,161,952	27,908
Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	3,675,101	3,763,196	88,095
Euro	Sell	5/16/12	16,367,299	16,401,855	34,556
Indian Rupee	Sell	5/16/12	5,211	5,388	177
Japanese Yen	Sell	5/16/12	441,633	345,664	(95,969)
Norwegian Krone	Sell	5/16/12	6,150,274	6,192,010	41,736
Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	4,172,418	4,126,660	(45,758)
South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,810,062	1,819,505	(9,443)
Swiss Franc	Buy	5/16/12	1,934,164	1,941,628	(7,464)
Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	1,768,908	1,740,838	28,070
JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.					
Australian Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	3,615,072	3,620,206	5,134
Brazilian Real	Buy	5/16/12	395,275	430,443	(35,168)
British Pound	Sell	5/16/12	3,732	20,874	17,142
Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	6,153,226	6,146,444	6,782
Chilean Peso	Buy	5/16/12	1,852,159	1,854,084	(1,925)
Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	4,613,606	4,717,789	104,183
Euro	Sell	5/16/12	10,542,467	10,573,363	30,896
Japanese Yen	Sell	5/16/12	3,940,393	3,830,220	(110,173)
Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	1,141,953	1,130,492	(11,461)
Norwegian Krone	Buy	5/16/12	7,159,514	7,216,347	(56,833)
Peruvian New Sol	Sell	5/16/12	435,920	431,124	(4,796)
Polish Zloty	Buy	5/16/12	1,835,269	1,863,967	(28,698)
Russian Ruble	Sell	5/16/12	787,413	791,330	3,917
Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,292,394	2,269,449	(22,945)
South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	2,422,447	2,468,602	(46,155)
South Korean Won	Sell	5/16/12	39,145	16,970	(22,175)
Swiss Franc	Sell	5/16/12	3,812,241	3,827,356	15,115
Taiwan Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,842,778	1,829,294	(13,484)
Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	2,622,793	2,557,451	65,342
Royal Bank of Scotland PLC (The)					
Australian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	1,690,751	1,738,951	(48,200)
Brazilian Real	Sell	5/16/12	1,602,340	1,616,944	14,604
British Pound	Buy	5/16/12	6,209,490	6,084,360	125,130
Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	2,827,464	2,821,615	5,849
Chilean Peso	Buy	5/16/12	1,862,444	1,856,920	5,524
Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	4,597,161	4,701,840	104,679
Euro	Sell	5/16/12	17,726,674	17,858,131	131,457

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

Japanese Yen	Sell	5/16/12	1,709,747	1,662,631	(47,116)
Mexican Peso	Buy	5/16/12	1,851,502	1,839,292	12,210
Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	1,851,502	1,863,192	11,690
New Zealand Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,838,657	1,827,485	(11,172)
Norwegian Krone	Sell	5/16/12	415,261	417,925	2,664
Polish Zloty	Buy	5/16/12	1,854,938	1,873,408	(18,470)
Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,837,034	1,821,279	(15,755)
South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	2,190,749	2,177,424	13,325
South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,820,413	1,828,042	(7,629)
Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	14,790,598	15,082,170	(291,572)
Swiss Franc	Sell	5/16/12	6,613,599	6,641,070	27,471
Taiwan Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	3,579,846	3,545,714	(34,132)
Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	3,703,461	3,668,319	35,142
State Street Bank and Trust Co.					
Australian Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,106,703	2,076,325	(30,378)
Brazilian Real	Buy	5/16/12	1,240,916	1,314,049	(73,133)
British Pound	Sell	5/16/12	2,609,073	2,488,538	(120,535)
Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	6,147,762	6,136,984	10,778
Chilean Peso	Buy	5/16/12	3,679,810	3,679,456	354
Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	3,685,263	3,814,196	128,933
Euro	Sell	5/16/12	16,908,454	16,892,370	(16,084)
Hungarian Forint	Buy	5/16/12	1,647,192	1,615,811	31,381
Japanese Yen	Sell	5/16/12	9,867,675	9,590,259	(277,416)
Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	813,864	830,856	16,992
Norwegian Krone	Buy	5/16/12	3,879,811	3,910,610	(30,799)
Polish Zloty	Buy	5/16/12	2,808,567	2,811,002	(2,435)
Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,325,283	2,297,602	(27,681)
South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	1,675,531	1,647,196	28,335
South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,787,534	1,802,349	(14,815)
Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	996,817	1,312,551	(315,734)
Swiss Franc	Sell	5/16/12	3,048,955	3,061,010	12,055
Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	3,632,162	3,557,042	75,120
UBS AG					
Australian Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,964,407	2,934,078	(30,329)
Brazilian Real	Buy	5/16/12	3,578,974	3,715,887	(136,913)
Brazilian Real	Sell	5/16/12	3,578,975	3,636,504	57,529
British Pound	Buy	5/16/12	815,112	807,269	7,843
Canadian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	5,643,291	5,598,317	44,974
Czech Koruna	Sell	5/16/12	3,684,276	3,800,866	116,590
Euro	Sell	5/16/12	8,614,932	8,582,152	(32,780)
Hungarian Forint	Buy	5/16/12	1,891,614	1,853,115	38,499
Indian Rupee	Sell	5/16/12	1,081,317	1,119,242	37,925
Japanese Yen	Sell	5/16/12	317,875	329,836	11,961
New Zealand Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,848,298	1,853,774	5,476
Norwegian Krone	Buy	5/16/12	764,296	717,593	46,703
Polish Zloty	Buy	5/16/12	1,852,784	1,839,223	13,561
Singapore Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	2,325,041	2,297,062	(27,979)
South African Rand	Buy	5/16/12	1,868,799	1,883,781	(14,982)
South Korean Won	Buy	5/16/12	1,771,083	1,783,252	(12,169)
Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	5,406,386	5,690,664	(284,278)
Swiss Franc	Sell	5/16/12	7,317,382	7,344,688	27,306
Taiwan Dollar	Sell	5/16/12	1,837,256	1,821,500	(15,756)
Turkish Lira	Buy	5/16/12	2,954,708	2,908,485	46,223
Westpac Banking Corp.					
Australian Dollar	Buy	5/16/12	2,237,377	2,229,595	7,782
British Pound	Buy	5/16/12	2,910,257	2,878,202	32,055
Euro	Sell	5/16/12	18,336,612	18,376,446	39,834
Japanese Yen	Buy	5/16/12	881,943	857,227	24,716
Mexican Peso	Sell	5/16/12	1,789,611	1,861,962	72,351
Norwegian Krone	Buy	5/16/12	375,634	378,685	(3,051)
Swedish Krona	Buy	5/16/12	4,081,367	4,156,486	(75,119)

Total**\$(1,329,093)****FUTURES CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 4/30/12 (Unaudited)**

	Number of contracts	Value	Expiration date	Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation)
Australian Government Treasury Bond 10 yr (Long)	5	\$624,231	Jun-12	\$18,270
Canadian Government Bond 10 yr (Long)	67	8,956,167	Jun-12	39,711
Euro-Bobl 5 yr (Short)	7	1,161,018	Jun-12	(12,810)
Euro-Bund 10 yr (Long)	56	10,458,609	Jun-12	225,161
Euro-Schatz 2 yr (Short)	161	23,570,602	Jun-12	(59,140)
Euro-Swiss Franc 3 Month (Short)	87	23,943,811	Jun-12	(243,439)
Euro-Swiss Franc 3 Month (Short)	87	23,951,000	Dec-12	(334,912)
Japanese Government Bond 10 yr Mini (Long)	20	3,582,415	Jun-12	20,215
U.K. Gilt 10 yr (Short)	12	2,251,481	Jun-12	(22,544)
U.S. Treasury Note 10 yr (Long)	39	5,158,969	Jun-12	(3,425)
Total				\$(372,913)

**WRITTEN OPTIONS OUTSTANDING at 4/30/12 (premiums received \$57,094,234)
(Unaudited)**

	Contract amount	Expiration date/ strike price	Value
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.375% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA	\$7,284,400	Aug-15/4.375	\$348,238

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

maturing August 2045.

Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.375% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2045.	7,284,400	Aug-15/4.375	2,063,328
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.46% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2045.	7,284,400	Aug-15/4.46	323,711
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.46% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2045.	7,284,400	Aug-15/4.46	2,162,258
Option on an interest rate swap with Bank of America, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.35% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2026.	64,500,748	Aug-16/4.35	8,257,644
Option on an interest rate swap with Bank of America, N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.28% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2026.	27,536,670	Aug-16/4.28	1,002,307
Option on an interest rate swap with Bank of America, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.28% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2026.	27,536,670	Aug-16/4.28	3,404,359
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.68% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2026.	18,053,080	Aug-16/4.68	509,097
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.68% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2026.	18,053,080	Aug-16/4.68	2,675,466
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.67% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.	15,044,234	Jul-16/4.67	425,752
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.67% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.	15,044,234	Jul-16/4.67	2,220,529
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.80% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.	6,017,693	Jul-16/4.80	157,664
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.80% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.	6,017,693	Jul-16/4.80	941,167
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.79% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.	8,457,241	Jul-16/4.79	216,996
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.79% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.	8,457,241	Jul-16/4.79	1,356,051
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.74% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.	15,141,557	Jul-16/4.74	399,010
	15,141,557	Jul-16/4.74	2,378,330

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

Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.74% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2026.			
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 5.12% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2021.	4,622,106	Jun-16/5.12	50,085
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.89% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2021.	4,548,270	Jun-16/4.89	52,760
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.575% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2021.	4,519,392	Jun-16/4.575	60,027
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.12% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2021.	4,622,106	Jun-16/4.12	348,068
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.39% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2021.	4,548,270	Jun-16/4.39	385,238
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.575% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2021.	4,519,392	Jun-16/4.575	425,623
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.705% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	71,799,174	May-16/4.705	922,619
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.705% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	71,799,174	May-16/4.705	7,023,395
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.04% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing September 2025.	22,922,000	Sep-15/4.04	685,437
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.04% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing September 2025.	22,922,000	Sep-15/4.04	2,725,036
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.3625% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing January 2023.	3,282,000	Jan-13/2.3625	104,729
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.355% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing December 2022.	3,282,000	Dec-12/2.355	103,383
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.345% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing December 2022.	3,282,000	Dec-12/2.345	100,954
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.335% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing November 2022.	3,282,000	Nov-12/2.335	98,427
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.32% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing November 2022.	3,282,000	Nov-12/2.32	95,506
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of	11,721,000	Oct-12/2.443	425,472

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

2.443% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing October 2022.			
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.419% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing September 2022.	11,721,000	Sep-12/2.419	401,679
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.4475% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2022.	29,628,000	Aug-12/2.4475	1,073,422
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.855% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2022.	74,503,300	Aug-12/2.855	152,732
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.855% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2022.	74,503,300	Aug-12/2.855	5,147,433
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.73% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA August 2022.	21,595,000	Aug-12/2.73	62,194
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.73% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2022.	21,595,000	Aug-12/2.73	1,262,660
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.394% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing August 2022.	11,721,000	Aug-12/2.394	377,299
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.6825% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	3,304,000	Jul-12/2.6825	181,753
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.1714% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	2,813,000	Jul-12/2.1714	48,130
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.1714% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	2,813,000	Jul-12/2.1714	48,130
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.1714% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	2,813,000	Jul-12/2.1714	48,130
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.1714% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	2,813,000	Jul-12/2.1714	48,130
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.1714% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	2,813,000	Jul-12/2.1714	48,130
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.6075% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	23,283,000	Jul-12/2.6075	1,136,443
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.6075% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	23,283,000	Jul-12/2.6075	1,136,443
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.61875% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA	23,283,000	Jul-12/2.61875	1,158,096

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

maturing July 2022.

Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.372% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing July 2022.	11,721,000	Jul-12/2.372	350,927
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.183% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	2,754,000	Jun-12/2.183	44,450
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.183% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	2,754,000	Jun-12/2.183	44,450
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.183% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	2,754,000	Jun-12/2.183	44,450
Option on an interest rate swap with Bank of America, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.183% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	2,754,000	Jun-12/2.183	44,450
Option on an interest rate swap with Barclay's Bank, PLC for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.183% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	2,754,000	Jun-12/2.183	44,450
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.195% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	2,266,000	Jun-12/2.195	13,891
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.195% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	2,266,000	Jun-12/2.195	38,023
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.10% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	17,352,000	Jun-12/2.10	152,871
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.10% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	17,352,000	Jun-12/2.10	191,393
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.095% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	17,352,000	Jun-12/2.095	136,907
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.095% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	17,352,000	Jun-12/2.095	176,643
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.346% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing June 2022.	11,721,000	Jun-12/2.346	322,562
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.09% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	17,352,000	May-12/2.09	119,555
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.09% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	17,352,000	May-12/2.09	160,506
	17,352,000	May-12/2.095	99,080

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

Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.095% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.			
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.095% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	17,352,000	May-12/2.095	156,689
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.09% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	17,352,000	May-12/2.09	78,778
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.09% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	17,352,000	May-12/2.09	138,122
Option on an interest rate swap with Bank of America N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 2.17% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	2,266,000	May-12/2.17	4,759
Option on an interest rate swap with Bank of America N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.17% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	2,266,000	May-12/2.17	29,458
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 5.51% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	19,551,000	May-12/5.51	6,261,990
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.005% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	3,183,000	May-12/2.005	8,053
Option on an interest rate swap with Credit Suisse International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 2.324% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	11,721,000	May-12/2.324	301,931
Option on an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 5.51% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2022.	19,551,000	May-12/5.51	20
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 5.11% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	23,498,613	May-16/5.11	254,067
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.86% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	24,125,492	May-16/4.86	278,891
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.60% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	24,005,421	May-16/4.60	299,828
Option on an interest rate swap with Citibank, N.A. for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.11% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	23,498,613	May-16/4.11	1,763,430
Option on an interest rate swap with Goldman Sachs International for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.36% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	24,125,492	May-16/4.36	2,017,374
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.60% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	24,005,421	May-16/4.60	2,201,777

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

Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to receive a fixed rate of 4.765% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	44,321,532	May-16/4.765	502,163
Option on an interest rate swap with Deutsche Bank AG for the obligation to pay a fixed rate of 4.765% versus the three month USD-LIBOR-BBA maturing May 2021.	44,321,532	May-16/4.765	4,362,125
Total			\$75,423,533

TBA SALE COMMITMENTS OUTSTANDING at 4/30/12 (proceeds receivable \$61,194,688) (Unaudited)

Agency	Principal amount	Settlement date	Value
Federal National Mortgage Association, 4 1/2s, May 1, 2042	\$5,000,000	5/14/12	\$5,353,516
Federal National Mortgage Association, 3 1/2s, May 1, 2042	54,000,000	5/14/12	56,075,625
Total			\$61,429,141

INTEREST RATE SWAP CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 4/30/12 (Unaudited)

TOTAL RETURN SWAP CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 4/30/12 (Unaudited)

CREDIT DEFAULT CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 4/30/12 (Unaudited)

Key to holding's currency abbreviations

ARS	Argentine Peso
AUD	Australian Dollar
BRL	Brazilian Real
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CHF	Swiss Franc
CLP	Chilean Peso
EUR	Euro
GBP	British Pound
INR	Indian Rupee
JPY	Japanese Yen
KRW	South Korean Won
MXN	Mexican Peso
PEN	Peruvian Neuvo Sol
PLN	Polish Zloty
RUB	Russian Ruble
SEK	Swedish Krona

ZAR South African Rand

Key to holding's abbreviations

EMTN Euro Medium Term Notes

FRB Floating Rate Bonds: the rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period

FRN Floating Rate Notes: the rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period

IFB Inverse Floating Rate Bonds, which are securities that pay interest rates that vary inversely to changes in the market interest rates. As interest rates rise, inverse floaters produce less current income. The rate shown is the current interest rate at the close of the reporting period.

IO Interest Only

JSC Joint Stock Company

LOC Letter of Credit

MTN Medium Term Notes

OAO Open Joint Stock Company

OJSC Open Joint Stock Company

PO Principal Only

TBA To Be Announced Commitments

Notes to the fund's portfolio

Unless noted otherwise, the notes to the fund's portfolio are for the close of the fund's reporting period, which ran from August 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 (the reporting period). Within the following notes to the portfolio, references to "ASC 820" represent Accounting Standards Codification ASC 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* and references to "Putnam Management" represent Putnam Investment Management, LLC, the fund's manager, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Putnam Investments, LLC.

(a) Percentages indicated are based on net assets of \$819,697,071.

(b) The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$1,079,850,417, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$45,786,541 and \$37,783,385, respectively, or net unrealized appreciation of \$8,003,156.

(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.

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

(SEG) This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the broker to cover margin requirements for futures contracts at the close of the reporting period.

(SEGSF)

This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the custodian for collateral on certain derivative contracts at the close of the reporting period.

(FWC) Forward commitment, in part or in entirety.

(c) Senior loans are exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but contain certain restrictions on resale and cannot be sold publicly. These loans pay interest at rates which adjust periodically. The interest rates shown for senior loans are the current interest rates at the close of the reporting period. Senior loans are also subject to mandatory and/or optional prepayment which cannot be predicted. As a result, the remaining maturity may be substantially less than the stated maturity shown. Senior loans are purchased or sold on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis and may be settled a month or more after the trade date, which from time to time can delay the actual investment of available cash balances; interest income is accrued based on the terms of the securities.

Senior loans can be acquired through an agent, by assignment from another holder of the loan, or as a participation interest in another holder's portion of the loan. When the fund invests in a loan or participation, the fund is subject to the risk that an intermediate participant between the fund and the borrower will fail to meet its obligations to the fund, in addition to the risk that the borrower under the loan may default on its obligations.

(e) The fund invested in Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund, an open-end management investment company managed by Putnam Management. Investments in Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund are valued at its closing net asset value each business day. Income distributions earned by the fund are recorded as interest income and totaled \$51,374 for the reporting period. During the reporting period, cost of purchases and proceeds of sales of investments in Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund aggregated \$378,793,674 and \$500,654,450, respectively. Management fees charged to Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund have been waived by Putnam Management. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.

(F) Is valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. Securities may be classified as Level 2 or Level 3 for ASC 820 based on the securities' valuation inputs.

(i) Security purchased with cash or security received, that was pledged to the fund for collateral on certain derivative contracts.

(R) Real Estate Investment Trust.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund maintained liquid assets totaling \$225,309,506 to cover certain derivatives contracts.

Debt obligations are considered secured unless otherwise indicated.

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

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

Security valuation: Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the last reported sales price on their principal exchange, or official closing price for certain markets, and are classified as Level 1 securities. If no sales are reported — as in the case of some securities traded over-the-counter — a security is valued at its last reported bid price and is generally categorized as a Level 2 security.

Investments in other open-end investment companies (excluding exchange traded funds), which are classified as Level 1 securities, are based on their net asset value. The net asset value of an investment company equals the total value of its assets less its liabilities and divided by the number of its outstanding shares. Shares are only valued as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange each day that the exchange is open.

Market quotations are not considered to be readily available for certain debt obligations and other investments; such investments are valued on the basis of valuations furnished by an independent pricing service approved by the Trustees or dealers selected by Putnam Management. Such services or dealers determine valuations for normal institutional-size trading units of such securities using methods based on market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships, generally recognized by institutional traders, between securities (which considers such factors as security prices, yields, maturities and ratings). These securities will generally be categorized as Level 2.

Many securities markets and exchanges outside the U.S. close prior to the close of the New York Stock Exchange and therefore the closing prices for securities in such markets or on such exchanges may not fully reflect events that occur after such close but before the close of the New York Stock Exchange. Accordingly, on certain days, the fund will fair value foreign equity securities taking into account multiple factors including movements in the U.S. securities markets, currency valuations and comparisons to the valuation of American Depository Receipts, exchange-traded funds and futures contracts. These securities, which will generally represent a transfer from a Level 1 to a Level 2 security, will be classified as Level 2. The number of days on which fair value prices will be used will depend on market activity and it is possible that fair value prices will be used by the fund to a significant extent. Securities quoted in foreign currencies, if any, are translated into U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate.

To the extent a pricing service or dealer is unable to value a security or provides a valuation that Putnam Management does not believe accurately reflects the

security's fair value, the security will be valued at fair value by Putnam Management. Certain investments, including certain restricted and illiquid securities and derivatives, are also valued at fair value following procedures approved by the Trustees. These valuations consider such factors as significant market or specific security events such as interest rate or credit quality changes, various relationships with other securities, discount rates, U.S. Treasury, U.S. swap and credit yields, index levels, convexity exposures and recovery rates. These securities are classified as Level 2 or as Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs.

Such valuations and procedures are reviewed periodically by the Trustees. Certain securities may be valued on the basis of a price provided by a single source. The fair value of securities is generally determined as the amount that the fund could reasonably expect to realize from an orderly disposition of such securities over a reasonable period of time. By its nature, a fair value price is a good faith estimate of the value of a security in a current sale and does not reflect an actual market price, which may be different by a material amount.

Stripped securities: The fund may invest in stripped securities which represent a participation in securities that may be structured in classes with rights to receive different portions of the interest and principal. Interest-only securities receive all of the interest and principal-only securities receive all of the principal. If the interest-only securities experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, the fund may fail to recoup fully its initial investment in these securities. Conversely, principal-only securities increase in value if prepayments are greater than anticipated and decline if prepayments are slower than anticipated. The market value of these securities is highly sensitive to changes in interest rates.

Options contracts: The fund used options contracts to hedge duration and convexity, to isolate prepayment risk, to gain exposure to interest rates, to hedge against changes in values of securities it owns, owned or expects to own, and to hedge prepayment risk.

The potential risk to the fund is that the change in value of 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, if interest or exchange rates move unexpectedly or if the counterparty to the contract is unable to perform. Realized gains and losses on purchased options are included in realized gains and losses on investment securities. If a written call option is exercised, the premium originally received is recorded as an addition to sales proceeds. If a written put option is exercised, the premium originally received is recorded as a reduction to the cost of investments.

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.

The fund had an average contract amount of approximately 2,043,300,000 on purchased options contracts for the reporting period. The fund had an average contract amount of approximately 1,829,100,000 on written options contracts for the reporting period.

Futures contracts: The fund used futures contracts to hedge prepayment risk, to hedge interest rate risk, and to gain exposure to interest rates.

The potential risk to the fund is that the change in value of futures 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, if interest or exchange rates move unexpectedly or if the counterparty to the contract is unable to perform. With futures, there is minimal counterparty credit risk to the fund since futures are exchange traded and the exchange's clearinghouse, as counterparty to all exchange traded futures, guarantees the futures against default. 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.

Futures contracts are valued at the quoted daily settlement prices established by the exchange on which they trade. The fund and the broker agree to exchange an amount of cash equal to the daily fluctuation in the value of the futures contract. Such receipts or payments are known as "variation margin".

The fund had an average number of contracts of approximately 1,700 on futures contracts for the reporting period.

Forward currency contracts: The fund buys and sells forward currency contracts, which are agreements between two parties to buy and sell currencies at a set price on a future date. These contracts were used to hedge foreign exchange risk and to gain exposure on currency.

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. 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 when the contract matures or by delivery of the currency. 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.

Outstanding forward currency contracts at the close of the reporting period are indicative of the volume of activity during the reporting period.

Total return swap contracts: The fund entered into total return swap contracts, which are arrangements to exchange a market linked return for a periodic payment, both based on a notional principal amount, to hedge sector exposure, to manage exposure to specific sectors or industries, and to gain exposure to specific markets or countries.

To the extent that the total return of the security, index or other financial measure 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. Total return swap contracts are marked to market daily based upon quotations from an independent pricing service or market makers and the change, if any, is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss. Payments received or made are recorded as realized gains or losses. Certain total return swap contracts may include extended effective dates. Payments related to these swap contracts are accrued based on the terms of the contract. 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. The fund's maximum risk of loss from counterparty risk is the fair value of the contract. This risk may be mitigated by having a master netting arrangement between the fund and the counterparty.

The fund had an average notional amount of approximately \$364,700,000 on total return swap contracts for the reporting period.

Interest rate swap contracts: The fund entered into interest rate swap contracts, which are arrangements between two parties to exchange cash flows based on a notional principal amount and to hedge interest rate risk, to gain exposure on interest rates.

An interest rate swap can be purchased or sold with an upfront premium. An upfront payment received by the fund is recorded as a liability on the fund's books. An upfront payment made by the fund is recorded as an asset on the fund's books. Interest rate swap contracts are marked to market daily based upon quotations from an independent pricing service or market makers and the change, if any, is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss. Payments received or made are recorded as realized gains or losses. Certain interest rate swap contracts may include extended effective dates. Payments related to these swap contracts are accrued based on the terms of the contract. 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. The fund's maximum risk of loss from counterparty risk is the fair value of the contract. This risk may be mitigated by having a master netting arrangement between the fund and the counterparty.

The fund had an average notional amount of approximately \$7,564,000,000 on interest rate swap contracts for the reporting period.

Credit default contracts: The fund entered into credit default contracts to hedge credit risk and to gain exposure on individual names and/or baskets of securities.

In a credit default contract, the protection buyer typically makes an up front payment and a periodic stream of payments to a counterparty, the protection seller, in exchange for the right to receive a contingent payment upon the occurrence of a credit event on the reference obligation or all other equally ranked obligations of the reference entity. Credit events are contract specific but may include bankruptcy, failure to pay, restructuring and obligation acceleration. An upfront payment received by the fund is recorded as a liability on the fund's books. An upfront payment made by the fund is recorded as an asset on the fund's books. Periodic payments received or paid by the fund are recorded as realized gains or losses. The credit default contracts are marked to market daily based upon quotations from an independent pricing service or market makers and the change, if any, is recorded as an unrealized gain or loss. Upon the occurrence of a credit event, the difference between the par value and market value of the reference obligation, net of any proportional amount of the upfront payment, is recorded as a realized gain or loss.

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 or 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 the underlying reference obligations. In certain circumstances, the fund may enter into offsetting credit default contracts which would mitigate its risk of loss. The fund's maximum risk of loss from counterparty risk, either as the protection seller or as the protection buyer, is the fair value of the contract. This risk may be mitigated by having a master netting arrangement between the fund and the counterparty. Where the fund is a seller of protection, the maximum potential amount of future payments the fund may be required to make is equal to the notional amount of the relevant credit default contract.

The fund had an average notional amount of approximately \$32,300,000 on credit default swap contracts for the reporting period.

Master agreements: The fund is a party to ISDA (International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc.) Master Agreements (Master Agreements) with certain counterparties that govern over the counter derivative and foreign exchange contracts entered into from time to time. The Master Agreements may contain provisions regarding, among other things, the parties' general obligations, representations, agreements, collateral requirements, events of default and early termination. With respect to certain counterparties, in accordance with the terms of the Master Agreements, collateral posted to the fund is held in a segregated account by the fund's custodian and with respect to those amounts which can

be sold or repledged, are presented in the fund's portfolio. Collateral posted to the fund which cannot be sold or repledged totaled \$28,210,404 at the close of the reporting period.

Collateral pledged by the fund is segregated by the fund's custodian and identified in the fund's portfolio. Collateral can be in the form of cash or debt securities issued by the U.S. Government or related agencies or other securities as agreed to by the fund and the applicable counterparty. Collateral requirements are determined based on the fund's net position with each counterparty.

Termination events applicable to the fund may occur upon a decline in the fund's net assets below a specified threshold over a certain period of time. Termination events applicable to counterparties may occur upon a decline in the counterparty's long-term and short-term credit ratings below a specified level. In each case, upon occurrence, the other party may elect to terminate early and cause settlement of all derivative and foreign exchange contracts outstanding, including the payment of any losses and costs resulting from such early termination, as reasonably determined by the terminating party. Any decision by one or more of the fund's counterparties to elect early termination could impact the fund's future derivative activity.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund had a net liability position of \$37,631,887 on derivative contracts subject to the Master Agreements. Collateral posted by the fund totaled \$36,803,270.

TBA purchase commitments: The fund may enter into TBA 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, it is anticipated that the amount of the commitments will not significantly differ from the principal amount. The fund holds, and maintains until settlement date, cash or high-grade debt obligations in an amount sufficient to meet the purchase price, or the fund may enter into offsetting contracts for the forward sale of other securities it owns. Income on the securities will not be earned until settlement date.

TBA purchase commitments may be considered securities themselves, and involve a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines prior to the settlement date, which risk is in addition to the risk of decline in the value of the fund's other assets. Unsettled TBA purchase commitments are valued at fair value of the underlying securities, according to the procedures described under "Security valuation" above. The contract is marked to market daily and the change in market value is recorded by the fund as an unrealized gain or loss.

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

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

Unsettled TBA sale commitments are valued at the fair value of the underlying securities, generally according to the procedures described under “Security valuation” above. The contract is marked to market daily and the change in market value is recorded by the fund as an unrealized gain or loss. If the TBA sale commitment is closed through the acquisition of an offsetting TBA 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.

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

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

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

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

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

	Valuation inputs		
Investments in securities:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Common stocks:			
Consumer cyclicals	\$—	\$672	\$15
Energy	—	—	4,141
Health care	13,461	—	—

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

Total common stocks	13,461	672	4,156
Asset-backed securities	—	29,861,670	—
Convertible bonds and notes	—	1,508,251	—
Convertible preferred stocks	—	667,652	15
Corporate bonds and notes	—	256,705,079	—
Foreign government bonds and notes	—	66,830,527	—
Mortgage-backed securities	—	269,776,710	—
Preferred stocks	—	1,060,336	—
Purchased options outstanding	—	84,886,151	—
Senior loans	—	15,603,942	—
U.S. Government and Agency Mortgage Obligations	—	175,277,740	—
U.S. Treasury Obligations	—	305,332	—
Warrants	—	2,112	41,939
Short-term investments	26,544,987	158,762,841	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals by level	\$26,558,448	\$1,061,249,015	\$46,110

Item 2. Controls and Procedures:

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

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

Item 3. Exhibits:

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

SIGNATURES

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

Putnam Premier Income Trust

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

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Janet C. Smith

Janet C. Smith

Principal Accounting Officer

Date: June 28, 2012

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

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Jonathan S. Horwitz

Jonathan S. Horwitz

Principal Executive Officer

Date: June 28, 2012

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Steven D. Krichmar

Steven D. Krichmar

Principal Financial Officer

Date: June 28, 2012