

PUTNAM HIGH INCOME SECURITIES FUND  
Form N-Q  
July 27, 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: (811-05133)

Exact name of registrant as specified in charter: Putnam High Income Securities Fund

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: &nbsp;&nbsp;  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: August 31, 2012

Date of reporting period: May 31, 2012

Item 1. Schedule of Investments:

## Putnam High Income Securities Fund

The fund's portfolio  
5/31/12 (Unaudited)

### CORPORATE BONDS AND NOTES (41.8%)(a)

Principal  
amount      Value

### FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 5/31/12 (aggregate face value \$850,031) (Unaudited)

Counterparty	Currency	Contract type	Delivery date	Value	Aggregate face value	Unrealized appreciation
<b>Bank of America, N.A.</b>	Canadian Dollar	Sell	6/20/12	\$33,873	\$35,359	\$1,486
<b>Credit Suisse AG</b>	Euro	Sell	6/20/12	57,502	61,598	4,096
<b>Deutsche Bank AG</b>	Euro	Sell	6/20/12	117,476	125,904	8,428
<b>JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.</b>	Canadian Dollar	Sell	6/20/12	39,680	41,460	1,780
<b>Westpac Banking Corp.</b>	Canadian Dollar	Sell	6/20/12	71,714	74,906	3,192
	Euro	Sell	6/20/12	476,828	510,804	33,976
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$52,958</b>

**Key to holding's currency abbreviations**

CAD Canadian Dollar  
EUR Euro  
USD / United States Dollar  
\$

**Key to holding's abbreviations**

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  
GMTN Global Medium Term Notes  
MTN Medium Term Notes  
MTNI Medium Term Notes Class I

**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 September 1, 2011 through May 31, 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 \$136,422,797.
- (b) The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$137,633,950, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$7,595,311 and \$9,595,763, respectively, or net unrealized depreciation of \$2,000,452.
- (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) Security is restricted with regard to public resale. The total market value of this security and any other restricted securities (excluding 144A securities), if any, held at the close of the reporting period was \$145,312, or 0.1% of net assets.
- (PIK) Income may be received in cash or additional securities at the discretion of the issuer.
- (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 \$2,880 for the reporting period. During the reporting period, cost of purchases and proceeds of sales of investments in Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund aggregated \$16,864,556 and \$13,358,317, 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.
- (R) Real Estate Investment Trust.

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. 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.

**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.

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.

The fund had an average contract amount of approximately \$1,400,000 on forward currency 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 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

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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 did not have a net liability position on derivative contracts subject to the Master Agreements.

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:

	<b>Valuation inputs</b>		
<b>Investments in securities:</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
<b>Common stocks:</b>			
Basic materials	\$111,955	\$—	\$—
Capital goods	35,006	—	—
Communication services	86,259	—	—
Consumer cyclicals	160,483	456	5
Consumer staples	145,326	—	11,780
Energy	174,816	170,260	1,267
Financials	32,002	—	—
Health care	295	—	—
<b>Total common stocks</b>	<b>746,142</b>	<b>170,716</b>	<b>13,052</b>
Convertible bonds and notes	—	38,256,374	—
Convertible preferred stocks	—	31,105,467	657
Corporate bonds and notes	—	57,038,474	1
Preferred stocks	—	251,032	—

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Senior loans	—	22,856	—
Units	—	1,232,000	—
Warrants	—	—	44,393
Short-term investments	6,752,334	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Totals by level</b>	<b>\$7,498,476</b>	<b>\$128,076,919</b>	<b>\$58,103</b>

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 High Income Securities Fund

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Janet C. Smith

Janet C. Smith  
Principal Accounting Officer  
Date: July 27, 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: July 27, 2012

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Steven D. Krichmar  
Steven D. Krichmar  
Principal Financial Officer  
Date: July 27, 2012