

# Putnam Small Cap Growth Fund

Class Y: PSYGX Class A: PNSAX

Commentary | as of June 30, 2025

## Key Takeaways

- **Markets:** US equity markets delivered surprisingly positive returns after a challenging first quarter and a rocky start to the second quarter.
- **Contributors:** Industrials, health care and materials
- **Detractors:** Financials, information technology and consumer staples
- **Outlook:** We believe the market is likely to remain volatile for the foreseeable future, and risk mitigation will be very important.

## Performance Review

- For the quarter, the portfolio outperformed its benchmark, the Russell 2000 Growth Index. Both stock selection and sector allocation contributed to relative results.
- Strength in the industrials, health care and materials sectors drove relative outperformance, while the financials, information technology and consumer staples sectors detracted.
- From an individual stock perspective, top contributors included out-benchmark positions in Comfort Systems and Verona Pharma, and an overweight position in Carpenter Technology.
- Detractors included out-of-benchmark positions in BellRing Brands and Murphy USA, and an overweight position in ACI Worldwide.

## Outlook

- Despite the sharp US equity market recovery in the second quarter, we believe macro- and microeconomic outlooks have not yet been resolved.
- The final tariff framework is still to be determined, inflation remains a key concern, Federal Reserve interest-rate cuts are on hold, the implications of the recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill are still being debated, and the growing US debt load continues to loom over the fiscal outlook.
- Geopolitical events, including the ongoing Russia/Ukraine and Israel/Palestine conflicts, continue to add complexity.
- Despite much uncertainty, market sentiment has turned broadly optimistic as recent surveys showed an uptick in consumer and business confidence.
- We believe the market is likely to remain volatile for the foreseeable future, and risk mitigation will be very important.
- As we move into the second half of 2025, we intend to maintain a well-diversified portfolio and seek outperformance driven by stock selection, while limiting risk from sector biases.

## Morningstar Rating™

Overall Rating as of June 30, 2025

★★★★★ (5-Star) Class Y

★★★★★ (5-Star) Class A

As of 06/30/2025 the fund's Class A and Class Y shares received a 5 star overall Morningstar rating™, measuring risk-adjusted returns against 527, 512 and 400 Small Growth funds over the 3-, 5- and 10- year periods, respectively. A fund's overall rating is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5- and 10-year (if applicable) rating metrics.

## Top Equity Issuers (% of Total)

Holding	Fund
Carpenter Technology	2.51
Encompass Health	2.48
Verona Pharma	2.40
Nova	2.38
Comfort Systems USA	2.34
Huron Consulting Group	1.99
Merit Medical Systems	1.98
RBC Bearings	1.91
Descartes Systems Group	1.88
Ensign Group	1.85

## Sector Allocation (% of Total)

Sector	Fund
Industrials	27.60
Health Care	21.53
Information Technology	21.08
Consumer Discretionary	10.67
Financials	8.11
Materials	4.33
Real Estate	1.87
Energy	1.60
Other	1.88
Cash & Other Net Assets	1.33

Average annual total returns and fund expenses (%) - as of June 30, 2025

Class	CUSIP	Ticker	Without Sales Charge							With Maximum Sales Charge							Expenses		Sales Charges		Inception Date
			3-Mo	YTD	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr	Inception	3-Mo	YTD	1-Yr	3-Yr	5-Yr	10-Yr	Inception	Gross	Net	Initial Charge	CDSC	
Class Y	746763499	PSYGX	13.75	1.93	9.02	17.16	11.70	11.58	11.53	13.75	1.93	9.02	17.16	11.70	11.58	11.53	0.96	0.96	—	—	12/30/1997
Class A	746763549	PNSAX	13.68	1.81	8.74	16.88	11.42	11.30	11.31	7.14	-4.05	2.49	14.60	10.11	10.64	11.07	1.21	1.21	5.75	—	12/30/1997
Benchmark	—	—	11.97	-0.48	9.73	12.38	7.42	7.14	—	11.97	-0.48	9.73	12.38	7.42	7.14	—	—	—	—	—	—

Benchmark(s)

Benchmark =Russell 2000 Growth Index

**Performance data quoted represents past performance, which does not guarantee future results.** Current performance may be lower or higher than the figures shown. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate, and investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. Performance would have been lower if fees had not been waived in various periods. Total returns assume the reinvestment of all distributions and the deduction of all fund expenses. Returns with sales charge reflect a deduction of the stated maximum sales charge. An investor cannot invest directly in an index, and unmanaged index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses or sales charges. Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized. All classes of shares may not be available to all investors or through all distribution channels. For current month-end performance, please visit franklintempleton.com. The fund began offering Class Y shares on 11/3/2003. Performance quotations have been calculated as follows: (a) Class Y periods prior to 11/3/2003 are based on the fund's Class A performance, which has not been adjusted for the lower operating expenses; had it been adjusted, performance would be higher. (b) For periods after the share class offering, performance for the specific share class is used, reflecting the expenses and maximum sales charges applicable to that class. Gross expenses are the fund's total annual operating expenses as of the fund's prospectus available at the time of publication. Net expenses are capped under a contractual agreement, which cannot be terminated prior to 10/30/2025 without Board consent. Actual expenses may be higher and may impact portfolio returns. The fund's monthly base fee is increased or reduced by a performance adjustment as described in the prospectus.

What are the Risks?

**All investments involve risks, including possible loss of principal.** Small- and mid-cap stocks involve greater risks and volatility than large-cap stocks. The investment style may become out of favor, which may have a negative impact on performance. To the extent the portfolio invests in a concentration of certain securities, regions or industries, it is subject to increased volatility. **Active management** does not ensure gains or protect against market declines. The manager may consider **environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria** in the research or investment process; however, ESG considerations may not be a determinative factor in security selection. In addition, the manager may not assess every investment for ESG criteria, and not every ESG factor may be identified or evaluated. These and other risks are discussed in the fund's prospectus.

Important Information

The information provided is not a complete analysis of every material fact regarding any country, market, industry, security or fund. Because market and economic conditions are subject to change, comments, opinions and analyses are rendered as of the date of this material and may change without notice. A portfolio manager's assessment of a particular security, investment or strategy is not intended as individual investment advice or a recommendation or solicitation to buy, sell or hold any security or to adopt any investment strategy; it is intended only to provide insight into the fund's portfolio selection process. Holdings are subject to change.

The **Russell 2000 Growth Index** measures the performance of the small-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. Source: FTSE.

Important data provider notices and terms available at [www.franklintempletondatasources.com](http://www.franklintempletondatasources.com). All data is subject to change.

**Morningstar Rating™:** Source: Morningstar®, 06/30/2025. For each mutual fund and ETF with at least a 3-year history, Morningstar calculates a Morningstar Rating™ based on how a fund ranks on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure against other funds in the same category. This measure takes into account variations in a fund's monthly performance, and does not take into account the effects of sales charges and loads, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of funds in each category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The weights are: 100% 3-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% 5-year rating/40% 3-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% 5-year rating/20% 3-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent 3-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. The fund's Class A shares received a Morningstar Rating of 5, 4 and 5 and fund's Class Y shares received a Morningstar Rating of 5, 4 and 5 star(s) for the 3-, 5- and 10-year periods, respectively. Franklin Templeton provides this fund's Morningstar Rating™ for Class A and Class Y shares only. Other share classes may have different Morningstar ratings.

Putnam funds are not exchangeable for other funds distributed by Franklin Distributors, LLC.

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Before investing, carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. You can find this and other information in each prospectus, or summary prospectus, if available, at [www.franklintempleton.com](http://www.franklintempleton.com). Please read it carefully.