

PUTNAM MASTER INTERMEDIATE INCOME TRUST  
Form N-Q  
February 28, 2013

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: (811-05498)

Exact name of registrant as specified in charter: Putnam Master Intermediate 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: September 30, 2013

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2012

Item 1. Schedule of Investments:

## Putnam Master Intermediate Income Trust

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

### MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES (47.6%)(a)

Principal  
amount      Value

### FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS at 12/31/12 (aggregate face value \$144,669,656) (Unaudited)

Counterparty	Currency	Contract type	Delivery date	Value	Aggregate face value	Unrealized appreciation/ depreciation
<b>Bank of America N.A.</b>						
	Euro	Sell	1/16/13	925,256	899,467	(25,789)
	Japanese Yen	Sell	1/16/13	876,672	895,871	19,199
	Peruvian New Sol	Buy	1/16/13	819,876	816,912	2,964
<b>Barclays Bank PLC</b>						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	2,046,679	2,049,769	(3,090)
	Brazilian Real	Buy	1/16/13	253,972	243,901	10,071
	British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	2,420,346	2,396,079	(24,267)
	Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	4,698,506	4,699,346	840
	Chilean Peso	Buy	1/16/13	546,124	555,776	(9,652)
	Czech Koruna	Sell	1/16/13	551,819	543,439	(8,380)
	Euro	Sell	1/16/13	109,040	130,067	21,027
	Indonesian Rupiah	Sell	1/16/13	534,556	534,618	62
	Japanese Yen	Sell	1/16/13	2,756,429	2,843,715	87,286
	Malaysian Ringgit	Buy	1/16/13	952,802	954,287	(1,485)
	Mexican Peso	Buy	1/16/13	1,341,913	1,351,428	(9,515)
	New Zealand Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	776,954	773,824	(3,130)
	Norwegian Krone	Sell	1/16/13	682,005	671,820	(10,185)
	Polish Zloty	Buy	1/16/13	788,387	770,699	17,688
	Russian Ruble	Buy	1/16/13	959,835	952,237	7,598
	South Korean Won	Buy	1/16/13	200,430	197,566	2,864
	Swedish Krona	Sell	1/16/13	908,160	899,603	(8,557)
	Swiss Franc	Buy	1/16/13	816,032	807,275	8,757

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	Taiwan Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	541,098	540,781	317
	Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	1,311,017	1,304,767	6,250
<b>Citibank, N.A.</b>						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	3,247,007	3,252,707	(5,700)
	Brazilian Real	Sell	1/16/13	585	5,080	4,495
	British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	5,082,888	5,031,230	(51,658)
	Czech Koruna	Sell	1/16/13	551,829	543,717	(8,112)
	Euro	Sell	1/16/13	1,036,672	1,021,686	(14,986)
	Japanese Yen	Sell	1/16/13	2,080,157	2,211,331	131,174
	South Korean Won	Buy	1/16/13	876,525	874,421	2,104
	Taiwan Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	94,728	94,618	110
	Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	1,018,107	1,017,244	863
<b>Credit Suisse International</b>						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	\$4,160,165	\$4,165,347	\$(5,182)
	Brazilian Real	Buy	1/16/13	1,056,892	1,033,595	23,297
	British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	3,530,456	3,503,412	(27,044)
	Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	2,672,929	2,672,032	(897)
	Chinese Yuan	Buy	1/16/13	539,889	540,791	(902)
	Czech Koruna	Sell	1/16/13	551,829	544,140	(7,689)
	Indonesian Rupiah	Sell	1/16/13	534,556	535,784	1,228
	Japanese Yen	Buy	1/16/13	1,118,720	1,190,696	(71,976)
	Mexican Peso	Buy	1/16/13	1,342,223	1,351,260	(9,037)
	New Zealand Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	298,923	303,105	4,182
	Norwegian Krone	Sell	1/16/13	926,755	916,310	(10,445)
	Philippines Peso	Buy	1/16/13	831,836	836,184	(4,348)
	Polish Zloty	Buy	1/16/13	1,233,639	1,224,854	8,785
	Russian Ruble	Buy	1/16/13	959,831	953,624	6,207
	South Korean Won	Buy	1/16/13	684,356	675,696	8,660
	Swedish Krona	Sell	1/16/13	54,157	49,092	(5,065)
	Swiss Franc	Sell	1/16/13	36,635	50,586	13,951
	Taiwan Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	163,021	163,178	(157)
	Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	1,414,809	1,410,183	4,626
<b>Deutsche Bank AG</b>						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	806,720	808,121	(1,401)
	Brazilian Real	Buy	1/16/13	263,869	254,742	9,127
	British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	3,689,646	3,663,329	(26,317)
	Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	1,333,500	1,333,534	34
	Euro	Sell	1/16/13	1,079,047	1,066,374	(12,673)
	Mexican Peso	Buy	1/16/13	229,123	227,997	1,126
	Polish Zloty	Buy	1/16/13	486,132	475,097	11,035
	Singapore Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	951,058	953,287	(2,229)
	South Korean Won	Buy	1/16/13	819,289	818,310	979
	Swiss Franc	Buy	1/16/13	656	649	7
	Swiss Franc	Sell	1/16/13	656	651	(5)
<b>HSBC Bank USA, National Association</b>						
	British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	1,925,393	1,905,820	(19,573)
	Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	365,436	365,324	(112)
	Euro	Buy	1/16/13	884,201	887,110	(2,909)
	Indian Rupee	Buy	1/16/13	28,427	28,295	132
	Japanese Yen	Buy	1/16/13	1,194,259	1,290,561	(96,302)
	Norwegian Krone	Sell	1/16/13	914,382	905,501	(8,881)
	Philippines Peso	Buy	1/16/13	818,597	821,065	(2,468)
	Russian Ruble	Buy	1/16/13	1,097,831	1,082,180	15,651
	South Korean Won	Buy	1/16/13	1,155,496	1,150,057	5,439
	Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	1,027,619	1,023,746	3,873
<b>JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A.</b>						
	Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	906,834	908,500	(1,666)
	Brazilian Real	Buy	1/16/13	362,650	349,514	13,136
	British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	1,358,480	1,344,738	(13,742)
	Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	941,530	941,532	2
	Chilean Peso	Buy	1/16/13	944,439	953,592	(9,153)
	Chinese Yuan	Buy	1/16/13	539,889	540,791	(902)

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Czech Koruna	Sell	1/16/13	551,829	543,569	(8,260)
Euro	Buy	1/16/13	566,718	545,477	21,241
Japanese Yen	Sell	1/16/13	2,259,227	2,380,712	121,485
Malaysian Ringgit	Buy	1/16/13	952,802	954,693	(1,891)
Mexican Peso	Buy	1/16/13	560,927	558,202	2,725
New Zealand Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	286,785	285,278	(1,507)
Norwegian Krone	Buy	1/16/13	1,250,295	1,225,247	25,048
Polish Zloty	Buy	1/16/13	804,164	786,792	17,372
Russian Ruble	Buy	1/16/13	771,835	758,536	13,299
South Korean Won	Buy	1/16/13	245,882	242,302	3,580
Swedish Krona	Buy	1/16/13	1,836,581	1,814,776	21,805
Taiwan Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	1,412,512	1,415,283	(2,771)
Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	146,259	146,015	244
<b>Royal Bank of Scotland PLC (The)</b>					
Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	76,431	76,011	420
Turkish Lira	Sell	1/16/13	76,431	76,437	6
<b>State Street Bank and Trust Co.</b>					
Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	903,307	904,919	(1,612)
Brazilian Real	Buy	1/16/13	694,632	679,112	15,520
British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	1,817,696	1,799,475	(18,221)
Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	2,990,827	2,991,355	528
Colombian Peso	Buy	1/16/13	830,165	818,651	11,514
Czech Koruna	Sell	1/16/13	551,829	543,325	(8,504)
Euro	Sell	1/16/13	1,739,096	1,722,794	(16,302)
Indonesian Rupiah	Sell	1/16/13	534,556	535,673	1,117
Japanese Yen	Sell	1/16/13	1,728,398	1,765,397	36,999
Mexican Peso	Buy	1/16/13	638,502	635,285	3,217
New Zealand Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	551,440	549,179	(2,261)
Norwegian Krone	Sell	1/16/13	911,324	892,256	(19,068)
Polish Zloty	Buy	1/16/13	1,375,700	1,362,705	12,995
South Korean Won	Buy	1/16/13	114,921	113,362	1,559
Swedish Krona	Buy	1/16/13	925,792	911,380	14,412
Swiss Franc	Buy	1/16/13	526,998	507,035	19,963
Thai Baht	Buy	1/16/13	817,398	814,544	2,854
Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	545,311	543,013	2,298
<b>UBS AG</b>					
Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	3,366,314	3,371,029	(4,715)
British Pound	Sell	1/16/13	1,319,819	1,306,647	(13,172)
Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	878,715	878,695	(20)
Czech Koruna	Sell	1/16/13	551,829	543,323	(8,506)
Euro	Sell	1/16/13	64,949	71,927	6,978
Indian Rupee	Sell	1/16/13	393,915	392,920	(995)
Japanese Yen	Sell	1/16/13	2,278,652	2,416,271	137,619
Mexican Peso	Buy	1/16/13	1,070,321	1,080,840	(10,519)
New Zealand Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	278,941	277,831	(1,110)
Norwegian Krone	Buy	1/16/13	1,436,451	1,405,891	30,560
Philippines Peso	Buy	1/16/13	831,836	835,775	(3,939)
Russian Ruble	Buy	1/16/13	1,097,831	1,082,564	15,267
Singapore Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	886,552	888,655	(2,103)
Swedish Krona	Sell	1/16/13	7,794	7,637	(157)
Swiss Franc	Sell	1/16/13	4,067,144	4,021,021	(46,123)
Taiwan Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	541,098	540,688	410
Thai Baht	Buy	1/16/13	817,395	814,541	2,854
Turkish Lira	Buy	1/16/13	1,295,071	1,293,060	2,011
<b>WestPac Banking Corp.</b>					
Australian Dollar	Buy	1/16/13	1,544,035	1,546,537	(2,502)
British Pound	Buy	1/16/13	600,376	583,049	17,327
Canadian Dollar	Sell	1/16/13	1,777,531	1,777,541	10
Euro	Buy	1/16/13	2,150,438	2,126,782	23,656
Mexican Peso	Buy	1/16/13	293,894	292,528	1,366
Swedish Krona	Sell	1/16/13	1,131,937	1,109,547	(22,390)

**Total****\$321,176****FUTURES CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 12/31/12 (Unaudited)**

	<b>Number of contracts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Expiration date</b>	<b>Unrealized appreciation/ (depreciation)</b>
Australian Government Treasury Bond 3 yr (Short)	46	5,232,551	Mar-13	\$(8,138)
Australian Government Treasury Bond 10 yr (Long)	3	\$384,180	Mar-13	287
Canadian Government Bond 10 yr (Long)	26	3,542,817	Mar-13	(3,241)
Euro-Bobl 5 yr (Short)	8	1,349,729	Mar-13	(9,319)
Japanese Government Bond 10 yr (Short)	12	19,897,270	Mar-13	112,132
Japanese Government Bond 10 yr Mini (Long)	4	663,104	Mar-13	(3,897)
U.K. Gilt 10 yr (Short)	4	772,718	Mar-13	(531)
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$87,293</b>

**WRITTEN SWAP OPTIONS OUTSTANDING at 12/31/12 (premiums \$903,480) (Unaudited)**

<b>Counterparty Fixed Obligation % to receive or (pay)/Floating rate index/Maturity date</b>	<b>Expiration date/strike</b>	<b>Contract Currencyamount</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Deutsche Bank AG</b>			
(1.75)/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Mar-23 <sup>(E)</sup>	Mar-13/1.75	\$23,467,000	\$152,536
1.75/3 month USD-LIBOR-BBA/Mar-23 <sup>(E)</sup>	Mar-13/1.75	23,467,000	413,019

**Total**

**\$565,555**

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**TBA SALE COMMITMENTS OUTSTANDING at 12/31/12 (proceeds receivable \$72,218,906) (Unaudited)**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Principal amount</b>	<b>Settlement date</b>	<b>Value</b>
Federal National Mortgage Association, 3s, January 1, 2043	\$69,000,000	1/14/13	\$72,315,236
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$72,315,236</b>

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**OTC INTEREST RATE SWAP CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 12/31/12 (Unaudited)**

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**CENTRALLY CLEARED INTEREST RATE SWAP CONTRACTS  
OUTSTANDING at 12/31/12 (Unaudited)**

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**OTC TOTAL RETURN SWAP CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 12/31/12 (Unaudited)**

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**OTC CREDIT DEFAULT CONTRACTS OUTSTANDING at 12/31/12  
(Unaudited)**

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***Key to holding's currency abbreviations***

AUD	Australian Dollar
BRL	Brazilian Real
CAD	Canadian Dollar
CHF	Swiss Franc
CLP	Chilean Peso
EUR	Euro
GBP	British Pound
INR	Indian Rupee
JPY	Japanese Yen

MXN Mexican Peso  
 SEK Swedish Krona

**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  
 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 October 1, 2012 through December 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 \$362,482,348.
- (b) The aggregate identified cost on a tax basis is \$470,938,745, resulting in gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of \$12,835,771 and \$8,737,377, respectively, or net unrealized appreciation of \$4,098,394.
- (NON) Non-income-producing security.
- (STP) The interest or dividend rate and date shown parenthetically represent the new interest or dividend rate to be paid and the date the fund will begin accruing interest or dividend income at this rate.
- (PIK) Income may be received in cash or additional securities at the discretion of the issuer.
- (AFF) Affiliated company. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period. Transactions during the period with Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund, which is under common ownership and control, were as follows:

Name of affiliate	Market value at the beginning of the reporting period	Purchase cost	Sale proceeds	Investment income	Market value at the end of the reporting period
Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund *	\$6,987,387	\$73,015,276	\$41,249,788	\$12,043	\$38,752,875



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\* Management fees charged to Putnam Money Market Liquidity Fund have been waived by Putnam Management.

- (SEG) This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the broker to cover margin requirements for futures contracts at the close of the reporting period.
- (SEGSF) This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the custodian for collateral on certain derivative contracts at the close of the reporting period.
- (SEGCCS) This security, in part or in entirety, was pledged and segregated with the custodian for collateral on the initial margin on certain centrally cleared derivative contracts at the close of the reporting period.
- (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) Extended settlement date on premium.
- (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.
- (P) Security was pledged, or purchased with cash that was pledged, to the fund for collateral on certain derivatives contracts. The rate quoted in the security description is the annualized 7-day yield of the fund at the close of the reporting period.
- (R) Real Estate Investment Trust.

At the close of the reporting period, the fund maintained liquid assets totaling \$77,480,139 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.

### **DIVERSIFICATION BY COUNTRY**

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

United States	86.7%
Russia	2.6
Venezuela	1.6
Argentina	1.4
Luxembourg	1.0
Ukraine	1.0
Brazil	0.7

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United Kingdom	0.6
Germany	0.6
Mexico	0.6
Other	3.2

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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>			
Consumer cyclicals	\$—	\$376	\$7
Health care	4,729	—	—
Utilities and power	187,130	—	—
<b>Total common stocks</b>	<b>191,859</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>7</b>
Convertible bonds and notes	\$—	\$600,129	\$—
Convertible preferred stocks	116,991	171,091	—
Corporate bonds and notes	—	102,058,287	—
Foreign government and agency bonds and notes	—	26,881,841	—
Mortgage-backed securities	—	172,701,102	—
Preferred stocks	—	356,004	—
Purchased swap options outstanding	—	1,163,765	—
Senior loans	—	5,983,600	—

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U.S. Government and Agency Mortgage Obligations	—	109,801,215	—
Warrants	—	596	31,320
Short-term investments	40,112,875	14,866,081	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Totals by level</b>	<b>\$40,421,725</b>	<b>\$434,584,087</b>	<b>\$31,327</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 Master Intermediate Income Trust

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Janet C. Smith  
 Janet C. Smith  
 Principal Accounting Officer  
 Date: February 28, 2013

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: February 28, 2013

By (Signature and Title):

/s/ Steven D. Krichmar

Steven D. Krichmar  
Principal Financial Officer  
Date: February 28, 2013