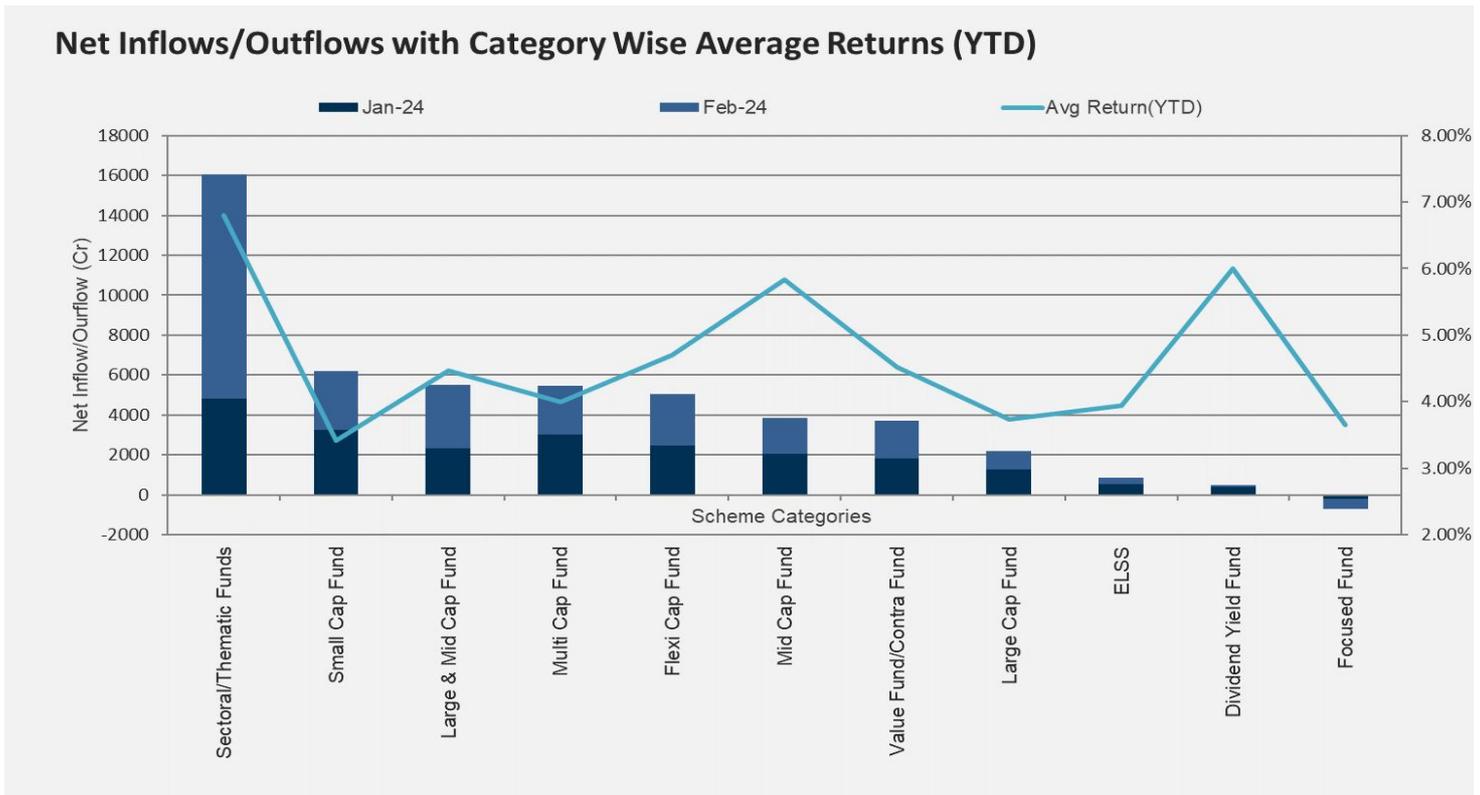


February's Equity Explorer: Navigating the Equity Mutual Fund Universe

Emerging Investment Patterns in Equity Mutual Fund Scheme Categories

- The landscape of Equity Mutual Fund Schemes transformed dramatically, with Net AUM reaching a historic ₹23.12 Lakh Crs, driven by a wave of investments in Equity NFOs and the consistent allure of SIP contribution.
- The momentum in the equity fund market remained strong with a 23% increase in inflows to open-ended equity funds, hitting ₹26,866 Crs in February—solidifying a three-year streak of continuous positive inflows.
- The investment momentum in 2024 strongly favors Sectoral/Thematic Funds, Small Cap Funds, Large & Mid Cap Funds, Multi Cap Funds and Flexi Cap Funds, highlighting these categories as the preferred choices for investors aiming for strategic portfolio diversification.
- In February, Sectoral/Thematic Funds took the lead in attracting the highest inflows, followed by Large & Mid Cap and Small Cap Funds, while Focused Funds continued to face redemptions.
- In the opening months of 2024, Sectoral/Thematic Funds made a significant impact by amassing a hefty collection of ₹16,068 Crs, complemented by an impressive average return of 6.80% in the category. Meanwhile, other few category funds also performed well, each gathering close to ₹5K Crs, marking a strong start to the year for the mutual fund industry.
- SBI Mutual Fund stood out in February, capturing over 35% of the total equity inflows, leading the pack in AMC-wise distribution among equity-oriented schemes. Together, SBI, Quant, HDFC, Nippon Life India, PPFAS, and ICICI AMCs dominated the landscape, securing more than 80% of the month's total inflows, showcasing a concentrated preference among investors for these prominent fund houses.

Category wise Equity Inflows



* Average Returns of the schemes calculated for respective category irrespective of AUM size.

Breaking Down Equity Inflows of February

- In February, the mutual fund industry saw the launch of 8 equity schemes, which collectively amassed ₹8,692 Cr. Notably, SBI MF's Energy Opportunities Fund was a standout, securing ₹6,700 Cr from an impressive 5 lakh investor applications. Other notable New Fund Offerings (NFOs), including Bajaj Finserv Large & Mid Cap Fund and Motilal Oswal Large Cap Fund, also attracted substantial inflows, highlighting investor interest in diverse equity opportunities.
- Among the active fund categories, Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund continued its leadership in the top equity inflow schemes, along with Quant Small Cap Fund.
- Contra funds are gaining traction in the Indian market, SBI Contra Fund, attracting significant equity inflows for second consecutive month in February.
- In the passive fund sector, major beneficiaries of equity inflows during February were Nippon India ETF Nifty 50 BeES, ICICI Pru S&P BSE Sensex ETF and ICICI Pru Nifty 50 ETF.

Top Equity Inflows: A Category-Wise Showcase

Leading Beneficiaries of Equity Inflows in February	
Active Equity Schemes	Passive Equity Schemes
SBI Energy Opportunities Fund	Nippon India ETF Nifty 50 BeES
Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund	ICICI Pru S&P BSE Sensex ETF
Quant Small Cap Fund	ICICI Pru Nifty 50 ETF
SBI Contra Fund	Nippon India ETF S&P BSE Sensex
Bajaj Finserv Large and Mid Cap Fund	

Category	Category Captains: Masters of Equity Inflows in February		
Sectoral/ Thematic	SBI Energy Opportunities Fund	ICICI Pru India Opp Fund	Aditya Birla SL PSU Equity Fund
	Quant Infrastructure Fund	Quant Momentum Fund	SBI PSU Fund
Large & Mid Cap	Bajaj Finserv Large and Mid Cap Fund	HDFC Large and Mid Cap Fund	SBI Large & Midcap Fund
Small Cap	Quant Small Cap Fund	Nippon India Small Cap Fund	HDFC Small Cap Fund
Flexi Cap	Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund	HDFC Flexi Cap Fund	Quant Flexi Cap Fund
Multi Cap	Nippon India Multi Cap Fund	Kotak Multicap Fund	HDFC Multi Cap Fund
Value Fund/Contra	SBI Contra Fund	ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund	
Mid Cap	Quant Mid Cap Fund	HDFC Mid-Cap Opport. Fund	Nippon India Growth Fund
Large Cap	Motilal Oswal Large Cap Fund	Nippon India Large Cap Fund	ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund
ELSS	Quant ELSS Tax Saver Fund	SBI Long Term Equity Fund	
Focused	HDFC Focused 30 Fund		
ETF	Nippon India ETF Nifty 50 BeES	ICICI Pru S&P BSE Sensex ETF	ICICI Pru Nifty 50 ETF
	Nippon India ETF S&P BSE Sensex	UTI S&P BSE Sensex ETF	
Index Funds	HDFC NIFTY200 Momentum 30 Fund	HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY 50 Plan	SBI Nifty Index Fund

Above schemes are highlighted as per our data estimates. Additionally for further reference, Index Funds and Index ETFs are also mentioned.

Uncovering Trends in Equity Scheme Portfolios for February, 2024

- The investment trend in equity mutual funds is clearly leaning towards the Oil & Energy sector. Many equity mutual fund schemes showed a strong preference for new investments in leading companies like Whirlpool of India, BPCL, HPCL, Swan Energy, Oil India, ONGC, LIC, Power Grid Corporation, and Coal India. The IPOs of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels and Juniper Hotels also emerged as popular investment choices among these funds.
- Several equity schemes made strategic investment exits from Hindalco Industries, Crompton Greaves Consumer Electric, ITC, Ashok Leyland, One97 Communications, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, IREDA, LTIMindtree, Axis Bank, Mphasis, M&M, IndusInd Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Overall considering all equity mutual fund schemes, there was buying in Whirlpool of India, Kalyan Jewellers, BPCL, HPCL and Power Finance Corporation.
- Among most traded stocks, there was selloff in HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, NTPC, Axis Bank, Infosys, L&T, M&M, Bharat Electronics, Bajaj Finance, Sun Pharma and ITC.
- The preferred investment sectors for Equity Mutual Fund Schemes have included Hospitality, Textile, Iron & Steel, Insurance, Logistics and Infrastructure.
- Certain mutual fund schemes have divested their investments from sectors such as Information Technology, FMCG, Chemicals, Construction Materials, Finance and Capital Goods.
- Beyond the previously mentioned stocks, there was significant trading activity in mid-cap and small-cap segments. Among top traded midcap stocks, several equity schemes preferred to sell PB Fintech, Cummins India and Samvardhana Motherson International, while many schemes invested into stocks like Indus Towers, Aurobindo Pharma and Voltas.
- Equity mutual fund schemes have made fresh investments in over 350 small cap stocks.
- Among the most actively traded small-cap stocks, various equity schemes directed their investments towards Swan Energy, E.I.D. Parry, CMS Info Systems, National Aluminium, MCX, Minda Corporation and Data Patterns. Meanwhile, some schemes chose to divest their holdings in Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals and EIH Ltd.

Fresh Picks & Full Exits: The Equity Mutual Funds Shift

Fresh Stocks added by Equity Mutual Fund Schemes in Feb,2024			Stocks exited by Equity Mutual Fund Schemes in Feb,2024		
Stock Name	No of Schemes Added Stock	Total Holding of Company Bought	Stock Name	No. of Schemes that exited stock	Total Holding of Company Sold
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	29	1.11%	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	26	1.15%
Swan Energy Ltd.	26	3.13%	ITC Ltd.	25	0.91%
Union Bank Of India	24	0.47%	Ashok Leyland Ltd.	24	1.58%
Whirlpool Of India Ltd.	24	14.24%	One97 Communications Ltd.	24	1.92%
Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd.	20	11.05%	Bajaj Finance Ltd.	21	1.24%
State Bank Of India	20	0.20%	HDFC Bank Ltd.	21	1.59%
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd	19	1.20%	Indian Renewable Energy Developmer	21	0.91%
Wipro Ltd.	19	0.29%	LTIMindtree Ltd.	21	1.71%
Juniper Hotels Ltd.	18	4.75%	Axis Bank Ltd.	19	1.56%
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.	17	0.23%	Crompton Greaves Consumer Electric	19	5.02%
Oil India Ltd.	17	1.80%	Mphasis Ltd.	19	1.54%
Life Insurance Corporation of India	16	0.07%	Biocon Ltd.	18	1.21%
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	16	0.11%	IndusInd Bank Ltd.	18	1.86%
Power Grid Corporation Of India Ltd.	16	0.09%	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	18	1.42%
Coal India Ltd.	15	0.17%	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	18	1.22%

Top Traded Stocks: Equity Fund Highlights

Top 20 traded stocks by Equity Mutual Fund Schemes in February,2024

Stock Name	No. of Schemes that bought Stock	Total Holding of Company Bought	No. of Schemes that sold Stock	Total Holding of Company Sold	Net Addition/ Reduction in Holding
HDFC Bank Ltd.	176	0.48%	68	1.64%	-1.16%
State Bank Of India	144	0.46%	78	0.87%	-0.41%
Reliance Industries Ltd.	135	0.16%	50	0.65%	-0.49%
ICICI Bank Ltd.	139	0.20%	83	1.97%	-1.77%
Whirlpool Of India Ltd.	60	17.45%	13	2.05%	15.40%
Axis Bank Ltd.	111	0.74%	64	1.68%	-0.94%
NTPC Ltd.	122	0.29%	72	1.29%	-1.00%
Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	130	0.35%	55	1.28%	-0.93%
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	96	1.26%	40	1.05%	0.21%
ITC Ltd.	120	0.30%	66	1.05%	-0.75%
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.	119	0.41%	59	1.15%	-0.74%
Infosys Ltd.	113	0.14%	69	1.57%	-1.43%
Bharti Airtel Ltd.	110	0.20%	52	0.90%	-0.70%
Power Finance Corporation Ltd.	71	1.08%	42	0.72%	0.36%
Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd.	30	4.64%	2	0.00%	4.64%
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	91	0.20%	63	1.77%	-1.57%
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.	111	0.14%	66	1.17%	-1.03%
Bajaj Finance Ltd.	85	0.24%	55	1.44%	-1.20%
Bharat Electronics Ltd.	83	0.62%	47	1.40%	-0.78%
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	62	1.48%	21	0.85%	0.63%

Top 10 traded stocks by Equity Mutual Fund Schemes

Mid Cap Stocks	Small Cap Stocks
Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd.	Whirlpool Of India Ltd.
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Swan Energy Ltd.
Oil India Ltd.	Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals
Aurobindo Pharma Ltd.	E.I.D. - Parry (India) Ltd.
PB Fintech Ltd.	CMS Info Systems Ltd.
Mphasis Ltd.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.
Cummins India Ltd.	Multi Commodity Exchange Of India Ltd.
Voltas Ltd.	Minda Corporation Ltd.
Samvardhana Motherson International Ltd.	EIH Ltd.
Indus Towers Ltd.	Data Patterns (India) Ltd.

New Horizons & Farewells: Sector Investment Shifts

Sector Wise Preference by Equity MF Schemes

Fresh Investment / Addition	Exited / Partial Withdrawal
Hospitality	IT
Textile	FMCG
Iron & Steel	Chemicals
Insurance	Construction Materials
Logistics	Finance
Infrastructure	Capital Goods

Top AMC's What's In/ What's Out in February, 2024

AMC Name	Fresh Stocks added by AMC	Stocks Completely exited by AMC
SBI Mutual Fund	NIIT Learning Systems Ltd.	
ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund	Ganesha Ecosphere Ltd.	AMI Organics Ltd.
	Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd.	Dishman Carbogen Amcis Ltd.
	Rashi Peripherals Ltd.	IKIO Lighting Ltd.
HDFC Mutual Fund	Sudarshan Chemical Industries Ltd.	
Nippon India Mutual Fund	Lumax Auto Technologies Ltd.	Sudarshan Chemical Industries Ltd.
	Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd.	
	Capital Small Finance Bank Ltd.	
Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund	Oil India Ltd.	The South Indian Bank Ltd.
	Minda Corporation Ltd.	Firstsource Solutions Ltd.
	CMS Info Systems Ltd.	Lux Industries Ltd.
Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund	Exicom Tele-Systems Ltd.	IREDA Ltd.
		Restaurant Brands Asia Ltd.
		Zydus Wellness Ltd.
Axis Mutual Fund	Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd.	Netweb Technologies India Ltd.
	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	TTK Healthcare Ltd.
	Whirlpool Of India Ltd.	Delta Corp Ltd.
Mirae Mutual Fund	BSE Ltd.	Tata Technologies Ltd.
	Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Ltd.	Ideaforge Technology Ltd.
	Cera Sanitaryware Ltd.	
DSP Mutual Fund	Oil India Ltd.	Steel Authority Of India Ltd.
	Tega Industries Ltd.	Delta Corp Ltd.
	Sapphire Foods India Ltd.	Mankind Pharma Ltd.
Canara Robeco Mutual Fund	Latent View Analytics Ltd.	Ipca Laboratories Ltd.
	GAIL (India) Ltd.	
	CESC Ltd.	
Quant Mutual Fund	GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd.	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.
	Wipro Ltd.	SJVN Ltd.
	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	Lupin Ltd.
PPFAS Mutual Fund	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	Punjab National Bank
	JSW Steel Ltd.	Ashok Leyland Ltd.
	The Federal Bank Ltd.	GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd.
Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund	BASF India Ltd.	Tata Technologies Ltd.
		Cello World Ltd.

Performance Highlights of Mutual Fund Schemes in February, 2024

Large Cap Funds

- In February, Indian equity benchmark indices gained more than 2%. Most of the large cap schemes performed inline compared with benchmark indices. Average return of schemes was 2.41% while average return of benchmark indices was 2.13%.
- Quant Large Cap Fund and Taurus Large Cap Fund performed well among Large Cap schemes category.
- Large cap Mutual Fund Schemes witnessed an inflow of ₹921 Cr despite redemption pressure of Axis Bluechip Fund.
- Nippon India Large Cap Fund, Motilal Oswal Large Cap Fund, ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund, HDFC Top 100 Fund and SBI Bluechip Fund received inflows in February.
- State Bank of India, Sun Pharma, Mahindra & Mahindra, Zomato, Maruti Suzuki, TCS, Jio Financial Services and ICICI Bank were major common positive return contributors to Large Cap schemes.
- HDFC Bank, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindalco Industries, Bajaj Finance, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co and Power Finance Corporation were common negative return contributors to Large Cap schemes.
- Overall sector weightage of Insurance, Power, Retailing, IT, Crude Oil, Capital Goods, Automobile & Ancillaries and Realty increased among Large Cap Schemes.
- Sector weightage of Bank, FMCG, Construction Materials, Finance, Non-Ferrous Metals, Chemicals, Diamond & Jewellery and Consumer Durables decreased among Large Cap schemes.

Mid Cap Funds

- Most of Mid Cap Schemes outperformed compared with the benchmark indices as midcap indices ended flat in February.
- Average return of Mid Cap Schemes was 1.31% compared to average return of benchmark indices 0.02%.
- Motilal Oswal Mid Cap Fund, Axis Mid Cap Fund and HSBC Midcap Fund performed better among Mid Cap Schemes category.
- Midcap schemes received inflows of ₹ 1,808 Cr that include inflows from schemes Quant Midcap Fund, Nippon India Growth Fund, HDFC Midcap Opportunities Fund, SBI Magnum Midcap Fund, Motilal Oswal Midcap Fund and Kotak Emerging Equity Fund.
- Overall sector weightage of Crude Oil, Hospitality, Telecom, Logistics, Diamond & Jewellery, Ratings, Iron & Steel and Plastic Products increased among Mid Cap Schemes.
- Sector weightage of Finance, Bank, Power, Automobile & Ancillaries, Chemicals, Healthcare, Construction Materials and Textile decreased among Mid Cap Schemes.
- Cummins India, The Indian Hotels Co, Trent, Sundaram Finance, The Phoenix Mills, Thermax, Zydus Lifesciences and Crisil were common major positive return contributors.
- Power Finance Corporation, REC, AIA Engineering, The Ramco Cements, Timken India, Dalmia Bharat, Prestige Estates Projects and Aurobindo Pharma were common worst performing stocks in Mid cap Schemes category.

Small Cap Funds

- Small Cap benchmark indices lost 0.5% in February.
- Most of Small Cap Schemes underperformed compared with the benchmark indices. Average return of Small Cap Schemes was -0.79% compared to average return of benchmark indices of -0.50%.
- SBI Small Cap Fund and Motilal Oswal Small Cap Fund outperformed among Small Cap Schemes category.
- Small Cap Schemes got net inflows of ₹ 2,922 Cr. Quant Small Cap Fund, Nippon India Small Cap Fund, HDFC Small Cap Fund and SBI Small Cap Fund received good amount of inflows.
- Triveni Turbine, Blue Star, Kirloskar Oil Engines, Kalpataru Projects International, MCX, Inox India, Ahluwalia Contract and Global Health were major positive return contributors in Small Cap Equity Schemes.
- Ratnamani Metals & Tubes, Timken India, Birlasoft, Bikaji Foods International, RHI Magnesita India, Cholamandalam Finance, Techno Electric & Engineering and VRL Logistics were common worst performing stocks in Small Cap schemes.
- Overall sector weightage of Capital Goods, Consumer Durables, Business Services, IT, Realty, Healthcare, Infrastructure and Diversified increased among Small Cap schemes.
- Sector weightage of Logistics, Media, Finance, Chemicals, Automobile & Ancillaries, Construction Materials, Power and Abrasives decreased among Small Cap schemes.