

Cash Holding Trends in Equity MFs as of April 2026

Cash Reserves Across AMCs: Who's Holding How Much?

- Mutual Funds Deploy Cash Gradually Amid Sharp Market Gains in April:** Mutual funds reduced the pace of equity buying in April, investing ₹30,594 crore during the market rebound, significantly lower than the record ₹98,746 crore buying in March. Meanwhile, cash holdings rose to ₹1.98 lakh crore from ₹1.86 lakh crore. However, the cash-to-AUM ratio edged lower, indicating that the sharp market rebound expanded equity AUM faster than cash accumulation, while deployment remained gradual.
- AMC Cash Levels Ease, but Caution Persists:** The average cash holding ratio across the top 20 AMCs eased to 5.03% in April from 5.16% in March, as equity-oriented AUM rose faster than absolute cash holdings, supported by gains in Indian equities. However, with cash levels still near 5%, fund managers appear to be maintaining a cautious stance while retaining liquidity to manage volatility and capture emerging opportunities.
- Equity MF Inflows Moderate; SIP Flows Ease from Peak:** Equity MF inflows declined 5% MoM to ₹38,440 crore in April 2026 from ₹40,450 crore in March, while SIP contributions eased 3% to ₹31,115 crore from the record ₹32,087 crore, reflecting moderation but continued healthy retail participation.

Cash Holdings of Top 20 AMCs by Equity-Oriented AUM

Based on Equity-Oriented Mutual Fund Schemes

AMC	Equity Allocation (₹ Cr)	Cash Holding (₹ Cr)	Cash as % of AUM
SBI MF	728,529	29,713	3.92
ICICI Pru MF	516,229	22,115	4.11
Nippon India MF	451,087	6,633	1.45
HDFC MF	442,506	23,820	5.11
UTI MF	266,408	3,072	1.14
Kotak MF	255,367	5,019	1.93
Axis MF	180,688	14,870	7.60
Mirae MF	165,155	1,638	0.98
Aditya Birla SL MF	150,055	3,588	2.34
PPFAS MF	119,710	27,559	18.71
Motilal Oswal MF	117,141	3,263	2.71
DSP MF	114,987	8,422	6.82
Franklin Templeton MF	92,152	5,548	5.68
Canara Robeco MF	91,085	3,762	3.97
Bandhan MF	82,374	5,890	6.67
Tata MF	80,380	4,465	5.26
Invesco MF	76,604	1,182	1.52
HSBC MF	74,288	1,364	1.80
Quant MF	71,930	12,076	14.38
Sundaram MF	45,291	2,146	4.52

Cash-Heavy AMCs: PPFAS Leads with 18.71%

- PPFAS Mutual Fund** holds the highest cash-to-AUM ratio at 18.71% with ₹27,559 Cr in cash, reflecting a distinctly defensive stance with strong flexibility for future deployment. **Quant MF** follows with a notable 14.38% cash holding or ₹12,076 Cr, while **Axis MF** also maintains an elevated cash buffer at 7.60% or ₹14,870 Cr, indicating a cautious yet opportunity-driven investment approach.
- Among the larger fund houses, **SBI Mutual Fund** holds the largest absolute cash reserve at ₹29,713 Cr (3.92% of AUM), followed by **HDFC MF** with ₹23,820 Cr (5.11% of AUM) and **ICICI Prudential MF** with ₹22,115 Cr (4.11% of AUM), highlighting healthy liquidity buffers across leading AMCs.
- DSP MF, Bandhan MF, Franklin Templeton MF and Tata MF** maintain relatively higher cash levels at 6.82%, 6.67%, 5.68% and 5.26%, retaining flexibility to navigate volatility and deploy cash as opportunities emerge.

*Source: ACE MF, AMFI, SEBI/NSDL, data as of 30 April 2026.

*Average of Cash Holding Ratio= simple average of the cash-to-AUM ratios of the AMCs.

Cash Reserves Across Equity MF Categories: A Deep Dive

- ❖ **Contra & Flexi Cap Funds Remain Cash Leaders:** Contra Funds continue to top the liquidity spectrum with an **11.71% cash-to-AUM ratio** and **₹8,418 Cr** cash holding, reflecting a cautious yet opportunity-oriented stance. Flexi Cap Funds follow with **8.45% in cash** or **₹47,314 Cr**, underscoring their flexibility to dynamically allocate across market segments as opportunities evolve.
- ❖ **Dividend Yield, Small Cap & Focused Funds Hold Elevated Buffers:** Dividend Yield Funds maintain **6.94% cash** or **₹2,186 Cr**, while Small Cap Funds hold **6.90%** or **₹27,085 Cr**, indicating prudence amid higher volatility in the small-cap universe. Focused Funds also retain a strong buffer at **6.75%** or **₹11,716 Cr**.

Equity MF Categories & Their Cash Pile: A Comparative View

Category	Equity Allocation (₹ Cr)	Cash Holding (₹ Cr)	Cash as % of AUM
Contra Fund	63,494	8,418	11.71%
Flexi Cap Fund	512,329	47,314	8.45%
Dividend Yield Fund	29,332	2,186	6.94%
Small Cap Fund	365,536	27,085	6.90%
Focused Fund	161,860	11,716	6.75%
Value Fund	132,438	7,083	5.08%
Sector / Thematic Fund	507,122	26,956	5.05%
Mid Cap Fund	455,596	21,458	4.50%
Large Cap Fund	382,255	17,763	4.44%
Large & Mid Cap Fund	322,312	12,986	3.87%
Multi Cap Fund	220,780	7,902	3.46%
ELSS Fund	230,039	7,546	3.18%

Breaking Down Cash Reserves Across Equity MF Schemes

- ❖ **Flexi Cap Funds Lead in Absolute Cash Stash:** Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund holds the highest cash buffer at **₹27,035 Cr**, with cash forming **19.18% of AUM**, signalling a defensive yet opportunity-ready stance. HDFC Flexi Cap Fund follows with **₹7,177 Cr** in cash, or **7.14% of AUM**, indicating liquidity available for tactical deployment as market conditions evolve.
- ❖ **Contra, Small Cap & Large Cap Schemes Maintain Strong Buffers:** SBI Contra Fund maintains high liquidity at **16.69% of AUM** with **₹7,903 Cr** in cash, reflecting a cautious yet opportunistic approach. SBI Small Cap Fund and HDFC Small Cap Fund hold **13.00%** and **9.56%** cash respectively, while Axis Large Cap Fund stands out among large-cap schemes with a **12.40%** cash buffer, highlighting prudent positioning amid market volatility.

Top 10 Equity MF Schemes by Absolute Cash Holding

Scheme Name	Category	Equity Allocation (₹ Cr)	Cash Holding (₹ Cr)	Cash as % of AUM
Parag Parikh Flexi Cap Fund	Flexi Cap Fund	113,915	27,035	19.18%
SBI Contra Fund	Contra Fund	39,449	7,903	16.69%
HDFC Flexi Cap Fund	Flexi Cap Fund	93,302	7,177	7.14%
HDFC Mid Cap Fund	Mid Cap Fund	88,530	6,215	6.56%
SBI Small Cap Fund	Small Cap Fund	32,314	4,827	13.00%
ICICI Pru Large Cap Fund	Large Cap Fund	71,088	4,562	6.03%
SBI Focused Fund	Focused Fund	41,975	4,067	8.83%
Axis Large Cap Fund	Large Cap Fund	26,717	3,781	12.40%
ICICI Pru Value Fund	Value Fund	55,853	3,735	6.27%
HDFC Small Cap Fund	Small Cap Fund	34,521	3,647	9.56%

* Source: ACE MF; data as of 30 April 2026.