Retail Investors Partial To Foreign Equities Over The Past Two Years

Open-End Mutual Fund Flow Totals (Net)
January 2014-January 2016

View from the Observation Deck

1. From 1/14 through 1/16 (most recent monthly data), investors liquidated a net $46.68 billion from open-end mutual funds (does not include money market funds), according to the Investment Company Institute (ICI).
2. The major fund categories in the chart indicate that investors funneled the most capital into foreign equities, which is interesting considering all of the attention focused on the slowdown in global growth over the past two years.
3. The biggest net outflows came from Domestic Equity funds, which invest primarily in U.S. stocks. Investors liquidated a net $246.4 billion from these funds despite the relative strength of the U.S. economy and the U.S. dollar.
4. Investors were not buyers of global bonds. The ICI’s Global Bond category, not shown in the chart, reported net outflows totaling $7.2 billion for the period.
5. Like U.S. stocks, investors were not fans of high yield corporate bonds. The ICI’s High Yield category, not shown in the chart, reported net outflows totaling $87.3 billion for the period.

The chart and performance data referenced are for illustrative purposes only.