How Mutual Fund Investors Have Positioned Their Capital This Millennium



Mutual Fund Asset Growth & Net Fund Flows (12/31/99-4/30/19)

Source: Investment Company Institute (ICI), in trillions, USD.

View from the Observation Deck

- 1.. We like to monitor risk tolerance over time and one of the best ways is to follow capital flows from retail investors to equity, hybrid and bond mutual funds.
- 2. The data in the chart shows that while equity funds posted the largest increase in total assets over the period (19 years and 4 months), both bond and hybrid funds posted bigger increases on a percentage basis.
- 3. As of 4/30/19, total assets invested in these three fund categories were as follows: \$10.752 Trillion (Equity); \$1.510 Trillion (Hybrid); and \$4.319 Trillion (Bond), according to ICI data.
- 4. More importantly, with respect to net fund flows, bond funds were by far the clear favorite for the period. Here is that breakdown: \$1.890 Trillion (Bond); \$199 Billion (Hybrid); and -\$180 Billion (Equity).
- 5. From 2000-2018, equity funds reported net inflows in just 9 of the 19 calendar years, compared to 13 for hybrid funds and 15 for bond funds.
- 6. For comparative purposes (not shown in chart), as of 4/30/19, total assets invested in equity, hybrid and bond exchange-traded funds were as follows: \$3.117 Trillion (Equity); \$25 Billion (Hybrid); and \$689 Billion (Bond), according to ICI data.

This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment.

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