

# FUNDFLOWS INSIGHT REPORT

REFINITIV LIPPER RESEARCH SERIES

MARCH 31, 2021

## Investors Return to Equity Funds as Overall Fund Inflows Hit Highest Total in Over a Year

- For the fourth consecutive month, mutual fund investors were net purchasers of fund assets, injecting \$181.2 billion into the conventional funds business for March.
- Fixed income funds (+\$41.2 billion for March) witnessed net inflows for the eleventh month in a row, while money market funds (+\$128.8 billion) experienced net inflows for the second month in a row.
- For the first month three, investors were net purchasers of stock & mixed-assets funds (+\$11.2 billion).
- Authorized Participants (APs) were net purchasers of ETFs, injecting \$87.8 billion for March, for the nineteenth month of consecutive inflows.
- And, for the twelfth month in a row, fixed income ETFs (+\$14.2 billion for March) attracted net new money, while investors padded the coffers of stock & mixed-assets ETFs (+\$73.6 billion), their tenth straight month of net inflows inflows.

**TABLE 1** ESTIMATED NET FLOWS BY MAJOR FUND TYPES, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Stock & Mixed Equity Funds	11.2	-35.2
Bond Funds	41.2	61.6
Money Market Funds	128.8	39.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>181.2</b>	<b>65.8</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

**TABLE 2** ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF MAJOR EQUITY FUND TYPES, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
USDE Funds	-8.0	-16.7
Sector Equity Funds	2.3	1.9
World Equity Funds	10.1	-20.9
Mixed-Asset Funds	6.1	-0.9
Alternatives Funds	0.6	1.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>-35.2</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

## Investors Return to Equity Funds as Overall Fund Inflows Hit Highest Total in Over a Year

### Executive Summary

Investors were net purchasers of mutual fund assets for the fourth month in a row, injecting \$181.2 billion into the conventional funds business (excluding ETFs, which are reviewed in the section below) for March (their largest monthly net inflows since March 31, 2020).

Contributing to that record, for the first month in three, stock & mixed-assets funds experienced net inflows (+\$11.2 billion) for March. Despite growing inflationary concerns and a steepening Treasury yield curve, investors continued to pad the coffers of fixed income instruments, pushing the fixed income funds macro-group to its eleventh consecutive month of net inflows, attracting \$41.2 billion for March. Money market funds (+\$128.8 billion) witnessed net inflows for the second consecutive month.

In volatile trading, the U.S. markets began the month in the black as the rise in bond yields began to steady after the February nonfarm payrolls report handily beat analyst expectations, providing some evidence that the economy is recovering from the impact of COVID-19. However, earlier in the week the NASDAQ continued its slide, closing at a three-month low as the tech-heavy index approached and eventually fell into correction territory. The Department of Labor announced the U.S. economy added 379,000 new jobs for February, beating analyst expectations of 210,000. The unemployment rate declined to 6.2% from 6.3% in January. Near-month oil futures continued their ascent, rising to \$66.09/ barrel (bbl), while gold closed down at \$1,698.50/oz.

The Dow snapped its four-day record-breaking winning streak mid-month as investors hit the pause button ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting. Despite investors learning that about 32% of the U.S. population had received at least one vaccine dose, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), news that February U.S. retail sales and industrial production declined cast a slight pall over the markets. Nonetheless, the Dow closed at a new record high, rising above the 33,000 mark for the first time in history (its fastest 1,000-point gain—in just five days—on record) after the Federal Reserve said it would hold interest rates near zero through 2023.

At month end, despite learning of weaker-than-expected reports of consumer spending and income and rising Treasury rates, investors pushed the NASDAQ above the 13,000 mark again after President Joe Biden announced a new target for coronavirus vaccinations of 200 million doses during his first 100 days in office.



Authored by:  
**TOM ROSEEN**  
Head of Research Services  
Refinitiv Lipper  
An LSEG Business

# EQUITY FUNDS

## United States Diversified Equity (USDE) Funds

For the third consecutive month, USDE Funds witnessed net outflows (-\$8.0 billion for March). Of the classifications in the 4x3-matrix subgroup (-\$4.9 billion), Small-Cap Core Funds (+\$3.3 billion), Small-Cap Growth Funds (+\$1.8 billion), and Multi-Cap Value Funds (+\$1.5 billion) attracted net new money for the month. Investors shunned growth-oriented funds (-\$8.4 billion), while large-cap funds (-\$10.5 billion) handed back the largest amount of the capitalization groups. Lipper's Large-Cap Growth Funds classification (-\$7.4 billion) suffered the largest net outflows of the macro-classification, bettered by Large-Cap Core Funds (-\$3.0 billion) and Multi-Cap Growth Funds (-\$1.5 billion). For the fourth consecutive month, the non-4x3-matrix subgroup experienced net outflows, handing back \$3.1 billion for March. Of the subgroup classifications, two witnessed net inflows ranging from just \$12 million to \$82 million. S&P 500 Index Funds (-\$1.2 billion) handed back the largest amount, bettered by Equity Income Funds (-\$1.164 billion) and S&P Midcap 400 Index Funds (-\$423 million). For Q1, USDE Funds witnessed \$71.2 billion in net redemptions.

TABLE 3

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF 4X3-MATRIX USDE FUNDS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Large-Cap	-0.2	-3.0	-7.4	-10.5	-8.8
Multi-Cap	1.5	0.8	-1.5	0.8	-8.3
Mid-Cap	0.3	0.9	-1.3	-0.1	-1.3
Small-Cap	-0.1	3.3	1.8	5.0	4.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>-14.1</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

TABLE 4

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF OTHER USDE CLASSIFICATIONS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Equity Leverage Funds	-0.4	0.0
Equity Income Funds	-1.2	0.0
Options Arbitrage/Options Strategies Funds	0.1	0.0
Specialty Diversified Equity Funds	0.0	-0.1
S&P Midcap 400 Index Funds	-0.4	-0.4
S&P 500 Index Funds	-1.2	-2.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>-2.6</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

# EQUITY FUNDS

## World Equity Funds

For the first month in 13, investors were net purchasers of World Equity Funds, injecting \$10.1 billion for the month of March. For the first month in 11, institutional world equity funds (including variable insurance products) witnessed net inflows—attracting \$11.9 billion—while load and no-load world equity funds handed back \$618 million and \$1.1 billion, respectively. For the first month in three, Lipper’s Global Diversified Equity Funds subgroup (+\$797 million for March) witnessed net inflows, while for the first month in 12 the International Diversified Equity Funds subgroup experienced net inflows—taking in \$4.7 billion for March. Emerging Markets Funds (+\$5.7 billion) remained at the top of the World Equity Funds macro-classification. International Large-Cap Growth Funds, taking in \$2.2 billion net, was the runner-up for the month, followed by International Multi-Cap Growth Funds (+\$2.0 billion). At the bottom of the heap, Global Multi-Cap Value Funds (-\$1.4 billion) witnessed the largest net redemptions, bettered by International Large-Cap Core Funds (-\$861 million). Over the last three months, the World Equity Funds macro-classification handed back a net \$15.6 billion.

TABLE 5

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF GLOBAL DIVERSIFIED EQUITY FUNDS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Large-Cap	-0.7	-0.2	1.7	0.9	-0.3
Multi-Cap	-1.4	-0.8	0.8	-1.5	-1.5
Small-/Mid-Cap (No Style)		1.4		1.4	0.3
<b>TOTAL (LARGE &amp; MULTI)</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-1.4</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

TABLE 6

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF INTERNATIONAL DIVERSIFIED EQUITY FUNDS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Large-Cap	-0.7	-0.9	2.2	0.6	1.5
Multi-Cap	0.6	1.6	2.0	4.2	-25.4
Small-/Mid-Cap	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>-23.6</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

TABLE 7

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF REMAINING WORLD EQUITY FUND CLASSIFICATIONS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
China Region Funds	0.1	0.4
Emerging Markets Funds	5.7	3.8
European Region Funds	-0.4	0.0
Frontier Markets Funds	0.0	-0.1
Global Equity Income Funds	-0.6	-0.5
India Region Funds	0.1	0.0
International Equity Income Funds	0.1	0.1
Japanese Funds	-0.1	-0.2
Latin American Funds	0.0	0.0
Pacific Region Funds	-0.1	0.1
Pacific ex-Japan Funds	-0.2	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

# EQUITY FUNDS

## Sector Equity Funds

For the third consecutive month, investors were net purchasers of the Sector Equity Funds macro-classification, injecting \$2.3 billion for March. Eleven of the 25 classifications in this group attracted net new money, with Commodities General Funds (+\$1.8 billion) and Real Estate Funds (+\$795 million) taking in the largest draws of net new money for March. The Science & Technology Funds classification suffered the largest net outflows of the group, handing back slightly less than \$797 million for the month, bettered by Global Health/Biotechnology Funds (-\$436 million) and Energy MLP Funds (-\$248 million). Year to date, Sector Equity Funds witnessed \$4.9 billion in net inflows.

TABLE 8

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF SECTOR EQUITY FUNDS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Precious Metals Equity Funds	-0.2	-0.1
Alternative Energy Funds	0.0	0.1
Basic Materials Funds	0.1	0.0
Consumer Goods Funds	0.0	0.0
Commodities Energy Funds	-	-
Commodities General Funds	1.8	1.5
Commodities Specialty Funds	-	-
Consumer Services Funds	0.2	0.1
Energy MLP Funds	-0.2	-0.3
Financial Services Funds	0.6	0.1
Global Financial Services Funds	0.0	0.0
Global Health/Biotechnology Funds	-0.4	-0.4
Global Infrastructure Funds	0.3	0.2
Global Natural Resources Funds	0.2	0.1
Global Real Estate Funds	0.1	0.0
Global Science/Technology Funds	-0.2	0.5
Health/Biotechnology Funds	-0.2	0.3
Industrials Funds	0.1	0.0
International Real Estate Funds	0.0	0.0
Natural Resources Funds	0.5	0.2
Real Estate Funds	0.8	-0.2
Specialty/Miscellaneous Funds	0.1	0.1
Science & Technology Funds	-0.8	-0.2
Telecommunication Funds	-0.1	0.0
Utility Funds	-0.2	-0.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

# EQUITY FUNDS

## Mixed-Assets Funds

For the third month in four, the Mixed-Assets Funds macro-classification witnessed net inflows, taking in \$6.1 billion for March. Convertible Securities Funds (+\$126 million), Emerging Markets Mixed-Assets Funds (+\$5 million), Flexible Portfolio Funds (-\$1.3 billion), and Real Return Funds (+\$1.1 billion)—not shown in Table 9—collectively handed back some \$19 million for the month. For the sixth month in a row, the mixed-asset target date funds subgroup witnessed net inflows, taking in \$9.7 billion for March, while the primarily broker-recommended mixed-asset target risk funds subgroup—for the third month in a row—witnessed net outflows (-\$3.6 billion for March).

Nine of the 18 classifications in the target-date/target-risk subgroups witnessed net inflows for the month, with Mixed-Asset Target 2030 Funds (+\$1.9 billion), Mixed-Asset Target 2035 Funds (+\$1.8 billion), and Mixed-Asset Target 2040 Funds (+\$1.6 billion) attracting the largest net draws of the classifications. Mixed-Asset Target Allocation Moderate Funds (-\$2.1 billion) witnessed the largest net redemptions, bettered by Mixed-Asset Target 2020 Funds (-\$1.2 billion) and Mixed-Asset Target Allocation Conservative Funds (-\$685 million). Over the last three months, Mixed-Assets Funds attracted a net \$6.8 billion, with mixed-asset target date funds taking in \$21.9 billion, mixed-asset target risk funds suffering \$12 billion in net redemptions, and the remaining mixed-assets fund classifications handing back \$3.1 billion.

## Alternatives Funds

For the third month running, the Alternatives Funds macro-classification experienced net inflows (+\$630 million) for March, with Alternative Event Driven Funds (+\$543 million) and Alternative Long/Short Equity Funds (+\$416 million) witnessing the largest net inflows of the macro-classification. Alternative Global Macro Funds (-\$666 million) witnessed the largest net outflows of the remaining classifications in the group, bettered by Alternative Funds (-\$369 million, a variable annuity subgroup) and Dedicated Short Bias Funds (-\$55 million). For Q1, the Alternatives Funds macro-classification took in a net \$2.5 billion.

**TABLE 9 ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF TARGET DATE AND TARGET RISK FUNDS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)**

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Mixed Asset Target 2010 Funds	-0.2	-0.1
Mixed Asset Target 2015 Funds	-0.4	-0.5
Mixed Asset Target 2020 Funds	-1.2	-1.4
Mixed Asset Target 2025 Funds	0.9	0.3
Mixed Asset Target 2030 Funds	1.9	1.0
Mixed Asset Target 2035 Funds	1.8	0.9
Mixed Asset Target 2040 Funds	1.6	0.8
Mixed Asset Target 2045 Funds	1.6	0.8
Mixed Asset Target 2050 Funds	1.5	0.9
Mixed Asset Target 2055 Funds	1.3	0.8
Mixed-Asset Target 2060 Funds	0.9	0.7
Mixed-Asset Target 2060+ Funds	0.2	0.2
Mixed Asset Target Today Funds	-0.3	-0.1
Mixed Asset Target Alloc Aggres Funds	-0.3	-0.2
Mixed Asset Target Alloc Conserv Funds	-0.7	-1.0
Mixed Asset Target Alloc Growth Funds	-0.5	-0.8
Mixed Asset Target Alloc Moderate Funds	-2.1	-1.9
Retirement Income	0.0	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

**TABLE 10 ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF ALTERNATIVES FUNDS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)**

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Absolute Return Funds	0.1	0.1
Alternative Active Extension Funds	0.0	-0.1
Alternative Equity Market Neutral Funds	0.3	0.5
Alternative Event Driven Funds	0.5	0.5
Alternative Global Macro Funds	-0.7	-0.6
Alternative Long/Short Equity Funds	0.4	0.9
Alternative Managed Futures Funds	0.1	0.2
Alternative Multi-Strategy Funds	0.3	0.2
Alternative Other Funds	-0.4	-0.4
Dedicated Short Bias Funds	-0.1	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

# FIXED INCOME FUNDS

## Fixed Income Funds

For the eleventh consecutive month, fund investors embraced bond funds, injecting \$41.2 billion net for March. On the taxable bond (non-money market) funds side (+\$35.4 billion), 21 of Lipper's 31 classifications witnessed net inflows. On the tax-exempt side (+\$5.8 billion), 15 of the 20 classifications in the municipal bond fund universe saw net inflows.

Investors put money into Core Bond Funds (+\$11.1 billion), Short Investment-Grade Debt Funds (+\$5.5 billion), and Multi-Sector Income Funds (+\$4.3 billion). Once again, the High Yield Funds classification witnessed the largest net redemptions of the group, handing back \$4.8 billion for March, bettered by GNMA Funds (-\$1.1 billion), Corporate Debt BBB-Rated Funds (-\$895 million), and General U.S. Government Funds (-\$401 million). On the municipal bond fund side, High Yield Municipal Debt Funds (+\$1.6 billion) witnessed the largest net inflows for the month, followed by General & Insured Municipal Debt Funds (+\$1.582 billion) and Intermediate Municipal Debt Funds (+\$1.4 billion). New York Municipal Debt Funds (-\$103 million) suffered the largest net redemptions of the subgroup, bettered by California Municipal Debt Funds (-\$24 million). The Fixed Income Funds macro-classification took in a net \$182.8 billion over the last three months.

## Money Market Funds

For the second month in a row, investors were net purchasers of the Money Market Funds macro-classification, injecting \$128.8 billion for March (its largest monthly net inflows since April 30, 2020). On the taxable side (+\$130.5 billion), Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Funds (+\$84.0 billion) attracted the largest net inflows of the subgroup, followed by Institutional Treasury Money Market Funds (+\$61.5 billion) and U.S. Government Money Market Funds (+\$1.3 billion). Meanwhile, Money Market Funds witnessed the largest net outflows for the month (-\$8.9 billion), bettered by Institutional Money Market Funds (-\$6.1 billion).

On the tax-exempt side (-\$1.7 billion), only one of the five classifications witnessed net inflows for the month: Institutional Tax-Exempt Money Market Funds (+\$200 million). Tax-Exempt Money Market Funds (-\$1.4 billion) experienced the largest net redemptions of the subgroup, bettered by California Tax-Exempt Money Market Funds (-\$476 million). Over the last three months, the Money Market Funds macro-classification took in a little more than \$164.7 billion.

**TABLE 11**
**ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF MAJOR FIXED INCOME FUND TYPES, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)**

	TAXABLE	MUNICIPAL	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Long-Term Bond	9.2	3.3	12.5	22.5
Short & Intermediate	26.2	2.5	28.7	39.1
Money Market	130.5	-1.7	128.8	39.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>170.0</b>	<b>101.0</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

# FUNDFLOWS INSIGHT REPORT

REFINITIV LIPPER RESEARCH SERIES

MARCH 31, 2021

## APs FAVOR MULTI-CAP AND VALUE-ORIENTED ETFs IN MARCH

### ETF Executive Summary

For the nineteenth straight month, ETFs witnessed net inflows, taking in \$87.8 billion for March. Authorized participants (APs—those investors who actually create and redeem ETF shares) were net purchasers of stock & mixed-assets ETFs for the tenth consecutive month, injecting \$73.6 billion into equity ETF coffers. And for the twelfth month in a row, they were net purchasers of bond ETFs—injecting \$14.2 billion for the month. APs were net purchasers of four of the five equity-based ETF macro-classifications, padding the coffers of U.S. Diversified Equity ETFs (+\$46.1 billion), World Equity ETFs (+\$18.3 billion), Sector Equity ETFs (+\$9.4 billion), and Mixed-Assets ETFs (+\$28 million), while being net redeemers of Alternatives ETFs (-\$210 million). Over the last three months, Stock & Mixed-Assets ETFs took in \$193.9 billion and Bond ETFs attracted \$42.0 billion of net new money.

U.S. stocks rallied in the beginning of March as bond yields began to steady, with the Dow setting new record highs mid-month as investors cheered a better-than-expected February nonfarm payrolls report and Congress passed President Biden's \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package. The U.S. economy added 379,000 new jobs, handily beating analyst expectations of 210,000. Mid-month, the Dow closed at a new record above the 32,000 mark as investors bet on additional market gains from the massive injection of cash after President Biden signed into law the \$1.9 trillion spending package. Investors continued to rotate out of stay-at-home stocks and into cyclical stocks.

Toward month end, the Dow closed at a new record high, rising above the 33,000 mark for the first time in history (its fastest 1,000-point gain—in just five days—on record) after the Federal Reserve said it would hold interest rates near zero through 2023. The Treasury yield curve steepened during the month as investors evaluated what a third round of stimulus, a new infrastructure spending plan, and the continuation of loose monetary policy might have on the economy. Once again, the Treasury yield curve witnessed declines at the short end, while at the long end, the 10-year yield witnessed the largest gain for the month, rising 30 bps to close the month at 1.74%. Commodity prices declined for the month, with near-month gold prices falling 1.11% to close the month at \$1,713.80/oz. and front-month crude oil prices falling 0.99% to close at \$59.16/bbl.

TABLE 1

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS BY MAJOR ETF TYPES, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Stock & Mixed Equity ETFs	73.6	77.6
Bond ETFs	14.2	8.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>85.7</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

TABLE 2

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF MAJOR EQUITY ETF TYPES, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$BIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
USDE ETFs	46.1	44.8
Sector Equity ETFs	9.4	2.1
World Equity ETFs	18.3	10.8
Mixed-Asset ETFs	0.0	0.6
Alternatives ETFs	-0.2	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73.6</b>	<b>77.6</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding



Authored by:

**TOM ROSEEN**

Head of Research Services  
Refinitiv Lipper  
An LSEG Business

REFINITIV™

DATA IS JUST  
THE BEGINNING



# EQUITY ETFs

## United States Diversified Equity (USDE) ETFs

For the second month in a row, the USDE ETFs macro-classification experienced net inflows, taking in \$46.1 billion for March. Lipper's broad-based 4x3-matrix subgroup witnessed net inflows for the twentieth consecutive month—taking in \$30.1 billion—with Multi-Cap Value ETFs (+\$9.1 billion), Multi-Cap Core ETFs (+\$5.3 billion), and Large-Cap Value ETFs (+\$5.0 billion) witnessing the largest net inflows of the subgroup. For the first month in three, multi-cap ETFs (+\$14.8 billion) experienced the largest net inflows of the four capitalization groups, followed by large-cap ETFs (+\$7.6 billion). Value-oriented ETFs (+\$17.4 billion) attracted the largest net inflows of the valuation subgroups for the month, while their core- and growth-oriented counterparts took in \$11.5 billion and \$1.1 billion, respectively. Small-Cap Growth ETFs (-\$279 million) suffered the only net redemptions of the subgroup, bettered by Mid-Cap Growth ETFs (+\$23 million). Outside the 4x3-matrix classifications (+\$16.0 billion), S&P 500 Index ETFs (+\$6.1 billion) and Equity Income ETFs (+\$5.2 billion) witnessed the largest net inflows, while Options Arbitrage/Option Strategies ETFs (+\$956 million) experienced the smallest net inflows of the subgroup. **Vanguard Total Stock Market Index ETF (VTI)** individually witnessed the largest net inflows (+\$4.4 billion), while **iShares MSCI USA Min Vol Factor ETF (USMV)** witnessed the largest individual net outflows (-\$1.2 billion). For the three-month period ended March 31, the USDE ETFs macro-classification attracted \$88.6 billion in net inflows.

TABLE 3

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF USDE 4X3-MATRIX ETFs, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Large-Cap	4,951.7	1,672.2	968.5	7,592.4	4,860.5
Multi-Cap	9,076.6	5,329.6	394.1	14,800.4	5,450.1
Mid-Cap	680.0	720.7	22.9	1,423.5	554.8
Small-Cap	2,723.7	3,799.6	-278.7	6,244.5	5,512.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,432.0</b>	<b>11,522.1</b>	<b>1,106.8</b>	<b>30,060.8</b>	<b>16,378.1</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

TABLE 4

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF OTHER USDE CLASSIFICATIONS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Equity Leverage ETFs	2,759.6	2,927.6
Equity Income ETFs	5,197.5	-736.4
Options Arbitrage/Options Strategies Funds	955.9	359.3
Specialty Diversified ETFs	-	-
S&P Midcap 400 Index Funds	993.4	-42.6
S&P 500 Index ETFs	6,086.4	25,906.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,992.9</b>	<b>28,414.4</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding



# EQUITY ETFs

## World Equity ETFs

For the tenth month in a row, APs were net purchasers of World Equity ETFs, injecting \$18.3 billion for March. APs were net purchasers of the non-3x3-matrix subgroup, injecting a net \$9.6 billion. For the second month in three, the Global Diversified Equity ETFs subgroup witnessed net inflows, taking in \$1.3 billion for March. Meanwhile, the International Diversified Equity ETFs subgroup witnessed net inflows for the ninth month in a row, taking in \$7.3 billion for the month. Emerging Markets ETFs (+\$8.5 billion) remained at the top of the leaderboard for the month, while International Multi-Cap Core ETFs (+\$3.0 billion) and International Small-/Mid-Cap Growth ETFs (+\$2.4 billion) took the number-two and -three spots. Japanese ETFs experienced the largest net redemptions of the macro-classification, handing back \$448 million for the month, bettered by Global Multi-Cap Value ETFs (-\$199 million) and Pacific Region ETFs (-\$74 million). **iShares Core MSCI Emerging Markets ETF (IEMG)**, with net inflows of \$3.5 billion for March, attracted the most individual interest in the macro-classification. **Goldman Sachs ActiveBeta Emerging Markets Equity ETF (GEM)** handed back the largest individual net redemptions (-\$635 million). Over the last three months, the World Equity ETFs macro-classification attracted a net \$47.5 billion.

**TABLE 5**
**ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF GLOBAL DIVERSIFIED EQUITY ETFs, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)**

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Large-Cap	0.0	69.7	0.0	69.7	5.8
Multi-Cap	-198.9	1,426.9	18.7	1,246.6	-50.2
Small-/Mid-Cap (No Style)		0.0		0.0	-2.3
<b>TOTAL (LARGE &amp; MULTI)</b>	<b>-198.9</b>	<b>1,496.5</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>1,316.3</b>	<b>-46.7</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

**TABLE 6**
**ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF INTERNATIONAL DIVERSIFIED EQUITY ETFs, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)**

	VALUE	CORE	GROWTH	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Large-Cap	262.4	853.5	90.0	1,205.9	1,018.2
Multi-Cap	435.3	3,017.0	103.2	3,555.4	3,474.0
Small-/Mid-Cap	66.0	44.0	2,445.6	2,555.6	922.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>763.7</b>	<b>3,914.5</b>	<b>2,638.8</b>	<b>7,316.9</b>	<b>5,414.9</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

**TABLE 7**
**ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF REMAINING WORLD EQUITY ETF CLASSIFICATIONS, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)**

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
China Region ETFs	368.2	199.2
Emerging Markets ETFs	8,453.4	3,088.4
European Region ETFs	369.3	446.5
Frontier Markets Funds	1.4	0.0
Global Equity Income ETFs	43.3	-37.1
India Region ETFs	257.9	79.1
International Equity Income ETFs	408.7	341.7
Japanese ETFs	-448.0	310.3
Latin American ETFs	-62.0	-145.5
Pacific Region ETFs	-74.3	-69.2
Pacific ex-Japan ETFs	305.7	1,222.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,623.7</b>	<b>5,435.6</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

# EQUITY ETFs

## Sector Equity ETFs

For the sixth consecutive month, Sector Equity ETFs witnessed net inflows—taking in \$9.4 billion for March—with 17 of Lipper’s 28 Sector Equity ETF classifications experiencing net inflows. Financial Services ETFs (+\$4.4 billion), Natural Resources ETFs (+\$4.1 billion), and Industrials ETFs (+\$3.5 billion) observed the largest net inflows for the month, while Commodities Precious Metals ETFs (-\$5.0 billion), Health/Biotechnology ETFs (-\$1.7 billion), and Commodities Energy ETFs (-\$425 million) suffered the largest net outflows. **Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund (XLF)**, taking in a net \$1.9 billion, attracted the largest individual inflows for March. At the bottom of the individual ETF pile for Sector Equity ETFs, **SPDR Gold Shares (GLD)** handed back a net \$3.1 billion for the month. The Sector Equity ETFs macro-classification took in a net \$55.1 billion over the last three months.

TABLE 8

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF SECTOR EQUITY ETFs, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Precious Metals Equity ETFs	-295.4	-378.0
Alternative Energy Funds	-60.9	515.4
Basic Materials ETFs	434.2	2,159.3
Consumer Goods ETFs	-227.2	-1,382.2
Commodities Agriculture ETFs	-83.9	192.0
Commodities Energy ETFs	-425.3	-359.6
Commodities General ETFs	1,123.5	1,182.5
Commodities Base Metals ETFs	77.9	124.0
Commodities Precious Metals ETFs	-5,013.6	-3,573.2
Commodities Specialty ETFs	-114.4	43.3
Consumer Services ETFs	1,365.3	1,842.6
Energy MLP ETFs	108.6	142.2
Financial Services ETFs	4,433.8	3,685.8
Global Financial Services ETFs	-106.1	229.9
Global Health/Biotechnology ETFs	116.4	287.4
Global Infrastructure ETFs	115.9	200.1
Global Natural Resources ETFs	457.0	698.4
Global Real Estate ETFs	23.0	60.2
Global Science/Technology ETFs	141.7	2,984.1
Health/Biotechnology ETFs	-1,694.8	390.1
Industrials ETFs	3,539.5	2,366.1
International Real Estate ETFs	-24.7	-2.1
Natural Resources ETFs	4,071.6	1,534.3
Real Estate ETFs	557.8	2,135.2
Specialty/Miscellaneous ETFs	344.0	1,559.4
Science & Technology ETFs	435.5	4,662.0
Telecommunication ETFs	-297.2	555.7
Utility ETFs	447.4	-737.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,449.6</b>	<b>21,117.4</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

# EQUITY ETFs

## Alternatives ETFs

For the first month in six, Alternatives ETFs witnessed net outflows (-\$210 million for March). APs were net purchasers of Alternative Long/Short Equity ETFs (+\$315 million) and Alternative Active Extension ETFs (+\$19 million). Dedicated Short Bias ETFs (-\$444 million) witnessed the largest net outflows of the group, bettered by Absolute Return ETFs (-\$71 million). **Global X NASDAQ 100 Covered Call ETF (QYLD)**, taking in \$288 million, drew the largest individual net inflows of the macro-classification, while **ProShares Short S&P 500 ETF (SH)** handed back \$158 million and suffered the largest individual net withdrawals of the group. Alternatives ETFs attracted a net \$1.6 billion over the last three months.

**TABLE 9**
**ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF ALTERNATIVES ETFs, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)**

	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Absolute Return ETFs	-71.1	23.6
Alternative Active Extension ETFs	19.3	1.2
Alternative Equity Market Neutral ETFs	-24.9	0.9
Alternative Event Driven ETFs	-16.1	56.4
Alternative Global Macro ETFs	-7.0	-3.6
Alternative Long/Short Equity ETFs	314.9	231.6
Alternative Managed Futures ETFs	7.7	13.2
Alternative Multi-Strategy ETFs	11.7	-69.3
Dedicated Short Bias ETFs	-444.2	84.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-209.7</b>	<b>338.8</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns may not sum because of rounding

# FIXED INCOME ETFs

## Fixed Income ETFs

For the twelfth month in a row, fixed income ETFs (+\$14.2 billion for March) witnessed net inflows. On the taxable bond ETF side (+\$12.9 billion), 20 of the 31 Lipper classifications attracted net new money for the month. Meanwhile, tax-exempt offerings (+\$1.3 billion) posted net inflows in eight of the nine classifications of the subgroup. On the taxable side, net flows into General U.S. Treasury ETFs (+\$3.0 billion) and Inflation Protected Bond ETFs (+\$2.2 billion) beat those of the other classifications. Corporate Debt BBB-Rated ETFs (-\$2.0 billion) and Alternative Currency Strategies ETFs (-\$87 million) suffered the largest net redemptions of the group. **iShares Core Total USD Bond Market ETF (IUSB)**, with net inflows of \$2.0 billion, attracted the largest individual inflows of the group, while **iShares iBoxx \$ Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF (LQD)**, handing back some \$2.8 billion for March, suffered the largest individual net redemptions. On the tax-exempt side, General & Insured Municipal Debt ETFs (+\$645 million) had the largest net inflows, while California Intermediate Municipal Debt ETFs (-\$8 million) suffered the only net redemptions of the group for the month. For Q1, the Fixed Income ETFs macro-classification took in a net \$42.0 billion.

TABLE 10

ESTIMATED NET FLOWS OF MAJOR FIXED INCOME ETF TYPES, MARCH 2021 VERSUS FEBRUARY (\$MIL)

	TAXABLE	MUNICIPAL	MARCH	FEBRUARY
Long-Term Bond	5,920.2	780.3	6,700.5	-1,805.0
Short & Intermediate	6,939.0	567.0	7,506.0	9,849.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,859.2</b>	<b>1,347.4</b>	<b>14,206.6</b>	<b>8,044.4</b>

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Note: Columns and rows may not sum because of rounding

© Refinitiv 2021. All Rights Reserved. Refinitiv Lipper FundFlows Insight Reports are for informational purposes only, and do not constitute investment advice or an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security of any entity in any jurisdiction. No guarantee is made that the information in this report is accurate or complete and no warranties are made with regard to the results to be obtained from its use. In addition, Refinitiv Lipper will not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from information obtained from Lipper or any of its affiliates.

For immediate assistance, feel free to contact Lipper Client Services toll-free at **877.955.4773** or via email at **LipperUSClientServices@refinitiv.com**. For more information about Lipper, please visit our website at [refinitiv.com/en](https://refinitiv.com/en) or [lipperalphainsight.com](https://lipperalphainsight.com).