

|                 |                |              |                            |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Published Date: | 10 Jan 2025    | Publication: | Business Standard [Mumbai] |
| Journalist:     | Abhishek Kumar | Page No:     | 1                          |
| Circulation:    | 14,000         |              |                            |

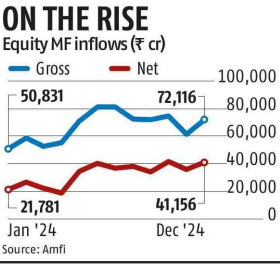
# MFs cap strong 2024 with robust Dec

ABHISHEK KUMAR  
Mumbai, 9 January

Equity mutual funds (MF) capped a strong 2024 with near-fresh-high inflows in December. With ₹41,156 crore in net inflows in December, the 2024 tally surged to ₹3.9 trillion, up 144 per cent compared to 2023. The December tally, which was only slightly short of the record-high inflows of ₹41,887 crore achieved in October 2024, was fuelled by record inflows of ₹9,761 crore into smallcap and midcap funds.

The sectoral and thematic fund category, which witnessed the closing of 12 new fund offerings (NFOs) in December, contributed ₹15,332 crore to the equity inflow tally, according to data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi).

"The MF industry witnessed strong demand for equity funds, particularly smallcap and sectoral/thematic funds. The



inflows were further buoyed up by investments from NFOs, with passive funds leading the charge," said Akhil Chaturvedi, executive director and chief business officer (CBO), Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company (AMC).

The inflows increased despite the equity market correcting, ending in the red for the third month in a row. The benchmark Nifty 50 declined by 2 per cent during the month.

"Equity MFs have seen very strong flows across categories, and investors seem to have bought into the market correction in December," said Anand Vardarajan, CBO, Tata AMC.

Inflows into midcap funds rose to a new high of ₹5,093 crore in December, while smallcap funds recorded the second-highest monthly inflows at ₹4,668 crore.

The inflows were also supported by ₹26,459 crore in inflows through

the systematic investment plan (SIP) route. SIP inflows achieved a new high for the 17th time in 18 months.

"Despite volatile market conditions, equity-oriented schemes continued to see strong inflows, reflecting investors' confidence and commitment to stay invested for the long term. This behaviour highlights the growing maturity of investors. The SIP contribution reached an all-time high of ₹26,459 crore in December 2024, mirroring investors' steadfast commitment to their financial goals," said Venkat Chalasani, chief executive, Amfi.

"Despite market volatility, SIP numbers have remained strong, reflecting retail investor confidence in long-term investments in India. The near 50 per cent growth in SIPs over the past year is a testament to the strong conviction of investors," said Suranjana Borthakur, head of distribution and strategic alliances, Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India).