



# **Asset Managers**

Sector Study

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June 2021



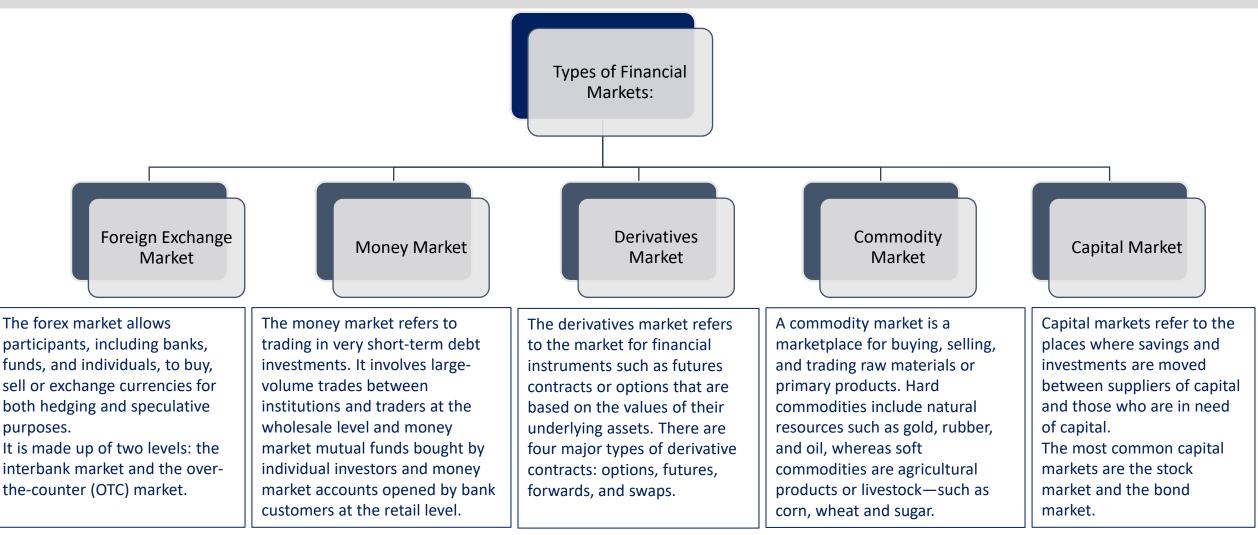
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# **ASSET MANAGERS | INTRODUCTION**



## **Types of Financial Markets**





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## **An Overview of Capital Markets**

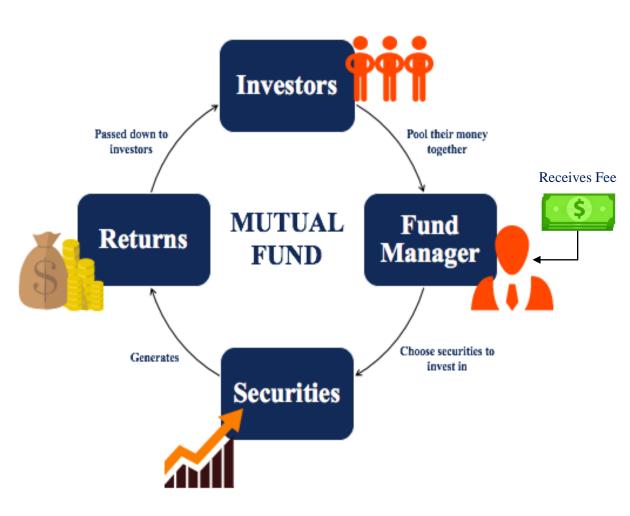
- Capital markets provide viable avenues for raising capital and facilitate buying and selling of financial instruments. The two main categories of financial instruments in which markets are involved are equity securities (commonly known as 'stocks' or 'shares') and debt securities (TFCs, bonds, Sukuks Commercial Papers etc.). Capital markets are utilized to raise funds for short-term, medium-term (debt instruments) and long-term (bonds and equity securities).
- Other than the distinction between equity and debt, capital markets operate under two structures: primary markets and secondary markets. In primary markets, stocks and bonds are issued directly by the companies to retail and institutional investors often through underwriting.
- The level of capital market development is an important determinant of level of savings, efficiency of investment and ultimately rate of economic growth.
- Capital markets are overseen by regulatory bodies to ensure the protection of investors and smooth functioning of the market within legal parameters. The capital market structure consists of regulators, stock exchanges, clearing houses along with brokers, investors and other market participants.
- The capital market structure in Pakistan consists of an apex regulator of the markets, the Securities and Exchange Commission Pakistan (SECP), Pakistan Stock Exchange (emerged as a result of merging three stock exchanges), Mercantile Exchanges, Central Depository Company (CDC) and a Clearing and Settlement Company. The structure further includes intermediaries or market participants such as brokers which handle the transaction of shares in the capital markets on behalf of investors.

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# **ASSET MANAGERS | INTRODUCTION**

## **Mutual Funds**

- A mutual fund is a type of financial vehicle that pools the money of investors with a common financial goal. The pooled funds are invested in securities such as stocks, bonds, money market instruments and other similar assets in order to meet predefined investment objectives.
- The income earned through these investments and the capital appreciation realized are shared by the investors in proportion to the number of units of the fund owned by them.
- Mutual funds give access to small or individual investors access to diversified and professionally managed portfolios that match their specific investment needs. In return for their management and investment services, fund managers receive compensation usually known as a fee.
- In addition, mutual funds also offer liquidity as open-ended funds can be redeemed at any point, while close-ended funds can be sold in the secondary market.

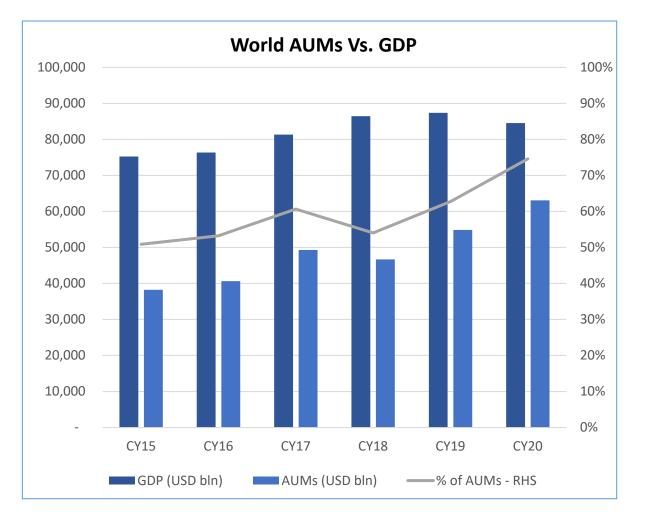




## World AUMs

Period	CY15	CY16	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20
AUMs (USD bln)	38,253	40,644	49,300	46,695	54,833	63,059
Growth	0.3%	6%	21%	-5%	17%	15%

- Global Open-End Fund Assets increased by ~15% YoY in CY20 clocking in at USD~63trn (~75% of the global GDP). During 1QCY20, there was ~13% decline in Global AUMs due to the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The global economy and mutual funds industry began to recover gradually and Global AUMs rose ~32% in the last three quarters.
- The growth rate of the AUMs Market has historically remained volatile. Average CAGR for the Open-End Fund Assets is recorded at ~9% from CY15 to CY20.
- Based on the type of fund, the highest concentration of AUMs remains in Equity Funds, and based on regions, the highest portion of global Open-End Fund assets vests in Americas.







#### **Region Wise Asset Allocation & Number of Funds**

Worldwide Open-End Funds: Total Net Assets (USD bln)											
Region	CY15	CY16	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20					
Americas	19,628	22,294	24,899	23,643	28,641	32,326					
Europe	13,733	14,974	17,722	16,477	18,808	21,756					
Asia & Pacific	4,770	5,560	6,498	6,421	7,256	8,791					
Africa	122.068	154	182	154	178	186					
Total	38,253	42,982	49,301	46,695	54,883	63,059					

Region	CY15	CY16	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20
Americas	25,001	25,698	26,570	27,714	28,733	31,044
Europe	53,212	53,513	54,558	56,001	56,955	57,753
Asia & Pacific	26,526	29,396	30,196	32,996	35,260	35,974
Africa	1,327	1,520	1,626	1,567	1,610	1,686
Total	106,066	110,127	112,950	118,278	122,558	126,457

Worldwide Open-End Number of Funds

Worldwide Open-End Funds: Total Net Assets (%)												
Region	CY15	CY16	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20						
Americas	51%	52%	51%	51%	52%	51%						
Europe	36%	35%	36%	35%	34%	35%						
Asia & Pacific	12%	13%	13%	14%	13%	14%						
Africa	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%						
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%						

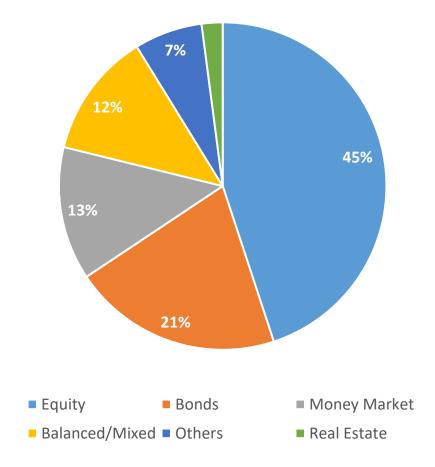
	Worldwide Open-End Funds: Number (%)											
Region	CY15	CY16	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20						
Americas	24%	23%	24%	23%	23%	25%						
Europe	50%	49%	48%	47%	46%	46%						
Asia & Pacific	25%	27%	27%	28%	29%	28%						
Africa	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%						
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%						

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## **Asset Allocation by Fund Type**

- Global Open-End Fund Market is dominated by Long term Investments.
- Equity funds account for ~45% of the Global Open-End Fund Assets, followed by Bonds (~21%) and Money Market Funds (~13%).
- During CY20, Global Net sales of the Open-End Fund Market was recorded at USD~2.6trn (USD~2.2trn in CY19), up ~21% YoY basis.
- In terms of Asset Allocation, the highest increase in Global Open-End Funds Assets was witnessed in Money Market Funds increasing by ~20% YoY in CY20. These were followed by an increase of ~16% YoY in Equity Funds in CY20 and ~11% in Bonds YoY.











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## **Regional Market | Asia & Pacific AUMs**

	СҮ20												
USD bln	China	Australia	Japan	Korea	India	Taiwan	New Zealand	Philipines	Pakistan	TOTAL			
AUMs	2,655	2,463	2,393	615	402	156	94	7	6	8,791			
GDP	15,660	1,320	4,911	1,587	2,593	636	194	367	288	27,550			
% of AUMs	17%	187%	49%	39%	16%	24%	48%	2%	2%	32%			

- Asia & Pacific accounts for ~14% of the Global Open-End Fund Assets and ~28% of the Number of Global Open-End Funds (Dec'20).
- In terms of GDP, Asia & Pacific makes up ~30% of the Global GDP.
- China, Australia and Japan are the largest economies with reference to AUMs Market in the Asia & Pacific. India also has relatively low Open-End Fund Assets as a percentage of economy (USD~402bln, ~16% of its GDP).
- Pakistan has the lowest Open-End Fund Asset base among its regional players in Asia & Pacific, amounting to USD~6bln and ~2% of its GDP.



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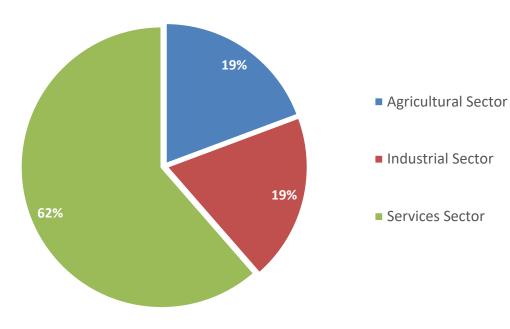
## **Regional Comparison | India**

Assets Under Management   Category Wise – Dec 2020 (USD mln)												
Investor Classification	Liquid/Money Market Funds	Growth/Equity Oriented Schemes	Income/Debt Oriented Schemes	Hybrid Schemes	ETFs (other than gold)	Other	Totals					
Corporates	62,712	11,651	75,936	5,959	32,409	3,311	191,977					
Individuals	12,557	45,802	43,824	27,319	1,714	4,180	135,396					
Retail	1,648	70,447	4,439	9,963	464	3,556	90,517					
Banks/FIs	2,938	96	2,797	30	507	39	6,407					
Foreign Institutional Investors	4	471	137	112	10	8	743					
Total	79,858	128,467	127,133	43,383	35,104	11,094	425,039					

## **GDP Break Up**

PACRA

- Pakistan's GDP shrunk by 0.38% in FY20 and stood at PKR~12,532bln as compared to PKR~12,580bln in FY19. Meanwhile, nominal GDP for FY20 stood at PKR~39,351bln.
- The top 5 sectors in terms of contribution to GDP are (i) Wholesale & Retail Trade, (ii) Transport, Storage & Communication, (iii) Other Private Services, (iv) Livestock, and (v) Large Scale Manufacturing.



Sectoral Shares in GDP (FY20)

FY20 Sector Wise GDP Break-Up (%) 6.81 Crops Livestock 11.69 0.41 Forestry Fishing 0.40 **Total Agricultural Sector** 19.31 Mining and Quarrying 2.51 Large Scale Manufacturing 9.50 Small Scale Manufacturing 2.04 0.94 Slaughtering Electricity Generation + Distribution & Gas Distribution 1.76 Construction 2.53 **Total Industrial Sector** 19.28 Wholesale & Retail Trade 18.17 12.31 Transport, Storage & Communication Finance & Insurance 3.60 **Housing Services** 6.98 **General Government Services** 8.60 Other Private Services 11.75 **Total Services Sector** 61.41

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#### **Macro Economic Indicators**

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	10MFY21
Average Inflation Rate (CPI)	11.90%	11.00%	7.40%	8.60%	4.50%	2.90%	4.20%	3.90%	7.30%	10.70%	8.62%
Average KIBOR	13.45%	12.33%	9.84%	9.88%	8.85%	6.49%	6.11%	6.39%	10.43%	11.95%	7.38%
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	13.70%	12.41%	9.91%	9.75%	8.75%	6.04%	5.75%	5.95%	9.69%	11.75%	7.00%
PKRV	13.00%	11.91%	9.63%	9.75%	8.67%	6.34%	5.95%	6.26%	10.20%	11.79%	7.23%
Average Exchange Rate	86.31	89.24	96.83	102.84	101.47	104.37	104.78	110.11	136.45	158.40	161.35
						2					
(USD mln)	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	10MFY21
Current Account Balance	214	-4,658	-2,496	-3,130	-2,815	-4,961	-12,270	-19,195	-13,434	-2,970	773
Exports	25,369	24,718	24,802	25,078	24,090	21,972	22,003	24,768	24,257	22,507	20,993
Imports	35,796	40,370	40,157	41,668	41,357	41,118	48,001	55,671	51,869	42,417	42,309
Trade Balance	-10,427	-15,652	-15,355	-16,590	-17,267	-19,146	-25,998	-30,903	-27,612	-19,910	-21,316
Foreign Exchange Reserve	18,244	15,289	11,020	14,141	18,699	23,099	21,403	16,384	14,482	18,886	22,690



## **Macro Economic Indicators | Monthly**

	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21
Average Inflation Rate (CPI)	9.30%	8.20%	9.00%	8.90%	8.30%	8.00%	5.70%	8.70%	9.10%	11.10%
Average KIBOR	6.81%	7.19%	7.29%	7.34%	7.35%	7.35%	7.36%	7.57%	7.80%	7.78%
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%	7.00%
PKRV	6.60%	7.11%	7.16%	7.21%	7.15%	7.16%	7.23%	7.43%	7.65%	7.60%
Average Exchange Rate	167.25	168.20	166.29	163.02	159.93	160.47	160.35	159.27	156.13	153.32
(USD mln)	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21
Current Account Balance	583	255	27	448	563	-629	-210	-31	-33	-200
Exports	1,885	1,514	1,955	1,969	2,239	2,253	2,097	2,176	2,610	2,295
Imports	3,557	3,241	3,839	3,482	4,067	5,015	4,433	4,501	5,205	4,969
Trade Balance	-1,672	-1,727	-1,884	-1,513	-1,828	-2,762	-2,336	-2,325	-2,595	-2,674
Foreign Exchange Reserve	19,599	19,907	19,385	19,390	20,254	20,512	20,149	20,105	20,604	22,690



#### **T-Bills & PIBs**

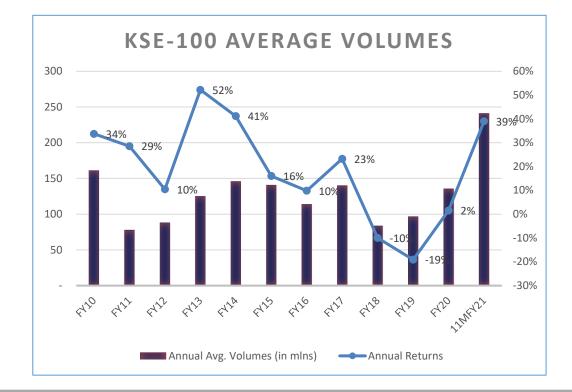
CY20 T-Bills Auction	ļ	Average Yiel	d	1QCY21 T-Bills Auction Average Yield			
Total Realized Amount (PKR bln)	3M	6M	12M	Total Realized Amount (PKR bln)	3M	6M	12M
9,536	8.72%	8.65%	8.63%	4,682	7.23%	7.49%	7.75%

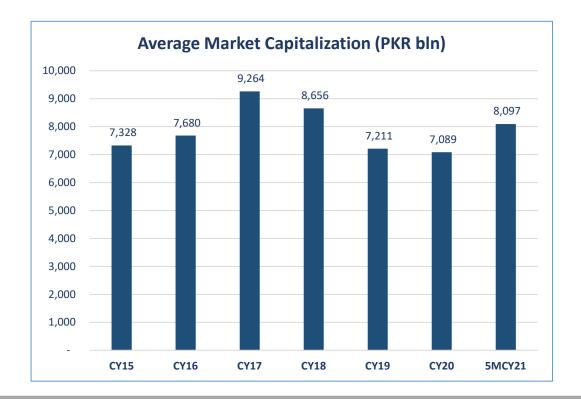
	CY20	PIBs Auction		1QCY21 PIBs Auction						
Tenure	Amount Accepted (PKR bln)	Coupon Rate	Weighted Average Yield	Tenure	Amount Accepted (PKR bln)	Coupon Rate	Weighted Average Yield			
3 Year	428	7.00%	8.95%	3 Year	47	7.00%	8.88%			
5 Year	303	7.50%	9.27%	5 Year	76	7.50%	9.60%			
10 Year	118	8.00%	9.37%	10 Year	51	8.00%	10.04%			
15 Year	93	10.50%	10.04%	15 Year	0	10.50%	-			
20 Year	45	11.00%	10.66%	20 Year	2	11.00%	10.54%			



## **KSE-100 | Performance**

KSE 100 Index	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	11MFY21
Index Value	12,496	13,801	21,006	29,653	34,399	37,784	46,565	41,911	33,902	34,422	47896
Returns (%)	29%	10%	52%	41%	16%	10%	23%	-10%	-19%	2%	39%





## **Types of Mutual Funds**

- **Open-Ended Mutual Funds:** These are mutual funds which continuously create new units and redeem issued units on demand. Units of the fund can be bought or redeemed at the prevailing Net Asset Value (NAV).
- **Close-Ended Mutual Funds:** These funds have a fixed number of shares like a public company and are floated through an IPO. Once issued, they can be bought and sold in the secondary market at market rates. There are currently no close-ended mutual funds in Pakistan.
- Voluntary Pension Funds: It is a personalized, defined, savingscum-investment vehicle for providing comprehensive framework for life after retirement. It is a system established by an employer to expedite and arrange the investment of employees' retirement funds
- High level of returns along with significant new investment in mutual funds led to a large increase in Assets Under Management (AUMs) during 2HCY20.

Type of Fund (PKR bln) As at	Dec'16	Dec'17	Dec'18	Dec'19	Dec'20
Open-end	563	537	552	651	920
Close-end	2	2	1	-	-
Voluntary Pension	22	24	26	30	35
AUMs	587	563	579	681	955

Type of Fund (PKR bln) As at	Jun'16	Jun'17	Jun'18	Jun'19	Jun'20
Open-end	443	581	580	513	742
Close-end	2	2	2	1	-
Voluntary Pension	19	25	26	26	31
AUMs	464	608	608	540	773





## **Mutual Funds | Categories**

- Equity Scheme: An equity scheme or equity fund is a fund that invests in Equities more commonly known as stocks. The objective of an equity fund is long-term growth through capital appreciation, although dividends and capital gain realized are also sources of revenue.
- **Balanced Scheme:** These funds provide investors with a single mutual fund that invests in both stocks and debt instruments and with this diversification aimed at providing investors a balance of growth through investment in stocks and of income from investments in debt instruments.
- Asset Allocation Fund: These Funds may invest its assets in any type of securities at any time in order to diversify its assets across multiple types of securities & investment styles available in the market.
- Fund of Fund Scheme: Fund of Funds are those funds, which invest in other mutual funds. These funds operate a diverse portfolio of equity, balanced, fixed income and money market funds (both open and closed ended).
- Shariah Compliant (Islamic) Scheme: Islamic funds are those funds which invest in Shariah Compliant securities i.e. shares, Sukuk, Ijara etc. as may be approved by the Shariah Advisor of such funds. These funds can be offered under the same categories as those of conventional funds.
- Capital Protected Scheme: In this type of scheme, the payment of original investment is guaranteed with any further capital gain which may accrue at the end of the contractual term of the Fund. Such funds are for a specific period.
- Index Tracker Scheme: Index funds invest in securities to mirror a market index, such as the KSE 100. An index fund buys and sells securities in a manner that mirrors the composition of the selected index. The fund's performance tracks the underlying index's performance.
- Money Market Scheme: Money Market Funds are among the safest and most stable of all the different types of mutual funds. These funds invest in short term debt instruments such as Treasury bills and bank deposits.

## **Mutual Funds | Categories**

- Income Scheme: These funds focus on providing investors with a steady stream of fixed income. They invest in short term and long term debt instruments like TFCs, government securities like T-bills/ PIBs, or preference shares.
- Aggressive Fixed Income Scheme: The aim of aggressive income fund is to generate a high return by investing in fixed income securities while taking exposure in medium to lower quality of assets also.
- **Commodity Scheme:** These schemes enable small investors to take advantage of gains in commodities such as gold through pooled investments. They invest at least 70% of their assets in commodity futures contracts, which include both cash-settled and deliverable contracts.

Categories	De	c'18	Jur	ו'19	Dec'19		Jun'20		Dec'20	
Equity	27	25%	27	21%	27	19%	27	15%	27	16%
Islamic Equity	17	11%	17	10%	18	9%	19	7%	19	7%
Asset Allocation	13	2%	13	2%	14	1%	15	1%	15	2%
Islamic Asset Allocation	13	5%	11	3%	11	2%	12	2%	12	2%
Balanced	5	1%	5	1%	5	1%	5	1%	5	1%
Others	150	56%	168	63%	193	68%	195	74%	195	72%
Total	225	100%	241	100%	268	100%	273	100%	273	100%

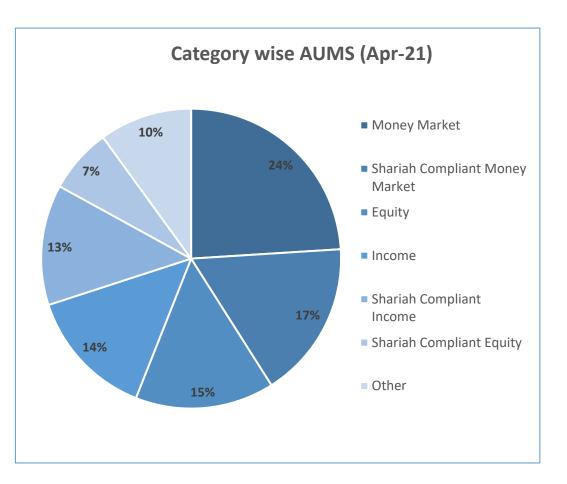
• The tables below show the number of funds in the categories that are rated by PACRA.





## **Category Wise AUM Break Up**

Assets Under Management Break Up (Apr-21)									
Category	AUMs (PKR bln)								
Money Market	234								
Shariah Compliant Money Market	165								
Equity	146								
Income	136								
Shariah Compliant Income	127								
Shariah Compliant Equity	68								
Other	97								
Total AUMs	973								



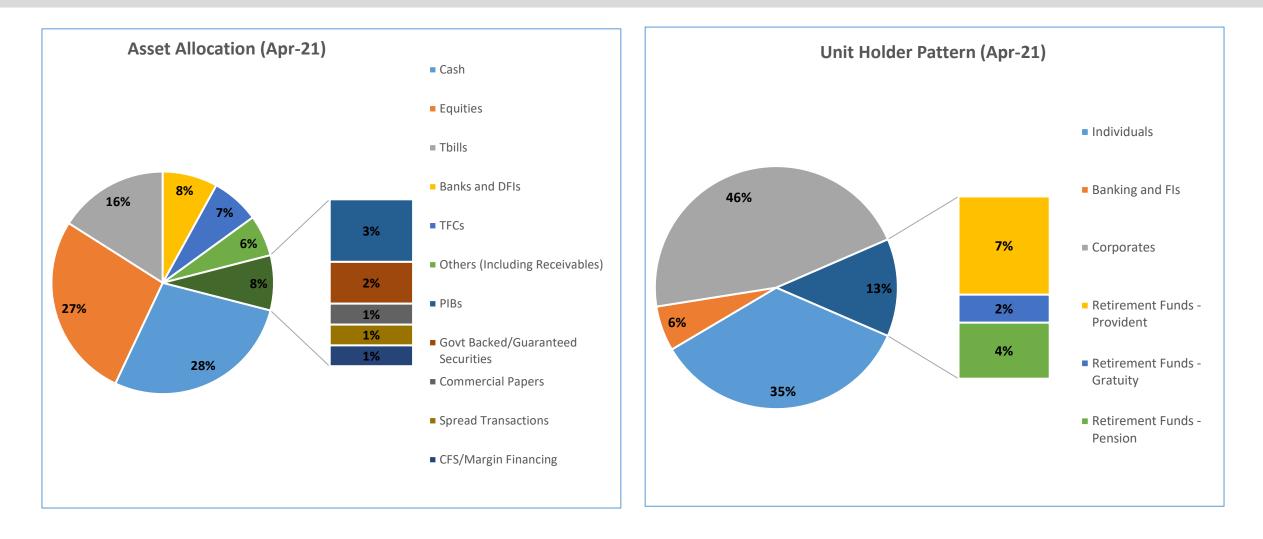


#### **Market Share**

	Mutual Funds Industry - Assets Under Management (Open End & VPS, excluding Fund of Funds) - PKR bln									
	Asset Management Company	Apr		Dec-20	Jun-20	Dec-19	Jun-19			
S. No		Market Share	AUMs	AUMs	AUMs	AUMs	AUMs			
1	NBP Fund Management Limited	17.7%	171.9	163.4	126.9	111.8	89.8			
2	Al-Meezan Investment Management Limited	17.2%	167.3	163.0	152.2	123.2	91.3			
3	MCB-Arif Habib Savings and Investments Limited	9.5%	92.1	82.7	66.2	58.2	44.3			
4	UBL Fund Managers Limited	9.3%	90.1	90.6	78.3	62.8	52.3			
5	National Investment Trust Limited	8.3%	81.0	85.2	68.6	75.0	67.5			
6	HBL Asset Management Limited	7.3%	70.7	78.3	57.7	46.8	42.7			
7	ABL Asset Management Limited	7.4%	72.3	66.7	58.6	53.1	37.6			
8	Faysal Asset Management Limited	5.6%	54.6	47.4	30.1	15.7	8.5			
9	Alfalah GHP Investment Management Limited	4.8%	46.7	49.9	40.1	42.0	31.6			
10	Atlas Asset Management Limited	4.3%	42.1	40.4	29.7	30.9	25.7			
11	Al Habib Asset Management Limited	2.6%	25.4	25.5	14.1	7.0	3.4			
12	JS Investment Limited	2.1%	20.2	23.8	18.9	20.9	19.2			
13	Lakson Investments Limited	2.2%	21.5	21.9	18.9	20.5	15.6			
14	AKD Investment Management Limited	0.7%	7.2	6.5	4.6	5.4	4.4			
15	Pak Oman Asset Management	0.7%	7.1	6.6	4.4	4.3	3.3			
16	AWT Investment Management Limited	0.2%	2.0	2.2	2.7	2.7	1.8			
17	786 Investments Limited	0.1%	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7			
18	BMA Asset Management Company Limited	0.0%	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3			
19	First Capital Investments Limited	0.0%	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1			
	Total	100%	973.4	955.3	772.8	681.3	539.9			



#### **Asset Allocation**





#### **Industry Returns**

	Weighted Average Return of Industry															
Category	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21
Equity	11.59%	-0.46%	-18.75%	11.14%	1.73%	1.59%	12.90%	10.78%	6.68%	5.87%	10.77%	14.74%	16.62%	12.59%	9.89%	11.07%
Shariah Compliant   Income	11.93%	12.04%	11.67%	8.98%	5.31%	7.55%	7.14%	7.40%	6.01%	5.80%	5.80%	6.48%	5.93%	6.27%	5.82%	6.06%
Income	11.59%	11.87%	22.51%	23.17%	6.04%	7.98%	3.73%	6.47%	7.24%	6.43%	6.12%	6.42%	6.00%	5.90%	6.41%	7.38%
Shariah Compliant   Money Market	12.36%	11.76%	11.66%	8.93%	7.82%	7.64%	6.56%	6.08%	6.04%	5.99%	5.92%	6.06%	5.95%	5.90%	5.39%	6.37%
Money Market	12.81%	12.46%	13.77%	14.16%	7.19%	6.86%	6.11%	5.44%	6.61%	5.98%	6.47%	6.82%	6.42%	5.43%	5.62%	7.15%
Shariah Compliant   Equity	2.84%	-8.19%	-23.74%	21.45%	0.00%	0.14%	13.43%	5.22%	-0.18%	-0.88%	4.02%	6.88%	5.97%	3.72%	-2.79%	-1.30%



#### **Net Sales of Mutual Funds**

	Net Sales of Mutual Fund Categories 2021 (PKR mln)											
		January			February			March		April		
Categories	Sales	Redemptions	Net Sales	Sales	Redemptions	Net Sales	Sales	Redemptions	Net Sales	Sales	Redemptions	Net Sales
Money Market	45,837	67,411	(21,573)	47,630	54,214	(6 <i>,</i> 584)	60,073	42,862	17,212	43,081	69,632	(26,551)
Income	17,898	10,808	7,090	16,052	11,191	4,862	27,234	19,353	7,881	19,875	12,871	7,004
Equity	9,348	8,012	1,336	5,158	5,295	(136)	10,027	10,389	(361)	7,834	7,497	337
Shariah Compliant Money Market	27,763	28,765	(1,001)	30,939	26,001	4,938	47,819	41,588	6,231	39,855	43,946	(4,091)
Shariah Compliant Income	13,878	16,489	(2,611)	21,294	20,188	1,105	17,445	18,359	(914)	14,041	13,252	789
Shariah Compliant Equity	11,868	10,803	1,065	9,376	7,234	2,143	12,239	13,140	(901)	7,130	7,494	(364)
Other	13,678	7,792	5,886	9,171	7,349	1,822	8,184	10,498	(2,314)	6,980	4,325	2,655
Total	140,271	150,079	(9,809)	139,620	131,472	8,149	183,021	156,189	26,833	138,795	159,017	(20,221)

# PACRA

## **Regulatory Framework**

- Mutual funds are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with the objective of protection of investors and development of the capital market. SECP implements a transparent and rigorous process before issuing licenses to fund management companies. In addition, the SECP also carries out continuous monitoring of mutual funds.
- The following regulations and rules are applicable to mutual funds:
  - Non-Banking Finance Companies (Establishment & Regulation) Rules, 2003
  - Non-Banking Finance Companies & Notified Entities Regulations, 2008
  - Part VIII of The Companies Ordinance, 1984
  - Circulars and Directives issued by the SECP under the provisions of the Ordinance.
- Mutual funds are established by a Trust Deed between the AMC and the trustee under the Non-Banking Finance Companies (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2003. Under the regulations an independent trustee registered with the SECP has custody of all mutual fund assets.
- All Mutual Funds are obliged to appoint an independent trustee, which can be a scheduled bank having a minimum of 'AA-' rating and has been in business for at least five years or a subsidiary of scheduled bank having a minimum of AA- rating or an investment finance company having a minimum of AA- rating or a central depository company.
- The trustee is obligated to ensure that: (i) The asset management company invests the fund's assets in accordance with the approved investment policy and authorized investments of the mutual fund; (ii) All mutual fund property including cash is under its control and is registered in the name of, or to the order of the trustee; and (iii) Fund property is held in trust for the unit holders in accordance with the rules, regulations and provisions of the constitutive documents.



## **SWOT Analysis**



# **ASSET MANAGERS | Outlook & Future Prospects**



## **Outlook: Stable**

- The domestic economy has started to gradually recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which slowed down industrial activities and bought various businesses to a halt.
- Industrial activity has picked up in various sectors with the Large Scale Manufacturing Industries output increasing ~8.99% YoY during the first
  nine months of FY21. The sectors which have contributed to this growth are textiles, food & beverages, pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Food
  & Beverage sector holds a sizable portion of the Index market capitalization, therefore is a positive sign for the Sector.
- As a result, the stock market has also gradually moved in a positive direction as the economic recovery has picked up due to which investor confidence in the market has also increased. KSE-100 Index return for the 11MFY21 was recorded at ~39% and the return during May-21 stood at ~8%. The growth trajectory is expected to continue in the absence of any major uncertainty. Following a sluggish movement of over two fiscal years, the KSE-100 benchmark has crossed over 45,000 points (12-Jan-21).
- There has been significant growth in the mutual funds market in recent months as total industry AUMs have risen at a quick pace and reached PKR~955bln in Dec-2020. This growth is AUMs is attributable to both higher level of returns as well as new investments in mutual funds during the period.
- The decision taken by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to lower the policy rate by 625bps to 7% in the last quarter of FY20 has lowered the finance costs.
- The inflation level in the country has also declined. The average inflation rate during 11MFY21 stood at ~8.84% as compared to an average inflation rate of ~10.7% during FY20. Moreover, the exchange rate is also expected to remain stable in the near future.
- However, there is still significant uncertainty in the market due to second wave of COVID-19 across the globe. While global capital markets are
  also showing signs of recovery, a strict lockdown or closure of business activities across major economies can have an indirect impact on
  Pakistan's market where the country's export destinations are concentrated.



- The International Investment Funds Association (IIFA)
- Association of Mutual Funds in India
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)
- Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX)
- State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)
- Federal Board of Revenue (FBR)
- Mutual Funds Association of Pakistan (MUFAP)
- Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP)
- Bloomberg
- KSE Stocks
- Statista
- PACRA Database

Research Team	Saniya Tauseef Asst. Manager saniya.tauseef@pacra.com	Insia Raza <i>Research Analyst</i> insia.raza@pacra.com								
Contact Number: +92 42 35869504										

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