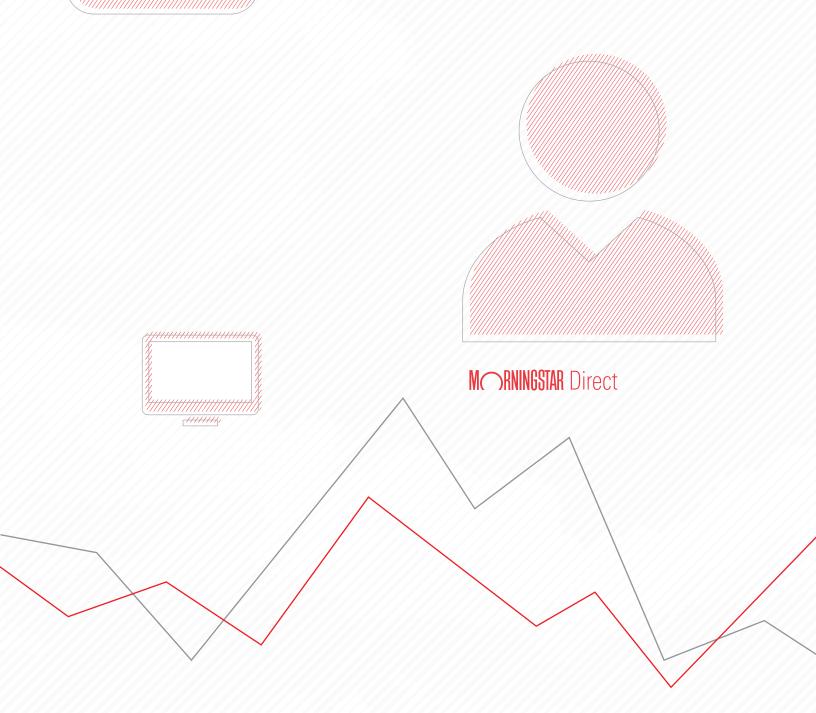
Evaluating Asset Flow Data in Morningstar Direct





Copyright © 2020 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved.

The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely; and (4) does not constitute advice of any kind. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Any statements that are nonfactual in nature constitute opinions only, are subject to change without notice, and may not be consistent across Morningstar. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



Contents

Overview .		. 4
How is the	Asset Flows module organized?	. 5
When is asset flow data updated?		
Exercise 1:	Find the top Morningstar Category for inflows from the past year	. 8
Exercise 2:	Adding context to the fund flow data	10
Exercise 3:	Leveraging charts in the Asset Flows module	12
Exercise 4:	Creating a custom report for asset flows	13
Exercise 5:	Modify a saved custom report	18

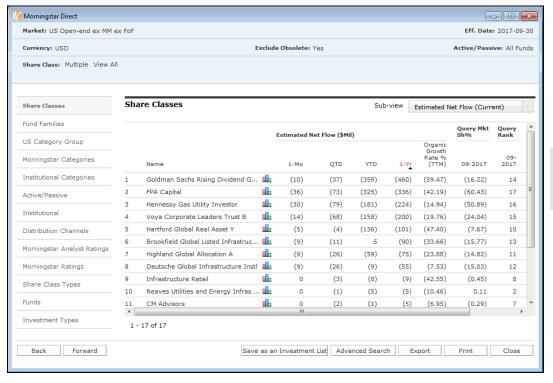


Evaluating Asset Flow Data in Morningstar DirectSM

The Asset Flows module in Morningstar Direct uses estimated data (provided by fund families to Morningstar) to understand changes in asset levels at the fund, category, strategy (active vs. passive), and firm levels. Not only can users see which investments have net inflows vs. outflows, they can also evaluate the size of the change relative to a fund itself, and measure investment trends as individuals and institutions adjust to market conditions.

Overview

In this guide, the Asset Flows module is used to find asset flows for a variety of markets and investment types.

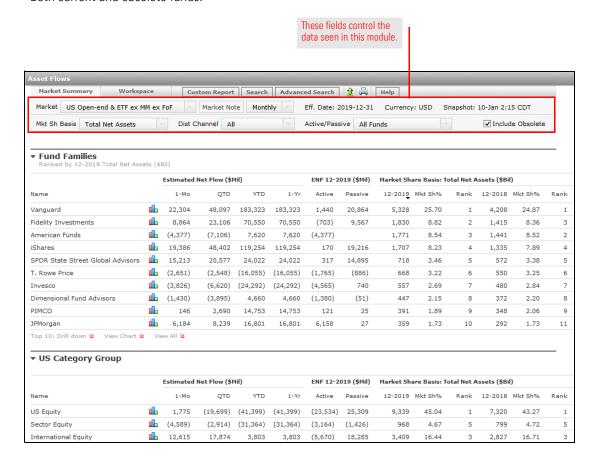


The Asset Flows module allows users to monitor money moving in and out of funds.

The Asset Flows module contains a series of fields at the top of the window to control what data is seen in the module. Below these fields are a set of groupings to organize information by fund family, Morningstar Category, and more. By default, data on the Market Summary tab (the default view for this module) shows the following data:

How is the Asset Flows module organized?

- ► Total net assets (other options would be either net flow or organic growth rate)
- ► US open-end funds, excluding both money market funds and funds-of-funds
 - Note: Exchange-traded funds are also not included here by default.
- ► All distribution channels
- ► Both active and passive funds, and
- ► Both current and obsolete funds.



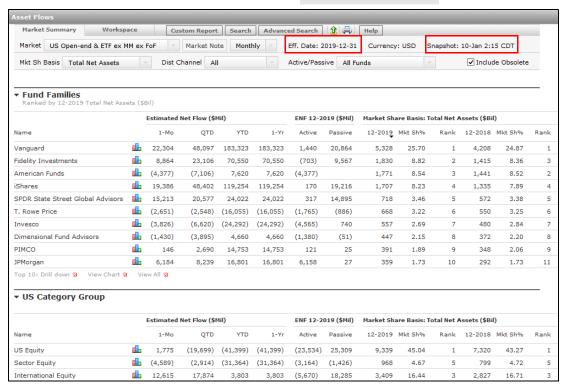
The idea behind using the Asset Flows module is to do the following:

- 1. Select the controls to determine what data is shown on screen.
- 2. Choose a grouping or list to analyze.
- 3. Open a secondary window to conduct further analysis.

Asset flow data is updated each month, usually by the seventh business day. The Eff. Date and Snapshot date on the Market Summary tab reflect this information.

When is asset flow data updated?

These dates reflect when the asset flow data was last updated.

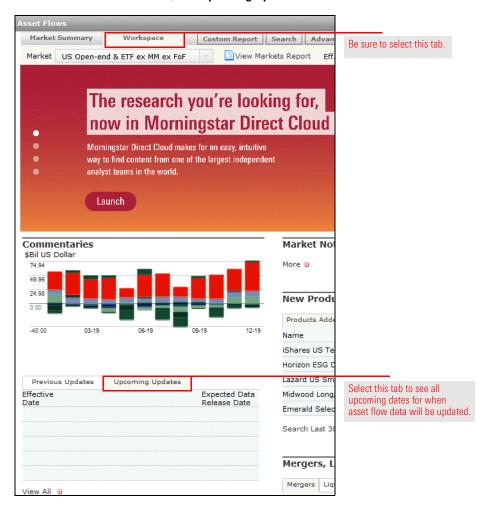


Users can also see upcoming dates for the next update by doing the following:

- 1. Select the **Asset Flows** module.
- 2. Click the **Workspace** tab.



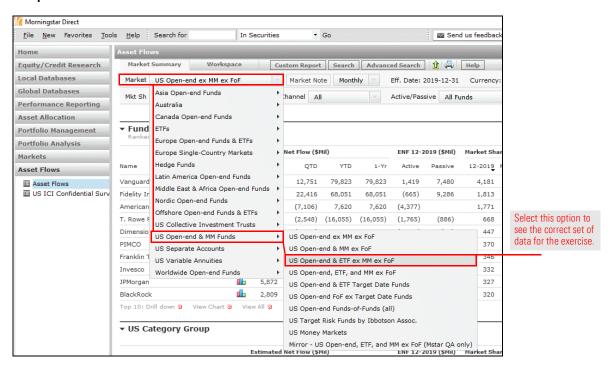
3. Under the Commentaries section, click **Upcoming Updates**.





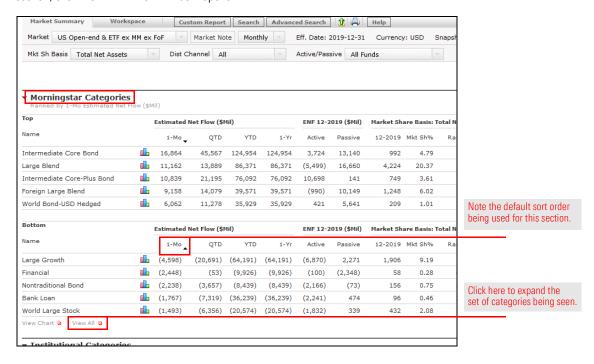
To find the top Morningstar Category for inflows in the past quarter for both open-end funds and exchange-traded funds (while not including money market funds or funds-of-funds), do the following:

- Exercise 1: Find the top Morningstar Category for inflows from the past year
- 1. The **Asset Flows** module should be selected. The Market Summary tab at the top is selected by default.
- From the Market drop-down field, select US Open-end & MM Funds > US Open-end & ETF ex MM ex FOF.

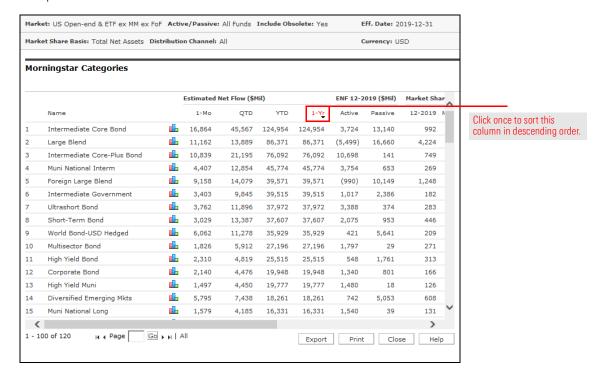


3. **Scroll down** to the Morningstar Categories section.

4. The data in this section is sorted by flows for the trailing 1-month time period. The goal of the exercise is to analyze flows for the trailing 1-year. Because these columns cannot be sorted, it cannot be certain that the category with the largest value in the 1-Yr column is actually the one with the largest flows over the past year. To confirm this, all categories must be considered. In the bottom-left corner of the Morningstar Categories section, click View All. A new window opens.



5. Click the **1-Yr column header** to sort by that column. Which Morningstar Category is at the top of the list?

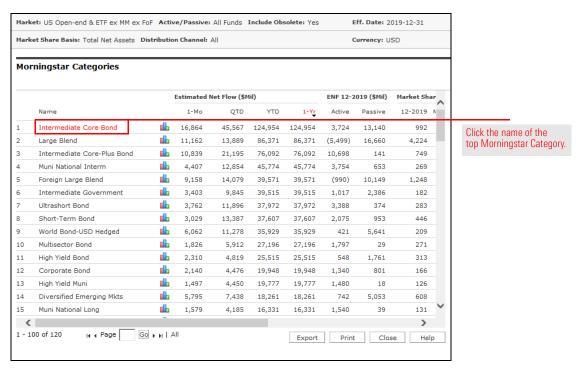




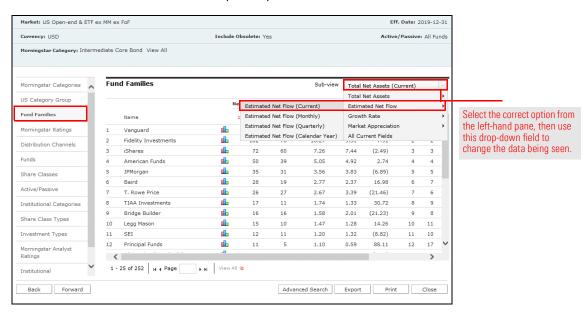
Within the Morningstar Category with the greatest one-year inflows, what were the top three fund families with the greatest inflows? Among the top 10 funds in this category with the greatest inflows, which do not belong to these top fund families? To answer these questions and provide some context around the data, do the following:

Exercise 2: Adding context to the fund flow data

1. Click the **name** of the Morningstar Category at the top of the list. A new window opens.



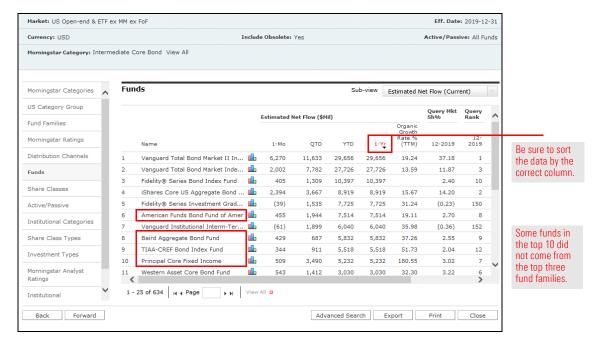
- 2. In the left-hand pane, click Fund Families.
- 3. From the **Sub-view** drop-down field in the upper-right corner of the window, select **Estimated Net Flow > Estimated Net Flow (Current)**.



4. Click the **1-Yr column header** to sort that column in descending order.



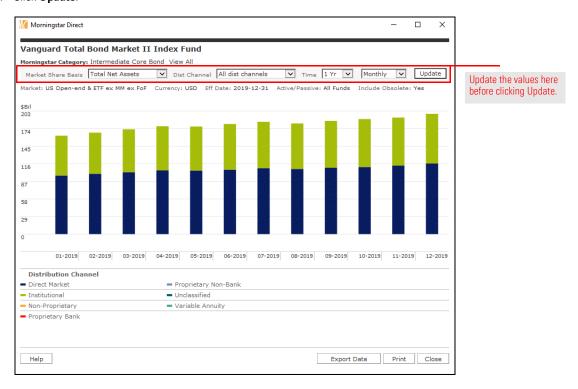
- 5. In the left-hand pane, click Funds.
 - Note: An option exists for both Funds and Share Classes, depending on how you prefer to view the data.
- 6. Click the 1-Yr column header to sort that column in descending order.





Within the Asset Flows module, users can generate a bar chart displaying historical flows. To display a chart, do the following:

- 1. Click the **bar chart icon** next to the first fund's name. A new window opens, displaying the Monthly Estimated Net Flows over the last 3 years.
- From the Market Share Basis drop-down field at the top of the screen, select Total Net Assets.
- 3. From the **Time** drop-down field, select **1 Yr**.
- 4. Click Update.



- 5. How did the asset levels change from the start of the trailing year time period to the end for the top and bottom distribution channels? **Hover the cursor** over each part of a month's bar to see the values displayed in a pop-up message.
- 6. **Close** the chart window.

Exercise 3: Leveraging charts in the Asset Flows module



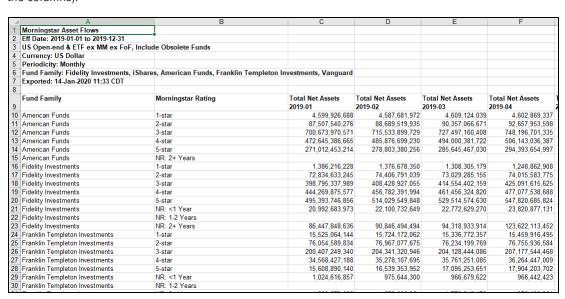
A custom report built in the Asset Flows module is a useful tool for extracting the latest or historical total net assets and fund flows at an aggregated or fund level to Microsoft® Excel®. This report can be used, for instance, to analyze competitors.

Exercise 4: Creating a custom report for asset flows

Given that the report is surfaced in a spreadsheet, creating it involves only the following steps:

- 1. Choose what rows you want to see
- Decide what data columns to include, and
- 3. Choose the manner in which the rows should be sorted.

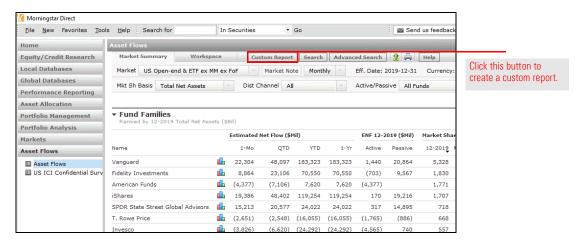
The report created in this exercise chooses a number of fund families, then aggregates funds from those firms by Morningstar Rating (these are the rows) to see the total net assets and estimated net flows on a monthly basis over the past year (these are the columns).



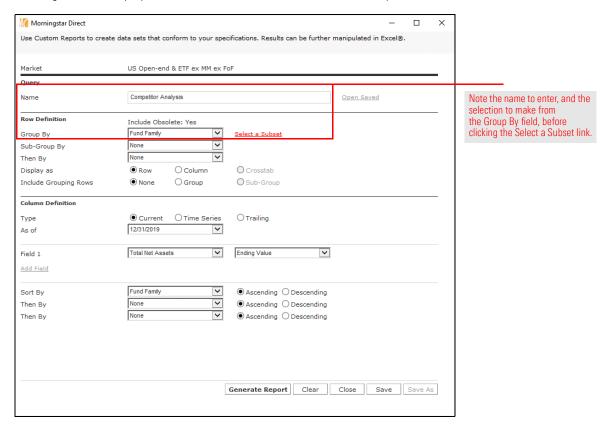
The final report should look like this example.

To create a custom report in the Asset Flows module, do the following:

- Close any open Asset Flows windows. The main Morningstar Direct window should be seen, with the Asset Flows module selected.
- 2. At the top of the window, click **Custom Report**. The Custom Reports window opens.

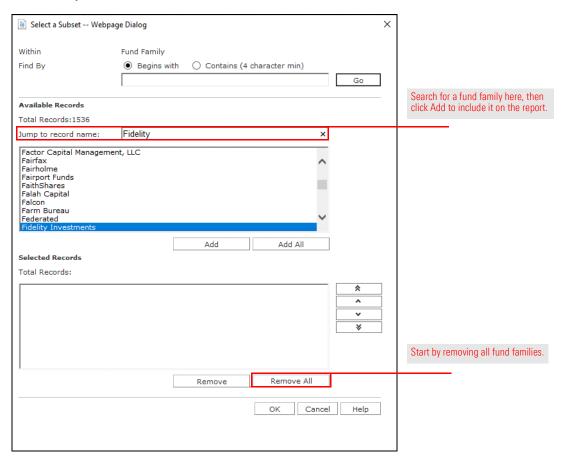


- 3. In the Name field, type Competitor Analysis.
- 4. From the Group By drop-down field, select Fund Family.
- 5. To the right of the Group By field, click **Select a Subset**. A selection window opens.





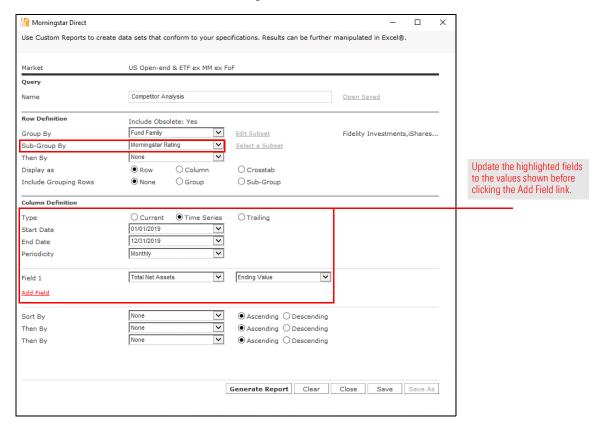
- 6. At the bottom of the window, click Remove All.
- 7. In the **Jump to record name** field, type **Fidelity**.
- 8. Select **Fidelity Investments** from the list and click **Add**.



- 9. Repeat steps 7-8 for the following fund families:
 - ► American Funds
 - ► iShares
 - ► Franklin Templeton, and
 - ► Vanguard.
- 10. Click **OK** to close the Select a Subset dialog box.

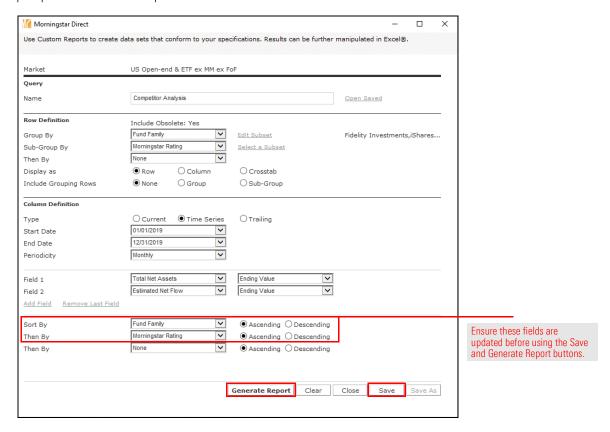


- 11. From the **Sub-Group By** drop-down field, select **Morningstar Rating**.
- 12. To display a time series of total net assets and estimated net flows for the last year on a monthly, under the Column Definition section, select **Time Series**.
- 13. From the **Start Date** drop-down field, select the **month** one year prior to the current month.
- 14. The End Date should be the previous month end, and the Periodicity field should be Monthly.
- 15. The **Field 1** values should be **Total Net Assets** and **Ending Value**.
- 16. Click **Add Field**. Another selection row appears.
- 17. For Field 2, select Estimated Net Flow and Ending Value.





- 18. From the **Sort By** drop-down field, select **Fund Family**, with the **Ascending** option selected.
- 19. From the Then By drop-down field, select Morningstar Rating, with the Ascending option selected. These settings will provide aggregated Total Net Assets and Estimated Fund Flows at the company level and by Morningstar Rating.
- 20. Click **Save** to save the report in the Asset Flows module.
- 21. In the Query Name field, enter Competitor Analysis. then click OK.
- 22. Click **Generate Report** to extract the information to Microsoft® Excel®. You will be prompted to either Save or Open the file.



23. Click **Close** to close the Custom Report window.

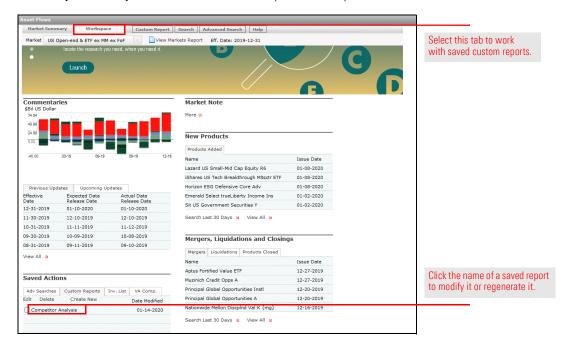


The advantage of saving a custom report is that it can be run time and again, to see the latest data. Custom reports are saved within the Asset Flows module, on the Workspace tab. One shortcoming of the report generated in the previous exercise is that although it groups funds from different fund families by Morningstar Rating, the funds themselves are not shown. This exercise updates the report to display the funds, to the right of the Morningstar Rating column.

Exercise 5: Modify a saved custom report

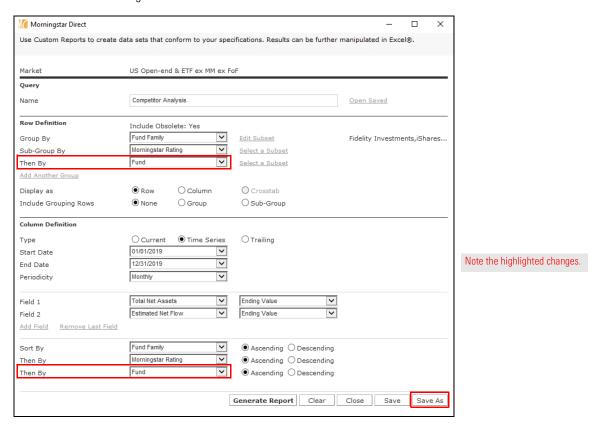
To modify a custom report, do the following:

- 1. Within the Asset Flows module, select the **Workspace** tab.
- 2. in the bottom-left corner, under the Saved Actions section, click **Custom Reports**.
- 3. Click **Competitor Analysis** to select it. The Custom Report window opens.





- 4. In the Row Definition section, from the **Then By** drop-down menu, select **Fund**.
- 5. In the Column Definition section, for the sorting options, from the third drop-down field, select Fund and Ascending.



- Click Save As.
- 7. Name the report **Detailed Competitor Analysis**, then click **OK**.
- Click Generate Report.
- 9. **Open** the report in Microsoft Excel.