

ASK ALTERNATE INVESTMENT FUND

AIF PERFORMANCE REPORT



September 2025

This report pertains to the period ended September 30, 2025

This report has been provided for the sole purpose of comparing the fund's performance with Nifty AIF Benchmarks for the purpose of reporting to existing investors.

This report has been prepared relying on the data reported to us by the fund without due diligence of the accuracy and validity of the data being submitted to us.

ASK ABSOLUTE RETURN FUND (AARF)

CATEGORY: III, SUB-CATEGORY: LONG SHORT EQUITY FUND

Trailing Returns vs Nifty AIF Category III Indices and Public Market Indices

Period	INR							USD						
	Scheme Trailing Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices		Scheme Trailing Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices	
		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR
1 year	7.37%	11.07%	1.21%	2.47%	2.67%	-3.45%	6.41%	1.32%	4.81%	-4.49%	-3.30%	-3.12%	-8.89%	0.41%
6 months	2.94%	19.47%	9.47%	5.83%	4.81%	5.53%	2.48%	-0.79%	15.15%	5.51%	2.00%	1.02%	1.71%	-1.23%
3 months	2.29%	-2.88%	-1.95%	-0.19%	-0.20%	-3.20%	0.26%	-1.45%	-6.43%	-5.54%	-3.84%	-3.85%	-6.75%	-3.41%

Source: NSE Indices. Data as of September 30, 2025. Returns are calculated on a post-expenses, pre-carry, and pre-tax basis. Returns for PMIs are based on TRI values; 6-month, 3-month and 1-year returns are absolute returns. RBI reference rates are used for calculation of metrics in USD terms. Please refer the annexure for Sub-category definitions, Definitions of metrics used, and the number of schemes excluded from the calculation of benchmark metrics for the period ended September 30, 2025. For Nifty AIF Category III Index and Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index, 350 Schemes and 64 schemes have been considered, respectively.

The table above shows the trailing returns of AARF versus Asset weighted and Equal weighted benchmark indices of Nifty AIF Category III Index, Relevant Sub-Category Index, and Nifty TR indices over specified horizons. For instance, during the 1-year period (i.e., from September 30, 2024 to September 30, 2025), AARF achieved a CAGR of 7.37%, while the Nifty AIF Category III Asset Weighted Index, the Long Short Equity Asset Weighted Index, Nifty 50 TR Index and Nifty Composite Debt TR Index achieved CAGRs of 11.07%, 2.47%, -3.45% and 6.41% respectively.

Financial Year (FY) Returns

Financial Year	INR							USD						
	Scheme Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices		Scheme Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices	
		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR
FY 2025	10.57%	9.74%	11.07%	8.33%	8.87%	6.65%	8.63%	7.72%	6.91%	8.20%	5.54%	6.07%	3.90%	5.83%

Source: NSE Indices. Data as of September 30, 2025. Returns are calculated on a post-expenses, pre-carry, and pre-tax basis. Returns are provided only for those years where the category/ sub-category was in existence for the whole financial year. RBI reference rates are used for calculation of metrics in USD terms. Please refer the annexure for Sub-category definitions, Definitions of metrics used, and the number of schemes excluded from the calculation of benchmark metrics for the period ended September 30, 2025. For Nifty AIF Category III Index and Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index, 350 Schemes and 64 schemes have been considered, respectively.

Calendar Year (CY) Returns

Calendar Year	INR							USD						
	Scheme Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices		Scheme Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices	
		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR
CY 2024	13.04%	22.96%	24.16%	16.62%	15.59%	10.09%	8.69%	9.73%	19.36%	20.53%	13.21%	12.21%	6.87%	5.51%

Source: NSE Indices. Data as of September 30, 2025. Returns are calculated on a post-expenses, pre-carry, and pre-tax basis. Returns are provided only for those years where the category/ sub-category was in existence for the whole calendar year. RBI reference rates are used for calculation of metrics in USD terms. Please refer the annexure for Sub-category definitions, Definitions of metrics used, and the number of schemes excluded from the calculation of benchmark metrics for the period September 30, 2025. For Nifty AIF Category III Index and Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index, 350 Schemes and 64 schemes have been considered, respectively.

CAGR Distribution Analysis – Distribution of Historical Scheme CAGRs

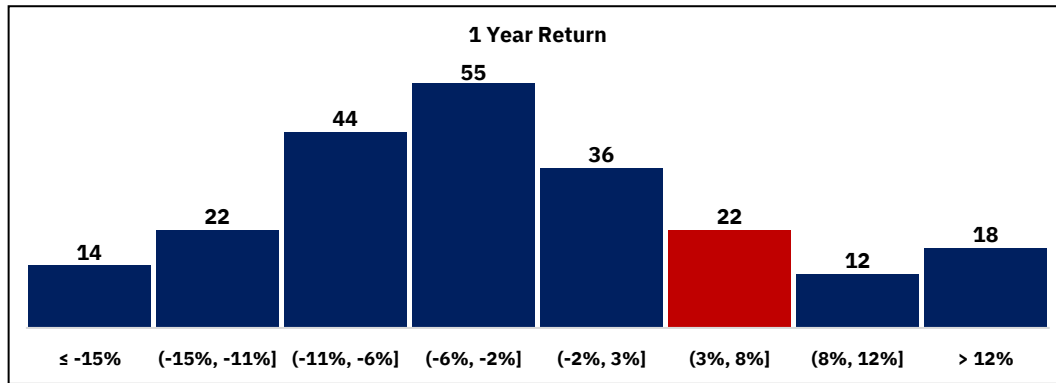
Currency	Period	Scheme CAGR	Nifty AIF Category III Index					Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index				
			No. of Schemes	Q1	Median	Q3	Scheme Positioning	No. of Schemes	Q1	Median	Q3	Scheme Positioning
INR	1 – year return	7.37%	223	1.95%	-3.51%	-8.45%	First Quartile	38	6.58%	0.60%	-7.52%	First Quartile
USD	1 – year return	1.32%	223	-3.80%	-8.94%	-13.61%	First Quartile	38	0.58%	-5.07%	-12.73%	First Quartile

Source: NSE Indices. Data as of September 30, 2025. Returns are calculated on a post-expenses, pre-carry, and pre-tax basis. 1st and 3rd Quartiles are the return thresholds for the top 25% and bottom 25% schemes respectively, based on individual scheme trailing returns for respective time frames. RBI reference rates are used for calculation of metrics in USD terms. Please refer the annexure for Sub-category definitions, Definitions of metrics used, and the number of schemes excluded from the calculation of benchmark metrics for the period ended September 30, 2025.

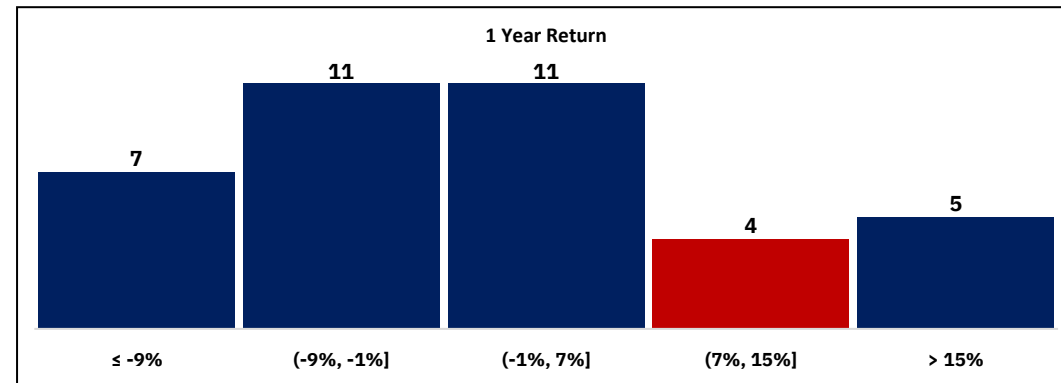
The table above shows AARF's 1-year CAGR compared to that of Nifty AIF Category III Index and relevant Long Short Equity Sub-Category Index, in INR and USD terms. For instance, there are 223 Category III schemes and 38 Long Short Equity schemes with 1-year CAGRs. AARF has a 1-year CAGR of 7.37%, putting it in the First Quartile of all Category III and Long Short Equity schemes.

Distribution of Historical Scheme CAGRs (INR)

Nifty AIF Category III



Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Fund



Red Bar indicates the positioning of AARF

Source: NSE Indices. Data as of September 30, 2025. Returns and multiples are calculated on a post-expenses, pre-carry, and pre-tax basis. Please refer the annexure for details of the scheme eligibility criteria and the number of schemes excluded from the calculation of benchmark metrics for the period ended September 30, 2025.

Rolling Returns

Period Ended	INR							USD							
	Scheme Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices		Scheme Return	Nifty AIF Category III Index		Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index		Public Market Indices		
		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR		Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Asset Weighted	Equal Weighted	Nifty 50 TR	Nifty Composite Debt TR	
1 Year Ended															
Dec-2024	13.04%	22.96%	24.16%	16.62%	15.59%	10.09%	8.69%	9.73%	19.36%	20.53%	13.21%	12.21%	6.87%	5.51%	
Mar-2025	10.57%	9.74%	11.07%	8.33%	8.87%	6.65%	8.63%	7.72%	6.91%	8.20%	5.54%	6.07%	3.90%	5.83%	
Jun-2025	9.06%	26.59%	11.31%	6.77%	7.78%	7.54%	9.08%	6.39%	23.50%	8.59%	4.16%	5.14%	4.91%	6.42%	
Sep-2025	7.37%	11.07%	1.21%	2.47%	2.67%	-3.45%	6.41%	1.32%	4.81%	-4.49%	-3.30%	-3.12%	-8.89%	0.41%	
Mean	10.01%	17.59%	11.94%	8.55%	8.73%	5.21%	8.20%	6.29%	13.65%	8.21%	4.90%	5.08%	1.70%	4.54%	
Minimum	7.37%	9.74%	1.21%	2.47%	2.67%	-3.45%	6.41%	1.32%	4.81%	-4.49%	-3.30%	-3.12%	-8.89%	0.41%	
Median	9.82%	17.02%	11.19%	7.55%	8.33%	7.10%	8.66%	7.06%	13.14%	8.40%	4.85%	5.61%	4.41%	5.67%	
Maximum	13.04%	26.59%	24.16%	16.62%	15.59%	10.09%	9.08%	9.73%	23.50%	20.53%	13.21%	12.21%	6.87%	6.42%	

Source: NSE Indices. Data as of September 30, 2025. Returns are calculated on a post-expenses, pre-carry, and pre-tax basis. RBI reference rates are used for calculation of metrics in USD terms. Please refer the annexure for Sub-category definitions, Definitions of metrics used, and the number of schemes excluded from the calculation of benchmark metrics for the period ended September 30, 2025. For Nifty AIF Category III Index and Sub-Category: Long Short Equity Index, 350 Schemes and 64 schemes have been considered, respectively.

The table above shows the 1-year rolling returns on quarterly ending dates for AARF, Nifty AIF Category III Index, Long Short Equity Index and Nifty TR indices.

Over the last 1-year rolling period, between September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025, AARF returned 7.37% CAGR in INR terms. In comparison, the Nifty AIF Category III Asset weighted index and Long Short Equity Asset Weighted Index returned 11.07% CAGR and 2.47% CAGR respectively.

Annexures

Definitions and Calculation Methodologies

Individual scheme quarterly returns are calculated using the aggregate share class NAVs. For schemes that have multiple share classes and have not submitted aggregated NAV series, an aggregate NAV series is derived using weighted average quarterly returns of the individual share classes, weights being the opening share class AUMs.

Asset-weighted Index

An asset-weighted index is created at the category level based on quarterly returns of constituent schemes using relevant AUMs as weights.

Equal-weighted Index

An equal-weighted index is created at the category level based on the quarterly returns of constituent schemes by assigning equal weightage to each scheme.

Sub-Category Definitions

For classification of schemes into various sub-categories, actual asset allocation has been considered. For schemes that are active as on September 30, 2025, portfolio composition as on September 30, 2025, has been considered. For schemes that have matured, their last available portfolio compositions have been considered.

Category III sub-classification criteria

Multi Asset Fund: Schemes that had/have exposure to commodity or currency derivatives.

Long Short Equity Fund: Schemes not classified as Multi Asset as per above rule and have/had any long and short positions in equity and equity related instruments (mainly through derivatives).

Long Only – Debt Oriented Fund: Schemes not classified as Multi Asset Fund, Long Short Equity Fund and have consistently maintained more than 75% exposure to debt securities (Long term and short-term debt).

Long Only – Equity Oriented Fund: Schemes not classified as Multi Asset Fund, Long Short Equity Fund, Long Only - Debt oriented Fund and have consistently maintained more than 75% exposure to Equity instruments (listed and unlisted).

Hybrid Fund: Schemes not classified as Multi Asset Fund, Long Short Equity Fund, Long Only - Debt Oriented Fund and Long Only – Equity Oriented Fund as per above rules and falling in one of the below two categories:

Schemes that have consistently maintained more than 25% exposure to equity and at least some exposure to debt.

Schemes that have consistently maintained more than 25% exposure to debt and at least some exposure to equity.

Note:

In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, scheme's historical portfolio allocation, investment strategy and self-classification have also been considered for subcategorization.

Eligibility Criteria

All AIFs registered with SEBI under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, are considered for the calculation of benchmarks, provided they fulfil the following criteria:

- Completion of one year from the first close of the scheme as on the date for which the benchmarks are calculated. For e.g., the AIF benchmark calculated for the period ending Sep 30, 2025, will have schemes that had their first close on or before Sep 30, 2024
- Valid data is provided to NSE Indices Ltd. in the specified format and by the stipulated deadline.

The following are **excluded** from calculation of benchmarks:

- Any scheme that has not completed one year since its first close as on the date for which the benchmarks are calculated, i.e., Sep 30, 2025.
- Any scheme that has not provided complete or valid data or that has not provided data in the required format.
- Schemes having vintage of 2012 or earlier.

57 schemes were excluded from the calculation of benchmark metrics as on Sep 30, 2025, due to the following reasons:

- Submission of incomplete/ inconsistent data
- Manual exclusions when data was provided/ revised after stipulated deadline or cases of extreme IRRs for which confirmations were not received from respective AIFs within stipulated time.

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About NSE Indices Limited:

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