



Morningstar Asset Class Peer Groups (Fund Categories)

Morningstar classifies mutual funds and other investments into peer groups called **Morningstar Categories**, each standing for a distinct asset class or investment strategy. These categories are organized into broad asset class groups for easier comparison. As of the latest method, Morningstar has **nine** global broad category groups (recently streamlined to eight) encompassing roughly **100** different fund categories worldwide. The broad groups include **Equity, Allocation, Convertibles, Alternative, Commodities, Fixed Income, Money Market, Property, and Miscellaneous**. Below, we list each broad category group and all the Morningstar fund categories (peer groups) under each, using Morningstar's official name as found on their website and Morningstar Direct.

Equity

The **Equity** broad group covers all stock (equity) funds, including those focused on specific regions, countries, market capitalizations, or sectors. There are 41 Morningstar categories in this group. These range from region-focused stock market categories (e.g. **Africa Equity, Asia Equity**) to sector-specific equity funds (e.g. **Technology Sector Equity, Utilities Sector Equity**), as well as style-specific categories for U.S. equities (covering large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap styles). The full list of Equity peer group categories is:

1. Africa Equity
2. Asia Equity
3. Asia ex-Japan Equity
4. Australia & New Zealand Equity
5. Canadian Equity Large Cap
6. Canadian Equity Mid/Small Cap
7. Communications Sector Equity
8. Consumer Goods & Services Sector Equity
9. Energy Sector Equity
10. Europe Emerging Markets Equity
11. Europe Equity Large Cap
12. Europe Equity Mid/Small Cap
13. Financials Sector Equity
14. Global Emerging Markets Equity
15. Global Equity Large Cap



16. Global Equity Mid/Small Cap
17. Greater China Equity
18. Healthcare Sector Equity
19. India Equity
20. Industrials Sector Equity
21. Infrastructure Sector Equity
22. Japan Equity
23. Korea Equity
24. Latin America Equity
25. Malaysia Equity
26. Mexico Equity
27. Natural Resources Sector Equity
28. Precious Metals Sector Equity
29. Real Estate Sector Equity
30. Technology Sector Equity
31. Thailand Equity
32. UK Equity Large-Cap
33. UK Equity Mid/Small Cap
34. US Equity Large-Cap Blend
35. US Equity Large-Cap Growth
36. US Equity Large-Cap Value
37. US Equity Mid-Cap
38. US Equity Small-Cap
39. Utilities Sector Equity
40. Equity Miscellaneous
41. Long/Short Equity

Allocation

Allocation funds (also known as balanced or mixed-asset funds) invest in a mix of equities and fixed income. Morningstar divides these funds into categories based on their asset allocation strategy and risk level. There are 6 categories in the Allocation group:

42. Aggressive Allocation
43. Cautious Allocation
44. Flexible Allocation
45. Moderate Allocation
46. Target Date
47. Allocation Miscellaneous



(“Aggressive,” “Moderate,” “Cautious,” and “Flexible” Allocation show varying equity vs. fixed-income mixes from high to low equity exposure, while Target Date funds automatically adjust their asset mix over time.)

Convertibles

The **Convertibles** category group consists of funds that primarily invest in **convertible securities** (bonds or preferred stocks that can convert into equity). Morningstar has a single category in this group:

- 48. Convertibles

Alternative

The **Alternative** broad group has funds employing non-traditional or hedge-fund-like strategies. These strategies often involve short selling, leverage, derivatives, or investments in alternative assets. There are 6 categories in Morningstar’s Alternative group:

- 49. Global Macro
- 50. Long/Short Credit
- 51. Market Neutral
- 52. Multialternative
- 53. Alternative Miscellaneous
- 54. Options Trading

(For example, Global Macro funds bet on macroeconomic trends, Market Neutral funds aim to neutralize market exposure, and Options Trading funds use derivative-based strategies like leveraged or inverse index exposure.)

Commodities

The **Commodities** broad group provides exposure to raw materials and natural resource assets. Morningstar splits commodity funds into two categories:

- 55. Commodities Broad Basket
- 56. Commodities Specified

(“Broad Basket” commodity funds invest across multiple commodities, while “Specified” commodity funds focus on a particular commodity or sector.)

Fixed Income

The **Fixed Income** broad group covers bonds and other debt-focused funds, classified mainly by the geographic region or type of bonds held. There are 19 categories in this group. These include



regional bond market categories (e.g., **Asia Fixed Income**, **US Fixed Income**), a municipal bond category (for U.S. muni bonds), and a catch-all **Fixed Income Miscellaneous** for uncategorized bond funds. The categories under Fixed Income are:

57. Africa Fixed Income
58. Asia Fixed Income
59. Australia & New Zealand Fixed Income
60. Canada Fixed Income
61. Emerging Markets Fixed Income
62. Europe Fixed Income
63. Global Fixed Income
64. India Fixed Income
65. Japan Fixed Income
66. Korea Fixed Income
67. Latin America Fixed Income
68. Malaysia Fixed Income
69. Mexico Fixed Income
70. Sterling Fixed Income
71. Thailand Fixed Income
72. US Fixed Income
73. US Municipal Fixed Income
74. Fixed Income Miscellaneous
75. Currency

(Currency funds, which invest in foreign exchange instruments or currencies, are included here as a type of fixed-income category.)

Money Market

Money Market funds invest in very short-term debt and cash-equivalent instruments, aiming to preserve capital and keep high liquidity. Morningstar categorizes money market funds primarily by currency or region. There are 12 Money Market categories:

76. Africa Money Market
77. Asia Money Market
78. Australia & New Zealand Money Market
79. Canada Money Market
80. Euro Money Market
81. Japan Money Market
82. Latin America Money Market



- 83. Mexico Money Market
- 84. Sterling Money Market
- 85. Thailand Money Market
- 86. US Money Market
- 87. Money Market Miscellaneous

Property

The **Property** category group includes funds that invest **directly in real estate properties** (bricks-and-mortar real estate, not just REITs or real estate securities). Morningstar has one category in this group[:

- 88. Property – Direct

Miscellaneous

The **Miscellaneous** broad group covers funds that don't fit into the other asset classes or have unique structures, including protected or specialized strategies. There are 4 categories here:

- 89. Capital Protected
- 90. Guaranteed
- 91. Miscellaneous
- 92. Trading Tools

For example, Capital Protected and Guaranteed funds offer some form of principal protection or guaranteed return. Trading Tools are typically used or inverse index-tracking funds, and the Miscellaneous category is for unusual funds that don't belong in any other category.

Summary: Morningstar's category system defines all these peer groups to ensure funds are compared with true peers. In total, there are around **90–100** distinct Morningstar fund categories across **8–9** major asset class groups. This comprehensive set of asset class peer groups is what Morningstar uses on their website and in Morningstar Direct to classify and compare funds. All the names above are exactly defined by Morningstar's classification method and should match the terminology used in Morningstar's pla