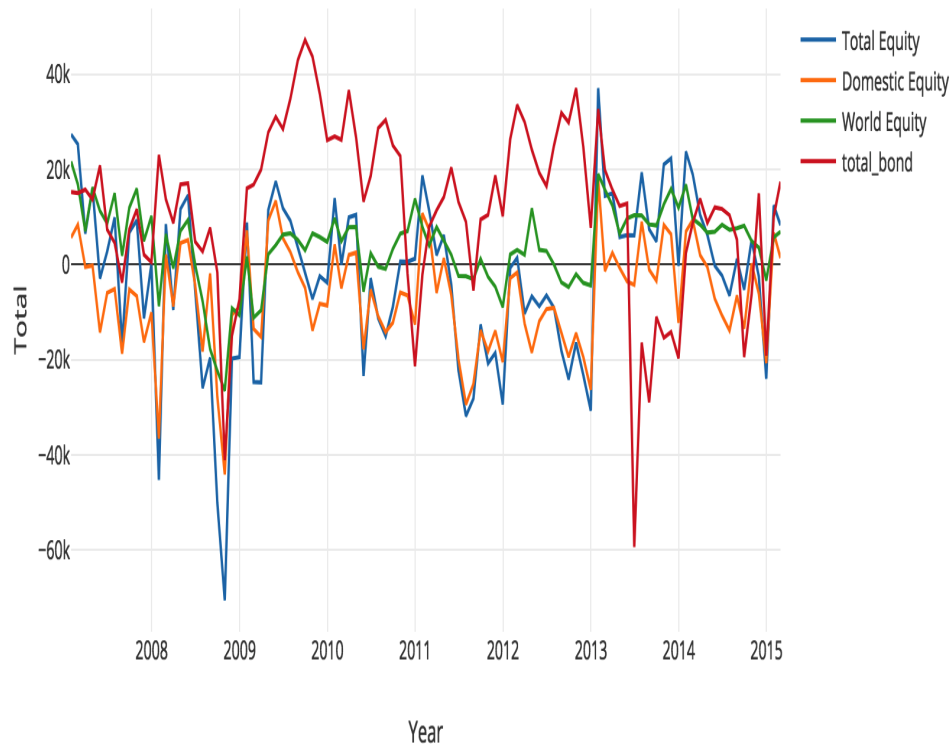


total_bond

US Investor Flow Funds Monthly- Total Bond



The bond market (also debt market or credit market) is a financial market where participants can issue new debt, known as the primary market, or buy and sell debt securities, known as the secondary market. This is usually in the form of bonds, but it may include notes, bills, and so on. Its primary goal is to provide long-term funding for public and private expenditures. The bond market has largely been dominated by the United States, which accounts for about 44% of the market. As of 2009, the size of the worldwide bond market (total debt outstanding) is estimated at \$82.2 trillion, of which the size of the outstanding U.S. bond market debt was \$31.2 trillion according to Bank for International Settlements (BIS), or alternatively \$35.2 trillion as of Q2 2011 according to Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA). The bond market is part of the credit market, with bank loans forming the other main component. The global credit market in aggregate is about 3 times the size of the global equity market. Bank loans are not securities under the Securities and Exchange Act, but bonds typically are and are therefore more highly regulated. Bonds are typically not secured by collateral (although they can be), and are sold in relatively small denominations of around \$1,000 to \$10,000. Unlike bank loans, bonds may be held by retail investors. Bonds are more frequently traded than loans, although not as often as equity.