

October 2019



AMBIT ASSET MANAGEMENT



**Emerging Giants:
G&C Small Cap**

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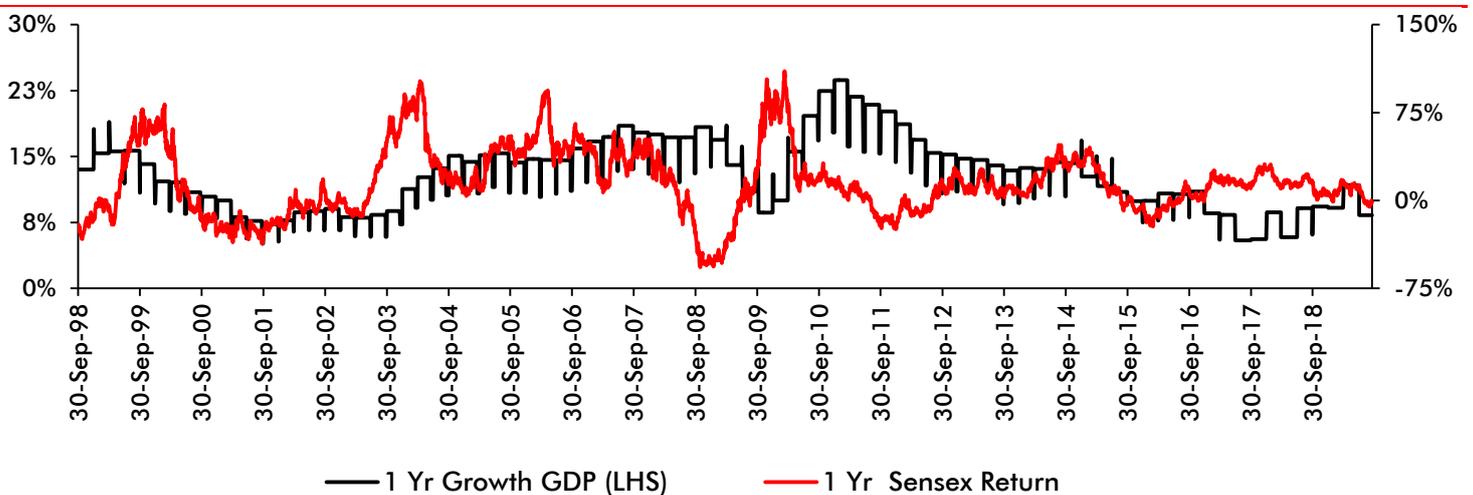
Insight: Investing now investing how...

Dear Investor,

Over the last few months, there has been widespread perception of slowing consumption and a tight liquidity situation leading to economic slowdown. The 5% GDP (real) growth data (for Q1FY20), only acts as further reinforcement. The steps taken by the government on the 20th of September to boost the overall sentiment and encourage investment into manufacturing was due to the widespread phenomena of weakness in the economy although the high index levels of Nifty and Sensex did not suggest this. Let us delve into some of the finer details...

A. Traditionally the Sensex has moved in line with the GDP but over the last few years the story has been somewhat different with the Sensex continuing its ascent despite slowdown in overall economy.

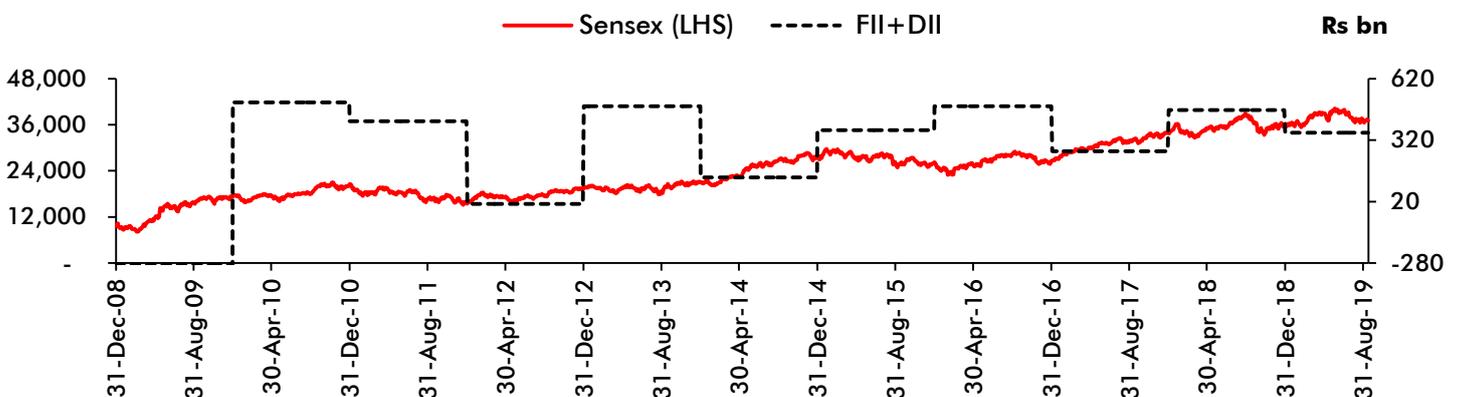
Exhibit 1: One year GDP growth & Sensex return have traditionally moved together



Source: Ambit asset management; Note: GDP growth denotes to yoy growth in Nominal GDP, Sensex data upto 17th September to avoid any specific big event based skew in data

- Liquidity:** Part of this is explained by the huge fund flows that entered the Indian equity markets over the last few years driven by FII's and subsequently DII's.

Exhibit 2: Net inflows have been rising and this has driven the indices up in the last few years



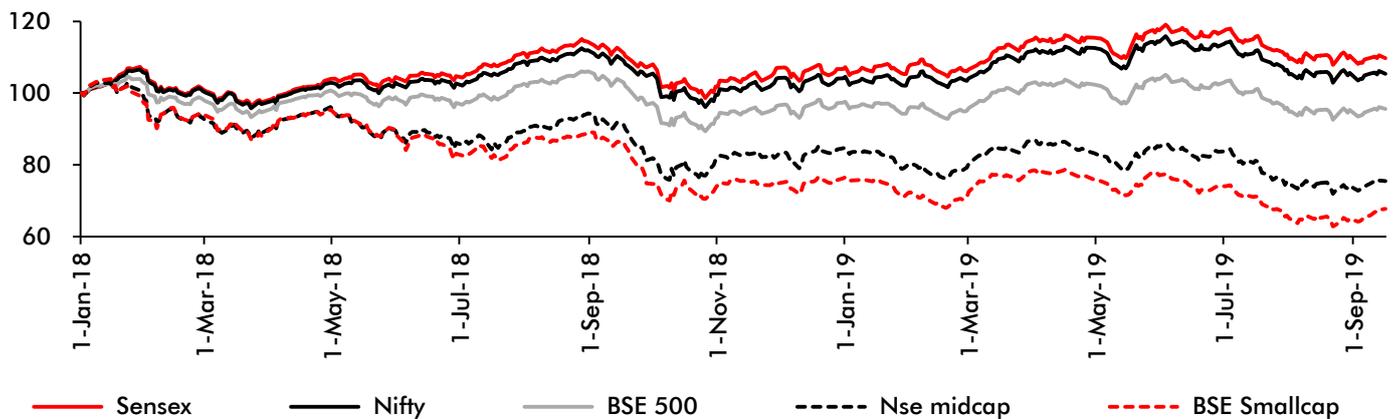
Source: Ambit asset management, Note: Sensex data upto 17th September to avoid any specific big event based skew in data

2. **Money is chasing a limited number of large cap index companies:** The increased focus on accounting quality, corporate governance and companies with stable business models has led to increased investment in these companies. Some might argue these are Sensex and Nifty 50 companies which explain why the correction has been limited in these indices.

B. Although the Sensex and Nifty have remained range bound over the last year the broader markets have not done all that well.

The graphs alongside showcase this phenomena quite clearly. It is immediately apparent that the Nifty midcap 100 (-25%) and BSE small cap indices (-32%) have fallen sharply since January 2018 peaks vs their large cap index peers like the Sensex (+10%) and Nifty (+5%)

Exhibit 3: Disparity is noticeable between Sensex/Nifty & the small/midcap indices



Source: Ambit asset management, Note: data indexed to 100 for comparative analysis, upto 17th September to avoid any specific big event based skew in numbers

C. This might lead one to believe that large caps indices have been relatively unharmed by the gloom and doom and have done well overall. Investing in a so called “stable” company by virtue of it being part of an index might be enough right? Wrong!

1. **Close to 65% of the Sensex companies have lost market capitalisation** over the last year with a median return of -4.1%. The Nifty 50 have fared no better with 67% companies giving negative returns while median returns were -5.6%.
2. If we take a closer look at the participant performance across various indices we notice that it is **generally the top 20% performers that contribute most to the returns** of the indices while the remaining 80% cumulatively have had negative returns thus far (Last twelve months).

Exhibit 4: LTM Disparity noticeable between Sensex/Nifty & small to midcap indices

Index	Top 20%	Bottom 80%	Overall	Median
BSE Sensex	15%	-12%	-4%	-4.1%
Nifty 50	16%	-15%	-6%	-5.6%
BSE 500	16%	-9%	-23%	-19.1%
Nifty midcap 100	29%	-29%	-18%	-18.5%
BSE Smallcap	28%	-36%	-20%	-33%

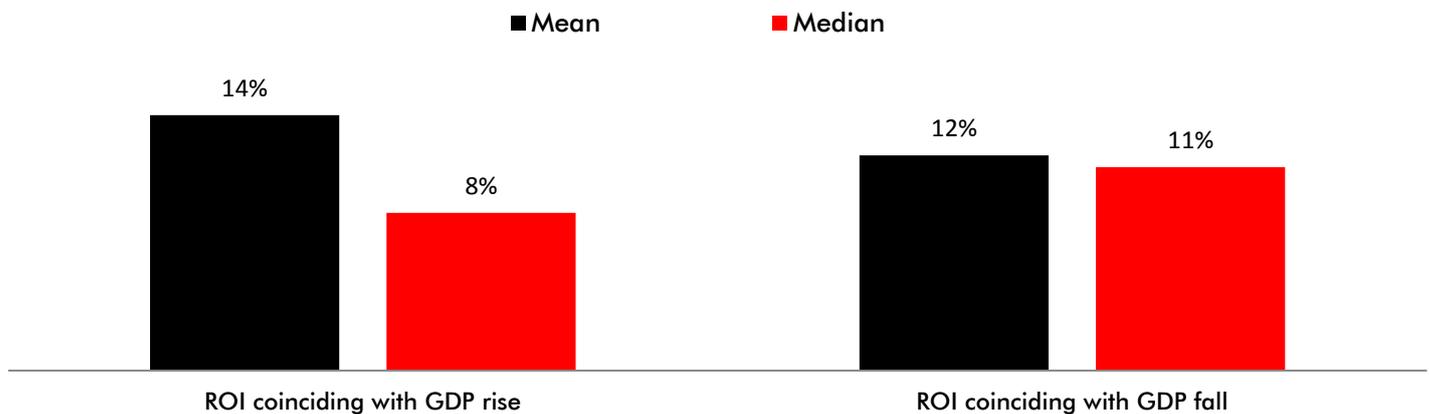
Source: Ambit asset management, note: LTM stands for last twelve months upto 17th September to avoid any specific big event based skew in data

D. Finally does this mean that this is not a good time to invest given the uncertainty? Quite the contrary specially as we feel further government stimulus cannot be ruled out

It is times of uncertainty that yield great investment opportunities for an intelligent, well diversified and quality focused investor. A careful look at the last 20 years’ history of the Indian stock markets tells us that every macro crisis has been an opportunity.

1. Even at times when outlook has been challenging, sentiment has been low, GDP data poor and index has corrected returns over 3 year periods have been highly positive and have outperformed all other asset classes.
2. If one were to invest in the market coinciding with times when GDP was revised downward over the last 2 decades you would be able to make an average return of 12% and a median return of 11% corresponding to this investments made coinciding with upward revision of GDP has yielded returns of 14% (mean) and 8% (median)
3. The analysis busts the myth that money is not made when times are bad or is limited to only good times.

Exhibit 5: Investments in Sensex coinciding with when GDP was revised downwards have returned 11% vs 8% (median) for investments made coinciding with upward GDP revisions over the last 2 decades



Source: Ambit asset management, kindly note that GDP data used is from 1997 to June 2016 in order to be able to calculate returns of Sensex 3 years ahead, impact of 20th September announcements not factored in

To conclude although optically the Sensex and Nifty have remained strong there has been a polarisation in the larger market. While few have outperformed the larger majority have underperformed. However despite any of this uncertainty history teaches us that it is always a good time to invest (SIP) without any exception as long as one keeps in mind:

- **Invest in quality names** – corporate governance and quality of management are of paramount importance (as we believe in our Ambit Good & Clean PMS) and no substitute exists for these.
- **Look for growth stories** – rather than looking for value play, investors would do well to look for steady structural growth stories (as advocated in our Ambit Coffee Can PMS).
- **Focus on the long term** –Time in the market is more important than timing the markets. The focus should be on long-term portfolio building. (as advocated in our Ambit Emerging Giants PMS)

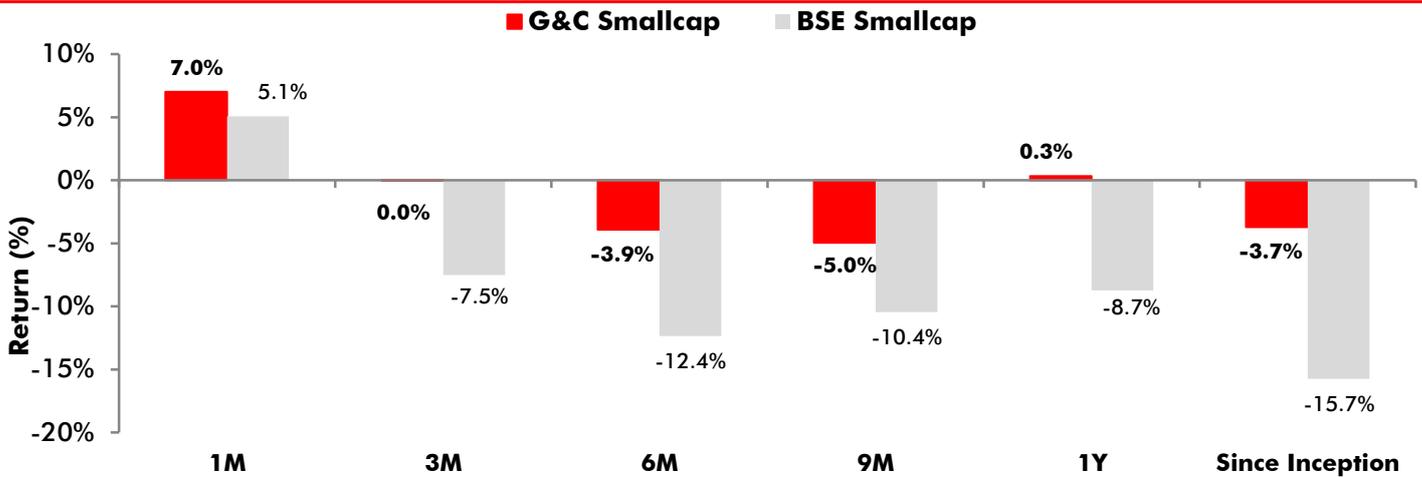
Emerging Giants: G&C Small Cap



Smallcaps with secular growth, superior return ratios and no leverage

Ambit's Emerging Giants portfolio aims to invest in small-cap companies with market-dominating franchises and a track record of clean accounting, governance and capital allocation. The fund typically invests in companies with market caps less than Rs. 4,000cr. These companies have excellent financial track records, superior underlying fundamentals (high RoCE, low debt) and ability to deliver healthy earnings growth over long periods of time. However, given their smaller sizes these companies are not well discovered, owing to lower institutional holdings and lower analyst coverage. Rigorous framework-based screening coupled with extensive bottom-up due diligence lead us to a concentrated portfolio of 15-16 emerging giants.

Exhibit 8: Ambit's Emerging Giants: G&C Small Cap performance update



Source: Ambit; Portfolio inception date is December 1, 2017; Returns as of Sep 30, 2019; Since inception returns are annualized. Returns are net of all fees and expenses

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