



ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Small Cap Value Style

The Small Cap Value style ranks last out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our [1Q17 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Small Cap Value style ranked last as well. It gets our Dangerous rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 19 ETFs and 276 mutual funds in the Small Cap Value style as of January 31, 2017. See a recap of our [4Q16 Style Ratings here](#).

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the style. Not all Small Cap Value style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 13 to 1,504). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

Investors seeking exposure to the Small Cap Value style should buy one of the Attractive-or-better rated ETFs or mutual funds from Figures 1 and 2.

Here is our [ETF and mutual fund rating methodology](#), which leverages our rigorous analysis of each fund's holdings. We think advisors and investors focused on prudent investment decisions should include analysis of fund holdings in their research process for ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 1: ETFs with the Best & Worst Ratings – Top 5

	Allocation of ETF Holdings			
Ticker	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Dangerous-or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating
Best ETFs				
XSLV	12%	59%	26%	Attractive
DES	13%	38%	36%	Neutral
JKL	19%	35%	38%	Neutral
IJS	14%	44%	35%	Neutral
VIOV	14%	44%	35%	Neutral
Worst ETFs				
RZV	11%	32%	50%	Dangerous
PXSV	12%	33%	43%	Dangerous
RFV	12%	34%	47%	Dangerous
IWN	11%	36%	37%	Dangerous
VTWV	11%	36%	37%	Dangerous

* Best ETFs exclude ETFs with TNAs less than \$100 million for inadequate liquidity.

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

First Trust Mid Cap Value AlphaDEX Fund (FNK) is excluded from Figure 1 because its total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

**Figure 2: Mutual Funds with the Best & Worst Ratings – Top 5**

	Allocation of Mutual Fund Holdings			
Ticker	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Dangerous-or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating
Best Mutual Funds				
DASCX	20%	60%	14%	Attractive
RVVRX	32%	38%	7%	Attractive
RSQCX	32%	44%	5%	Attractive
RVFKX	32%	38%	7%	Attractive
RYVFX	32%	38%	7%	Attractive
Worst Mutual Funds				
OVSIX	12%	27%	40%	Very Dangerous
BOSVX	13%	33%	36%	Very Dangerous
SCCVX	14%	30%	41%	Very Dangerous
NWHDX	22%	34%	20%	Very Dangerous
SCYVX	14%	30%	41%	Very Dangerous

* Best mutual funds exclude funds with TNAs less than \$100 million for inadequate liquidity.

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

PowerShares S&P SmallCap Low Volatility Portfolio (XSLV) is the top-rated Small Cap Value ETF and Dean Small Cap Value Fund (DASCX) is the top-rated Small Cap Value mutual fund. Both earn an Attractive rating.

Vanguard Russell 2000 Value Index Fund (VTWV) is the worst rated Small Cap Value ETF and AB Small Cap Value Portfolio (SCYVX) is the worst rated Small Cap Value mutual fund. VTWV earns a Dangerous rating and SCYVX earns a Very Dangerous rating.

The Danger Within

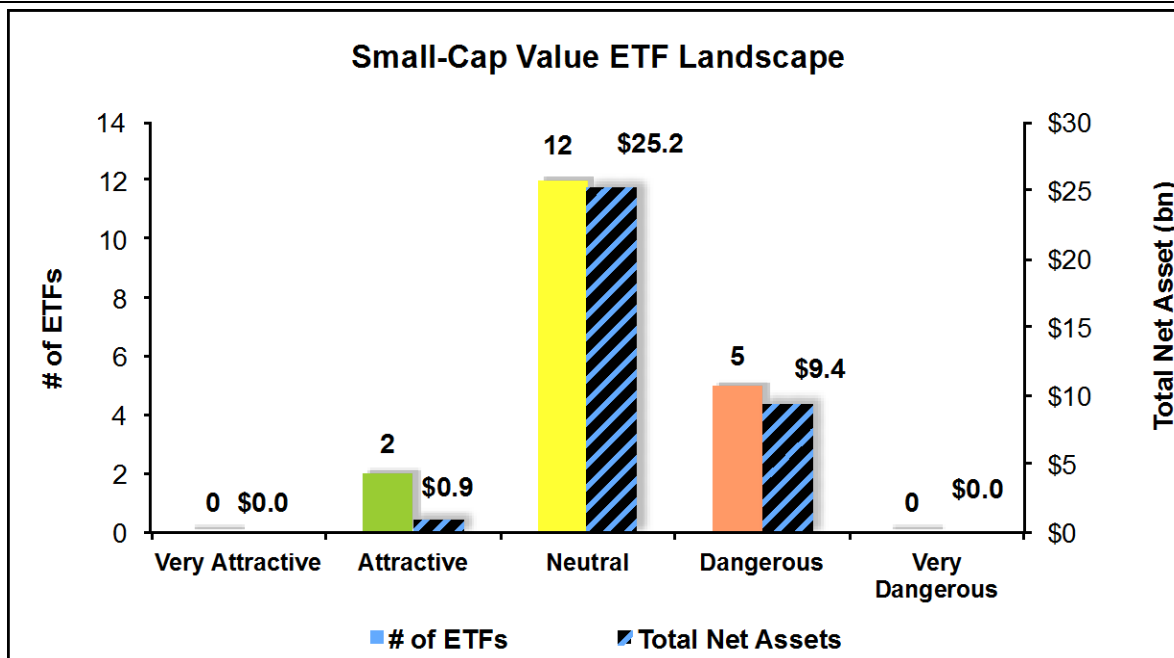
Buying a fund without analyzing its holdings is like buying a stock without analyzing its business and finances. Put another way, research on fund holdings is necessary due diligence because a fund's performance is only as good as its holdings' performance. Don't just take our word for it, [see what Barron's says](#) on this matter.

PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND



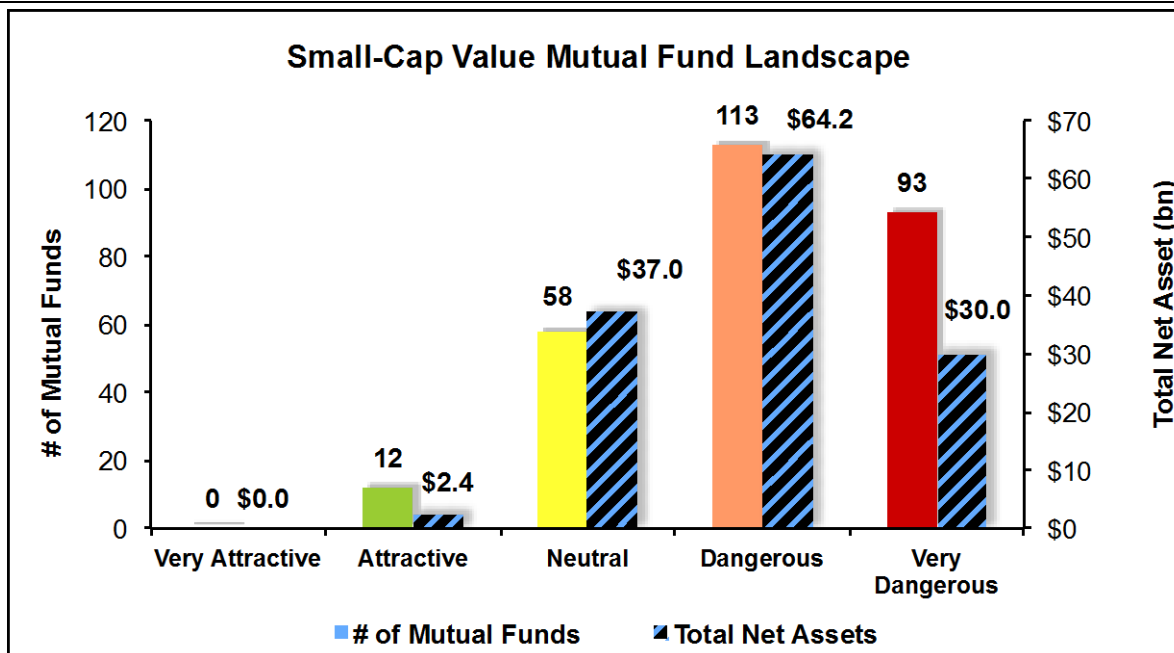
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Small Cap Value ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 3: Separating the Best ETFs From the Worst Funds



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 4: Separating the Best Mutual Funds From the Worst Funds



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

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Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, and Kyle Martone receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, or theme.



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How New Constructs Creates Value for Clients

We find it. You benefit. Cutting-edge technology enables us to scale our [forensic accounting expertise](#) across 3000+ stocks. We shine a light in the dark corners of SEC filings so our clients can make safer, more informed decisions.

Our [stock rating methodology](#) instantly informs you of the quality of the business and the fairness of the stock's valuation. We do the diligence on earnings quality and valuation so you don't have to.

In-depth risk/reward analysis underpins our ratings. Our rating methodology grades every stock, ETF, and mutual fund according to what we believe are the 5 most important criteria for assessing the quality of an equity. Each grade reflects the balance of potential risk and reward of buying that equity. Our analysis results in the 5 ratings described below. Very Attractive and Attractive correspond to a "Buy" rating, Very Dangerous and Dangerous correspond to a "Sell" rating, while Neutral corresponds to a "Hold" rating.

QUESTION: Why shouldn't fund research be as good as stock research? Why should fund investors rely on backward-looking price trends?

ANSWER: They should not.

Don't judge a fund by its cover. Take a look inside at its holdings and understand the quality of earnings and valuation of the stocks it holds. We enable you to choose the best fund based on its stock-picking merits so you do not have to rely solely on backward-looking technical metrics.

The drivers of our [forward-looking fund ratings](#) are Portfolio Management (i.e. the aggregated ratings of its holdings) and Total Annual Costs. The Total Annual Costs Rating ([details here](#)) captures the all-in cost of being in a fund over a 3-year holding period, the average period for all fund investors.

Our Philosophy About Research

Accounting data is not designed for equity investors, but for debt investors. [Accounting data must be translated into economic earnings](#) to understand the profitability and valuation relevant to equity investors. Respected investors (e.g. Adam Smith, Warren Buffett and Ben Graham) have repeatedly emphasized that accounting results should not be used to value stocks. [Economic earnings](#) are what matter because they are:

1. Based on the complete set of financial information available.
2. Standard for all companies.
3. A more accurate representation of the true underlying cash flows of the business.

Additional Information

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