



## ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Telecom Services Sector

The Telecom Services sector ranks ninth out of the ten sectors as detailed in our [3Q17 Sector Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Telecom Services sector ranked eighth. It gets our Dangerous rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 6 ETFs and 9 mutual funds in the Telecom Services sector as of July 13, 2017. See a recap of our [2Q17 Sector Ratings here](#).

Figure 1 ranks from best to worst the four Telecom Services ETFs that meet our liquidity minimums and Figure 2 ranks from best to worst all nine Telecom Services mutual funds. Not all Telecom Services sector ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 21 to 54). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

Investors seeking exposure to the Telecom Services sector should buy one of the Attractive-or-better rated ETFs or mutual funds from Figures 1 and 2.

Our [Robo-Analyst technology](#) empowers our unique [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**

Ticker	Allocation of ETF Holdings			Predictive Rating
	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Dangerous-or-worse Stocks	
<b>Best ETFs (only 3)</b>				
IXP	0%	67%	10%	<b>Very Attractive</b>
<b>Worst ETFs (only 3)</b>				
FCOM	0%	52%	34%	<b>Dangerous</b>
VOX	0%	55%	39%	<b>Dangerous</b>
IYZ	0%	41%	58%	<b>Very Dangerous</b>

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

SPDR S&P Telecom ETF (XTL) and iShares North American Tech-Multimedia Networking ETF (IGN) are excluded from Figure 1 because their 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**

Ticker	Allocation of Mutual Fund Holdings			Predictive Rating
	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Dangerous-or-worse Stocks	
<b>Best Mutual Funds (only 4)</b>				
FWRLX	11%	38%	24%	<b>Attractive</b>
TTMIX	16%	24%	44%	<b>Dangerous</b>
PRMTX	16%	24%	44%	<b>Dangerous</b>
FSTCX	1%	47%	45%	<b>Dangerous</b>
<b>Worst Mutual Funds</b>				
FTUIX	1%	47%	45%	<b>Dangerous</b>
VTCAx	0%	55%	39%	<b>Dangerous</b>
FTUCX	1%	47%	45%	<b>Dangerous</b>
FTUTX	1%	47%	45%	<b>Very Dangerous</b>
FTUAX	1%	47%	45%	<b>Very Dangerous</b>

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

iShares Global Telecom ETF (IXP) is the top-rated Telecom Services ETF and Fidelity Select Wireless Portfolio (FWRLX) is the top-rated Telecom Services mutual fund. IXP earns a Very Attractive rating and FWRLX earns an Attractive rating.

iShares U.S. Telecommunications ETF (IYZ) is the worst rated Telecom Services ETF and Fidelity Advisor Telecommunications Fund (FTUAX) is the worst rated Telecom Services mutual fund. IYZ and FTUAX both earn a Very Dangerous rating.

46 stocks of the 3000+ we cover are classified as Telecom Services stocks, but due to style drift, Telecom Services ETFs and mutual funds hold 54 stocks.

### The Danger Within

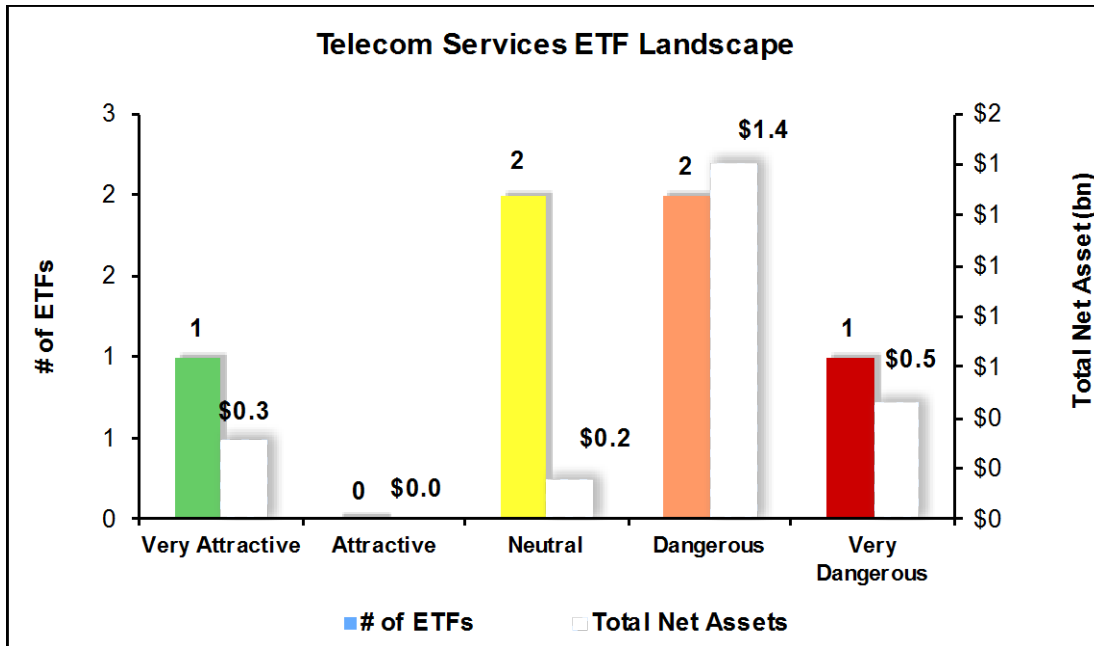
Buying a fund without analyzing its holdings is like buying a stock without analyzing its business and finances. Put another way, research on fund holdings is necessary due diligence because a fund's performance is only as good as its holdings' performance. Don't just take our word for it, [see what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

#### PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

Analyzing each holding within funds is no small task. Our [Robo-Analyst technology](#) enables us to perform this diligence with scale and provide the [research needed](#) to fulfill the fiduciary duty of care. More of the biggest names in the financial industry (see [At BlackRock, Machines Are Rising Over Managers to Pick Stocks](#)) are now embracing technology to leverage machines in the investment research process. Technology may be the only solution to the dual mandate for research: cut costs and fulfill the fiduciary duty of care. Investors, clients, advisors and analysts deserve the latest in technology to get the diligence required to make prudent investment decisions.

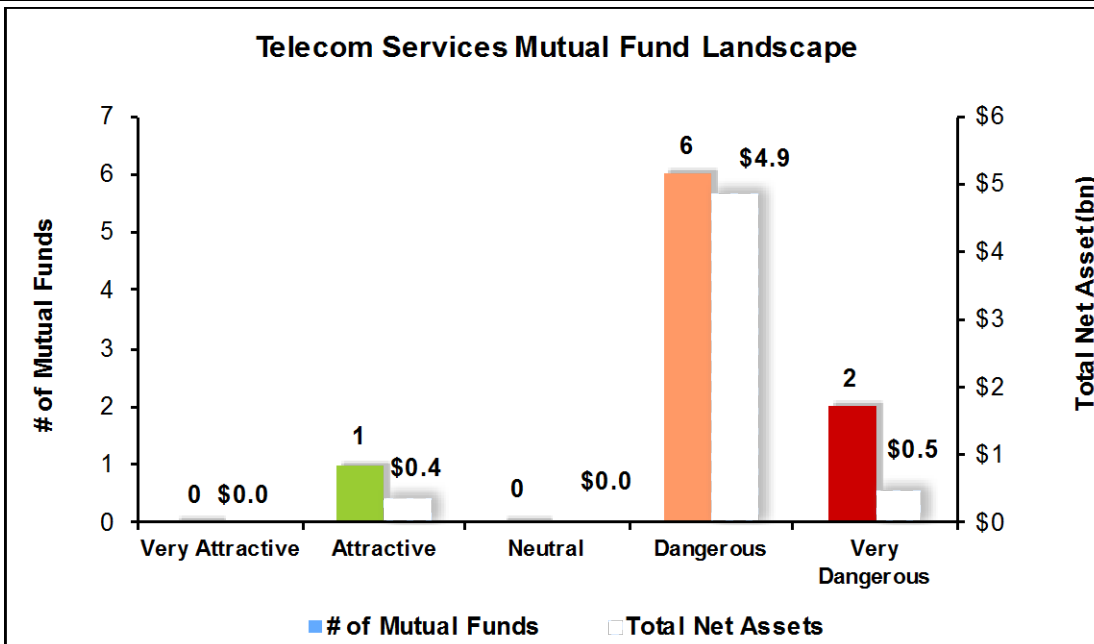
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Telecom Services ETFs and mutual funds.

**Figure 3: Separating the Best ETFs From the Worst ETFs**



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

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



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

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*Disclosure: David Trainer, Kenneth James and Kyle Guske II receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, sector or theme.*

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1. **Comprehensive** - All relevant publicly-available (e.g. 10-Ks and 10-Qs) information has been diligently reviewed, including footnotes and the management discussion & analysis (MD&A).
2. **Un-conflicted** - Clients deserve unbiased research.
3. **Transparent** - Advisors should be able to show how the analysis was performed and the data behind it.
4. **Relevant** - Empirical evidence must provide [tangible, quantifiable correlation](#) to stock, ETF or mutual fund performance.

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Accounting data is only the beginning of fundamental research. It must be translated into economic earnings to truly understand profitability and valuation. This translation requires deep analysis of footnotes and the MD&A, a process that our [robo-analyst technology](#) empowers us to perform for thousands of stocks, ETFs and mutual funds.

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