



Sector Ratings for ETFs & Mutual Funds

At the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2017, only the Consumer Staples and Financials sectors earn an Attractive-or-better rating. Our sector ratings are based on the aggregation of our fund ratings for every ETF and mutual fund in each sector. See last quarter's Sector Ratings [here](#).

Investors looking for sector funds that hold quality stocks should look no further than the Consumer Staples and Financials sectors. These sectors house the highest rated funds. Figures 4 through 7 provide more details. The primary driver behind an Attractive fund rating is good [portfolio management](#), or good stock picking, with low [total annual costs](#).

Attractive-or-better ratings do not always correlate with Attractive-or-better total annual costs. This fact underscores that (1) [cheap funds can dupe investors](#) and (2) investors should invest only in funds with good stocks and low fees.

Our [Robo-Analyst technology](#) empowers our unique [ETF and mutual fund rating methodology](#), which leverages our rigorous analysis of each fund's holdings¹.

See Figures 4 through 13 for a detailed breakdown of ratings distributions by sector. See our [ETF & mutual fund screener](#) for rankings, ratings and reports on 7000+ mutual funds and 400+ ETFs.

All of our reports on the best & worst ETFs and mutual funds in every sector are available [here](#).

Figure 1: Ratings for All Sectors

Sector	Overall Rating
Energy	Very Unattractive
Real Estate	Unattractive
Utilities	Neutral
Health Care	Neutral
Telecom	Neutral
Materials	Neutral
Cons Disc	Neutral
Industrials	Neutral
Info Tech	Neutral
Financials	Attractive
Cons Staples	Very Attractive

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

To earn an Attractive-or-better Predictive Rating, an ETF or mutual fund must have high-quality holdings and low costs. Only the top 30% of all ETFs and mutual funds earn our Attractive or better ratings.

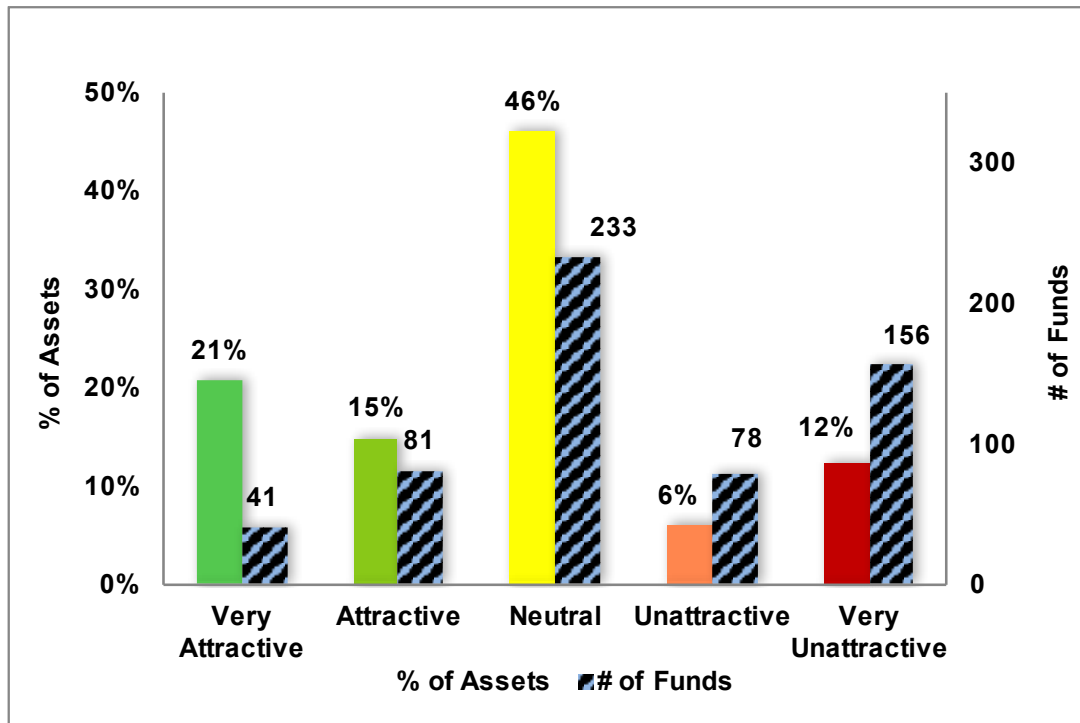
Fidelity MSCI Consumer Staples Index (FSTA) is the top rated Consumer Staples fund. It gets our Very Attractive rating by allocating over 68% of its value to Attractive-or-better-rated stocks.

Saratoga Energy and Basic Materials Portfolio (SBMBX) is the worst rated Energy fund. It gets our Very Unattractive rating by allocating over 59% of its value to Unattractive-or-worse-rated stocks. Making matters worse, it charges investors annual costs of 7.12%.

¹ Ernst & Young's recent white paper "[Getting ROIC Right](#)" proves the superiority of our holdings research and analytics.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of our Predictive Ratings for all sector ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 2: Distribution of ETFs & Mutual Funds (Assets and Count) by Predictive Rating



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 3 offers additional details on the quality of the sector funds. Note that the average total annual cost of Very Unattractive funds is almost five times that of Very Attractive funds.

Figure 3: Predictive Rating Distribution Stats

	Very Attractive	Attractive	Neutral	Unattractive	Very Unattractive
# of ETFs & Funds	41	81	233	78	156
% of ETFs & Funds	7%	14%	40%	13%	26%
% of TNA	21%	15%	46%	6%	12%
Avg TAC	0.21%	0.66%	0.75%	2.13%	0.95%

* Avg TAC = Weighted Average Total Annual Costs

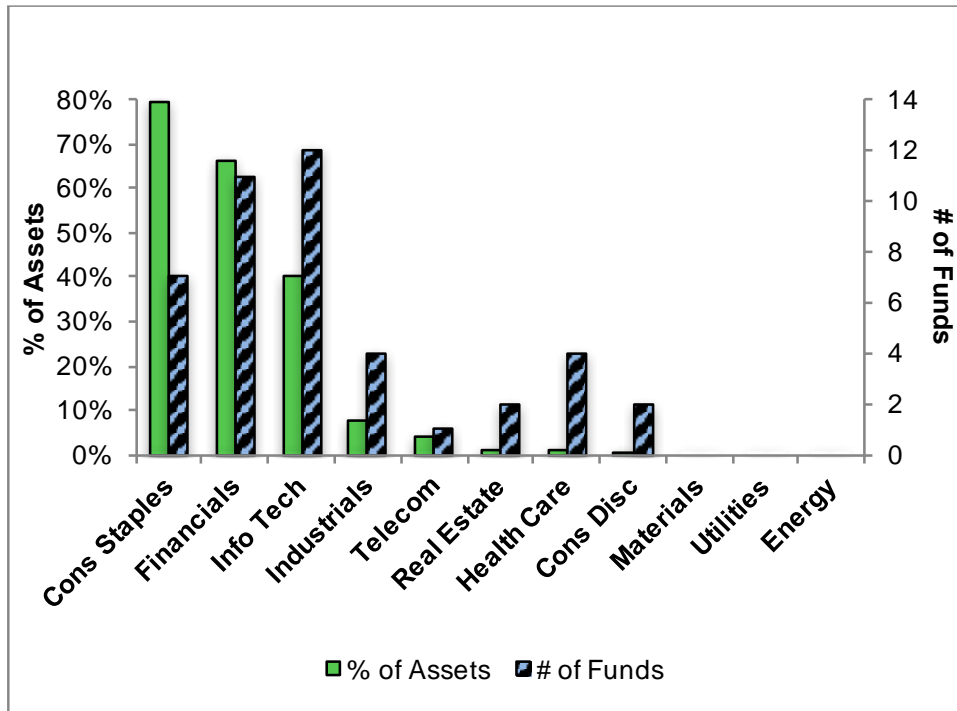
Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This table shows that only the best of the best funds get our Very Attractive Rating: they must hold good stocks AND have low costs. Investors deserve to have the best of both and we are here to give it to them.

Ratings by Sector

Figure 4 presents a mapping of Very Attractive funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Very Attractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets in each sector allocated to funds that are rated Very Attractive.

Figure 4: Very Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 5 presents the data charted in Figure 4.

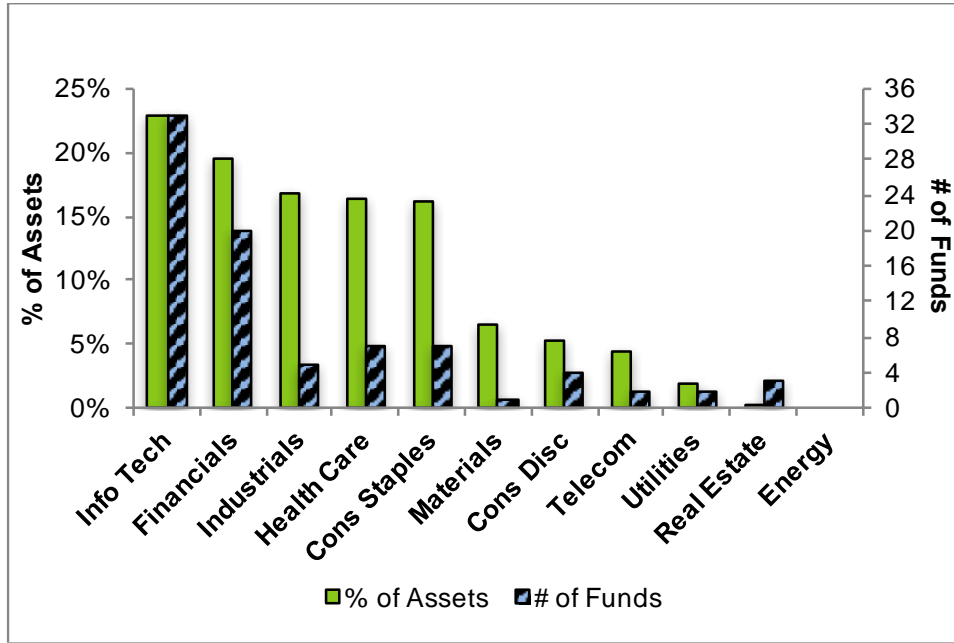
Figure 5: Very Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Very Attractive Funds	% of Very Attractive Funds in Sector
Cons Staples	79%	7	35%
Financials	66%	11	19%
Info Tech	40%	12	8%
Industrials	7%	4	11%
Telecom	4%	1	7%
Real Estate	1%	2	1%
Health Care	1%	4	4%
Cons Disc	0%	2	8%
Materials	0%	0	0%
Utilities	0%	0	0%
Energy	0%	0	0%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 6 presents a mapping of Attractive funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Attractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets allocated to Attractive-rated funds in each sector.

Figure 6: Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 7 presents the data charted in Figure 6.

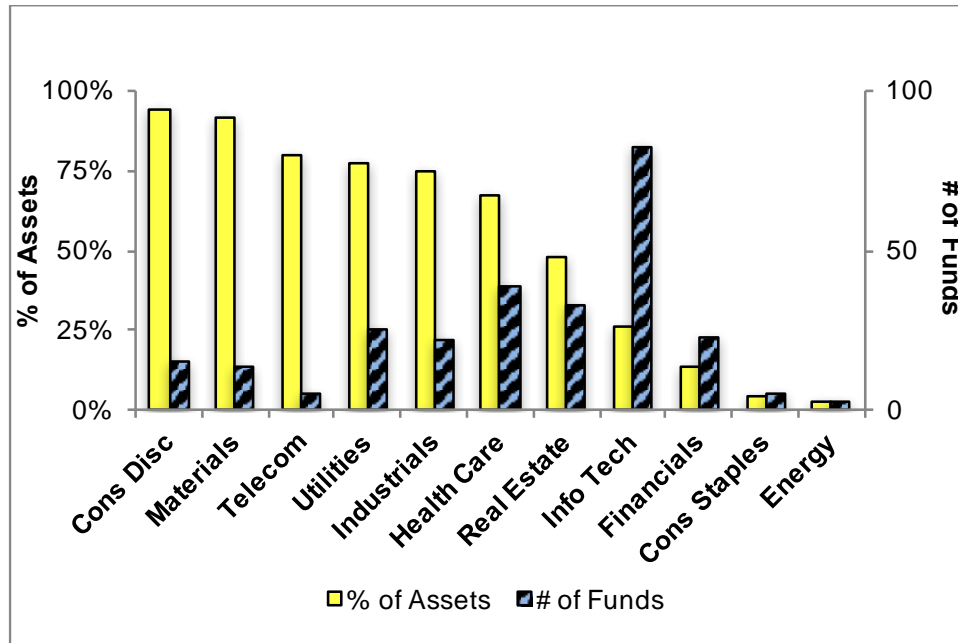
Figure 7: Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Attractive Funds	% of Attractive Funds in Sector
Info Tech	23%	33	22%
Financials	20%	20	34%
Industrials	17%	5	13%
Health Care	16%	7	6%
Cons Staples	16%	7	35%
Materials	7%	1	6%
Cons Disc	5%	4	17%
Telecom	4%	2	13%
Utilities	2%	2	5%
Real Estate	0%	3	1%
Energy	0%	0	0%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 8 presents a mapping of Neutral funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Neutral funds in each sector and the percentage of assets allocated to Neutral-rated funds in each sector.

Figure 8: Neutral ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 9 presents the data charted in Figure 8.

Figure 9: Neutral ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

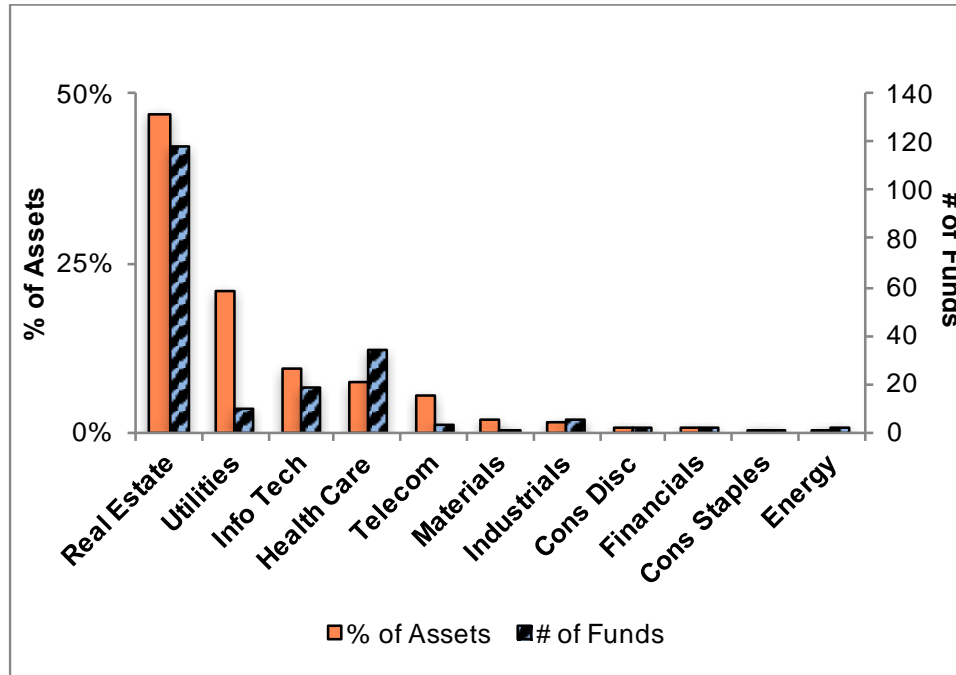
Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Neutral Funds	% of Neutral Funds in Sector
Cons Disc	94%	15	63%
Materials	92%	14	88%
Telecom	80%	5	33%
Utilities	77%	25	64%
Industrials	74%	22	58%
Health Care	67%	39	36%
Real Estate	48%	33	16%
Info Tech	27%	82	55%
Financials	14%	23	39%
Cons Staples	4%	5	25%
Energy	2%	3	3%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 10 presents a mapping of Unattractive funds by fund sector. The chart shows the number of Unattractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets allocated to Unattractive-rated funds in each sector.

The landscape of sector ETFs and mutual funds is littered with Unattractive funds. Investors in Real Estate have put over 47% of their assets in Unattractive-rated funds.

Figure 10: Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 11 presents the data charted in Figure 10.

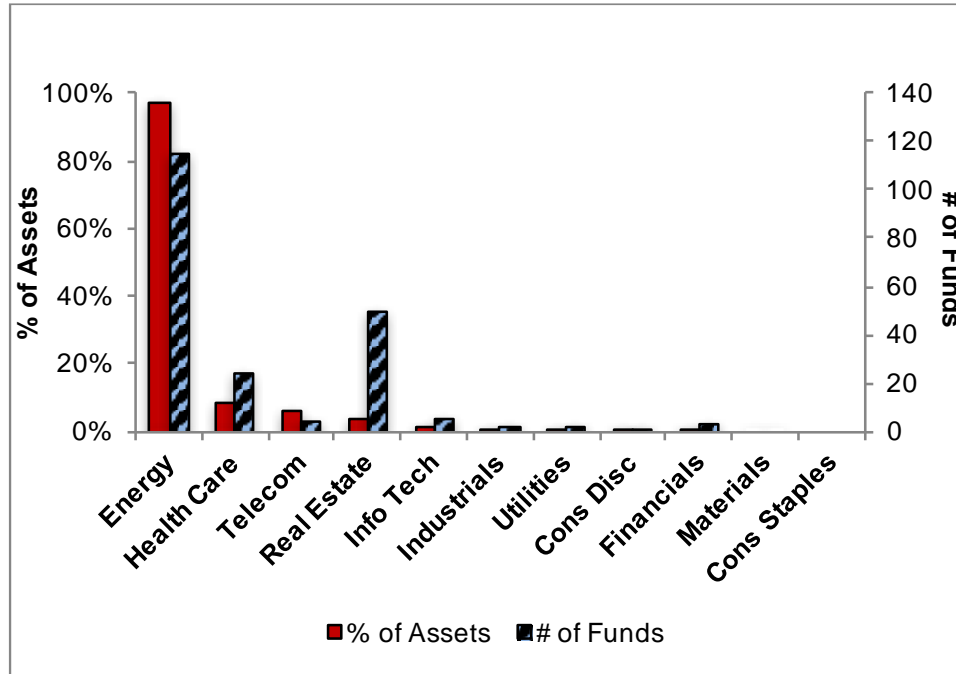
Figure 11: Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Unattractive Funds	% of Unattractive Funds in Sector
Real Estate	47%	118	57%
Utilities	21%	10	26%
Info Tech	9%	18	12%
Health Care	8%	34	31%
Telecom	5%	3	20%
Materials	2%	1	6%
Cons Disc	1%	2	8%
Financials	1%	2	3%
Cons Staples	0%	1	5%
Energy	0%	2	2%
Industrials	1%	5	13%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 12 presents a mapping of Very Unattractive funds by fund sector. The chart shows the number of Very Unattractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets in each sector allocated to funds that are rated Very Unattractive.

Figure 12: Very Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 13 presents the data charted in Figure 12.

Figure 13: Very Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Very Unattractive Funds	% of Very Unattractive Funds in Sector
Energy	97%	115	96%
Health Care	8%	24	22%
Telecom	6%	4	27%
Real Estate	4%	50	24%
Info Tech	1%	5	3%
Industrials	0%	2	5%
Utilities	0%	2	5%
Financials	0%	3	5%
Materials	0%	0	0%
Cons Staples	0%	0	0%
Cons Disc	0%	1	4%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This article originally published on [October 3, 2017](#).

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

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [StockTwits](#) for real-time alerts on all our research.

Appendix: Predictive Fund Rating System

New Constructs' [Predictive fund Ratings](#) enable smarter investing by assessing the key drivers of future fund performance. We start by analyzing every funds' holdings based on New Constructs' stock ratings, which are regularly featured as among the [best by Barron's](#). Next, we measure and rank the all-in fund expenses. Finally, we rank the fund compared to all other funds to identify the best and worst funds in the market.

Intuitively, there are two drivers for future fund performance.

1. Stock-picking ([Portfolio Management Rating](#)) and
2. Fund expenses ([Total Annual Costs Rating](#))

Our Predictive Fund Rating is based on these drivers and the fund's ranking:

1. Top 10% = Very Attractive Rating
2. Next 20% = Attractive Rating
3. Next 40% = Neutral Rating
4. Next 20% = Unattractive Rating
5. Bottom 10% = Very Unattractive Rating

The figure below details the criteria that drive our Predictive Rating system for funds. The two drivers of our predictive ratings system are Portfolio Management and Total Annual Costs. The Portfolio Management ratings (detail [here](#)) is the same as our Stock Rating (detail [here](#)) except that we incorporate Asset Allocation (details [here](#)). The Total Annual Costs Ratings (details [here](#)) captures the all-in costs of being in a fund over a 3-year holding period, the average period for all mutual funds.

Predictive Rating	Portfolio Management Rating					Cash Allocation	Total Annual Costs
	Business Strength		Valuation				
	Quality of Earnings	Return on Invested Capital	FCF Yield	Price to Economic Book Value	Market-Implied Duration of Growth		
Very Unattractive	Misleading Trend	Bottom Quintile	< -5%	>3.5 or -1<0	> 50	> 20%	> 4 %
Unattractive	False Positive	4th Quintile	-5% < -1%	2.4<3.5 or <-1	20 < 50	8% < 20%	2% < 4%
Neutral	Neutral EE	3rd Quintile	-1% < 3%	1.6 < 2.4	10 < 20	2.5% < 8%	1% < 2%
Attractive	Positive EE	2nd Quintile	3% < 10%	1.1 < 1.6	3 < 10	1% < 2.5%	0.5% < 1%
Very Attractive	Rising EE	Top Quintile	> 10%	0 < 1.1	0 < 3	<1%	< 0.5%

New Constructs® - Research to Fulfill the Fiduciary Duty of Care

Ratings & screeners on 3000 stocks, 450 ETFs and 7000 mutual funds help you make prudent investment decisions.

New Constructs leverages the latest in machine learning to analyze structured and unstructured financial data with unrivaled speed and accuracy. The firm's forensic accounting experts work alongside engineers to develop proprietary NLP libraries and financial models. Our investment ratings are based on the best fundamental data in the business for stocks, ETFs and mutual funds. Clients include many of the top hedge funds, mutual funds and wealth management firms. David Trainer, the firm's CEO, is regularly featured in the media as a thought leader on the fiduciary duty of care, earnings quality, valuation and investment strategy.

To fulfill the Duty of Care, research should be:

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.

Value Investing 2.0: Diligence Matters: Technology is Key to Value Investing With Scale

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.

DISCLOSURES

New Constructs®, LLC (together with any subsidiaries and/or affiliates, "New Constructs") is an independent organization with no management ties to the companies it covers. None of the members of New Constructs' management team or the management team of any New Constructs' affiliate holds a seat on the Board of Directors of any of the companies New Constructs covers. New Constructs does not perform any investment or merchant banking functions and does not operate a trading desk.

New Constructs' Stock Ownership Policy prevents any of its employees or managers from engaging in Insider Trading and restricts any trading whereby an employee may exploit inside information regarding our stock research. In addition, employees and managers of the company are bound by a code of ethics that restricts them from purchasing or selling a security that they know or should have known was under consideration for inclusion in a New Constructs report nor may they purchase or sell a security for the first 15 days after New Constructs issues a report on that security.

DISCLAIMERS

The information and opinions presented in this report are provided to you for information purposes only and are not to be used or considered as an offer or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell securities or other financial instruments. New Constructs has not taken any steps to ensure that the securities referred to in this report are suitable for any particular investor and nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting or tax advice. This report includes general information that does not take into account your individual circumstance, financial situation or needs, nor does it represent a personal recommendation to you. The investments or services contained or referred to in this report may not be suitable for you and it is recommended that you consult an independent investment advisor if you are in doubt about any such investments or investment services.

Information and opinions presented in this report have been obtained or derived from sources believed by New Constructs to be reliable, but New Constructs makes no representation as to their accuracy, authority, usefulness, reliability, timeliness or completeness. New Constructs accepts no liability for loss arising from the use of the information presented in this report, and New Constructs makes no warranty as to results that may be obtained from the information presented in this report. Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. Information and opinions contained in this report reflect a judgment at its original date of publication by New Constructs and are subject to change without notice. New Constructs may have issued, and may in the future issue, other reports that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented in this report. Those reports reflect the different assumptions, views and analytical methods of the analysts who prepared them and New Constructs is under no obligation to insure that such other reports are brought to the attention of any recipient of this report.

New Constructs' reports are intended for distribution to its professional and institutional investor customers. Recipients who are not professionals or institutional investor customers of New Constructs should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor prior to making any investment decision or for any necessary explanation of its contents.

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would be subject New Constructs to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

This report may provide the addresses of websites. Except to the extent to which the report refers to New Constructs own website material, New Constructs has not reviewed the linked site and takes no responsibility for the content therein. Such address or hyperlink (including addresses or hyperlinks to New Constructs own website material) is provided solely for your convenience and the information and content of the linked site do not in any way form part of this report. Accessing such websites or following such hyperlink through this report shall be at your own risk.

All material in this report is the property of, and under copyright, of New Constructs. None of the contents, nor any copy of it, may be altered in any way, copied, or distributed or transmitted to any other party without the prior express written consent of New Constructs. All trademarks, service marks and logos used in this report are trademarks or service marks or registered trademarks or service marks of New Constructs. Copyright New Constructs, LLC 2003 through the present date. All rights reserved.