



ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Mid Cap Blend Style

The Mid Cap Blend style ranks sixth out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our [2Q18 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Mid Cap Blend style ranked seventh. It gets our Neutral rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 21 ETFs and 400 mutual funds in the Mid Cap Blend style as of April 18, 2018. See a recap of our [1Q18 Style Ratings here](#).

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the style. Not all Mid Cap Blend style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 20 to 2569). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

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

Our [Robo-Analyst technology](#)¹ empowers our unique [ETF and mutual fund rating methodology](#), which leverages our rigorous analysis of each fund's holdings.² 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

| Ticker | Allocation of ETF Holdings | | | Predictive Rating |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Attractive-or-better Stocks | Neutral Stocks | Unattractive-or-worse Stocks | |
| Best ETFs | | | | |
| ONEV | 29% | 49% | 19% | Very Attractive |
| CZA | 20% | 56% | 16% | Very Attractive |
| REGL | 14% | 61% | 23% | Attractive |
| CSD | 18% | 23% | 33% | Attractive |
| IJH | 17% | 42% | 38% | Attractive |
| Worst ETFs | | | | |
| JHMM | 18% | 44% | 36% | Neutral |
| DMRM | 17% | 42% | 37% | Neutral |
| RNMC | 22% | 40% | 34% | Neutral |
| NFO | 20% | 35% | 43% | Unattractive |
| RYJ | 12% | 25% | 44% | Unattractive |

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

WBI BullBear Quality 2000 ETF (WBID) is excluded from Figure 1 because its total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

¹ Harvard Business School features the powerful impact of our research automation technology in the case [New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts](#).

² Ernst & Young's recent white paper "[Getting ROIC Right](#)" proves the superiority of our holdings research and analytics.

**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 | Unattractive-or-worse Stocks | |
| Best Mutual Funds | | | | |
| DNLYX | 38% | 45% | 16% | Very Attractive |
| DNLRX | 38% | 45% | 16% | Very Attractive |
| DNLCX | 38% | 45% | 16% | Very Attractive |
| FMEIX | 36% | 42% | 18% | Very Attractive |
| FZAMX | 18% | 43% | 28% | Attractive |
| Worst Mutual Funds | | | | |
| DDDAX | 6% | 46% | 44% | Very Unattractive |
| SPMAX | 25% | 31% | 33% | Very Unattractive |
| MDPSX | 9% | 23% | 20% | Very Unattractive |
| PMVCX | 11% | 37% | 50% | Very Unattractive |
| PAMVX | 11% | 37% | 50% | Very Unattractive |

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Nine mutual funds are excluded from Figure 2 because their total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

State Street SPDR Russell 1000 Low Volatility Focus ETF (ONEV) is the top-rated Mid Cap Blend ETF and Dreyfus Active MidCap Fund (DNLYX) is the top-rated Mid Cap Blend mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

Guggenheim Raymond James SB-1 Equity ETF (RYJ) is the worst rated Mid Cap Blend ETF and Pacific Advisors Mid Cap Value Fund (PAMVX) is the worst rated Mid Cap Blend mutual fund. The fact that PAMVX markets itself as a “Value” fund but actually falls in the Mid Cap Blend style goes to show why investors should not trust fund labels. RYJ earns an Unattractive rating and PAMVX earns a Very Unattractive 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.

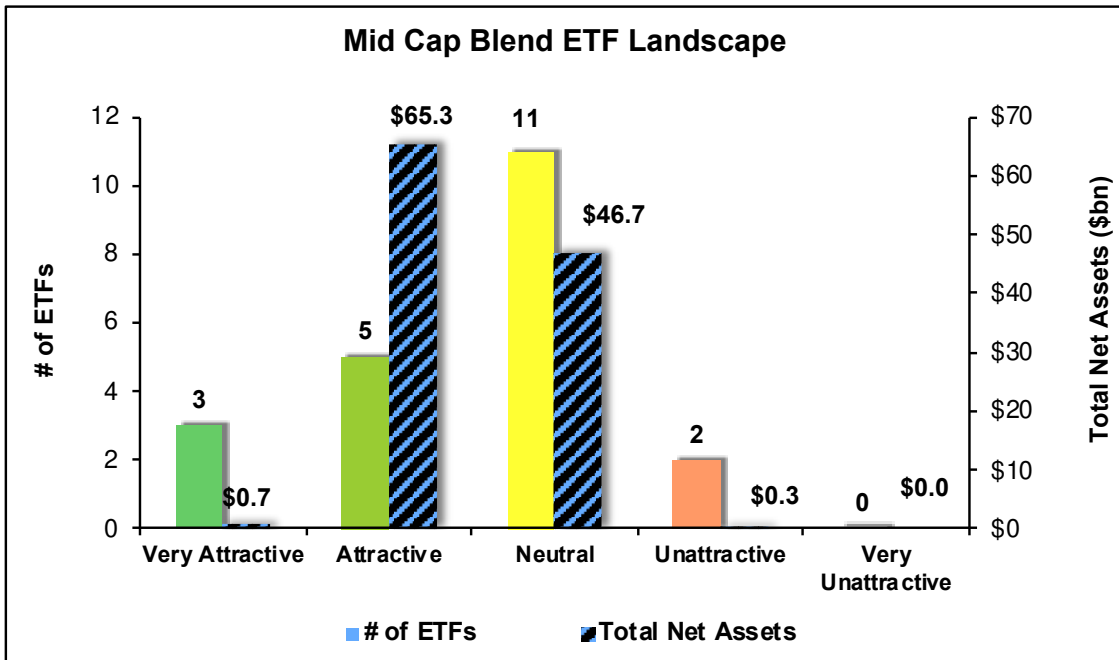
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



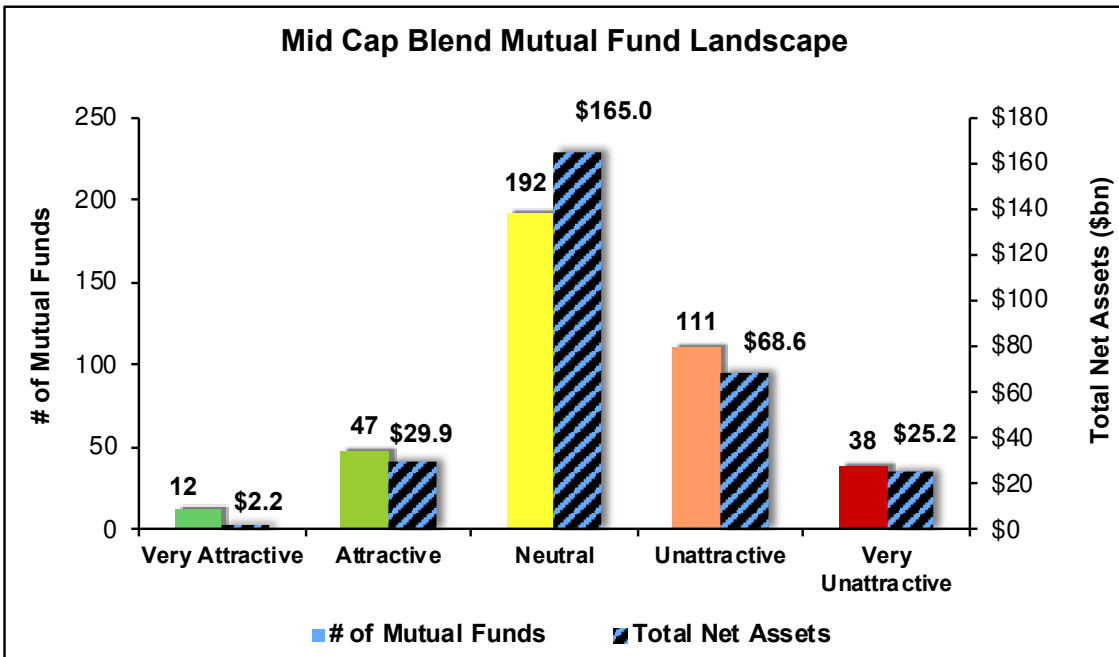
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Mid Cap Blend ETFs and mutual funds.

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 and Kyle Guske II receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, 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.

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.



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