BEST & WORST FUNDS

7/11/19

ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Consumer Non-cyclicals Sector

The Consumer Non-cyclicals sector ranks third out of the 11 sectors as detailed in our <u>3Q19 Sector Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds</u> report. <u>Last quarter</u>, the Consumer Non-cyclicals sector ranked second. It gets our Attractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of the 137 stocks in the Consumer Non-cyclicals sector as of July 11, 2019. See a recap of our <u>2Q19 Sector Ratings here</u>.

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the sector. Not all Consumer Non-cyclicals sector ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 22 to 124). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

Get the best fundamental research

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

Our <u>Robo-Analyst technology</u>¹ empowers our unique <u>ETF and mutual fund rating methodology</u>, 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

Allocation of ETF Holdings						
Ticker	Attractive-or- better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or- worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best ETFs						
FSTA	18%	57%	24%	Very Attractive		
VDC	19%	56%	24%	Very Attractive		
XLP	16%	59%	24%	Very Attractive		
RHS	20%	61%	20%	Very Attractive		
FXG	22%	59%	19%	Very Attractive		
Worst ETFs						
PBJ	9%	44%	39%	Neutral		

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Two ETFs (JHMS, PSCC) are excluded from Figure 1 because their 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 <u>New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts</u>.

² This paper compares our analytics on a mega cap company to other major providers. The Appendix details exactly how we stack up.



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

Allocation of MF Holdings						
Ticker	Attractive-or- better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or- worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best MFs						
RYCIX	21%	51%	25%	Very Attractive		
VCSAX	19%	56%	24%	Very Attractive		
RYCAX	21%	51%	25%	Very Attractive		
RYCPX	21%	51%	25%	Very Attractive		
FIJCX	19%	43%	24%	Very Attractive		
Worst MFs						
PGLOX	13%	31%	31%	Neutral		
FDAGX	19%	43%	24%	Neutral		
ICRAX	22%	65%	13%	Unattractive		

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

FSAVX is excluded from Figure 2 because its total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

FSTA is the top-rated Consumer Non-cyclicals ETF and RYCIX is the top-rated Consumer Non-cyclicals mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

PBJ is the worst rated Consumer Non-cyclicals ETF and ICRAX is the worst rated Consumer Non-cyclicals mutual fund. PBJ earns a Neutral rating and ICRAX earns an Unattractive rating.

137 stocks of the 2800+ we cover are classified as Consumer Non-cyclicals 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.

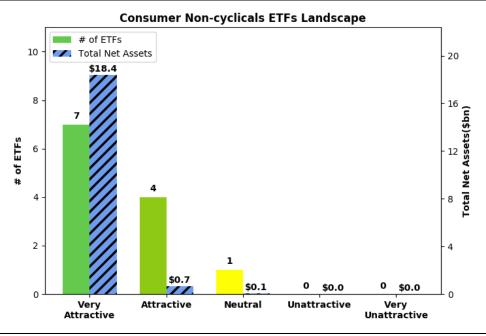
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



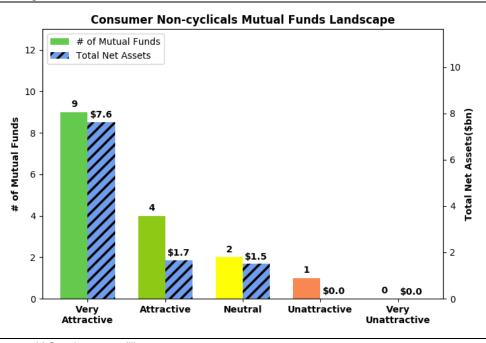
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Consumer Non-cyclicals ETFs and mutual funds.

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 and Kyle Guske II receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, sector or theme.

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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 <u>tangible</u>, <u>quantifiable correlation</u> 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 <u>robo-analyst technology</u> empowers us to perform for thousands of stocks, ETFs and mutual funds.



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