



How to Find the Best Sector Mutual Funds

Finding the best mutual funds is an increasingly difficult task in a world with so many to choose from. How can you pick with so many choices available?

Get the best fundamental research

Don't Trust Mutual Fund Labels

There are at least 214 different Real Estate mutual funds and at least 704 mutual funds across eleven sectors. Do investors need 64+ choices on average per sector? How different can the mutual funds be?

Those 214 Real Estate mutual funds are very different. With anywhere from 21 to 184 holdings, many of these mutual funds have drastically different portfolios, creating drastically different investment implications.

The same is true for the mutual funds in any other sector, as each offers a very different mix of good and bad stocks. Telecom Services rank first for stock selection. Utilities ranks last. Details on the [Best & Worst mutual funds in each sector are here](#).

How to Avoid Paralysis by Analysis

We think the large number of Real Estate (or any other) sector mutual funds hurts investors more than it helps because too many options can be paralyzing. It is simply not possible for the majority of investors to properly assess the quality of so many mutual funds. Analyzing mutual funds, done with the proper diligence¹, is far more difficult than analyzing stocks because it means analyzing all the stocks within each mutual fund. As stated above, that can be as many as 184 stocks, and sometimes even more, for one mutual fund.

Anyone focused on [fulfilling the fiduciary duty of care](#) recognizes that analyzing the holdings² of a mutual fund is critical to finding the best mutual fund. Only our research utilizes the superior data and earnings adjustments featured by the Harvard Business School and MIT Sloan paper, "[Core Earnings: New Data and Evidence](#)." Figure 1 shows our top rated mutual fund for each sector.

Figure 1: The Best Mutual Fund in Each Sector

Ticker	Name	Sector	Assets (\$mm)
VMIAX	Vanguard Materials Index Fund	Basic Materials	\$2,400
FSRPX	Fidelity Select Retailing Portfolio	Consumer Cyclical	\$3,074
FIJCX	Fidelity Advisor Consumer Staples Fund	Consumer Non-cyclical	\$1,505
CGEYX	Columbia Global Energy & Natural Resources Fund	Energy	\$169
FSRBX	Fidelity Select Banking Portfolio	Financial	\$428
SWHFX	Schwab Health Care Fund	Healthcare	\$757
FSLEX	Fidelity Environment and Alternative Energy Portfolio	Industrial	\$166
CGMRX	CGM Realty Fund	Real Estate	\$645
ROGSX	Red Oak Technology Select Fund	Technology	\$628
FWRLX	Fidelity Select Wireless Portfolio	Telecom Services	\$278
BULIX	American Century Quantitative Utilities Fund	Utilities	\$423

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

¹ This [paper](#) compares our analytics on a mega cap company to other major providers. The Appendix details exactly how we stack up.

² Harvard Business School features the powerful impact of our research automation technology in the case [New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts](#).



Amongst the mutual funds in Figure 1, Fidelity Select Banking Portfolio (FSRBX) ranks first overall, Fidelity Advisor Consumer Staples Fund (FIJCX) ranks second, and Fidelity Select Retailing Portfolio (FSRPX) ranks third. Vanguard Materials Index Fund (VMIAX) ranks last.

How to Avoid “The Danger Within”

Why do you need to know the holdings of mutual funds before you buy?

You need to be sure you do not buy a fund that might blow up. Buying a fund without analyzing its holdings is like buying a stock without analyzing its business and finances. No matter how cheap, if it holds bad stocks, the mutual fund's performance will be bad. Don't just take my word for it, see [what Barron's says](#) on this matter.

PERFORMANCE OF FUND'S 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.

If Only Investors Could Find Funds Rated by Their Holdings

Our [mutual fund ratings](#) leverage our [stock coverage](#). We rate mutual funds based on the aggregated ratings of the stocks each mutual fund holds.

Fidelity Select Banking Portfolio (FSRBX) is not only the top-rated Financials mutual fund, but is also the overall top-ranked sector mutual fund out of the 704 sector mutual funds that we cover.

The worst mutual fund in Figure 1 is Vanguard Materials Index Fund (VMIAX), which gets a Very Unattractive rating. One would think mutual fund providers could do better for this sector.

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

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Footnotes adjustments matter. We are the ONLY source.

We provide ratings, models, reports & screeners on U.S. 3,000 stocks, 700 ETFs and 7,000 mutual funds.

[HBS & MIT Sloan research](#) reveals that:

- **Markets are inefficiently assessing earnings because no one reads the footnotes.**
- **Our technology brings the material footnotes data to market for the first time ever.**

Combining human expertise with NLP/ML/AI technologies ([featured by Harvard Business School](#)), we shine a light in the dark corners (e.g. footnotes) of hundreds of thousands of financial filings to unearth critical details.

The HBS & MIT Sloan paper, [Core Earnings: New Data and Evidence](#), shows how our superior data drives uniquely comprehensive and independent debt and equity research.

This [paper](#) compares our analytics on a mega cap company to other major providers. The Appendix details exactly how we stack up.

Quotes from HBS & MIT Sloan professors on our research:

Get better research:

“...the NC dataset provides a novel opportunity to study the properties of non-operating items disclosed in 10-Ks, and to examine the extent to which the market impounds their implications.” – page 19

Pick better stocks:

“Trading strategies that exploit cross-sectional differences in firms’ transitory earnings produce abnormal returns of 7-to-10% per year.” – Abstract

Avoid losses from using other firms’ data:

“...many of the income-statement-relevant quantitative disclosures collected by NC do not appear to be easily identifiable in Compustat...” – page 13

Build better models:

“Core Earnings [calculated using New Constructs’ novel dataset] provides predictive power for various measures of one-year-ahead performance...that is incremental to their current-period counterparts.” – page 3-4

Exploit market inefficiencies:

“These results suggest that the adjustments made by analysts to better capture core earnings are incomplete, and that the non-core items identified by NC produce a measure of core earnings that is incremental to alternative measures of operating performance in predicting an array of future income measures.” – page 26

Fulfill fiduciary duties:

“An appropriate measure of accounting performance for purposes of forecasting future performance requires detailed analysis of all quantitative performance disclosures detailed in the annual report, including those reported only in the footnotes and in the MD&A.” – page 31



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