## **BEST & WORST FUNDS**

1/22/20

# ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: All Cap Blend Style

The All Cap Blend style ranks fourth out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our 1Q20 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds report. Last quarter, the All Cap Blend style ranked third. It gets our Neutral rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 144 ETFs and 805 mutual funds in the All Cap Blend style as of January 21, 2020. See a recap of our 4Q19 Style Ratings here.

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the style. Not all All Cap Blend style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 14 to 3563). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

### Get the best fundamental research

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

Our Robo-Analyst technology¹ empowers our unique ETF and mutual fund rating methodology, which leverages our rigorous analysis of each fund's holdings.² Only our research utilizes the superior data and earnings adjustments featured by the HBS & MIT Sloan paper, "Core Earnings: New Data and Evidence." 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

	Allocat	ion of ETF					
Ticker	Attractive- or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive- or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating			
Best ETFs							
VSMV	36%	51%	8%	Very Attractive			
PWC	41%	38%	18%	Very Attractive			
PKW	48%	40%	12%	Very Attractive			
LSAF	43%	37%	19%	Very Attractive			
FLQL	34%	49%	16%	Very Attractive			
Worst ETFs							
URTY	13%	28%	37%	Unattractive			
SIMS	16%	15%	62%	Unattractive			
PLCY	11%	24%	54%	Unattractive			
CLIX	8%	10%	65%	Unattractive			
GIGE	2%	15%	65%	Very Unattractive			

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

<sup>1</sup> Harvard Business School features the powerful impact of our research automation technology in the case New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts.

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



13 ETFs 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

	Allocation					
Ticker	Attractive- or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive- or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best Mutual Funds						
HNDDX	42%	40%	0%	Very Attractive		
HADUX	42%	40%	0%	Very Attractive		
HILGX	52%	35%	7%	Very Attractive		
HFLGX	52%	35%	7%	Very Attractive		
RWTIX	46%	42%	10%	Very Attractive		
Worst Mutual Funds						
HROAX	13%	27%	29%	Very Unattractive		
OIPAX	12%	16%	49%	Very Unattractive		
GHTAX	3%	28%	38%	Very Unattractive		
UPAAX	16%	8%	19%	Very Unattractive		
AMREX	18%	22%	35%	Very Unattractive		

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

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

VictoryShares U.S. Multi Factor Minimum Volatility ETF (VSMV) is the top-rated All Cap Blend ETF and Horizon Active Dividend Fund (HNDDX) is the top-rated All Cap Blend mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

SoFi Gig Economy ETF (GIGE) is the worst rated All Cap Blend ETF and American Growth Fund Series Two (AMREX) is the worst rated All Cap Blend mutual fund. Both earn 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 All Cap Blend ETFs and mutual funds.

\$0.0

Very Unattra ctive \$0

\$0.5

Unattra ctive

■Total Net Assets

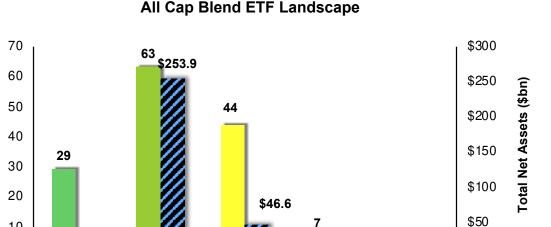


# of ETFs

Figure 3: Separating the Best ETFs from the Worst Funds

\$5.6

Very Attractive



Neutral

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

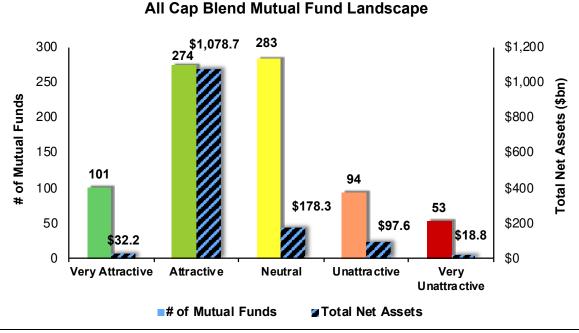
10

0

Figure 4: Separating the Best Mutual Funds from the Worst Funds

**Attractive** 

# of ETFs



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

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Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, and Matt Shuler receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, or theme.

Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and StockTwits for real-time alerts on all our research.



## 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.
- Corporate managers hide gains/losses in footnotes to manage earnings.
- 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, <u>Core Earnings: New Data and Evidence</u>, 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.

#### Learn more.

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 20

#### 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 14

#### 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 4

## Exploit market inefficiencies:

"These results ... suggest that the adjustments made by analysts and Compustat to better capture core earnings are incomplete. Moreover, 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 33-34



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