## **BEST & WORST FUNDS**

7/15/20

# **ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Technology Sector**

The Technology sector ranks eighth out of the 11 sectors as detailed in our <u>3Q20 Sector Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds</u> report. <u>Last quarter</u>, the Technology sector ranked eighth. It gets our Neutral rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of the 453 stocks in the Technology sector as of July 11, 2020. See a recap of our <u>2Q20 Sector Ratings here</u>.

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the sector. Not all Technology sector ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 21 to 383). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

### Learn more about the best fundamental research

Investors seeking exposure to the Technology sector 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

Allocation of ETF Holdings						
Ticker	Attractive-or- better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or- worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best ETFs						
TDIV	37%	42%	16%	Attractive		
IXN	13%	57%	19%	Neutral		
FTEC	12%	62%	25%	Neutral		
VGT	12%	61%	26%	Neutral		
XLK	13%	68%	19%	Neutral		
Worst ETFs						
IBUY	9%	17%	56%	Very Unattractive		
ARKK	0%	23%	61%	Very Unattractive		
ARKW	3%	22%	69%	Very Unattractive		
XITK	4%	18%	69%	Very Unattractive		
WCLD	0%	14%	83%	Very Unattractive		

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Five ETFs (IDRV, DRIV, TDV, FITE, TTTN) are excluded from Figure 1 because their total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

<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> Compare our analytics on a mega cap company to Bloomberg and Capital IQ's (SPGI) analytics in the detailed appendix of this paper.

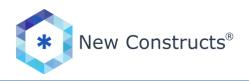


Figure 2: Mutual Funds with the Best & Worst Ratings - Top 5

Allocation of MF Holdings						
Ticker	Attractive-or- better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or- worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best MFs						
FSDCX	24%	49%	25%	Attractive		
ROGSX	27%	53%	17%	Neutral		
FDCPX	4%	57%	7%	Neutral		
VITAX	12%	61%	26%	Neutral		
NWJEX	22%	44%	33%	Neutral		
Worst MFs						
ADNCX	0%	24%	56%	Very Unattractive		
WFSTX	9%	31%	53%	Very Unattractive		
RAGTX	10%	33%	45%	Very Unattractive		
ADNAX	0%	24%	56%	Very Unattractive		
RSIFX	7%	20%	45%	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

Five mutual funds (FDMIX, FDMCX, HTCIX, HTECX, STPIX) are excluded from Figure 2 because their total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

TDIV is the top-rated Technology ETF and FSDCX is the top-rated Technology mutual fund. Both earn an Attractive rating.

WCLD is the worst rated Technology ETF and RSIFX is the worst Technology mutual fund. They both earn a Very Unattractive rating.

453 stocks of the 2850+ we cover are classified as Technology 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.

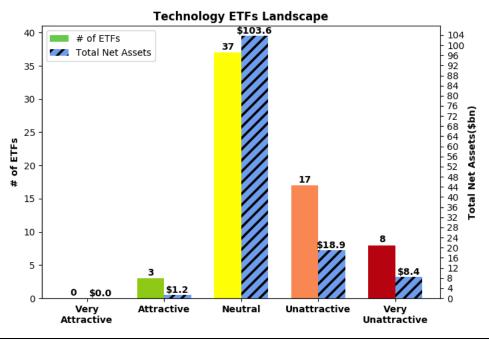
## PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



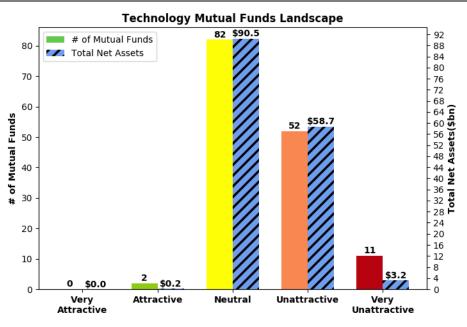
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Technology ETFs and mutual funds.

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, Kyle Guske II, and Matt Shuler 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.





## 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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