# **BEST & WORST FUNDS**

10/20/20

# 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 <u>4Q20 Style Ratings for ETFs</u> and <u>Mutual Funds</u> report. <u>Last quarter</u>, the All Cap Blend style ranked fourth as well. It gets our Neutral rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 114 ETFs and 758 mutual funds in the All Cap Blend style as of October 19, 2020. See a recap of our <u>3Q20 Style Ratings here.</u>

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 16 to 3570). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

### Learn more about 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	tion of ETF				
Ticker	Attractive- or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive- or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best ETFs						
ADRE	37%	31%	9%	Very Attractive		
PKW	54%	36%	9%	Very Attractive		
FLQL	40%	47%	13%	Very Attractive		
CRBN	21%	33%	17%	Very Attractive		
ACWI	21%	32%	18%	Very Attractive		
Worst ETFs						
SLT	13%	24%	53%	Unattractive		
HAIL	10%	28%	45%	Unattractive		
GIGE	13%	17%	55%	Unattractive		
CLIX	9%	46%	34%	Unattractive		
CNBS	5%	11%	59%	Very Unattractive		

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Ten ETFs (WBIG, WBIF, WBIE, WBIL, QWLD, QSY, LSAF, VFQY, LOWC, RAFE) are excluded from Figure 1 because their total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 Mutual F				
Ticker	Attractive- or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive- or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best Mutual Funds						
LOGIX	52%	28%	3%	Very Attractive		
LOGRX	52%	28%	3%	Very Attractive		
NOLCX	45%	43%	10%	Very Attractive		
BKBDX	36%	37%	5%	Very Attractive		
BIBDX	36%	37%	5%	Very Attractive		
Worst Mutual Funds						
TWSMX	2%	4%	5%	Very Unattractive		
ASMRX	2%	4%	5%	Very Unattractive		
ASTCX	2%	4%	5%	Very Unattractive		
ACOAX	2%	4%	5%	Very Unattractive		
DVALX	0%	20%	47%	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

Advisor Series Scharf Global Opportunity Fund (WRLDX), ProFunds Banks UltraSector ProFund (BKPIX) and Harbor Robeco U.S. Conservative Equities Fund (HRURX, HRUNX, HRUVX) are excluded from Figure 2 because their total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

Invesco BLDRS Emerging Markets 50 ADR Index Fund (ADRE) is the top-rated All Cap Blend ETF and Advisor Series Scharf Fund (LOGIX) is the top-rated All Cap Blend mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

Amplify Seymour Cannabis ETF (CNBS) is the worst rated All Cap Blend ETF and MSS Series Footprints Discover Value Fund (DVALX) 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.

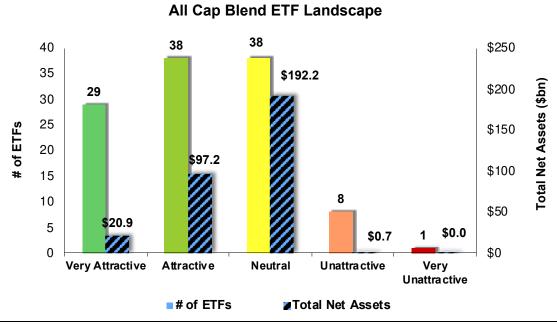
### PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGs = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.

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

#### 350 \$1,200 322 \$980.9 300 \$1,000 Total Net Assets (\$bn) of Mutual Funds 250 217 \$800 200 \$600 150 94 \$400 91 \$291.9 100 \$113.7 \$200 50 \$3.9 \$30.0 0 \$0 Very **Very Attractive** Neutral Unattra ctive **Attractive** Unattra ctive # of Mutual Funds Total Net Assets

All Cap Blend Mutual Fund Landscape

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This article originally published on October 20, 2020.

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 (<u>featured by Harvard Business School</u>), 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 <u>paper</u> 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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