



ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Mid Cap Growth Style

The Mid Cap Growth style ranks eleventh out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our [4Q20 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Mid Cap Growth style ranked eleventh as well. It gets our Unattractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 12 ETFs and 380 mutual funds in the Mid Cap Growth style as of October 20, 2020. See a recap of our [3Q20 Style Ratings here](#).

Figure 1 ranks from best to worst the nine Mid Cap Growth ETFs that meet our liquidity standards and Figure 2 shows the five best and worst rated Mid Cap Growth mutual funds. Not all Mid Cap Growth style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 16 to 673). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

[Learn more about the best fundamental research](#)

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

Our [Robo-Analyst technology](#)¹ 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

Ticker	Allocation of ETF Holdings			Predictive Rating
	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Dangerous-or-worse Stocks	
Best ETFs (only 4)				
BFOR	38%	42%	14%	Very Attractive
XMMO	20%	40%	41%	Neutral
JKH	3%	42%	52%	Neutral
NUMG	8%	41%	51%	Neutral
Worst ETFs				
QMOM	6%	23%	54%	Neutral
FAD	11%	35%	46%	Neutral
VOT	7%	38%	53%	Neutral
IWP	12%	33%	50%	Unattractive
BOSS	10%	21%	63%	Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Franklin LibertyQ U.S. Mid Cap Equity ETF (FLQM), Tidal SoFi 50 ETF (SFYF) and Innovator IBD Breakout Opportunities ETF (BOUO) 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 [New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts](#).

² 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

Ticker	Allocation of Mutual Fund Holdings			Predictive Rating
	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse Stocks	
Best Mutual Funds				
VSCRX	15%	49%	19%	Attractive
PKSFX	15%	49%	19%	Attractive
PKSCX	15%	49%	19%	Attractive
DNLYX	29%	41%	29%	Attractive
IMIDX	17%	54%	29%	Attractive
Worst Mutual Funds				
ETAGX	6%	22%	45%	Very Unattractive
MACGX	1%	13%	69%	Very Unattractive
DBMAX	6%	15%	62%	Very Unattractive
CSGOX	4%	9%	57%	Very Unattractive
SGFFX	3%	6%	69%	Very Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

AMG GW&K Mid Cap Fund (MCMFX, MCMYX, MCMAX) and Bright Rock Mid Cap Growth Fund (BQMGX) are excluded from Figure 2 because their total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

Barron’s 400 ETF (BFOR) is the top-rated Mid Cap Growth ETF and Virtus KAR Small Cap Core Fund (VSCRX) is the top-rated Mid Cap Growth mutual fund. BFOR earns a Very Attractive rating and VSCRX earns an Attractive rating.

Global X Founder-Run Companies ETF (BOSS) is the worst rated Mid Cap Growth ETF and Sparrow Growth Fund (SGFFX) is the worst rated Mid Cap Growth mutual fund. BOSS earns an Unattractive rating and SGFFX earns 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.

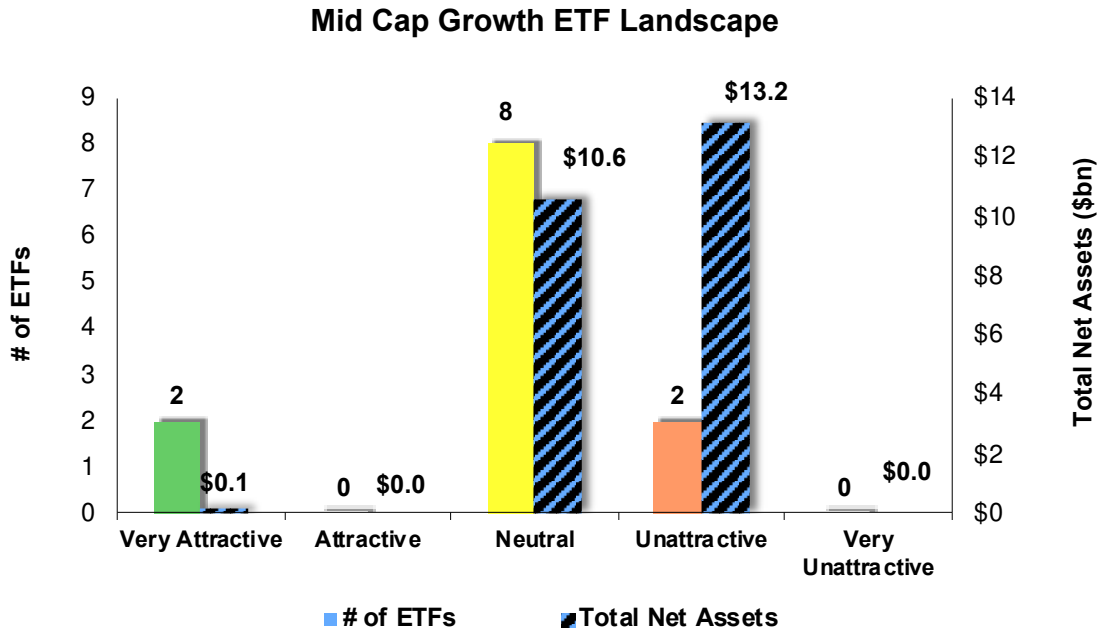
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



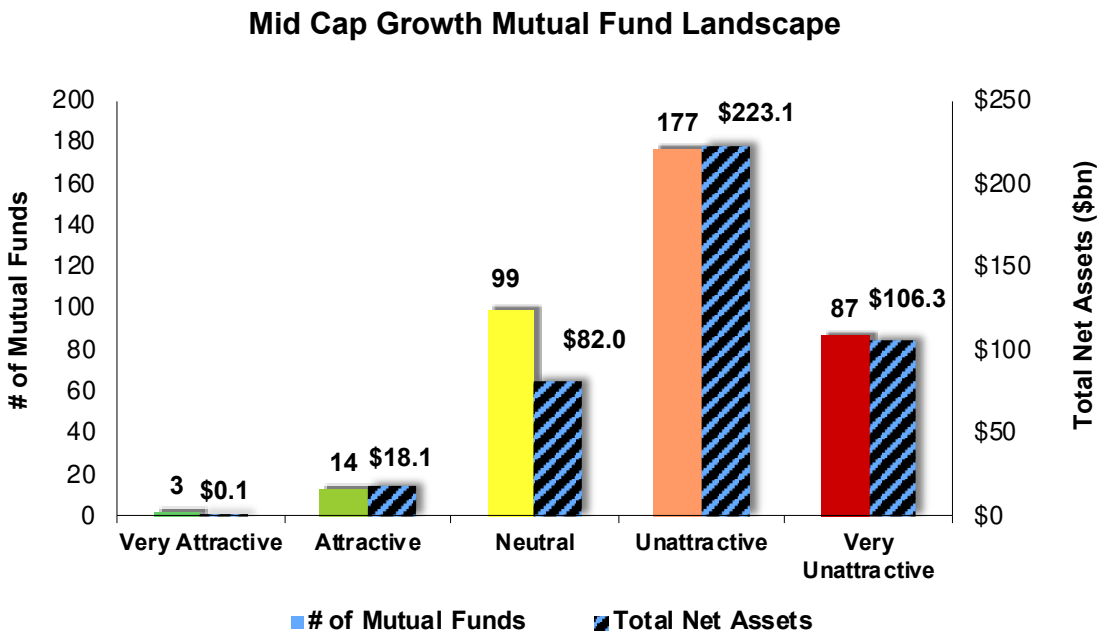
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Mid Cap Growth ETFs and mutual funds.

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



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This article originally published on [October 22, 2020](#).

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

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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