



Sector Ratings for ETFs & Mutual Funds

At the beginning of the third quarter of 2021, only the Consumer Non-cyclicals, Basic Materials, and Technology sectors earn an Attractive-or-better rating. Our sector ratings are based on the normalized aggregation of our stock ratings for every stock in each sector. Our [stock ratings](#) are based on five criteria that assess a firm's business strength and valuation. See last quarter's Sector Ratings [here](#).

Investors looking for sector funds that hold quality stocks should look no further than the Consumer Non-cyclicals, Basic Materials, and Technology sectors. These sectors house a large portion of the highest rated funds. Figures 4 through 7 provide more details. The primary driver behind an Attractive fund rating is good [portfolio management](#), or good stock picking, with low [total annual costs](#).

Attractive-or-better ratings do not always correlate with Attractive-or-better total annual costs. This fact underscores that (1) [cheap funds can dupe investors](#) and (2) investors should invest only in funds with good stocks and low fees.

More reliable & [proprietary](#) fundamental data, proven in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), drives our research. 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

Learn more about the best fundamental research

See Figures 4 through 13 for a detailed breakdown of ratings distributions by sector. See our [ETF & mutual fund screener](#) for rankings, ratings, and reports on ~7000 mutual funds and 800+ ETFs. Our fund rating methodology is detailed [here](#).

All of our reports on the best & worst ETFs and mutual funds in every sector are available [here](#).

Figure 1: Ratings for All Sectors

Sector	Overall Rating
Consumer Non-cyclicals	Very Attractive
Basic Materials	Attractive
Technology	Attractive
Telecom Services	Neutral
Healthcare	Neutral
Consumer Cyclicals	Neutral
Utilities	Neutral
Industrials	Neutral
Financials	Unattractive
Energy	Unattractive
Real Estate	Very Unattractive

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

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 See how our models and financial ratios are superior to Bloomberg and Capital IQ's (SPGI) analytics in the [detailed appendix of this paper](#).

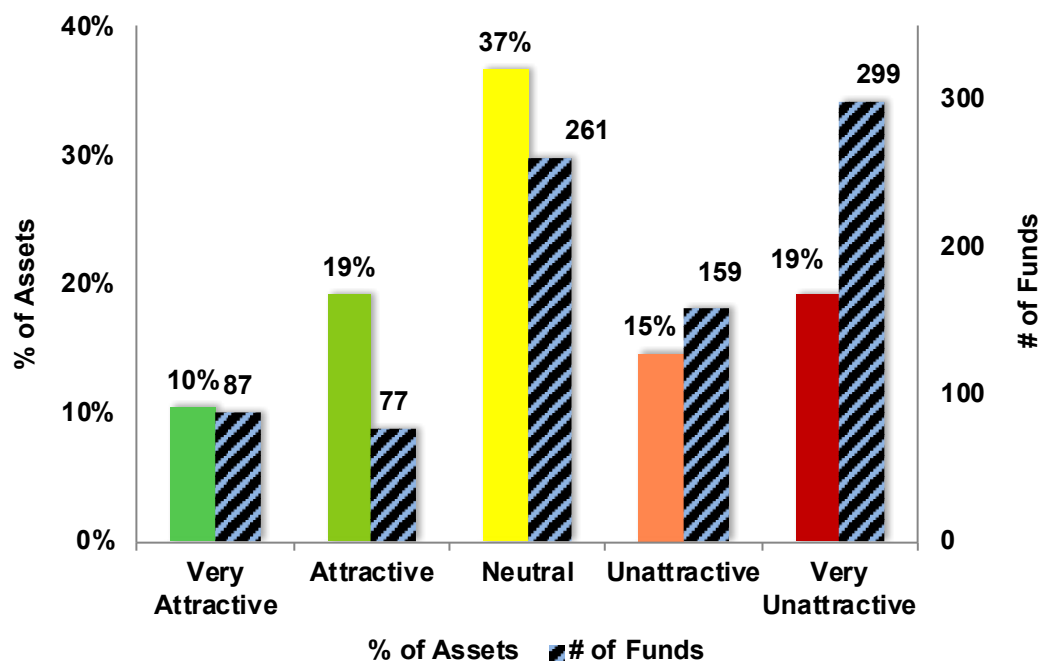
To earn an Attractive-or-better Predictive Rating, an ETF or mutual fund must have high-quality holdings and low costs. Only the top 30% of all ETFs and mutual funds earn our Attractive-or-better ratings.

Invesco Dynamic Food & Beverage ETF (PBJ) is the top-rated Consumer Non-cyclicals fund. It gets our Very Attractive rating by allocating over 64% of its value to Attractive-or-better-rated stocks.

Pioneer Real Estate Shares (PWREX) is the worst rated Real Estate fund. It gets our Very Unattractive rating by allocating over 77% of its value to Unattractive-or-worse-rated stocks. Making matters worse, it charges investors annual costs of 4.7%.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of our Predictive Ratings for all sector ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 2: Distribution of ETFs & Mutual Funds (Assets and Count) by Predictive Rating



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 3 offers additional details on the quality of the sector funds. The average total annual cost of Very Unattractive funds is more than two times that of Very Attractive funds.

Figure 3: Predictive Rating Distribution Stats

	Very Attractive	Attractive	Neutral	Unattractive	Very Unattractive
# of ETFs & Funds	87	77	261	159	299
% of ETFs & Funds	10%	9%	30%	18%	34%
% of TNA	10%	19%	37%	15%	19%
Avg TAC	0.29%	0.35%	0.50%	0.69%	0.55%

* Avg TAC = Weighted Average Total Annual Costs

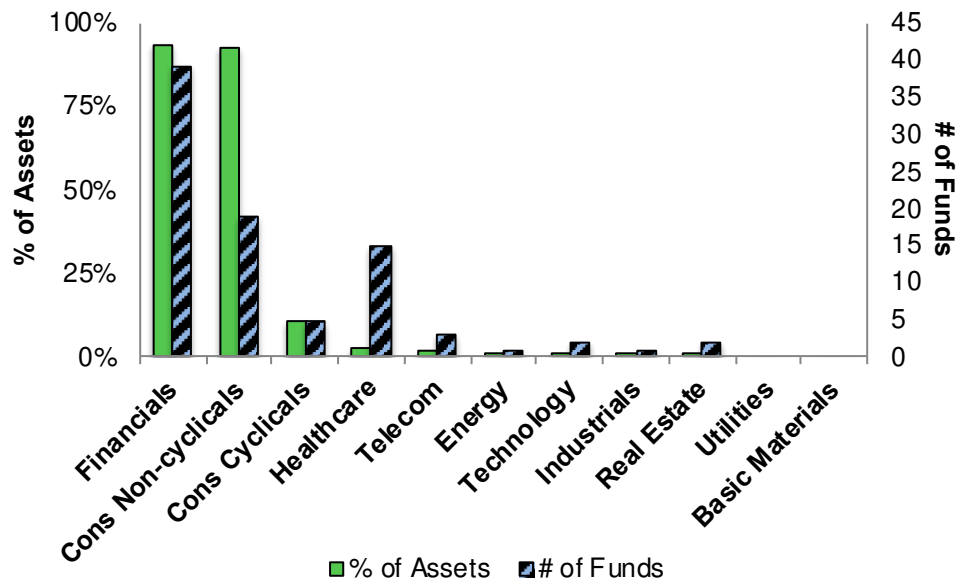
Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This table shows that only the best of the best funds get our Very Attractive Rating: they must hold good stocks AND have low costs. Investors deserve to have the best of both and we are here to give it to them.

Ratings By Sector

Figure 4 presents a mapping of Very Attractive funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Very Attractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets in each sector allocated Very Attractive-rated funds.

Figure 4: Very Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 5 presents the data charted in Figure 4.

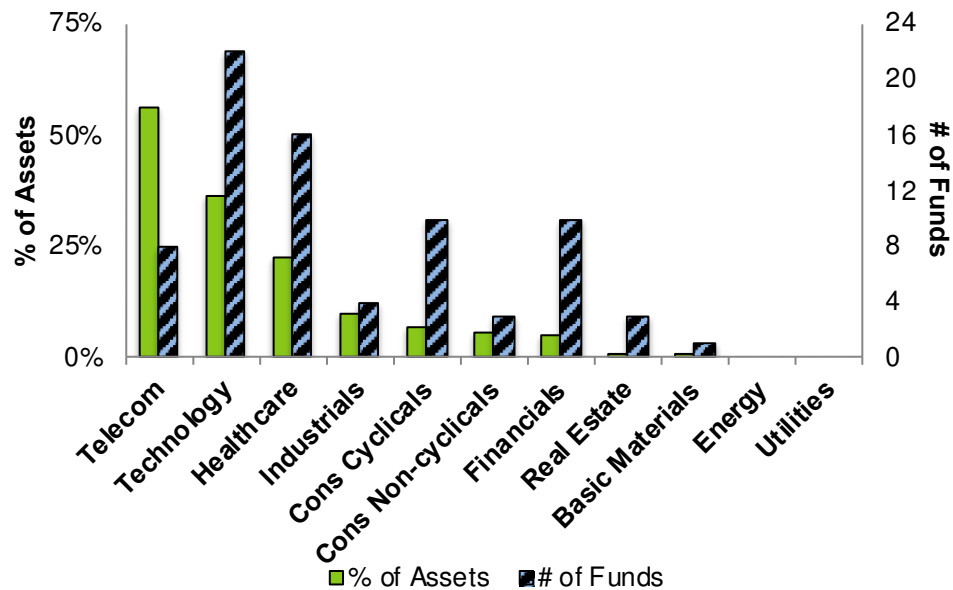
Figure 5: Very Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Very Attractive Funds	% of Very Attractive Funds in Sector
Financials	94%	39	51%
Cons Non-cyclicals	93%	19	79%
Cons Cyclicals	11%	5	13%
Healthcare	3%	15	14%
Telecom	2%	3	10%
Energy	1%	1	1%
Technology	1%	2	1%
Industrials	1%	1	3%
Real Estate	0%	2	1%
Utilities	0%	0	0%
Basic Materials	0%	0	0%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 6 presents a mapping of Attractive funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Attractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets in each sector allocated to Attractive-rated funds.

Figure 6: Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 7 presents the data charted in Figure 6.

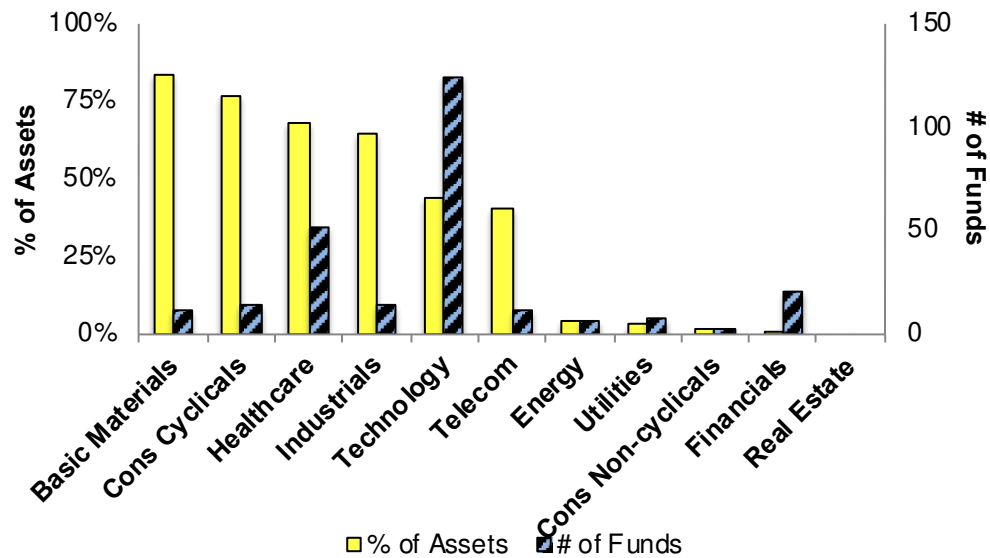
Figure 7: Attractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Attractive Funds	% of Attractive Funds in Sector
Telecom	56%	8	27%
Technology	37%	22	10%
Healthcare	23%	16	15%
Industrials	10%	4	12%
Cons Cyclical	7%	10	26%
Cons Non-cyclical	6%	3	13%
Financials	5%	10	13%
Real Estate	1%	3	1%
Basic Materials	1%	1	5%
Energy	0%	0	0%
Utilities	0%	0	0%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 8 presents a mapping of Neutral funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Neutral funds in each sector and the percentage of assets in each sector allocated to Neutral-rated funds.

Figure 8: Neutral ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 9 presents the data charted in Figure 8.

Figure 9: Neutral ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

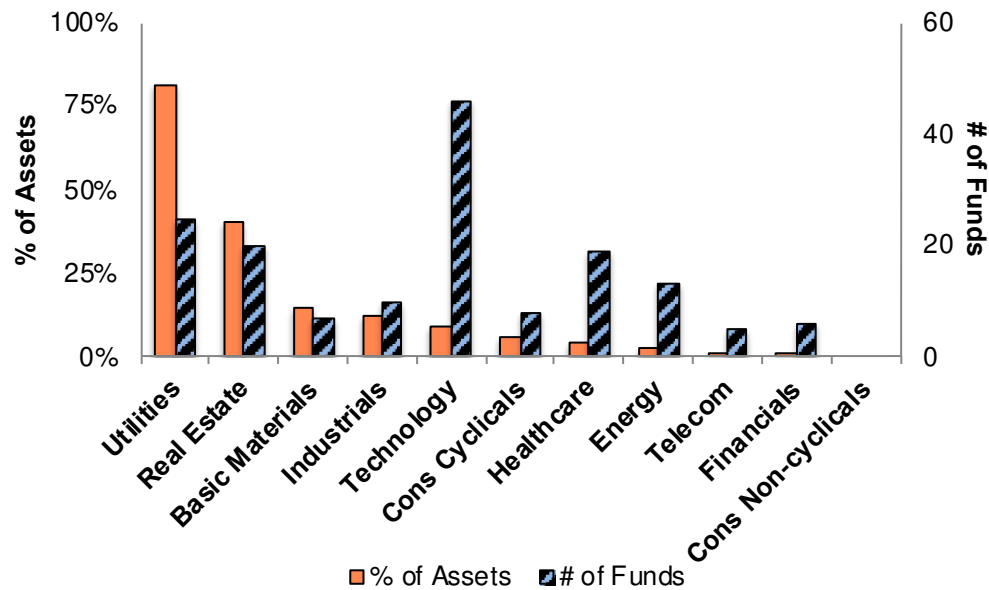
Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Neutral Funds	% of Neutral Funds in Sector
Basic Materials	84%	11	58%
Cons Cyclical	76%	14	37%
Healthcare	68%	52	49%
Industrials	65%	14	41%
Technology	44%	124	57%
Telecom	40%	11	37%
Energy	4%	6	7%
Utilities	3%	7	17%
Cons Non-cyclicals	1%	2	8%
Financials	1%	20	26%
Real Estate	0%	0	0%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 10 presents a mapping of Unattractive funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Unattractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets in each sector allocated to Unattractive-rated funds.

The landscape of sector ETFs and mutual funds is littered with Unattractive funds. Investors in Utilities have put over 81% of their assets in Unattractive-rated funds.

Figure 10: Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 11 presents the data charted in Figure 10.

Figure 11: Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

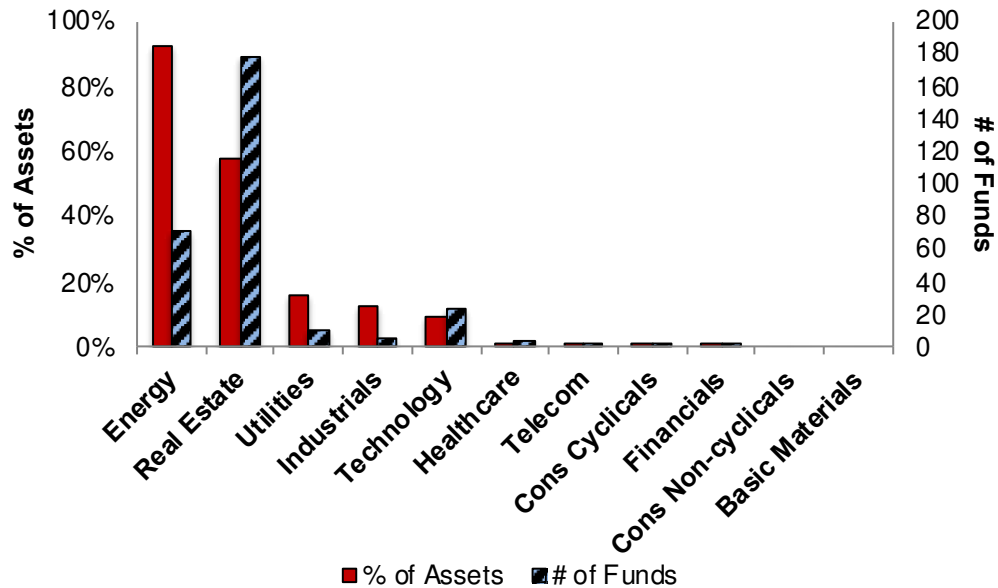
Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Unattractive Funds	% of Unattractive Funds in Sector
Utilities	81%	25	60%
Real Estate	41%	20	10%
Basic Materials	15%	7	37%
Industrials	12%	10	29%
Technology	9%	46	21%
Cons Cyclical	6%	8	21%
Healthcare	5%	19	18%
Energy	2%	13	14%
Telecom	1%	5	17%
Financials	0%	6	8%
Cons Non-cyclical	0%	0	0%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings



Figure 12 presents a mapping of Very Unattractive funds by sector. The chart shows the number of Very Unattractive funds in each sector and the percentage of assets in each sector allocated to Very Unattractive-rated funds.

Figure 12: Very Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector



Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 13 presents the data charted in Figure 12.

Figure 13: Very Unattractive ETFs & Mutual Funds by Sector

Sector	% of Sector Assets	# of Very Unattractive Funds	% of Very Unattractive Funds in Sector
Energy	93%	72	78%
Real Estate	58%	179	88%
Utilities	16%	10	24%
Industrials	13%	5	15%
Technology	9%	23	11%
Healthcare	1%	4	4%
Telecom	0%	3	10%
Cons Cyclical	0%	1	3%
Financials	0%	2	3%
Cons Non-cyclical	0%	0	0%
Basic Materials	0%	0	0%

Source: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This article originally published on [July 12, 2021](#).



Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, Alex Sword, 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.

Appendix: Predictive Fund Rating System

New Constructs' [Predictive fund Ratings](#) enable smarter investing by assessing the key drivers of future fund performance. We start by analyzing every funds' holdings based on New Constructs' stock ratings, which are regularly featured as among the [best by Barron's](#). Next, we measure and rank the all-in fund expenses. Finally, we rank the fund compared to all other funds to identify the best and worst funds in the market.

Intuitively, there are two drivers for future fund performance.

1. Stock-picking ([Portfolio Management Rating](#)) and
2. Fund expenses ([Total Annual Costs Rating](#))

Our Predictive Fund Rating is based on these drivers and the fund's ranking:

1. Top 10% = Very Attractive Rating
2. Next 20% = Attractive Rating
3. Next 40% = Neutral Rating
4. Next 20% = Unattractive Rating
5. Bottom 10% = Very Unattractive Rating

The figure below details the criteria that drive our Predictive Rating system for funds. The two drivers of our predictive ratings system are Portfolio Management and Total Annual Costs. The Portfolio Management ratings (detail [here](#)) is the same as our Stock Rating (detail [here](#)) except that we incorporate Asset Allocation (details [here](#)). The Total Annual Costs Ratings (details [here](#)) captures the all-in costs of being in a fund over a 3-year holding period, the average period for all mutual funds.

Predictive Rating	Portfolio Management Rating						Total Annual Costs
	Business Strength		Valuation			Cash Allocation	
	Quality of Earnings	Return on Invested Capital	FCF Yield	Price to Economic Book Value	Market-Implied Duration of Growth		
Very Unattractive	Misleading Trend	Bottom Quintile	< -5%	>3.5 or -1<0	> 50	> 20%	> 4 %
Unattractive	False Positive	4th Quintile	-5% < -1%	2.4<3.5 or <-1	20 < 50	8% < 20%	2% < 4%
Neutral	Neutral EE	3rd Quintile	-1% < 3%	1.6 < 2.4	10 < 20	2.5% < 8%	1% < 2%
Attractive	Positive EE	2nd Quintile	3% < 10%	1.1 < 1.6	3 < 10	1% < 2.5%	0.5% < 1%
Very Attractive	Rising EE	Top Quintile	> 10%	0 < 1.1	0 < 3	<1%	< 0.5%

It's Official: We Offer the Best Fundamental Data in the World

Many firms claim their research is superior, but none of them can prove it with independent studies from highly-respected institutions as we can. Three different papers from both the public and private sectors show:

1. Legacy fundamental datasets suffer from significant inaccuracies, omissions and biases.
2. Only our “novel database” enables investors to overcome these flaws and apply [reliable](#) fundamental data in their research.
3. Our proprietary measures of [Core Earnings](#) and [Earnings Distortion](#) materially improve stock picking and forecasting of profits.

Best Fundamental Data in the World

Forthcoming in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), a top peer-reviewed journal, [Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence](#) proves our Robo-Analyst technology overcomes material shortcomings in legacy firms’ data collection processes to provide superior [fundamental data](#), [earnings](#) models, and [research](#). More [details](#).

Key quotes from the paper:

- “[New Constructs’] *Total Adjustments* differs significantly from the items identified and excluded from Compustat’s adjusted earnings measures. For example... 50% to 70% of the variation in *Total Adjustments* is not explained by *S&P Global’s (SPGI) Adjustments* individually.” – pp. 14, 1st para.
- “A final source of differences [between New Constructs’ and S&P Global’s data] is due to data collection oversights...we identified cases where Compustat did not collect information relating to firms’ income that is useful in assessing core earnings.” – pp. 16, 2nd para.

Superior Models

A top accounting firm features the superiority of our ROIC, NOPAT and Invested Capital research to Capital IQ & Bloomberg’s in [Getting ROIC Right](#). See the [Appendix](#) for direct comparison details.

Key quotes from the paper:

- “...an accurate calculation of ROIC requires more diligence than often occurs in some of the common, off-the-shelf ROIC calculations. Only by scouring the footnotes and the MD&A [as New Constructs does] can investors get an accurate calculation of ROIC.” – pp. 8, 5th para.
- “The majority of the difference...comes from New Constructs’ machine learning approach, which leverages technology to calculate ROIC by applying accounting adjustments that may be buried deeply in the footnotes across thousands of companies.” – pp. 4, 2nd para.

Superior Stock Ratings

Robo-Analysts’ stock ratings outperform those from human analysts as shown in this [paper](#) from Indiana’s Kelley School of Business. Bloomberg features the paper [here](#).

Key quotes from the paper:

- “the portfolios formed following the buy recommendations of Robo-Analysts earn abnormal returns that are statistically and economically significant.” – pp. 6, 3rd para.
- “Our results ultimately suggest that Robo-Analysts are a valuable, alternative information intermediary to traditional sell-side analysts.” – pp. 20, 3rd para.

Our mission is to provide the best fundamental analysis of public and private businesses in the world and make it affordable for all investors, not just Wall Street insiders.

We believe every investor deserves to know the whole truth about the profitability and valuation of any company they consider for investment. More details on our cutting-edge technology and how we use it are [here](#).

DISCLOSURES

New Constructs®, LLC (together with any subsidiaries and/or affiliates, "New Constructs") is an independent organization with no management ties to the companies it covers. None of the members of New Constructs' management team or the management team of any New Constructs' affiliate holds a seat on the Board of Directors of any of the companies New Constructs covers. New Constructs does not perform any investment or merchant banking functions and does not operate a trading desk.

New Constructs' Stock Ownership Policy prevents any of its employees or managers from engaging in Insider Trading and restricts any trading whereby an employee may exploit inside information regarding our stock research. In addition, employees and managers of the company are bound by a code of ethics that restricts them from purchasing or selling a security that they know or should have known was under consideration for inclusion in a New Constructs report nor may they purchase or sell a security for the first two days after New Constructs issues a report on that security.

DISCLAIMERS

The information and opinions presented in this report are provided to you for information purposes only and are not to be used or considered as an offer or solicitation of an offer to buy or sell securities or other financial instruments. New Constructs has not taken any steps to ensure that the securities referred to in this report are suitable for any particular investor and nothing in this report constitutes investment, legal, accounting or tax advice. This report includes general information that does not take into account your individual circumstance, financial situation or needs, nor does it represent a personal recommendation to you. The investments or services contained or referred to in this report may not be suitable for you and it is recommended that you consult an independent investment advisor if you are in doubt about any such investments or investment services.

Information and opinions presented in this report have been obtained or derived from sources believed by New Constructs to be reliable, but New Constructs makes no representation as to their accuracy, authority, usefulness, reliability, timeliness or completeness. New Constructs accepts no liability for loss arising from the use of the information presented in this report, and New Constructs makes no warranty as to results that may be obtained from the information presented in this report. Past performance should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of future performance, and no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made regarding future performance. Information and opinions contained in this report reflect a judgment at its original date of publication by New Constructs and are subject to change without notice. New Constructs may have issued, and may in the future issue, other reports that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented in this report. Those reports reflect the different assumptions, views and analytical methods of the analysts who prepared them and New Constructs is under no obligation to insure that such other reports are brought to the attention of any recipient of this report.

New Constructs' reports are intended for distribution to its professional and institutional investor customers. Recipients who are not professionals or institutional investor customers of New Constructs should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor prior to making any investment decision or for any necessary explanation of its contents.

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would be subject New Constructs to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

This report may provide the addresses of websites. Except to the extent to which the report refers to New Constructs own website material, New Constructs has not reviewed the linked site and takes no responsibility for the content therein. Such address or hyperlink (including addresses or hyperlinks to New Constructs own website material) is provided solely for your convenience and the information and content of the linked site do not in any way form part of this report. Accessing such websites or following such hyperlink through this report shall be at your own risk.

All material in this report is the property of, and under copyright, of New Constructs. None of the contents, nor any copy of it, may be altered in any way, copied, or distributed or transmitted to any other party without the prior express written consent of New Constructs. All trademarks, service marks and logos used in this report are trademarks or service marks or registered trademarks or service marks of New Constructs.

Copyright New Constructs, LLC 2003 through the present date. All rights reserved.