



## How to Find the Best Sector ETFs

With an ever-growing list of similar-sounding ETFs to choose from, finding the best is an increasingly difficult task. How can investors change the game to shift the odds in their favor?

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

### Don't Trust ETF Labels

There are at least 93 different Technology ETFs and at least 327 ETFs across eleven sectors. Do investors need 29+ choices on average per sector? How different can the ETFs be?

Those 93 Technology ETFs are very different from each other. With anywhere from 22 to 437 holdings, many of these Technology ETFs have drastically different portfolios with differing risk profiles and performance outlooks.

The same is true for the ETFs in any other sector, as each offers a very different mix of good and bad stocks. Energy ranks first for stock selection. Real Estate ranks last. Details on the [Best & Worst ETFs in each sector are here](#).

### Avoiding Analysis Paralysis

We think the large number of sector ETFs hurts investors more than it helps. Manually conducting a deep analysis for every ETF is simply not a realistic option, exposing investors to insufficient analysis and missing profitable opportunities. Analyzing ETFs, with the proper diligence<sup>1</sup>, is far more difficult than analyzing stocks because it means analyzing all the stocks within each ETF. As stated above, there can be as many as 437 stocks or more for one ETF.

Anyone focused on [fulfilling the fiduciary duty of care](#) recognizes that analyzing the holdings<sup>2</sup> of an ETF is critical to finding the best ETF. More [reliable](#) & [proprietary](#) fundamental data, proven in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), drives our research and analysis of ETF holdings and provides investors with a [new source of alpha](#). Figure 1 shows our top-rated ETF for each sector.

**Figure 1: The Best ETF in Each Sector**

Ticker	Name	Sector	Assets (\$mm)
FXZ	First Trust Materials AlphaDEX Fund	Basic Materials	\$338
XHB	State Street S&P Homebuilders ETF	Consumer Cyclical	\$2,429
IYK	iShares U.S. Consumer Staples ETF	Consumer Non-cyclical	\$1,362
PXE	Invesco Energy Exploration & Production ETF	Energy	\$110
IAK	iShares U.S. Insurance ETF	Financials	\$762
IHF	iShares U.S. Healthcare Providers ETF	Healthcare	\$779
IYJ	iShares U.S. Industrials ETF	Industrials	\$1,558
MORT	VanEck Mortgage REIT Income ETF	Real Estate	\$315
SOCL	Global X Social Media ETF	Technology	\$129
IXP	iShares Global Comm Services ETF	Telecom Services	\$381
FUTY	Fidelity MSCI Utilities Index ETF	Utilities	\$1,467

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

<sup>1</sup> Three independent studies from respected institutions prove the superiority of our data, models, and ratings. Learn more [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Harvard Business School features the powerful impact of our research automation technology in the case [New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts](#).



Amongst the ETFs in Figure 1, Invesco Energy Exploration & Production ETF (PXE) ranks first overall, iShares U.S. Consumer Staples ETF (IYK) ranks second, and iShares Global Comm Services ETF (IXP) ranks third. Fidelity MSCI Utilities Index ETF (FUTY) ranks last.

### **How to Avoid “The Danger Within”**

Why do you need to know the holdings of ETFs before you buy?

You need to be sure you do not buy an ETF that might blow up. Buying an ETF without analyzing its holdings is like buying a stock without analyzing its business and finances. No matter how cheap, if it holds bad stocks, the ETF's performance will be bad. Don't just take my word for it, see [what Barron's says](#) on this matter.

#### PERFORMANCE OF FUND'S HOLDINGS – FEES = 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.

### **If Only Investors Could Find Funds Rated by Their Holdings**

Our [ETF ratings](#) leverage our [stock coverage](#). We rate ETFs based on the aggregated ratings of the stocks each ETF holds.

Invesco Energy Exploration & Production ETF (PXE) is not only the top-rated Energy ETF but is also the overall top-ranked sector ETF out of the 327 sector ETFs that we cover.

The worst ETF in Figure 1 is Fidelity MSCI Utilities Index ETF (FUTY), which gets a Very Unattractive rating. One would think ETF providers could do better for this sector.

*This article was originally published on [October 24, 2024](#).*

*Disclosure: Hakan Salt owns PXE. David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, and Hakan Salt receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, sector or theme.*

*Questions on this report or others? Join our [online community](#) and connect with us directly.*



## *It's Official: We Deliver 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. The stock market is missing footnotes – and only we have that critical data.
2. Legacy fundamental datasets suffer from significant inaccuracies, omissions, and biases.
3. Our proprietary drives novel alpha. Our measures of [Core Earnings](#) and [Earnings Distortion](#) materially improve stock picking and forecasting of profits.

### **Best Fundamental Data in the World**

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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> para.

### **Superior Models**

Ernst & Young 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> para.

### **Superior Stock Ratings**

Robo-Analysts’ stock ratings outperform those from human analysts as shown in this [paper](#) from Harvard Business School. 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> para.
- “Our results ultimately suggest that Robo-Analysts are a valuable, alternative information intermediary to traditional sell-side analysts.” – pp. 20, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.