SUPERMODELS

Fashion designers show off what they do by hiring models. Money management firms show off what they do by creating model stock portfolios. The models are useful because they show the kind of returns—and risks— that the firm's managers offer investors. These are the best performing models of 2009. Remember that a strong, long-term track record is more important than a single good year.

1. McAdams Wright

Total 2009 return:

56.4%

Beat S&P 500 by:

30%

Rank overall, past 3 years: 1

2. New Constructs

Total 2009 return:

48.3%

Beat S&P by:

21.9%

Rank overall, past 3 years: NA*

*Note: Recent addition to survey

3. Morgan Keegan

Total 2009 return:

45.2%

Beat S&P by:

18.8%

Rank overall, past 3 years: 7

4. Goldman Sachs

Total 2009 return:

43.2%

Beat S&P by:

16.8%

Rank overall, past 3 years: 2

5. Citigroup Global Markets

Total 2009 return:

40.5%

Beat S&P by:

14.1%

Rank overall, past 3 years: 3

SOURCE: Zacks Investment Research