ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Mid Cap Growth Style

The Mid Cap Growth style ranks eighth out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our 2Q18 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds report. Last quarter, the Mid Cap Growth style ranked eleventh. It gets our Neutral rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 11 ETFs and 341 mutual funds in the Mid Cap Growth style as of April 18, 2018. See a recap of our 1Q18 Style Ratings here.

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the style. Not all Mid Cap Growth style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 12 to 1647). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

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] 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

	Allocation of ETF Holdings			
Ticker	**Attractive-or-better Stocks**	**Neutral Stocks**	**Unattractive-or-worse Stocks**	**Predictive Rating**
Best ETFs				
BFOR	27%	44%	15%	Very Attractive
MDYG	19%	41%	35%	Attractive
IVOG	19%	41%	35%	Attractive
IJK	19%	41%	35%	Attractive
IWP	21%	39%	37%	Attractive
Worst ETFs				
VOT	12%	39%	47%	Neutral
PXMG	11%	40%	43%	Neutral
NUMG	18%	48%	41%	Neutral
DWAQ	15%	40%	39%	Neutral
JKH	11%	30%	55%	Unattractive

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

Sources: 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 Ernst & Young's recent white paper "Getting ROIC Right" proves the superiority of our holdings research and analytics.

Figure 2: Mutual Funds with the Best & Worst Ratings – Top 5

Ticker	Allocation of Mutual Fund Holdings: Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating
Best Mutual Funds				
IMIDX	20%	65%	10%	Very Attractive
MCMFX	30%	51%	17%	Very Attractive
VRMCX	11%	66%	15%	Very Attractive
VIMCX	11%	66%	15%	Very Attractive
MCMYX	30%	51%	17%	Very Attractive
Worst Mutual Funds				
DBMCX	10%	23%	55%	Very Unattractive
TAAGX	15%	32%	44%	Very Unattractive
KAUBX	3%	25%	46%	Very Unattractive
KAUAX	3%	25%	46%	Very Unattractive
DBMAX	10%	23%	55%	Very Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

ALPS Barron's 400 ETF (BFOR) is the top-rated Mid Cap Growth ETF and Congress Mid Cap Growth Fund (IMIDX) is the top-rated Mid Cap Growth mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

iShares Morningstar Mid Cap Growth ETF (JKH) is the worst rated Mid Cap Growth ETF and Dreyfus Investment Funds The Boston (DBMAX) is the worst rated Mid Cap Growth mutual fund. JKH earns an Unattractive rating and DMBAX earns a Very Unattractive rating.

The Danger Within

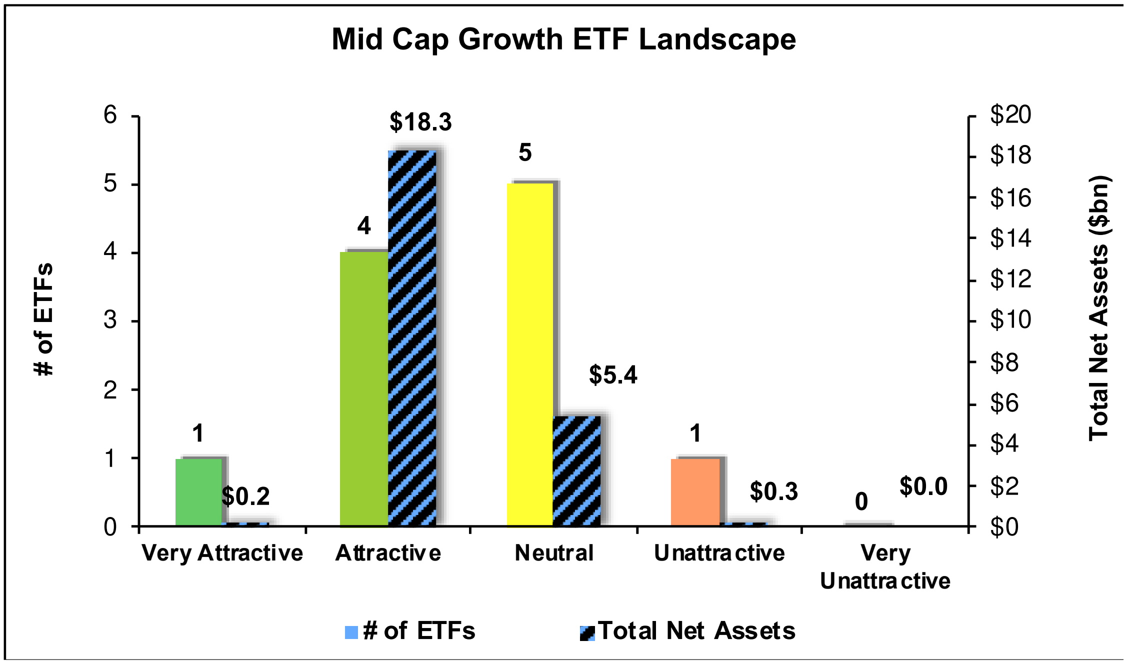
Buying a fund without analyzing its holdings is like buying a stock without analyzing its business and finances. Put another way, research on fund holdings is necessary due diligence because a fund's performance is only as good as its holdings' performance. Don't just take our word for it, see what Barron's 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.

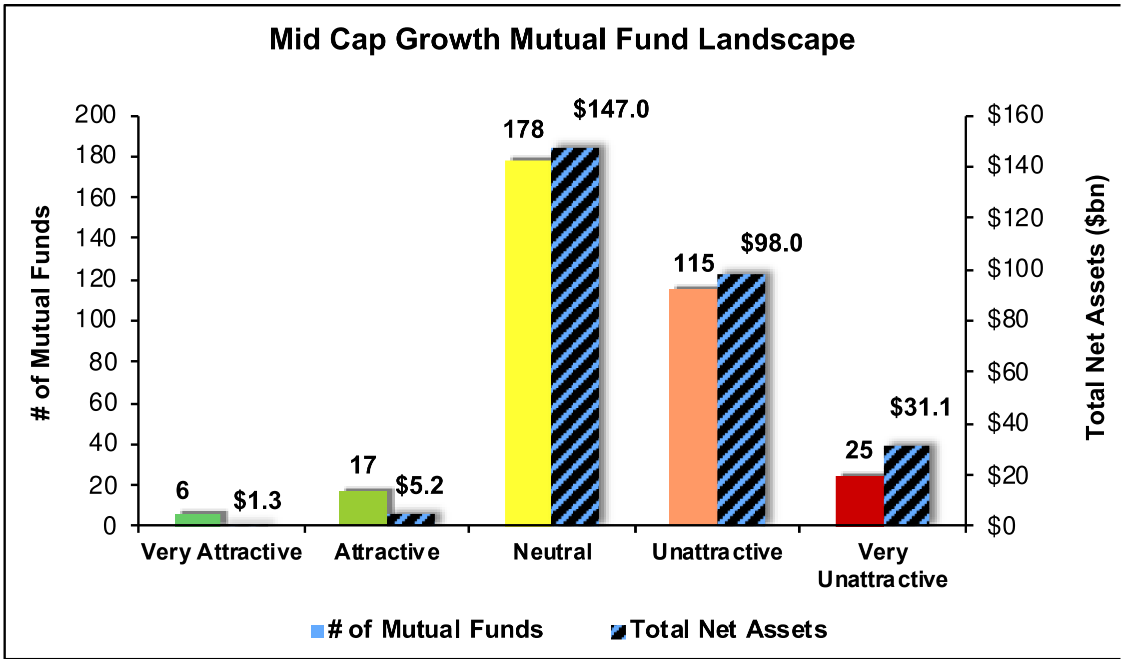
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Mid Cap Growth ETFs and mutual funds.

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

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Disclosure: David Trainer and Kyle Guske II receive no compensation to write about any specific stock, style, or theme.

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Ratings & screeners on 3000 stocks, 450 ETFs and 7000 mutual funds help you make prudent investment decisions.

New Constructs leverages the latest in machine learning to analyze structured and unstructured financial data with unrivaled speed and accuracy. The firm's forensic accounting experts work alongside engineers to develop proprietary NLP libraries and financial models. Our investment ratings are based on the best fundamental data in the business for stocks, ETFs and mutual funds. Clients include many of the top hedge funds, mutual funds and wealth management firms. David Trainer, the firm's CEO, is regularly featured in the media as a thought leader on the fiduciary duty of care, earnings quality, valuation and investment strategy.

To fulfill the Duty of Care, research should be:

1. **Comprehensive** - All relevant publicly-available (e.g. 10-Ks and 10-Qs) information has been diligently reviewed, including footnotes and the management discussion & analysis (MD&A).
2. **Un-conflicted** - Clients deserve unbiased research.
3. **Transparent** - Advisors should be able to show how the analysis was performed and the data behind it.
4. **Relevant** - Empirical evidence must provide tangible, quantifiable correlation to stock, ETF or mutual fund performance.

Value Investing 2.0: Diligence Matters: Technology is Key to Value Investing With Scale

Accounting data is only the beginning of fundamental research. It must be translated into economic earnings to truly understand profitability and valuation. This translation requires deep analysis of footnotes and the MD&A, a process that our robo-analyst technology empowers us to perform for thousands of stocks, ETFs and mutual funds.

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