



ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Basic Materials Sector

The Basic Materials sector ranks ninth out of the 11 sectors as detailed in our [3Q18 Sector Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Basic Materials sector ranked eighth. It gets our Unattractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of the 158 stocks in the Basic Materials sector as of July 17, 2018. See a recap of our [2Q18 Sector Ratings here](#).

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the sector. Not all Basic Materials sector ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 24 to 123). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

Investors should not buy any Basic Materials ETFs or mutual funds because none get an Attractive-or-better rating. If you must have exposure to this sector, you should buy a basket of Attractive-or-better rated stocks and avoid paying undeserved fund fees. Active management has a [long history](#) of not paying off.

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				
FXZ	23%	45%	32%	Neutral
SLX	35%	29%	28%	Neutral
PYZ	18%	34%	42%	Neutral
XME	6%	31%	48%	Neutral
RTM	16%	39%	41%	Neutral
Worst ETFs				
FMAT	13%	35%	44%	Unattractive
VAW	13%	35%	44%	Unattractive
XLB	11%	34%	46%	Unattractive
IYM	13%	37%	40%	Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Three ETFs (JHMA, PSCM, MATF) 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 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

Allocation of MF Holdings				
Ticker	Attractive-or-better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating
Best MFs				
VMIAX	13%	35%	44%	Neutral
Worst MFs				
FSDPX	18%	24%	46%	Unattractive
FMFCX	18%	24%	46%	Unattractive
FMFTX	18%	24%	46%	Unattractive
FSCHX	22%	18%	43%	Unattractive
FMFAX	18%	24%	46%	Very Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

FXZ is the top-rated Basic Materials ETF and VMIAX is the top-rated Basic Materials mutual fund. Both earn a Neutral rating.

IYM is the worst rated Basic Materials ETF and FMFAX is the worst rated Basic Materials mutual fund. IYM earns an Unattractive rating and FMFAX earns a Very Unattractive rating.

158 stocks of the 2850+ we cover are classified as Basic Materials stocks.

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.

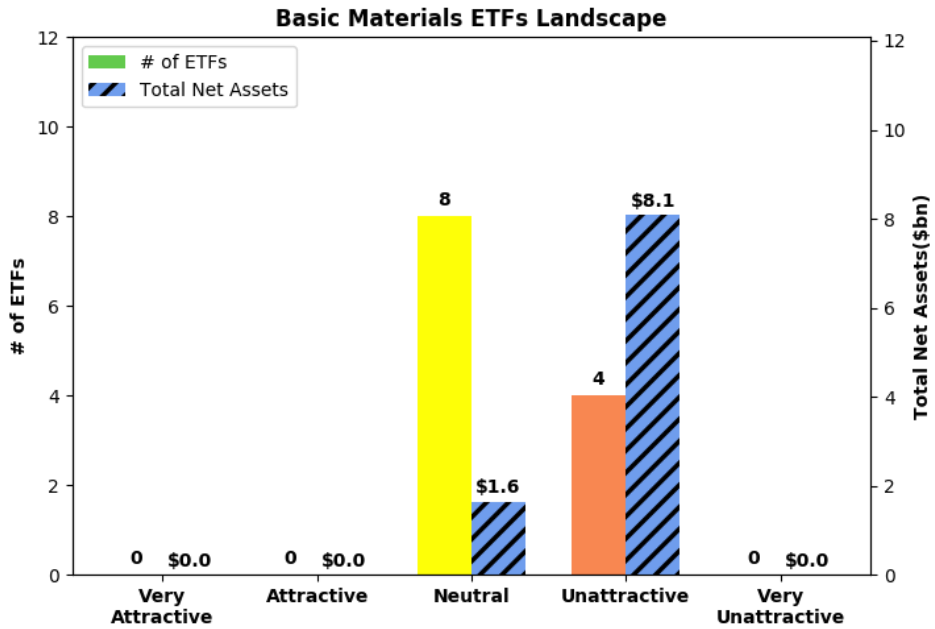
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



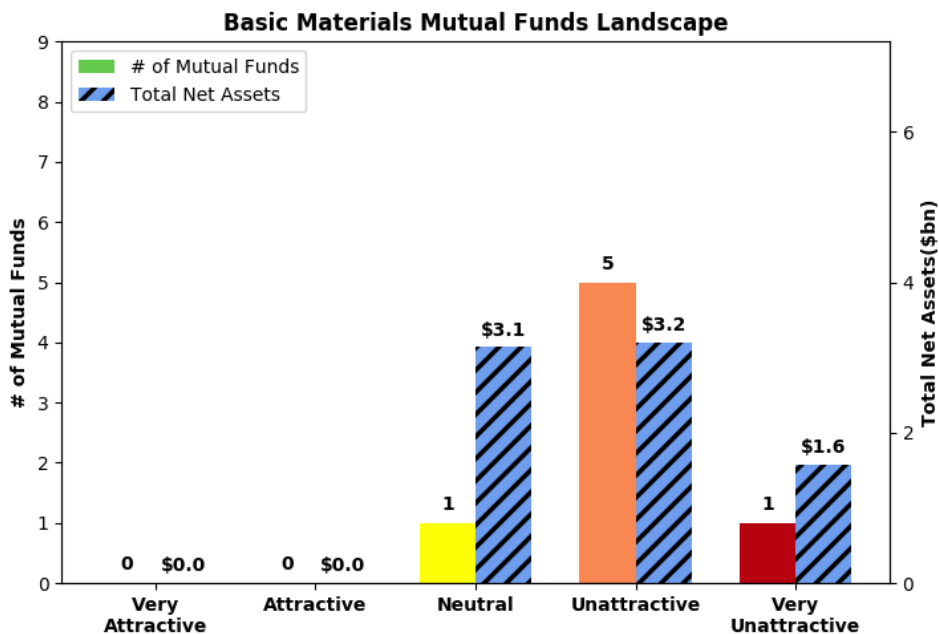
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Basic Materials ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 3: Separating the Best ETFs From the Worst ETFs



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 4: Separating the Best Mutual Funds from the Worst Mutual 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, sector or theme.

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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.

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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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