### **BEST & WORST FUNDS**

7/17/19

# **ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Mid Cap Value Style**

The Mid Cap Value style ranks seventh out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our <u>3Q19 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds</u> report. <u>Last quarter</u>, the Mid Cap Value style ranked eighth. It gets our Neutral rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of nine ETFs and 178 mutual funds in the Mid Cap Value style as of July 15, 2019. See a recap of our <u>2Q19 Style Ratings here.</u>

Figure 1 ranks from best to worst the eight Mid Cap Value ETFs that meet our liquidity standards and Figure 2 shows the five best and worst-rated Mid Cap Value mutual funds. Not all Mid Cap Value style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 26 to 2076). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

#### Get the best fundamental research

Investors seeking exposure to the Mid Cap Value style should buy one of the Attractive-or-better rated ETFs or mutual funds from Figures 1 and 2.

Our Robo-Analyst technology<sup>1</sup> empowers our unique ETF and mutual fund rating methodology, which leverages our rigorous analysis of each fund's holdings.<sup>2</sup> 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

	Allocat					
Ticker	Attractive- or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Dangerous- or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best ETFs (only 3)						
ONEY	29%	41%	29%	Attractive		
DON	20%	39%	37%	Attractive		
VUSE	28%	39%	29%	Neutral		
Worst ETFs						
PVAL	18%	42%	38%	Neutral		
JKI	24%	38%	33%	Neutral		
VOE	19%	33%	44%	Neutral		
IWS	17%	32%	48%	Neutral		
NUMV	19%	29%	47%	Neutral		

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

First Trust Multi Cap Value AlphaDEX Fund (FAB) is excluded from Figure 1 because its total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Harvard Business School features the powerful impact of our research automation technology in the case <u>New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This paper compares our analytics on a mega cap company to other major providers. The Appendix details exactly how we stack up.

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

	Allocation	of Mutual F				
Ticker	Attractive- or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive- or-worse Stocks	Predictive Rating		
Best Mutual Funds						
FIDFX	41%	49%	7%	Very Attractive		
FMPOX	41%	49%	7%	Very Attractive		
FSMVX	41%	49%	7%	Very Attractive		
FMPEX	41%	49%	7%	Very Attractive		
FMPTX	41%	49%	7%	Very Attractive		
Worst Mutual Funds						
IIVAX	16%	36%	36%	Very Unattractive		
GWSIX	0%	26%	52%	Very Unattractive		
GWSVX	0%	26%	52%	Very Unattractive		
GWSCX	0%	26%	52%	Very Unattractive		
GWSAX	0%	26%	52%	Very Unattractive		

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Fidelity Mid Cap Value K6 Fund (FCMVX) is excluded from Figure 2 because its total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

State Street SPDR Russell 1000 Yield Focus ETF (ONEY) is the top-rated Mid Cap Value ETF and Fidelity Advisor Mid Cap Value Fund (FIDFX) is the top-rated Mid Cap Value mutual fund. ONEY earns an Attractive rating and FIDFX earns a Very Attractive rating.

NuShares Nuveen ESG Mid Cap Value ETF (NUMV) is the worst rated Mid Cap Value ETF and Gabelli Focus Five Fund (GWSAX) is the worst rated Mid Cap Value mutual fund. NUMV earns a Neutral rating and GWSAW 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

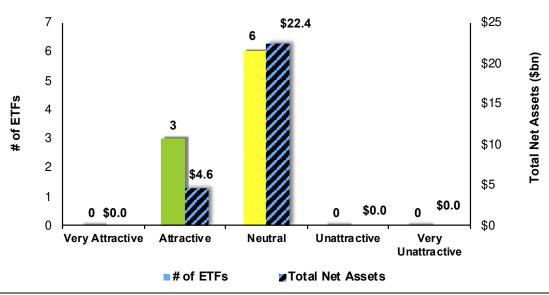
Analyzing each holding within funds is no small task. Our Robo-Analyst technology enables us to perform this diligence with scale and provide the research needed to fulfill the fiduciary duty of care. More of the biggest names in the financial industry (see At BlackRock, Machines Are Rising Over Managers 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 Value ETFs and mutual funds.

Figure 3: Separating the Best ETFs from the Worst Funds

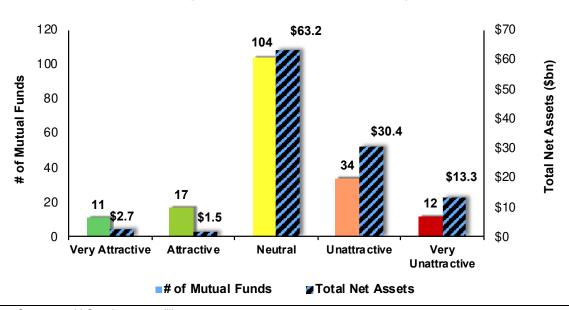
### Mid Cap Value ETF Landscape



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Figure 4: Separating the Best Mutual Funds from the Worst Funds

### Mid Cap Value Mutual Fund Landscape



Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

This article originally published on July 17, 2019.

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 <u>tangible</u>, <u>quantifiable correlation</u> 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 <u>robo-analyst technology</u> empowers us to perform for thousands of stocks, ETFs and mutual funds.



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