



## ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Utilities Sector

The Utilities sector ranks tenth out of the 11 sectors as detailed in our [2Q20 Sector Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Utilities sector ranked tenth. It gets our Unattractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of the 70 stocks in the Utilities sector as of April 11, 2020. See a recap of our [1Q20 Sector Ratings here](#).

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the sector. Not all Utilities sector ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 21 to 215). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

Get the best fundamental research

Investors should not buy any Utilities 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](#)<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> Only our research utilizes the superior data and earnings adjustments featured by the HBS & MIT Sloan paper, "[Core Earnings: New Data and Evidence](#)." 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
<b>Best ETFs</b>				
FXU	8%	60%	19%	Neutral
RYU	3%	60%	37%	Neutral
FUTY	1%	48%	49%	Neutral
VPU	2%	50%	48%	Neutral
XLU	1%	47%	52%	Neutral
<b>Worst ETFs</b>				
IDU	2%	50%	48%	Neutral
PSCU	0%	19%	77%	Very Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Three ETFs (JHMU, UTES, PUI) are excluded from Figure 1 because their total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

<sup>1</sup> Harvard Business School features the powerful impact of our research automation technology in the case [New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts](#).

<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 MF Holdings				
Ticker	Attractive-or-better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating
<b>Best MFs</b>				
BULIX	13%	61%	25%	Neutral
HGASX	15%	46%	31%	Neutral
EVUJYX	6%	47%	41%	Neutral
FIUIX	18%	49%	27%	Neutral
EVUDX	6%	47%	41%	Neutral
<b>Worst MFs</b>				
PRUAX	3%	33%	38%	Unattractive
GAUAX	7%	44%	34%	Unattractive
FUGAX	6%	55%	35%	Very Unattractive
ICTVX	11%	60%	29%	Very Unattractive
RYUTX	3%	58%	37%	Very Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

FXU is the top-rated Utilities ETF and BULIX is the top-rated Utilities mutual fund. Both earn a Neutral rating.

PSCU is the worst rated Utilities ETF and RYUTX is the worst Utilities mutual fund. They both earn a Very Unattractive rating.

70 stocks of the 2850+ we cover are classified as Utilities 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.

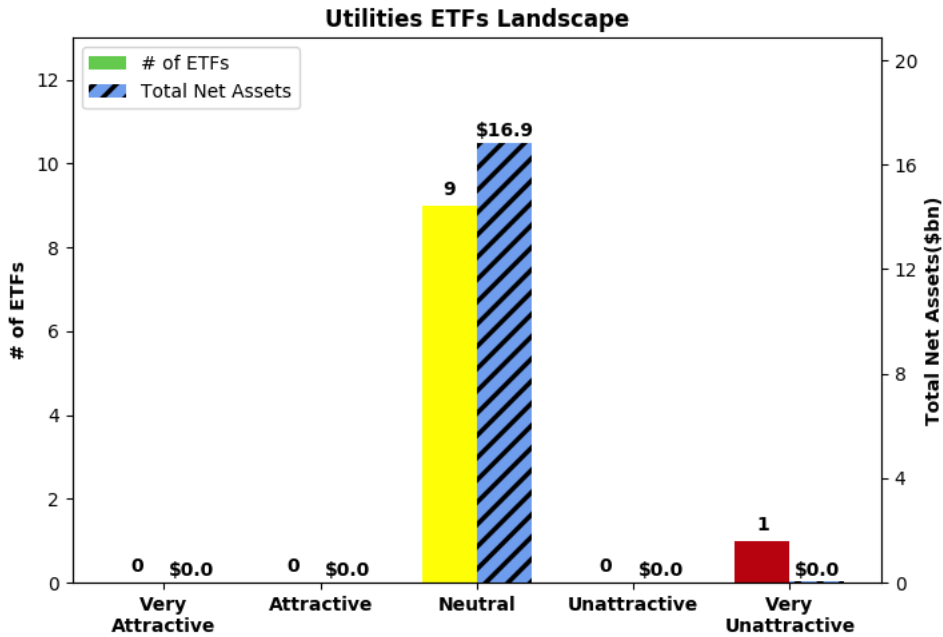
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



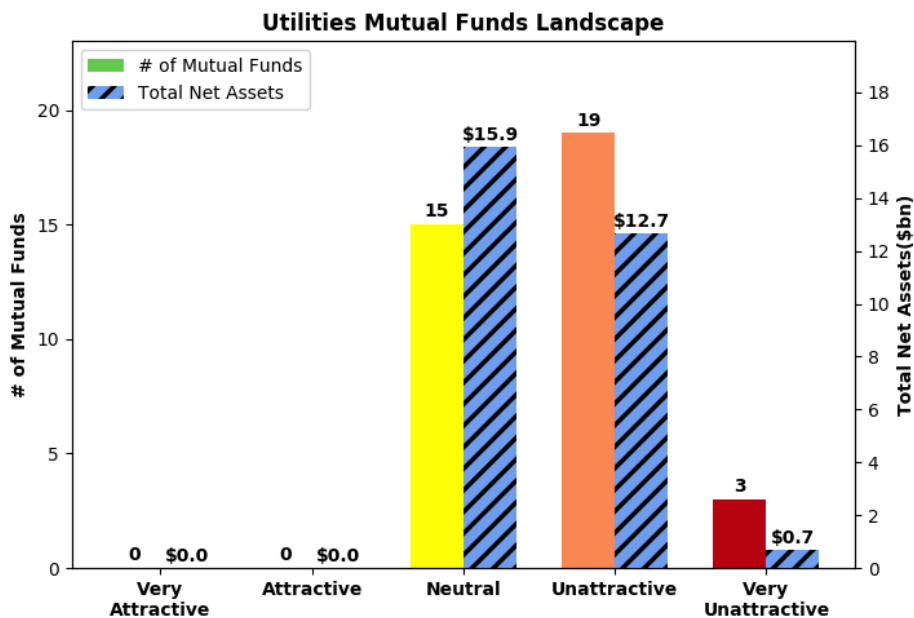
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Utilities ETFs and mutual funds.

**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

This article originally published on [April 16, 2020](#).

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

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## ***Footnotes adjustments matter. We are the ONLY source.***

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We provide ratings, models, reports & screeners on U.S. 3,000 stocks, 700 ETFs and 7,000 mutual funds.

**HBS & MIT Sloan research** reveals that:

- **Markets are inefficiently assessing earnings because no one reads the footnotes.**
- **Corporate managers hide gains/losses in footnotes to manage earnings.**
- **Our technology brings the material footnotes data to market for the first time ever.**

Combining human expertise with NLP/ML/AI technologies ([featured by Harvard Business School](#)), we shine a light in the dark corners (e.g. footnotes) of hundreds of thousands of financial filings to unearth critical details.

The HBS & MIT Sloan paper, [Core Earnings: New Data and Evidence](#), shows how our superior data drives uniquely comprehensive and independent debt and equity research.

This [paper](#) compares our analytics on a mega cap company to other major providers. The Appendix details exactly how we stack up.

**Learn [more](#).**

Quotes from HBS & MIT Sloan professors on our research:

### **Get better research:**

*“...the NC dataset provides a novel opportunity to study the properties of non-operating items disclosed in 10-Ks, and to examine the extent to which the market impounds their implications.” – page 20*

### **Pick better stocks:**

*“Trading strategies that exploit cross-sectional differences in firms’ transitory earnings produce abnormal returns of 7-to-10% per year.” – Abstract*

### **Avoid losses from using other firms’ data:**

*“...many of the income-statement-relevant quantitative disclosures collected by NC do not appear to be easily identifiable in Compustat...” – page 14*

### **Build better models:**

*“Core Earnings [calculated using New Constructs’ novel dataset] provides predictive power for various measures of one-year-ahead performance...that is incremental to their current-period counterparts.” – page 4*

### **Exploit market inefficiencies:**

*“These results ... suggest that the adjustments made by analysts and Compustat to better capture core earnings are incomplete. Moreover, the non-core items identified by NC produce a measure of core earnings that is incremental to alternative measures of operating performance in predicting an array of future income measures.” – page 26*

### **Fulfill fiduciary duties:**

*“An appropriate measure of accounting performance for purposes of forecasting future performance requires detailed analysis of all quantitative performance disclosures detailed in the annual report, including those reported only in the footnotes and in the MD&A.” – page 33-34*



## DISCLOSURES

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