



ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Small Cap Blend Style

The Small Cap Blend style ranks tenth out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our [1Q21 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Small Cap Blend style ranked tenth as well. It gets our Unattractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 56 ETFs and 769 mutual funds in the Small Cap Blend style as of January 20, 2021. See a recap of our [4Q20 Style Ratings here](#).

Figures 1 and 2 show the five best and worst rated ETFs and mutual funds in the style. Not all Small Cap Blend style ETFs and mutual funds are created the same. The number of holdings varies widely (from 25 to 2,590). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

Learn more about the best fundamental research

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

The best fundamental data in the world, proven in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), drives our research. 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

Ticker	Allocation of ETF Holdings			Predictive Rating
	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse Stocks	
Best ETFs				
XMLV	38%	34%	28%	Very Attractive
REGL	38%	44%	16%	Very Attractive
SMLF	30%	29%	29%	Attractive
SMMV	28%	28%	36%	Neutral
XSLV	31%	29%	36%	Neutral
Worst ETFs				
ESML	19%	24%	47%	Unattractive
IWM	15%	20%	46%	Unattractive
CSML	22%	24%	36%	Unattractive
NUSC	20%	24%	46%	Unattractive
FYX	26%	24%	36%	Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

10 ETFs (ROSC, CALF, VAMO, SQLV, AFSM, OSCV, CSF, XSHQ, CSA, IUSS) 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 See how our models and financial ratios are superior to Bloomberg and Capital IQ's (SPGI) analytics in the [detailed appendix of this paper](#).



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

Ticker	Allocation of Mutual Fund Holdings			Predictive Rating
	Attractive-or-better Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse Stocks	
Best Mutual Funds				
RVVHX	38%	34%	5%	Very Attractive
RYVFX	38%	34%	5%	Very Attractive
RVVRX	38%	34%	5%	Very Attractive
FTHFX	39%	31%	20%	Very Attractive
FTHSX	39%	31%	20%	Very Attractive
Worst Mutual Funds				
MMQAX	16%	31%	40%	Very Unattractive
VSCVX	19%	28%	45%	Very Unattractive
IYSAX	17%	28%	48%	Very Unattractive
SLPSX	10%	12%	25%	Very Unattractive
NWHDX	25%	24%	35%	Very Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

James Small Cap Fund (JASCX) is excluded from Figure 2 because its total net assets (TNA) are below \$100 million and do not meet our liquidity minimums.

Invesco S&P Mid Cap Low Volatility ETF (XMLV) is the top-rated Small Cap Blend ETF and Royce Small Cap Value Fund (RVVHX) is the top-rated Small Cap Blend mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

First Trust Small Cap Core AlphaDEX Fund (FYX) is the worst rated Small Cap Blend ETF and Nationwide Bailard Cognitive Value Fund (NWHDX) is the worst rated Small Cap Blend mutual fund. FYX earns an Unattractive rating and NWHDX 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.

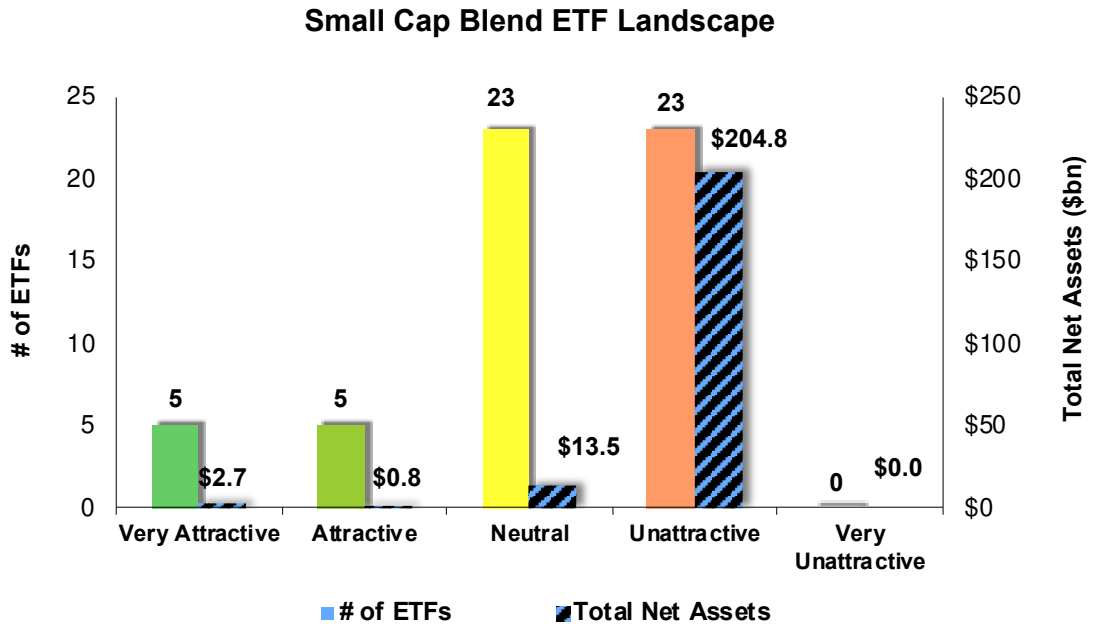
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



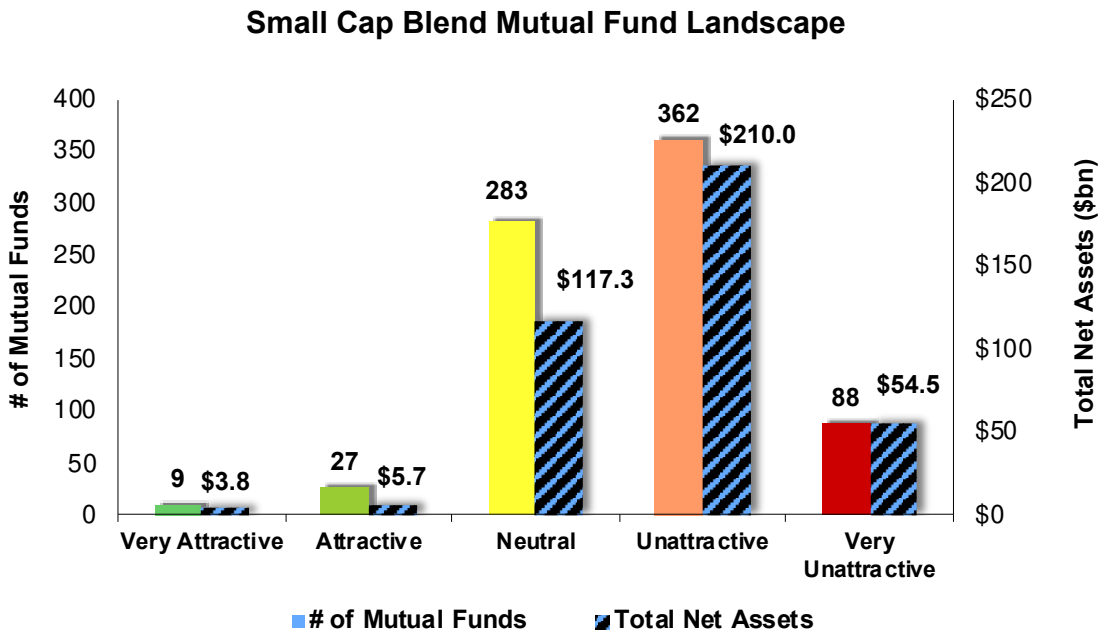
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Small Cap Blend ETFs and mutual funds.

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

This article originally published on [January 22, 2021](#).

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

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It's Official: We Offer the Best Fundamental Data in the World

Many firms claim their research is superior, but none of them can prove it with independent studies from highly-respected institutions as we can. Below, we present three different papers from both the public and private sectors that prove the superiority of our proprietary fundamental data, earnings models, investment ratings, and research for stocks, bonds, ETFs, and mutual funds.

Best Fundamental Data in the World

Forthcoming in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), a top peer-reviewed journal, [Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence](#) proves the superiority of our [fundamental data](#), [earnings](#) models, and [research](#). More [details](#).

Key quotes from the paper:

- “[New Constructs’] *Total Adjustments* differs significantly from the items identified and excluded from Compustat’s adjusted earnings measures. For example... 50% to 70% of the variation in *Total Adjustments* is not explained by *IBSPI Adjustments*, *OIADP Adjustments*, or *OPE Adjustments* individually.” – pp. 14, 1st para.
- “A final source of differences [between New Constructs’ and S&P Global’s data] is due to data collection oversights...we identified cases where Compustat did not collect information relating to firms’ income that is useful in assessing core earnings.” – pp. 16, 2nd para.

Superior Models

A top accounting firm features the superiority of our [NOPAT](#), [Invested Capital](#), and [ROIC](#) research on four mega-cap companies in [“Getting ROIC right: how an accurate view of ROIC can drive improved shareholder value”](#).

Key quotes from the paper:

- “...an accurate calculation of ROIC requires more diligence than often occurs in some of the common, off-the-shelf ROIC calculations. Only by scouring the footnotes and the MD&A [the New Constructs method] can investors get an accurate calculation of ROIC.” – pp. 8, 5th para.
- “The majority of the difference...comes from New Constructs’ machine learning approach, which leverages technology to calculate ROIC by applying accounting adjustments that may be buried deeply in the footnotes across thousands of companies.” – pp. 4, 2nd para.

See the [Appendix](#) for direct comparison of our analysis of DOW’s 2015 results to Capital IQ and Bloomberg.

Superior Stock Ratings

Robo-Analysts’ stock ratings outperform those from human analysts as shown in this [paper](#) from Indiana’s Kelley School of Business. Bloomberg features the paper [here](#).

Key quotes from the paper:

- “the portfolios formed following the buy recommendations of Robo-Analysts earn abnormal returns that are statistically and economically significant.” – pp. 6, 3rd para.
- “Our results ultimately suggest that Robo-Analysts are a valuable, alternative information intermediary to traditional sell-side analysts.” – pp. 20, 3rd para.

Our mission is to provide the best fundamental analysis of public and private businesses in the world and make it affordable for all investors, not just Wall Street insiders.

We believe every investor deserves to know the whole truth about the profitability and valuation of any company they consider for investment. More details on our cutting-edge technology and how we use it are [here](#).



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