



ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Small Cap Blend Style

The Small Cap Blend style ranks eleventh out of the twelve fund styles as detailed in our [2Q21 Style Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Small Cap Blend style ranked tenth. It gets our Unattractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of 62 ETFs and 744 mutual funds in the Small Cap Blend style as of April 21, 2021. See a recap of our [1Q21 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 27 to 2612). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

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Investors seeking exposure to the Small Cap Blend style should buy one of the Very Attractive 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				
REGL	50%	39%	11%	Very Attractive
CALF	42%	31%	17%	Very Attractive
XMLV	40%	42%	19%	Very Attractive
SMLF	33%	35%	20%	Very Attractive
EES	40%	29%	17%	Very Attractive
Worst ETFs				
SCHA	19%	21%	45%	Unattractive
BBSC	17%	21%	43%	Unattractive
VTWO	17%	21%	44%	Unattractive
IWM	17%	20%	43%	Unattractive
NUSC	22%	23%	46%	Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

Hartford Multifactor Small Cap ETF (ROSC), Cambria Value and Momentum ETF (VAMO), and 6 Meridian Small Cap Equity ETF (SIXS) 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				
FTHFX	46%	36%	13%	Very Attractive
FTHSX	46%	36%	13%	Very Attractive
FMIUX	44%	35%	17%	Very Attractive
FMIMX	44%	35%	17%	Very Attractive
FTHNX	46%	36%	13%	Very Attractive
Worst Mutual Funds				
NINAX	14%	17%	62%	Very Unattractive
MFCAX	16%	28%	33%	Very Unattractive
VYSYX	20%	25%	38%	Very Unattractive
SLPSX	11%	13%	23%	Very Unattractive
NWHDX	26%	25%	33%	Very Unattractive

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

ProShares S&P Mid Cap 400 Dividend Aristocrats ETF (REGL) is the top-rated Small Cap Blend ETF and Fuller & Thaler Behavioral Small Cap Equity Fund (FTHFX) is the top-rated Small Cap Blend mutual fund. Both earn a Very Attractive rating.

Nuveen ESG Small Cap ETF (NUSC) is the worst rated Small Cap Blend ETF and Nationwide Bailard Cognitive Value Fund (NWHDX) is the worst rated Small Cap Blend mutual fund. NUSC 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.

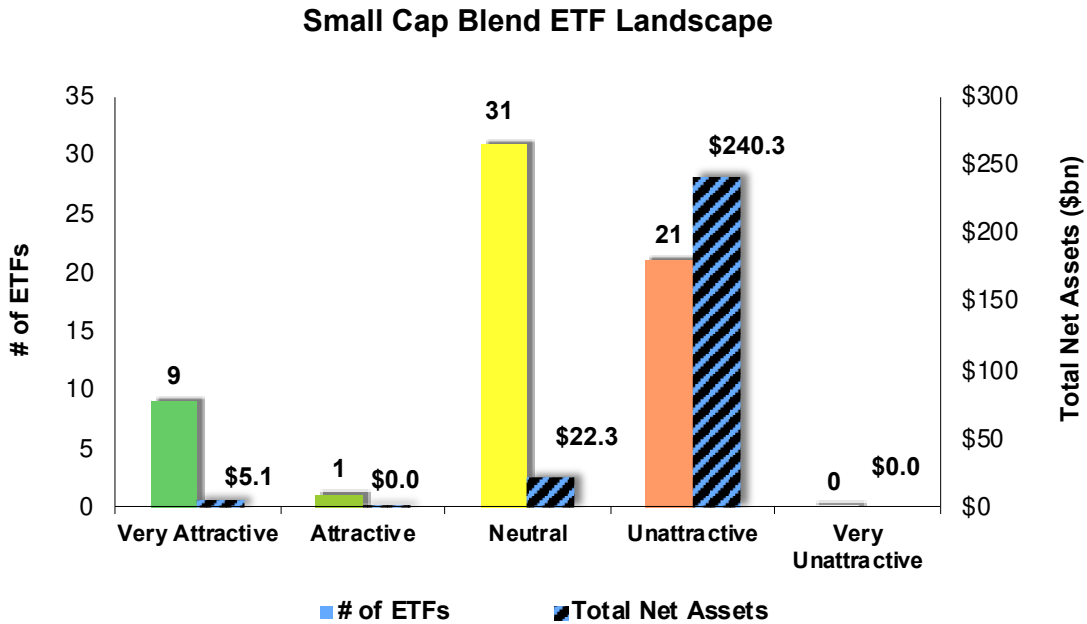
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



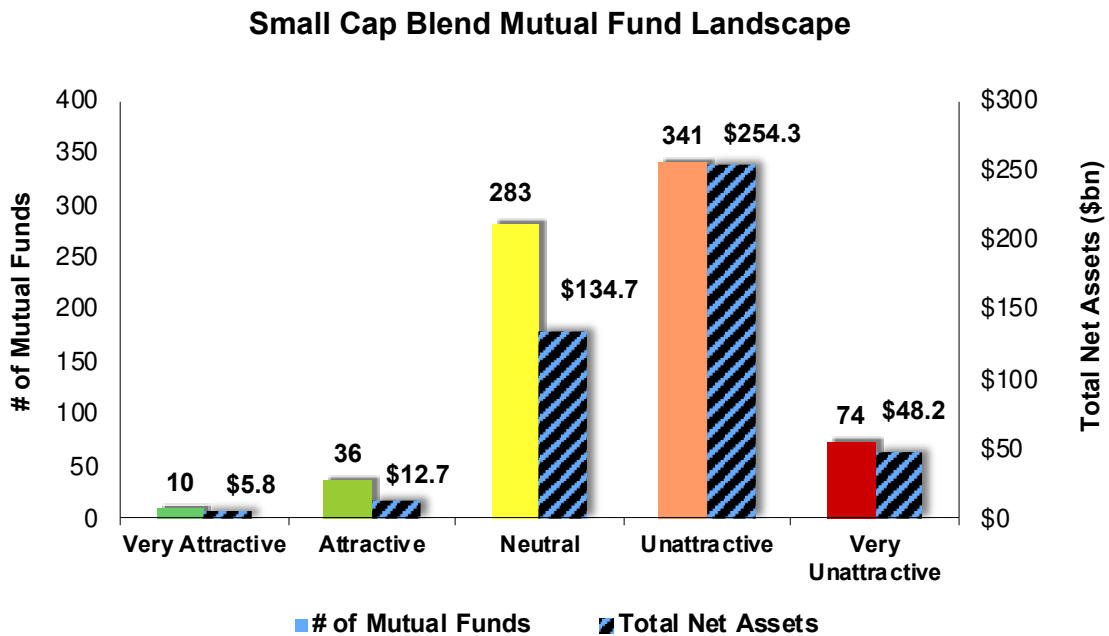
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Small Cap Blend ETFs and mutual funds.

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

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

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Many firms claim their research is superior, but none of them can prove it with independent studies from highly-respected institutions as we can. Three different papers from both the public and private sectors show:

1. Legacy fundamental datasets suffer from significant inaccuracies, omissions and biases.
2. Only our “novel database” enables investors to overcome these flaws and apply [reliable](#) fundamental data in their research.
3. Our proprietary measures of [Core Earnings](#) and [Earnings Distortion](#) materially improve stock picking and forecasting of profits.

Best Fundamental Data in the World

Forthcoming in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), a top peer-reviewed journal, [Core Earnings: New Data & Evidence](#) proves our Robo-Analyst technology overcomes material shortcomings in legacy firms’ data collection processes to provide superior [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 *S&P Global’s (SPGI) 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 ROIC, NOPAT and Invested Capital research to Capital IQ & Bloomberg’s in [Getting ROIC Right](#). See the [Appendix](#) for direct comparison details.

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 [as New Constructs does] 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.

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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