



## ETF & Mutual Fund Rankings: Basic Materials Sector

The Basic Materials sector ranks second out of the 11 sectors as detailed in our [3Q21 Sector Ratings for ETFs and Mutual Funds](#) report. [Last quarter](#), the Basic Materials sector ranked fourth. It gets our Attractive rating, which is based on an aggregation of ratings of the 153 stocks in the Basic Materials sector as of July 11, 2021. See a recap of our [2Q21 Sector Ratings here](#).

Figures 1 and 2 show the 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 115). This variation creates drastically different investment implications and, therefore, ratings.

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Investors seeking exposure to the Basic Materials sector should buy the Attractive rated ETF from Figure 1.

The best fundamental data in the world, proven in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), drives our research. 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 – Top 5**

Allocation of ETF Holdings				
Ticker	Attractive-or-better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating
<b>Best ETFs</b>				
SLX	59%	7%	24%	<b>Attractive</b>
XLB	10%	47%	43%	<b>Neutral</b>
RTM	17%	42%	41%	<b>Neutral</b>
IYM	7%	51%	42%	<b>Neutral</b>
FXZ	28%	45%	28%	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Worst ETFs</b>				
VAW	14%	44%	41%	<b>Neutral</b>
JHMA	22%	43%	35%	<b>Neutral</b>
PSCM	15%	22%	57%	<b>Unattractive</b>
PYZ	8%	28%	58%	<b>Unattractive</b>
XME	26%	12%	59%	<b>Unattractive</b>

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

<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> 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**

Allocation of MF Holdings				
Ticker	Attractive-or-better-Stocks	Neutral Stocks	Unattractive-or-worse-Stocks	Predictive Rating
<b>Best MFs</b>				
VMIAX	14%	44%	41%	<b>Neutral</b>
FIJFX	10%	45%	34%	<b>Neutral</b>
FMFEX	10%	45%	34%	<b>Neutral</b>
FSDPX	10%	45%	34%	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Worst MFs</b>				
FMFCX	10%	45%	34%	<b>Unattractive</b>
FMFTX	10%	45%	34%	<b>Unattractive</b>
FSCHX	1%	46%	47%	<b>Unattractive</b>
FMFAX	10%	45%	34%	<b>Unattractive</b>

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

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

SLX is the top-rated Basic Materials ETF and VMIAX is the top-rated Basic Materials mutual fund. SLX earns an Attractive rating and VMIAX earns a Neutral rating.

XME is the worst rated Basic Materials ETF and FMFAX is the worst Basic Materials mutual fund. They both earn an Unattractive rating.

153 stocks of the 2800+ 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.

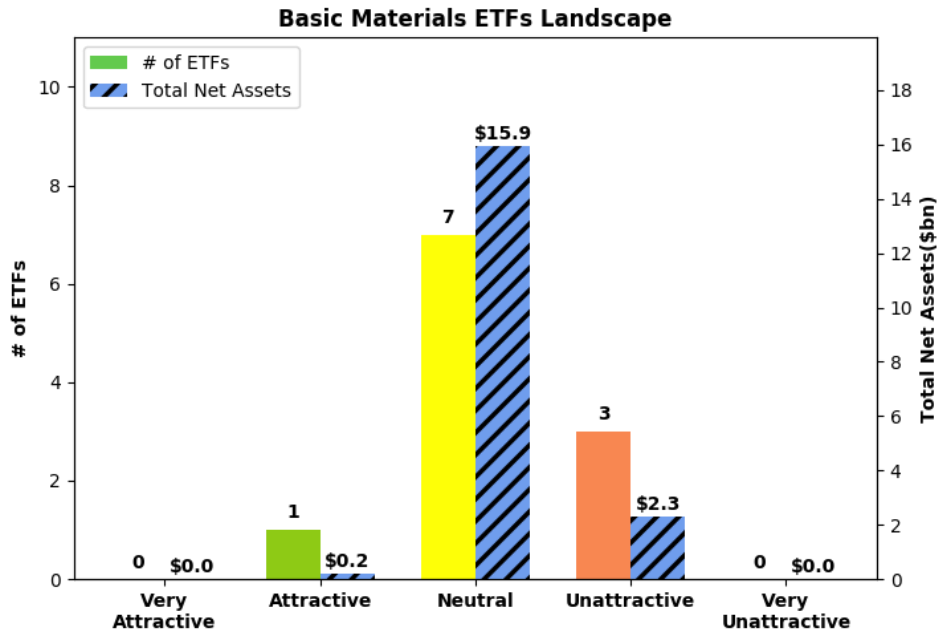
PERFORMANCE OF HOLDINGS = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

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.



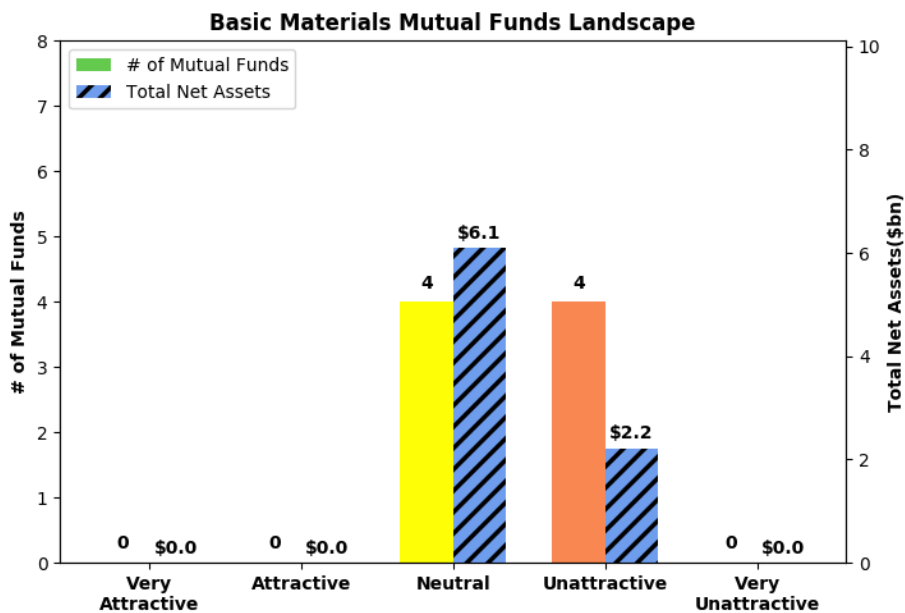
Figures 3 and 4 show the rating landscape of all Basic Materials ETFs and mutual funds.

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

This article originally published on [July 13, 2021](#).

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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## *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. 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> para.
- “Our results ultimately suggest that Robo-Analysts are a valuable, alternative information intermediary to traditional sell-side analysts.” – pp. 20, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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