



How to Find the Best Sector ETFs

With an ever-growing list of similar-sounding ETFs to choose from, finding the best is an increasingly difficult task. How can investors shift the odds in their favor?

[Learn more about the best fundamental research](#)

Don't Trust ETF Labels

There are at least 79 different Technology ETFs and at least 287 ETFs across eleven sectors. Do investors need 26+ choices on average per sector? How different can the ETFs be?

Those 79 Technology ETFs are very different from each other. With anywhere from 22 to 562 holdings, many of these ETFs have drastically different portfolios with differing risk profiles and performance outlooks.

The same is true for the ETFs in any other sector, as each offers a very different mix of good and bad stocks. Energy ranks first for stock selection. Utilities ranks last. Details on the [Best & Worst ETFs in each sector are here.](#)

Avoiding Analysis Paralysis

We think the large number of sector ETFs hurts investors more than it helps. Manually conducting a deep analysis for every ETF is simply not a realistic option. As a result, investors conduct insufficient analysis and miss profitable opportunities. Analyzing ETFs with the proper diligence¹ is far more complex than analyzing stocks because it involves analyzing all holdings within each ETF. As stated above, there can be as many as 562 stocks or more for one ETF.

Anyone focused on [fulfilling the fiduciary duty of care](#) recognizes that analyzing the holdings² of an ETF is critical to finding the best ETF. More [reliable](#) & [proprietary](#) fundamental data, proven in [The Journal of Financial Economics](#), drives our research and analysis of ETF holdings and provides investors with a [new source of alpha](#). Figure 1 shows our top-rated ETF for each sector.

Figure 1: The Best ETF in Each Sector

Ticker	Name	Sector	Assets (\$mm)
SLX	VanEck Steel ETF	Basic Materials	\$100
ITB	iShares U.S. Home Construction	Consumer Cyclical	\$1,370
IYK	iShares U.S. Consumer Staples	Consumer Non-cyclical	\$1,845
FTXN	First Trust Nasdaq Oil & Gas ETF	Energy	\$1,215
KBWB	Invesco KBW Bank ETF	Financials	\$1,758
PJP	Invesco Dynamic Pharmaceuticals ETF	Healthcare	\$328
PKB	Invesco Dynamic Building & Construction ETF	Industrials	\$104
MORT	VanEck Mortgage REIT Income ETF	Real Estate	\$163
TDV	ProShares S&P Technology Dividend Aristocrats ETF	Technology	\$112
IXP	iShares Global Comm Services ETF	Telecom Services	\$210
FXU	First Trust Utilities AlphaDEX Fund	Utilities	\$372

* Best ETFs excludes ETFs with Total Net Assets (TNA) under \$100 million due to inadequate liquidity

Sources: New Constructs, LLC and company filings

¹ Three independent studies from respected institutions prove the superiority of our data, models, and ratings. Learn more [here](#).

² Harvard Business School features the powerful impact of our research automation technology in the case [New Constructs: Disrupting Fundamental Analysis with Robo-Analysts](#).



Amongst the ETFs in Figure 1, VanEck Steel ETF (SLX) ranks first overall, iShares U.S. Home Construction ETF (ITB) ranks second, and Invesco KBW Bank ETF (KBWB) ranks third. VanEck Mortgage REIT Income ETF (MORT) ranks last.

How to Avoid “The Danger Within”

Why do you need to know the holdings of ETFs before you buy?

You need to be sure you do not buy an ETF that might blow up. Buying an ETF without analyzing its holdings is like buying a stock without analyzing its business and finances. No matter how cheap, if it holds bad stocks, the ETF's performance will be bad. Don't just take my word for it, see [what Barron's says](#) on this matter.

PERFORMANCE OF FUND'S HOLDINGS – FEES = PERFORMANCE OF FUND

Analyzing each holding within funds is no small task. Our [Robo-Analyst technology](#) enables us to perform this diligence at 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 leveraging technology 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.

If Only Investors Could Find Funds Rated by Their Holdings

Our [ETF ratings](#) leverage our [stock coverage](#). We rate ETFs based on the aggregated ratings of the stocks each ETF holds.

VanEck Steel ETF (SLX) is not only the top-rated Basic Materials ETF but is also the overall top-rated sector ETF out of the 287 sector ETFs that we cover.

The worst ETF in Figure 1 is VanEck Mortgage REIT Income ETF (MORT), which gets an Unattractive rating. One would think ETF providers could do better for this sector.

This article was originally published on [February 6, 2023](#).

Disclosure: David Trainer, Kyle Guske II, and Italo Mendonça 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, 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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