

1: Smart Beta ETFs: Introduction | Investopedia

BlackRock is a leader in factor investing, launching the first factor fund in and driving innovation in the category for over 40 years. Smart beta is the next generation of factor.*

Email Smart beta expert Sara Shores explains factor investing and shares several ideas for how to potentially implement this strategy into your own portfolio. At the heart of smart beta investing is the notion of re-writing investment rules to seek to improve investment outcomes by targeting exposures to intuitive, well understood investment ideas – what quants would call factors. You might think of factors as the DNA of a stock or bond: Focusing on four factors Industry pundits might not agree upon much, but there is a fair bit of convergence around the set of equity factors that have historically been rewarded. Four of the factors most often cited as potential sources of incremental return are value, quality, momentum and size. See a good list of published research at the end of this post. Each of these are intuitive and well understood investment ideas. That makes these factors a potential source of incremental returns over the long run, and highly diversifying when combined together in a portfolio. Of course, these investment ideas are not novel – many have been part of the stock selection framework for active managers for decades. But, with smart beta strategies, investment exposure to specific elements of return quality, value, momentum, size is transparent to investors. Smart beta ETFs have an added element of transparency in that holdings are disclosed daily, unlike active mutual funds that typically display holdings only quarterly. Smart beta strategies allow investors to access these potential sources of return in a transparent and low cost form. We see investors incorporating smart beta factors into portfolios in two distinct ways, depending on the investment outcome to be achieved and how hands-on the investor wants to be in managing their allocations: Tactically minded investors may find single factor strategies a useful tool to express their views. For the less tactically minded, a strategy that invests across multiple factors can provide a diversified approach. While each factor strategy may be individually compelling, they may be even more compelling when combined together as a result of their low correlations with each other. The first quarter of provides an excellent example of why diversification among factors can be so effective. As my colleague Russ Koesterich points out in a recent post , economic data was mixed over the first quarter, with sluggish economic growth, a soft jobs report and weak manufacturing reports leading to diminishing consensus around company earnings. High quality stocks, with higher return on equity and more stable earnings on average, tend to be more defensive and therefore perform well in times of rising uncertainty. This flight to quality often leads to a shift away from more value oriented securities. Diversification can therefore be a useful tool in the realm of factor investing. The FactorSelect ETFs are explicitly designed to maximize exposure to four rewarded factors – value, quality, momentum and size. After evaluating every stock in the applicable universe along each factor, an optimized portfolio is formed to maximize exposure to the targeted factors with a similar level of risk to that of the market. In short, the FactorSelect ETFs seek to capture the performance and diversification benefits offered by four transparent factors, in a cost efficient way. Whether you bring together multiple factors to seek deliberate and diversified outcomes or single factor ETFs to implement more precise views – smart beta factors can be useful tools to gain transparent and low cost access to the intuitive and long-standing investment ideas that drive performance. Published research showing the historical outperformance of these factors includes: Implications for Stock Market Efficiency. You can read more of her posts here.

2: Smart Beta ETFs: Conclusion | Investopedia

Smart beta is the next generation of factor investing. BlackRock is a pioneer in factor investing, launching the first factor fund in and driving innovation in the category for more than 40 years.

Maverick Updated September 14, 2017: BLK, one of the major providers of ETFs, that trend will not only continue but also accelerate into the mids. The first quarter of also saw record inflows to smart beta funds. BlackRock, with its well-known iShares funds, has been one of the major drivers of the popularity of ETFs overall, and particularly of smart beta ETFs. Smart beta ETFs become quasi-active funds through adding a series of filters or screens, often referred to as factors, to the underlying index with the hope of achieving a portfolio selection that offers higher returns and better risk-adjusted performance. Common smart beta filters include volatility, momentum, dividend yield and earnings growth. One of the notable characteristics of smart beta ETFs is that the more actively managed aspect of these funds means generally higher expense ratios, and it is an ongoing debate as to whether the higher expense is justified. However, there are plenty of smart beta ETFs with expense ratios substantially lower than the average equity mutual fund expense ratio of 0. The top two iShares smart beta ETFs charge expense ratios of just 0. The company sees smart beta ETFs that use volatility as a screening factor, one of the most popular smart beta strategies in, continuing to be popular and one of the major drivers in the creation of new smart beta funds. BlackRock figures to be one of the major beneficiaries of smart beta ETF growth. The iShares multifactor market sector ETFs apply smart beta strategies to ETFs focused on various market sectors, such as financials and energy. The company is pushing hard to more firmly establish itself as the smart beta leader in the ETF market. In addition, BlackRock has produced an iShares smart beta educational guide, and launched the BlackRock. BlackRock has been a major beneficiary of the boom in smart beta ETFs already. Between and, it enjoyed a compound annual growth rate CAGR of. If its projections for the smart beta ETF market prove correct, it may well do even better than that in the near future. Trading Center Want to learn how to invest? Get a free 10 week email series that will teach you how to start investing. Delivered twice a week, straight to your inbox.

3: Could Smart Beta ETFs Be a \$1 Trillion Market by ? (BLK) | Investopedia

BlackRock manages \$ billion in Smart Beta strategies across equities, fixed income, and commodities, and continues to innovate within the category, leveraging a factor-based view of the world to approach the investment challenges of our clients.*

4: How to Implement a Factor-based Smart Beta Investing Strategy | BlackRock Blog

BlackRock is a pioneer in smart beta with decades of expertise in research and implementation. The comprehensive suite of iShares smart beta ETFs provides investors.

5: BlackRock and Vanguard are smart beta's biggest winners | Financial Times

Smart beta strategies typically capture factor exposures using systematic, rules-based approaches, such as an index. ETFs, popular vehicles for rules-based strategies, are cost effective ways to access smart beta strategies.

6: Understanding smart beta sources of return | BlackRock Blog

Smart beta strategies allow investors to seek enhanced risk-adjusted returns at a lower cost than active strategies while retaining many of the benefits of investing in traditional index strategies.

7: Smart Beta ETF Assets Will Reach \$1 Trillion By BlackRock - Barron's

TA BlackRock Smart Beta 50 Service Class a s of 06/30/18 Investment Strategy U nder normal circumstances, the portfolio s sub-adviser, BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, seeks to achieve the portfolio s objective by allocating substantially all of the.

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