Are rankings of financial analysts useful to investors?[☆]

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Abstract

Several institutions issue rankings of financial analysts based on the accuracy of their price and EPS forecasts. Given that these rankings are *ex-post* they may not be useful to investors. In this paper we show that trading strategies based on perfect foresight and on past rankings outperform a passive strategy. In addition, we report that investors are better off following analysts that issue accurate price targets rather than following those with accurate EPS forecasts

Keywords: financial analysts; rankings; target price forecasts; earnings

forecasts; portfolio management

JEL: G11; G14; G24; G29

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