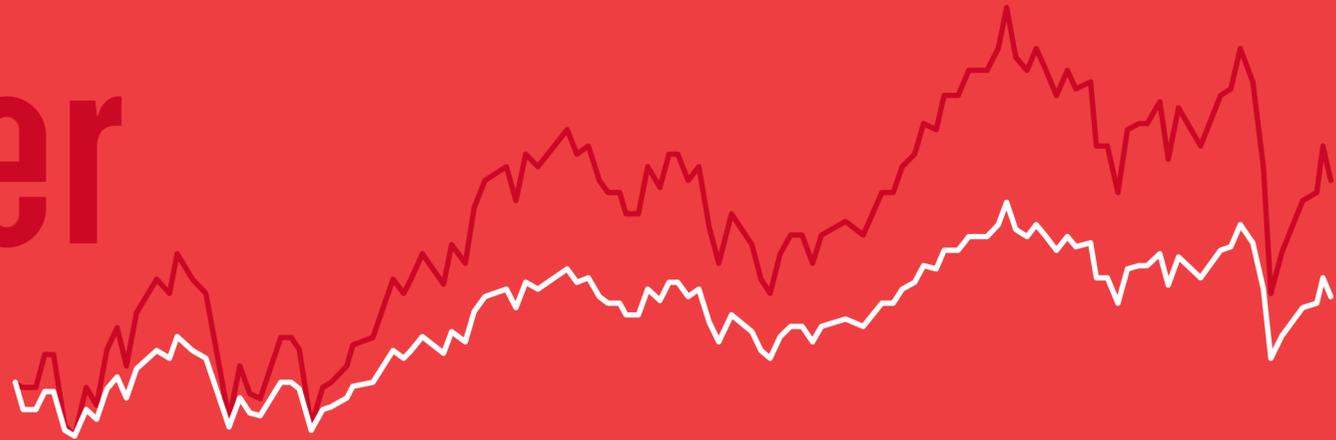




Silver



2026 Target-Date Fund Landscape

Target-date strategies have reached new highs and have been a boon to investors.



Gold



Bronze



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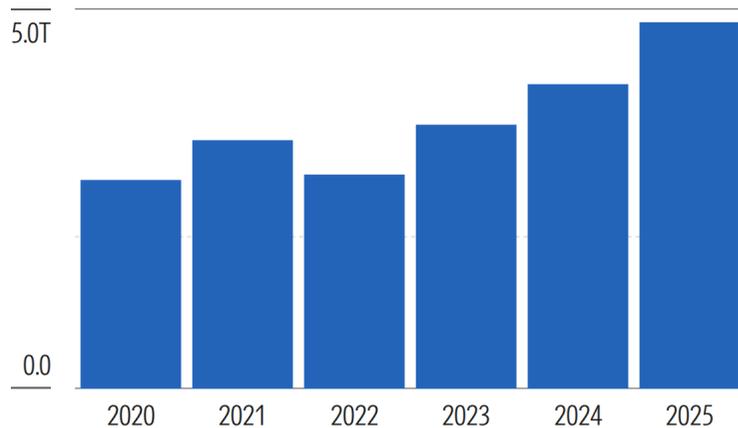
Important Disclosure

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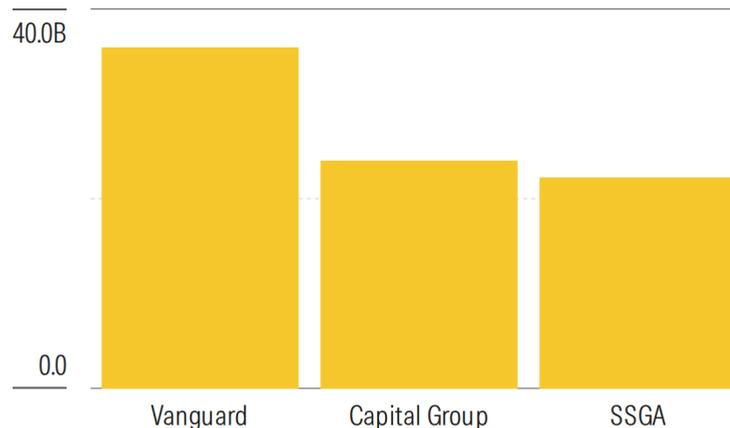
Key Takeaways

- The target-date market reached \$4.8 trillion in 2025, increasing 20.3% over the previous year, largely on the heels of the stock market. The industry has grown 11.9% annualized over the past decade.
- The industry remains highly concentrated, with five firms controlling 80% of assets. Vanguard leads the pack with \$1.8 trillion, or 37% of industry assets under management. Some firms, such as Fidelity and Capital Group, dominate in mutual funds; others, such as State Street and BlackRock, lead in collective investment trusts.
- Target-date collective investment trusts first surpassed mutual funds as the dominant vehicle in 2024, and they have continued to grow since then. At the end of 2025, they represented 54% of total target-date assets, up from 52% the year prior.
- Vanguard led the industry in target-date asset growth in 2025, adding \$35.9 billion in net new assets. Capital Group ranked second, with \$24.0 billion in new target-date assets, while third-place State Street brought in \$22.2 billion.
- Target-date launches remained strong through 2025, driven entirely by the launch of 21 new CIT series. Like previous years, several of the new CIT series are based on existing lineups from major mutual fund providers, such as T. Rowe Price.
- Closures picked up in 2025, with six mutual fund and four CIT series shutting down. Most of the closed lineups were relatively small, with under \$1 billion in assets at liquidation.
- For those with access to Morningstar Direct, click [here](#) to view the target-date universe.

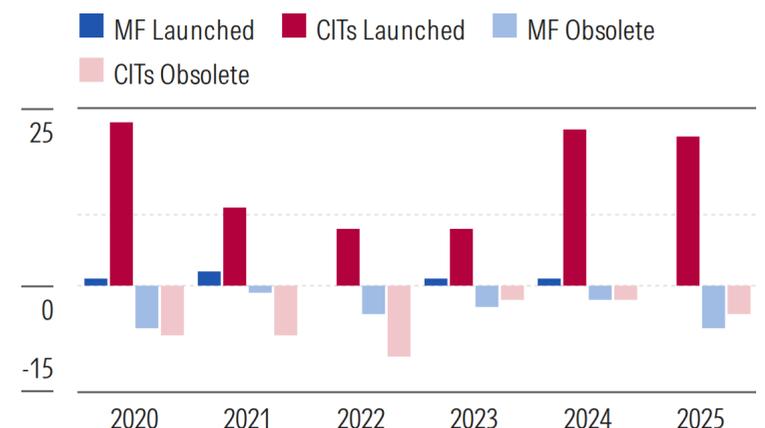
Target-Date Assets Reached \$4.8 Trillion in 2025



2025's Target-Date Asset Flow Winners



CIT Launches Dominate Closures in 2025

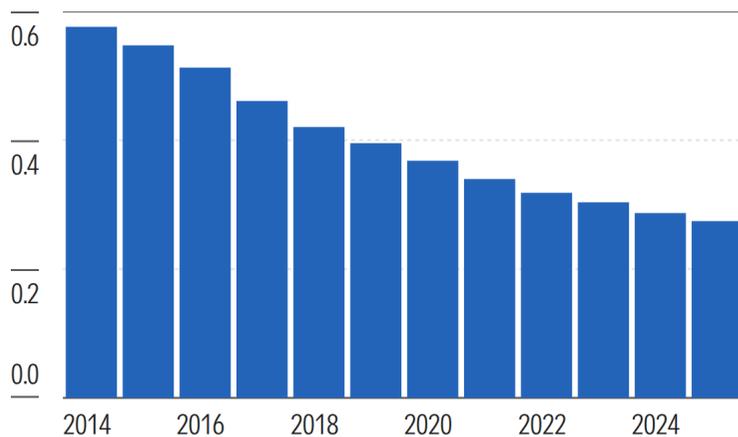


Key Takeaways, Continued

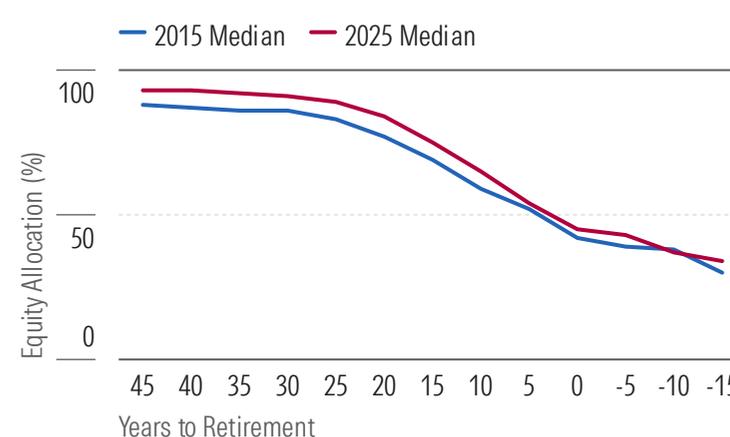
- Target-date mutual fund fees continued reaching new lows in 2025: The asset-weighted average expense ratio fell to 27 basis points, down from 29 basis points in 2024. Fees have declined by half in the past decade, with the cheapest mutual funds at 4 basis points.
- The 2-basis-point drop across more than \$2 trillion in target-date mutual funds resulted in more than \$80 million in savings for investors. Asset growth ensured that, despite fee decreases, managers still collected an additional \$580 million in revenue in 2025.
- Asset-allocation glide paths have become more equity-heavy, with most of the increase coming early in the saving years. The median equity exposure for those who are 45 years from retirement stood at 93% as of the end of 2025, up from 89% a decade prior.
- Allocations have converged for early-career investors as managers have increased starting equity allocations. Differences across strategies remain more pronounced during the intermediate saving years.
- US companies have become a larger share of global equities since the 2008 global financial crisis; target-date managers have slowly increased their US to non-US mix.

- As of December 2025, Morningstar Manager Research analysts assigned Medalist Ratings to 29 target-date mutual fund and exchange-traded fund series and 33 target-date CIT series.
- Three target-date strategies were new to coverage in 2025, including the BlackRock LifePath Index Growth series, which has a Morningstar Medalist Rating of Gold. Its low-cost, fully index-based design has an equity allocation at retirement that's higher than the firm's LifePath Index flagship series, which is also rated Gold.

Fees Continued Their Downward Trend



Target-Date Funds Have Become More Aggressive



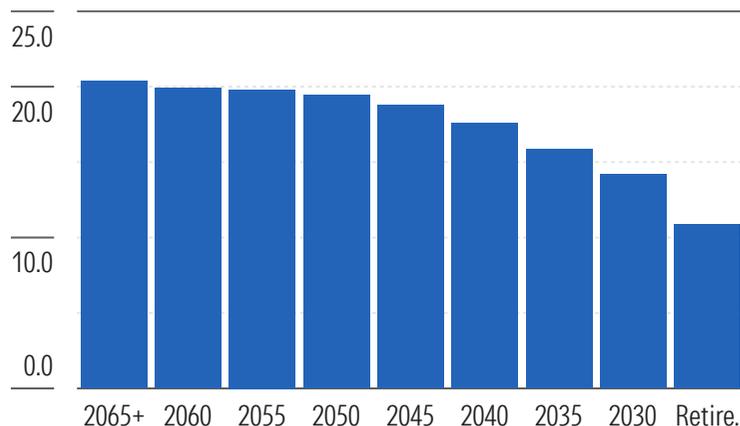
Gold-Rated Target-Date Strategies

Target-Date Series	Mutual Fund	CIT
BlackRock LifePath Dynamic		★ Gold
BlackRock LifePath Index	★ Gold	★ Gold
BlackRock LifePath Index Growth		★ Gold
Capital Group Target Date Retirement Blend		★ Gold
Capital American Funds Target Date Retirement	★ Gold	★ Gold
Fidelity Freedom Index	★ Gold	★ Gold
iShares LifePath Target Date ETF	★ Gold	
T. Rowe Price Retirement	★ Gold	★ Gold
T. Rowe Price Retirement Blend	★ Gold	★ Gold
Vanguard Target Retirement		★ Gold

Key Takeaways, Continued

- US target-date strategies generated stronger returns across all vintages in 2025, with most target-date investors seeing double-digit gains.
- Strategies with more equities and more non-US equities stood out in 2025. For the year, US stocks, as represented by the S&P 500, gained a healthy 17.9%; the MSCI EAFE, a proxy for non-US equities, grew 31.2%.
- Whether for workers earlier in their career or closer to retirement, multiple Fidelity target-date series stood out for their strong gains in 2025. Its funds held the top spots for 2060 and 2030 target-date funds.

Double-Digit 2025 Gains for Target-Date Categories



Fidelity 2060 Target-Date Funds Hold Top Spots

Fund	2025 Return	2025 Return Rank, Category
Fidelity Freedom 2060 K6	24.1	1
Fidelity Freedom 2060 K	23.8	2
Fidelity Freedom 2060	23.7	3
Fidelity Advisor Freedom 2060 K6	23.4	4
Fidelity Advisor Freedom 2060 Z	23.1	5
Fidelity Advisor Freedom 2060 I	23.1	6
Fidelity Freedom Blnd 2060 Premier	23.0	7
Fidelity Freedom Blend 2060 K6	22.9	8
Fidelity Flex Freedom Blend 2060	22.8	9
Fidelity Freedom Blend 2060 K	22.8	10

Fidelity 2030 Target-Date Funds Hold Top Spots

Fund	2025 Return	2025 Return Rank, Category
Fidelity Freedom 2030 K6	17.9	1
Fidelity Freedom 2030 K	17.7	2
Fidelity Freedom 2030	17.7	3
Fidelity Advisor Freedom 2030 K6	17.6	4
Fidelity Advisor Freedom 2030 Z	17.3	5
Fidelity Flex Freedom Blend 2030	17.3	6
Fidelity Advisor Freedom 2030 I	17.3	7
Fidelity Freedom Blnd 2030 Premier	17.3	8
Fidelity Freedom Blend 2030 K6	17.2	9
Fidelity Advisor Freedom Blend 2030 Z	17.0	10

Assets, Flows, and Product Development

Assets keep increasing, and target-date mutual funds lose ground to CITS.

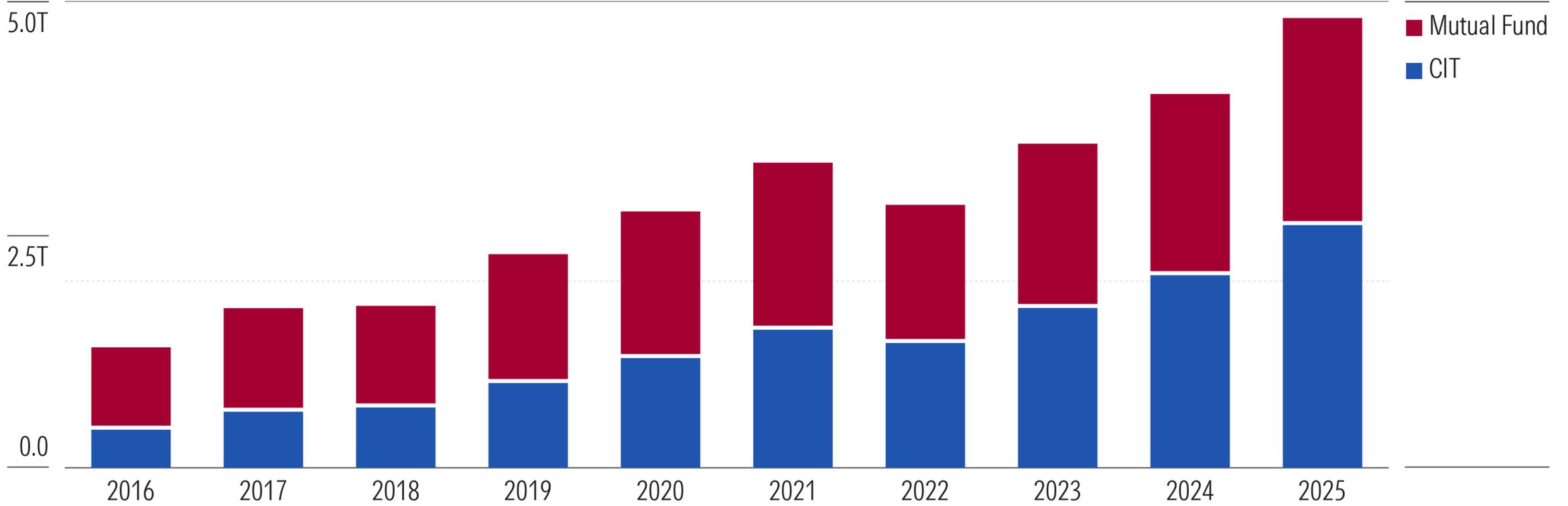
Target-Date Funds Continue Rising in Popularity, Closing 2025 With \$4.8 Trillion in Assets

The target-date market continued its growth trajectory through 2025, reaching \$4.8 trillion in assets by the end of the year, a 20.3% increase over the previous year. The industry expanded steadily over the decade, increasing 11.9% on an annualized basis. The tumultuous market of 2022 was the only year that saw a decrease in assets.

Target-date CITs became the dominant investment vehicle in 2024 and continued growing their share in 2025. They represented 54% of industry assets at the end of 2025, an increase of 1.9 percentage points over 2024.

Target-Date CIT and Mutual Fund Assets Reached \$4.8 Trillion in Assets at the End of 2025

Annual mutual fund and CIT target-date assets.



Source: Morningstar Direct and surveyed data. Totals do not include custom target-date strategies. Data as of Dec. 31, 2025.

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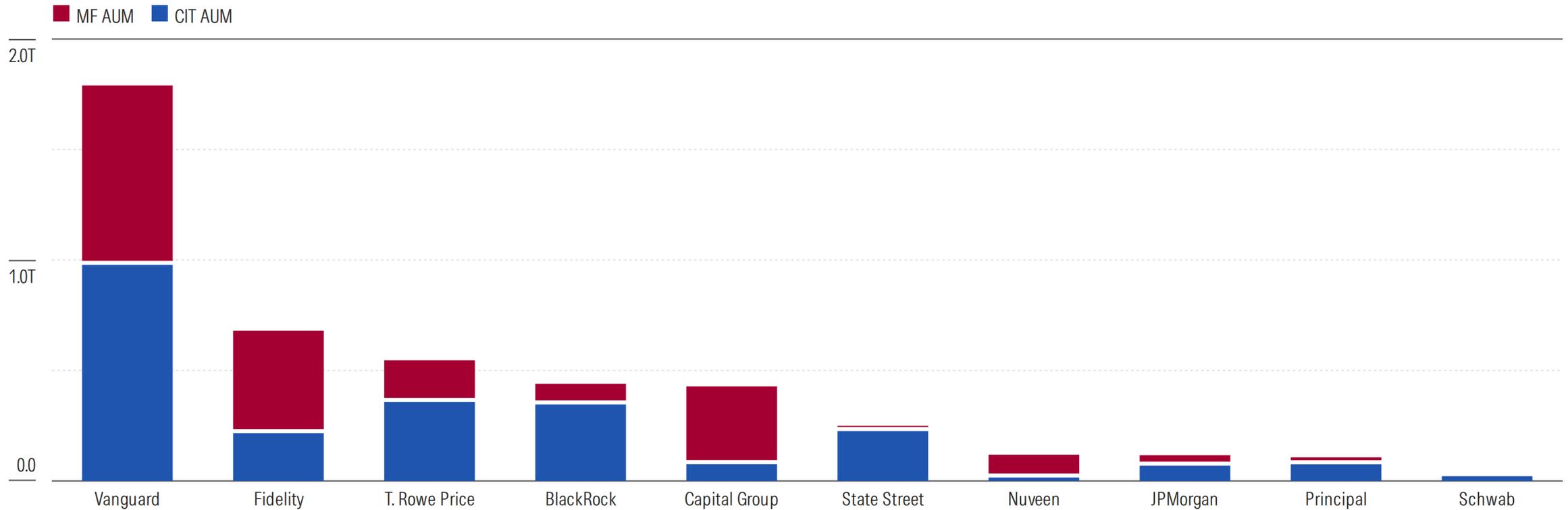
Vanguard Dominates the Target-Date Industry

The target-date landscape remains highly concentrated, with 80% of industry assets held by five firms. Among those, Vanguard towers over the industry with \$1.8 trillion in assets, or roughly 37% of market share. This continues the firm’s decade-long run at the top of the group.

The remaining industry leaders are unchanged from 2024, with Fidelity, T. Rowe Price, BlackRock, and Capital Group rounding out the top five asset managers in the target-date industry by assets.

The Industry Is Top-Heavy, With the Majority of Assets Held by a Handful of Firms

Mutual fund and CIT target-date assets as of December 2025.



Source: Morningstar Direct and surveyed data. Data as of Dec. 31, 2025

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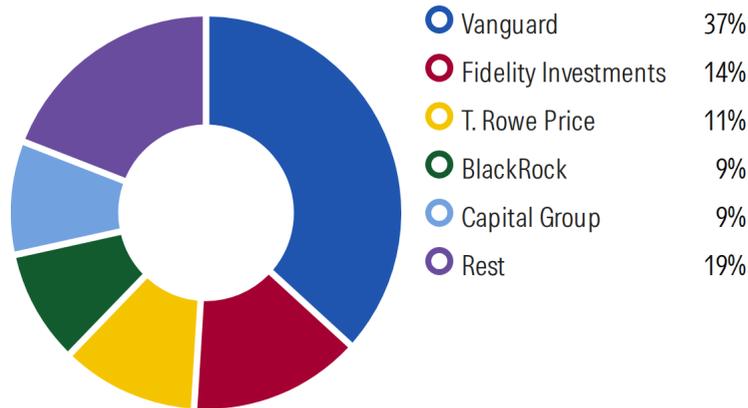
Market Dominance Within Target-Date Vehicles Varies by Asset Manager

Whether in mutual funds or CITs, Vanguard leads the pack in target-date assets; its 37% share of total assets is more than that of the next three largest asset managers—Fidelity, T. Rowe Price, and BlackRock—combined.

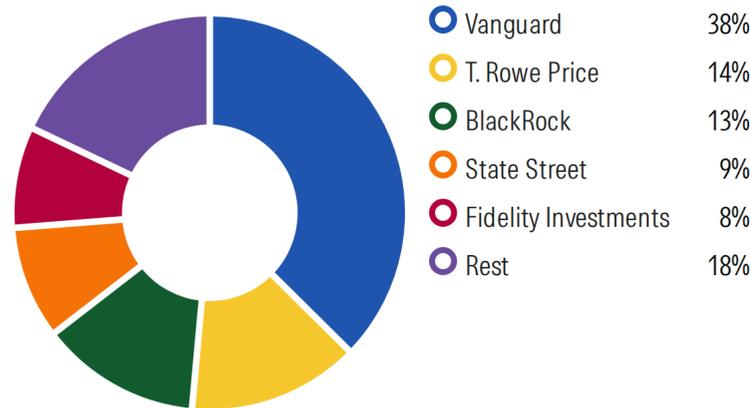
There's more variation in market share when it comes to investment vehicles. BlackRock and State Street have historically been more focused on institutional investors, including the large plan sponsors that tend to use CITs. They, along with T. Rowe Price and Fidelity, round out the top five target-date CIT providers, after Vanguard.

In the mutual fund target-date space, Fidelity rises to the number-two spot behind Vanguard. Capital Group, via American Funds, and Nuveen, from the rebranded TIAA-CREF offerings, enter the top five list for mutual fund target-date assets managed.

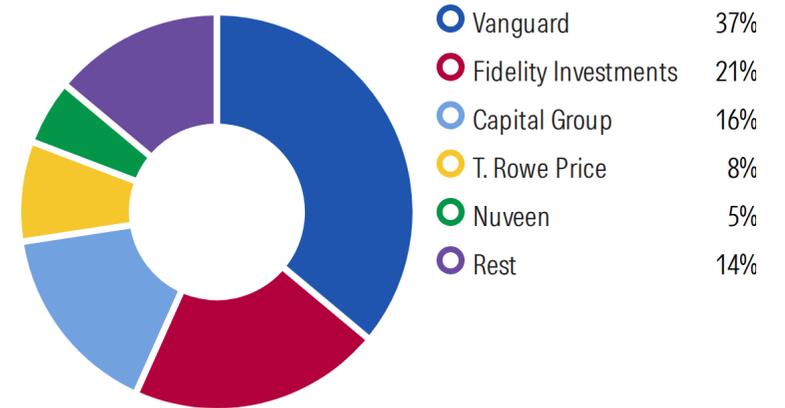
Mutual Fund + CIT Assets Target-Date Market Share



CIT Assets Target-Date Market Share

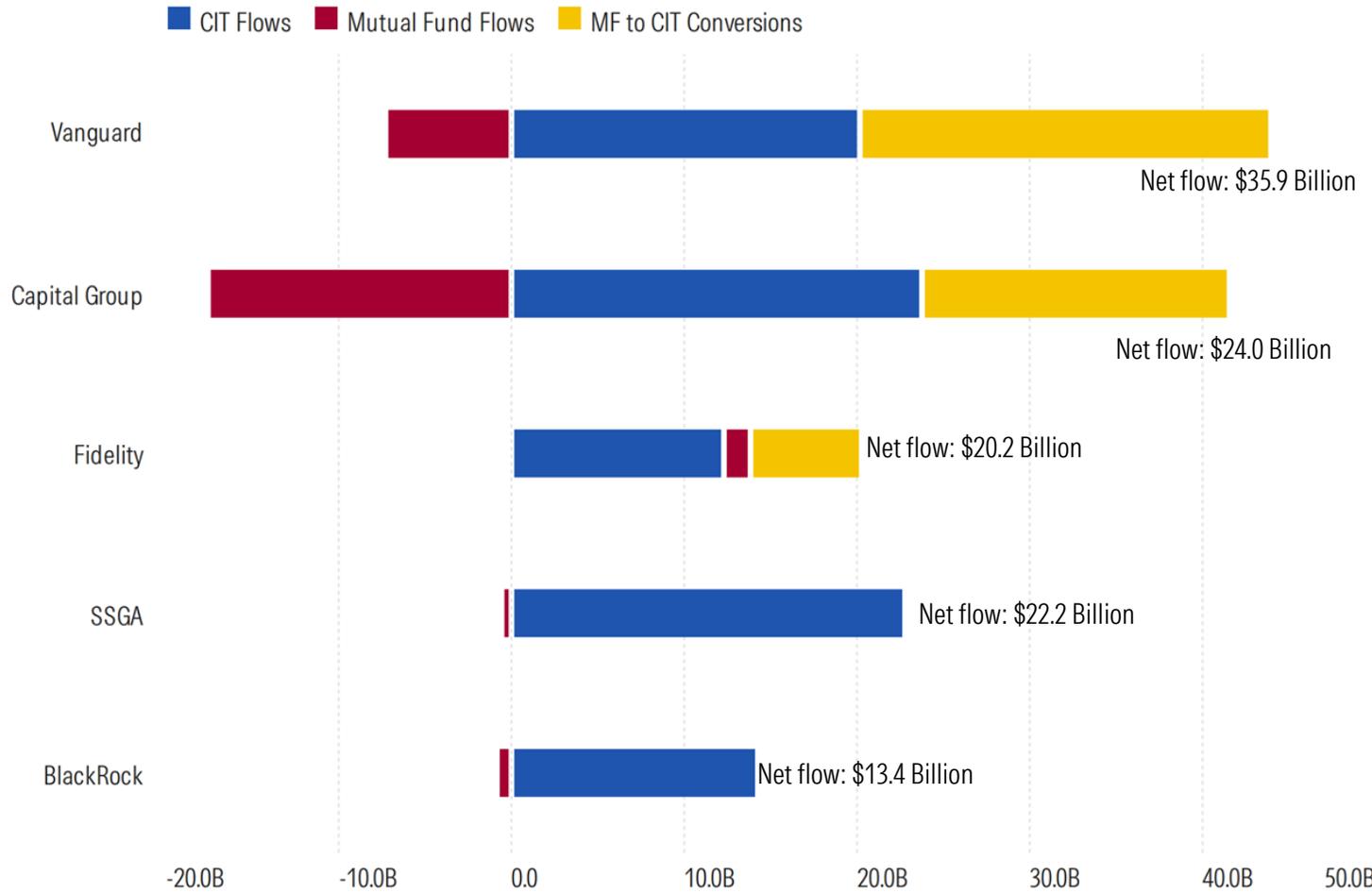


Mutual Fund Assets Target-Date Market Share



Flows: Vanguard Leads, Capital Group Follows

2025 Top 5 Target-Date Manager Asset Flows, by Mutual Fund, CIT, and Mutual Fund to CIT Conversion Flows



Vanguard continued to lead the industry in target-date asset growth in 2025, adding \$35.9 billion in new assets. While the firm reported \$7.9 billion in net outflows from its mutual fund lineup, much of that activity reflected conversions of plan sponsors moving to CITs from mutual funds. In total, investors moved \$23.8 billion from Vanguard target-date mutual funds into its CIT series, while the CITs also generated \$20.0 billion in new external inflows.

Capital Group/American Funds ranked second, with \$24.0 billion in new target-date inflows; the firm also saw \$17.8 billion in assets moving from target-date mutual funds to CITs. Following closely behind were State Street with \$22 billion and Fidelity with \$20 billion in new assets.

Target-date flow accounting can be nuanced. Retirement plan sponsors often maintain the same underlying investment strategy while moving assets from mutual funds to lower-cost CIT vehicles. Separating flows into mutual fund flows, CIT inflows, and mutual fund-to-CIT conversions provides a clearer picture of true net new asset growth.

Source: Morningstar Direct for mutual fund flows, author's calculations, and surveyed data for CIT flows. Data as of Dec. 31, 2025. Great Gray did not respond to the survey. BlackRock did not report conversions.

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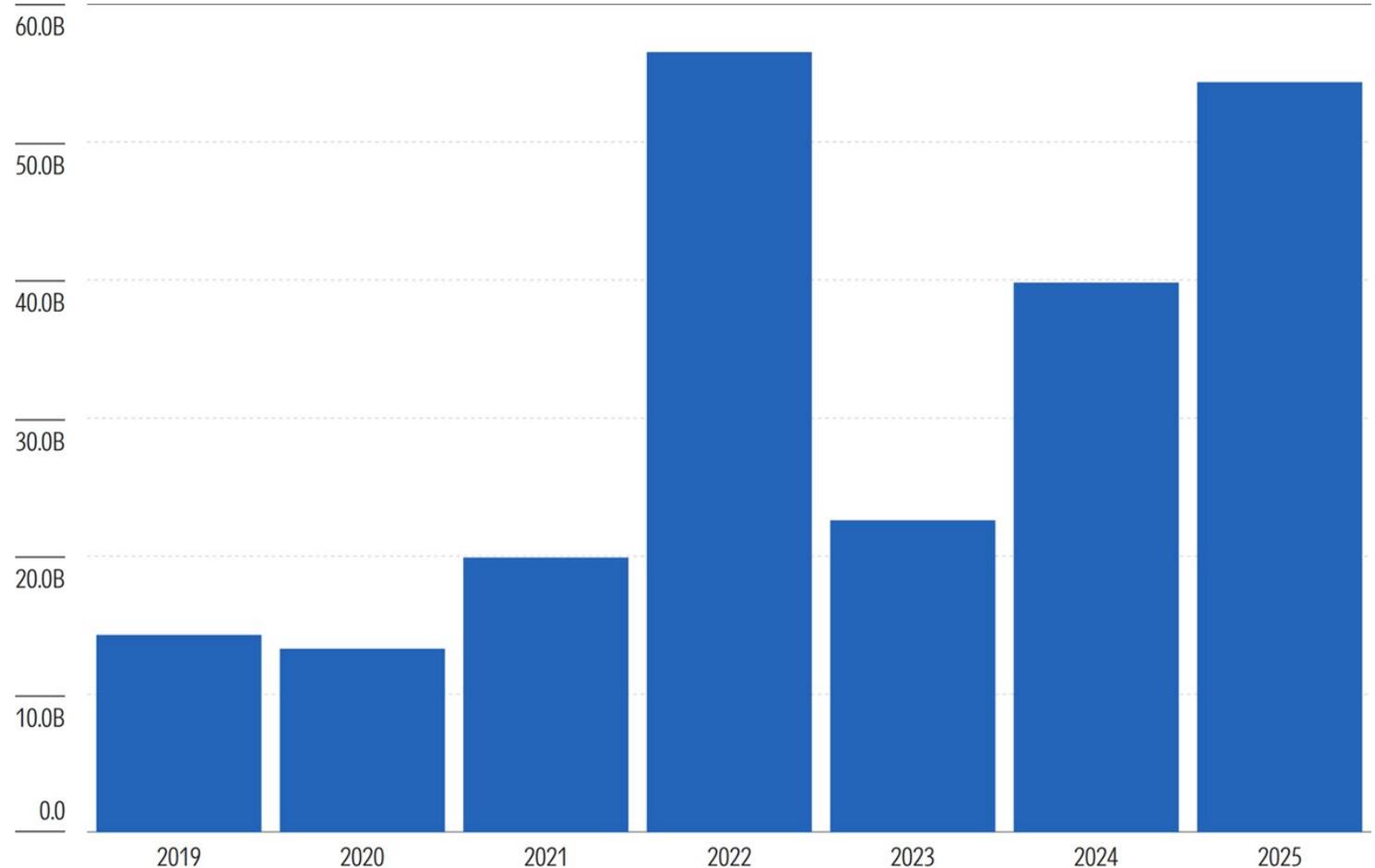
Rising Shift to CITs: Record Target-Date Fund Conversions in 2025

Plan sponsors will often choose to stay with a given target-date investment strategy but move retirement plan assets from a mutual fund vehicle to a CIT investment vehicle. While CITs don't enjoy the same level of transparency and data availability as mutual funds (they are not available on sites like Morningstar.com, for instance), they usually come with lower fees.

In 2025, asset managers reported \$54.3 billion in target-date mutual fund-to-CIT conversions, up from \$39.8 billion in 2024 and \$22.6 billion in 2023. While slightly below the \$56.5 billion peak reached in 2022, 2025 marked one of the strongest years on record for target-date conversions, underscoring the continued shift toward CIT vehicles.

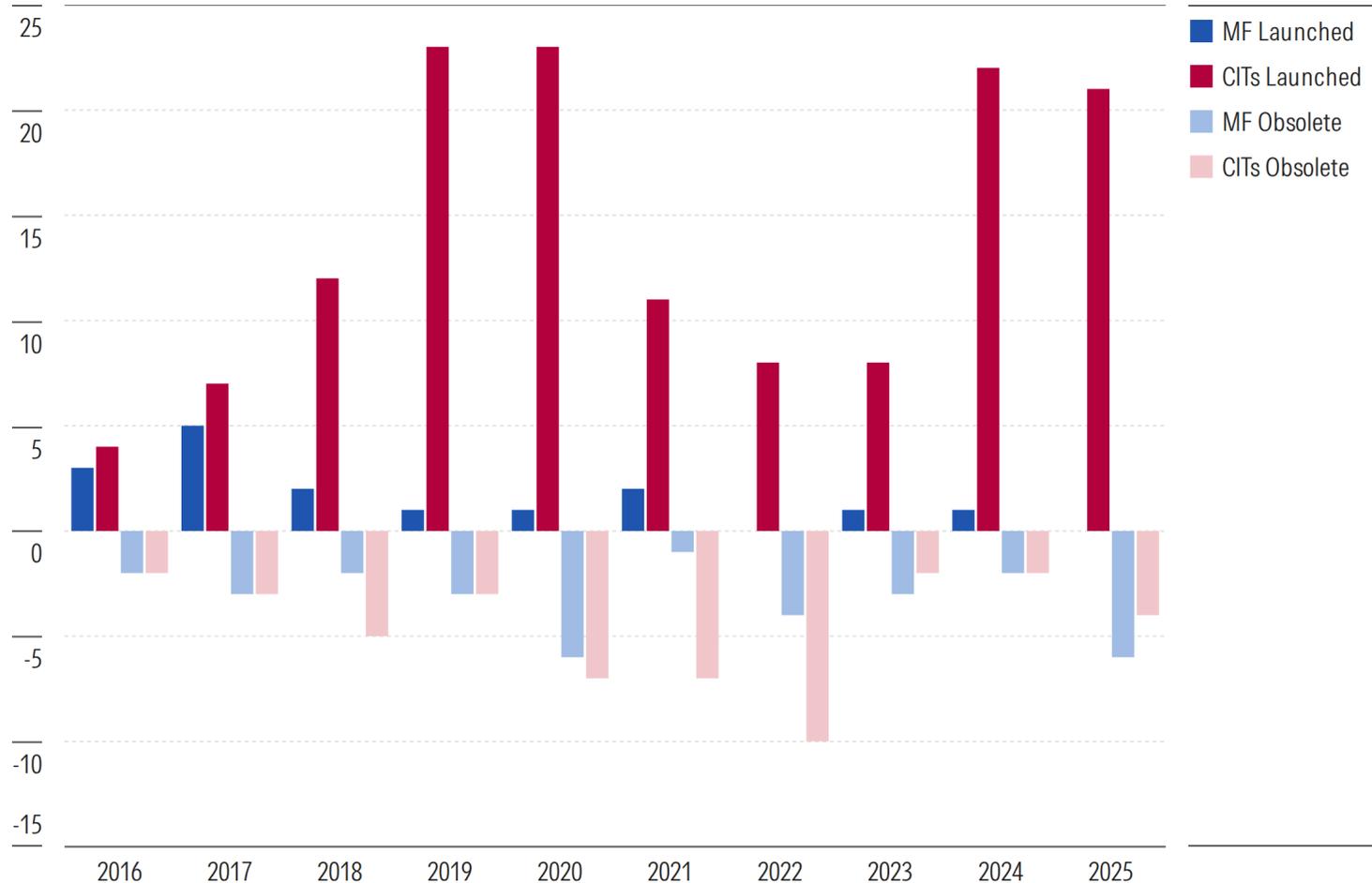
The 2025 conversion figure reflects conversion data from only the top five asset managers by net flows, so industrywide conversions were likely even higher.

Mutual Fund to CIT Conversions



Target-Date Launches Persist for CITs in 2025, While Mutual Fund Offerings Shrink

Target-Date Launches and Closures, 2015-25



Target-date product launches persisted at high levels through 2025, all of which came from new CIT offerings. Among the 21 new CIT target-date series, many came from established asset managers, like Vanguard, T. Rowe Price, and Nuveen, launching related products with new providers.

Closures included six mutual funds and four CITs. That's the highest number of target-date mutual funds closed in a year since 2020. Most of the closed lineups were relatively small, with under \$1 billion in AUM at liquidation, such as the Empower Lifetime Index Trust target-date series. Larger closures, such as the MassMutual Select T. Rowe Price Retirement series, took place at firms focusing more on in-house solutions or CIT products.

Over the past decade, CITs represented the majority of new products, while mutual fund target-date offerings saw more closures than launches from 2015 through 2025. However, it has not been smooth sailing on the CIT side; the vehicle also accounted for most of the closed target-date strategies over the decade.

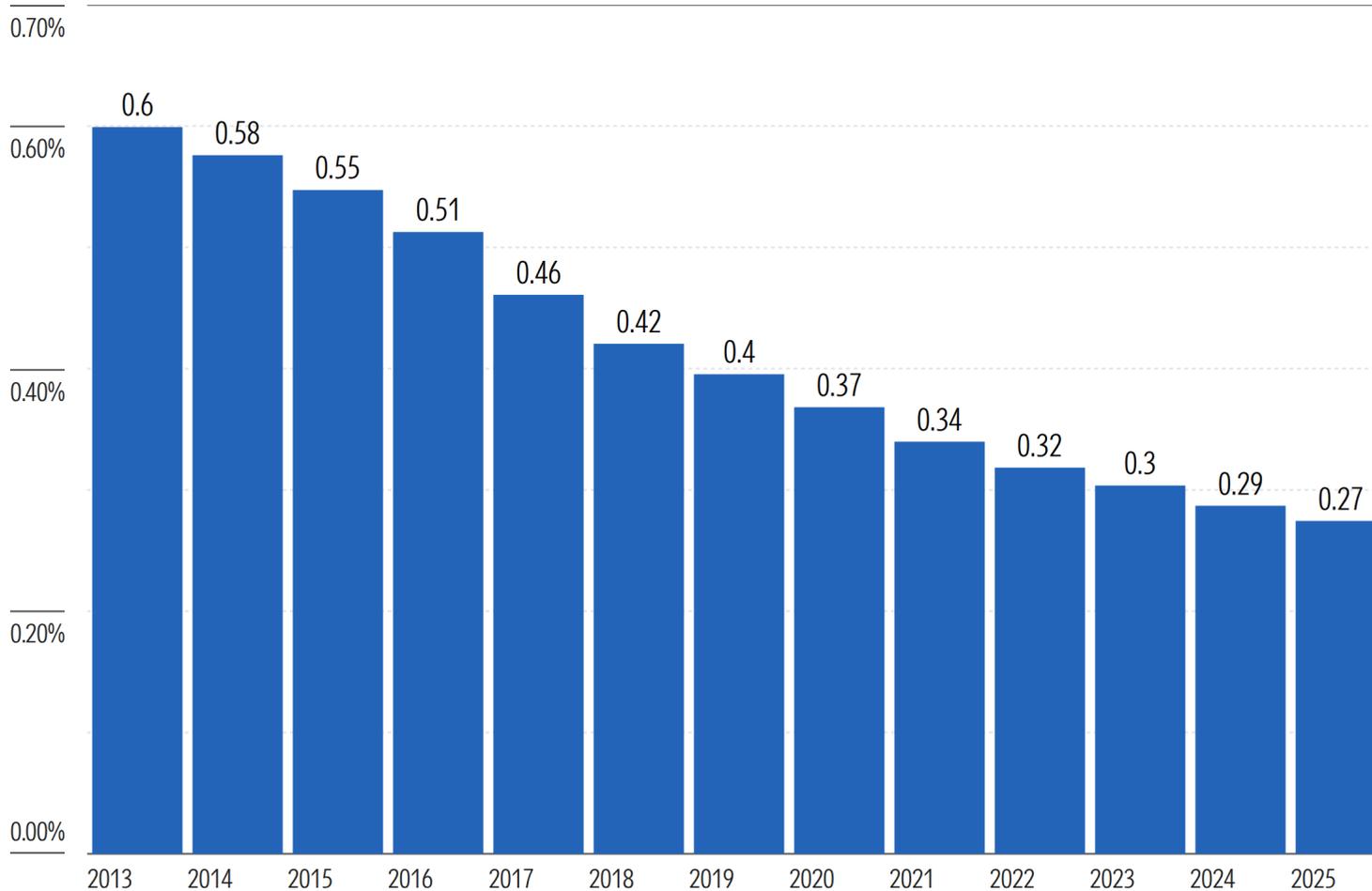
Fees

Fees continue their downward trend.

Fees Continue to Decrease; Investors and Providers Both Win

Year-End Asset-Weighted Net Expense Ratios for Target-Date Mutual Funds

Target-date funds are more affordable than ever.



Over the past decade, the asset-weighted average prospectus net expense ratio for target-date funds has halved, dropping to 0.27% in 2025 from 0.55% 2015.

The 2-basis-point decline in 2025, to 0.27% from 0.29%, may seem small on an absolute basis. But across the more than \$2 trillion target-date mutual fund space, that translated to more than \$80 million in collective savings for investors. Target-date asset growth has ensured that, despite the drop in fees, asset managers are still collecting more money, to the tune of an additional \$580 million in revenue in 2025.

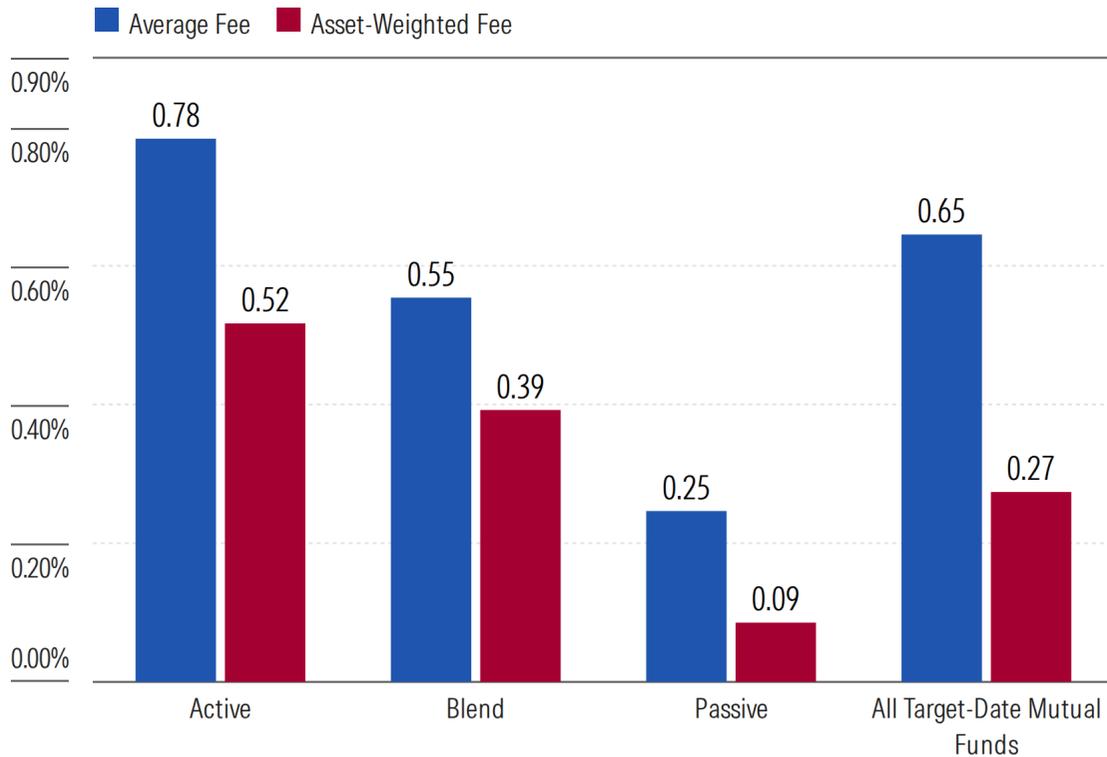
These figures exclude fees for CITs, which generally have less transparent fee and asset reporting practices. These vehicles, though, also tend to have lower fees than mutual funds and have been instrumental in lowering savers' costs to invest.

Target-Date Investors Remain Fee-Conscious

Target-date funds are often classified by the underlying strategies they use, whether that's active, passive, or a blend of the two. No matter the construction, investors generally prefer lower-cost options, as evidenced by the gap between asset-weighted and straight average expense ratios.

Average and Asset-Weighted Fees, by Portfolio Construction

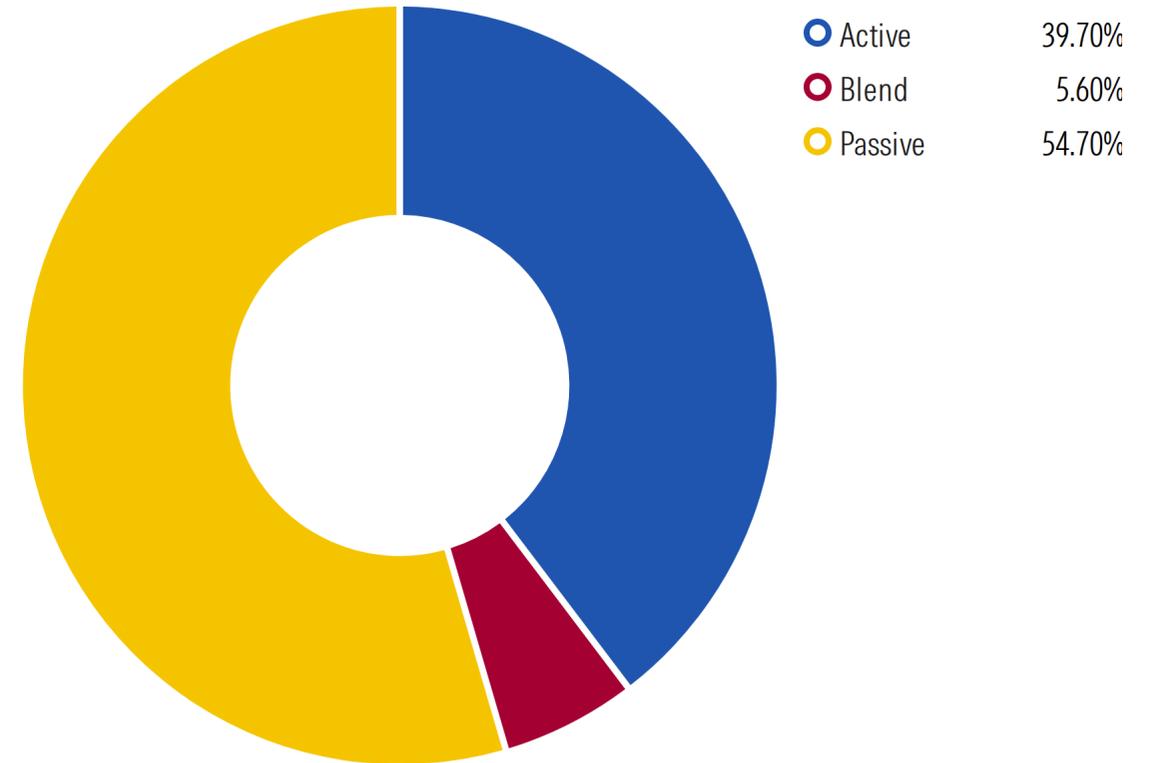
Investors continue to prefer lower-cost options.



Blended portfolios accounted for about 6% of assets in 2025, modestly up from 5% in 2024. Passive portfolios' shares also increased, to 55% from 53%. Their collective increase chipped away at active target-date funds' market share, which decreased to 40% in 2025 from 42% in 2024.

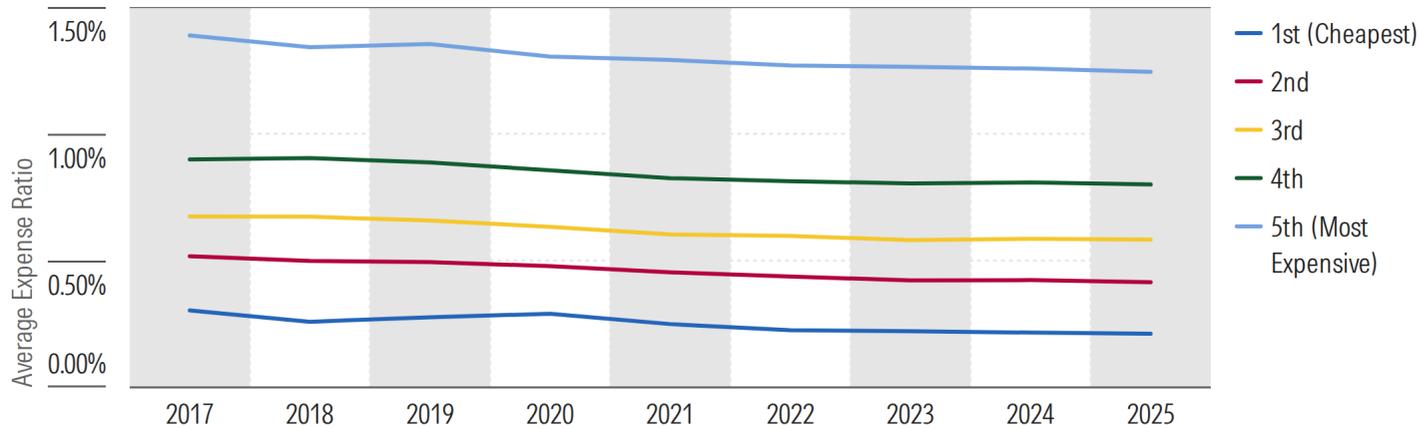
Market Share by Portfolio Construction

Passive and blend target-date funds continue to gain shares.

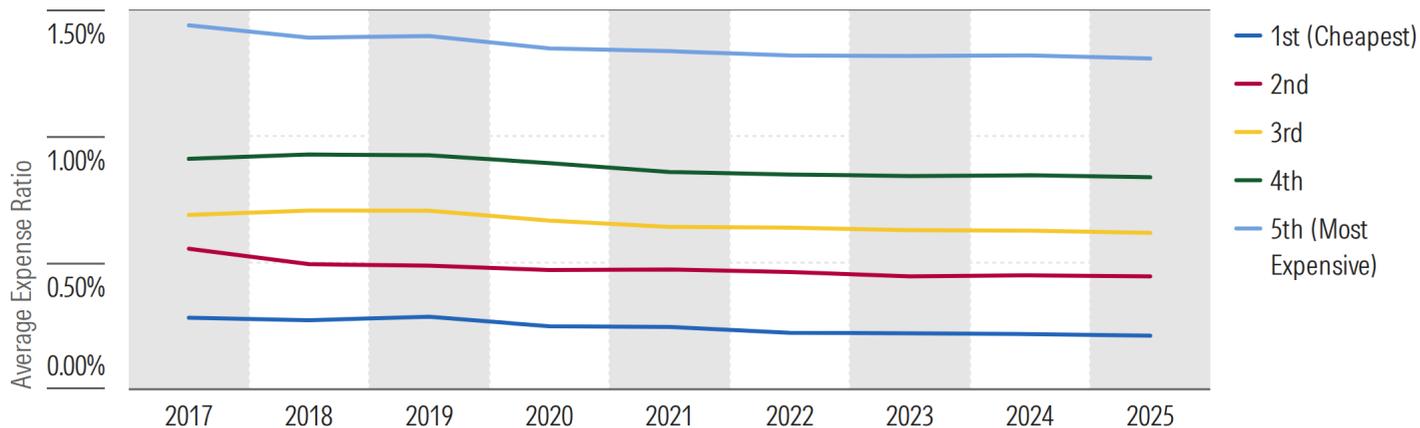


Cheap Target-Date Funds Approach Low-Single-Digit Basis Points

Average Year-End Fees by Quintile: 2030 Funds



Average Year-End Fees by Quintile: 2060 Funds



Fees for target-date mutual funds have declined more slowly in recent years, dropping less than 3 basis points per year since 2022, compared with earlier periods when average declines often exceeded 5 basis points.

Competition among providers has pushed fees for the cheapest offerings—often the largest funds—toward low-single-digit figures. As of 2025, Vanguard’s Target Retirement funds charged 8 basis points, while some Fidelity Freedom Index target-date funds cost just 4 basis points.

Larger fee cuts still occur among more expensive target-date funds, often because of underlying fund price reductions or the use of cheaper or zero-fee share classes. For example, the institutional share class of Principal LifeTime 2065 experienced a 10-basis-point fee reduction over the past three years.

How Target-Date Glide Paths Have Evolved

Higher equity allocations, tighter alignment early in the glide path, and shifting US/non-US weightings.

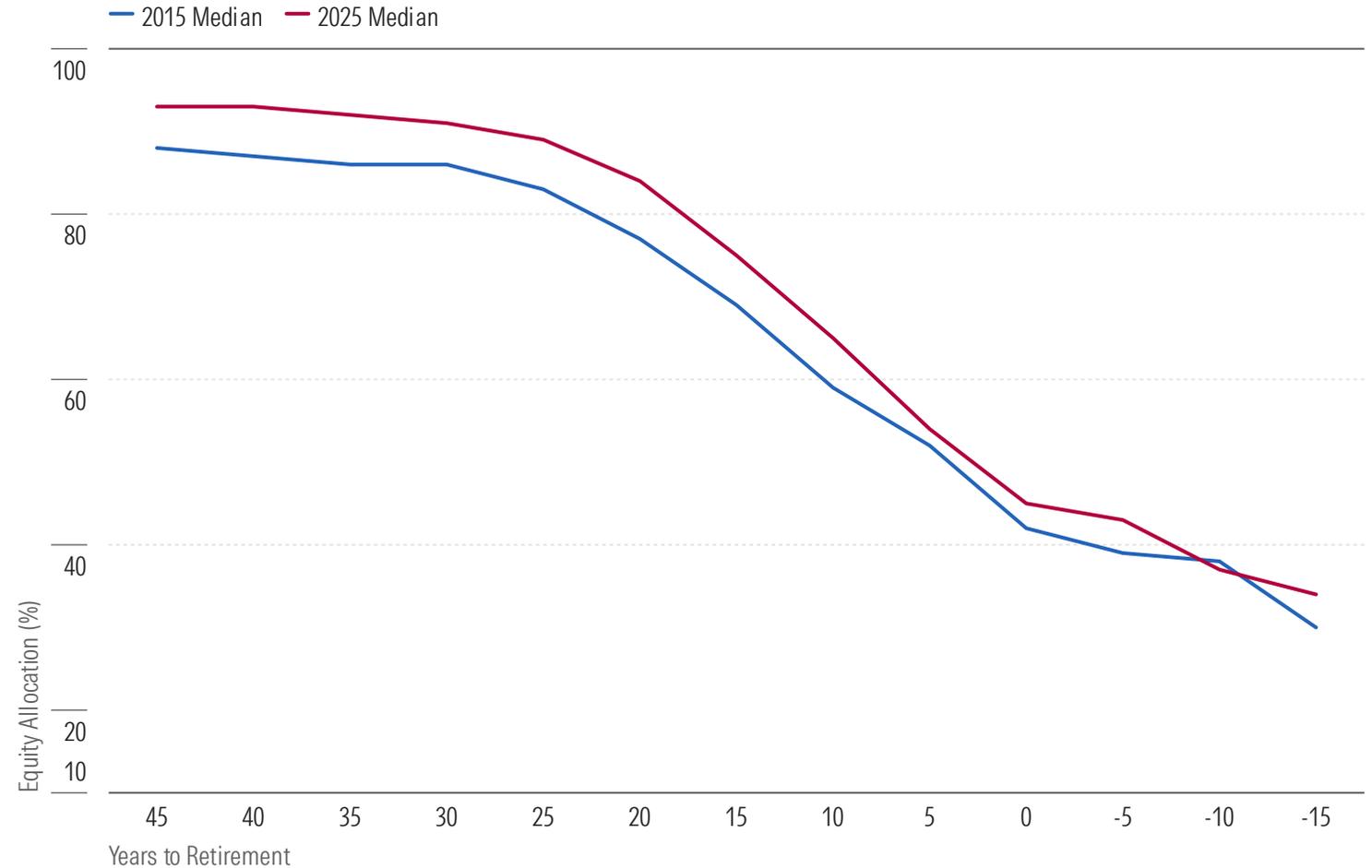
A Decade of Bolder Glide Paths

The average equity allocation in target-date glide paths has trended higher over the past decade, especially further from retirement. Both structural and market-based factors have encouraged managers to take on greater equity exposure throughout the glide path, including, but not limited to:

- **Interest rates:** Persistently low interest rates throughout the 2010s and early 2020s reduced bonds' return prospects, making stocks relatively more attractive. Stocks tend to thrive in low-rate environments.
- **Growth potential:** Equities typically offer more growth potential over longer periods compared with bonds. Higher allocations are suitable for younger investors with a longer time horizon; they can take on more short-term risk and benefit from the long-term effects of compounding.
- **Longevity trends:** Despite a temporary dip during the pandemic, life expectancy in the US has generally risen over time, extending retirements and placing people more at risk of outliving their savings. Equities' long-term growth potential has encouraged higher allocations to boost balances.

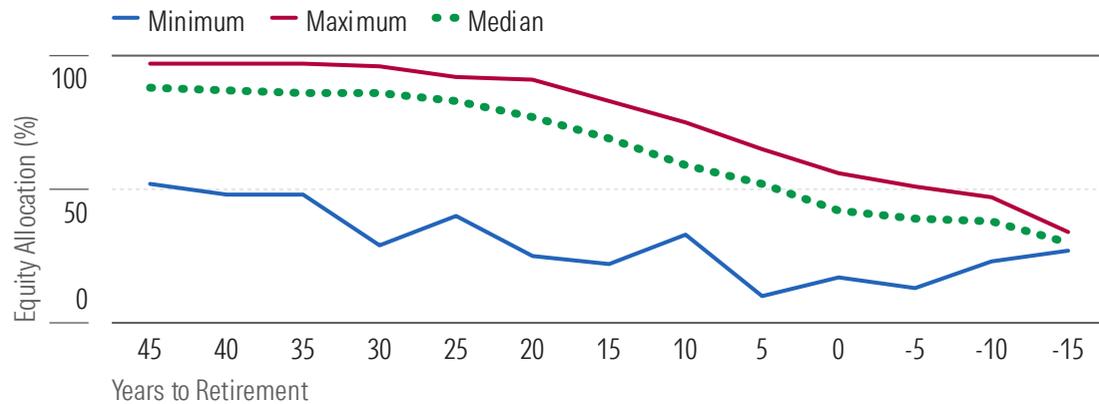
Glide Paths Hold More Equity Than a Decade Ago

Median Equity Glide Paths, 2015 and 2025

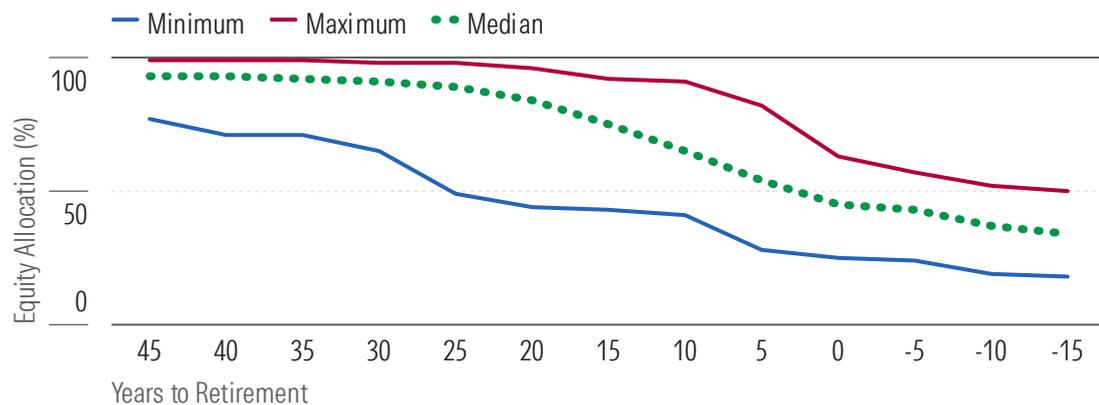


Glide Paths Have Become More Similar

Minimum, Maximum, and Median Glide Path—2015



Minimum, Maximum, and Median Glide Path – 2025



Glide paths have become more similar over the past decade, especially in the early saving years. The median gap in equity exposure between the most aggressive and most conservative target-date series tightened to 34 percentage points in 2025, down from 49 in 2015.

The convergence is most noticeable early in the glide path, where many target-date managers now maintain high starting equity exposures at 90% or more. The narrowing has largely been driven by meaningful increases in equity allocations among the most conservative series, which have shifted upward due to structural and market trends. With equity allocations rising, some more conservative offerings may have become less appealing to investors and plan sponsors. For example, John Hancock’s Preservation Blend series featured a glide path starting at 82% equity before gradually falling to a notably low 8% allocation at retirement, but it liquidated in 2023 after nine years.

Later in the glide path, particularly in the intermediate saving years, differences remain more pronounced. Target-date managers still have varying philosophies on how quickly midcareer savers should derisk as they approach retirement and the best trade-off between capital appreciation and preservation. Differing views around sequence-of-return risk and retirement income patterns continue to drive significant dispersion in equity levels during these years.

We looked at the equity glide path over time using data reported to Morningstar for target-date mutual fund and CIT series.

A More US-Heavy Global Market

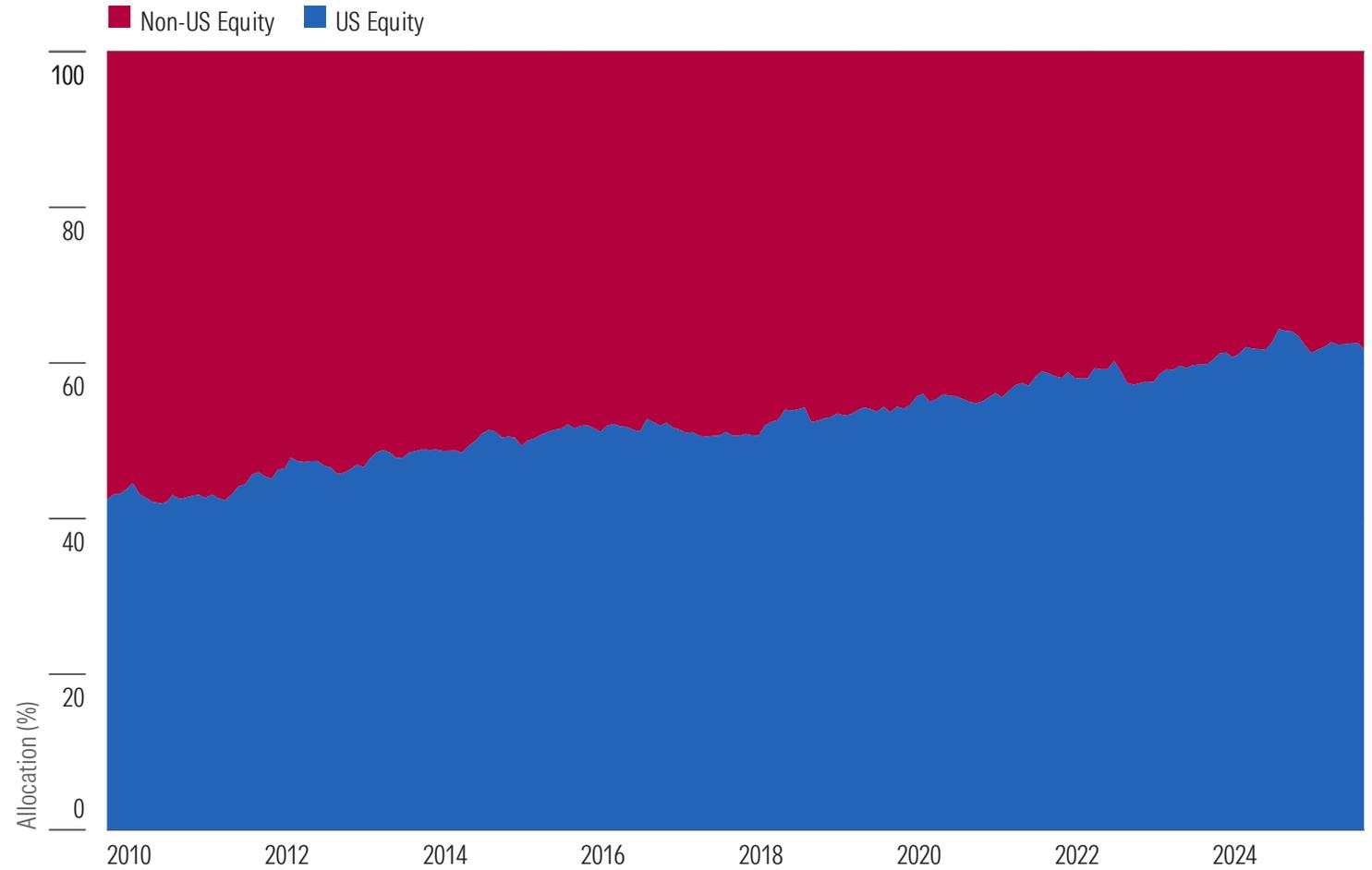
While the overall level of equity exposure in glide paths has evolved, it's also important to look at how the regional composition of that equity exposure has changed. The balance between US and non-US equities in the global market has shifted meaningfully over the past 15 years, raising questions about whether target-date managers have adjusted their regional allocations in response.

Since the 2007–09 global financial crisis, US stocks have consistently outperformed most international markets. The Morningstar US Market Index, a broad US equity benchmark, gained 14% from the beginning of 2010 through 2015, beating the Morningstar Global Markets ex-US Index's 7%.

That sustained outperformance has grown the US' share of the global stock markets. The chart to the right shows monthly US and non-US equity weights in the Morningstar Global Markets Index from 2010 through 2025. US stocks occupied 42% of the index at the beginning of 2010 but climbed to 62% at the end of 2025, illustrating a notable swing toward the US.

US Share of the Global Equity Market Has Risen Steadily

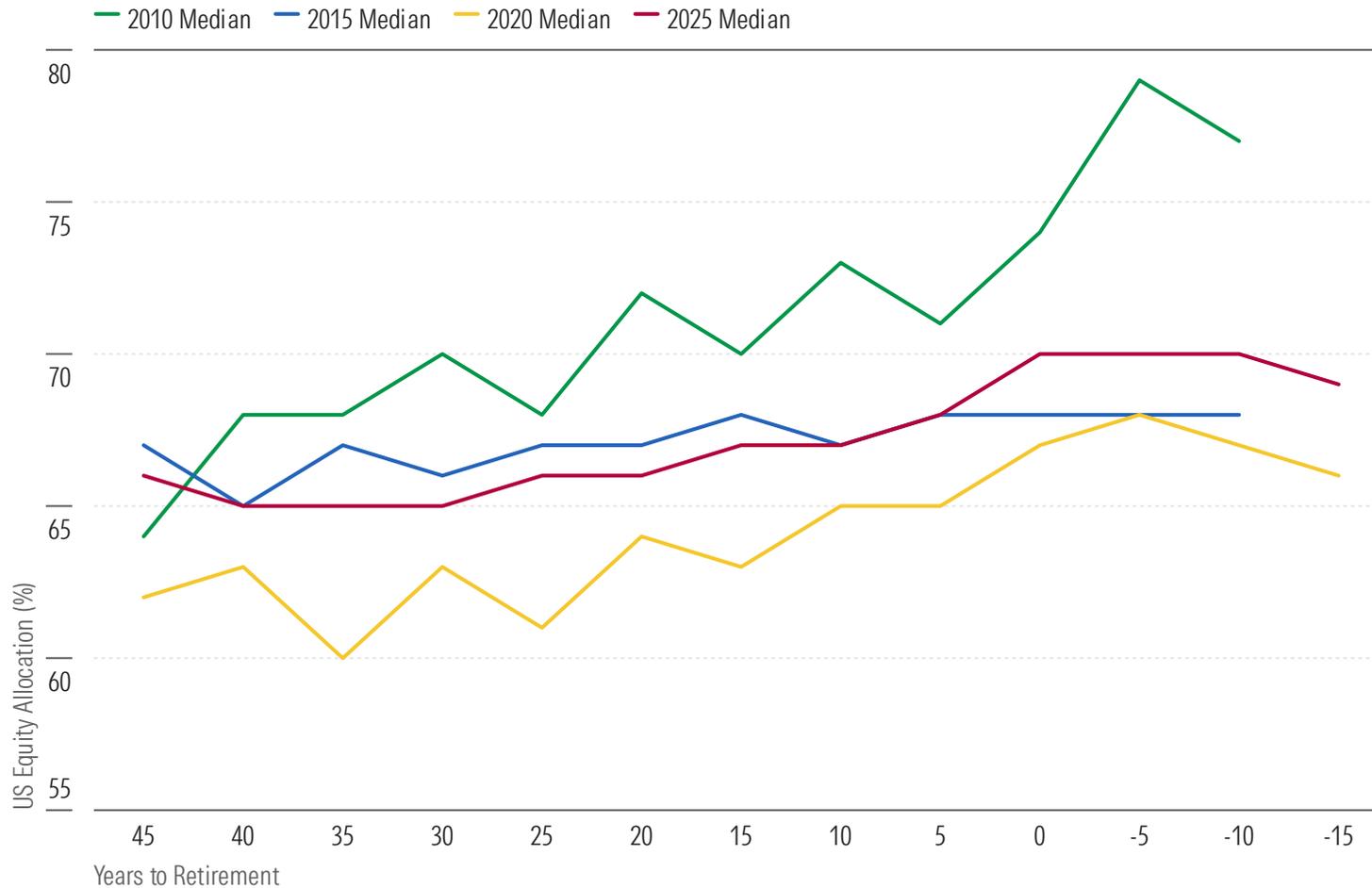
Morningstar Global Markets Index: US vs. Non-US Equity Weights, 2010–15



The Evolution of US Equity Allocations in Glide Paths

US Equity Share Within Glide Paths Has Shifted Over Time

Median US Equity as a Percentage of Glide Path Equity Allocations, 2010-25



Target-date managers haven't fully mirrored global market trends in their US equity allocations. The median US equity share within target-date equity allocations across the glide path in 2025 was broadly similar to what it was a decade ago.

Managers allocated the most to US equities in 2010 and the least in 2020. The drop in 2020 suggests they may have been responding to heightened US valuations and seeking more attractive opportunities around the world. Still, as US equities continued to climb over the past five years, so did their weight in target-date strategies.

Target-date managers typically allocate more to US equities closer to and in retirement, which hasn't changed over the past 15 years. This reflects a belief of many managers that retirement income received in US dollars, combined with home-bias tendencies, warrants higher US equity closer to and through retirement.

Zig-zag patterns in the chart to the left are attributable to some series that may offer funds only in increments of 10 years rather than five years.

Morningstar Medalist Ratings

Morningstar's top target-date fund picks.

Morningstar Medalist Ratings

The Morningstar Medalist Rating is a forward-looking rating assigned based on a strategy's investment merits. The ratings range across Gold, Silver, Bronze, Neutral, and Negative. The highest ratings go to series that have the best chance to collectively outperform over a full market cycle on a risk-adjusted basis, net of fees.

- As of February 2026, Morningstar Manager Research analysts assigned Medalist Ratings to 29 target-date mutual fund and ETF series and 27 target-date CIT series.
- The CIT offerings are largely clones of their mutual fund counterparts, though some strategies, such as those from Manning & Napier and IndexSelect, are available only in CIT form.
- The following slides feature target-date series with 100% analyst coverage.

The following target-date series were newly brought under analyst coverage or saw notable coverage changes in 2025:

- **BlackRock LifePath Index Growth** entered coverage with a Gold Medalist Rating. The series builds on BlackRock's well-regarded LifePath Index framework but adopts a distinctly more aggressive posture, maintaining a 50% equity allocation at retirement and beyond. This equity-heavy design supports long-term growth and helps address longevity risk, though it also increases exposure to sequence-of-returns risk during retirement. A low-cost, index-based implementation and a disciplined, experienced team strengthen its appeal, even if the elevated risk profile may not suit all investors.
- **JPM SmartRetirement (Great Gray)** entered coverage with a Neutral Medalist Rating. The series remains supported by experienced investors and deep retirement research, though recent and upcoming manager departures add uncertainty. While recent refinements to tactical allocation have stabilized outcomes, the approach has yet to demonstrate a durable performance advantage relative to peers.
- **Putnam Retirement Advantage** debuted with a Neutral Medalist Rating. While the series is overseen by capable managers, recent leadership changes and turnover within Franklin Templeton's multi-asset team give pause. Its steep glide path and tactically flexible, proprietary implementation have yet to demonstrate a durable competitive advantage relative to peers.
- **Natixis Target Retirement**, previously rated Neutral, was liquidated during the review period. **MassMutual Select T. Rowe Price Retirement** was also removed from coverage following its announced wind-down. No other target-date series experienced pillar rating changes during the period.

Morningstar Medalist Ratings—Mutual Funds and ETFs

Morningstar Medalist Ratings for Analyst-Covered Target-Date Mutual Fund and ETF Series

Target-Date Series	Morningstar Medalist Rating	People	Process	Parent
American Funds Target Date Retirement Series	 Gold	 High	 High	 High
BlackRock LifePath Index	 Gold	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
Fidelity Freedom Index Series	 Gold	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
iShares LifePath Target Date ETF series	 Gold	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
T. Rowe Price Retirement Blend Series	 Gold	 High	 High	 High
T. Rowe Price Retirement Series	 Gold	 High	 High	 High
BlackRock LifePath Dynamic Series	 Silver	 High	 High	 Above Average
Fidelity Freedom Blend Series	 Silver	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
Pimco RealPath Blend Series	 Silver	 High	 Above Average	 High ↑
State Street Target Retirement Series	 Silver	 Above Average	 Above Average	 Above Average
Vanguard Target Retirement Series	 Silver	 Above Average	 Above Average	 High
Fidelity Advisor Freedom Series	 Bronze	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
Fidelity Freedom Series	 Bronze	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
JPM SmartRetirement Series	 Bronze	 Above Average	 Above Average	 Above Average
JPMorgan SmartRetirement Blend Series	 Bronze	 Above Average	 Above Average	 Above Average
MFS Lifetime Series	 Bronze	 Above Average	 Above Average	 High
Nuveen Lifecycle Index Series	 Bronze	 Average	 Above Average	 Average
Schwab Target Index Series	 Bronze	 Above Average	 Average	 Above Average

Morningstar Medalist Ratings—Mutual Funds and ETFs (Continued)

Morningstar Medalist Ratings for Analyst-Covered Target-Date Mutual Fund and ETF Series

Target-Date Series	Morningstar Medalist Rating	Pillar Rating ↑ Upgrades ↓ Downgrades		
		People	Process	Parent
American Century One Choice Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Dimensional Tgt Date Ret Inc Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	● High
JHancock Lifetime Blend Ptf Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	● Above Average
JHancock Multimanager Lifetime Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Below Average	● Above Average
Nuveen Lifecycle Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Principal Lifetime Hybrid Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Principal LifeTime Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Putnam Retirement Advantage Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Schwab Target Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	● Above Average
Voya Index Solution Series	Neutral ↓	⦿ Average	● Above Average	⦿ Average
Voya Solution Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average

Morningstar Medalist Ratings—Collective Investment Trusts

Morningstar Medalist Ratings for Analyst-Covered Target-Date Collective Investment Trusts

Target-Date Series	Morningstar Medalist Rating	Pillar Rating ↑ Upgrades ↓ Downgrades		
		People	Process	Parent
BlackRock LifePath Dynamic	 Gold	 High	 High	 Above Average
BlackRock LifePath Index Lendable & Non-Lendable	 Gold	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
BlackRock LifePath Index Lendable & Non-Lendable (Great Gray)	 Gold	 High	 Above Average	 Average
BlackRock LifePath Index Growth	 Gold	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
Capital Group Target Date Retirement	 Gold	 High	 High	 High
Capital Group Target Date Retirement Blend	 Gold	 High	 High	 High
Fidelity Freedom Index Commingled Pool	 Gold	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
T Rowe Price Retirement	 Gold	 High	 High	 High
T Rowe Price Retirement Blend	 Gold	 High	 High	 High
Vanguard Target Retirement	 Gold	 Above Average	 Above Average	 High
Fidelity Freedom Blend Commingled Pool	 Silver	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
JPMCB SmartRetirement Passive Blend	 Silver	 Above Average	 Above Average	 Above Average
SSgA Target Retire Lending & Non-Lending	 Silver	 Above Average	 Above Average	 Above Average
Fidelity Freedom Commingled Pool	 Bronze	 High	 Above Average	 Above Average
JPM SmartRetirement Income	 Bronze	 Above Average	 Above Average	 Above Average
Nuveen Lifecycle Index Target	 Bronze	 Average	 Above Average	 Average
Schwab Indexed Retirement Trust	 Bronze	 Above Average	 Average	 Above Average
Schwab Indexed Retirement Trust Series	 Bronze	 Above Average	 Average	 Above Average

Morningstar Medalist Ratings—Collective Investment Trusts (Continued)

Morningstar Medalist Ratings for Analyst-Covered Target-Date Collective Investment Trusts

Target-Date Series	Morningstar Medalist Rating	Pillar Rating ↑ Upgrades ↓ Downgrades (no changes)		
		People	Process	Parent
American Century Target Date Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
John Hancock Lifetime Blend Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Above Average
JPMorgan SmartRetirement (Great Gray)	Neutral	⦿ Above Average	⦿ Above Average	⦿ Average
Manning & Napier Rtmt Target Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Principal Lifetime Hybrid Target Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Putnam Investments Retirement Advantage Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Schwab Managed Retirement Trust Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Above Average
Voya Target Solution Trust Series	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
American Century Target Date	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
John Hancock Lifetime Blend	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Above Average
Manning & Napier Retirement Target	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Principal Lifetime Hybrid Target	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average
Schwab Managed Retirement Trust	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Above Average
Voya Target Solution Trust	Neutral	⦿ Average	⦿ Average	⦿ Average

Performance

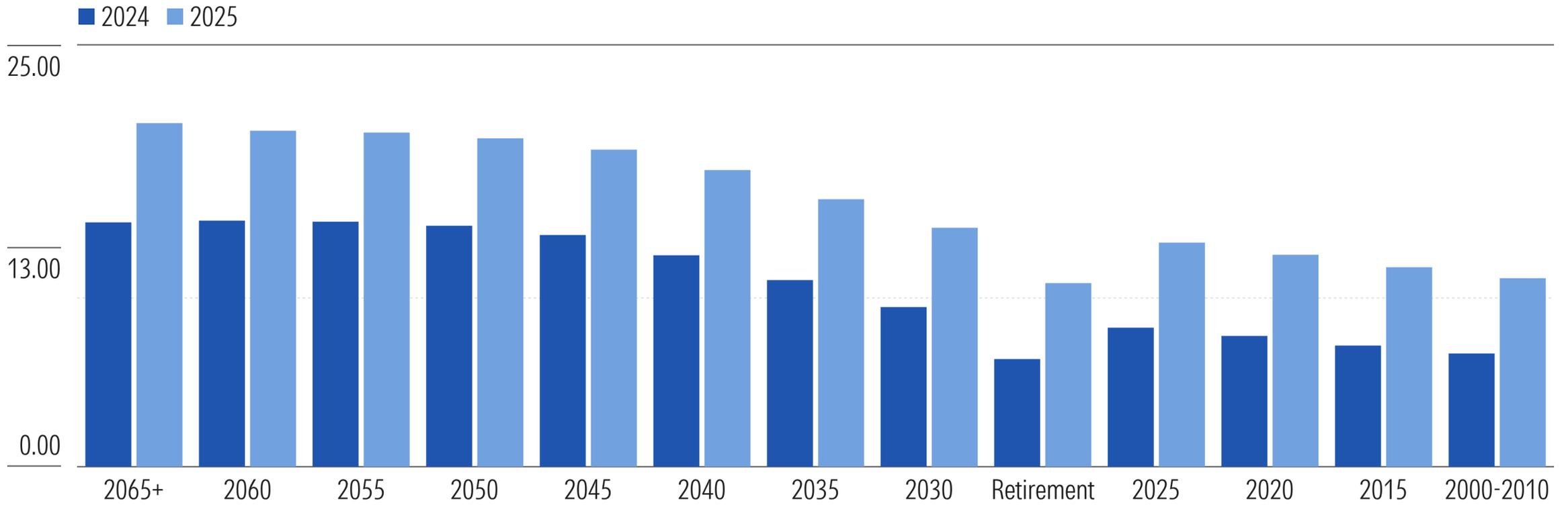
Target-date strategies showed solid positive performance in 2025.

Target-Date Strategies Delivered Positive Returns Across the Glide Path

US target-date strategies generated stronger returns across all vintages in 2025 compared with their respective results in 2024. Most target-date investors in 2025 saw double-digit results,

Returns ranged from 20.36% for the most equity-heavy categories, meant for investors earlier in their career, to 11.2% for the most bond-heavy strategies, meant for those in or near retirement.

Morningstar Target-Date Fund Category Annual Returns



2060 Target-Date Funds, Fidelity's in Particular, Shine in 2025 on Global and Equity Gains

2060 Target-Date Fund Annual Returns and Ranking

Series	Fund Size	2024 Return	2024 Category Rank	2025 Return	2025 Category Rank
Vanguard Target Retirement Series	39.95B	14.6	47	21.4	18
American Funds Target Date Retirement Series	18.78B	15.6	19	20.8	33
Fidelity Freedom Index Series	11.86B	14.3	59	21.5	14
Fidelity Freedom Series	7.99B	14.4	54	24.1	1
T. Rowe Price Retirement Series	6.55B	14.5	49	19.2	72
BlackRock LifePath Index	5.14B	16.3	9	21.7	12
Nuveen Lifecycle Index Series	3.39B	15.6	20	21.1	26
State Street Target Retirement Series	1.58B	12.7	92	21.3	22
Fidelity Freedom Blend Series	1.42B	13.8	72	23.0	4
Principal LifeTime Series	1.21B	13.3	80	17.7	90

Markets rewarded target-date funds earlier in the glide path, where higher equity allocations and greater exposure to international markets drove stronger results. With non-US equities outperforming US markets in 2025, strategies with meaningful global diversification saw a clear performance advantage. All mutual funds in the US target-date 2060 Morningstar Category delivered another year of double-digit gains. Most of the offerings of the 10 largest funds also posted 2025 rankings in the top third of their group.

The target-date 2060 category had 185 constituents as of the end of 2025, which included all share classes of a given fund. A Fidelity offering—whether it was Freedom, Advisor Freedom, Freedom Blend, or the firm's many other target-date offerings—occupied the group's top 17 spots in 2025. Fidelity's multi-asset strategies benefited across the board from overweight allocations to US large-cap and international equities.

Steady Gains for Near-Retirement and 2030 Investors

The factors that drove results for investors earlier in their careers also drove returns for investors near retirement: Strategies with more equities and more non-US equities stood out in 2025. That year, US stocks, as represented by the S&P 500, gained a healthy 17.9%; the MSCI EAFE, a proxy for non-US equities, grew 31.2%.

Similar to 2060 funds, Fidelity’s various 2030 funds held each of the top 16 spots of the target-date 2030 Morningstar Category group of 195 funds. Fidelity Freedom 2030 K6 ranked first, delivering a 17.9% return; this was a big improvement from its midtier standing in 2024. Fidelity Freedom Blend 2030 also recorded one of the strongest upward moves, climbing from the lower third of the category in 2024 into the top decile in 2025 as a result of its 17.3% gain.

2030 Target-Date Fund Annual Returns and Rankings

Series	Fund Size	2024 Return	2024 Category Rank	2025 Return	2025 Category Rank
Vanguard Target Retirement Series	108.69B	10.6	15	16.2	11
American Funds Target Date Retirement Series	51.96B	10.8	9	15.8	18
Fidelity Freedom Series	33.50B	9.5	54	17.9	1
T. Rowe Price Retirement Series	29.69B	10.9	8	14.6	48
Fidelity Freedom Index Series	25.78B	9.6	49	16.0	15
BlackRock LifePath Index	13.75B	9.3	65	14.2	59
Nuveen Lifecycle Index Series	9.40B	10.6	16	15.7	19
Principal LifeTime Series	5.12B	9.1	69	13.2	76
Nuveen Lifecycle Series	4.62B	10.2	32	14.2	60
Fidelity Freedom Blend Series	4.22B	9.2	68	17.3	6

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