

# Generations: Key drivers of investor behavior



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# Agenda



- Equity investing across the generations
- Key drivers of investor behavior
  - Prevailing market conditions
  - Engagement and inertia
  - Plan and investment menu design
- Implications for plan sponsors and providers

*Investments in Target Retirement Funds and target-date funds are subject to the risks of their underlying funds. The year in the fund name refers to the approximate year (the target date) when an investor in the fund would retire and leave the workforce. The fund will gradually shift its emphasis from more aggressive investments to more conservative ones based on its target date. An investment in target-date funds is not guaranteed at any time, including on or after the target date.*

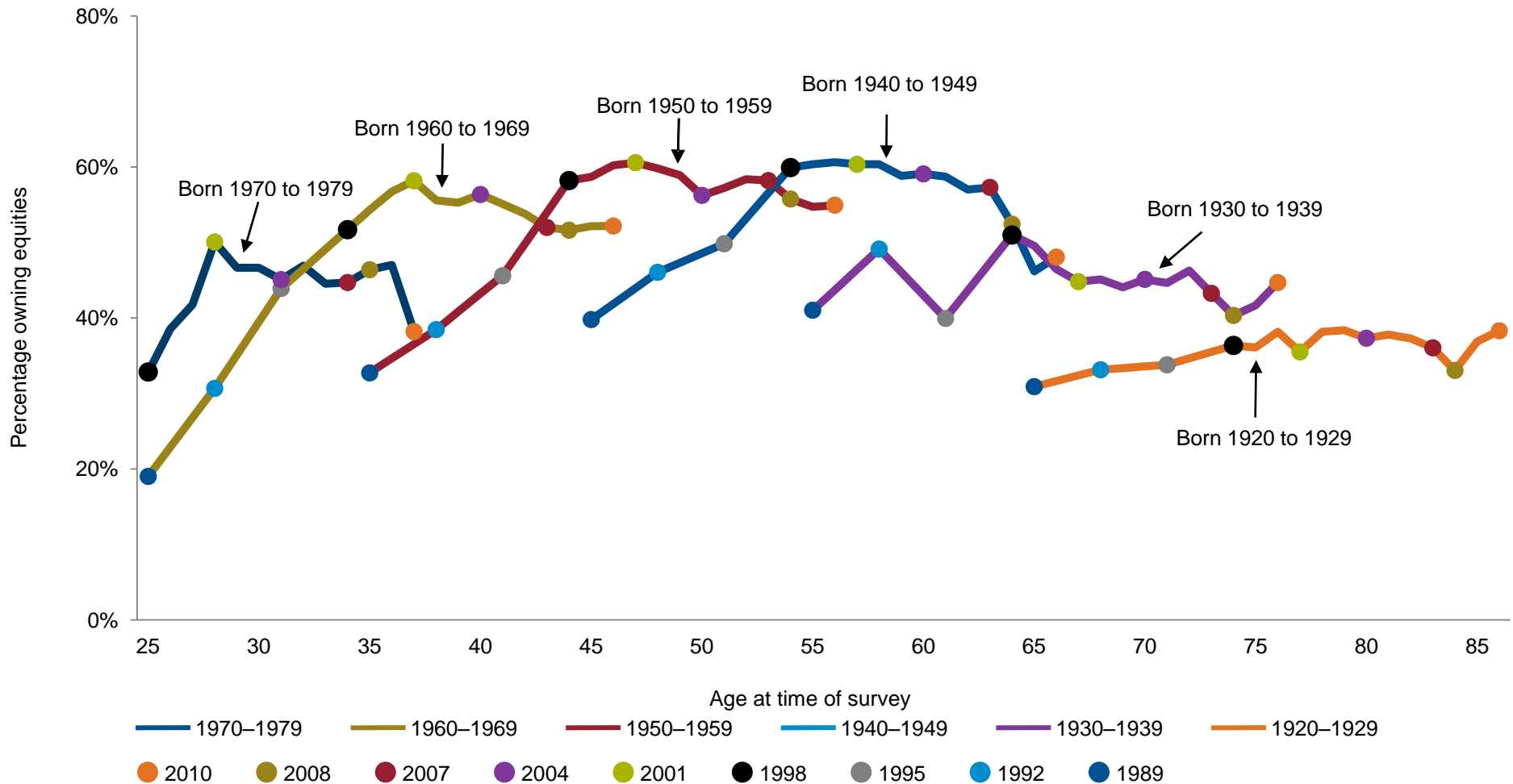
# Equity investing across the generations



# Younger generation of investors less likely to own equities



Percentage of U.S. households owning equities, ten-year birth cohorts, 1989 through 2010

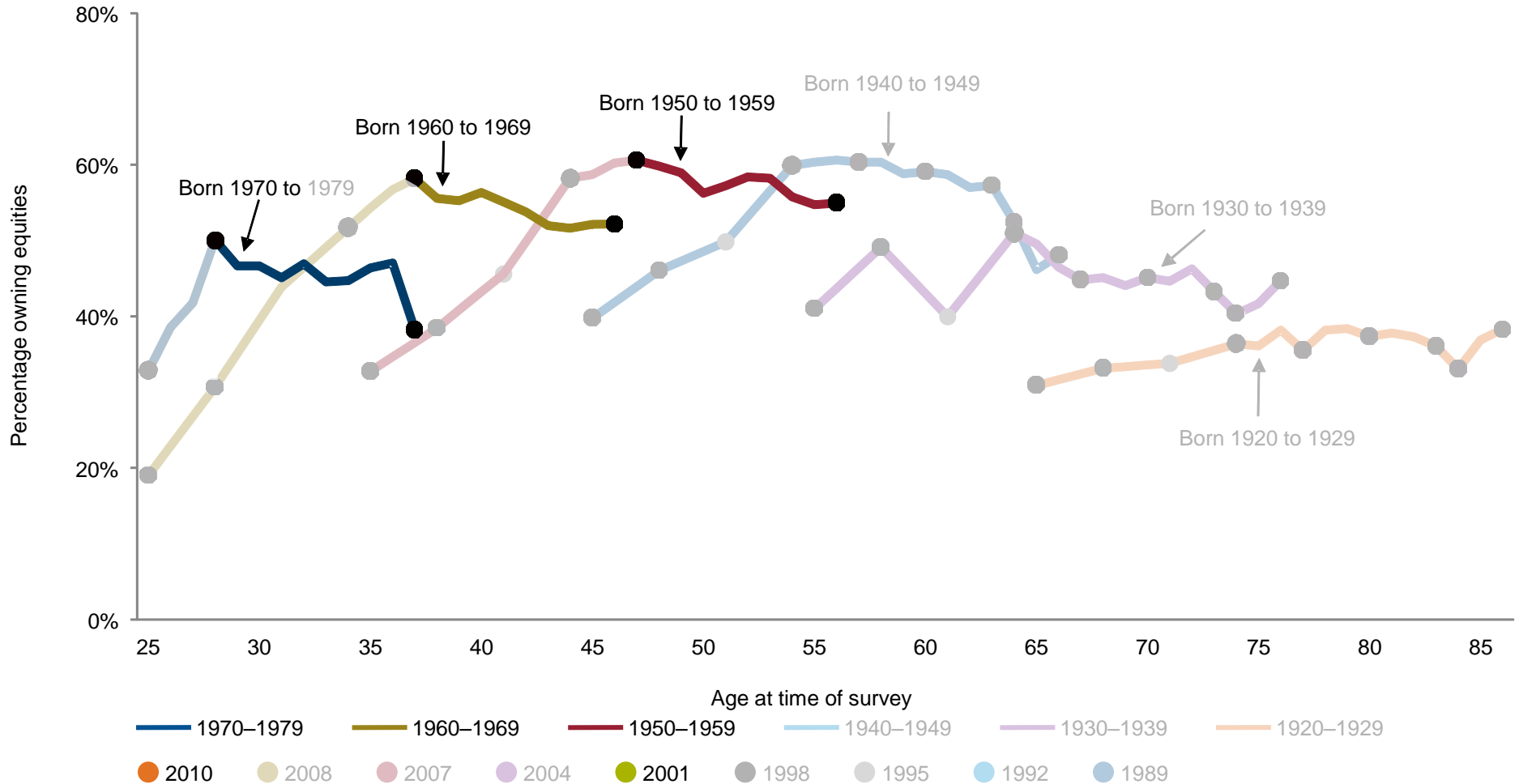


Note: Equities include individual stocks, stock mutual funds, hybrid mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and variable annuities.  
 Sources: ICI tabulations of Federal Reserve Board Survey of Consumer Finances and ICI Annual Mutual Fund Shareholder Tracking Surveys.

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# Risk appetite waning among Generation Y investors . . .



Generation Y investors more willing to take “average” risk,  
less willing to take “above-average” risk

Percentage of U.S. households owning mutual funds by head of generation, 2010

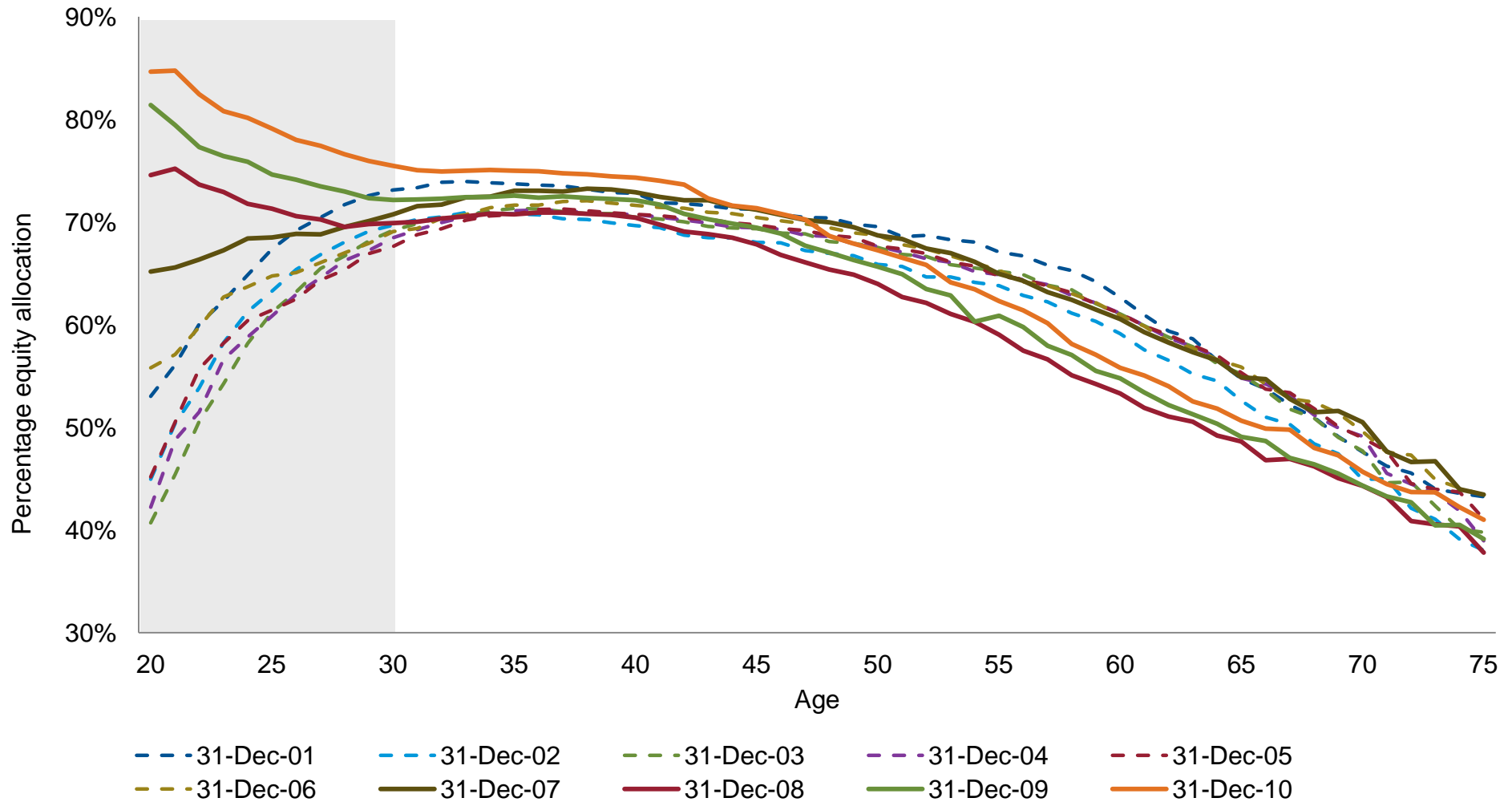
<b>Level of risk willing to take with financial investments</b>	<b>Generation Y</b> (born between 1977 and 2001)	<b>Generation X</b> (born between 1965 and 1976)	<b>Baby boom generation</b> (born between 1946 and 1964)	<b>Silent and GI generations</b> (born between 1904 and 1945)
Substantial risk for substantial gain	7%	7%	4%	2%
Above-average risk for above-average gain	25	33	26	14
Average risk for average gain	48	43	51	53
Below-average risk for below-average gain	11	11	11	16
Unwilling to take any risk	9	6	8	15

Sources: Investment Company Institute, 2011; *Profile of Mutual Fund Shareholders, 2010*.

# ... yet there is a rise in equity allocations among younger DC plan participants



## Average equity allocation in plan balance, by participant age and year

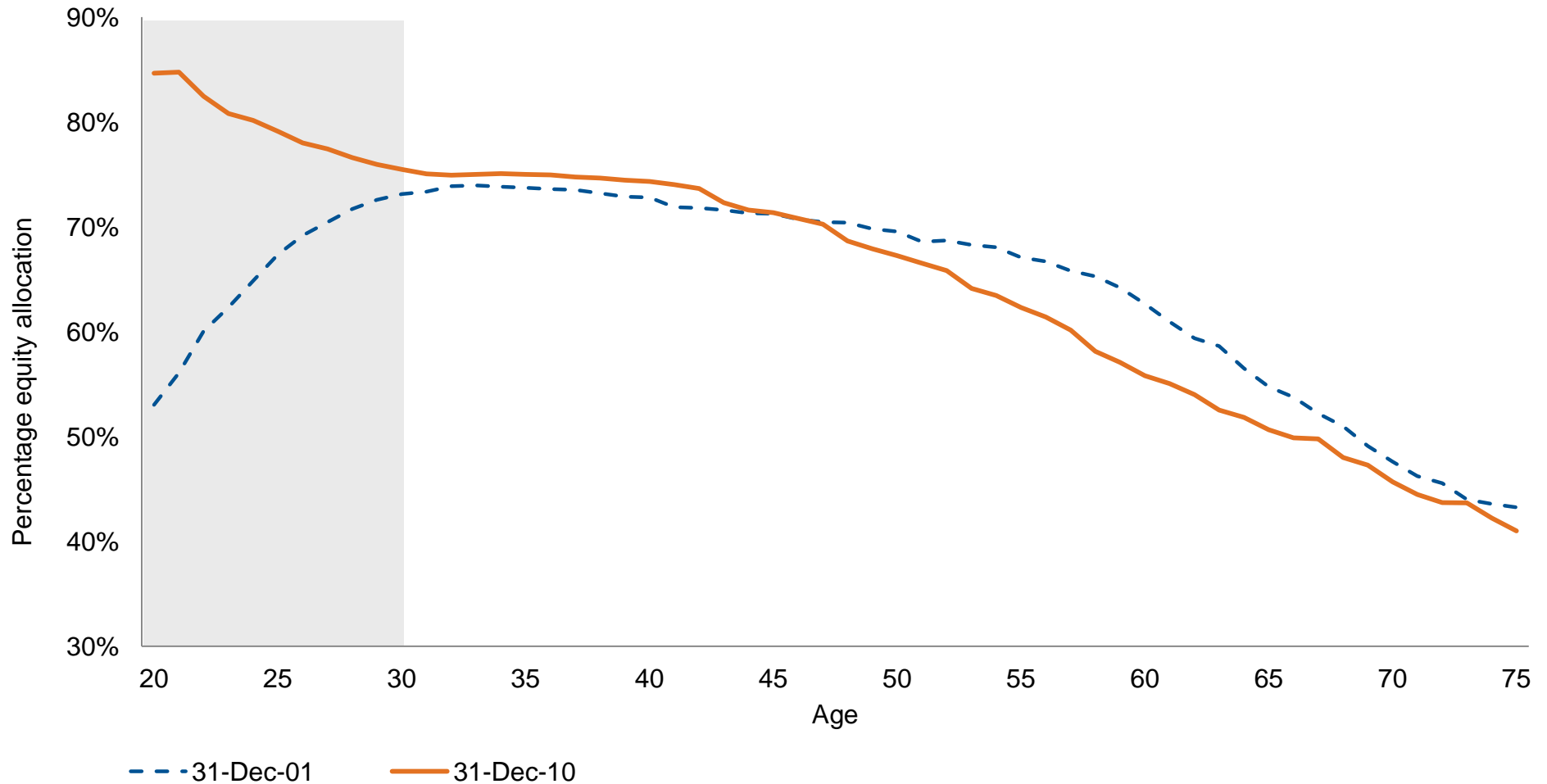


Note: Participant-weighted average fraction of year-end balance invested in equities, for those age 20–75 at year-end.  
Source: Vanguard.

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## Average equity allocation in plan balance, by participant age and year



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# Key driver #1

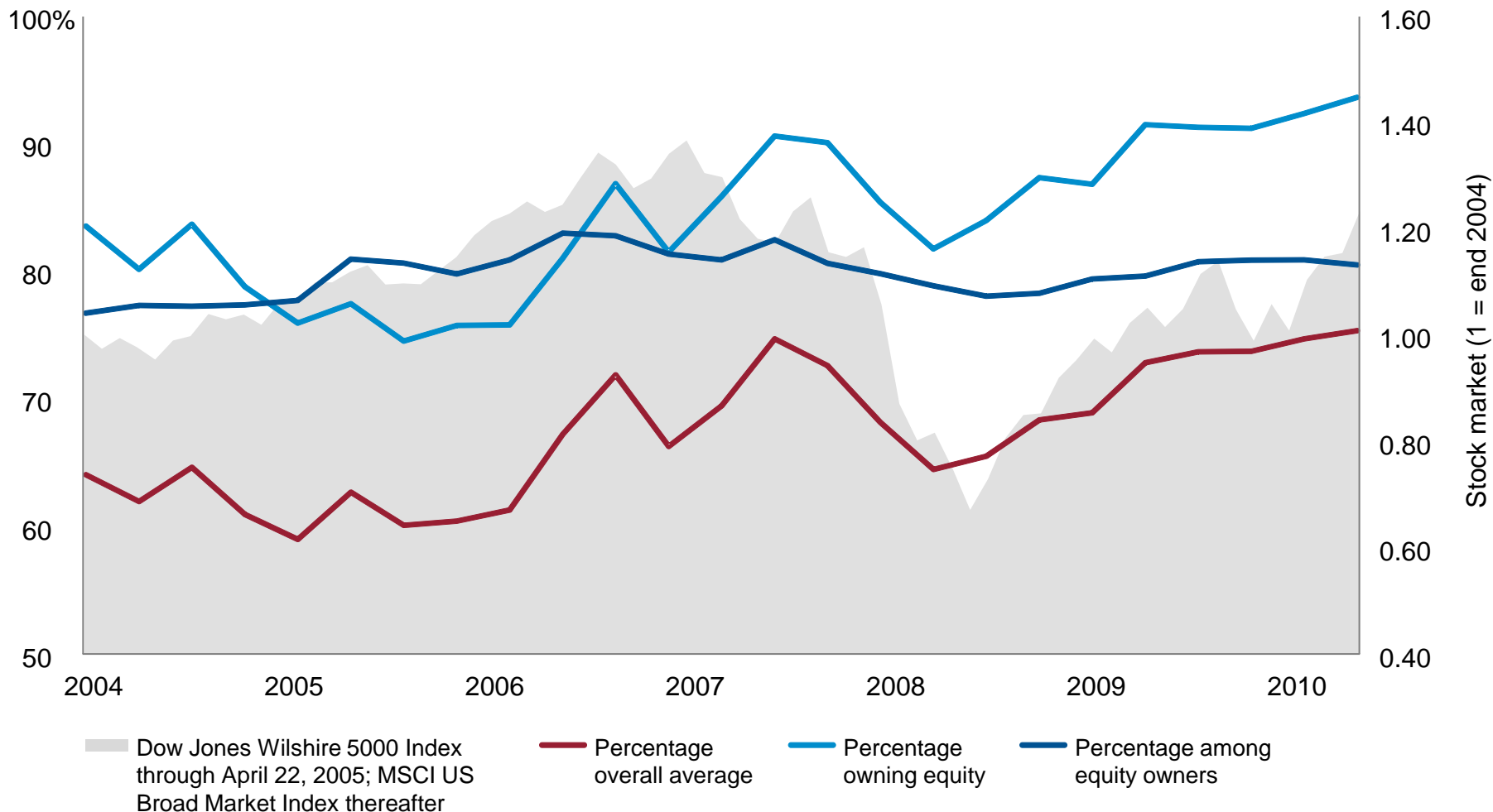
# Prevailing market conditions



# Equity ownership drives the averages—and rises and falls with the market



## Equity exposure, new enrollees not using TDFs

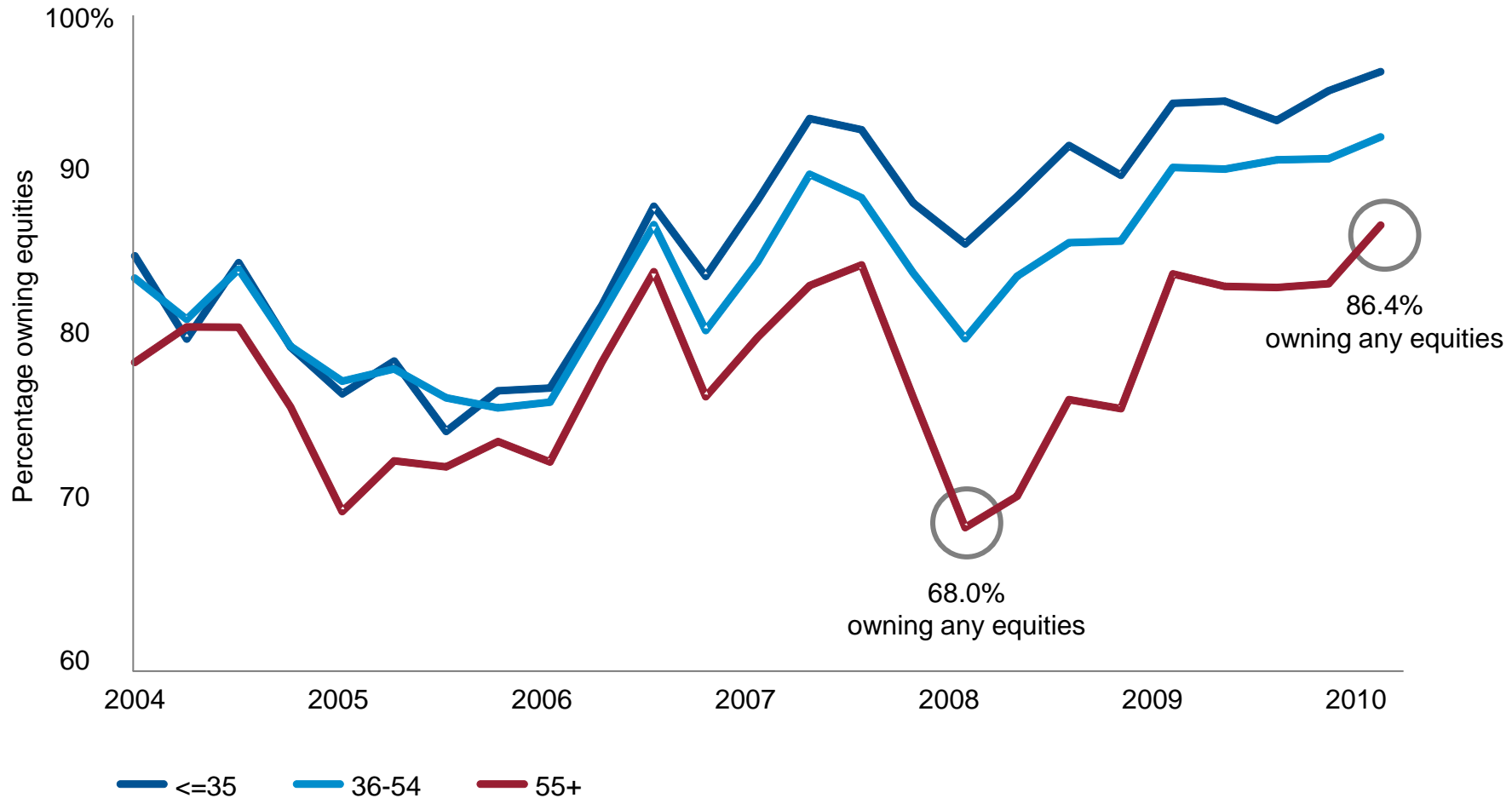


Note: Includes only participants with plan-entry dates in the given quarter and in plans offering TDFs.  
Source: Vanguard.

# Older investors more sensitive to prevailing market conditions



## Equity ownership by age and year, new enrollees not using TDFs



Note: Includes only participants with plan-entry dates in the given quarter and in plans offering TDFs.  
Source: Vanguard.

# Key driver #2

## Engagement and inertia



The good news:  
Overall trading activity and dollars are low



Plenty of evidence of inertia . . . even in 2009

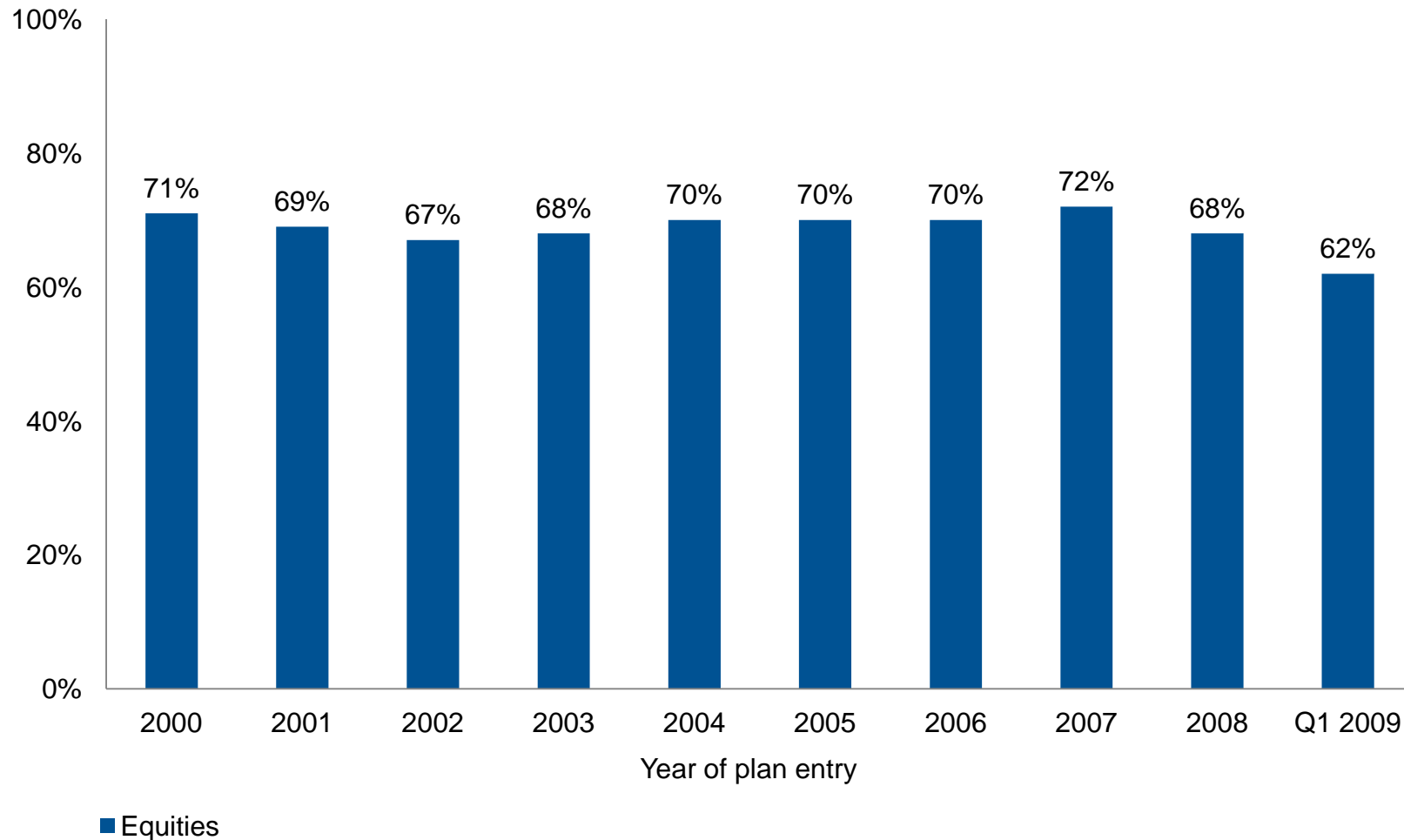
**13%** Percentage  
of participants  
who traded

**14%** Average percentage  
of recordkept  
assets traded

# Lack of rebalancing creates a legacy effect



## First quarter 2009 equity contribution allocation by plan entry date



As of March 31, 2009. Vanguard-recordkept defined contribution participants.  
Source: Vanguard.

# Key driver #3

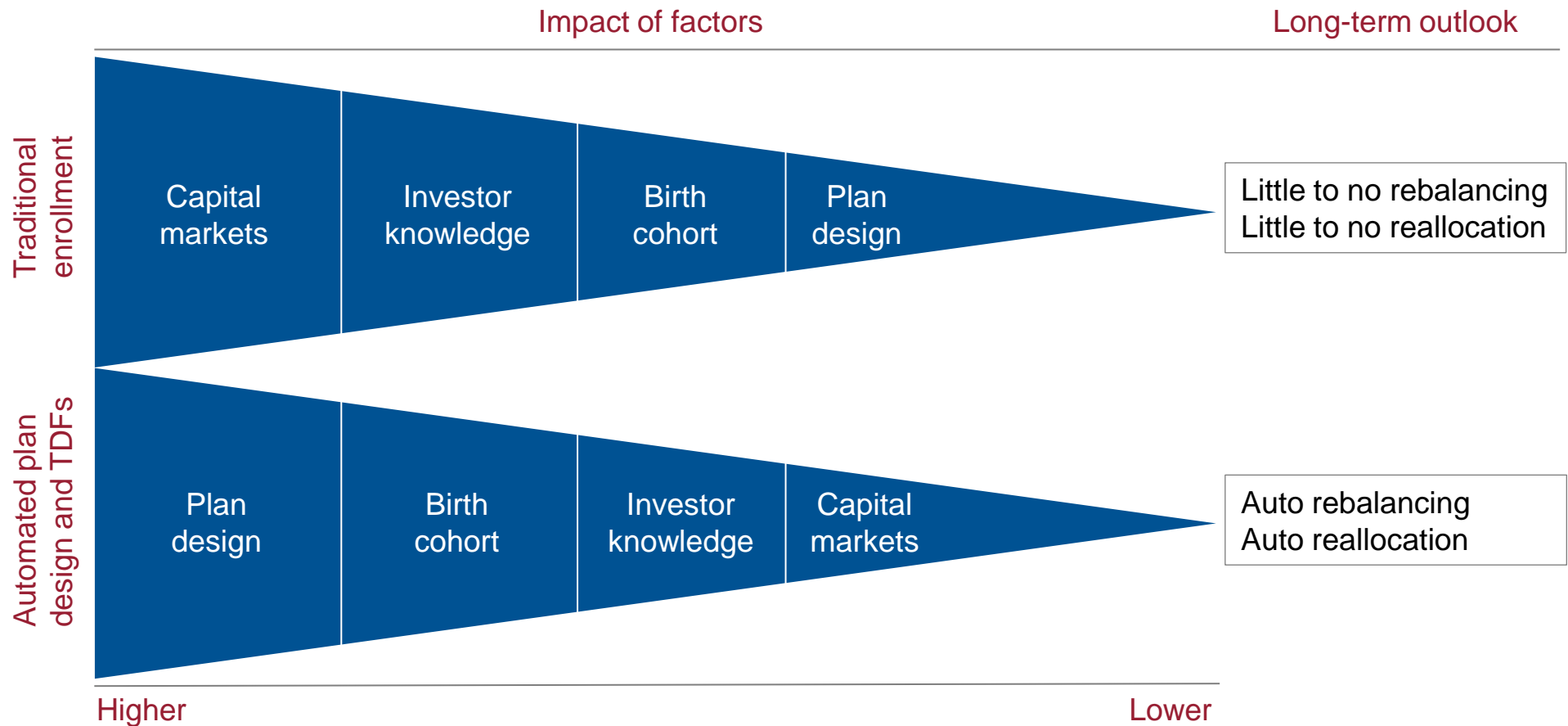
## Plan and investment menu design



# The impact of the automation age: Autoenrollment and TDFs



## Impact of automation on asset allocation decisions at enrollment



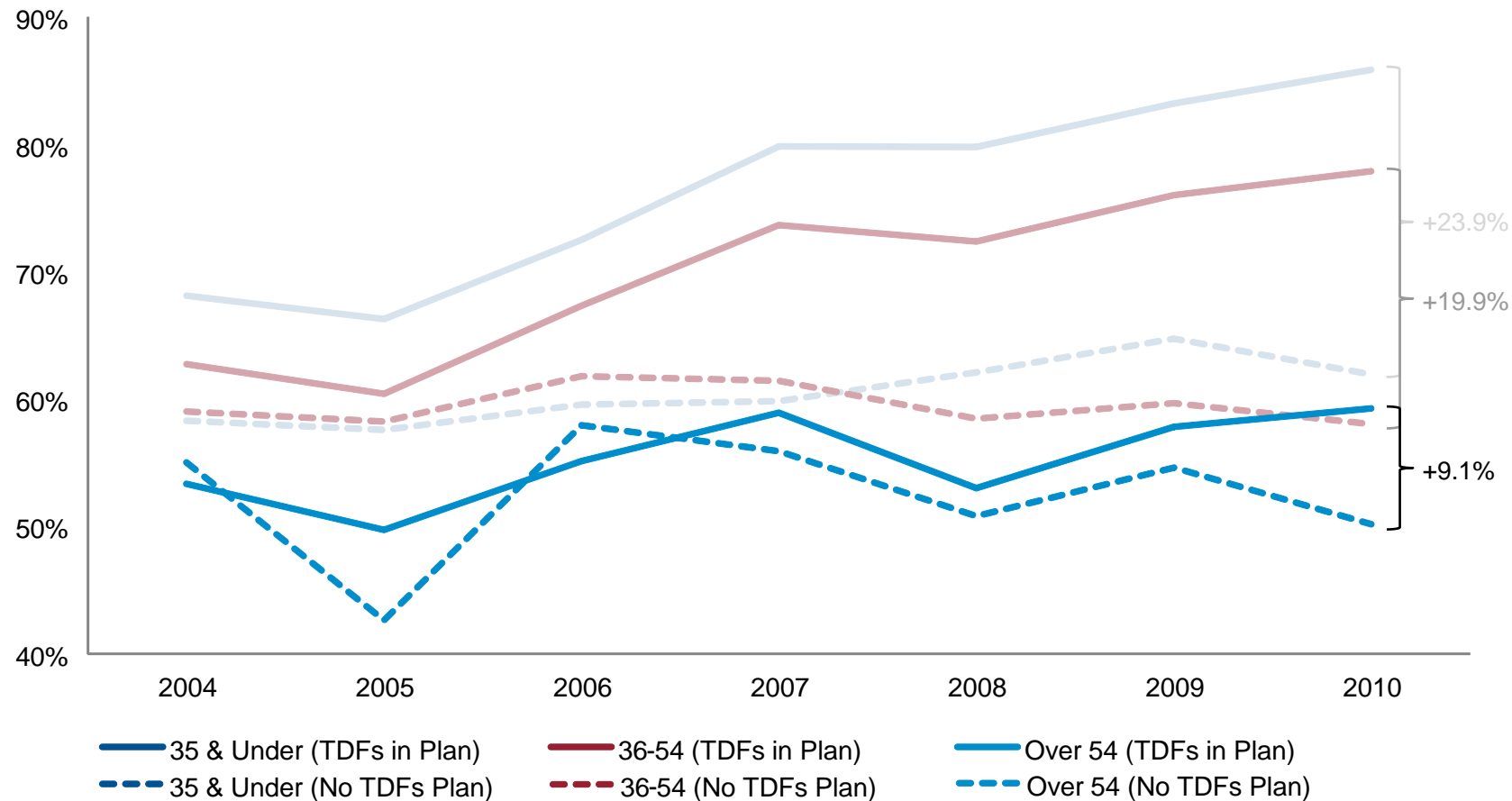
Source: Vanguard.



# The impact of automation and TDFs: Equity allocations higher among the younger



Average equity allocations, participants in plans with TDFs versus those without

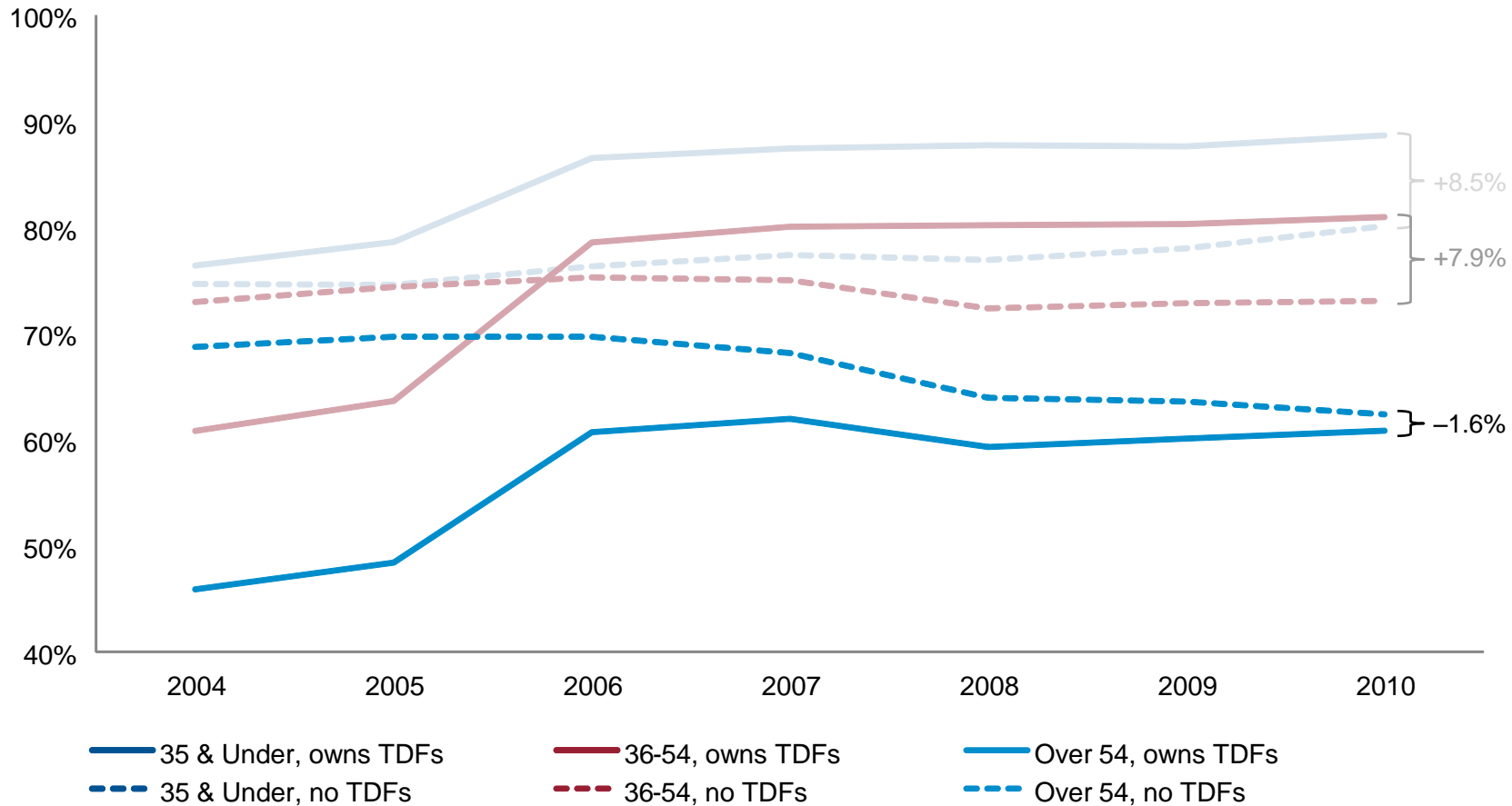


Note: The significant rise in equity allocation in 2006 is partly explained by an increase in the equity allocations in Vanguard Target Retirement Funds.  
Source: Vanguard.

# The impact of automation and TDFs: Equity allocations higher among the younger



Average equity allocations, participants with equity, all plans; TDF owners versus nonowners



Source: Vanguard.

# Implications for plan sponsors and providers



# Major hurdles in retirement investing across the generations



Advances in plan and investment design doing the heavy lifting . . .

Getting  
into  
the plan



Autoenrollment

Boosting  
savings  
rates



Autoescalation

Choosing and  
maintaining a  
well-diversified  
portfolio



TDFs

# Addressing the needs of the different generations



## Younger: Less engaged, longer time horizon

- More exposure to automation
- Accustomed to plan sponsor action
- Amenable to automation and plan sponsor action

- Keep them informed
- Autoenrollment
- Autoescalation

## Older: More engaged, compressed time horizon

- Less exposure to automation
- Accustomed to “do it yourself”/traditional education
- Amenable to automation and plan sponsor action

- Personalized advice
- Reenrollment

## Key takeaways



- No “lost generation” in 401(k) plans
- Autoenrollment and TDFs have transformed the 401(k) landscape
- More work to be done to address the needs of generations

# Disclosures



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All investing is subject to risk.

Investments in bond funds are subject to interest rate, credit, and inflation risk.

Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss in a declining market.

Vanguard's defined contribution recordkeeping system includes 3.2 million unique participants, 3.5 million accounts, and 2,200 DC plans.

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