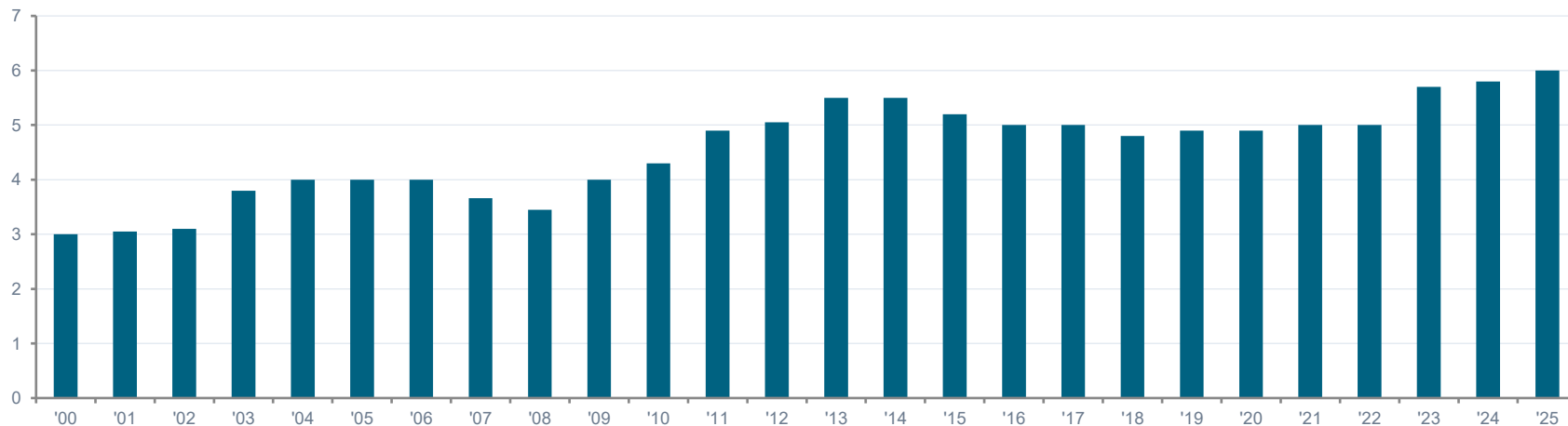


Private Equity Holding Periods Continue to Climb

6.0 Years

Median Holding Period
The longest since tracking began

Median PE Holding Period by Exit Year (2000–2025)



Biannual holding period study from Private Equity Info | PE exits from 2000 through 2025

Evolving Exit Dynamics

Extended holding periods persist as sponsors delayed exits amid limited visibility and market uncertainty. Conditions at both entry and exit, and across intervening years, influence the overall hold duration.

Portfolio Strategy Shift

Fewer realizations have reshaped portfolio strategy. Many sponsors have emphasized add-on acquisitions, prioritizing controllable growth and smaller bite-sized bets, a significant aggregate shift in PE investment strategy.

Historical Recovery Patterns

After the Dot-com bubble, the Great Recession, and COVID-19, median holds typically needed 4–6 years to normalize, with peaks about 1–1.5 years above prior levels. Today's data suggests a similar trajectory near cyclical highs.

Fundraising Outlook

The 6.0-year median equates to acquisitions around the 2020 COVID era, many at elevated valuations. As this vintage inventory clears and exits rebuild, LP distributions should improve, supporting fundraising into 2027–2028.

Key Outlook

4–6 yrs

Historical normalization window after major market disruptions

12–18 mo

Expected timeline for gradual pickup in exits if conditions stabilize

2027–28

Projected improvement in fundraising as distributions rebuild

Vintage Context: The 6.0-year median equates to acquisitions completed around 2020, with half of current portfolio companies acquired pre-pandemic. Many of these deals, along with those from the 2021–2022 period, were likely completed at elevated valuations. Working through that inventory should eventually relieve pressure on the median hold period.

Private Equity Info

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- Real-time alerts and deal tracking



Andy Jones

Founder & Managing Director, Private Equity Info

Leads PEI corporate strategy, product development and growth; background in investment banking and acoustical engineering.

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Dan Mahoney

Co-Founder & CEO, TruSight, LLC

Leads outsourced business development and deal origination; background in financial consulting and business strategy.

Private Equity Info was acquired by TruSight, LLC in late 2021, combining cutting-edge M&A data with hands-on deal origination to create an integrated platform for the lower middle market.

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