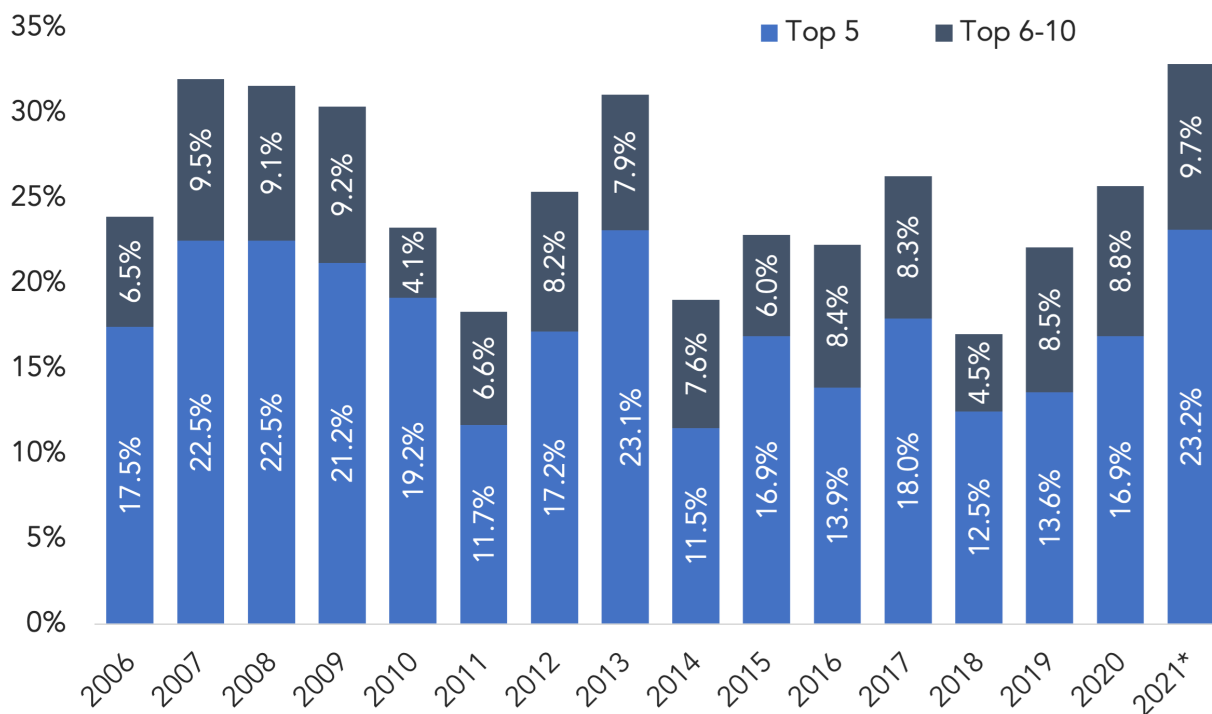


The top-heavy fundraising market

PitchBook | December 16, 2021

Largest PE funds as a share of total capital raised



Download PitchBook's Report [here](#).

Last week we highlighted PitchBook's new Quantitative Perspectives report, [US PE: Recovery and Beyond](#), which features a number of vivid findings that are worth checking out. The chart above highlights how much oxygen is taken up by the biggest PE funds in the United States. In 2021, for example, the five biggest PE funds that closed this year account for 23.2% of all capital raised. That's the highest ratio seen in at least two decades, higher even than the buyout boom. When the data is stretched to the 10 biggest funds, 2021 also comes out on top at 32.9%. In other words, the 10 biggest funds raised this year account for almost a third of all capital raised.

Separately, PitchBook released its latest [US PE Middle Market Report](#) yesterday. Middle-market fundraising has slowed since COVID, which has brought the middle market's share of dollars raised below 50% through the third quarter. That hasn't happened since 2017, which was an outlier year. Otherwise, middle market fundraising has accounted for at least 50% of all dollars raised going back to 2014. Not so in 2021, which, in the grand scheme of things, may wind up being another outlier year.

(Past performance is no guarantee of future results.)

