

# The Rise of Passive Investing

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The Role of Competition for Passive Investing

Passive Investing & Volatility, Price Efficiency, Liquidity



SWEDISH HOUSE

**OF FINANCE** 



U.S. Mutual Funds and ETFs

Data source: ICI Factbook 2024

#### Excess Recon Day Volume





- YETI moved from Russell 2000 to Russell 1000 on June 25, 2021
- large spike of trading volume on reconstitution date (passive funds trade)



• Data source: Chinco and Sammon (2024, Journal of Financial Economics)

#### Excess Recon Day Volume





- excess recon day volume + weights in index  $\Rightarrow$  infer how much indexing
- 5 indices: S&P 500, S&P MidCap 400, Russell 1000, Russell 2000, Nasdaq 100



• Data source: Chinco and Sammon (2024, Journal of Financial Economics)

# Passive from Portfolios Weights OF FINANCE



How does the portfolio of a financial institution line up with market caps?  $\rightarrow$  "A lot"  $\Leftrightarrow$  passive institution



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Effect of a change in strategy of some institution on equilibrium asset prices?

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 $\rightarrow$  How large is the strategic response?



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 $\rightarrow$  How large is the strategic response?

 $\rightarrow 2/3$  of direct effect

#### Alternative Impact of Passive SWEDISH HOUSE OF FINANCE



What would have been the effect of passive investing based on competition?

0.75 y-axis: our measure 0.50 of how "efficient" markets are 0.25 Baseline Full strategic response,  $\chi = +\infty$ 0.00 No strategic response,  $\chi = 0$ 2000Q4 2004Q4 2008Q4 2012Q4 2016Q4 2020Q4

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#### Implications for Asset Prices





The rise of passive investing decreased our efficiency measure by 11% our measure  $\downarrow \Rightarrow$  volatility  $\uparrow$ , price informativeness  $\downarrow$ , illiquidity $\uparrow$ 



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