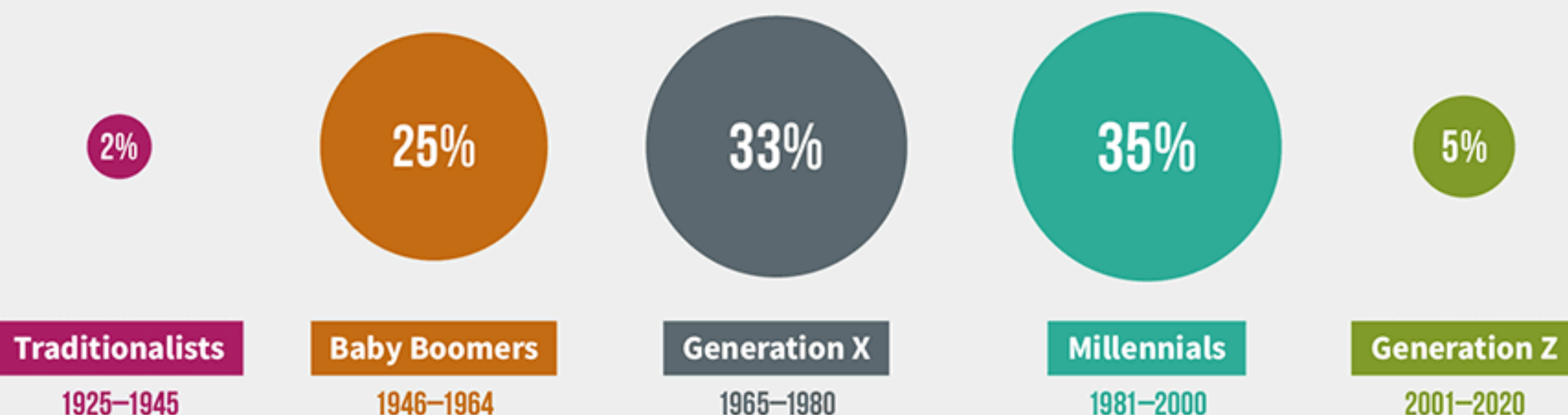


GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE WORKPLACE

One size doesn't fit all when it comes to today's workforce—five generations of workers means five approaches to work.¹ Learn how to adjust to a multigenerational workforce.

Current U.S. workforce numbers²:



TRADITIONALISTS BORN: 1925 – 1945

DEPENDABLE | STRAIGHTFORWARD | TACTFUL | LOYAL

Shaped by: The Great Depression, World War II, radio and movies

Motivated by: Respect, recognition, providing long-term value to the company

Communication style: Personal touch, handwritten notes instead of email

Worldview: Obedience over individualism; age equals seniority; advancing through the hierarchy

Employers should:

Provide satisfying work and opportunities to contribute; emphasize stability



BABY BOOMERS BORN: 1946 – 1964

OPTIMISTIC | COMPETITIVE | WORKAHOLIC | TEAM-ORIENTED

Shaped by: Vietnam War, Civil Rights Movement, Watergate

Motivated by: Company loyalty, teamwork, duty

Communication style: Whatever is most efficient, including phone calls and face to face

Worldview: Achievement comes after paying one's dues; sacrifice for success

Employers should:

Provide them with specific goals and deadlines; put them in mentor roles; offer coaching-style feedback

GENERATION X BORN: 1965 – 1980

FLEXIBLE | INFORMAL | SKEPTICAL | INDEPENDENT

Shaped by: The AIDS epidemic, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the dot-com boom

Motivated by: Diversity, work-life balance, their personal-professional interests rather than the company's interests

Communication style: Whatever is most efficient, including phone calls and face to face

Worldview: Favoring diversity; quick to move on if their employer fails to meet their needs; resistant to change at work if it affects their personal lives

Employers should:

Give them immediate feedback; provide flexible work arrangements and work-life balance; extend opportunities for personal development



BY 2028
Gen Xers will outnumber Baby Boomers⁶



MILLENNIALS BORN: 1981 – 2000

COMPETITIVE | CIVIC- AND OPEN-MINDED | ACHIEVEMENT-ORIENTED

Shaped by: Columbine, 9/11, the internet

Motivated by: Responsibility, the quality of their manager, unique work experiences

Communication style: IMs, texts, and email

Worldview: Seeking challenge, growth, and development; a fun work life and work-life balance; likely to leave an organization if they don't like change

Employers should:

Get to know them personally; manage by results; be flexible on their schedule and work assignments; provide immediate feedback

GENERATION Z BORN: 2001 – 2020

GLOBAL | ENTREPRENEURIAL | PROGRESSIVE | LESS FOCUSED

Shaped by: Life after 9/11, the Great Recession, access to technology from a young age

Motivated by: Diversity, personalization, individuality, creativity

Communication style: IMs, texts, social media

Worldview: Self-identify as digital device addicts; value independence and individuality; prefer to work with Millennial managers, innovative coworkers, and new technologies

Employers should:

Offer opportunities to work on multiple projects at the same time; provide work-life balance; allow them to be self-directed and independent



Sources

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