

# History of U.S. Bear & Bull Markets Since 1926

This chart shows historical performance of the S&P 500 Index throughout the U.S. Bull and Bear Markets from 1926 through May 2014. Although past performance is no guarantee of future results, we believe looking at the history of the market's expansions and recessions helps to gain a fresh perspective on the benefits of investing for the long-term.

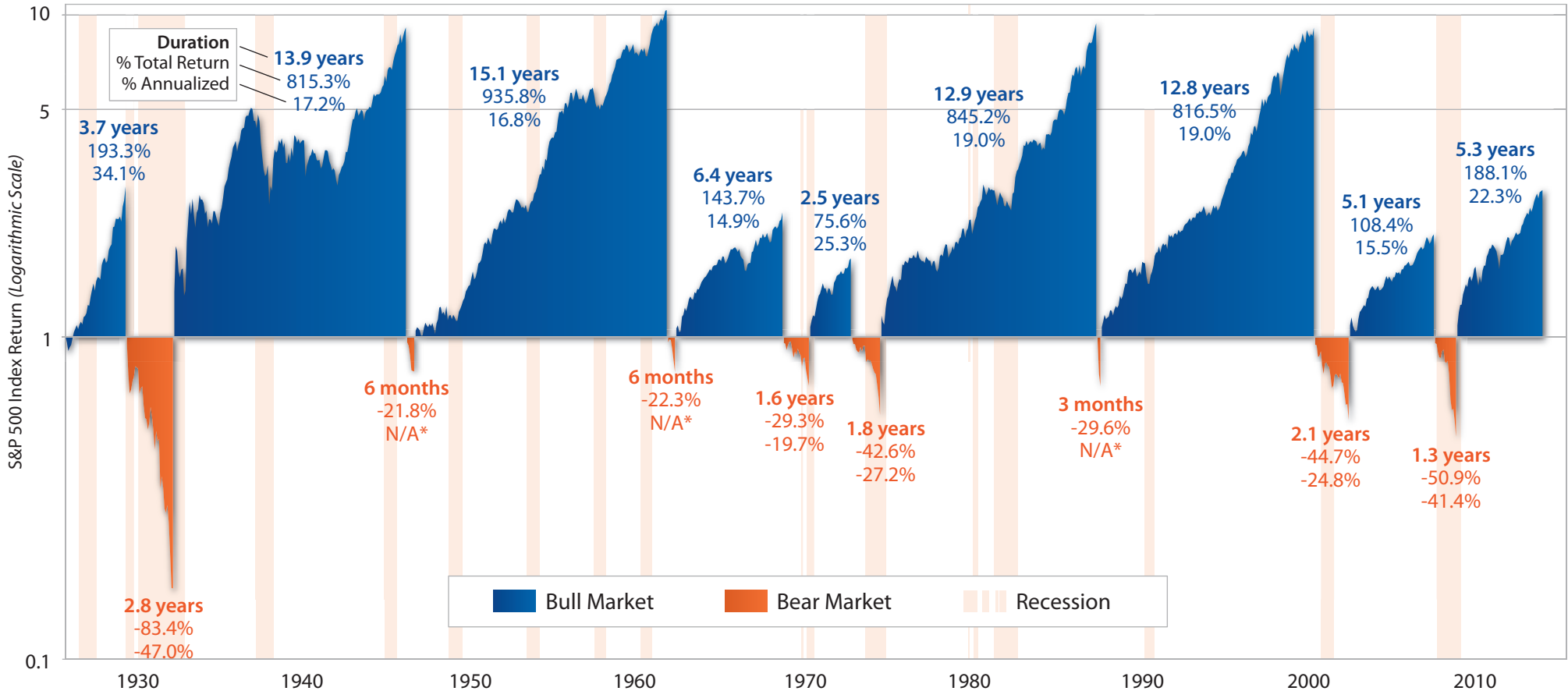
- The average **Bull Market** period lasted 8.5 years with an average cumulative total return of 458%.
- The average **Bear Market** period lasted 1.3 years with an average cumulative loss of -41%.



From the lowest close reached after the market has fallen 20% or more, to the next market high.



From when the index closes at least 20% down from its previous high close, through the lowest close reached after it has fallen 20% or more.



Source: First Trust Advisors L.P., Morningstar. Returns from 1926 - 5/31/14. \*Periods less than 1 year are not annualized. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.