## Market rebounds outlasted declines

The stock market has experienced many downturns over the past 70+ years, but in each case there was a period of recovery followed by growth that more than made up for the losses. Since 1949, the market has spent longer periods rising (49 months on average) than falling. While it is impossible to predict when a market recovery will begin, it is possible to miss one by waiting on the sidelines.


Data is as of $12 / 31 / 21$, is historical, and reflects reinvestment of dividends. Data is plotted on a logarithmic scale so that comparable percentage changes appear similar. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The stock market is represented by the S\&P 500 Index, which is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. You cannot invest directly in an index. A bull market is here defined as a period when the stock market rises for at least four straight months. A bear market is defined as a market decline of at least four months.

## What matters most is how you respond

Imagine you had $\$ 100,000$ invested in the stock market just before the 2000-2003 bear market, and you had been contributing $\$ 10,000$ per year (\$833 per month). Which action would have produced the best result?

## Value of account in 20 years



If you chose to stay the course through the 2000-2003 bear market rather than halting your investment program or moving to cash, you would have ended up with more than twice as much money.

Moving assets into conservative investments with low rates of return, such as Treasury bills, may prolong the time it takes for your account to recover from a downturn. Remember, the greater the bear market decline, the longer the recovery time.

| RATE OF RETURN | SIZE OF DOWNTURN |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | -10\% | -20\% | -30\% | -40\% | -50\% |
| 0.5\% | 21.00 yrs | 44.75 yrs | 71.25 yrs | 102.25 yrs | 138.75 yrs |
| 2.0\% | 5.25 yrs | 11.25 yrs | 17.75 yrs | 25.50 yrs | 34.75 yrs |
| 4.0\% | 2.75 yrs | 5.50 yrs | 9.00 yrs | 12.75 yrs | 17.25 yrs |
| 6.0\% | 1.75 yrs | 3.75 yrs | 6.00 yrs | 8.50 yrs | 11.50 yrs |
| 8.0\% | 1.25 yrs | 2.75 yrs | 4.50 yrs | 6.50 yrs | 8.75 yrs |
| 10.0\% | 1.00 yr | 2.25 yrs | 3.50 yrs | 5.25 yrs | 7.00 yrs |

This hypothetical illustration is based on mathematical principles and assumes monthly compounding. It is not meant as a forecast of future events or as a statement that prior markets may be duplicated. Recovery periods are rounded to the nearest quarter of a year.

For informational purposes only. Not an investment recommendation.
All funds involve risk, including the loss of principal.
Past performance is not indicative of future results. Regular investing does not assure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market. You should consider your ability to continue investing during periods of low prices. The stock market is represented by the S\&P $500^{\circledR}$ Index, which is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. Cash is represented by the ICE BofA U.S. Treasury Bill Index, an unmanaged index that seeks to measure the performance of U.S. Treasury bills available in the marketplace. You cannot invest directly in an index.

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