The ride up is usually **bigger** than the ride down

It’s human nature to be more emotionally sensitive to falling markets, but it’s not always logical. It’s natural for markets to move up and down over time, and the average length of a rising (bull) market is much longer than a declining (bear) market, where gains in a bull market often far exceed losses in a bear market. So the good news is that these short-term fluctuations generally tend to offset each other. By focusing on the long-term and staying invested there is a better chance to achieve long-term goals.

**S&P 500 Index August 1956 – February 2020**

### Bull & bear facts
- **Average gain in bull market:** 144%
- **Average length of bull market:** 55 months
- **Average loss in bear market:** -27%
- **Average length of bear market:** 14 months

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