

The Bumpy Road to the Market's Long-Term Average

ANNUAL RETURNS FOR S&P 500 INDEX
1926–2022



Since 1926, the US stock market has rewarded investors with an annualized return of about 10%. But returns in any given year may be sky-high, extremely poor, or somewhere in between.

- Annual returns came within two percentage points of the market's long-term average in just six of the past 97 years.
- Yearly returns have ranged as high as up 54% and as low as down 43%.
- Since 1926, annual returns have been positive 71 times and negative 26 times.

Understanding the range of potential outcomes can help you stick with a plan and ride out the inevitable ups and downs.

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