

# A look back at the stock market



When it comes to investing in the stock market, it's important to remember that while the long-term trend of the market has been positive, there have been periods of significant price declines, such as the market downturn of 2008, which can come at the wrong time if you are recently retired or nearing retirement. Of course, past performance is not indicative of future results.

The order in which you encounter positive or negative investment returns—known as the “sequence of returns”—poses a retirement risk that should not be ignored. If you experience a market downturn in the early years of your retirement, it may increase the possibility of eventually running out of money. Of course, no one can control the sequence of returns, but there are strategies that can help you cope with this retirement risk.



This illustration is based on historical S&P 500® Index Adjusted Daily Closing Prices for the period 01/03/95-06/28/19. The S&P 500® Index is one of the most commonly used benchmarks for the U.S. stock market. Indexes are unmanaged. You cannot invest directly in them. Performance illustrated is not indicative of future results.

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Stock Market Volatility Since 1900-2018 <sup>1</sup>		
Dips (Decline of 5% or more)	Corrections (Decline of 10% or more)	Bear Markets (Decline of 20% or more)
398	127	32
3.3 per year <sup>2</sup>	1.1 per year <sup>2</sup>	Once every 3.7 years <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Source: Ned Davis Research, Inc., based on Dow Jones Industrial Average, daily closes, 01/02/1900–12/31/2018.

<sup>2</sup>Average for period shown.

Market volatility is to be expected over time, but an adverse stock market as you near retirement could derail your plans. Altering your mix of investments is one way to possibly help lessen the impact of market volatility. You can always talk things over with a licensed financial professional.

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