THE SHAPE OF MARKETS

VIRTUS INVESTMENT PARTNERS

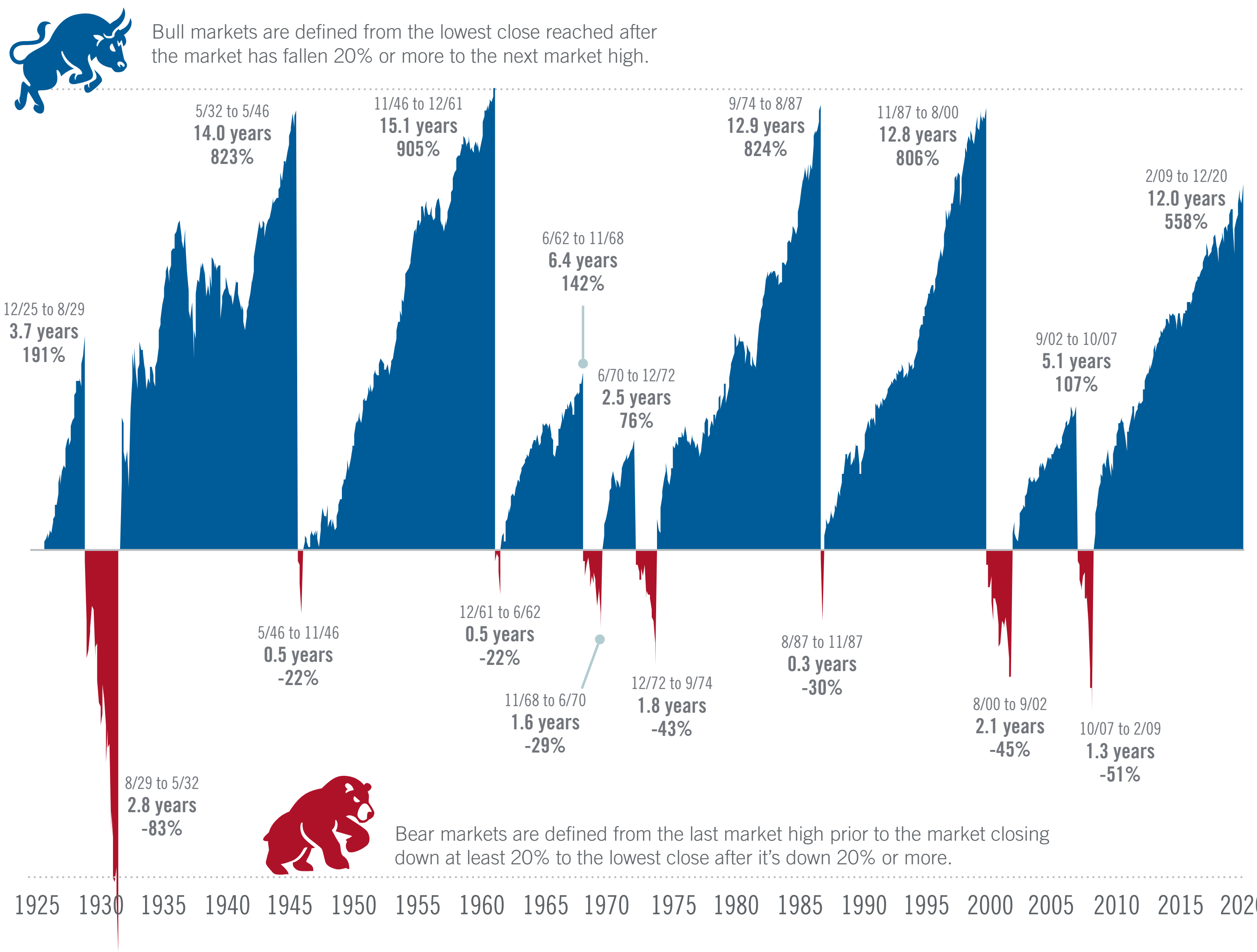
Bull markets tend to climb slowly over time, while bear markets drop abruptly without warning, often causing extreme volatility.

Investors who become complacent during an extended bull market get surprised when a bear appears. But if you can't ride out a decline of 30% one out of every five years, on average, you can't be an equity investor.

Long-term investors must be prepared to endure significant market declines and periods of intermittent volatility. A mix of assets—a broadly diversified portfolio—may help an investor withstand the ups and downs.

HISTORY OF U.S. BULL AND BEAR MARKETS

Based on S&P 500® Index Returns—12/31/25 to 12/31/20 (Log Scale)



Diversification: There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will outperform a non-diversified portfolio, or that diversification among different asset classes reduces risk.
Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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