## Bull \& Bear Markets

## Bull \& Bear Facts

## S\&P/TSX Composite Index to October 2015



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## S\&P/TSX

## The Risks and Rewards of Investing

- This chart represents the bull and bear markets in the S\&P/TSX Index since 1956. All bars above the line are bull markets; all bars below are bear markets.
- For the purposes of this illustration, a bull (bear) market is defined as a positive (negative) move greater than 15\% that lasts at least 3 months.
- The first bar represents a bear market which, at its lowest point, dropped to -26\% and lasted 17 months. This was followed by a bull market rising 85\% and lasting 48 months.
- Since 1956 there have been 12 bull markets and 12 bear markets. As can be seen from the chart, bull markets typically last longer and provide a more significant percentage change.
- Bear markets during this period have averaged $-28 \%$ and lasted only 9 months. Bull markets during this period have averaged $125 \%$ and lasted 50 months. This is the reward for accepting the risk of bear markets.


## Investor Behaviour

- According to the chart, markets spend more time in positive territory (bull) than negative (bear).
- Bull markets are, on average, longer and more intense, providing a more significant percentage change.
- On average bear markets are more brief, and yet engender fear. We believe that during these periods there are significant investment 'bargains' to be found.
- Investor discipline during bear markets is critical.

