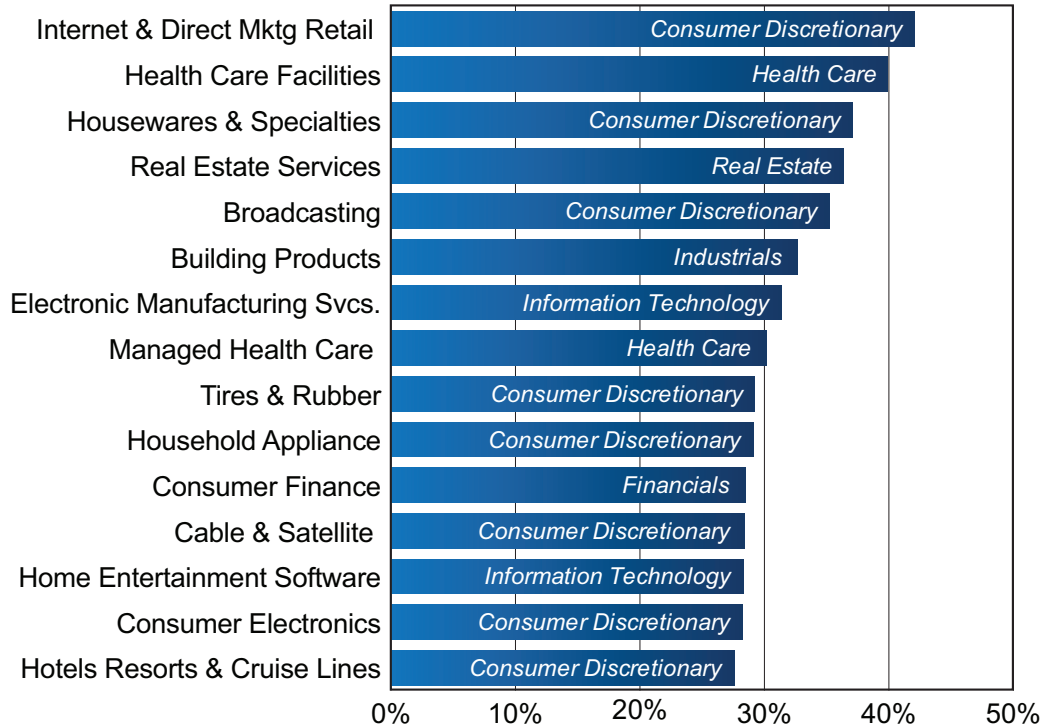


# Top-Performing Subsectors in the S&P 500 Index

Top 15 S&P 500 Index Subsectors in Current Bull Market (3/9/09-5/31/17)  
Average Annualized (Price-Only) Returns



Source: Bloomberg. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

## View from the Observation Deck

1. Today's blog post is for those investors who want to drill down below the sector level to see what's performing well in the stock market.
2. The S&P 500 Index is currently comprised of 11 sectors and 125 subsectors, according to S&P Dow Jones Indices.
3. Of the 15 subsectors featured in the chart, more than half (8) are classified as Consumer Discretionary, which was the top-performing sector for the period in the chart.
4. The 15 top-performing subsectors in the current bull market have average annualized price-only returns ranging from 27.63% at the low-end to 42.04% for the top-performer.
5. On a cumulative price-only return basis (not shown in chart), the returns ranged from 645.20% at the low-end to 1,697.51% for the top-performer, according to Bloomberg.
6. For comparative purposes, the S&P 500 posted a cumulative price-only return of 256.50% over the same period, according to Bloomberg.

*This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. The illustration excludes the effects of taxes and brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred when investing. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. The S&P 500 is a capitalization-weighted index comprised of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance, while the S&P Subsector Indices are capitalization-weighted and comprised of S&P 500 constituents representing a specific industry.*

*The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. First Trust has no knowledge of and has not been provided any information regarding any investor. Financial advisors must determine whether particular investments are appropriate for their clients. First Trust believes the financial advisor is a fiduciary, is capable of evaluating investment risks independently and is responsible for exercising independent judgment with respect to its retirement plan clients.*