The chart shows historical performance of the S&P 500 Index throughout the U.S. Bull and Bear Markets from 1926 through June 2019. Although past performance is no guarantee of future results, we believe looking at the history of the market’s expansions and recessions helps to gain a fresh perspective on the benefits of investing for the long-term.

- The average Bull Market period lasted 6.6 years with an average cumulative total return of 334%.
- The average Bear Market period lasted 1.3 years with an average cumulative loss of -38%.

Bull Market
From the lowest close reached after the market has fallen 20% or more, to the next market high.

Bear Market
From when the index closes at least 20% down from its previous high close, through the lowest close reached after it has fallen 20% or more.

Source: First Trust Advisors L.P., Bloomberg. Returns from 1926 - 6/28/19. *Not applicable since duration is less than one year.

These results are based on monthly returns—returns using different periods would produce different results. The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged index of 500 stocks used to measure large-cap U.S. stock market performance. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Index returns do not reflect any fees, expenses, or sales charges. This chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. These returns were the result of certain market factors and events which may not be repeated in the future. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial advisors are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.