

Don't Judge a Bull Market by Its Age



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The bull market celebrated its sixth birthday on Monday. The milestone put the rally in an unusual club. Since World War II, only three other bull markets made it to year six, according to Sam Stovall at S&P Capital IQ. Just two made it to year seven: June 1949 through August 1956 and October 1990 through March 2000. Seven other bull markets ended before year six.

I would refrain from jumping to any conclusions based on these numbers. Stovall says previous post-WWII bull markets have lasted between 1.1 years (May 1947 through June 1948) and 9.5 years (October 1990 through March 2000). Plus, the sample size is small, at just 11 sustained rallies.

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