



## Only Long-Term Investors Need Apply

The stock market, as portrayed by the *S&P 500 Composite Total Return*, had the following returns for various calendar holding periods during the 82-year period from 1926 through 2007.

Holding Period	Periods of Gains	Periods of Losses	Chance of Loss
1-Yr	59	23	28%
3-Yr	68	12	15%
5-Yr	68	10	13%
10-Yr	71	2	3%
15-Yr	68	0	0%
20-Yr	63	0	0%

Holding Period	Highest Calendar Return	Lowest Calendar Return	Return Difference	Average Calendar Return
1-Yr	53.81%	-43.36%	97.17%	12.82%
3-Yr	31.15%	-26.97%	58.18%	10.90%
5-Yr	28.56%	-12.46%	41.02%	10.56%
10-Yr	20.06%	-0.89%	20.95%	11.08%
15-Yr	18.92%	0.65%	19.57%	11.23%
20-Yr	17.88%	3.11%	20.99%	11.35%

Investors looking for winning stock market strategies would do well to confine their focus to long-term investing. The longer, the better.