

Quarterly Returns of the S&P 500 1950-2017

From 1950 through 2017 . . .

- Average quarter +2.17%
- 66% of all quarters have been positive and 34% negative
- The 4th was the best quarter, producing positive returns 79% of the time
- The 2nd and 3rd quarters have been the worst, producing positive returns only 60% of the time
- Best quarter ever First Quarter 1975 (+21.79%)
- Worst quarter ever Third Quarter 1974 (-26.12%)

All of the data and useful charts follow:

OVERALL 1950-2017

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Average	2.31%	1.75%	0.53%	4.12%
Median	2.21%	2.09%	2.78%	4.94%

Quarterly history follows.



Quarterly History of the S&P 500 Composite

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter
1950	3.16%	2.31%	9.95%	4.94%
1951	4.85%	-2.06%	10.97%	2.19%
1952	2.52%	2.42%	-1.68%	8.27%
1953	-4.82%	-4.55%	-3.27%	6.25%
1954	8.59%	8.43%	10.61%	11.36%
1955	1.67%	12.17%	6.43%	4.14%
1956	6.60%	-3.11%	-3.45%	2.91%
1957	-5.49%	7.39%	-10.45%	-5.73%
1958	5.28%	7.46%	10.65%	10.29%
1959	0.42%	5.47%	-2.72%	5.29%
1960	-7.60%	2.86%	-5.97%	8.58%
1961	11.96%	-0.65%	3.23%	7.22%
1962	-2.80%	-21.28%	2.78%	12.14%
1963	5.50%	4.21%	3.36%	4.63%
1964	5.28%	3.43%	3.05%	0.68%
1965	1.66%	-2.37%	6.94%	2.75%
1966	-3.46%	-5.03%	-9.65%	4.92%
1967	12.29%	0.49%	6.70%	-0.25%
1968	-6.50%	10.40%	3.10%	1.16%
1969	-2.26%	-3.74%	-4.70%	-1.14%
1970	-2.64%	-18.87%	15.80%	9.43%
1971	8.86%	-0.61%	-1.36%	3.81%
1972	5.01%	-0.06%	3.18%	6.78%
1973	-5.53%	-6.51%	4.00%	-10.03%
1974	-3.66%	-8.49%	-26.12%	7.90%
1975	21.59%	14.19%	-11.89%	7.54%
1976	13.95%	1.47%	0.92%	2.11%
1977	-8.41%	2.09%	-3.93%	-1.48%
1978	-6.19%	7.08%	7.34%	-6.27%
1979	5.70%	1.30%	6.23%	-1.26%
1980	-5.42%	11.90%	9.82%	8.21%
1981	0.18%	-3.52%	-11.45%	5.48%
1982	-8.64%	-2.10%	9.86%	16.79%

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter	Quarter
1984	-3.49%	-3.77%	8.43%	0.69%
1985	8.02%	6.19%	-5.09%	16.04%
1986	13.07%	5.00%	-7.78%	4.69%
1987	20.45%	4.22%	5.87%	-23.23%
1988	4.78%	5.64%	-0.58%	2.14%
1989	6.18%	7.84%	9.80%	1.22%
1990	-3.81%	5.32%	-14.52%	7.90%
1991	13.63%	-1.08%	4.50%	7.54%
1992	-3.21%	1.10%	2.37%	4.29%
1993	3.66%	-0.25%	1.86%	1.64%
1994	-4.43%	-0.34%	4.15%	-0.74%
1995	9.02%	8.80%	7.28%	5.39%
1996	4.80%	3.89%	2.49%	7.77%
1997	2.21%	16.91%	7.02%	2.44%
1998	13.53%	2.91%	-10.30%	20.87%
1999	4.65%	6.71%	-6.56%	14.54%
2000	2.00%	-2.93%	-1.24%	-8.09%
2001	-12.11%	5.52%	-14.99%	10.29%
2002	-0.06%	-13.73%	-17.63%	7.92%
2003	-3.60%	14.89%	2.20%	11.64%
2004	1.29%	1.30%	-2.30%	8.73%
2005	-2.58%	0.91%	3.15%	1.59%
2006	3.73%	-1.90%	5.17%	6.17%
2007	0.18%	5.81%	1.56%	-3.82%
2008	-9.92%	-3.23%	-8.88%	-22.56%
2009	-11.67%	15.22%	14.98%	5.49%
2010	4.87%	-11.86%	10.72%	10.20%
2011	5.42%	-0.39%	-14.33%	11.15%
2012	12.00%	-3.29%	5.76%	-1.01%
2013	10.03%	2.36%	4.69%	9.92%
2014	1.30%	4.69%	0.61%	4.39%
2015	0.44%	-0.23%	-6.94%	6.45%
2016	0.77%	1.90%	3.31%	3.25%

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1983 8.76% 9.90% -1.21% -0.69%

2017 5.53% 2.57% 3.96% 6.12%