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# The Stock Market Nearly Entered a Bear Market. What History Says Happens Next.

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Everything in the markets seemed on the verge of collapse this week.  
NYSE

For a moment this past week, the stock market felt like it was already there. On Thursday morning, the S&P 500 [SPX +2.39% ▲](#) index, down 19.6% from its closing high, was inches from entering a bear market. The Nasdaq Composite [COMP +3.82% ▲](#), home to tech stocks that had driven the bull market, was plunging. Even Bitcoin

Still, it was a terrible week for the market. The Dow Jones Industrial Average [DJIA +1.47% ▲](#) fell 2.1%, while the S&P 500 declined 2.4%, and the Nasdaq lost 2.8%; but the week ended with enough optimism to ask: Is this the bottom?