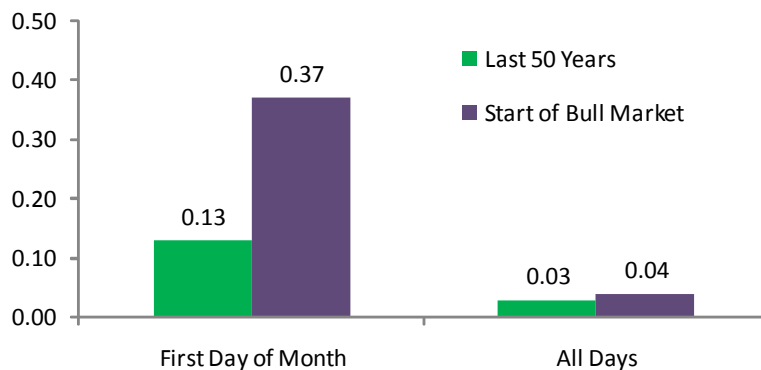


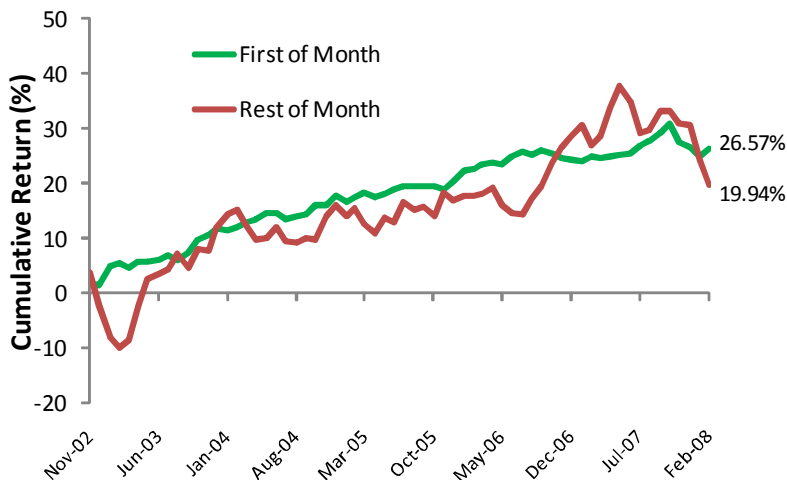
It's the First of the Month

Even though markets are down big today, at least Monday is the first of the month. As we have noted before, the first day of the month is usually an up day. As shown below, over the last 50 years, the S&P 500 has averaged a gain of 0.13% on the first day of the month (compared to 0.03% on all days). Since the bull market began in 2002, the S&P 500 has averaged a gain of 0.37% on the first day of the month. In fact, the cumulative return of buying at the close on the last day of the month and selling at the close on the first day of the month is now 26.57% since 11/02. The cumulative return of buying at the close on the first day of the month and selling at the close on the last day of the month is 19.94%. So during the current bull market, about 57% of the gains have come on the first day of the month!

S&P 500 % Change on First Day of Month vs All Days



S&P 500 % Change on First Day of Month vs Rest of Month*



*First of the month returns are buying at the close on the last day of the month and selling at the close on the first day of the month. Rest of month is buying at the close on the first day of the month and selling at the close on the last day of the month.