

## Wildfire Warning and Prevention

At the beginning of 2025, large wildfires broke out in different parts of the world, causing serious harm to the environment and affecting many people's lives.

In January, southern California in the United States experienced several wildfires, including the Eaton Fire and the Palisades Fire. These fires burned more than 15,000 hectares of land, destroyed over 16,000 buildings, and killed 29 people.

In March, southeastern South Korea faced its worst wildfire in history. At least 30 people lost their lives, and tens of thousands of people were forced to leave their homes. The fire spread quickly, destroying historic temples and thousands of buildings. Experts believe that dry weather and strong winds helped the fire grow rapidly.

Wildfires can start for different reasons. Some are caused by human activities, such as campfires or careless dropped cigarettes. Others are started by natural factors like lightning. Even a small spark can turn into a huge fire if the weather is dry and windy.

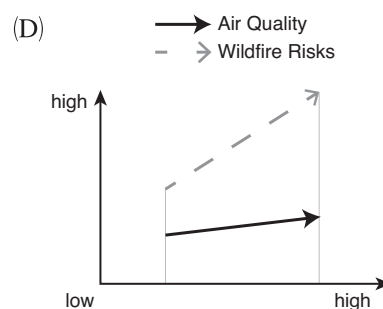
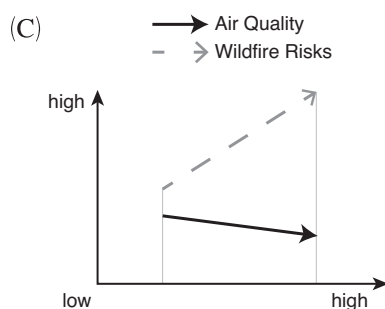
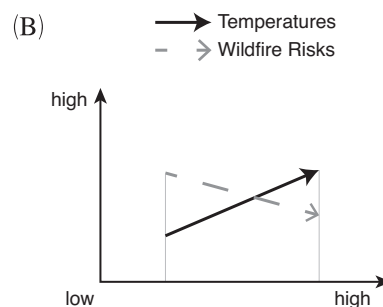
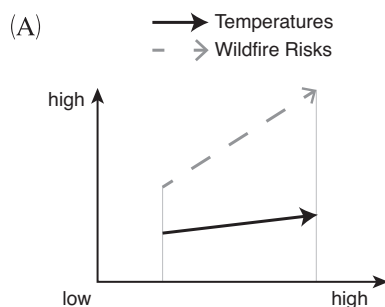


In Taiwan, the risk of large wildfires is lower because the climate is more humid. However, with climate change, long dry periods and high temperatures may become more common, increasing the chances of wildfires. If a wildfire occurs, it could damage forests, worsen air quality, and put people's safety at risk.

It is important to raise public awareness and avoid using fire in forest areas to prevent wildfires. Regularly clearing dry leaves and branches can also help lower fire risks. Governments should develop early warning systems and emergency plans to respond quickly when wildfires happen.

## Reading Comprehension

- ( ) 1. What is the passage mainly about? (main idea)
- (A) The history of wildfires in the United States and South Korea.  
 (B) The causes of wildfires and their impact on different countries.  
 (C) The damage wildfires cause and how people can reduce their risks.  
 (D) Why wildfires are more common in the United States than in Taiwan.
- ( ) 2. What can be inferred about wildfires in the future? (inference)
- (A) Wildfires in Taiwan are more dangerous than in other countries.  
 (B) Taiwan will not experience wildfires thanks to its humid climate.  
 (C) It is natural causes like lightning that will start wildfires in the future.  
 (D) Climate change may increase the chances of wildfires in more places.
- ( ) 3. According to the passage, which of the following is an opinion, but **NOT** a fact? (opinion or fact)
- (A) Dry weather and strong winds helped the fire in South Korea spread quickly.  
 (B) People should take wildfire prevention seriously to protect the environment.  
 (C) Wildfires can be caused by both human activities and natural factors.  
 (D) The wildfires in California destroyed more than 16,000 buildings.
- ( ) 4. According to the passage, which of the following graphs is correct?



## Vocabulary and Phrases

- |   |                          |                                |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. wildfire <i>n.</i> 野火, 山火            | 4. campfire <i>n.</i> 營火 | 7. at risk <i>phr.</i> 處於危險中   |
| 2. prevention; prevent <i>n.; v.</i> 預防 | 5. spark <i>n.</i> 火花    | 8. awareness <i>n.</i> 意識      |
| 3. historic <i>adj.</i> 有歷史意義的, 歷史悠久的   | 6. humid <i>adj.</i> 潮濕的 | 9. emergency <i>n.</i> 緊急 (狀況) |

# ETF Investing Becomes a Trend in Taiwan

In recent years, ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds) have become very popular in Taiwan's investment market. More and more investors are actively choosing ETFs as part of their financial plans.

ETFs are funds that trade on the stock exchange and usually follow a specific index, such as the Taiwan 50 Index or high-dividend stocks. 1 to investing in individual stocks, ETFs have lower risk because they spread investments across many different assets. They also have a low starting cost, 2 them a popular choice for beginners. In addition, ETFs have low management fees and are easy to trade, making them a key focus in the growing market. Many people see ETFs as a simple way to enter the stock market without needing deep knowledge of individual companies.

3, investing in ETFs is not risk-free. Market trends, stock selection strategies, and index changes can all greatly affect ETF performance. Some investors rely too much on popular ETFs and

completely ignore market changes, which can lead to unexpected losses. 4 it is important to fully understand the details of an ETF before investing, consider personal risk tolerance, and avoid blindly following trends. All investments come with risks, and ETF prices can go up and down. Investors should carefully check their own financial situation before making any investment decisions.

The 5 of ETFs has created more investment choices, but financial planning should always focus on stability. Investors should develop a solid long-term plan and carefully manage their funds to stay strong in a changing market.



## Cloze

- |                      |               |                |                |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| ( ) 1. (A) Impressed | (B) Compared  | (C) Benefited  | (D) Addressed  |
| ( ) 2. (A) make      | (B) makes     | (C) made       | (D) making     |
| ( ) 3. (A) Anyway    | (B) Therefore | (C) However    | (D) Similarly  |
| ( ) 4. (A) Now that  | (B) In case   | (C) As long as | (D) That's why |
| ( ) 5. (A) rise      | (B) trial     | (C) feed       | (D) duty       |

## Vocabulary and Phrases

- |   |                             |                              |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. invest; investment <i>v.;</i> <i>n.</i> 投資 | 4. dividend <i>n.</i> 股息；紅利 | 7. tolerance <i>n.</i> 忍受(力) |
| 2. exchange <i>n.</i> (證券) 交易所                | 5. index <i>n.</i> 指數       | 8. stability <i>n.</i> 穩定(性) |
| 3. fund <i>n.</i> (共同) 基金                     | 6. assets <i>n.</i> 資產      | 9. solid <i>adj.</i> 可靠的     |

### 譯

#### 野火預警與預防

2025 年初，世界各地爆發大規模野火，對環境造成嚴重危害，並影響許多人的生活。

1 月時，美國南加州發生數起野火，包括伊頓大火和斷崖大火。這些大火燒毀超過 1 萬 5 千公頃的土地、摧毀超過 1 萬 6 千棟建築，並造成 29 人喪生。

3 月時，南韓東南部遭遇了史上最嚴重的野火。至少 30 人喪生，數萬人被迫撤離家園。大火迅速蔓延，摧毀了歷史悠久的寺廟與數千棟建築。專家認為乾燥天氣與強風助長了火勢迅速蔓延。

野火的發生可能有多種原因。有些是由人類活動造成，例如營火或亂丟的菸蒂。有些則是由閃電等自然因素引起。如果天氣乾燥多風，即使是微小的火花也可能變成大火。

臺灣因氣候較為潮濕，所以發生大型野火的風險較低。然而，隨著氣候變遷，長期乾旱和高溫可能會變得更加普遍，從而提高野火發生的機會。如果發生野火，可能對森林造成破壞、使空氣品質惡化，並威脅民眾安全。

提升公眾意識並避免在森林地區用火對於預防野火極為重要。定期清理乾枯的樹葉和樹枝也有助於降低火災風險。各國政府應建立預警系統與緊急應變計畫，以便在野火發生時迅速應對處理。

### 譯

#### ETF 投資成為臺灣新趨勢

近年來，ETF (指數股票型基金) 在臺灣投資市場非常受歡迎。越來越多的投資人積極選擇 ETF 作為財務規劃的一部分。

ETF 是在股票市場交易的基金，通常追蹤特定的指數，例如臺灣 50 指數或高股息股票。與投資個股相比，ETF 的風險較低，因為它們將資金分散投資於不同的資產。其投資門檻也較低，使它們成為新手投資人的熱門選擇。此外，ETF 的管理費用低、交易方便，使其成為成長市場中的一大關注焦點。許多人把 ETF 視為一種無須深入了解個別公司就能進入股市的簡單方法。

不過，投資 ETF 並非沒有風險。市場走勢、選股策略和指數變化都可能大幅影響 ETF 的表現。有些投資人過度依賴熱門 ETF、完全忽視市場變化，可能會導致意想不到的損失。因此，在投資前充分了解 ETF 的詳細資訊、評估個人風險承受能力，並避免盲目跟風是非常重要的。所有的投資都有風險，ETF 的價格漲跌不定。投資人在做出任何投資決定之前，應仔細檢視自身的財務狀況。

ETF 的興起創造了更多的投資選擇，但財務規劃應該以穩定性為核心。投資人應制定穩健的長期計畫，並謹慎管理資金，以便在多變的市場中保持穩健。

閱讀測驗解答：1. C 2. D 3. B 4. A

綜合測驗解答：1. B 2. D 3. C 4. D 5. A

#### Acknowledgments

“Wildfire Warning and Prevention” by Catherine Ruth Harrington

“ETF Investing Becomes a Trend in Taiwan” by Catherine Ruth Harrington

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