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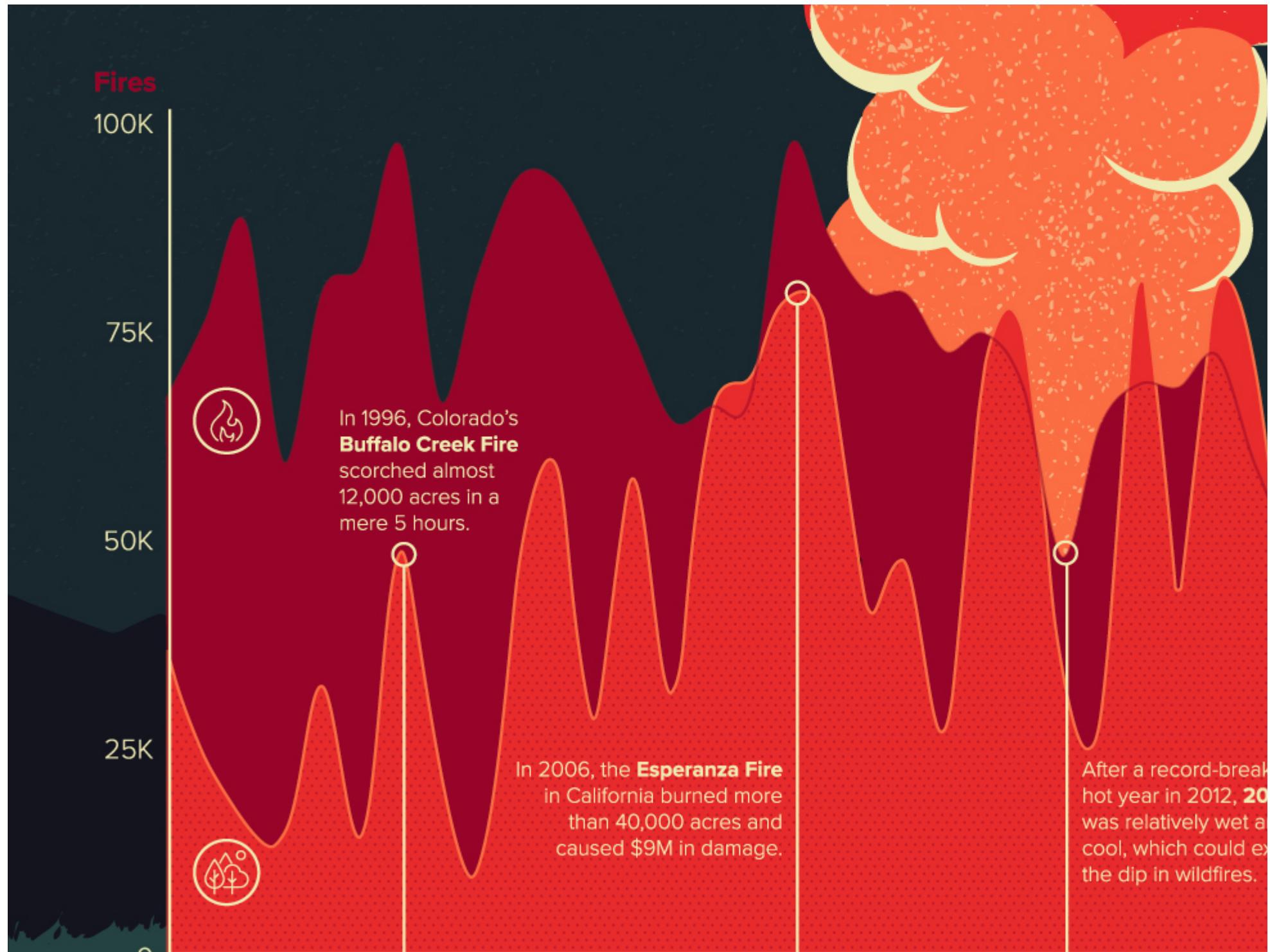
Chart: 30 Years of Wildfires in America



Published 2 weeks ago on September 17, 2021

By Carmen Ang







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The Briefing

- An average of **70,000** wildfires blaze through the U.S. each year
 - These fires destroy approximately **5.8 million** acres of land on a yearly basis
 - Over **43,000** fires have started across the U.S., burning **5 million** acres of land as of Sept 3, 2021

30 Years of Wildfires in America

This summer, record-breaking droughts and relentless heat waves have fueled disastrous wildfires across the United States. It's gotten so bad, the state of California has decided to shut down all national forests for two weeks to stop the spread.

But how disastrous has this year been compared to previous years? This graphic gives a historical look at the number of wildfires in America that have occurred each year since 1990, and the acres of forest land scorched during that period.

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Total Wildland Fires and Acres from 1990 to 2020

In the U.S., an average of 70,000 wildfires burn through 5.8 million acres of land each year. But some years have been worse than others.

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Year	# of Fires	# of Acres Burned
2020	58,950	10,122,336
2021*	43,250	5,024,744

Showing 31 to 32 of 32 entries

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*note: 2021 figures as of September 3, 2021

One particularly bad year was 2006, which had over **96,000** fires and destroyed **9.9 million** acres of land across the country. It was the year of the [Esperanza Fire](#) in California, which burned **40,000** acres and cost **\$9 million** in damages.

2015 was also a devastating year, with over **10.1 million** acres destroyed across the country—the worst year on record, in terms of acres burned.

Climate Change's Role in Wildfires

Wildfires are only expected to worsen in the near future since warmer temperatures and drier climates allow the fires to grow quickly and intensely.

We're already starting to see climate change impact the wildfire season. For instance, autumn is usually peak wildfire season for California, but this year, one of the largest fires on record started in mid-July, and is still burning as of the date of publication.

Editor's note, September 20, 2021: In the post above, we said that California closed down all national parks for two weeks, starting August 31st. In fact, they closed down all national forests.

Where does this data come from?

Source: [National Interagency Fire Center](#)

Details: 2004 fires and acres do not include state lands for North Carolina.

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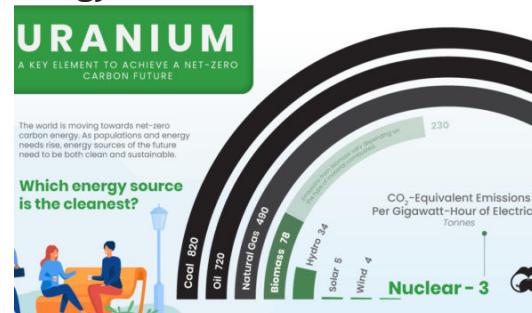
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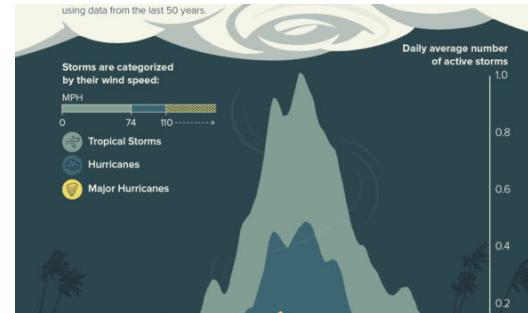
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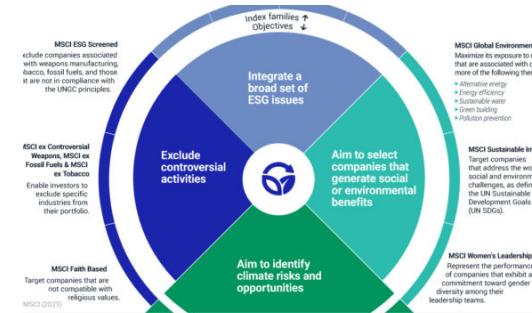


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Ranked: The Top 10 Richest People on the Planet

Who are the world's richest people, and just how much money do they have? From Elon Musk to Bernard Arnault, here are the top 10 richest.



Published 10 hours ago on September 28, 2021

By **Carmen Ang** 

The \$100-Billion Club

10 Richest People on the Planet*

\$100B  \$200B

Rank	Name	Total Net Worth	Country	Industry	Source of Wealth
1	Elon Musk	\$198B		Technology	
2	Jeff Bezos	\$194B		Technology	
3	Bernard Arnault	\$157B		Consumer	

	4	Bill Gates	\$149B		Technology	 Microsoft
	5	Mark Zuckerberg	\$132B		Technology	 FACEBOOK
	6	Larry Page	\$124B		Technology	 Google
	7	Sergey Brin	\$119B		Technology	 Google
	8	Steve Ballmer	\$105B		Technology	 Microsoft
	9	Larry Ellison	\$100B		Technology	 ORACLE
	10	Warren Buffett	\$100B		Diversified	 BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY INC.

*As of September 21st, 2021 Source: Bloomberg Billionaires Index



The Briefing

- Elon Musk is currently the richest person in the world, with a total net worth of **\$198 billion** as of Sept 21, 2021
- Jeff Bezos comes in second place, with a net worth of **\$194 billion**

Ranked: The Top 10 Richest People on the Planet

The top 10 richest people on the planet have a combined net worth of **\$1.4 trillion**.

These are the people who have the most wealth in the world right now.

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DATASTREAM

Visualizing the Typical Atlantic Hurricane Season

While the Atlantic hurricane season runs from June to late November, about 85% of activity happens between August, September, and October.



Published 3 weeks ago on September 10, 2021

By **Carmen Ang** 

The Briefing

- Storms are categorized by their wind speed. Any storm with winds stronger than 111 miles per hour (mph) is considered a **major hurricane**
 - This year's **Hurricane Ida** is one of the strongest hurricanes on record to hit the U.S. mainland, with winds reaching up to 150 mph

Explained: The Typical Atlantic Hurricane Season

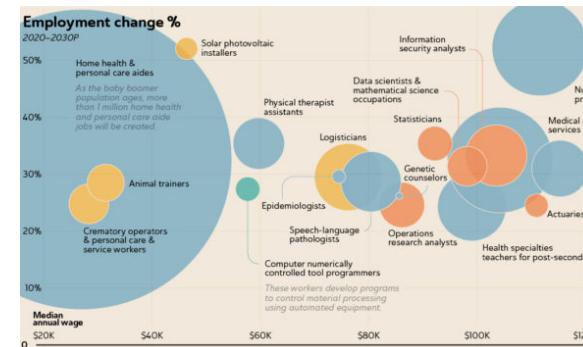
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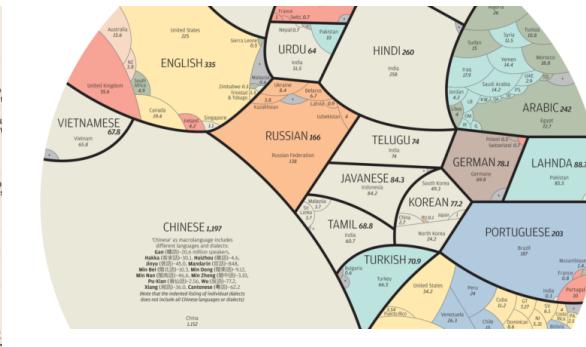
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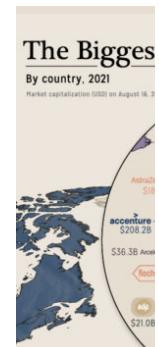
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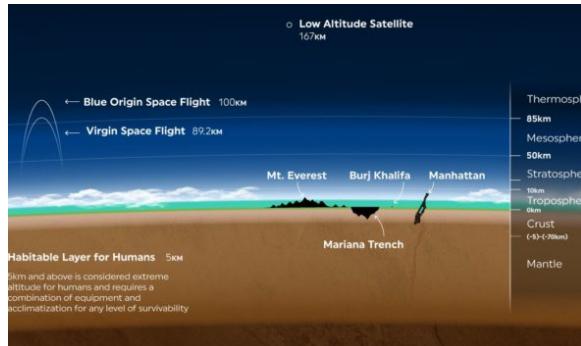
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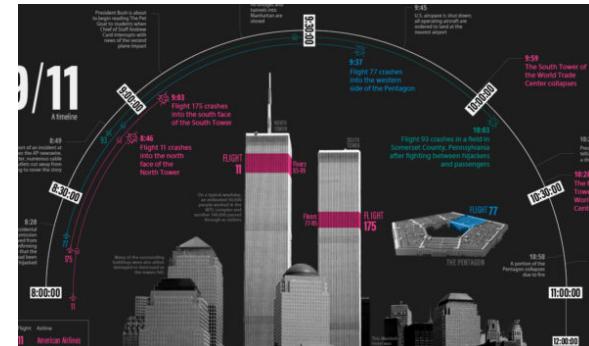
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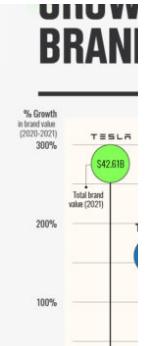
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