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9 ETFs for 2009 (and Beyond) Look to industrials, defense, and alternative energy funds this year

Few sectors of the market caught a break in 2008. Uncertainty seems to be the theme so far in 2009, but that hasn't kept analysts and market watchers from predicting which slices of the market are poised for blastoff. An easy and low-cost option for average investors to tap into specific areas of the market is exchange-traded funds, which behave like stocks but track indexes (the ETF universe contains a mind-boggling array of choices). Keeping in mind that anything can happen in these volatile times, here are nine ETFs with solid prospects in the new year and beyond:

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Alternative energy. Another industry that stands to benefit in an Obama presidency is alternative energy. His plan to spend \$150 billion over 10 years means there will be more investment in industries like solar and wind. That bodes well for such ETFs as PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (symbol PBW), which focuses on U.S. companies, and

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