

WorldWatch Headlines: October

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Africa

Algeria	Energy export volumes rise by 8% in the year to August.
Angola	Business confidence hits an eight-year low and goods imports fall sharply.
Botswana	The government decides to intensify its fiscal stimulus package.
Cameroon	The country implements a free-trade deal with the EU.
Congo, D.R.	The election process looks increasingly uncertain and could give rise to instability.
Cote d'Ivoire	Port expansion plans move ahead at main and second seaports.
Ethiopia	The 2016/17 budget raises public spending and reconfirms the government's commitment to investment projects.
Gabon	The incumbent president wins another seven-year term, although the results are being disputed.
Ghana	Campaigning ramps up in a closely contested election between the two main parties.
Kenya	The authorities act to counter a sharp slowdown in private-sector credit growth.
Libya	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Libya as Haftar's militias take over four oil terminals.
Malawi	The country struggles to meet IMF programme targets because of a severe drought.
Mauritius	The country is achieving some success as a conduit for African trade and investment.
Morocco	The October parliamentary election will result in a coalition.
Mozambique	Economic growth slumps amid financial instability and insecurity.
Namibia	The central bank keeps interest rates unchanged to support domestic output.
Nigeria	The economy slips into a technical recession as both oil and non-oil sectors contract.
Senegal	The country's commercially viable offshore oil reserves are larger than expected.
Sierra Leone	Investors seem more confident about mining sector projects.
South Africa	The country appears set to go into technical recession.
Sudan	Weak export performance is undermining foreign exchange reserves and the Sudanese pound.
Tanzania	The government objects to an EU trade deal involving members of the East African Community.
Tunisia	Parliament passes the long-awaited new investment code.
Uganda	The country awards oil production licences as plans progress for the energy sector.
Zambia	President Lungu and the ruling Patriotic Front win new mandates.
Zimbabwe	The cabinet rejects the finance minister's plan to cut public sector wages.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	The Indian government offers substantial economic aid.
Australia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Australia as growth fundamentals improve.
Bangladesh	Despite new safety regulations, endemic corruption causes risks to safety and lives.
Cambodia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Cambodia's country risk rating as political turmoil escalates.
China	Private investment growth nationally is stalling as it plummets in the northeast.
Fiji	Expansive fiscal and monetary policy will provide a short-term stimulus.
Hong Kong	Localists favouring greater independence from China win six seats in legislative elections.
India	Inflation pressure retreats, but not enough to shift the policy rate outlook.

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Indonesia	A central bank interest rate cut in September appears wholly appropriate, given economic fundamentals.
Japan	The Bank of Japan takes markets by surprise with new policy measures on inflation.
Korea (South)	A major shipping line's bankruptcy rocks local and global supply chains.
Malaysia	Police thwart terror plot, but the incidence of terrorist organisations targeting Southeast Asia is increasing.
Myanmar	Robust economic prospects accompany rising inflation.
Nepal	Commercial banks report a shortage of US dollars, highlighting continued imbalances in the economy.
New Zealand	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for New Zealand as fundamentals improve.
Pakistan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Pakistan amid renewed tensions over Kashmir.
Papua New Guinea	Difficult fiscal conditions force a revision of the government's budget.
Philippines	The president's erratic and irresponsible foreign policy statements risk damaging the country's economy.
Singapore	Weakening trade poses problems for the short-term economic outlook.
Sri Lanka	Export earnings continue to slide amid a notable contraction in tea sales.
Taiwan	The country remains a leader in core high-tech sectors with relatively robust prospects.
Thailand	The central bank keeps interest rates unchanged, but the case for monetary easing grows.
Vietnam	Weak public finances impel a privatisation programme as lower oil prices impact the budget.

Eastern Europe

Albania	The excessive public debt will fall substantially this year.
Azerbaijan	The sharp fall in construction is stifling economic growth as weak oil prices cut government spending.
Belarus	The IMF continues to highlight underlying weaknesses in the economy.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	A referendum in a Serbian entity compromises the country's long-term viability.
Bulgaria	The government is set to beat its deficit reduction targets.
Croatia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Croatia in expectation of a stable coalition government.
Czech Republic	Signs of recovery in manufacturing will support growth.
Estonia	Trade and investment pick up as rising wages support household demand.
Georgia	The risk outlook is stable as economic growth remains reasonably healthy.
Hungary	A ban on EU migrant quotas risks further opt-outs from EU law.
Kazakhstan	President Nazarbayev lays groundwork for dynastic father-to-daughter succession of power.
Kyrgyz Republic	Tentative signs of economic growth should strengthen slightly into 2017.
Latvia	Growth forecast is revised downwards due to weak investment and export data.
Lithuania	Parliament adopts the new labour code, paving the way for more flexibility.
Macedonia	Flash floods highlight environmental risks to business continuity.
Poland	Forward-looking indicators point to robust growth, due to an uptick in export demand.
Romania	The supply of credit to the corporate sector falls year-on-year despite improvements.
Russian Federation	The Pro-Putin United Russia party secures a landslide victory in the parliamentary election.
Serbia	The government will fence southern borders in response to a rise in illegal migration.
Slovak Republic	A serious brain drain is creating a severe shortage of labour.

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Slovenia	The economic outlook improves on the back of strong growth.
Tajikistan	The authorities are in talks with the IMF over a potential bailout package.
Turkmenistan	The constitution is changed to allow Berdimukhamedov to be president for life.
Ukraine	Growth gains momentum in the second quarter as industrial output recovers.
Uzbekistan	The prime minister is appointed as interim president following the death of Islam Karimov.

Middle East

Bahrain	The country achieves strong growth in the first quarter, driven by oil and construction.
Egypt	China and Saudi Arabia pledge funds to help satisfy IMF conditions
Iran	The government faces opposition to its plans to introduce an anti-money laundering policy
Iraq	Parliament's ousting of the defence minister for alleged corruption undermines the prime minister's position.
Israel	The US government approves a ten-year military aid package.
Jordan	Elections produce a parliament unlikely to challenge the government, ensuring political risks remain elevated.
Kuwait	The country is barred from the Olympics due to a domestic power struggle.
Lebanon	Political paralysis continues as parliament fails to elect a new president.
Oman	Sohar port expands as it attempts to become the Sultanate's key logistics hub.
Qatar	Growth slows more sharply than anticipated, with contraction in the hydrocarbons sector.
Saudi Arabia	Budget cuts are curtailing tenders and slowing payments to the private sector.
Syria	The conflict regains momentum as the ceasefire agreement fails to hold.
UAE	The latest PMI data indicates a temporary slowing of the economy.
Yemen	Peace prospects dim as intense fighting continues.

The Americas

Argentina	SME gas price hikes are suspended through a new court ruling.
Bolivia	The government boosts investment spending further as the economy comes under increasing strain.
Brazil	Economic signals remain mixed but contraction gradually decelerates.
Canada	Output's rate of shrinkage looks set to subside.
Chile	Inflation normalisation will bring a focus on growth.
Colombia	A national plebiscite on the peace agreement in October is likely to be ratified by voters.
Costa Rica	Long-term energy security strengthens because of a new hydro-electric plant.
Cuba	The state looks for new crude oil suppliers as Venezuelan imports fall.
Dominican Republic	Concerns are raised over the independence of the country's judiciary.
Ecuador	Latest official statistics show another fall in economic activity in June.
El Salvador	Signs of persistent global weakness render the economic outlook more uncertain.
Guatemala	A reform package envisages new and higher taxes to boost the low tax take.
Honduras	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Honduras due to a strengthening economy.
Jamaica	The government meets all quantitative performance criteria set by the IMF.
Mexico	Industrial production remains weak, while consumer confidence slides again.
Nicaragua	The legislature is cleared of opposition as the president tightens his grip.
Panama	The deal over the suspended Barro Blanco hydroelectric dam sparks fresh controversy and unrest.
Paraguay	A contested verdict on a court case involving subsistence farmers and police increases political tensions.

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Peru	Increased mining output, an expansive fiscal policy and improving sentiment will support stronger growth.
Trinidad & Tobago	Near-term growth prospects continue to be clouded by ongoing weakness in global energy prices.
USA	Consumer spending is the sole driver of modest growth.
Uruguay	The Mercosur crisis is averted, but complications lie ahead for an EU deal.
Venezuela	The opposition-dominated national assembly is stripped of its law-making powers.

Western Europe

Austria	The far-right candidate looks to be edging towards the presidency.
Belgium	Intensifying internal headwinds will likely harm growth in the third quarter.
Cyprus	The economy expands further, but post-Brexit uncertainty clouds the medium-term outlook.
Denmark	The government is proposing to cut personal income tax to boost growth.
Finland	The country's competitiveness ranking drops, but remains an attractive place to do business.
France	Former Prime Minister Alain Juppe is well placed to be elected president in 2017.
Germany	Political risk rises as local elections end in heavy defeat for Chancellor Merkel's party.
Greece	Key growth indicators improve but overall macroeconomic conditions remain challenging.
Iceland	The authorities announce a further relaxation of capital controls.
Ireland	Economic indicators hint at improvement but short-term Brexit risks remain.
Italy	Economic growth is at a standstill as structural deficiencies constrain full economic potential.
Luxembourg	Despite economic growth accelerating, deflationary pressure continues.
Malta	The economy expands further in the second quarter, but post-Brexit uncertainty persists.
Netherlands	Political risk remains high as a eurosceptic party leads the opinion polls.
Norway	The central bank keeps interest rates low.
Portugal	The recovery is set to continue due to stronger investment and more robust external demand.
Spain	Further growth is likely in Q3, but risks remain on the downside.
Sweden	Growth is revised upwards as higher investment compensates for poor export performance.
Switzerland	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Switzerland as EU negotiations endanger domestic market potential.
Turkey	Real growth contracts in Q2, raising fears of a technical recession.
United Kingdom	Uncertainty about the country's future relations with the EU remains very high.

Brexit

What does it mean for you?



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