

WorldWatch Headlines: November

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Africa

Algeria	The government is to increase the VAT rate, aiming to trim the fiscal deficit.
Angola	The government is cutting back on non-priority spending and investment.
Botswana	The government decides to intensify its fiscal stimulus package.
Cameroon	Pro-trade reforms and infrastructure investment improve the ease of doing business.
Congo, D.R.	Election delays, as the president clings to power, prompt mass demonstrations and violent clashes.
Cote d'Ivoire	Port expansion plans move ahead at main and second seaports.
Ethiopia	The government declares a state of emergency in response to disruptive demonstrations.
Gabon	The incumbent president wins another seven-year term, although the results are being disputed.
Ghana	Economic growth looks likely to be subdued in 2016.
Kenya	The authorities act to counter a sharp slowdown in private-sector credit growth.
Libya	Oil output rises, but political problems are likely to halt this positive trend.
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 Islamist PJD leader wins a mandate to form a new coalition government.
Mozambique	Economic growth slumps amid financial instability and insecurity.
Namibia	The central bank keeps interest rates unchanged to support domestic output.
Nigeria	The economy will contract in 2016 and grow only modestly in 2017.
Senegal	The country's commercially viable offshore oil reserves are larger than expected.
Sierra Leone	The government seeks to shore up public finances with significant fiscal consolidation.
South Africa	The country faces slow growth and the loss of investment grade status.
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	The short-term economic outlook remains weak.
Uganda	Commercial lending rates remain stubbornly high despite central bank rate cuts.
Zambia	The country seeks private railway investment to boost annual freight capacity.
Zimbabwe	The economic outlook continues to deteriorate due to numerous constraints.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Government forces repel a major Taliban attack on Kunduz.
Australia	Our proprietary data signals improving business conditions in the months ahead.
Bangladesh	Despite new safety regulations, endemic corruption causes risks to safety and lives.
Cambodia	Increased wages in the garment sector will weigh on the country's competitiveness.
China	The real estate boom has helped the economy but may already have run its course.
Fiji	Expansive fiscal and monetary policy will provide a short-term stimulus.
Hong Kong	The latest data shows a return to positive trade growth in August.
India	October's interest rate cut was necessary to stabilise falling private investment.
Indonesia	Inflation trends created room for an interest rate cut in October.
Japan	The current account balance improves due to cheap energy prices and plummeting imports.

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Korea (South)	President Park's credibility sinks to an all-time low.
Malaysia	The country falls seven places in the world competitiveness rankings.
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 New Zealand's country risk rating due to a continued improvement in the short-term economic outlook.
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	President Duterte further distances his country from the US.
Singapore	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Singapore's country risk rating as the short-term economic outlook deteriorates.
Sri Lanka	Drought hits hydropower output and highlights the country's vulnerability to climate change.
Taiwan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Taiwan due to a mild economic recovery.
Thailand	Succession uncertainty looms over the country's political outlook.
Vietnam	Drought comes to an end, lifting growth prospects.

Eastern Europe

Albania	The excessive public debt will fall substantially this year.
Azerbaijan	Changes to the constitution will further embed President Aliyev's authoritarian rule.
Belarus	Negotiations with the IMF continue regarding a possible USD3bn loan.
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	The new government is minded to cut corporation and income tax.
Czech Republic	Greater political uncertainty looks likely following mixed regional election results.
Estonia	The new president will play a key role in furthering the country's international relations.
Georgia	The Georgian Dream coalition secures an unassailable lead in the parliamentary election.
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	The opposition may boycott planned elections in December, prolonging the political crisis.
Poland	Elevated political risk remains one of the key obstacles to higher growth.
Romania	The supply of credit to the corporate sector falls year-on-year despite improvements.
Russian Federation	Russia seeks to develop the Northern Sea shipping route as climate change melts Arctic ice.
Serbia	The country is entangled in an increasingly difficult set of regional problems.
Slovak Republic	The government appears increasingly stable, boosting its ability to deliver reforms.
Slovenia	The country's international competitiveness is rising, boosting long-term growth potential.
Tajikistan	The authorities are in talks with the IMF over a potential bailout package.

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Turkmenistan	The constitution is changed to allow Berdymukhamedov to be president for life.
Ukraine	The government initiates dispute proceedings against Russia at the WTO over transit restrictions.
Uzbekistan	The interim president orders various reforms prior to the presidential election.

Middle East

Bahrain	Foreign reserves fall sharply and could dip below three months import cover.
Egypt	The central bank floats the currency amid a heavy devaluation.
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	An innovation index ranks Israel a strong 21st out of 128 countries.
Jordan	Elections produce a parliament unlikely to challenge the government, ensuring political risks remain elevated.
Kuwait	The government capitulates and is to provide compensation to citizens for higher fuel prices.
Lebanon	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Lebanon as the position of president is finally filled.
Oman	The country's ranking for doing business improves.
Qatar	The government issues more domestic debt as liquidity improves, although bank profits are squeezed.
Saudi Arabia	The government cuts state sector pay and benefits to try and shore up the fiscal position.
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	Fighting continues with significant numbers killed or injured in an airstrike on Houthi rebels.

The Americas

Argentina	The economy contracts for the third consecutive quarter in Q2.
Bolivia	Real GDP growth slowdown leads to the cancellation of the extra year-end wage bonus.
Brazil	Economic signals remain mixed but contraction gradually decelerates.
Canada	Canada clears a hurdle related to the free-trade agreement with the EU.
Chile	The right-wing and independents make gains in municipal elections.
Colombia	Voters reject the FARC peace deal, forcing a new round of negotiations.
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	Hurricane Matthew inflicts minimal infrastructure damage.
Ecuador	The latest growth figures are hit by weakened exports.
El Salvador	Signs of persistent global weakness render the economic outlook more uncertain.
Guatemala	Scandals deal a major blow to the government's anti-corruption credentials.
Honduras	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Honduras due to a strengthening economy.
Jamaica	The overall outlook remains positive after a narrow escape from Hurricane Matthew.
Mexico	The economy loses steam in the second quarter.
Nicaragua	The legislature is cleared of opposition as the president tightens his grip.
Panama	The current account correction continues despite the less favourable external backdrop.
Paraguay	A deteriorating public security situation puts the government under significant pressure.
Peru	Congressional approval of the government's special legislative powers request should rev up the economy.

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Trinidad & Tobago	Near-term growth prospects continue to be clouded by ongoing weakness in global energy prices.
USA	Growth remains on track but near-term uncertainty rises over the new government's policies.
Uruguay	Economic growth will remain subdued in 2016-17, but the main weaknesses are starting to be addressed.
Venezuela	The pro-government National Electoral Council suspends the recall referendum drive.

Western Europe

Austria	The country's real GDP growth marginally accelerates between July and September.
Belgium	Weak regional and global demand put a drag on Q3 and Q4 growth.
Cyprus	Key economic performance indicators hint at continued growth.
Denmark	The government limits inflows of foreigners into the country.
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	The country's international competitiveness slips marginally.
Greece	Key growth indicators improve but overall macroeconomic conditions remain challenging.
Iceland	Opinion polls suggest the general election is too close to call.
Ireland	Economic indicators hint at improvement but short-term Brexit risks remain.
Italy	Growth is set to be undermined by challenging macroeconomic conditions and rising political uncertainty.
Luxembourg	High export growth boosts the economy.
Malta	The economy expands further in the second quarter, but post-Brexit uncertainty persists.
Netherlands	Deflationary pressure continues as prices drop in Q3.
Norway	The country is ready to spend 3% of its wealth fund in 2017.
Portugal	Economic growth is set to continue, but the expansion will be smaller than expected.
Spain	Political uncertainty dissipates, but risks remain on the downside.
Sweden	Growth is revised upwards as higher investment compensates for poor export performance.
Switzerland	The country retains its status as the world's most competitive economy.
Turkey	The lira depreciates sharply again, increasing both FX and transfer risk.
United Kingdom	Brexit's unknown long-term effects still cloud the outlook despite robust quarterly growth.

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Thursday, November 17th 2016
3PM GMT / 4PM CET / 10AM EST

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