

WorldWatch Headlines: January

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Africa

Algeria	The value of imports fall but the current deficit increases.
Angola	The IMF completes its mission and highlights the rising public debt burden.
Botswana	The government puts the last state-owned copper mine into liquidation due to heavy losses.
Cameroon	Pro-trade reforms and infrastructure investment improve the ease of doing business.
Congo, D.R.	General elections have been delayed until 2018 and Kabila remains in power.
Cote d'Ivoire	An agreement is secured to construct a major LNG import hub.
Ethiopia	The government declares a state of emergency in response to disruptive demonstrations.
Gabon	The constitutional court rules in favour of the president in an election results challenge.
Ghana	Police tighten security in response to clashes between rival supporters ahead of elections.
Kenya	A key policy rate is on hold as the central bank plays wait-and-see.
Libya	Clashes over oil control intensify again and are expected to deepen further.
Malawi	The exchange rate stabilises and inflationary pressures ease slightly.
Mauritius	The country experiences a sharp increase in foreign direct investment.
Morocco	The leader of the Islamist party struggles to form a new coalition.
Mozambique	Financial difficulties at the state-owned fuel importer could lead to shortages.
Namibia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Namibia amid negative economic developments.
Nigeria	The economy slipped deeper into recession in the third quarter of 2016.
Senegal	The outlook is robust amid still-buoyant growth in the first half of the year.
Sierra Leone	The fuel subsidy regime is scrapped and a balanced budget announced.
South Africa	President Zuma holds off a no-confidence vote but still faces challenges.
Sudan	The US renews sanctions for a further year until October 2017.
Tanzania	The draft Budget proposes a small spending increase and a continued focus on investment.
Tunisia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Tunisia following the success of the 'Tunisia 2020' conference.
Uganda	The central bank cuts its benchmark interest rate but commercial lending rates remain high.
Zambia	The government proposes a new import duty on copper concentrates.
Zimbabwe	The budget deficit soars to 7.5% of GDP in 2016.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Uncertainty prevails regarding the likely approach of the Trump administration towards Afghanistan.
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Australia	The trade balance narrows to its smallest deficit in almost two years.
Bangladesh	Fewer remittances send the current account into negative territory.
Cambodia	An economic deceleration is expected in 2017 due to deteriorating external and internal conditions.
China	Transfer risks rise for overseas counter-parties expecting payments from China.
Fiji	Cyclone Winston causes a statistical slowdown in GDP growth.
Hong Kong	Tourist numbers are still down on 2015 but the decline is softening.
India	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for India due to the demonetisation shock.
Indonesia	Recent protests in Jakarta expose Indonesia's hidden but extant ethnic and religious tensions.
Japan	Upbeat business sentiment and domestic consumption suggest a strong finish to 2016.
Korea (South)	President Park's impeachment by parliament splits the ruling party.
Malaysia	The ringgit is caught up in a vicious circle of intervention and depreciation.
Myanmar	Violent clashes involving the army and the Rohingya Muslims in the north west escalate.
Nepal	The new government prepares a constitutional amendment to address concerns.
New Zealand	After a surprise resignation, the new prime minister inherits a strengthening economy.
Pakistan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Pakistan amid moves to reduce political uncertainty and accelerate tax reforms.
Papua New Guinea	The government announces expenditure cuts and increased taxes for 2017.
Philippines	Uncertainty increases as the country pivots away from the US on foreign policy.
Singapore	The service sector is still in recession, while 2017's overall growth prospects remain tepid.
Sri Lanka	The IMF notes the country's economic stabilisation in the wake of its loan programme.
Taiwan	Taiwan is caught up in US-China tensions just as exports start to recover.
Thailand	The monarchic transition proceeds, but the new king's lack of experience is a concern.
Vietnam	Despite a marked rise in inflation, an interest rate hike is unlikely.

Eastern Europe

Albania	Prospects of joining the EU are increasingly remote as member states impose new conditions.
Azerbaijan	Despite rising oil prices, government spending power has eroded, limiting growth in 2017.
Belarus	Negotiations with the IMF continue regarding a possible USD3bn loan.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	The country's disintegration risk rises as Serbs and Croats press their separatist goals.
Bulgaria	Political uncertainty will keep the economy on a deceleration path.
Croatia	Proxy indicators suggest that the economy is slowing but market opportunities are still growing.
Czech Republic	Growth in investment and industry unexpectedly slows in the third quarter.
Estonia	Stronger exports and robust household demand underpin faster economic growth, despite continuing external risks.
Georgia	Georgian Dream secures a super-majority at the general election.
Hungary	A cut in corporate profits tax will offset rising wages.
Kazakhstan	The economy registers meagre growth in the first three quarters of 2016.

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Kyrgyz Republic	Businesses face significant regulatory shortcomings and severe logistical challenges.
Latvia	A sharp fall in construction activity leads to a downward revision of growth forecasts.
Lithuania	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Lithuania amid insecurity fears related to Trump's Russia-friendly rhetoric.
Macedonia	Early elections in December have not ended the political crisis.
Poland	The growth outlook deteriorates as investment activity cools.
Romania	The tax environment improves with the total tax take below the EU average.
Russian Federation	Russia remains in recession but the pace of contraction continues to moderate.
Serbia	The government has managed to stem the rise in public debt.
Slovak Republic	The country continues to rank highly in an international report on doing business.
Slovenia	A worsening of government stability raises the prospect of early elections.
Tajikistan	The government ratifies new laws to silence dissent and increase the power of the security services.
Turkmenistan	Investment policy is set to focus on encouraging greater FDI inflows.
Ukraine	The agricultural sector provides attractive opportunities for foreign investors.
Uzbekistan	Shavkat Mirziyoyev comfortably wins early December's presidential election.

Middle East

Bahrain	Foreign reserves fall sharply and could dip below three months import cover.
Egypt	The central bank reforms the FX system, sharply devaluing the currency.
Iran	Concerns about US President-elect Trump's policies cloud the risk outlook.
Iraq	Steady progress is made in the battle to recapture Mosul from Islamic State.
Israel	Wildfires, caused in part by drought, affect various parts of the country.
Jordan	The government's draft budget for 2017 plans for another deficit.
Kuwait	Opposition parties win almost half the seats in the parliamentary election.
Lebanon	Prime Minister-elect Sa'ad Hariri battles to form a national unity government.
Oman	Despite government austerity measures, the country's fiscal deficit deepens significantly.
Qatar	The external position deteriorates as export values slump while imports continue to grow.
Saudi Arabia	The country strikes a deal with other oil producers to reduce output in a bid to boost prices.
Syria	Assad strengthens his grasp over the so-called 'essential Syria'.
UAE	The country agrees to cut oil production as part of the OPEC agreement.
Yemen	The ceasefire fails to hold and chances of a peace deal are low.

The Americas

Argentina	Economic activity declines in the third quarter as the recession continues.
Bolivia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Bolivia as water scarcity heightens social tensions.
Brazil	The country's economic contraction deepens in the third quarter.
Canada	The country is entering an economic soft patch, while new taxes will also go into effect.
Chile	Public disaffection against the establishment grows.
Colombia	A court ruling allows the government to expedite implementation of the peace deal.

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Costa Rica	An unusual hurricane brings flooding and states of emergency to much of the country.
Cuba	Uncertainty prevails over the continued normalisation of the country's relations with the US.
Dominican Republic	The IMF issues an upbeat Article IV Consultation Report acknowledging the country's regional dynamism.
Ecuador	The country signs various agreements with China aimed at expanding bilateral ties.
El Salvador	The opposition refuse to authorise new international borrowing, deepening the fiscal crisis.
Guatemala	Scandals deal a major blow to the government's anti-corruption credentials.
Honduras	The president's decision to seek re-election increases the risk of socio-political instability.
Jamaica	The IMF agrees a new three-year funding deal for Jamaica.
Mexico	Economic activity accelerates in the third quarter but the near-term outlook remains subdued.
Nicaragua	President Ortega's re-election brings some stability, but long-term democratic and economic risks remain elevated.
Panama	The budget is set to outperform government targets.
Paraguay	Increased exports and investment spending will keep growth momentum strong.
Peru	Rising investment and robust household consumption will keep economic growth strong.
Trinidad & Tobago	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Trinidad and Tobago's country risk rating as economic growth performance weakens.
USA	A strong labour market and rising inflation support a rate hike.
Uruguay	Economic data begin to strengthen, pointing to firmer growth in 2017.
Venezuela	The opposition coalition withdraws from mediation talks over the president's failure to keep commitments.

Western Europe

Austria	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Austria following the independent's presidential win.
Belgium	Bankruptcy numbers increase, triggered by the downturn in tourism-related industries.
Cyprus	Economic growth accelerates in the third quarter.
Denmark	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Denmark as the government stabilises.
Finland	Investment and households support growth, although the outlook is modest.
France	President Francois Hollande declares he will not seek a second term.
Germany	Chancellor Angela Merkel finally announces that she is seeking a fourth term in office.
Greece	A higher corporate tax rate adversely affects the quality of the business environment.
Iceland	The president invites the Pirate Party to form a coalition government.
Ireland	Key economic indicators hint at solid growth ahead.
Italy	The banking sector is solid but pressure rises.
Luxembourg	The economy remains heavily reliant on exports for growth.
Malta	The economy is likely to have expanded in Q3, but downside risks remain.
Netherlands	The country ranks best in Europe for enabling trade across borders.
Norway	Economic growth suffers from weakening domestic demand.
Portugal	The economy grows again in Q3 despite significant challenges.
Spain	The economy expands further in the third quarter as domestic demand grows strongly.
Sweden	Economic growth remains robust against a background of resilient domestic private consumption.
Switzerland	Uncertainty about access to EU markets from February 2017 onwards remains elevated.
Turkey	A Kurdish terrorist organisation claims responsibility for twin bombings in Istanbul.

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United Kingdom

The country's growth outlook marginally improves in response to additional fiscal stimulus.



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The banner features a dark blue background on the left with white text. On the right, there is a photograph of puzzle pieces. One piece is missing, and the gap is filled with a blue piece featuring yellow stars, representing the European Union flag. Another piece is placed over the gap, featuring the Union Jack flag, representing the United Kingdom.

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