

WorldWatch Headlines: November

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Africa

Algeria	Growth slows sharply in Q2 as gas output falls.
Angola	The new president acts to consolidate his power base.
Botswana	Diamond production rises to a two-year high, boosting GDP.
Cameroon	Large infrastructure projects drive economic growth.
Congo, D.R.	Inflation accelerates due to currency weakness and high import costs.
Cote d'Ivoire	Tighter regulations are imminent in the country's key sector of cocoa.
Ethiopia	The central bank devalues the local currency exchange rate.
Gabon	Gabon is set to receive a second IMF disbursement.
Ghana	Growth in industry and manufacturing drives an improvement in Q2 GDP.
Kenya	Business confidence has been undermined by election-related uncertainties.
Libya	The security situation remains a major impediment for doing business.
Malawi	Plans are made with the IMF for a second extended credit facility.
Mauritius	The benchmark interest rate is cut and support offered to the export sector.
Morocco	The central bank blames political factors for the delay in FX reforms.
Mozambique	Peace talks gain momentum.
Namibia	Concerns are raised regarding Namibia's fiscal strength.
Nigeria	Nigeria seeks billions more in external debt to help fill the public funding gap.
Senegal	The ruling coalition wins a commanding majority in parliamentary polls.
Sierra Leone	Aid to the country will increase in response to an enormous landslide.
South Africa	The ANC's December decision on a new leader could determine President Zuma's fate.
Sudan	China and Sudan hold discussions on new hydrocarbon investments.
Tanzania	New regulations impose stricter requirements on foreign firms.
Tunisia	The passage of a controversial law increases political and credit risks.
Uganda	Attempts to alter the constitution heighten political tension and instability.
Zambia	The authorities revise down mining output projections for 2017.
Zimbabwe	The latest cabinet reshuffle sidelines moderate voices and raises political risk.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Presidents Ghani and Trump back the development of Afghanistan's mineral resources.
Australia	The government's falling popularity could prompt a change in leadership.
Bangladesh	The supply environment outlook deteriorates.
Cambodia	The government's abusive politics could trigger international sanctions.
China	President Xi's elevation comes amid serious environmental and governance challenges.
Fiji	Foreign exchange reserves reach an all-time high.
Hong Kong	Chief Executive Carrie Lam outlines priorities in her first annual policy speech.

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India	The government's bank recapitalisation plan will help credit growth recover.
Indonesia	The World Bank recognises the improvements made to the business environment.
Japan	The government calls a snap election as the economy improves.
Korea (South)	Export-driven corporate profits will power near-term growth.
Malaysia	Exports continue to soar and domestic demand picks up pace.
Myanmar	The crisis in Rakhine State provokes an international outcry.
Nepal	The worst floods in 30 years kill scores of people and hit infrastructure.
New Zealand	The hung parliament is likely to result in policy changes.
Pakistan	Inflation and external pressures will rise as demand strengthens.
Papua New Guinea	The ruling party is re-elected but has to form a coalition.
Philippines	Foreign investment has decreased sharply in the first seven months of the year.
Singapore	The economy expands at its fastest quarterly pace since 2013.
Sri Lanka	Business confidence slumps amid weak data and corruption concerns.
Taiwan	Export performance pulled further ahead in Q3, boosting tax revenues.
Thailand	The latest announcement on a future election date seems more credible.
Vietnam	Economic growth rebounds in Q3.

Eastern Europe

Albania	Albania's credit environment remains stagnant.
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan's competitiveness continues to improve, but substantial challenges persist.
Belarus	The government would like to open new partnerships with the West.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Bosnia & Herzegovina as government institutions break down.
Bulgaria	The parliament approves a bill to create a single anti-corruption body.
Croatia	The country lags badly in terms of its international competitiveness.
Czech Republic	The Action of Dissatisfied Citizens party will lead a minority government.
Estonia	The macroeconomic environment ranks highly in a competitiveness survey.
Georgia	Real GDP growth remains buoyant.
Hungary	Relations with the EU come under further strain.
Kazakhstan	The Kazakh currency hit a 13-month low in early October.
Kyrgyz Republic	Concerns increase about the president's ambitions.
Latvia	Latvia's global competitiveness is ranked the weakest among the Baltic states.
Lithuania	The country's global competitiveness deteriorates.
Macedonia	The economy will enjoy moderate growth in 2018 and 2019.
Poland	A European court ruling on migrants makes a case against Poland inevitable.
Romania	The government is trying to rein in the Anti-Corruption Directorate.
Russian Federation	The GDP growth forecast for 2017 is revised upwards.
Serbia	Government reforms lead to an improvement in the country's international competitiveness.
Slovak Republic	The economy will grow solidly over our two-year forecast period.
Slovenia	The country's international competitiveness continues to improve.
Tajikistan	Inflation continues to rise despite the high policy rate.
Turkmenistan	Security forces report a foiled terrorist attack at Turkmenbashi Port.
Ukraine	Parliament passes long-awaited pension reforms.
Uzbekistan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Uzbekistan due to further reforms.

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Middle East

Bahrain	Despite oil production cuts, Q2 economic growth is reasonably strong.
Egypt	The central bank signals plans to unwind rate rises.
Iran	US decertification of the nuclear deal raises the spectre of further sanctions.
Iraq	The last Islamic State stronghold in Nineveh has been liberated.
Israel	A deal between Hamas and Fatah includes a Hamas pledge not to attack Israel.
Jordan	Growth is at its lowest level since Q1 2011.
Kuwait	Kuwait's global competitiveness ranking disappoints.
Lebanon	Tax hikes will help fund public sector pay rises.
Oman	Economic fundamentals improve on the back of a higher oil price.
Qatar	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Qatar as it seems to weather the economic boycott.
Saudi Arabia	The King visits Moscow as the two countries grow closer.
Syria	The tribes' return to political prominence has implications for the business environment.
UAE	Growth in the second-largest emirate, Dubai, slows in Q1.
Yemen	The UN is to send war crimes investigators to Yemen.

The Americas

Argentina	Proposed tax reforms are intended to modernise the economy.
Bolivia	Robust imports are keeping the external accounts under strain.
Brazil	New corruption charges are laid against the president.
Canada	Growth momentum stalls as trade-dependent drivers slow.
Chile	Sebastian Pinera solidifies his lead in polls ahead of November's presidential election.
Colombia	A temporary bilateral ceasefire agreement begins.
Costa Rica	Advances in technology and telecommunications raise Costa Rica's global competitiveness.
Cuba	The US expels Cuban diplomats.
Dominican Republic	Hurricanes leave five dead and damage the agricultural sector.
Ecuador	A number of sectors helped real GDP growth accelerate in Q2.
El Salvador	The country faces a second default due to the invalidation of a pension law change.
Guatemala	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Guatemala as a new political crisis unfolds.
Honduras	Election transparency concerns cloud the political outlook.
Jamaica	Growth declines marginally in Q2.
Mexico	NAFTA renegotiation talks become increasingly contentious.
Nicaragua	Security and transparency concerns arise ahead of municipal elections.
Panama	Growth will remain healthy despite the current deceleration.
Paraguay	A roundtable is established to tackle insecurity following the EPP kidnappings.
Peru	Rising public investment gets a gradual recovery under way.
Trinidad & Tobago	Two new gas finds will help boost energy output.
USA	The economy remains on track for 2% growth this year.
Uruguay	Solid economic data put the economy on a firm footing.
Venezuela	Vote-suppression allegations cloud the ruling party's election wins.

Western Europe

Austria	The Conservative Party wins the federal election.
Belgium	Annual GDP expectations are unchanged despite slower growth in Q3.
Cyprus	Growth is likely to be boosted further in Q3 amid robust private consumption.
Denmark	Denmark's economy is among the most competitive in the world.
Finland	Finland's international competitiveness holds steady as reforms take hold.

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France	Forward-looking indicators continue to improve.
Germany	Coalition talks are making only slow progress.
Greece	Greece's global competitiveness remains poor.
Iceland	The snap election could see a significant swing to the left.
Ireland	The country's economy remains one of the most competitive in the world.
Italy	Political and macroeconomic headwinds affect the country's outlook.
Luxembourg	International trade drives Luxembourg's economic growth.
Malta	Exports drive growth in Q2 but the rate of expansion slows.
Netherlands	A four-party coalition government is finally agreed.
Norway	The central bank bucks the trend by keeping benchmark interest rates on hold.
Portugal	The government is bolstered by sweeping victories in local elections.
Spain	Political tension is elevated amid Catalonia's demand for independence.
Sweden	Economic growth is among the highest in the developed world.
Switzerland	Forward-looking indicators continue to improve, but growth remains sluggish.
Turkey	A rapid increase in Turkey-US tensions drives up FX risk.
United Kingdom	An interest rate rise creates more headwinds for the economy.



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