

WorldWatch Headlines: October

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Africa

Algeria	The government will borrow from the central bank to cover the fiscal deficit.
Angola	The opposition's attempt to invalidate the election results is overruled.
Botswana	Diamond production rises to a two-year high, boosting GDP.
Cameroon	New and more diverse forms of foreign investment are being attracted.
Congo, D.R.	Rebel groups and security forces engage in deadly clashes.
Cote d'Ivoire	Tighter regulations are imminent in the country's key sector of cocoa.
Ethiopia	The World Bank increases funding for development projects in Ethiopia.
Gabon	The growth forecast is nudged downwards.
Ghana	The central bank increases capital requirements for banks following an asset quality review.
Kenya	The Supreme Court nullifies the election result and orders a re-run.
Libya	Oil production falls again due to the actions of rogue militias.
Malawi	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Malawi's country risk rating as key indicators improve.
Mauritius	The economy should benefit from buoyant tourism in the short term.
Morocco	Foreign exchange reserves are expected to recover after the recent dip.
Mozambique	Peace talks gain momentum.
Namibia	Concerns are raised regarding Namibia's fiscal strength.
Nigeria	The authorities allow the inter-bank and parallel exchange rates to merge.
Senegal	The ruling coalition wins a commanding majority in parliamentary polls.
Sierra Leone	A deadly mudslide hits Freetown, highlighting the poor infrastructure.
South Africa	President Zuma's role as national president is under increasing pressure.
Sudan	China and Sudan hold discussions on new hydrocarbon investments.
Tanzania	New regulations impose stricter requirements on foreign firms.
Tunisia	The prime minister receives a parliamentary vote of confidence for economic reforms.
Uganda	Proposed constitutional changes aim to scrap the presidential age limit.
Zambia	The central bank cuts interest rates for the third time this year.
Zimbabwe	Platinum miners are under pressure from a new FX directive.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	As US troop numbers rise, President Trump suggests an eventual political solution is possible.
Australia	Growth momentum rebounds during Q2.
Bangladesh	The export growth rate slows due to poor governance.
Cambodia	The risk of political and social unrest will rise in the next year.
China	The economy has been stabilised in time for the party congress.
Fiji	Foreign exchange reserves reach an all-time high.
Hong Kong	Trade and manufacturing indicators suggest a deceleration in Q3.
India	The growth outlook dims amid multiple challenges.
Indonesia	Indonesia's export recovery continues.
Japan	North Korea's military provocations increase regional political risk.
Korea (South)	North Korea's thermonuclear test detonation transforms the regional military balance.
Malaysia	Real GDP growth outperforms expectations in Q2.

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Myanmar	Trade and import regulations open up for specific sectors.
Nepal	The worst floods in 30 years kill scores of people and hit infrastructure.
New Zealand	The strong currency limits inflation expectations.
Pakistan	An energy-development drive will boost growth but add to sovereign risk.
Papua New Guinea	The ruling party is re-elected but has to form a coalition.
Philippines	Borrowing costs are expected to remain low.
Singapore	The manufacturing sector looks set to improve further.
Sri Lanka	Industrialists raise concerns about a proposed free-trade agreement with China.
Taiwan	The growth outlook is subdued as investment contracts.
Thailand	The opposition's electoral chances weaken as the former prime minister leaves the country.
Vietnam	Vietnam seeks amendments to the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal.

Eastern Europe

Albania	Albania's credit environment remains stagnant.
Azerbaijan	Creditors approve the International Bank of Azerbaijan's debt-restructuring plan.
Belarus	Improved industrial activity prompts growth in H1.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Bosnia & Herzegovina as government institutions break down.
Bulgaria	Fiscal performance weakens, but at a slower pace than expected.
Croatia	Data for Q2 indicates the economy is growing respectably.
Czech Republic	The ANO party is on course to win October's parliamentary elections.
Estonia	Accelerating economic growth boosts the 2017 forecast.
Georgia	A former Georgian president faces possible extradition from Ukraine to Georgia.
Hungary	The economy is growing rapidly.
Kazakhstan	The government approves a draft national investment strategy for 2018-22.
Kyrgyz Republic	Concerns increase about the president's ambitions.
Latvia	Efforts to improve financial sector oversight are producing results.
Lithuania	A new campaign is launched to reduce emigration.
Macedonia	Macedonia will experience a rapid growth in exports and strong inflows of capital.
Poland	Growth remained buoyant in Q2.
Romania	Romania has the fastest-growing economy in the EU.
Russian Federation	The central bank steps in to rescue another large private lender.
Serbia	Government spending cutbacks weaken Q2 GDP growth.
Slovak Republic	The government wants Slovakia to be part of an inner core of EU members.
Slovenia	The growth forecast is raised for 2017 and 2018.
Tajikistan	Inflation continues to rise despite the high policy rate.
Turkmenistan	Security forces report a foiled terrorist attack at Turkmenbashi Port.
Ukraine	The economy still appears to be stuck in low gear.
Uzbekistan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Uzbekistan's country risk rating after a decision to float the currency.

Middle East

Bahrain	The debt ceiling has been raised and banks consulted about a new bond issue.
Egypt	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Egypt's country risk rating as growth indicators improve.
Iran	Pressure from the US increases to scupper the internationally-brokered nuclear deal.
Iraq	The last Islamic State stronghold in Nineveh has been liberated.

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Israel	A court ruling increases pressure on the coalition government.
Jordan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades the rating outlook for Jordan after setbacks for Islamic State.
Kuwait	The pace slows for the tendering of non-oil projects.
Lebanon	The IMF highlights the country's difficult economic conditions.
Oman	Oman accelerates its efforts to reduce the reliance on its GCC partners.
Qatar	Failed attempts at a political rapprochement will hit the economic outlook.
Saudi Arabia	The King's crack-down on internal dissent suggests rising political tensions.
Syria	Military stabilisation strengthens further.
UAE	An informal boycott is implemented against Western banks with Qatari investment.
Yemen	A cholera outbreak could lead to further destabilisation.

The Americas

Argentina	The US and Argentina strike a trade deal.
Bolivia	The government boosts public spending.
Brazil	Congress pushes ahead with political reforms.
Canada	Real GDP grows at its fastest quarterly pace since 2011.
Chile	Sebastian Pinera is the favourite to win November's presidential election.
Colombia	The government and ELN agree on a temporary ceasefire.
Costa Rica	Advances in technology and telecommunications raise Costa Rica's global competitiveness.
Cuba	The US expels Cuban diplomats.
Dominican Republic	The central bank cuts interest rates as inflation remains benign.
Ecuador	Political tensions grow as the president continues to break from his predecessor.
El Salvador	The country faces a second default due to the invalidation of a pension law change.
Guatemala	Economic activity will remain healthy.
Honduras	The proposed Tourism Incentives Act aims to develop infrastructure.
Jamaica	Growth was almost flat in Q1 due to weaker conditions in key sectors.
Mexico	Post-earthquake recovery efforts continue.
Nicaragua	Security and transparency concerns arise ahead of municipal elections.
Panama	Tougher fines and inflexible rules could exacerbate labour shortages.
Paraguay	Economic activity is to decelerate further.
Peru	A no-confidence vote sinks the country into political turmoil.
Trinidad & Tobago	Two new gas finds will help boost energy output.
USA	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for the US as political uncertainties cloud policy-making.
Uruguay	Tensions in the ruling coalition continue as the vice-president resigns.
Venezuela	New economic measures are announced to combat inflation and boost FDI.

Western Europe

Austria	Conservatives have a comfortable lead in polls ahead of the federal election.
Belgium	Belgium will benefit from the EU's new external-trade developments.
Cyprus	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Cyprus as reunification talks collapse.
Denmark	The government proposes a package of tax cuts.
Finland	The market environment outlook improves.
France	The prime minister announces business-friendly reforms.
Germany	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Germany as the election outcome increases the political risk.
Greece	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Greece's country risk rating amid steadily improving macroeconomic conditions.

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Iceland	A snap general election is called following a scandal involving the prime minister's father.
Ireland	Credit conditions look set to remain tight despite the buoyant economy.
Italy	Doubts persist about the strength of the economic recovery.
Luxembourg	The outlook is still improving as economic conditions pick up.
Malta	Exports drive growth in Q2 but the rate of expansion slows.
Netherlands	The economy is the fastest-growing in the euro zone.
Norway	Erna Solberg is re-elected as prime minister.
Portugal	A lower bond yield signals economic confidence.
Spain	Robust private consumption boosted GDP growth in Q2.
Sweden	The krona appreciates as inflation returns to target.
Switzerland	Real GDP growth disappoints despite sound forward-looking indicators.
Turkey	Growth continues to strengthen, but data accuracy is questionable.
United Kingdom	The government is seeking a transition period after EU membership ends in March 2019.

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