

# WorldWatch Headlines: September

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## Africa

<b>Algeria</b>	A change of prime minister raises fresh questions about Algeria's political direction.
<b>Angola</b>	The elections pass peacefully but the results will bring uncertainty.
<b>Botswana</b>	The government's position strengthens as a key opposition party splits.
<b>Cameroon</b>	New and more diverse forms of foreign investment are being attracted.
<b>Congo, D.R.</b>	Rebel groups and security forces engage in deadly clashes.
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Growth remains upbeat due to strong trade and investment.
<b>Ethiopia</b>	The World Bank increases funding for development projects in Ethiopia.
<b>Gabon</b>	The growth forecast is nudged downwards.
<b>Ghana</b>	The central bank revokes bank licences over liquidity concerns.
<b>Kenya</b>	The Supreme Court nullifies the election result and orders a re-run.
<b>Libya</b>	Oil production falls again due to the actions of rogue militias.
<b>Malawi</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Malawi's country risk rating as key indicators improve.
<b>Mauritius</b>	The economy should benefit from buoyant tourism in the short term.
<b>Morocco</b>	The central bank governor denies reports of his imminent retirement.
<b>Mozambique</b>	Peace talks gain momentum.
<b>Namibia</b>	Concerns are raised regarding Namibia's fiscal strength.
<b>Nigeria</b>	The country is expected to emerge from recession in 2017.
<b>Senegal</b>	Quarterly growth eases but remains fairly robust.
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	A deadly mudslide hits Freetown, highlighting the poor infrastructure.
<b>South Africa</b>	Pressure mounts on President Zuma as the ANC gears up for its leadership summit.
<b>Sudan</b>	Sudan struggles with elevated consumer price inflation.
<b>Tanzania</b>	Amendments made to mining regulations raise fears of natural resource nationalisation.
<b>Tunisia</b>	Security forces discover an alleged IS terrorist plot.
<b>Uganda</b>	Uganda and Tanzania make progress on the proposed oil pipeline.
<b>Zambia</b>	The central bank cuts interest rates for the third time this year.
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	The government's plans to aid liquidity could backfire.

## Asia Pacific

<b>Afghanistan</b>	The US commits to future military involvement in Afghanistan.
<b>Australia</b>	Declining dwelling approvals and falling consumer confidence will affect growth.
<b>Bangladesh</b>	The export growth rate slows due to poor governance.
<b>Cambodia</b>	The risk of political and social unrest will rise in the next year.
<b>China</b>	The economy has been stabilised in time for the party congress.
<b>Fiji</b>	Foreign exchange reserves reach an all-time high.
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Second-quarter growth is ahead of expectations.
<b>India</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for India as the central bank cuts interest rates.
<b>Indonesia</b>	The political environment outlook improves.
<b>Japan</b>	North Korea's military provocations increase regional political risk.
<b>Korea (South)</b>	North Korea's ICBM launch capability threatens the regional security balance.
<b>Malaysia</b>	Real GDP growth outperforms expectations in Q2.
<b>Myanmar</b>	Trade and import regulations open up for specific sectors.

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<b>Nepal</b>	The worst floods in 30 years kill scores of people and hit infrastructure.
<b>New Zealand</b>	The strong currency limits inflation expectations.
<b>Pakistan</b>	A return to political stability restores confidence.
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	The People's National Congress continues as the main coalition party following the election.
<b>Philippines</b>	Borrowing costs are expected to remain low.
<b>Singapore</b>	Growth remains uneven among key industries.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Industrialists raise concerns about a proposed free-trade agreement with China.
<b>Taiwan</b>	Growth will fall back in 2018.
<b>Thailand</b>	Economic performance continues to improve at a modest pace.
<b>Vietnam</b>	Tensions are rising between Vietnam and China in the South China Sea.

## Eastern Europe

<b>Albania</b>	Parliamentary elections produce a strong government.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Creditors approve the International Bank of Azerbaijan's debt-restructuring plan.
<b>Belarus</b>	Improved industrial activity prompts growth in H1.
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	The economy will expand in 2017 and 2018, primarily driven by rising exports.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Consumption and investment will keep growth buoyant.
<b>Croatia</b>	Growth potential is reduced by large-scale emigration.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Growth forecasts are upgraded for both 2017 and 2018.
<b>Estonia</b>	A sharp rise in inflation could affect household income and exports.
<b>Georgia</b>	A former Georgian president faces possible extradition from Ukraine to Georgia.
<b>Hungary</b>	The economy is growing rapidly.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	The government approves a draft national investment strategy for 2018-22.
<b>Kyrgyz Republic</b>	Strong growth in the mining sector boosts the economy.
<b>Latvia</b>	Efforts to improve financial sector oversight are producing results.
<b>Lithuania</b>	A new campaign is launched to reduce emigration.
<b>Macedonia</b>	Macedonia will experience a rapid growth in exports and strong inflows of capital.
<b>Poland</b>	Growth remained buoyant in Q2.
<b>Romania</b>	Romania has the fastest-growing economy in the EU.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	The central bank steps in to rescue Russia's largest private lender.
<b>Serbia</b>	The government might be willing to recognise Kosovo's independence.
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Private consumption and investment drove robust Q2 growth.
<b>Slovenia</b>	The risk of strikes is elevated as labour is in short supply.
<b>Tajikistan</b>	External debt rises as the currency continues to weaken.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	Weakening fiscal finances force the likely phasing-out of free utilities.
<b>Ukraine</b>	The Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement is effective from August.
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	The government's economic plan gets a positive response from the IMF.

## Middle East

<b>Bahrain</b>	The debt ceiling has been raised and banks consulted about a new bond issue.
<b>Egypt</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Egypt amid record FX reserves and an improving currency.
<b>Iran</b>	Pressure from the US increases to scupper the internationally-brokered nuclear deal.
<b>Iraq</b>	The last Islamic State stronghold in Nineveh has been liberated.
<b>Israel</b>	Consumption and investment underpin healthy growth in Q2.
<b>Jordan</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades the rating outlook for Jordan after setbacks for Islamic State.

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<b>Kuwait</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Kuwait due to increased regional tensions.
<b>Lebanon</b>	Hezbollah boosts its domestic kudos militarily and politically.
<b>Oman</b>	Expatriate workers feel the squeeze of the economic downturn.
<b>Qatar</b>	Qatar fights back against the economic boycott.
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Saudi looks to accelerate economic diversification.
<b>Syria</b>	The coming offensive in Deir al-Zour will be crucial.
<b>UAE</b>	An informal boycott is implemented against Western banks with Qatari investment.
<b>Yemen</b>	A cholera outbreak could lead to further destabilisation.

## The Americas

<b>Argentina</b>	The US and Argentina strike a trade deal.
<b>Bolivia</b>	The removal of legal protections from a rainforest reserve could increase social unrest.
<b>Brazil</b>	Congress pushes ahead with political reforms.
<b>Canada</b>	Monthly GDP records its fastest growth in 17 years.
<b>Chile</b>	The government invokes anti-terrorism laws to combat unrest.
<b>Colombia</b>	A newly-passed bill aims to protect former FARC guerrillas.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Fiscal concerns dominate as the president admits possible liquidity problems.
<b>Cuba</b>	The US expels Cuban diplomats.
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	The central bank cuts interest rates as inflation remains benign.
<b>Ecuador</b>	Political tensions grow as the president continues to break from his predecessor.
<b>El Salvador</b>	An agreement on pension reform remains elusive as the political stalemate continues.
<b>Guatemala</b>	Economic activity will remain healthy.
<b>Honduras</b>	The proposed Tourism Incentives Act aims to develop infrastructure.
<b>Jamaica</b>	Growth was almost flat in Q1 due to weaker conditions in key sectors.
<b>Mexico</b>	NAFTA renegotiation begins.
<b>Nicaragua</b>	The government has set up a state mining company, signalling its intention to strengthen the industry.
<b>Panama</b>	Cargo traffic and fiscal policy will keep economic momentum strong.
<b>Paraguay</b>	Economic activity is to decelerate further.
<b>Peru</b>	The government declares a state of emergency as labour unrest escalates.
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	Higher hydrocarbon prices are still insufficient to substantially power the country's economic metrics.
<b>USA</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for the US as political uncertainties cloud policy-making.
<b>Uruguay</b>	The government's struggles continue as a possible ruling party split looms.
<b>Venezuela</b>	The new pro-government Constituent Assembly is installed.

## Western Europe

<b>Austria</b>	A change of government after October's election looks increasingly likely.
<b>Belgium</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Belgium as the economy expands steadily.
<b>Cyprus</b>	Flash estimates show further economic growth in Q2.
<b>Denmark</b>	Economic growth prospects improve.
<b>Finland</b>	The market environment outlook improves.
<b>France</b>	The prime minister announces business-friendly reforms.
<b>Germany</b>	Angela Merkel maintains a comfortable poll lead in the run-up to federal elections.
<b>Greece</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Greece's country risk rating amid steadily improving macroeconomic conditions.
<b>Iceland</b>	The booming economy significantly increases Iceland's attractiveness to foreign retailers.
<b>Ireland</b>	Credit conditions look set to remain tight despite the buoyant economy.

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<b>Italy</b>	The economy expands further in Q2.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	The outlook is still improving as economic conditions pick up.
<b>Malta</b>	Quarterly growth is likely to have continued, but downside risks remain.
<b>Netherlands</b>	The economy expands rapidly and business failures hit a record low.
<b>Norway</b>	The mainland and offshore sectors both improved in Q2.
<b>Portugal</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Portugal's country risk rating amid continued firm growth.
<b>Spain</b>	The economy expands further in Q2.
<b>Sweden</b>	The krona appreciates as inflation returns to target.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Full order books in manufacturing and services indicate a strong end to the year.
<b>Turkey</b>	FX risk remains elevated.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	The latest round of Brexit talks ends without decisive progress.

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