

# WorldWatch Headlines: November 2018

Welcome to our latest compilation of WorldWatch Headlines, taken from the most recently published Country Insight Snapshot reports. These headlines highlight the key development our analysts identified for each country when they updated the report.

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## Africa

<b>Algeria</b>	The purge of generals paves the way for a fifth term for President Bouteflika.
<b>Angola</b>	Angola re-engages with the IMF to request a new financial support package.
<b>Botswana</b>	Second-quarter growth picked up to 5.3% and was broad-based.
<b>Cameroon</b>	Opposition parties dispute the presidential election result.
<b>Congo, D.R.</b>	The mining sector leverages high commodity prices and strong demand to boost output and exports.
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Infrastructure investment drives rapid economic growth.
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Growth is set to accelerate, driven by higher levels of private investment.
<b>Gabon</b>	Austerity measures keep political and insecurity risks high.
<b>Ghana</b>	The banking system faces further challenges.
<b>Kenya</b>	The interest rate cap is retained, despite pressure both from the banks and the IMF.
<b>Libya</b>	Security volatility will continue to undermine oil production.
<b>Malawi</b>	The vice-president resigns from the ruling party.
<b>Mauritius</b>	The tourism sector remains on an upwards trajectory.
<b>Morocco</b>	A technocrat is appointed as the new finance minister.
<b>Mozambique</b>	International brewing companies aim to expand their presence.
<b>Namibia</b>	The African Development Bank provides budgetary support.
<b>Nigeria</b>	Port and highway congestion creates serious obstacles for logistics operations.
<b>Senegal</b>	The presidential election in Q1 2019 is shifting the focus towards political risk.
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Mining output and export revenues are hit by mine closures in 2018.
<b>South Africa</b>	The economy slips into recession during the second quarter.
<b>Sudan</b>	The currency continues to slide as the central bank devalues again.
<b>Tanzania</b>	An external loan helps fund a national railway project.
<b>Tunisia</b>	Political risk is set to rise ahead of the 2019 election.
<b>Uganda</b>	The economy retains strong momentum driven by investment and trade.
<b>Zambia</b>	Copper production and exports are rising, spurred by reasonably high copper prices.
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	The courts endorse Emmerson Mnangagwa's presidential election victory.

## Asia Pacific

<b>Afghanistan</b>	The parliamentary election in October could see a surge in violence.
<b>Australia</b>	Growth in consumption remains strong.
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Dependence on ready-made garments exposes Bangladesh to the risk of shifting trade patterns.
<b>Cambodia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Cambodia as investment surges.
<b>China</b>	The central bank eases liquidity to help brace the economy for shocks.
<b>Fiji</b>	Strong expansion in new loans supports overall economic growth.
<b>Hong Kong (S.A.R.)</b>	The currency suddenly strengthens to its highest level in nearly a year against the US dollar.
<b>India</b>	Private consumption growth is set to moderate amid rising loan rates and energy prices.
<b>Indonesia</b>	The country remains under external financial pressure due to tightening global liquidity.

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<b>Japan</b>	The natural disasters seen in Q3 will prompt a temporary growth slowdown.
<b>Korea (South)</b>	Domestic demand growth decelerates and employment stalls.
<b>Malaysia</b>	Economic growth will moderate in line with weaker exports and public investment.
<b>Myanmar</b>	Renewed pressure on the government is unlikely to result in economic sanctions.
<b>Nepal</b>	Real GDP growth was buoyant in the 2017/18 fiscal year.
<b>New Zealand</b>	A slowdown in the housing market suggests weaker GDP growth in H2.
<b>Pakistan</b>	Tightening policies will drag on growth.
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Real GDP growth is predicted to accelerate in both 2018 and 2019.
<b>Philippines</b>	The central bank increases rates to their highest level since 2009.
<b>Singapore</b>	Downside risks weigh on the economic outlook.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Investor confidence weakens as the Sri Lanka rupee continues to slide.
<b>Taiwan</b>	Taiwanese manufacturers mull relocating capacity from China amid new US tariffs.
<b>Thailand</b>	Economic growth still looks set to accelerate further in 2018.
<b>Vietnam</b>	The president has died, but the impact on policy is likely to be small.

## Eastern Europe

<b>Albania</b>	The economy will expand amid strong growth in all components.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	A report confirms the variable quality of the business environment.
<b>Belarus</b>	Russian plans to restrict oil exports could hit the Belarusian economy.
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	The country faces an existential threat following all-level elections.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Economic growth is likely to ease further.
<b>Croatia</b>	The government finalises the details of its second phase of tax reform.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	The central bank raises interest rates again.
<b>Estonia</b>	Exports and households underpin buoyant economic growth but business investment drops.
<b>Georgia</b>	Talk of Georgia joining NATO increases tensions with Russia.
<b>Hungary</b>	Our GDP forecast for 2018 rises after a strong Q2 performance.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Real GDP growth remains healthy for the first half of 2018.
<b>Kyrgyz Republic</b>	The economic outlook worsens as mining activity falls sharply.
<b>Latvia</b>	The general election produces an extremely fragmented parliament.
<b>Lithuania</b>	The authorities adopt a new strategy to tackle the emigration problem.
<b>Macedonia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Macedonia's country risk rating due to a failed referendum.
<b>Poland</b>	The dispute with the EU is referred to the European Court of Justice.
<b>Romania</b>	Violent clashes between police and anti-government protestors sharpen opposition.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Rising interest rates steady the rouble.
<b>Serbia</b>	The economy grew by a healthy 4.4% y/y in Q2.
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	A strong second quarter supports our forecast of 3.7% growth in 2018.
<b>Slovenia</b>	The new government is planning to increase spending.
<b>Tajikistan</b>	The IMF raises financial sector concerns.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	A deal on the division of the Caspian Sea could open up opportunities for Turkmenistan.
<b>Ukraine</b>	Infrastructure investment and consumer spending spur economic growth.
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	The IMF acknowledges the increase in external trade and government reforms.

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## Middle East

<b>Bahrain</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Bahrain due to the financial support from GCC countries.
<b>Egypt</b>	The central bank curbs lending to the state sector.
<b>Iran</b>	FX risk is extremely elevated following the imposition of US sanctions.
<b>Iraq</b>	The country elects a president and nominates a prime minister, heralding potential political stability.
<b>Israel</b>	Tensions simmer between the government and central bank over the fiscal finances.
<b>Jordan</b>	Latest economic data highlights that growth remains very weak.
<b>Kuwait</b>	Contract awards suggest that Divided Zone oil production will restart in 2019.
<b>Lebanon</b>	The current account deficit soars to a near-record high.
<b>Oman</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Oman's country risk rating as the outlook for oil revenue improves.
<b>Qatar</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Qatar's country risk rating amid plans to increase gas production.
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Risks increase after the alleged killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.
<b>Syria</b>	Syrians prepare for the Idlib military offensive.
<b>UAE</b>	The IMF supports the government's move towards stimulus.
<b>Yemen</b>	The battle for the strategically-important Port of Hodeidah leaves dozens dead.

## The Americas

<b>Argentina</b>	Deep cuts and higher taxes are proposed in the 2019 budget.
<b>Bolivia</b>	An International Court of Justice ruling harms President Morales' re-election prospects.
<b>Brazil</b>	Right-winger Jair Bolsonaro wins the first-round presidential vote.
<b>Canada</b>	The USMCA deal reinforces intercontinental trade connectedness.
<b>Chile</b>	Growth strengthens in Q2.
<b>Colombia</b>	The growth outlook improves as the recovery slowly gains traction.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Costa Rica amid an ongoing national strike.
<b>Cuba</b>	The tourism outlook improves as the post-hurricane cleanup continues.
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Growth accelerated further in Q2.
<b>Ecuador</b>	The IMF issues a mixed report on the economy.
<b>El Salvador</b>	Economic growth is likely to ease further due to worsening external conditions.
<b>Guatemala</b>	The worsening domestic and external backdrop makes the economic outlook increasingly uncertain.
<b>Honduras</b>	Economic growth is expected to moderate as external conditions worsen.
<b>Jamaica</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Jamaica's country risk rating due to ongoing economic improvements.
<b>Mexico</b>	Trade-related tensions ease with the signing of USMCA.
<b>Nicaragua</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Nicaragua's country risk rating as the sociopolitical crisis intensifies.
<b>Panama</b>	The near-term economic outlook becomes more uncertain.
<b>Paraguay</b>	Domestic demand will sustain sturdy economic growth.
<b>Peru</b>	Stronger growth will be spurred by several factors.
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	A modest economic recovery is projected for full-year 2018.
<b>USA</b>	The US reaches a trilateral deal with Mexico and Canada.
<b>Uruguay</b>	The military pension reform is finally passed.
<b>Venezuela</b>	A new economic plan to curb hyperinflation is likely to fail.

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## Western Europe

<b>Austria</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Austria as the economy shows signs of slowing.
<b>Belgium</b>	Recent governance data reflects Belgium's competitive business environment.
<b>Cyprus</b>	GDP growth slows slightly in Q2 but is still strong at 3.9%.
<b>Denmark</b>	Growth moderates due to a slowdown in exports.
<b>Finland</b>	The pace of economic growth is softening.
<b>France</b>	Payments performance stabilises in the second quarter.
<b>Germany</b>	The political risk outlook deteriorates.
<b>Greece</b>	Greece still ranks rather poorly in terms of global competitiveness.
<b>Iceland</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Iceland's country risk rating amid ongoing economic improvements.
<b>Ireland</b>	The growth outlook for 2018 improves.
<b>Italy</b>	The government now looks unlikely to trigger an early election.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	The Christian Social People's Party is on course to win the elections.
<b>Malta</b>	Remittances could be complicated by accusations of money laundering.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Inflation reaches its highest level in nearly five years.
<b>Norway</b>	The oil minister resigns, underlining the governing coalition's challenges.
<b>Portugal</b>	The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to 0.2% of GDP.
<b>Spain</b>	Cooling private consumption will weigh on growth into 2019.
<b>Sweden</b>	A weak minority government or more elections are in prospect.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Switzerland as business failures keep rising.
<b>Turkey</b>	Easing tensions with the US could see sanctions lifted.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	The risk of a no-deal Brexit rises following an unsuccessful EU summit.

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