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Our Economy and the World

Issue: 432

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This week's issue of "Our Economy and the World" includes:

Key Global and Regional Developments over the Past Week

- Reuters: US House takes step toward ending longest government shutdown in history
- Reuters: India's inflation tanks to record low, boosting December rate-cut hopes
- Bloomberg: Italy debt is challenge for future upgrades, Treasury chief says
- Bloomberg: China consumer prices unexpectedly rise on holiday demand

Special Analysis

- IMF: Global Economy in Flux, Prospects Remain Dim

Developments in Financial and Commodity Markets in the Past Week

- Reuters: Oil prices fall as oversupply concerns overshadow US government reopening
- The Guardian: Global stock markets fall sharply over AI bubble fears

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Key Global and Regional Developments over the Past Week

[Reuters: US House takes step toward ending longest government shutdown in history](#)

The House of Representatives took a procedural step toward ending the longest government shutdown in U.S. history on Wednesday, advancing a stopgap funding package to restart disrupted food assistance, pay hundreds of thousands of federal workers and revive a hobbled air-traffic control system. The Republican-controlled chamber voted 213-209 to move towards a final vote on the measure, with President Donald Trump's support largely keeping his party together in the face of vehement opposition from House Democrats, who are angry that a long standoff launched by their Senate colleagues failed to secure a deal to extend federal health insurance subsidies.

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[Reuters: India's inflation tanks to record low, boosting December rate-cut hopes](#)

India's retail inflation slumped to a record low of 0.25% in October, driven by a sharp fall in food prices and tax cuts on consumer goods, paving the way for a rate cut by the central bank in December. Low inflation, declining interest rates and consumer tax cuts are seen offsetting pressure on Asia's third-largest economy after the U.S. imposed punitive tariffs on Indian exports. The economy, which grew at 7.8% in the April-June period is seen slowing over the second half of this year.

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Bloomberg: Italy debt is challenge for future upgrades, Treasury chief says

Italy is being lauded by ratings companies but may find high debt restrains future upgrades, according to Treasury chief Riccardo Barbieri. In an interview at Bloomberg's Future of Finance event on Wednesday in Milan, the most senior official at the Finance Ministry suggested the euro zone's third-biggest economy may struggle to keep up the pace of improvement in its credit score after a marked turnaround from years of deterioration.

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Bloomberg: China consumer prices unexpectedly rise on holiday demand

China's consumer prices unexpectedly increased in October, as holidays during the month boosted travel, food and transport demand — a pick-up many economists saw likely as fleeting. The consumer price index rose 0.2% from a year earlier, after a 0.3% decline in September, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Sunday.

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Special Analysis

IMF: Global Economy in Flux, Prospects Remain Dim

The global economy is adjusting to a landscape reshaped by new policy measures. Some extremes of higher tariffs were tempered, thanks to subsequent deals and resets. But the overall environment remains volatile, and temporary factors that supported activity in the first half of 2025—such as front-loading—are fading.

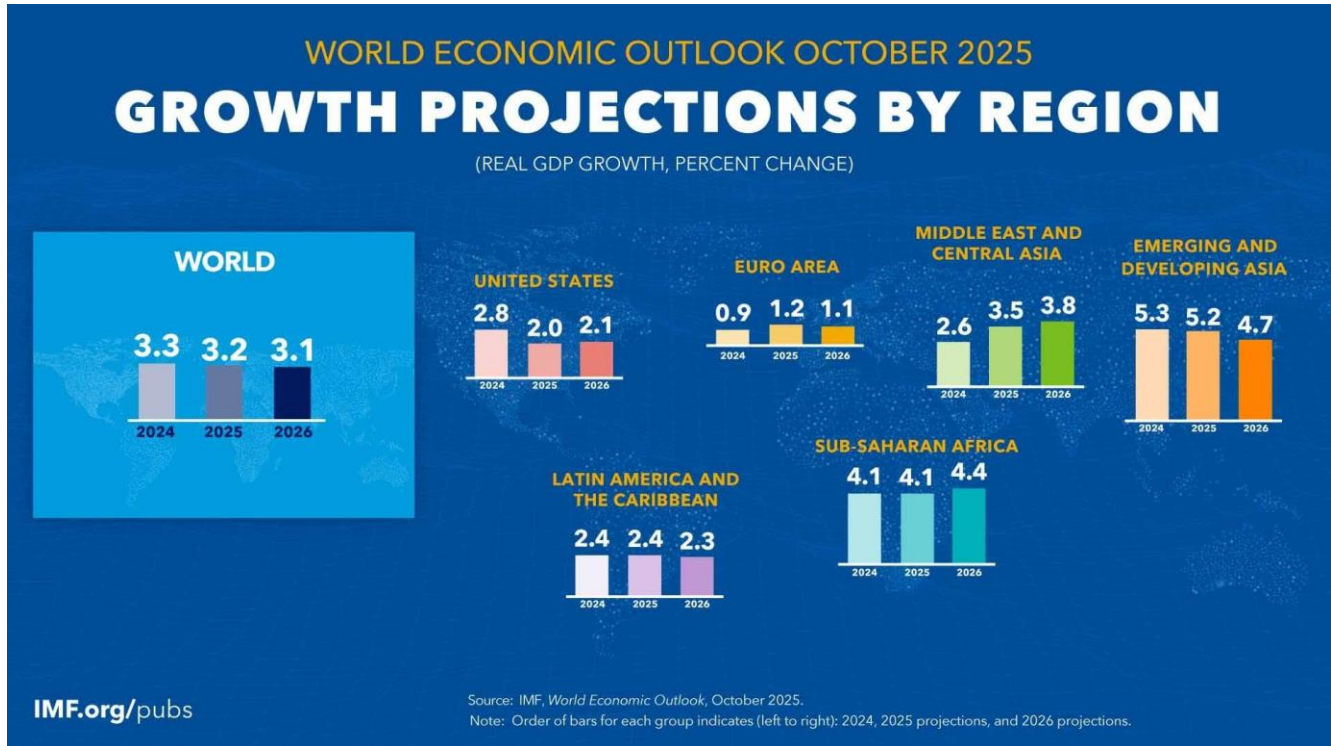
As a result, global growth projections in the latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) are revised upward relative to the April 2025 WEO but continue to mark a downward revision relative to the pre-policy-shift forecasts. Global growth is projected to slow from 3.3 percent in 2024 to 3.2 percent in 2025 and 3.1 percent in 2026, with advanced economies growing around 1.5 percent and emerging market and developing economies just above 4 percent. Inflation is projected to continue to decline globally, though with variation across countries: above target in the United States—with risks tilted to the upside—and subdued elsewhere.

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Developments in Financial and Commodity Markets in the Past Week

Reuters: Oil prices fall as oversupply concerns overshadow US government reopening

Oil prices fell more than \$2 on Wednesday, weighed down by an OPEC report saying global oil supply will match demand in 2026, marking a further shift from its earlier projections of a supply deficit.

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The Guardian: Global stock markets fall sharply over AI bubble fears

Global stock markets have fallen sharply amid concerns that a boom in valuations of artificial intelligence (AI) companies could be rapidly cooling. Markets in the US, Asia and Europe have fallen after bank bosses warned a serious stock market correction could lie ahead, after a run of record stock market highs led some companies to appear overvalued. In the US, the tech-focused Nasdaq and the S&P 500 on Tuesday suffered their largest one-day percentage drop in almost a month.

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