AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Algeria Summary 28 October 2026

The presidency announces in a statement on 26 October that President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has approved the deployment of military forces to neighbouring Niger to "ensure the protection of shared Algerian-Nigerien energy and economic interests". Algeria retains its position as Africa's fourth-largest economy in the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, with its GDP projected to reach $331.89 billion. Algeria instructs local producers to stop exporting urea fertiliser to France, escalating an economic dispute linked to French President Emmanuel Macron's support for Morocco's autonomy plan for the Western Sahara.

Algeria approves first foreign deployment of troops since 1973

The presidency announced in a statement on 26 October that President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** (2019-present) approved the deployment of military forces to neighbouring **Niger** to *"ensure the protection of shared Algerian-Nigerien energy and economic interests"*, marking an important development in relations between the two countries. The presidency said Tebboune made the decision in accordance with Articles 30 and 91 of the country's constitution, following a request from Nigerien authorities for military assistance. The statement further said that the decision was made after both chambers of parliament approved it during closed-door sessions on 25 October, marking the country's first foreign deployment since 1973, when it sent troops to Egypt during the **Arab-Israeli** war.

The announcement did not provide details about the number of troops involved, where they would be deployed or how long the mission would last. It is therefore unclear how extensive Algeria's military involvement in Niger will become. The presidency also did not elaborate on which forces threatened the country's interests in Niger, where Algerian state-owned energy giant **Sonatrach** is currently drilling at the **Kafra** oil field.

The approval comes after Algeria's defence ministry confirmed on 30 August that the country had deployed four **Russian**-made Sukhoi Su-30s military jets to Niger to support the ruling junta after it fought off an attempted coup by mutinous soldiers on 29 August *(see ARC Briefing Algeria Sep 2026)*. A few weeks after providing military aircraft to support Niger's government, Algeria also agreed on 14 September to collaborate with **Mali** on regional security matters, further highlighting Algeria's efforts to strengthen relations with its military-led neighbours after several years of tense diplomatic relations.

The move to deploy troops to Niger highlights the importance Algeria places on protecting its interests in the **Sahel**, a region that continues to face security challenges. Algeria shares a 951km border with Niger and a 1,400 km border with Mali. There are concerns that continued instability in both countries could lead to a power vacuum, a rise in militias, and an increase in displaced persons and refugees, resulting in greater instability across the region. Niger's recent coup underscores the severity of the security situation, prompting Algeria to break with its decades-long policy of refraining from deploying troops abroad. Having Algeria as an ally could also help strengthen the Nigerien and Malian regimes.

Niger is also central to the massive Algeria-backed $13 billion, 4,128 km **Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline**, which the Algerian government announced on 4 June had begun construction. The

project was first proposed in the 1970s to supply 30 billion cubic metres of gas per year from Nigeria and the region to the **European** market. The pipeline is planned to run through **Nigeria**, Niger and Algeria, before connecting to the **Mediterranean** via various pipelines. Algeria's willingness to deploy troops suggests it sees stability in Niger as closely tied to its economic interests, such as the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline, and Sonatrach's interests.

Algeria's decision marks a significant change in its foreign policy and signals its readiness to take a more active role in protecting its regional interests. With Africa's largest military budget, Algeria set aside $25.4 billion for defence in 2025, about 8.8% of GDP, giving it substantial resources to support such an operation. While the deployment is intended to safeguard shared energy and economic interests, its broader implications will depend on the mission's scope, the evolving security situation and the level of cooperation between the two governments.

Algeria retains position as Africa's fourth-largest economy

The **International Monetary Fund**'s **(IMF)** October **2026 World Economic Outlook** indicates Algeria has retained its position as Africa's fourth-largest economy, with its GDP projected to reach $331.89 billion, placing Algeria behind only **South Africa**, **Egypt** and Nigeria. Notably, Algeria also holds a significant economic lead over its regional rival Morocco, whose GDP is projected to reach $195.63 billion. While Algeria has a stronger overall economy, Morocco's growing manufacturing industry is boosting its exports and increasing its participation in global supply chains.

Algeria's economic strength is mainly due to its large oil and natural gas industry, which contributes significantly to state revenues and foreign exchange earnings. The country's oil and gas revenues are estimated at close to $50 billion or more per year. As one of Europe's key natural gas suppliers, particularly as the region weans itself off Russian gas, Algeria plays a key role in the global energy market. The IMF projects that hydrocarbon revenues and public investment will support the country's economic growth to 3.8% in 2026.

However, the country's heavy reliance on oil and natural gas makes its economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global energy prices, which could impact government income and overall economic stability. Algeria is currently enjoying these fluctuations, but this could change. The IMF also raised concerns about Algeria's ongoing debt deficits and rising debt, emphasising the need to diversify government revenues and manage public spending more effectively. However, the country has already moved to address those challenges by working to develop other industries, most notably agriculture and manufacturing.

IMF managing director **Kristalina Georgieva** in February commended Algeria for the economic reforms it has undertaken in recent years, highlighting progress in investment promotion, digitisation, and export diversification beyond hydrocarbons. While increased revenues from surging oil prices have helped improve Algeria's fiscal standing, reforms directed at export diversification could position the country on a path toward a more resilient economy.

Algeria bans fertiliser exports to France due to Western Saharan tensions

Algeria has reportedly instructed local producers to stop exporting urea fertiliser to **France**, escalating an economic dispute linked to French President **Emmanuel Macron**'s (2017present) support for Morocco's autonomy plan for the **Western Sahara**, threatening a trade relationship worth about $219m in 2025.

The decision could force French agricultural suppliers to seek alternative sources ahead of the next planting season; Algeria is estimated to have supplied France with about 481,000 tonnes of urea in 2025, accounting for roughly 25% of French imports. Algeria was also France's second-largest foreign supplier of the resource after **Egypt**. The reported restriction could disrupt

fertiliser supplies and put pressure on French farmers, especially as European producers already face high natural gas and manufacturing costs. The fertiliser restriction could also have wider consequences for European agricultural supply chains, as France may need to increase imports from **Germany**, the **Netherlands** and other suppliers. Producers in countries such as **Nigeria** could also find new opportunities, although their existing exports to France remain relatively small.

Algeria's decision to ban fertiliser exports follows an unofficial, near-total ban on most French imports that the country introduced in July. Relations were further strained after Macron's July 2024 decision to back Morocco's autonomy plan for Western Sahara, a shift Algeria strongly opposed *(see ARC Briefing Algeria Jul 2024)*. Algeria supports the **Polisario Front**, which seeks independence for the disputed territory, and views France's position as a rejection of its longstanding stance.

While the Algerian government or the affected producers has not publicly confirmed the reported restriction, Algeria has historically moved to improve or scale back ties whenever it feels its political or strategic interests are threatened, whether those concerns are real or perceived. This pattern has repeatedly appeared in its relationship with France, where periods of cooperation have often been followed by sudden diplomatic tensions. However, if Algeria's reported restrictions on fertiliser exports to France are confirmed and maintained, the move could deepen bilateral trade tensions, disrupt French fertiliser supplies, prompt European buyers to diversify their sourcing, and create limited opportunities for alternative exporters.

Planner

28 Nov 2026 **(Algeria)** Election of members of municipal and provincial popular assemblies;

2026 **(Algeria)** Potential confirmation of Algerian acquisition of **Russian** weaponry;

Chronology

26 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Anadolu Ajansi*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** announces the deployment of military units to neighbouring **Niger** at the request of Nigerien authorities to protect the two countries' shared energy and economic interests;

25 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Anadolu Ajansi*. Algeria's parliament approves a presidential decision to deploy an army unit to **Niger**, with the lower house backing the move hours after the upper chamber unanimously approved it;

23 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africa Business Insider*. Algeria has reportedly instructed domestic producers to stop exporting urea fertiliser to France, escalating an economic confrontation linked to French President **Emmanuel Macron**'s support for **Morocco**'s position on **Western Sahara**;

21 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *APA News*. Facing rising domestic consumption and mounting pressure on export revenues, Algiers plans to invest nearly $71 billion in its hydrocarbon sector by 2030;

21 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Business Front*. Algeria and **Tunisia** secure political backing from **Italy**, **Austria** and **Germany** for the **SoutH2 Corridor**, a 3,300km hydrogen export pipeline designed to supply more than 40% of the **European Union**'s 2030 hydrogen import target, with operations targeted for the early 2030s;

20 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Kazin Forum*. The embassy of **Kazakhstan** in Algiers holds a business roundtable and a videoconference dedicated to the prospects for developing Kazakh-Algerian trade, economic, and investment cooperation;

17 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africa Business Insider*. Algeria remains Africa's fourth-largest economy at $331.9 billion in the **International Monetary Fund**'s **(IMF)** latest rankings, maintaining a $136 billion lead over rival **Morocco**;

15 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Capmad*. Algerian and **South African** officials outline the key pillars of a strategic mining partnership, spanning joint exploration and the local processing of high-value minerals;

14 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Bloomberg.* Algeria officially adopts the death penalty for people convicted of arson, after fatal forest fires tore through parts of the country's east this summer;

12 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Africa News*. Algerian authorities confirm they arrested 61 **Moroccan** nationals earlier this month on suspicion of planning *"acts of sabotage"*;

9 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Middle East Monitor*. Tensions between Algeria and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** are increasingly affecting regional dynamics in the **Sahel**, as Algeria seeks to strengthen its influence while the UAE expands its diplomatic and political ties across the region;

7 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Tech Africa News*. **Niger** and Algeria officially launch operations on a trans-Saharan fibre optic backbone linking the two countries, strengthening their digital connectivity and telecommunications cooperation;

5 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Middle East Monitor*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** says his country will not reverse its decision to sever diplomatic relations with **the United Arab Emirates**, saying the move came after tensions between the two countries had reached a critical point;

3 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Al Jazeera*. President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** confirms that his country sent fighter jets to **Niger** in late August to help thwart a coup attempt;

1 Oct 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Aljazeera*. The **Assemblée Populaire Nationale (APN)**, the lower house of parliament, adopts a law that would allow the death penalty for those convicted of arson, after deadly wildfires swept through the country's forests;

28 Sep 2026 **Algiers (Algeria)** *Middle East Monitor*. Foreign minister **Ahmed Attaf** says **Israel** is seeking to divide **Somalia**, attacking **Syria** and **Lebanon**, and failing to uphold the **Gaza** ceasefire agreement;

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