

MACAU SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: November 01, 2026 - November 08, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Security Analysis Report: Macau (November 01, 2026 - November 08, 2026)

Executive Summary

The security landscape in Macau during the period of November 01 to November 08, 2026, was primarily shaped by a landmark legal development: the conviction of former lawmaker Au Kam San under the city's expanded national security laws. This event, Macau's first national security case, underscores Beijing's tightening grip on the Special Administrative Region and its unwavering commitment to national security. The Macau SAR Government firmly supported the court's ruling, reiterating its constitutional duty to safeguard national security and deepen public education on the matter. Concurrently, Beijing urged Macau to align its development plans with China's 15th Five-Year Plan, further integrating the SAR into national strategic objectives. These developments signal a continued emphasis on internal stability and political alignment with mainland China, with potential implications for international relations and civil liberties.

Key Security Developments

- First National Security Law Conviction: On November 6, 2026, former lawmaker and democracy campaigner Au Kam San was sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison. He was convicted of subversion, two counts of establishing links with organizations outside Macau to commit acts endangering national security, and breach of professional secrecy. This marks the first prosecution and conviction under Macau's national security laws, which were widened in 2023. The trial, held behind closed doors, concluded in September after three days of hearings.
- Macau Government's Strong Support for the Ruling: The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) issued statements on November 6, 2026, expressing respect and firm support for the court's ruling. The MSAR Government emphasized its constitutional responsibility to safeguard national security, vowing to continue strictly enforcing the Law on Safeguarding National Security, preventing and punishing acts endangering national security, and deepening education on national security and the rule of law.

• International Criticism and Chinese Rebuttal: The European Union had previously condemned Au Kam San's arrest in July 2025, raising concerns about the "erosion of political pluralism" in Macau. In response to the conviction, China's foreign ministry dismissed criticism, asserting that foreign entities should not interfere in Macau's internal affairs and that Macau has the right and responsibility to address acts suspected of colluding with external forces.

• Beijing's Call for Alignment with National Plans: On November 4, 2026, China's central authorities urged Macau and Hong Kong to align their development plans with the country's 15th Five-Year Plan. The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office stressed the importance of strengthening governance and upholding the "patriots governing Macau and Hong Kong" principle, encouraging the SARs to contribute more actively to national development. Macau's Chief Executive, Sam Hou Fai, has publicly committed to syncing the city's growth with China's national plans.

• Ongoing Cybersecurity Challenges: While no new major cyber incidents were reported within the specific period, previous reports highlight a persistent and increasing threat. Data from the Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Centre indicated that cyberattacks and espionage activities targeting Macau's critical infrastructure significantly increased from 1,850 per day in 2020 to 5,800 per day in the first three quarters of 2023. Despite the surge in attacks, the number of successful security incidents dropped, demonstrating improved cybersecurity management and technical capabilities. Macau's government websites were also hit by a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack in July 2024, attributed to suspected foreign hackers.

• Enhanced Border Security and Facilitation Measures: Following the "Golden Week" holiday (October 1-7, 2026), which saw 5.2 million to 5.4 million border crossings, Macau's Public Security Police Force (PSP) implemented crowd control measures, deployed additional manpower, and utilized drones for traffic monitoring around key areas like the Macau Tower. Additionally, in November 2026, an "on-board clearance service" was introduced at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for foreign visitors arriving or departing in passenger vehicles with nine people or fewer, aiming to streamline border processes.

• Diplomatic Engagement in Greater Bay Area (GBA) Development: On November 3, 2026, Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai delivered a speech at the 2026 Global Investment Promotion Conference for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) in Guangzhou. He reiterated Macau's commitment to cooperating with Guangdong and Hong Kong to build the GBA into a world-class bay area and city cluster, emphasizing Macau's role as a core city and engine for the GBA's development.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The conviction of Au Kam San under Macau's national security law marks a significant step in the ongoing integration of Macau into mainland China's governance framework. This development mirrors similar trends observed in Hong Kong, where national security legislation has been used to curb dissent and reinforce central government authority. Geopolitically, this move further solidifies Beijing's control over its Special Administrative Regions, demonstrating a consistent policy across both Macau and Hong Kong to prioritize national security and stability as defined by the central government.

The international reaction, particularly from the European Union, highlights a growing divergence in perceptions of rule of law and political freedoms between Western democracies and China. While Beijing views such actions as internal affairs necessary for national security, international bodies express concerns about the erosion of political pluralism and human rights. This friction is likely to persist, potentially impacting Macau's diplomatic relations with major powers like the EU and the US, even if direct economic ties remain strong.

Macau's active participation in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) initiative, as evidenced by Chief Executive Sam Hou Fai's commitments, underscores its strategic alignment with China's national development goals. The GBA project aims to integrate Macau, Hong Kong, and nine cities in Guangdong Province into a cohesive economic and innovation hub. This integration, coupled with Beijing's directive for Macau to align its five-year plans with national strategies, reinforces Macau's role as a "bridge" between China and Portuguese/Spanish-speaking countries, but firmly within the overarching framework of "One Country, Two Systems" as interpreted by Beijing. The emphasis on "patriots governing Macau" further ensures political loyalty and reduces the scope for independent political action.

Military and Defense Analysis

Macau, as a Special Administrative Region of China, does not maintain its own independent military force. Defense responsibilities fall under the purview of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Macau Garrison. The PLA Garrison in Macau is primarily symbolic and focused on maintaining internal stability and national security, rather than external defense operations. Its activities are generally low-profile, involving routine troop rotations and occasional public engagement events, such as military open houses, with the last reported open house in May 2026.

There were no reported military activities, exercises, or defense acquisitions specific to Macau during the November 1-8, 2026 period. The focus of Macau's security apparatus remains on law enforcement, counter-terrorism preparedness (handled by the Police Intervention Tactical Unit, UTIP), and cybersecurity, rather than

conventional military capabilities. Defense spending trends for Macau are not separately reported, as its defense is integrated into China's national defense budget. Modernization programs would primarily pertain to the PLA's overall capabilities, with the Macau Garrison benefiting from broader PLA advancements in equipment and training. The emphasis on "national security" through legal means, as seen in the Au Kam San case, indicates that internal political stability is the primary defense concern for Macau, managed through legal and policing mechanisms rather than overt military force.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, Macau is likely to experience continued enforcement of its national security laws, with authorities maintaining vigilance against any perceived threats to national security. The government will likely intensify its public education campaigns on national security and the rule of law, as stated by the MSAR Government. Further integration with mainland China's economic and strategic initiatives, particularly within the Greater Bay Area framework, will also be a key focus. This includes efforts to streamline cross-border movement and align development plans with China's 15th Five-Year Plan. Diplomatic engagement will likely continue to emphasize Macau's role as a platform for China's international outreach, especially with Portuguese-speaking countries, while firmly rejecting external interference in its internal affairs.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The primary risk area remains the potential for further erosion of civil liberties and political pluralism under the expanded national security framework. Any future arrests or prosecutions under these laws could trigger renewed international criticism and scrutiny. While large-scale public dissent is unlikely given the current political climate, isolated acts of protest or perceived subversion could become flashpoints. Cybersecurity threats, particularly from sophisticated hacking groups, remain a persistent concern for Macau's critical infrastructure, requiring continuous vigilance and investment in defense mechanisms.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include any further national security prosecutions or legislative amendments, the nature and frequency of official statements regarding national security, and the implementation progress of Macau's integration into the Greater Bay Area. The tone of international commentary from major powers (US, EU) regarding Macau's governance will also be important. Furthermore, the frequency and sophistication of cyberattacks targeting Macau's government and critical infrastructure should be closely watched as an indicator of persistent external threats. Any changes in border control policies or significant shifts in economic diversification strategies could also signal underlying security or political adjustments.

Strategic recommendations: For stakeholders operating in or engaging with Macau, it is crucial to understand and adapt to the evolving national security landscape. This includes ensuring compliance with local laws and regulations, particularly those pertaining to national security and data governance. Businesses should enhance their cybersecurity postures to mitigate risks from persistent cyber threats. Diplomatic and international organizations should continue to monitor developments closely, advocating for transparency and the protection of fundamental rights while engaging constructively with Macau authorities on areas of mutual interest. Emphasizing Macau's unique role as a bridge for international exchange, while acknowledging its constitutional position within China, will be key to navigating its complex geopolitical environment.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: Macau Daily Times

• Au Kam San sentenced to 12 years and six months in city's first national security case (2026-11-06 04:46)

Former lawmaker Au Kam San was sentenced to 12 years and six months in prison today after being convicted of subversion, two counts of establishing links with organizations outside Macau to commit acts endangering national security, and breach of professional secrecy in the city's first case involving alleged violations of the National Security Law. The Court of First Instance announced the sentence following hearings on Sept. 16 and 18. The case marks the first prosecution involving violations of the National Security Law since the establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region. According to a statement issued by the court, [⋯]

• Survey finds demand for stronger housing, childcare and parental leave support (2026-11-06 00:46)

Local residents want stronger support for starting and raising families, with housing assistance, stable employment and more flexible childcare arrangements emerging as main concerns in a new survey. Most respondents want parents to have more flexibility in managing childcare, with 67% calling for dedicated leave and 55.9% backing stronger paternity leave provisions. According to a survey by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions' Women's Committee and the Macau Dual Career Women Association, nearly half of residents want substantive housing support to help them have children, while more than eight in 10 see stable income and job security as central to [⋯]

• Nearly 85% of local concertgoers travel abroad for live shows, report finds (2026-11-06 00:44)

Nearly 85% of residents surveyed who have attended concerts in the city have also traveled abroad or to other regions to watch live performances, according to a new industry report. The findings come from The Concert Travel Effect in Asia, jointly released by Trip.com Group and Live Nation Asia at a media briefing in Singapore Wednesday. More than 80% of Macau respondents also identified concerts and live performances as an appealing reason to travel. The lineup appears to carry more weight than the destination itself for many fans. About 69% of respondents said the performers or festival lineup mattered more [⋯]

• A fiery milestone: Feng Wei Ju's 20th anniversary tribute to Starworld Macau (2026-11-06 00:42)

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the iconic Starworld Macau, a special commemorative dinner was hosted at its crown jewel, Feng Wei Ju. Holding two Michelin stars, this esteemed restaurant is celebrated for its fiery yet refined take on Hunan and Sichuan cuisine. For this milestone occasion, the kitchen delivered a masterful "Michelin Appetizer" tasting menu that harmoniously blended regional spice with premium global ingredients, all perfectly paired with exceptional Chinese wines. The evening began with a spectacular array of cold appetizers that teased the palate with vibrant flavors. Highlights included the Marinated Razor Clams with Peppercorns and Chili, which [⋯]

• Melco's Q3 profit drops to almost zero as revenue falls 10% (2026-11-06 00:40)

Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited saw profitability collapse in the third quarter (Q3) of this year, with net income attributable to shareholders plunging from USD74.7 million (MOP603.5 million) a year earlier to just $34,000 (MOP274,703), effectively erasing its quarterly earnings. The company presented the results during its quarterly earnings call on Wednesday night (Macau time). Melco reported a deterioration in its unaudited financial results, with operating revenue down 10.4% year over year to $1.17 billion (MOP9.45 billion), compared with $1.31 billion (MOP10.58 billion) in the corresponding quarter of 2025. More significantly, the company reported a consolidated net loss of $9.1 [⋯]

• Summit puts medical tourism and preventive healthcare at center of growth plans (2026-11-06 00:38)

Macau's tourism industry should expand into preventive healthcare and longevity services, medical and business leaders said Thursday at the inaugural Greater Bay Area Health and Longevity Summit. Melco chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho linked the initiative to Macau's "1+4" economic diversification strategy, which identifies healthcare as a growth industry alongside the city's tourism base. "We believe the future of premium travel lies where world-class hospitality meets cutting-edge wellness," Ho said in his opening remarks. He also pointed to the newly launched iRad Hospital at Studio City as an example of combining diagnostic imaging, health assessments and longevity services with resort [⋯]

• Gov't recovers another four land parcels for temporary parking lot (2026-11-06 00:36)

The Land and Urban Construction Bureau (DSSCU) announced that the government had carried out a joint interdepartmental operation to reclaim four state-owned plots of land along Estrada do Canal dos Patos in northern Macau. The reclaimed plots are part of a group of 39 parcels previously designated for temporary-use projects. In this case, the land parcels will be handed over to the Public Works Bureau (DSOP) to build a temporary parking lot, DSSCU added. The plots are located at the intersection of Estrada do Canal dos Patos, Travessa do Canal dos Patos and Travessa do Narciso. They comprise three plots [⋯]

• Gov't moves to remove more than 100 road manhole covers (2026-11-06 00:34)

The government has set up a working group to reduce the number of manhole covers on the city's roads, with eight projects so far adopting measures expected to eliminate more than 100 covers, the Central District Community Service Consultative Committee heard on Thursday. The committee held its 11th regular meeting of the year, at which it invited representatives from the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), Transport Bureau (DSAT), Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) and Post and Telecommunications Bureau (CTT) to brief members on progress. The Northeast Avenue elevated walkway project, which is now undergoing sewer connections and road restoration, is expected to [⋯]

- MUST smart campus platform wins international communication award (2026-11-06 00:32)

The Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has won first place in the Excellence in Digital Community Engagement category at the 2026 Sharjah Government Communication Award for its internally developed WeMust Smart Campus platform. The awards ceremony was held Nov. 2 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. MUST said it was the first institution in China to receive the award. Vice president Tong Ka Lok, who oversees the project's strategic planning, accepted the award on behalf of the university. Organized by the Sharjah Government Media Bureau, the awards recognize projects in government communication and public engagement. This year's edition received [⋯]

- Facial recognition clearance reaches 19.7 million uses in first year (2026-11-06 00:28)

All 250 joint-inspection self-service channels at Macau's cooperative border checkpoints now use facial recognition clearance, marking the first anniversary of the measure yesterday, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) said. As of the end of last month, 664,000 people had registered for smart clearance at Guangdong-Macau checkpoints, with 19.66 million uses recorded in total – 10.28 million at Hengqin, 9.15 million at Qingmao and 228,000 at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's Zhuhai-Macau hall. Facial recognition clearance for the joint one-stop vehicle lane at Hengqin began on May 7, with 32,000 registrations and 1.43 million uses, accounting for nearly 71.6% of all [⋯]

- Trump has defied political consequences for years. The midterms changed that (2026-11-06 00:02)

For more than a decade, Donald Trump defied the rules of politics that applied to everyone else. Tuesday's elections changed that. Voters categorically repudiated a president who imposed unilateral tariffs that undermined the economy and started a war that raised fuel prices and angered Americans opposed to another Middle East conflict. His outside investments and Washington renovations reinforced perceptions that he showed little empathy for people struggling financially. Having survived scandals, impeachments and a criminal conviction, Trump approached the midterms as another hurdle he could clear through personality, insisting the economy was fine and war with Iran was necessary to [⋯]

- Friday, November 6, 2026 – edition no. 5069 (2026-11-06 00:01)

* Baby blues — Residents demand stronger housing assistance, job security and parental leave as mounting financial pressures weigh on decisions to start families * Fans on the move | 85% of Macau concertgoers travel outside the city for performances * Taste of Edesia * Profit wipeout: Melco's third-quarter earnings plunge to near zero as gaming weakness drives revenue down 10% and debt pressures mount * Macau eyes medical tourism and preventive healthcare as new growth engines * Bomb scares: Multiple flights across Europe face diversions, emergency landings and fighter jet escorts following another wave of threats DOWNLOAD PDF [⋯]

• Multiple flights in Europe diverted because of bomb threats after earlier hoaxes (2026-11-05 13:27)

MILAN — Multiple flights in Europe were targeted by bomb threats on Thursday, forcing emergency landings, searches and in several cases military escorts, in fresh disruptions following hoax threats earlier this week. More than a dozen flights from cities including Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Madrid, Milan and Warsaw were confirmed to have been targeted with bomb threats, most diverted to other airports for emergency landings while others landed safely at their destinations. So far inspections have not turned up hazardous or suspicious materials. Such threats are not new, but the latest incidents come at a time of increased geopolitical tensions and [⋯]

• Delivery riders consider return to petrol bikes over EV reliability concerns (2026-11-05 00:56)

Several riders working for food and goods delivery platforms are considering returning to petrol-powered motorcycles, the Times has learned. According to a rider who switched to electric vehicles (EVs) less than a year ago, the new vehicles have experienced reliability issues that are jeopardizing his business and reducing his earnings. He also said other riders are facing similar problems. Speaking to the Times, Viktor Chan, one of the riders affected, said, "I bought the [EV] bike less than 8 months ago, and it has already broken down twice." Chan noted that, beyond reliability, riders face another issue: the manufacturer's refusal [⋯]

• Woman in critical condition after bus hits wheelchair user (2026-11-05 00:54)

A woman in her 90s who uses a wheelchair was struck by a bus and trapped underneath it at a signalized pedestrian crossing on Rua do Guimarães Wednesday morning. As of approximately 5 p.m. yesterday, the injured woman was conscious but suffered multiple fractures and required surgical intervention, according to the Public Security Police (PSP). Officers said it received a report at 10:53 a.m. They found the local woman injured and pinned beneath the bus. Firefighters freed her before she was taken to Conde S. Januário Hospital. The local male bus driver, in his 30s, tested negative [⋯]

• Bus operators renewed for six years with LRT transfer requirements (2026-11-05 00:52)

Macau's two bus operators have been granted six-year contract extensions, with new terms requiring greener fleets and greater coordination with the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system, following the expiration of their existing contracts at the end of the year. Under the new contracts, effective January 1, all newly registered operational vehicles must be new-energy vehicles with low-floor designs and step-free boarding at the doors. Vehicles with more than two doors may have additional steps at the rear door. By January 1, 2030, the operators – Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau, S.A. (TCM) and Transportes Urbanos de Macau S.A.R.L. (Transmac) [⋯]

• LVS chief Dumont and wife take controlling 69% stake in Mavericks (2026-11-05 00:50)

Las Vegas Sands chairman and CEO Patrick Dumont and his wife, Sivan, have acquired Miriam Adelson's shares in the Dallas Mavericks, giving the couple a controlling 69% stake in the NBA franchise, which played in Macau last month, according to ESPN. The transaction, reported Tuesday, shifts ownership within the family that bought control of the team from Mark Cuban in December 2023 at a $3.5 billion valuation. Adelson, Sivan's mother and Dumont's mother-in-law, previously led the ownership group, while Dumont became the Mavericks' governor and representative on the NBA's board. ESPN's Tim MacMahon reported that the purchase took place in [⋯]

• DSAL reports 3,897 workplace accident victims, four deaths (2026-11-05 00:48)

The city's cultural and recreational services sector and its hotel and restaurant industry accounted for more than half of all workplace accident victims recorded in the first nine months of the year, as authorities reported nearly 3,900 workers injured and four fatalities. A total of 3,897 workers suffered occupational accidents between January and September, a 0.85% increase from the same period last year, according to figures released by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL). Four workers died, while seven sustained permanent disabilities. The latter figure marked a sharp decline from the 71 cases recorded in the first nine months of 2025, [⋯]

• Democrats win House and Senate as voters rebuke Trump and Republicans (2026-11-05 00:46)

Democrats won control of both chambers of Congress, delivering a decisive rebuke of Republican governance and ushering in a new era of congressional resistance to President Donald Trump. Tuesday's midterm (yesterday, Macau time) elections laid bare voters' frustrations over high prices, the Iran war and government corruption. Democrats flipped states that have voted Republican for decades and that Trump won by double digits two years ago. James Talarico won a stunning Senate victory in Texas, where no Democrat had won statewide office in more than 30 years. Annie Andrews upset Sen. Darline Graham in South Carolina. Trump had thrown his [⋯]

• Two passport stories, one question of belonging (2026-11-05 00:44)

Two stories about Macau passports have surfaced in recent weeks, and together they raise something more interesting than either does alone: who gets to decide what a Macau document – or a Macau identity – means? The first is bureaucratic. A Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport holder was refused boarding at Beijing airport while transiting to Mexico, despite a valid visa-free arrangement. Ground staff cited an internal WeChat message saying Macau passports were now treated as Chinese ones. The Identification Services Bureau checked with the Mexican consulate in Hong Kong, which confirmed that the policy was unchanged and found [⋯]

• Four universities improve in QS Asia rankings (2026-11-05 00:42)

All four local universities included in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2027 improved their positions, according to the latest rankings released by global higher education research organization Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The University of Macau climbed six places to 96th, while Macau University of Science and Technology rose 21 places to 190th. Macau Polytechnic University recorded the largest improvement among the four institutions, moving up 96 places to 306th. City University of Macau advanced 63 places to 370th. The University of Hong Kong retained the top position, followed by Peking University and Tsinghua University in second and third place, respectively. [⋯]

• IAS increases number of family mediators to 57 (2026-11-05 00:40)

The SAR now has 57 family mediators following the appointment of 12 additional professionals by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), the bureau said. The second batch of appointees all hold valid social worker registration certificates and have extensive experience in family services. Before taking up their roles, the mediators completed professional training covering family mediation laws, report writing, procedural guidelines, judicial practices and practical case-sharing sessions.

• Elderly man loses MOP2 million in online investment scam (2026-11-05 00:38)

A local elderly man reported losing about MOP2.03 million in an online investment scam after being persuaded to invest in stocks by a woman he met on social media, the Judiciary Police said. The victim met the woman in September and downloaded an investment app at her instruction. Between September and Oct. 28, he transferred a total of RMB575,000 to designated mainland bank accounts. He also handed over HKD1.3 million in cash to a man designated by the scammer in three separate meetings outside his North District residence over three consecutive days from Oct. 28. The victim later discussed the [⋯]

• Thursday, November 5, 2026 – edition no. 5068 (2026-11-05 00:01)

* Charged Down — Less than a year after switching to electric bikes, some delivery riders are considering a return to petrol-powered bikes over reliability concerns, the Times has learned * Ponte 16 Crossing | Woman critical after being struck by bus in wheelchair * Transport | Bus operators renewed for six years, with LRT transfer requirements * Las Vegas Sands CEO Patrick

Dumont and wife Sivan acquire 69% stake in the Mavericks, which played in Macau last month, ESPN reports * Macau records nearly 3,900 workplace accident victims, four deaths * USA: Democrats seize control of Congress, flipping Republican [⋯]

• Over 80% of full-time carers want to work but face barriers, survey finds (2026-11-04 00:50)

More than 80% of full-time family carers want to return to work but find it difficult, according to a Women's General Association survey on balancing family and career, which found that nearly 40% of women spend more than four hours a day on caregiving and more than half bear the main caregiving responsibility. The survey, which combined questionnaires and in-depth interviews conducted between September and October, collected 672 responses and included interviews with 16 women, mostly aged 26 to 45 and with tertiary qualifications. Nearly 45% of respondents said they had chosen jobs with stable hours but fewer opportunities or [⋯]

• Casinos Gaming growth to stall below 1% as high-end demand weakens (2026-11-04 00:48)

Macau's gaming revenue is expected to grow by less than 1% in 2026, according to separate brokerage assessments, with weaker high-end demand prolonging the market's downturn. Seaport Research Partners forecasts annual gross gaming revenue (GGR) growth of 0.9%, following October's 10% year-over-year decline to MOP21.68 billion. Its outlook, issued Sunday, anticipates further weakness in November before conditions improve toward year-end. "We forecast November to remain soft with GGR down 6.1 percent year-on-year, while fourth-quarter GGR is expected to be down 5.2 percent year-on-year," senior analyst Vitaly Umansky wrote. The annual forecast implies revenue of approximately MOP249.6 billion, based on 2025's [⋯]

• Hengqin university project drives Macao Foundation grants to MOP1.93 billion (2026-11-04 00:46)

Two universities developing a joint campus in Hengqin accounted for most of the Macao Foundation's (FM) more than MOP1.93 billion in grants distributed in the third quarter, as funding for the project pushed the quarterly total to nearly 16 times its level a year earlier. The Macao University of Tourism and Macao Polytechnic University each received MOP885.32 million to purchase land for the planned campus, according to the foundation's latest grant disclosures. The combined allocations accounted for the vast majority of the quarter's funding. The total was also more than 10 times the MOP190.22 million distributed in the second quarter [⋯]

• Preliminary figures point to GDP growth of 2.9% in the first nine months (2026-11-04 00:44)

The local economy grew steadily in the first three quarters of this year, with preliminary figures showing gross domestic product (GDP) expanding by 2.9% year over year in real terms to MOP316.13 billion, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). DSEC said overall

economic output was 89.8% of the level recorded in the same period in 2019 (pre-pandemic). Service exports grew 3.4% year over year in the first three quarters, driven by rising visitor arrivals, DSEC noted, attributing this growth to government efforts to boost visitation and a succession of large-scale themed events. Meanwhile, gross fixed capital formation grew [⋯]

• Union Hospital takes on larger share of public healthcare workload (2026-11-04 00:42)

The Islands Healthcare Complex is taking on a growing share of the public healthcare workload, performing nearly three in 10 public-sector surgeries and handling more than 15% of emergency services by August, according to the Health Bureau (SSM). The data shows a gradual transfer of patient care to the facility, which opened in September 2024 to ease capacity at Conde de São Januário Hospital and increase treatment access. In a written reply to lawmaker Ngan Iek Hang, the bureau said the Macau Union Medical Center had conducted 44,000 specialist outpatient consultations and 32,000 diagnostic imaging examinations between January and August. [⋯]

• Seven children placed in foster families since scheme launch (2026-11-04 00:40)

Seven children and young people have been placed in foster families since Macau's foster care service began, with figures standing at June 2026, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) said, adding that recruitment continues even though no children are currently awaiting placement. Applications opened on the Macao One Account platform in mid-May with no deadline. Foster families receive MOP2,000 upon the first placement, MOP5,438 a month for the child's expenses and a MOP7,690 monthly allowance for the foster parents. In response to public concern that some might be drawn by subsidies rather than genuine care, the bureau said it conducts strict [⋯]

• Macau passport holder denied boarding to Mexico despite valid visa-free arrangement (2026-11-04 00:38)

A Macau special administrative region (SAR) passport holder was refused boarding on a flight to Mexico despite being eligible for visa-free entry, prompting the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) to confirm with Mexico's consulate in Hong Kong that the policy remains unchanged. The resident wrote on social media that they had spent six months preparing for a trip to Mexico's Day of the Dead festival, but were turned away by Hainan Airlines staff while transiting through Beijing. "At the counter in Beijing Capital, the ground staff glanced at our passports and said Macau passports don't qualify for visa-free entry to Mexico [⋯]

• Macau, Hengqin add 61 remote government services (2026-11-04 00:36)

Macau residents can now access 61 additional government services through remote service counters linking the SAR and the Hengqin Cooperation Zone. Announced Tuesday, the new services cover social security, immigration, driving, taxation, education, sports, intellectual property and pharmaceutical affairs. Counters in Hengqin added 47 Macau services, while counters in Macau added 14 Hengqin services, bringing the total to 353. The SAR government

said it would continue working with the Hengqin Cooperation Zone to improve the userexperience and introduce additional services through different channels, allowing Macauresidents to “handle their affairs more conveniently.”

• Gov’t to survey building conditions in historic district (2026-11-04 00:34)

Macau will begin surveying building conditions around St. Paul’s Ruins on Nov. 4, starting with properties in the Rua dos Ervanários and Rua da Palha areas, as part of efforts to support targeted urban renewal. The Land and Urban Construction Bureau will conduct on-site inspections and photograph building structures, utilities and maintenance conditions. The survey will later expand to other areas, prioritising older districts. The data will help the government assess building conditions and formulate renewal measures, the Urban Renewal Committee said yesterday.

• Beijing urges Macau, Hong Kong to align five-year plans with national development (2026-11-04 00:32)

China’s central authorities have urged Macau and Hong Kong to align their development plans with the country’s 15th Five-Year Plan, strengthen governance and contribute more actively to national development. In an article published in the People’s Daily, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office said the two cities should leverage their strengths to meet national needs, while implementing their own five-year plans. It also stressed the importance of upholding the “patriots governing Macau and Hong Kong” principle and improving governance under the law.

• The hidden cost of artificial intimacy (2026-11-03 00:02)

Artificial intelligence promises something human relationships rarely deliver: attention without interruption, companionship without inconvenience and reassurance on demand. For someone who feels lonely, misunderstood or rejected, that promise can be powerful. But the growing appeal of artificial intimacy raises a question we cannot leave to technology companies: what happens when our need for connection becomes a business model? The feelings involved may be entirely real. A person can develop affection, trust or even love for a chatbot. The system, however, offers no demonstrated emotional experience in return. Its language can suggest concern, remember personal details and imitate tenderness. None of […]

• Disappointing October accounts for the fifth consecutive month in the ‘red’ (2026-11-02 00:46)

Gross gaming revenue (GGR) from local casinos fell sharply in October, continuing the decline since June and marking the fifth straight month of year-over-year declines. Last month’s result (MOP21.68 billion) was 10% lower than the same month last year, when GGR reached MOP24.09 billion. Usually fueled by high visitation during the National Day Golden Week, October has historically been one of the strongest months for casino revenue. Compared with September, October still shows a 20% increase, but it adds to the poor second-half results of

2026, bringing those results closer to the government's projection, which, at the time of the [⋯]

• Lawmaker urges 'seamless' border crossings as Hengqin traffic surges (2026-11-02 00:44)

In a recent spoken inquiry at the Legislative Assembly (AL), lawmaker Lam Lon Wai has called on the government to assess whether the city's land border crossings can handle rapidly rising vehicle traffic and to coordinate with mainland authorities to achieve fully "contactless" clearance for drivers and passengers. In the written inquiry submitted on 16 October, Lam said that growing exchanges between Macau and Guangdong, together with the development of the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone in Hengqin, had pushed cross-border vehicle flows to record levels. Lam cited Hengqin Port handling about 1.25 million vehicle crossings in 2022, rising to roughly [⋯]

• Gastronomy decade offers lessons for other cities, tourism chief says (2026-11-02 00:42)

As the city prepares to mark the milestone anniversary next year, Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that Macau's decade as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy offers lessons that could serve as a reference for other cities seeking similar recognition. "We are working with UNESCO on a research project to examine the results since Macau's designation and how it can further drive sustainable urban development, hoping to provide a reference for cities interested in applying or already designated," she said on the sidelines of the official opening of the 2026 Bocuse d'Or Asia-Pacific [⋯]

• CE praises elderly workers as a symbol of Macau's vitality (2026-11-02 00:40)

Chief Executive (CE) Sam Hou Fai has described elderly residents who remain active and socially engaged as embodying the "Vibrant Macau" vision. He recounted his decades-long relationship with his barber in a shop in an old district as an example of the city's enduring neighborhood character. In a recent blog post, Sam said he had been going to the same barbershop in an old district for more than 30 years, from his return from studying in Portugal through his time as a judge and as president of the Court of Final Appeal to his current role. "For decades, his careful [⋯]

• Skid resistance to improve on roads following motorcycle crash (2026-11-02 00:38)

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has pledged to improve the anti-slip performance of road markings, manhole covers, and bridge expansion joints following safety concerns raised by lawmaker Leong Pou U after a motorcycle accident near the artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. The bureau issued its response after consulting with the Public Works Bureau (DSOP), as noted in the written response. The inquiry called for a review of road design after a motorcyclist slipped near a bend on the connecting bridge linking Zone A of the New Urban Zone to the bridge's artificial island. Leong said the accident occurred at [⋯]

• Binance and billionaire founder Zhao victims of largest cryptocurrency heist (2026-11-02 00:36)

Targeted in what looks like the largest cryptocurrency heist in history, Binance and Changpeng Zhao have been front-page news for most of the crypto exchange's short history, often in unflattering ways. He and his company have been accused of turning a blind eye as the exchange was used by drug traffickers, child abusers, terrorists and money launderers. Zhao himself even went to jail over the charges. On Thursday, a hacking group, possibly from North Korea, turned against the company, allegedly stealing an estimated $6.3 billion in bitcoin and other crypto from its customers. Here's a look at the fabulously successful [⋯]

• Natural stupidity (2026-11-02 00:34)

We live in an extraordinary moment of paradox. On the one hand, never in human history has information been so abundant, so accessible, and so rapidly disseminated. Yet never has it seemed so difficult to distinguish truth from falsehood, knowledge from ignorance, and credible information from fabricated narratives. The internet was once celebrated as the gateway to an information society, promising a world where knowledge would empower citizens, strengthen democracy, foster intellectual progress, and bring humanity closer to the truth. But is this really happening? Fueled by the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, the proliferation of fake news, the [⋯]

• Committee backs tougher penalties for collusion in social housing tenders (2026-11-02 00:30)

A new bill under scrutiny at the Legislative Assembly (AL) provides that companies found colluding in tenders for commercial units in social housing buildings would lose their deposits and could have their contracts terminated. The AL First Standing Committee said it has completed detailed scrutiny of the bill governing the allocation of commercial space in social housing buildings and signed its opinion after four meetings. The bill, which passed its first reading on June 25, aims to reform a regime in place for more than 30 years, the committee said no longer suits current economic and social conditions. It seeks [⋯]

• IAM completes 120-hectare hill forest restoration (2026-11-02 00:28)

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) completed the second phase of its hill forest restoration program in 2024, restoring 120 hectares over three years by replacing aging trees with native species to rebuild local forest ecosystems. The bureau has since carried out long-term maintenance to improve seedling survival, and said that patrols by forestry staff are routine. The IAM expects to promote more diverse vegetation in the forest to provide more and better wildlife habitats. It also said it will continue to monitor conditions and educate the public.

• First mainland yachts dock in Macau as city counts 220-plus berths (2026-11-02 00:26)

The first four mainland yachts arrived in Macau under the Guangdong-Macau yacht free-travel scheme, in a ceremony marking a new stage of two-way exchanges and connectivity between the two places. The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) said Macau now has more than 220 yacht berths, sufficient to accommodate local and non-local yachts and to support yacht exhibitions and sailing events. The bureau has also established a temporary anchorage area off Hac Sa Beach. Mainland yachts participating in the travel scheme can apply for entry and exit online, with approval completed within 48 hours if documents are complete, and the owner [⋯]