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Latin American Outlook Transitions, Reforms and Trumped-Up Hemispheric Relations

Latin America's political leaders of late have faced the rigorous challenge of governing a growing and increasingly empowered middle class electorate amid the region's 2015-16 economic downturn. Squared between growing fiscal deficits and the demands of socioeconomic change, not all an emerging smoothed. By the end of 2016, the region's GDP will have shrunk by an estimated 1.5% in local currency driven by a fall in commodity prices and high-currency depreciation across the region. The healthcare market, though more sheltered from economic cycles than other sectors, is affected by the tides of political change and public spending. As public coffers stormed the bottom in 2016, the region saw an unprecedented increase in out-of-pocket expenditures from the middle class. There is also the question of the new political climate in the U.S. and what it may mean for geopolitics south of the border.

