

WorldWatch Headlines: July 2019

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.

Dun & Bradstreet Country Information gives detailed analysis, forecasting and commentary on 132 Countries. For an in-depth view, please see the full D&B Country Insight Reports available on D&B platforms. For more information, visit: www.dnb.co.uk/country-insight

Africa

Algeria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Algeria as the presidential election is cancelled.
Angola	The IMF approves the disbursement of further funding.
Botswana	An attempt to replace President Masisi as BDP leader has failed.
Cameroon	The regional central bank keeps its benchmark interest rate on hold.
Congo, D.R.	The dominant party strengthens its grip on power in state elections.
Cote d'Ivoire	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Cote d'Ivoire's country risk rating based on a robust GDP growth outlook.
Ethiopia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Ethiopia's country risk rating on the back of a positive reform agenda.
Gabon	President Ali Bongo's fitness for office comes under increasing scrutiny.
Ghana	The IMF programme ends but headwinds remain.
Kenya	Kenya successfully launches a third Eurobond to raise an additional USD2.1bn.
Libya	The militarisation of oil terminals increases risk significantly.
Malawi	President Peter Mutharika is re-elected after a narrow election victory.
Mauritius	A solid buffer of FX reserves provides almost ten months of import cover.
Morocco	A leading NGO calls for reforms to tackle inequality.
Mozambique	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Mozambique's country risk rating following major cyclones in March and April.
Namibia	Deregulation in the mining sector will spur foreign direct-investment.
Nigeria	The PMIs for both manufacturing and services remain upbeat.
Senegal	Economic growth remained strong in 2018.
Sierra Leone	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Sierra Leone's country risk rating as the mining-output increase drives growth.
South Africa	The economy stalls in Q1 amid deep power cuts.
Sudan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Sudan's country risk rating amid ongoing security concerns.
Tanzania	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Tanzania's country risk rating as its economy grows.
Tunisia	Protests will weaken the short-term economy.
Uganda	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Uganda's country risk rating due to rapid economic growth.
Zambia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Zambia's country risk rating amid mining sector disputes.
Zimbabwe	The economy is buffeted by drought and soaring inflation.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Peace talks may have reached a stalemate.
Australia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Australia as macroeconomic fundamentals weaken further.
Bangladesh	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Bangladesh's country risk rating following a sustained economic improvement.
Cambodia	Pro-business reforms are outlined in a bid to attract FDI.
China	Fears rise for small banks' solvency and liquidity after a bank failure.

Fiji	The government intervenes to stop an environmentally-destructive tourist development.
Hong Kong (S.A.R)	The controversial extradition bill is suspended following the largest-ever protests.
India	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for India due to a delayed monsoon following drought conditions.
Indonesia	President Widodo's election victory could help maintain focus on key policy areas.
Japan	The domestic economy's strengths will help address external shocks.
Korea (South)	Economic growth slowed to below 2% in Q1 as exports contracted.
Malaysia	Weaker growth is expected after a central bank rate cut and falls in investment.
Myanmar	The EU extends the existing sanctions on high-ranking military officials.
Nepal	The Nepal Investment Summit attracts significant investor interest.
New Zealand	A series of regulatory changes will alter the country's banking institutions.
Pakistan	IMF support arrives but the political challenges remain considerable.
Papua New Guinea	Peter O'Neill is forced to resign as prime minister following a series of defections.
Philippines	Growth in the first quarter slows to the worst rate since 2014.
Singapore	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Singapore as electronics exports plunge.
Sri Lanka	The economy expands by 3.5% in Q1.
Taiwan	Growth will decelerate further as the US-China trade war escalates.
Thailand	The military are on course to retain power following the elections.
Vietnam	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Vietnam's country risk rating as the country benefits from the escalating Sino-US trade war.

Eastern Europe

Albania	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Albania's country risk rating as the political crisis deepens further.
Azerbaijan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Azerbaijan's country risk rating amid an acceleration in economic growth.
Belarus	Poor real GDP growth confirms a wider economic fragility.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Bosnian Croats mount a concerted challenge to the integrity of the state.
Bulgaria	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Bulgaria's country risk rating due to continued fiscal strengthening.
Croatia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Croatia's country risk rating due to rapid economic growth.
Czech Republic	The central bank has raised interest rates to halt rising inflation.
Estonia	Robust economic growth is set to soften as weak external demand takes its toll.
Georgia	The growth forecast is downgraded as external economic conditions weaken.
Hungary	The economic growth outlook for 2019 improves.
Kazakhstan	A snap election will be held in June.
Kyrgyz Republic	A sharp upturn in gold mining output powers stronger economic growth.
Latvia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Latvia as the relationship with Russia stabilises.
Lithuania	An independent candidate wins the presidential election.
Macedonia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades North Macedonia's country risk rating after a knockback from the European Council.
Poland	Proprietary data puts Poland in first place in Europe for due-date payments.
Romania	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Romania's country risk rating as Liviu Dragnea's tenure as Social Democratic Party leader ends.
Russian Federation	Russia's external balances and the government's fiscal consolidation move forward as expected.

Serbia	Data for Q1 suggests a slowdown in economic growth.
Slovak Republic	The political scene could be headed for further disruption.
Slovenia	The European election results suggest that the government will remain intact.
Tajikistan	Remittances rise slightly despite external headwinds.
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan is now the most repressive country in the world for journalists.
Ukraine	President Zelensky could consolidate his power in parliamentary snap elections.
Uzbekistan	The manufacturing sector continues to drive strong growth.

Middle East

Bahrain	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Bahrain's country risk rating after a sharp cut in oil price forecasts.
Egypt	The currency's rally creates scope for an interest rate cut.
Iran	Tensions between Iran and the international community increase.
Iraq	Our oil price forecast reduction undermines the market outlook.
Israel	Payments performance remains generally poor.
Jordan	The IMF continues to support Jordan's external position.
Kuwait	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Kuwait as oil-price forecasts weaken.
Lebanon	The draft budget for 2019 is being delayed by parliament.
Oman	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Oman's country risk rating after a sharp cut in oil price forecasts.
Qatar	The quartet's blockade enters its third year despite the prime minister's visit to Saudi Arabia.
Saudi Arabia	Security risks continue to rise.
Syria	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Syria's country risk rating as economic opportunities increase.
UAE	Security risks rise following the sabotage of four oil tankers.
Yemen	Foreign Minister Khaled al Yamani unexpectedly resigns from the government.

The Americas

Argentina	President Macri's surprise choice of election running mate gets a positive market response.
Bolivia	The government announces measures to increase domestic liquidity.
Brazil	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Brazil as the economy decelerates.
Canada	The overall economic growth momentum stalls in the past six months.
Chile	Interest rates are cut after a sluggish start to the year.
Colombia	Economic activity remains tepid in the second quarter.
Costa Rica	Cross-party consensus appears to be holding with the election of a new legislative president.
Cuba	New US sanctions against Cuba are affecting both commerce and consumers.
Dominican Republic	Economic growth remains robust.
Ecuador	The new economic plan is a move away from the previous government's leftism.
El Salvador	President Bukele wins a landslide election victory.
Guatemala	Downside risks to the economy persist despite supportive fiscal policies.
Honduras	A worsening external environment will keep the growth momentum weak.
Jamaica	A state of emergency is re-imposed in St. James following increased violence.
Mexico	Consumer prices fall in Q1 due to declines in energy costs.
Nicaragua	President Ortega holds firm despite continued opposition.
Panama	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Panama's country risk rating due to the continuing dynamism of its economy..

Paraguay	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Paraguay's country risk rating due to the sustained history of macro policy prudence.
Peru	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Peru's country risk rating due to the confrontation between the executive and congress.
Trinidad & Tobago	Near-term growth will be driven by the natural gas sector.
USA	An expansion of the trade war is narrowly avoided.
Uruguay	With elections in October 2019, the ruling Broad Front coalition loses ground.
Venezuela	Central bank data confirms a severe contraction since 2015.

Western Europe

Austria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Austria as the government collapses.
Belgium	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Belgium as coalition politics become more tortuous.
Cyprus	The economy remained strong in Q1 2019.
Denmark	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Denmark's country risk rating as four years of weak government end.
Finland	The emerging centre-left coalition faces tough fiscal choices.
France	Political battle lines pitting centrists against far-right populists are likely to sway policy agendas.
Germany	Domestic drivers underpin growth but a weak manufacturing sector subdues the outlook.
Greece	Economic indicators paint a mixed picture of the growth outlook.
Iceland	Growth forecasts for 2019 moderate as exports weaken.
Ireland	There could be a decisive change in trading relations with the UK.
Italy	The credit outlook improves amid EU monetary easing.
Luxembourg	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Luxembourg's country risk rating following financial outflows from London.
Malta	Economic growth is slowing as conditions worsen in the rest of the EU.
Netherlands	Growth moderates as activity softens in Q2.
Norway	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Norway's country risk rating as the outlook darkens.
Portugal	Economic fundamentals raise market confidence despite an expected slowdown.
Spain	The growth outlook remains robust despite a rise in payment delays.
Sweden	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Sweden's country risk rating amid slowing growth.
Switzerland	Economic growth is set to slow.
Turkey	The recent election results hint at a change in the political atmosphere.
United Kingdom	The former foreign minister, Boris Johnson, is well-positioned to replace Prime Minister Theresa May.