

WorldWatch Headlines: August

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	The national police chief is dismissed as tensions mount over the presidential succession.
Angola	Low FX reserves begin to edge higher.
Botswana	Growth slowed in Q1 but nonetheless remains strong.
Cameroon	Civil unrest prompts the postponement of legislative elections.
Congo, D.R.	The authorities appear confident that the Ebola outbreak has been contained.
Cote d'Ivoire	The IMF conducts an economic review and approves the release of funds.
Ethiopia	The FX shortage poses a major threat to trade and investment.
Gabon	Austerity measures keep political and insecurity risks high.
Ghana	The increase in both oil and gas production boosts 2017 GDP growth.
Kenya	Proposed tax changes could raise the cost of international transfers.
Libya	The Islamic State attack in Tripoli fosters insecurity across the country.
Malawi	The IMF approves a new three-year extended credit facility.
Mauritius	Budget 2018/19 points to continued and targeted fiscal expansion.
Morocco	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Morocco as political tensions increase.
Mozambique	International brewing companies aim to expand their presence.
Namibia	The African Development Bank provides budgetary support.
Nigeria	Buoyant oil prices contribute to a growing current account surplus.
Senegal	Real GDP growth increases to 7.0% in 2017.
Sierra Leone	The new president sets out his policy reform agenda.
South Africa	The rand proves highly volatile due to both political uncertainty and investor concerns.
Sudan	The country calls for international financial assistance amid economic woes.
Tanzania	Gold production continues to be dampened by regulatory changes.
Tunisia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Tunisia's country risk rating as economic difficulties raise social tensions.
Uganda	An investment decision on the crude-oil export pipeline is expected by end-2018.
Zambia	Drastic measures are implemented to curtail rapidly-rising public debt levels.
Zimbabwe	The election hands victory to the ruling party.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Talks between the Taliban and the US boost chances of peace.
Australia	An ongoing inquiry reveals widespread misconduct in the finance industry.
Bangladesh	Student protests raise the prospect of heightened political and insecurity risks.

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Cambodia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Cambodia as political risks ease.
China	The authorities move pre-emptively to absorb any trade-war shock.
Fiji	Growth is set to decelerate.
Hong Kong (S.A.R)	The government considers banning the Hong Kong National Party.
India	Policy rates are raised as price pressures start to grow.
Indonesia	Tighter monetary policy prompts a downward revision of growth forecasts.
Japan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Japan's country risk rating in the wake of profits and GDP data.
Korea (South)	Concerns over China, wages and semiconductors limit our growth forecast.
Malaysia	The central bank holds rates amid weak inflation.
Myanmar	A deal with the UN on refugee repatriation draws a mixed response.
Nepal	Indian Premier Narendra Modi's visit to Nepal should help strengthen bilateral relations.
New Zealand	The composition of GDP growth is shifting.
Pakistan	The new government faces political challenges and balance of payments problems.
Papua New Guinea	A free-trade agreement with China could be signed in November.
Philippines	Currency weakness and rising inflation prompt the central bank to act more aggressively.
Singapore	Estimates reveal a slowing of recent growth drivers in Q2.
Sri Lanka	The Sri Lanka rupee continues to slide against the US dollar.
Taiwan	The pace of real GDP growth in the first two quarters is encouraging.
Thailand	External demand appears to be broadening the scope of recovery.
Vietnam	Rising US protectionism poses a risk to Vietnam's export sector.

Eastern Europe

Albania	The credit environment continues to stagnate.
Azerbaijan	A new gas terminal gives long-term growth potential a major boost.
Belarus	The president welcomes the country's improved relations with the EU.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	A rapid deterioration in the political environment will last beyond the elections.
Bulgaria	Faster-than-expected revenue growth keeps the budget in surplus.
Croatia	The economy is set to slow as the external environment worsens.
Czech Republic	The political outlook improves following a parliamentary vote of confidence.
Estonia	Forward-looking indicators stabilise again.
Georgia	Talk of Georgia joining NATO increases tensions with Russia.
Hungary	The forint hits an all-time low against the euro in early July.
Kazakhstan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Kazakhstan's country risk rating as economic conditions improve.
Kyrgyz Republic	The economic outlook worsens as mining activity falls sharply.
Latvia	The upcoming parliamentary elections look set to produce a multi-party coalition.
Lithuania	The country officially becomes a member of the OECD.
Macedonia	Political stability faces a severe test.

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Poland	Strong household consumption underpins real GDP growth in Q1.
Romania	The leu falls to an all-time low.
Russian Federation	Proxy indicators suggest that growth has continued in the second quarter.
Serbia	The political risk environment deteriorates.
Slovak Republic	New US trade tariffs pose risks to the production of both steel and cars.
Slovenia	The inconclusive election could lead to prolonged political instability.
Tajikistan	The IMF raises financial sector concerns.
Turkmenistan	The opening of a new port will treble the country's cargo-handling capacity.
Ukraine	Re-engagement with the IMF is crucial to Ukraine's outlook.
Uzbekistan	President Shavkat Mirziyoyev makes an official US visit.

Middle East

Bahrain	Three of Bahrain's wealthier Gulf neighbours pledge to support its financial stability.
Egypt	International investors repatriate investments.
Iran	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Iran's country risk rating as US sanctions are imposed.
Iraq	Protests about poor services complicate the government-formation process.
Israel	A new law will exacerbate tensions between the Jewish and Arab Israeli populations.
Jordan	Latest economic data highlights that growth remains very weak.
Kuwait	Kuwait steps up its role at the UN in response to clashes in Gaza.
Lebanon	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Lebanon due to the Hezbollah election victory.
Oman	The sultanate's most ambitious highway project is now operational.
Qatar	The market environment outlook undergoes an improvement.
Saudi Arabia	The short-term economic outlook improves due to an oil-production boost.
Syria	Inflation is declining, but significant regional differences remain.
UAE	Official data highlights anaemic growth in 2017.
Yemen	Coalition forces launch a major offensive against Houthi rebels.

The Americas

Argentina	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Argentina amid the country's worst drought in 30 years.
Bolivia	Economic activity looks set to gather some momentum.
Brazil	Growth forecasts are slashed again amid negative economic developments.
Canada	The shifting political landscape destabilises the external environment.
Chile	The president signs a law to reduce red tape.
Colombia	Pro-business Ivan Duque wins the run-off presidential election.
Costa Rica	The president prioritises fiscal reform.
Cuba	Shortages of raw materials and technical skills depress first-quarter growth.
Dominican Republic	Growth remained very buoyant in Q1.
Ecuador	The arrest of the former president could exacerbate political divisions.
El Salvador	Private consumption will continue to support growth.

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Guatemala	Volcanic eruptions threaten further destruction.
Honduras	Economic growth will remain moderate.
Jamaica	Mining and quarrying helped boost economic growth in Q1.
Mexico	Domestic and external factors combine to limit growth.
Nicaragua	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Nicaragua's country risk rating as the sociopolitical crisis intensifies.
Panama	Economic growth is set to pick up again.
Paraguay	The ruling party retains power in the election but faces political gridlock.
Peru	A wide-ranging referendum on key anti-corruption reforms is announced.
Trinidad & Tobago	A modest economic recovery is projected for 2018.
USA	Robust domestic economic activity drives faster growth.
Uruguay	Public concerns increase due to the rise in violent crime.
Venezuela	More senior officials are placed on the EU financial sanctions list.

Western Europe

Austria	The IMF praises the country's economic conditions.
Belgium	Economic growth softens but household spending remains positive.
Cyprus	The economic recovery continues, with real GDP growth of 4.0% in Q1.
Denmark	A rejection of politics-as-usual reorganises the political scene.
Finland	Rising wages and increased employment boost economic growth.
France	The economy has switched into a lower gear.
Germany	Proprietary data shows a sharp drop in the number of prompt payments.
Greece	The economy appears likely to have expanded again in Q2.
Iceland	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Iceland's country risk rating amid ongoing economic improvements.
Ireland	Data for Q2 implies moderate quarterly growth.
Italy	Leading indices augur well for future industrial activity.
Luxembourg	The credit environment is buoyant as loans increase significantly.
Malta	Key indicators suggest that real GDP has continued to expand in Q2.
Netherlands	The Dutch economy would be significantly impacted by a 'hard' Brexit.
Norway	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Norway amid sustained economic improvement.
Portugal	A raft of new energy projects strengthens future prospects.
Spain	Domestic output expands further in Q2.
Sweden	Inflation strengthens in the second quarter.
Switzerland	Business failures increase further.
Turkey	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Turkey's country risk rating due to the foreign exchange crisis.
United Kingdom	The Bank of England raises interest rates for the second time in a year.

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