

WorldWatch Headlines: September

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	Angola re-engages with the IMF to request a new financial support package.
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 banking system faces further challenges.
Kenya	Proposed tax changes could raise the cost of international transfers.
Libya	Security volatility will continue to undermine oil production.
Malawi	The vice-president resigns from the ruling party.
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	Port and highway congestion creates serious obstacles for logistics operations.
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 slips to a two-year low against the US dollar.
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	Copper production and exports are rising, spurred by reasonably high copper prices.
Zimbabwe	The election hands victory to the ruling party.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Talks between the Taliban and the US boost chances of peace.
Australia	Continued divisions usher in leadership change for the government.
Bangladesh	Student protests raise the prospect of heightened political and insecurity risks.
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)	Growth slows in Q2 amid weaker fixed investment.
India	Second quarter growth surprises on the upside.
Indonesia	Tighter monetary policy prompts a downward revision of growth forecasts.

This update features extracts from D&B's range of Country Insight Services. For more information contact your local D&B office or email countryinsight@dnb.com

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	Real GDP growth was buoyant in the 2017/18 fiscal year.
New Zealand	The composition of GDP growth is shifting.
Pakistan	The new government faces political challenges and balance of payments problems.
Papua New Guinea	Real GDP growth is predicted to accelerate in both 2018 and 2019.
Philippines	Currency weakness and rising inflation prompt the central bank to act more aggressively.
Singapore	Manufacturing, a key growth driver, shows signs of exhaustion.
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 economy will expand amid strong growth in all components.
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.
Poland	Relations with the EU remain a source of concern.
Romania	The leu falls to an all-time low.
Russian Federation	The credit environment outlook deteriorates as FX and transfer risks increase.
Serbia	The political risk environment deteriorates.
Slovak Republic	New US trade tariffs pose risks to the production of both steel and cars.
Slovenia	The new government will be weak, ineffective and probably short-lived.
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	The IMF acknowledges the increase in external trade and government reforms.

Middle East

Bahrain	Three of Bahrain's wealthier Gulf neighbours pledge to support its financial stability.
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Egypt	President Sisi prepares the ground for a presidential term extension.
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 slight slowdown is recorded in second quarter growth.
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	Political risk remains elevated as negotiations over the new cabinet get bogged down.
Oman	The sultanate's most ambitious highway project is now operational.
Qatar	The market environment outlook undergoes an improvement.
Saudi Arabia	Rising tensions with Canada increase the risks when doing cross-border business.
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	A new austerity package is announced ahead of meetings with the IMF.
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	Growth strengthens in Q2.
Colombia	Growth accelerates in Q2, but remains broadly constrained.
Costa Rica	The president prioritises fiscal reform.
Cuba	A new constitution is to be put to the vote in November.
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.
Guatemala	The worsening domestic and external backdrop makes the economic outlook increasingly uncertain.
Honduras	Economic growth is expected to moderate as external conditions worsen.
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.

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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 external sector underpins Q2's growth acceleration.
Norway	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Norway amid sustained economic improvement.
Portugal	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Portugal's country risk rating due to steady economic growth.
Spain	Domestic output expands further in Q2.
Sweden	Economic growth strengthened in Q2 ahead of national polls in September.
Switzerland	Forward-looking indicators have been improving.
Turkey	An elevated FX risk continues, affecting transfer risk.
United Kingdom	The Bank of England raises interest rates for the second time in a year.

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