

# WorldWatch Headlines: April 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.

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## Africa

<b>Algeria</b>	President Bouteflika's concessions fail to quell protests.
<b>Angola</b>	The authorities take steps to improve the commercial banking sector's credibility.
<b>Botswana</b>	The ruling party could be weakened ahead of this year's elections.
<b>Cameroon</b>	President Biya reshapes the executive to help tackle the Anglophone crisis.
<b>Congo, D.R.</b>	The constitutional court upholds December's contested election result.
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	The regional bank maintains the steady interest rate.
<b>Ethiopia</b>	The World Bank increases lending to the country.
<b>Gabon</b>	The president makes a brief return after an attempted coup is foiled.
<b>Ghana</b>	Inflation levels fall and the policy rate is lowered.
<b>Kenya</b>	Nairobi suffers a deadly terrorist attack.
<b>Libya</b>	Khalifa Haftar's bid to control the south of Libya could be a game-changer.
<b>Malawi</b>	Nine candidates vie for the presidency ahead of the election in May.
<b>Mauritius</b>	Mauritius signs a continuity agreement with the UK to mitigate the impact of Brexit.
<b>Morocco</b>	A new fisheries agreement with the EU represents a diplomatic victory.
<b>Mozambique</b>	Energy companies secure more LNG sales contracts.
<b>Namibia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Namibia as the central bank keeps interest rates on hold.
<b>Nigeria</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Nigeria following February's general election.
<b>Senegal</b>	President Sall wins a second term.
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Commissioning at the Marampa iron ore mine has been restarted.
<b>South Africa</b>	The government announces a bailout for the state power company, Eskom.
<b>Sudan</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Sudan amid violent country-wide protests.
<b>Tanzania</b>	The Stiegler's Gorge hydroelectric dam passes an administrative hurdle.
<b>Tunisia</b>	A general strike brings Tunisia to a complete standstill.
<b>Uganda</b>	The IMF provides an upbeat assessment of the short-term economic outlook.
<b>Zambia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Zambia after regulatory and fiscal changes unsettle the mining sector.
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Inflation soars to a ten-year high.

## Asia Pacific

<b>Afghanistan</b>	The country moves one step closer to a peace deal.
<b>Australia</b>	The market environment outlook deteriorates as demand-drivers weaken.
<b>Bangladesh</b>	The country seeks to attract FDI into its offshore gas sector.
<b>Cambodia</b>	Japanese investors eye infrastructure opportunities.
<b>China</b>	The government lowers its economic growth target.
<b>Fiji</b>	The ruling party's election victory implies broad policy continuity.
<b>Hong Kong (S.A.R)</b>	Real growth slowed to a three-year low in Q4 2018.

<b>India</b>	The political environment deteriorates amid aerial skirmishes between Pakistan and India.
<b>Indonesia</b>	The growth outlook deteriorates as interest rate changes bite.
<b>Japan</b>	Despite the export deceleration centred on China, our outlook for Japan remains stable.
<b>Korea (South)</b>	Fiscal stimulus is urged by the IMF.
<b>Malaysia</b>	The economy will slow in 2019 due to weaker exports growth.
<b>Myanmar</b>	Imminent electricity price-hikes loom.
<b>Nepal</b>	Economic growth remains buoyant.
<b>New Zealand</b>	The terror alert has been set to high in the wake of the Christchurch terror attack.
<b>Pakistan</b>	Foreign investment from Saudi Arabia will provide a limited boost.
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	More normal levels of resource output will contribute to higher growth.
<b>Philippines</b>	Self-rule is established in the country's south west amid hopes of a lasting peace.
<b>Singapore</b>	Labour reforms could fan wage pressures.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	The political scene stabilises, but the economic outlook remains challenging.
<b>Taiwan</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Taiwan Region as export orders fall and inventories rise.
<b>Thailand</b>	Bleak January trade figures will result in a modest growth reduction.
<b>Vietnam</b>	Exports could start to struggle in 2019.

## Eastern Europe

<b>Albania</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Albania's country risk rating as the political crisis deepens.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	The outlook for Azerbaijan's credit environment improves following a presidential decree.
<b>Belarus</b>	The IMF acknowledges the economy's strong recovery.
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	The attempts to integrate the country into the EU and NATO stall.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	The current account surplus is set to shrink.
<b>Croatia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Croatia as economic growth slows.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Western Europe's economic downturn is affecting the Czech Republic.
<b>Estonia</b>	The business environment remains sound, despite some slippage.
<b>Georgia</b>	The country elects its first female president.
<b>Hungary</b>	Relations with the EU are becoming increasingly strained.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Robust government balances endure, despite the oil price correction.
<b>Kyrgyz Republic</b>	Economic growth should pick up in the short term.
<b>Latvia</b>	Parliament approves a new coalition government.
<b>Lithuania</b>	Economic sentiment remains optimistic.
<b>Macedonia</b>	The country's name has changed to the Republic of North Macedonia.
<b>Poland</b>	A large planned increase in public spending will target particular areas.
<b>Romania</b>	Relations between Romania and the EU continue to sour.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Russia's economy contracts in January.
<b>Serbia</b>	Serbia is opening up its economy to new emerging markets.
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	Persistent problems with corruption impact Slovakia's reputation.
<b>Slovenia</b>	The outlook for Slovenia's market environment is deteriorating.
<b>Tajikistan</b>	Official figures show robust GDP growth in 2018.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	The oil and gas sector will continue to drive growth.
<b>Ukraine</b>	International reserves reach a 62-month high.
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	A slowdown is forecast after a year of growth.

## Middle East

<b>Bahrain</b>	A cabinet reshuffle installs new finance and defence ministers.
<b>Egypt</b>	An interest rate cut reflects confidence in the economic outlook.
<b>Iran</b>	The transfer risk remains elevated.
<b>Iraq</b>	Iraq agrees to join a new round of OPEC-led cuts in oil production.
<b>Israel</b>	Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is likely to be indicted on bribery charges.
<b>Jordan</b>	Growth remains anaemic, putting pressure on businesses.
<b>Kuwait</b>	Stronger oil prices boost the outlook.
<b>Lebanon</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Lebanon as a new government is formed.
<b>Oman</b>	A second rating agency cuts Omani debt to junk status.
<b>Qatar</b>	The failed GCC summit underlines the lack of hope for ending the boycott.
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Weaker oil prices and lower oil production will reduce growth prospects.
<b>Syria</b>	The economy is gaining momentum.
<b>UAE</b>	The construction sector is coming under pressure.
<b>Yemen</b>	The ceasefire in Hodeidah could collapse at any time.

## The Americas

<b>Argentina</b>	2018's deep recession will be followed by a shallower contraction in 2019.
<b>Bolivia</b>	A ruling which upholds Morales' fourth presidential bid stirs tensions.
<b>Brazil</b>	Pension reforms face a challenging path through Congress.
<b>Canada</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Canada's country risk rating amid declining economic growth.
<b>Chile</b>	Monetary tightening continues.
<b>Colombia</b>	Diluted tax reforms receive congressional approval.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Costa Rica due to the passage of a tax reform.
<b>Cuba</b>	US legislators make a bi-partisan push to lift the embargo on Cuba.
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Real GDP growth accelerates again.
<b>Ecuador</b>	Real GDP growth is up slightly in Q3.
<b>El Salvador</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for El Salvador as the 2019 budget is approved.
<b>Guatemala</b>	Political stability is being put at risk.
<b>Honduras</b>	Rising inflation pressures prompt the first rate hike in years.
<b>Jamaica</b>	Real GDP growth is set to slow as a result of weaker external conditions.
<b>Mexico</b>	Growth slows considerably in Q4 2018.
<b>Nicaragua</b>	The risk of deep recession turning to economic collapse is real.
<b>Panama</b>	The opening of the Cobre Panama copper mine will help economic growth to rebound.
<b>Paraguay</b>	Both public infrastructure spending and private investment will spur economic activity.
<b>Peru</b>	Higher investment and consumer spending will keep the growth momentum strong.
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	Growth will be driven in the near term by the natural gas sector.
<b>USA</b>	A project to improve rail infrastructure suffers a major setback.
<b>Uruguay</b>	Economic growth continues to stutter.
<b>Venezuela</b>	President Maduro clings to power as political and insecurity risks remain extremely high.

## Western Europe

<b>Austria</b>	Growth is set to decelerate due to weaker external conditions.
<b>Belgium</b>	The risk of strike action heightens amid wage negotiations.
<b>Cyprus</b>	The economy recorded strong quarterly growth again in Q4 2018.
<b>Denmark</b>	The central bank has been forced to intervene in the currency markets.

<b>Finland</b>	The government resigns over failed reforms.
<b>France</b>	Muted economic growth will continue in 2019-20.
<b>Germany</b>	Muted economic growth is expected in 2019-20 as manufacturing exports suffer.
<b>Greece</b>	Growth will continue to gain momentum, but outlook risks remain.
<b>Iceland</b>	Despite faster economic growth, the number of insolvencies increased in 2018.
<b>Ireland</b>	The government remains stable following a vote of no confidence.
<b>Italy</b>	Real GDP growth estimates for both 2019 and 2020 have been revised downwards.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	An economic slowdown will soften the country's credit expansion.
<b>Malta</b>	Reduced EU funding could cut annual GDP growth.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Consumer confidence turns negative for the first time in four years.
<b>Norway</b>	The booming onshore economy will buoy up growth in 2019.
<b>Portugal</b>	Growth is set to dip below 2.0% in 2019-20.
<b>Spain</b>	The Socialist Party seeks re-election in a snap poll.
<b>Sweden</b>	Pro-business measures in the budget will improve the outlook.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Real GDP growth is set to slow amid weakening EU economic conditions.
<b>Turkey</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Turkey as the country officially entered a recession in H2 2018.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	The government asks EU leaders for a Brexit deadline extension.