

Welcome to the latest WorldWatch.

This update of global developments is brought to you by the specialists of D&B's Country Insight team. WorldWatch's headline intelligence on trade credit risk, financial risk management, regulatory requirements and recommended trade terms, are explored in more detail in D&B's unique journal, *International Risk & Payment Review*, and also on an individual basis in D&B Country RiskLine reports, both of which are updated on a monthly basis.

Africa

Algeria	Tensions rise within security elite over Bouteflika succession
Angola	Unscheduled maintenance dents oil production.
Botswana	Botswana and other members of SADC agree trade deal with EU
Cameroon	Robust demand for commodity exports and sizeable infrastructure investment boost prospects.
Congo, D.R.	The business environment remains challenging despite rapid economic growth.
Cote d'Ivoire	Cote d'Ivoire looks set to benefit from a bumper cocoa harvest
Ethiopia	Growth prospects are good and the country risk profile is stable.
Gabon	Strong public investment fuels rapid economic growth.
Ghana	Inflation continues to cloud short term outlook
Kenya	Prospects remain upbeat thanks to sustained foreign investment.
Libya	The political situation is grim as rival governments compete for power.
Malawi	Large reserves of rare earths discovered
Mauritius	Foreign exchange reserves are rising
Morocco	Trade deficit narrows
Mozambique	Low world coal prices challenge the domestic economy.
Namibia	New constitutional amendments are unlikely to cause political instability.
Nigeria	The outlook is precarious as business impediments could emerge and terror activity strengthens.
Senegal	The threat of the Ebola virus looms.
Sierra Leone	Economic growth is strong but the Ebola virus is taking a toll.
South Africa	Labour market disruptions weigh heavily on economic activity.
Sudan	The economy is growing but vulnerable
Tanzania	Gold mining and resource-based manufacturing drive rapid growth.
Tunisia	The outlook is still a source of concern due to domestic problems and regional instability.
Uganda	Strong rains suggest continued increases in coffee exports.
Zambia	Expanding copper production and exports drive economic growth.
Zimbabwe	The government hikes taxes, duties and tariffs to finance the fiscal shortfall.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Political uncertainty recedes after the recent presidential election.
Australia	D&B downgrades Australia's risk rating.
Bangladesh	Economic growth continues to be strong.
Cambodia	The political impasse is over and steps are taken over returnee migrant workers.
China	Credit and financial risks rise.
Fiji	An economic agreement with the EU bodes well for trade.

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Hong Kong	The political scene is in unprecedented disarray, with consequences that have yet to take shape.
India	Negative shocks mean that the economy only tentatively emerges from a period of weak growth.
Indonesia	Improvements to business environment anticipated
Japan	Economy shows few signs of recovering
Korea (South)	The medium-term outlook is ambiguous.
Malaysia	Exports and consumption boost robust growth.
Myanmar	Economic growth has strengthened
Nepal	Major floods again underline the country's vulnerabilities to natural disasters.
New Zealand	Strong growth and moderate price appreciation continues through first half of the year
Pakistan	Popular protests appear to subside
Papua New Guinea	Additional gas supplies boost already-rosy growth prospects.
Philippines	Private consumption and exports spur growth.
Singapore	Restructuring creates volatility among consumer spending and sentiment.
Sri Lanka	A UN investigation into possible war crimes hits a new hurdle.
Taiwan	The economy is growing steadily following brighter Q2 data
Thailand	Business continuity looks assured as the new government imposes a controlled democracy.
Vietnam	Moderating inflation and strong external accounts help maintain stability.

Eastern Europe

Albania	Terrorist risk increasing
Azerbaijan	Economic growth sees a slight deceleration amid significant regional turbulence.
Belarus	Regional problems and declining competitiveness cloud the outlook.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	The risk of terrorist attacks rises.
Bulgaria	Banking sector tumult spreads
Croatia	Limp competitiveness undermines growth
Czech Republic	Government policy aimed at boosting consumption
Estonia	Domestic demand holds up amid inclement external trade conditions.
Georgia	IMF approves stand-by arrangement
Hungary	Hungary's long-term growth prospects are improving
Kazakhstan	Falling oil prices negatively affect the economic outlook
Kyrgyz Republic	Public investment programmes are likely to boost the communication and construction sectors.
Latvia	Ruling centre-right coalition wins majority
Lithuania	Data paints moderately pessimistic outlook
Macedonia	Rising FX reserves ensure continued access to hard currency.
Poland	The political arena is uncertain after the prime minister joins the European Council.
Romania	Financial stability has improved
Russian Federation	The lifting of sanctions appears unlikely

Serbia	Public consumption drags on growth.
Slovak Republic	New allegations of corruption tarnish the business environment.
Slovenia	Investment and exports fuel growth.
Tajikistan	Negative developments impact the economic outlook.
Turkmenistan	Buoyant activity in the lucrative natural gas sector powers rapid overall growth.
Ukraine	Tension eases after a bilateral ceasefire is announced.
Uzbekistan	Buoyant growth continues during H1 2014

Middle East

Bahrain	The political scene remains highly polarised and economic figures are disappointing.
Egypt	Concerns remain about the country's political stability and economic sustainability.
Iran	The Supreme Leader's ill health prompts succession concerns.
Iraq	The security and political situation improve.
Israel	Uncertainty mars the political landscape as peace talks run into difficulty.
Jordan	Latest official data highlights the weakening economic position
Kuwait	Security concerns related to the Islamic State have continued.
Lebanon	Regional tension escalates, worsening the internal risk outlook.
Oman	The government looks to raise debt
Qatar	Political risk remains a concern as foreign policy creates friction.
Saudi Arabia	Private sector activity grows robustly despite labour market reforms.
Syria	Opportunities still exist around ports
UAE	The government adopts a more open foreign policy amid deepening regional unrest.
Yemen	D&B downgrades Yemen's risk rating after Houthi rebels capture the capital.

The Americas

Argentina	Argentina falls in contempt of US court
Bolivia	The incumbent president is set to secure an outright first-round victory in the October polls
Brazil	Rousseff to face Neves in second round of voting in presidential elections
Canada	Domestic demand and exports boost near-term growth prospects.
Chile	Economic data disappoint again
Colombia	Construction and financial services drive overall growth.
Costa Rica	Fiscal deterioration raises international concern
Cuba	The country renews calls for the US to lift its economic embargo.
Dominican Republic	Consumer price inflation remains benign
Ecuador	Concerns mount over accelerating inflation.
El Salvador	New tax reforms are likely to have only a limited fiscal impact.
Guatemala	The outlook weakens as business confidence declines.
Honduras	Growth will pick up in coming quarters
Jamaica	Growth slightly slower in Q2 but remains reasonable
Mexico	Inflationary pressures persist as growth surprises on the upside.
Nicaragua	Work on the controversial Grand Canal project is due to start shortly.
Panama	An expansionary budget and a strengthening global recovery continue to support

	growth.
Paraguay	The economy is picking up but downside risks to the growth outlook are significant.
Peru	Monetary policy is loosened to boost the weak economic recovery.
Trinidad & Tobago	The government acts to enhance the important energy sector.
USA	The country risk profile remains stable with steady but slow growth expected.
Uruguay	Broad policy continuity is assured whoever wins the presidential elections.
Venezuela	Renewed public protests keep political risk under pressure.

Western Europe

Austria	Generally positive IMF assessment
Belgium	The new accounting rules increase government debt and widens the budget deficit.
Cyprus	Parliament passes key legislation on foreclosures
Denmark	Growth remains weaker than expected
Finland	Fiscal pressure remains despite austerity drive.
France	Government deficit higher than expected.
Germany	The economy shows further signs of slowing
Greece	The government unveils its 2015 draft budget
Iceland	Growth forecast for 2014 is downgraded after disappointing first half
Ireland	Economic recovery accelerates further in Q2
Italy	Economic indicators suggest the recession is continuing and output is weak.
Luxembourg	The risk environment remains stable but forward-looking indicators are comparatively bleak.
Malta	Government consumption and net exports boost output.
Netherlands	Insolvency risk continues its downward trend.
Norway	FX volatility set to continue
Portugal	Financial turmoil at one of the country's biggest banks shakes the economic outlook.
Spain	The recovery seems to be losing momentum.
Sweden	The minority coalition government will try to increase taxes
Switzerland	The outlook worsens as the euro zone slows.
Turkey	Security concerns rise as refugees flood into the country.
United Kingdom	Unionists win the Scottish Independence referendum.