



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 Insight Snapshots, both of which are updated on a monthly basis.

Africa

Algeria	Bouteflika removes a powerful security chief, which could raise political tensions.
Angola	The kwanza is devalued again as the economy continues to struggle.
Botswana	The growth forecast is cut as low global commodity prices hurt mining.
Cameroon	Export diversification helps prevent a sharp rundown in FX reserves.
Congo, D.R.	Closures in the mining sector drag on growth.
Cote d'Ivoire	Election-related civil unrest is small in scale with minimal potential to disrupt business.
Ethiopia	Essential transport and energy infrastructure investment helps to drive economic growth.
Gabon	The low oil price forces the government to rein in spending.
Ghana	Questions rise over the sustainability of mounting debt levels.
Kenya	Strong growth is expected in 2015 despite external headwinds.
Libya	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Libya but pessimism surrounds the UN-brokered agreement.
Malawi	The IMF suspends disbursements after programme targets are missed.
Mauritius	A narrow power buffer may cause electricity shortages, impacting businesses and dragging on growth.
Morocco	Growth rises in the third quarter, driven by stronger agricultural output.
Mozambique	Rival political parties take positive steps to secure a lasting bilateral peace deal.
Namibia	The new president acts to tackle corruption and commits to a pro-business stance.
Nigeria	External debt jumps to a record high as government borrowing increases.
Senegal	The country embarks on a new three-year IMF policy support instrument.
Sierra Leone	The Ebola and mining sector crises contribute to the downturn.
South Africa	Tepid growth is expected to continue as the economy weathers numerous headwinds.
Sudan	International sanctions raise the difficulty, risks and costs of trading with Sudan.
Tanzania	The US delays aid disbursements until more progress is made in fighting corruption.
Tunisia	Financial weaknesses, particularly in public-owned banks, remain elevated.
Uganda	Firms face a sharp electricity price hike as a result of currency depreciation.
Zambia	Growth and stability are undermined by power shortages and mine closures.
Zimbabwe	Electricity shortages intensify as Kariba dam water level drops.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	The US is to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan beyond 2017.
Australia	Despite headwinds, the labour market remains resilient.
Bangladesh	Concerns rise as the murder of two expats is claimed by Islamic State.
Cambodia	Economic growth is likely to decelerate in 2016 as external headwinds strengthen.
China	Official economic data fail to portray the profound and negative economic shifts.

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Fiji	The high level of public debt poses a risk to growth.
Hong Kong	Declining visitor spending from mainland China could impart a negative shock to retail.
India	A mood of cautious realism sweeps business but leaves room for optimism.
Indonesia	The president announces a major reform package to boost the business environment.
Japan	A third-quarter contraction is a possibility as external headwinds weigh on the recovery.
Korea (South)	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook as the economy shows resilience.
Malaysia	The growth outlook weakens as the economy faces both domestic and external headwinds.
Myanmar	Tensions rise ahead of the November general election, which remains finely balanced.
Nepal	Infrastructure and tourism are badly hit by April's earthquake.
New Zealand	Slowing regional trade continues to hold back economic growth.
Pakistan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook amid a sustained low inflation environment.
Papua New Guinea	GDP growth is forecast at among the highest in the world this year.
Philippines	Business opportunities abound as demographics and economic structure enable long-term growth.
Singapore	Difficulties in manufacturing should prove only a temporary headwind.
Sri Lanka	A UN report on Sri Lanka's civil war prompts war crimes investigations.
Taiwan	The country faces a deeper-than-expected slowdown as exports continue to fall.
Thailand	Contractions in non-tourism sectors limit overall market potential.
Vietnam	The currency stabilises after its devaluation in August.

Eastern Europe

Albania	The government launches a campaign to legalise the informal economy.
Azerbaijan	Devaluation fears are stoked as the central bank considers a floating exchange rate.
Belarus	The IMF highlights economic vulnerabilities and outlines necessary reforms.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	The three main governments are increasingly dysfunctional and ineffective.
Bulgaria	The migrant crisis poses economic and political challenges to the government.
Croatia	The migrant crisis poses a growing risk to political stability.
Czech Republic	Public opposition to EU refugee quotas risks a popular backlash.
Estonia	More focus is needed to raise productivity and halt declining price competitiveness.
Georgia	Interest rates are hiked again over fears around accelerating inflation.
Hungary	Government opposition to refugee quotas could irrevocably damage relations with the EU.
Kazakhstan	To steady the tenge and curtail inflation, the central bank raises interest rates.
Kyrgyz Republic	Confirmed official membership of the EEU will significantly affect trade and the economy.
Latvia	The 2015 growth forecast is downgraded following disappointing data releases.
Lithuania	In the past year, the competitiveness of the business environment has improved.
Macedonia	Broad-based economic growth creates new market opportunities.
Poland	The opposition takes a clear lead in pre-election polls.

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Romania	Domestic demand thrives, with wage growth high and credit growth positive at last.
Russian Federation	Currency weakness will persist as a number of factors exert downwards pressure.
Serbia	EU accession is frustrated by new conditions for membership alongside plunging support.
Slovak Republic	Government hostility towards Italian energy firm Enel highlights the risks to foreign investors.
Slovenia	The government may tighten its border with Croatia as the refugee flow turns west.
Tajikistan	A mix of economic and political problems burdens the two-year outlook.
Turkmenistan	A feasibility study on the TAPI gas pipeline is completed, although concerns remain.
Ukraine	A renewed ceasefire and weapons pullback suggest the conflict could be abating.
Uzbekistan	There are fears over internal stability after an attack on the US Embassy.

Middle East

Bahrain	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Bahrain's country risk rating amid a deteriorating human rights regime.
Egypt	The central bank governor resigns after a currency devaluation.
Iran	The government focuses on building cross-border investment and trade opportunities.
Iraq	Islamic State captures the capital of the Sunni Anbar province.
Israel	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook as violence with the Palestinians increases.
Jordan	The currency peg could come under pressure over the coming 12 months.
Kuwait	The outlook stabilises as progress is made in the award of projects.
Lebanon	FX risk may rise as the currency peg comes under pressure.
Oman	Project development remains strong despite fiscal tightening.
Qatar	The government's overseas sovereign wealth fund suffers significant losses.
Saudi Arabia	Geopolitical headwinds strengthen as divisions grow within the royal family.
Syria	Kurdish groups begin selling oil autonomously, earning significant oil revenues.
UAE	Liquidity tightens as government deposits drop and borrowing rises.
Yemen	Pro-government forces retake the strategically important Bab al-Mandab Strait from the rebels.

The Americas

Argentina	The ruling party candidate draws closer to victory in the October election.
Bolivia	President Morales' indefinite re-election bid progresses, risking political fallout.
Brazil	Political tensions rise as President Rousseff loses two key legal battles.
Canada	The Liberal Party triumphs in the national elections and will focus on infrastructure spending.
Chile	Low spending growth in the 2016 budget will slow reform.
Colombia	The central bank hikes the benchmark rate as inflationary pressures build.
Costa Rica	Domestic demand drives solid second-quarter growth.
Cuba	The near-term outlook improves as growth gathers pace.
Dominican Republic	The economic outlook remains upbeat following healthy July growth data.
Ecuador	A second consecutive quarter of contraction sees the economy slip into recession.
El Salvador	The security situation deteriorates amid spiking homicide rates.

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Guatemala	A major tax fraud scandal undermines government credibility.
Honduras	Low oil prices and rising demand help the economy on a slowly-improving trajectory.
Jamaica	The latest IMF update highlights various positive economic factors.
Mexico	Teachers protest against education reform but the government pushes ahead.
Nicaragua	GDP growth to remain strong in 2015, but the lower oil price may not be of benefit
Panama	The Canal Authority makes a successful debut in international bond markets.
Paraguay	Security concerns heighten amid a ratcheting up of high-profile guerrilla attacks
Peru	The recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal should boost trade and investment.
Trinidad & Tobago	The new government is to implement fiscal consolidation and possible tax hikes.
USA	The US expansion remains intact despite a slowdown in Q3.
Uruguay	The country turns to international bond markets to pre-finance for 2016.
Venezuela	The government hikes the minimum wage for the fourth time this year.

Western Europe

Austria	The far-right FPO party makes electoral gains in Upper Austria over refugee fears.
Belgium	Private consumption will remain sound despite increasing unemployment.
Cyprus	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Cyprus' country risk rating as the economic outlook brightens.
Denmark	Weak global demand hits exports and limits the speed of recovery.
Finland	Widespread protests mount against austerity and competitiveness-boosting measures.
France	Payments performance remains below the European average.
Germany	Road and rail connections with Austria are impacted by the migrant crisis.
Greece	Syriza's election victory in September ends a prolonged period of political uncertainty.
Iceland	The 2015 growth forecast is hiked due to buoyant private consumption, investment and exports.
Ireland	Growth surges in the second quarter, but the recovery is highly uneven.
Italy	Further growth in the third quarter is likely.
Luxembourg	Economic expansion is being driven by investment.
Malta	Private and public consumption supports accelerating growth.
Netherlands	Growth forecast figures are optimistic in the outlook period.
Norway	The central bank lowers the interest rate, clearly signalling a focus on growth.
Portugal	With votes cast, the final formation of the government is yet to be decided.
Spain	Political uncertainties increase as the general election approaches.
Sweden	Inflation turns negative as the central bank fights krona appreciation.
Switzerland	An electoral shift could cause the long-term economic outlook to deteriorate.
Turkey	A suicide bombing in Ankara highlights the uncertain political situation.
United Kingdom	A further cooldown of the economy is defied by the thriving retail sector.