

WorldWatch Headlines: April

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 IMF criticises the government's economic policies.
Angola	An investment law revision aims to help boost private investment.
Botswana	Consumption and mining drove Q3 growth.
Cameroon	A floating LNG vessel is to be commissioned by the end of Q1.
Congo, D.R.	More onerous mining laws await presidential approval.
Cote d'Ivoire	The ruling coalition wins a landslide victory in senatorial elections.
Ethiopia	Ethiopia remains at the vanguard of fast-growing economies in Africa.
Gabon	The near-term economic outlook improves.
Ghana	Figures for 2017 suggest an improvement in the deficit.
Kenya	The central bank trims the benchmark interest rate to boost credit and growth.
Libya	Increasing oil revenues help to narrow the budget deficit.
Malawi	Inflation retreats to a six-year low.
Mauritius	The benchmark interest rate is on hold.
Morocco	Rising unemployment increases fears of further socioeconomic tensions.
Mozambique	Economic growth slips to a 15-year low in 2017.
Namibia	President Geingob clears the way for an intensified anti-corruption drive.
Nigeria	Another Eurobond issue raises USD2.5bn in foreign financing.
Senegal	A new sovereign bond raises USD2.2bn.
Sierra Leone	The indecisive first-round presidential poll increases political tension.
South Africa	South Africa retains its investment grade status.
Sudan	The central bank devalues the main official exchange rate.
Tanzania	New local content regulations are imposed on firms serving the mining sector.
Tunisia	The replacement of the central bank governor will have mixed effects on the business environment.
Uganda	The central bank cuts its key policy rate to boost economic growth.
Zambia	New bulk cargo regulations aim to reduce road damage.
Zimbabwe	The government repeals the controversial indigenisation law.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	A Taliban suicide bomber kills over 100 in Kabul.
Australia	US import tariffs aimed at China will have a considerable effect on Australia.
Bangladesh	Exchange rate risk rises.
Cambodia	Relations with key foreign donors deteriorate.
China	The end of presidential term limits reflects factional power struggles.
Fiji	An airport staffing dispute impairs service at the height of the tourist season.
Hong Kong	The interest rate differential with the US depresses the Hong Kong dollar.
India	Near-term payment risks rise due to a ban on cheap trade finance.
Indonesia	The improved external debt profile still has vulnerabilities.
Japan	No end is in sight for the Bank of Japan's aggressive monetary policy.
Korea (South)	Summit diplomacy plans extend the Olympics detente.

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Malaysia	Economic progress should help the ruling coalition in the imminent elections.
Myanmar	An increased minimum wage will not halt the garment industry's growth.
Nepal	The communists are elected to a five-year term of government.
New Zealand	Regulations prove effective at cooling the housing market.
Pakistan	Political uncertainties help to undermine the country's prospects.
Papua New Guinea	Gas operators unveil a plan to double production in Papua New Guinea.
Philippines	Rising inflation makes tighter monetary policy more likely in 2018.
Singapore	Singapore aims to create greater market access for firms.
Sri Lanka	Violent attacks prompt an island-wide state of emergency.
Taiwan	Expectations for economic growth in 2018 are on the up.
Thailand	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Thailand due to an upshift in export performance.
Vietnam	Export growth should remain strong in 2018.

Eastern Europe

Albania	The lek has strengthened significantly.
Azerbaijan	The weak economic upturn should strengthen moderately over 2018-19.
Belarus	Local elections highlight the continued democratic deficit.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	The IMF's lending resumption ends the immediate financing crisis risk.
Bulgaria	Bulgaria announces its intention to join the ECB's Exchange Rate Mechanism.
Croatia	The credit environment worsens as new lending is obstructed.
Czech Republic	Economic growth will slow in 2018-19 as monetary policy tightens.
Estonia	Euro appreciation weighs on the country's international price competitiveness.
Georgia	Georgia's free-trade agreement with China has now come into effect.
Hungary	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Hungary's country risk rating as the economy is growing rapidly.
Kazakhstan	The government identifies economic policy objectives for the year ahead.
Kyrgyz Republic	The release of further IMF funding signals confidence in the country's prospects.
Latvia	Preliminary data shows very strong economic growth in 2017.
Lithuania	The new liquor law creates controversy.
Macedonia	The Greek and Macedonian governments are keen to resolve the divisive 'name issue'.
Poland	Strong investment and household consumption both underpin buoyant growth.
Romania	Corruption is worsening as malpractice constraints are removed.
Russian Federation	Economic growth for 2017 disappoints.
Serbia	Data for Q4 indicates that economic growth is accelerating.
Slovak Republic	Slovakia is facing a potential collapse of government.
Slovenia	The country faces a wave of strikes by public sector workers.
Tajikistan	The economy strengthens in 2017 but the outlook remains challenging.
Turkmenistan	A big hike in gas prices reflects pressure on the fiscal finances.
Ukraine	The business environment remains challenging.
Uzbekistan	The government prepares to issue its first Eurobond.

Middle East

Bahrain	The EU includes Bahrain on a blacklist of 17 tax havens.
Egypt	President Sisi's re-election highlights the country's democracy deficit.

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Iran	The depreciation of the rial has gained momentum since December.
Iraq	Pro-Iranian militia leaders look to contest parliamentary elections in May.
Israel	Relations with Iran enter a dangerous new phase.
Jordan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Jordan due to weak macroeconomic data.
Kuwait	Opposition activists are released on bail.
Lebanon	Three donor fund-raising conferences are planned for the next few months.
Oman	The government promises new jobs in response to demonstrations.
Qatar	Qatar's commercial reputation is dented by accusations of late payment.
Saudi Arabia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Saudi Arabia as the oil price remains strong.
Syria	The reconstruction process faces political, security and financial issues.
UAE	Dubai data highlights slow growth.
Yemen	Some Yemeni deportees from Saudi Arabia have joined the Houthi rebels.

The Americas

Argentina	The government switches to a gradual approach to structural reform.
Bolivia	Efforts to defuse socio-political unrest achieve only limited success.
Brazil	An outbreak of yellow fever challenges the health authorities.
Canada	Canada's steel and aluminum industries are to be exempt from US tariffs.
Chile	Police and security reforms will be President Pinera's first priority.
Colombia	Ex-rebels suspend election campaigning amid protests and violence.
Costa Rica	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Costa Rica's country risk rating due to concerns over public sector probity.
Cuba	President Raul Castro will step down in April.
Dominican Republic	The impact of hurricanes influenced slower growth in Q3 2017.
Ecuador	A referendum on limiting presidential terms is set for approval.
El Salvador	Economic growth prospects remain relatively positive.
Guatemala	Improving external demand conditions will keep economic growth solid.
Honduras	New corruption allegations threaten more damage to the president's reputation.
Jamaica	The IMF issues a generally-positive third review.
Mexico	Mexican steel and aluminium is excluded from new US import tariffs.
Nicaragua	International pressure continues to rise.
Panama	The externally-oriented services sector will help sustain healthy economic growth.
Paraguay	Strong domestic demand bolsters economic activity.
Peru	Martin Vizcarra's presidency could help restore some much-needed stability.
Trinidad & Tobago	A modest economic recovery is projected for 2018.
USA	The job market is strong enough to absorb the increase in participation.
Uruguay	The government announces bond issues amid firm growth.
Venezuela	Snap elections are pushed back from April to May.

Western Europe

Austria	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Austria's country risk rating on the back of solid growth rates.
Belgium	Expanding exports should sustain the short-term economic upturn.
Cyprus	Real GDP expands at its highest rate for ten years in 2017.
Denmark	Denmark is facing the threat of mass strike action.
Finland	Growth is powered by strong expansion in both exports and investments.
France	The business regulatory environment continues to improve.

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Germany	Forward-looking indicators have started to ease.
Greece	Economic growth is accelerating, but headwinds persist.
Iceland	The number of visitors rises significantly as the tourism boom continues.
Ireland	Political uncertainty remains elevated.
Italy	Political uncertainty remains elevated following March's inconclusive elections.
Luxembourg	The business-environment quality is affirmed as outstanding.
Malta	Robust household spending drove real GDP growth in Q3.
Netherlands	A right-wing party makes political inroads as its popularity rises.
Norway	The offshore economy contraction in Q4 proves only temporary.
Portugal	A new rail link should boost trade and investment potential.
Spain	Growth is driven by both construction and industry.
Sweden	Employers are reporting very strong economic conditions.
Switzerland	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Switzerland as the short-term economic outlook improves.
Turkey	The lira experiences another collapse in March as external fundamentals remain weak.
United Kingdom	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for the UK from 'deteriorating' to 'stable'.

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