

WorldWatch Headlines: June

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	An interim budget aims to curb imports.
Angola	Parliament approves new legislation to boost competition and investment.
Botswana	A presidential visit exchange with Zimbabwe demonstrates warming bilateral relations.
Cameroon	Port expansion and upgrade plans are pursued by an international logistics company.
Congo, D.R.	The Ebola outbreak raises concerns about a possible epidemic.
Cote d'Ivoire	The ruling coalition wins a landslide victory in senatorial elections.
Ethiopia	Reforms could make progress under the new prime minister.
Gabon	An interim government is installed as more power is vested in the president.
Ghana	The increase in both oil and gas production boosts 2017 GDP growth.
Kenya	The economy is expected to gain momentum.
Libya	The Islamic State attack in Tripoli fosters insecurity across the country.
Malawi	The IMF approves a new three-year extended credit facility.
Mauritius	Gross foreign direct investment increases sharply during 2017.
Morocco	The diplomatic breach with Iran will boost ties with both the US and Gulf Arabs.
Mozambique	The opposition leader's death raises both political and security risks.
Namibia	There are plans to start car exports in the second half of 2018.
Nigeria	Commercial bank liquidity improves as both oil export revenues and FX reserves rise.
Senegal	A new sovereign bond raises USD2.2bn.
Sierra Leone	The indecisive first-round presidential poll increases political tension.
South Africa	Annual consumer price inflation is set to edge higher.
Sudan	The central bank devalues the Sudanese pound for the second time in 2018.
Tanzania	Overseas workers' remittances lag far behind the country's regional peers.
Tunisia	Political tension rises within the governing coalition.
Uganda	The central bank cuts its key policy rate to boost economic growth.
Zambia	Strong demand and high prices for both copper and cobalt benefit the country.
Zimbabwe	The government repeals the controversial indigenisation law.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	The Taliban deny conducting peace talks with the Afghan government.
Australia	Relations with main trading partner China continue to sour.
Bangladesh	The development of imported coal and LNG terminals will reduce energy self-sufficiency.
Cambodia	Relations with key foreign donors deteriorate.
China	The supply chain outlook deteriorates amid trade war uncertainties.
Fiji	A succession of devastating cyclones strike Fiji.
Hong Kong (S.A.R.)	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Hong Kong amid sustained economic growth.
India	Growth surges, albeit amid deteriorating financial conditions.
Indonesia	The improved external debt profile still has vulnerabilities.
Japan	Corporate and household earnings pull ahead of demand growth.
Korea (South)	The inter-Korean summit brings an improved political outlook.

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

Malaysia	The opposition's general election win shakes national politics.
Myanmar	A deal with the UN on refugee repatriation draws a mixed response.
Nepal	Indian Premier Narendra Modi's visit to Nepal should help strengthen bilateral relations.
New Zealand	The 2018 budget unveils targeted shifts in expenditure.
Pakistan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Pakistan as debt exposure to China increases.
Papua New Guinea	A free-trade agreement with China could be signed in November.
Philippines	Inflation breaches the central bank's target band.
Singapore	The new anti-terror law perpetuates the pattern of restrictive policies.
Sri Lanka	Violent attacks prompt an island-wide state of emergency.
Taiwan	Modest growth is due amid structural headwinds and trade war fears.
Thailand	Thailand displays resilience amid emerging market stresses.
Vietnam	Financial sector reform will bring many benefits to the economy.

Eastern Europe

Albania	The lek has strengthened significantly.
Azerbaijan	Economic growth is modest in the first two months of the year.
Belarus	Local elections highlight the continued democratic deficit.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Bosnia & Herzegovina after the Sofia summit meeting.
Bulgaria	Higher economic growth will be driven by strong domestic and external demand.
Croatia	Negative indicators suggest that the economy is slowing.
Czech Republic	The country still lacks a permanent government.
Estonia	Growth is set to moderate in the coming years.
Georgia	Former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili signals his return to formal politics.
Hungary	Quarterly figures boost the 2018 growth forecast.
Kazakhstan	Booming car production helps drive real GDP growth.
Kyrgyz Republic	Government personnel changes strengthen the president's political influence.
Latvia	The economy is still growing strongly.
Lithuania	Economic activity continues to expand at a satisfactory pace.
Macedonia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Macedonia as the EU withdraws its integration offer.
Poland	The EU gives Poland a deadline to resolve judicial independence issues.
Romania	The outlook for the political environment deteriorates.
Russian Federation	Payment performance remained broadly stable in 2017.
Serbia	Data for Q4 indicates that economic growth is accelerating.
Slovak Republic	The febrile political atmosphere threatens government stability.
Slovenia	The inconclusive election could lead to prolonged political instability.
Tajikistan	External debt levels continue to climb.
Turkmenistan	The opening of a new port will treble the country's cargo-handling capacity.
Ukraine	Economic growth is rising towards 3.0%, but downside risks remain.
Uzbekistan	President Shavkat Mirziyoyev makes an official US visit.

Middle East

Bahrain	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Bahrain due to a huge oil and gas find.
Egypt	The government faces a challenge to reduce energy subsidies.
Iran	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Iran's country risk rating as the US reimposes sanctions.

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

Iraq	Nationalist cleric Muqtada Sadr is the surprise victor in the general election.
Israel	The US embassy move sparks deadly border clashes.
Jordan	Socio-economic protests in response to fuel subsidy cuts increase political risk.
Kuwait	Parliament questions the prime minister, the oil minister and the labour minister.
Lebanon	A donor conference raises significant pledges in return for key structural reforms.
Oman	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Oman due to improved gas production.
Qatar	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Qatar on the back of continued US support.
Saudi Arabia	Strong oil prices will boost the short-term economic outlook.
Syria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Syria following the Western military attack in April.
UAE	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for the UAE due to the sustained strength of oil prices.
Yemen	Some Yemeni deportees from Saudi Arabia have joined the Houthi rebels.

The Americas

Argentina	President Macri's falling popularity jeopardises planned reforms.
Bolivia	The external deficit is at a record high.
Brazil	The growth forecast is slashed following a crippling strike and the currency sell-off.
Canada	Businesses face increasingly restrictive trade measures.
Chile	President Pinera takes office and lays out his priorities.
Colombia	The centre-right candidate leads in polls ahead of May's presidential election.
Costa Rica	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Costa Rica's country risk rating following the election of Carlos Alvarado Quesada as president.
Cuba	The new president is expected to maintain the current political model.
Dominican Republic	Growth in Q4 is boosted by stronger private consumption and investment.
Ecuador	A referendum on limiting presidential terms is comfortably approved.
El Salvador	The ruling party's defeat in the legislative elections will exacerbate political gridlock.
Guatemala	The fight against corruption and organised crime reaches a critical point.
Honduras	Economic growth will remain moderate.
Jamaica	The IMF issues a generally-positive third review.
Mexico	Elections and stalled NAFTA talks cloud near-term prospects.
Nicaragua	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Nicaragua as the president faces more pressure to resign.
Panama	The economy will keep growing at a healthy pace.
Paraguay	Strong domestic demand bolsters economic activity.
Peru	An upsurge in public investment spending will help the economy to pick up.
Trinidad & Tobago	A modest economic recovery is projected for 2018.
USA	Uncertainty over cross-border trade increases after a fractious G7 summit.
Uruguay	Exports are driving growth, and investment is forecast to pick up in 2018.
Venezuela	The US applies new sanctions in response to the sham election.

Western Europe

Austria	Real GDP growth moderates.
Belgium	Modest economic growth continues.
Cyprus	Estimates for Q1 suggest that the economy has expanded further.
Denmark	The immediate risk of a general strike has been averted.
Finland	Economic growth looks set to moderate slightly in 2018-19.
France	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for France as the economy slows.
Germany	Economic indicators maintain their downward trajectory.

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

Greece	The economy is likely to have expanded further in Q1.
Iceland	Growth is underpinned by base effects and a stronger demand for fish.
Ireland	Payment performance improves but remains below the European average.
Italy	Political tension appears to subside as a new prime minister is sworn in.
Luxembourg	Growth will accelerate in 2018, driven by consumption and investment.
Malta	The economy grew again in Q4, albeit more slowly.
Netherlands	Growth remains robust despite some easing in the first quarter.
Norway	Surging hydrocarbon receipts fuel inflationary pressures.
Portugal	As expected, GDP growth decelerates.
Spain	Political uncertainty will remain elevated.
Sweden	The economic growth forecast for 2018 edges up.
Switzerland	Forward-looking indicators bounce back after a period of weakness.
Turkey	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Turkey's country risk rating due to weak external fundamentals.
United Kingdom	Forward-looking indicators still suggest disappointing growth this year.

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