

## WorldWatch Headlines: July

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>	An interim budget aims to curb imports.
<b>Angola</b>	Low FX reserves begin to edge higher.
<b>Botswana</b>	A presidential visit exchange with Zimbabwe demonstrates warming bilateral relations.
<b>Cameroon</b>	Port expansion and upgrade plans are pursued by an international logistics company.
<b>Congo, D.R.</b>	The Ebola outbreak raises concerns about a possible epidemic.
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	The ruling coalition wins a landslide victory in senatorial elections.
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Reforms could make progress under the new prime minister.
<b>Gabon</b>	An interim government is installed as more power is vested in the president.
<b>Ghana</b>	The increase in both oil and gas production boosts 2017 GDP growth.
<b>Kenya</b>	The economy is expected to gain momentum.
<b>Libya</b>	The Islamic State attack in Tripoli fosters insecurity across the country.
<b>Malawi</b>	The IMF approves a new three-year extended credit facility.
<b>Mauritius</b>	Gross foreign direct investment increases sharply during 2017.
<b>Morocco</b>	The diplomatic breach with Iran will boost ties with both the US and Gulf Arabs.
<b>Mozambique</b>	The opposition leader's death raises both political and security risks.
<b>Namibia</b>	There are plans to start car exports in the second half of 2018.
<b>Nigeria</b>	Buoyant oil prices contribute to a growing current account surplus.
<b>Senegal</b>	Real GDP growth increases to 7.0% in 2017.
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	The new president sets out his policy reform agenda.
<b>South Africa</b>	The economy struggles to gain momentum as major sectors continue to disappoint.
<b>Sudan</b>	The central bank devalues the Sudanese pound for the second time in 2018.
<b>Tanzania</b>	Overseas workers' remittances lag far behind the country's regional peers.
<b>Tunisia</b>	Political tension rises within the governing coalition.
<b>Uganda</b>	An investment decision on the crude-oil export pipeline is expected by end-2018.
<b>Zambia</b>	Strong demand and high prices for both copper and cobalt benefit the country.
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	The July elections will have major political and economic impacts on the country.

### Asia Pacific

<b>Afghanistan</b>	The Taliban deny conducting peace talks with the Afghan government.
<b>Australia</b>	Surging exports and increased government spending lead to strong real GDP growth in Q1.
<b>Bangladesh</b>	The risk of a weaker currency spurs a rush for LCs.
<b>Cambodia</b>	The political environment faces further stress.
<b>China</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for China as a trade war with the US looms.
<b>Fiji</b>	A succession of devastating cyclones strike Fiji.
<b>Hong Kong (S.A.R)</b>	Disbarred legislators are jailed as China tightens its judicial choke on dissent.
<b>India</b>	Banking system stresses limit the scope for boosting the rupee via rate rises.

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<b>Indonesia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Indonesia as the central bank hikes interest rates.
<b>Japan</b>	The weak yen has benefitted industry but further gains will be limited.
<b>Korea (South)</b>	The inter-Korean summit brings an improved political outlook.
<b>Malaysia</b>	The opposition's general election win shakes national politics.
<b>Myanmar</b>	A deal with the UN on refugee repatriation draws a mixed response.
<b>Nepal</b>	Indian Premier Narendra Modi's visit to Nepal should help strengthen bilateral relations.
<b>New Zealand</b>	The 2018 budget unveils targeted shifts in expenditure.
<b>Pakistan</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Pakistan as debt exposure to China increases.
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	A free-trade agreement with China could be signed in November.
<b>Philippines</b>	Growth momentum accelerates in Q1 despite difficult consumer conditions.
<b>Singapore</b>	Bilateral trade relations with India deepen.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	The Sri Lanka rupee continues to slide against the US dollar.
<b>Taiwan</b>	Export and investment data signals a mild slowdown in 2018.
<b>Thailand</b>	Thailand displays resilience amid emerging market stresses.
<b>Vietnam</b>	Anti-China protests erupt over planned special economic zones.

## Eastern Europe

<b>Albania</b>	The credit environment continues to stagnate.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Economic growth is modest in the first two months of the year.
<b>Belarus</b>	The president welcomes the country's improved relations with the EU.
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	A rapid deterioration in the political environment will last beyond the elections.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Strong investment activity will keep growth momentum solid.
<b>Croatia</b>	Negative indicators suggest that the economy is slowing.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Economic growth will slow over the forecast period.
<b>Estonia</b>	The rate of economic growth is slowing down.
<b>Georgia</b>	Former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili signals his return to formal politics.
<b>Hungary</b>	Quarterly figures boost the 2018 growth forecast.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Booming car production helps drive real GDP growth.
<b>Kyrgyz Republic</b>	Government personnel changes strengthen the president's political influence.
<b>Latvia</b>	The economy is still growing strongly.
<b>Lithuania</b>	The government presents a reform package.
<b>Macedonia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Macedonia as the EU withdraws its integration offer.
<b>Poland</b>	A proposed constitutional referendum includes questions about Poland's relationship with the EU.
<b>Romania</b>	The outlook for the political environment deteriorates.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Payment performance remained broadly stable in 2017.
<b>Serbia</b>	The political risk environment deteriorates.
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	The febrile political atmosphere threatens government stability.
<b>Slovenia</b>	The inconclusive election could lead to prolonged political instability.
<b>Tajikistan</b>	External debt levels continue to climb.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	The opening of a new port will treble the country's cargo-handling capacity.
<b>Ukraine</b>	Efforts to establish an independent anti-corruption court continue.
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	President Shavkat Mirziyoyev makes an official US visit.

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## Middle East

<b>Bahrain</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Bahrain due to a huge oil and gas find.
<b>Egypt</b>	The government increases the price of subsidised fuel and electricity.
<b>Iran</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Iran's country risk rating as the US reimposes sanctions.
<b>Iraq</b>	Election frontrunner Muqtada al-Sadr forges a coalition.
<b>Israel</b>	More corruption troubles emerge for Prime Minister Netanyahu's administration.
<b>Jordan</b>	Socio-economic protests in response to fuel subsidy cuts increase political risk.
<b>Kuwait</b>	Parliament questions the prime minister, the oil minister and the labour minister.
<b>Lebanon</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Lebanon due to the Hezbollah election victory.
<b>Oman</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Oman due to improved gas production.
<b>Qatar</b>	The credit environment outlook is upgraded following a sovereign bond issuance.
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Domestic and external political/security risks continue to rise.
<b>Syria</b>	Inflation is declining, but significant regional differences remain.
<b>UAE</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for the UAE due to the sustained strength of oil prices.
<b>Yemen</b>	Coalition forces launch a major offensive against Houthi rebels.

## The Americas

<b>Argentina</b>	The government faces difficulties in implementing austerity measures.
<b>Bolivia</b>	The external deficit is at a record high.
<b>Brazil</b>	The growth forecast is slashed following a crippling strike and the currency sell-off.
<b>Canada</b>	Businesses face increasingly restrictive trade measures.
<b>Chile</b>	The president signs a law to reduce red tape.
<b>Colombia</b>	Pro-business Ivan Duque wins the run-off presidential election.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Costa Rica's country risk rating following the election of Carlos Alvarado Quesada as president.
<b>Cuba</b>	Shortages of raw materials and technical skills depress first-quarter growth.
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Growth in Q4 is boosted by stronger private consumption and investment.
<b>Ecuador</b>	A referendum on limiting presidential terms is comfortably approved.
<b>El Salvador</b>	The ruling party's defeat in the legislative elections will exacerbate political gridlock.
<b>Guatemala</b>	Volcanic eruptions threaten further destruction.
<b>Honduras</b>	Economic growth will remain moderate.
<b>Jamaica</b>	Mining and quarrying helped boost economic growth in Q1.
<b>Mexico</b>	Retaliatory tariffs on US goods put new pressure on the trade relationship.
<b>Nicaragua</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Nicaragua as the president faces more pressure to resign.
<b>Panama</b>	The economy will keep growing at a healthy pace.
<b>Paraguay</b>	The ruling party retains power in the election but faces political gridlock.
<b>Peru</b>	An upsurge in public investment spending will help the economy to pick up.
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	A modest economic recovery is projected for 2018.
<b>USA</b>	Rising protectionism creates significant uncertainty for global businesses.
<b>Uruguay</b>	Exports are driving growth, and investment is forecast to pick up in 2018.
<b>Venezuela</b>	The US applies new sanctions in response to the sham election.

## Western Europe

<b>Austria</b>	Real GDP growth moderates.
<b>Belgium</b>	The multilateral security strategy progresses further.
<b>Cyprus</b>	Estimates for Q1 suggest that the economy has expanded further.

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<b>Denmark</b>	The immediate risk of a general strike has been averted.
<b>Finland</b>	Economic growth looks set to moderate slightly in 2018-19.
<b>France</b>	The country's real GDP growth forecast has been reduced.
<b>Germany</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Germany as political risk rises due to the refugee crisis.
<b>Greece</b>	Payment performance deteriorates and remains well below the European average.
<b>Iceland</b>	Growth is underpinned by base effects and a stronger demand for fish.
<b>Ireland</b>	Unemployment and prices bode well for the short-term economic outlook.
<b>Italy</b>	Absolute poverty rises again despite continued economic expansion.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Growth will accelerate in 2018, driven by consumption and investment.
<b>Malta</b>	Economic expansion accelerates in Q1.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Growth figures for Q1 are revised down but near-term prospects are solid.
<b>Norway</b>	Surging hydrocarbon receipts fuel inflationary pressures.
<b>Portugal</b>	A central bank assessment highlights the risks of a potential trade war.
<b>Spain</b>	Political uncertainty will remain elevated.
<b>Sweden</b>	The weakness of the krona is still helping the country's manufacturers.
<b>Switzerland</b>	The Swiss National Bank maintains its expansive monetary policy.
<b>Turkey</b>	The new presidential system raises political, economic and commercial risks.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Payments performance remains a source of concern.

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