

WorldWatch Headlines: October

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 purge of generals paves the way for a fifth term for President Bouteflika.
Angola	Angola re-engages with the IMF to request a new financial support package.
Botswana	Growth slowed in Q1 but nonetheless remains strong.
Cameroon	Civil unrest prompts the postponement of legislative elections.
Congo, D.R.	The authorities appear confident that the Ebola outbreak has been contained.
Cote d'Ivoire	The IMF conducts an economic review and approves the release of funds.
Ethiopia	The FX shortage poses a major threat to trade and investment.
Gabon	Austerity measures keep political and insecurity risks high.
Ghana	The banking system faces further challenges.
Kenya	The interest rate cap is retained, despite pressure both from the banks and the IMF.
Libya	Security volatility will continue to undermine oil production.
Malawi	The vice-president resigns from the ruling party.
Mauritius	The tourism sector remains on an upwards trajectory.
Morocco	A technocrat is appointed as the new finance minister.
Mozambique	International brewing companies aim to expand their presence.
Namibia	The African Development Bank provides budgetary support.
Nigeria	Port and highway congestion creates serious obstacles for logistics operations.
Senegal	The presidential election in Q1 2019 is shifting the focus towards political risk.
Sierra Leone	Mining output and export revenues are hit by mine closures in 2018.
South Africa	The economy slips into recession during the second quarter.
Sudan	The country calls for international financial assistance amid economic woes.
Tanzania	Gold production continues to be dampened by regulatory changes.
Tunisia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Tunisia's country risk rating as economic difficulties raise social tensions.
Uganda	The economy retains strong momentum driven by investment and trade.
Zambia	Copper production and exports are rising, spurred by reasonably high copper prices.
Zimbabwe	The courts endorse Emmerson Mnangagwa's presidential election victory.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	Talks between the Taliban and the US boost chances of peace.
Australia	Growth in consumption remains strong.
Bangladesh	Student protests raise the prospect of heightened political and insecurity risks.
Cambodia	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Cambodia as investment surges.
China	The new US tariffs will add to the headwinds for China.
Fiji	Growth is set to decelerate.
Hong Kong (S.A.R.)	The currency suddenly strengthens to its highest level in nearly a year against the US dollar.
India	Private consumption growth is set to moderate amid rising loan rates and energy prices.
Indonesia	The country remains under external financial pressure due to tightening global liquidity.
Japan	The supply environment deteriorates following both a typhoon and earthquake.

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Korea (South)	Domestic demand growth decelerates and employment stalls.
Malaysia	Economic growth will moderate in line with weaker exports and public investment.
Myanmar	Renewed pressure on the government is unlikely to result in economic sanctions.
Nepal	Real GDP growth was buoyant in the 2017/18 fiscal year.
New Zealand	A slowdown in the housing market suggests weaker GDP growth in H2.
Pakistan	The new government faces political challenges and balance of payments problems.
Papua New Guinea	Real GDP growth is predicted to accelerate in both 2018 and 2019.
Philippines	Currency weakness and rising inflation prompt the central bank to act more aggressively.
Singapore	Progress towards deeper regional interconnection resumes.
Sri Lanka	Investor confidence weakens as the Sri Lanka rupee continues to slide.
Taiwan	The pace of real GDP growth in the first two quarters is encouraging.
Thailand	Economic growth still looks set to accelerate further in 2018.
Vietnam	Rising US protectionism poses a risk to Vietnam's export sector.

Eastern Europe

Albania	The economy will expand amid strong growth in all components.
Azerbaijan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Azerbaijan's country risk rating as economic growth returns.
Belarus	Russian plans to restrict oil exports could hit the Belarusian economy.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	A rapid deterioration in the political environment will last beyond the elections.
Bulgaria	Faster-than-expected revenue growth keeps the budget in surplus.
Croatia	The economy is set to slow as the external environment worsens.
Czech Republic	The central bank raises interest rates again.
Estonia	Forward-looking indicators stabilise again.
Georgia	Talk of Georgia joining NATO increases tensions with Russia.
Hungary	Our GDP forecast for 2018 rises after a strong Q2 performance.
Kazakhstan	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Kazakhstan's country risk rating as economic conditions improve.
Kyrgyz Republic	The economic outlook worsens as mining activity falls sharply.
Latvia	The upcoming parliamentary elections look set to produce a multi-party coalition.
Lithuania	The country officially becomes a member of the OECD.
Macedonia	Political stability faces a severe test.
Poland	The dispute between Poland and the EU intensifies.
Romania	Violent clashes between police and anti-government protestors sharpen opposition.
Russian Federation	Growth strengthens but medium-term risks remain.
Serbia	The economy grew by a healthy 4.4% y/y in Q2.
Slovak Republic	A strong second quarter supports our forecast of 3.7% growth in 2018.
Slovenia	The new government will be weak, ineffective and probably short-lived.
Tajikistan	The IMF raises financial sector concerns.
Turkmenistan	A deal on the division of the Caspian Sea could open up opportunities for Turkmenistan.
Ukraine	Re-engagement with the IMF is crucial to Ukraine's outlook.
Uzbekistan	The IMF acknowledges the increase in external trade and government reforms.

Middle East

Bahrain	Three of Bahrain's wealthier Gulf neighbours pledge to support its financial stability.
Egypt	The central bank curbs lending to the state sector.
Iran	FX risk is extremely elevated following the imposition of US sanctions.

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Iraq	Protests about poor services complicate the government-formation process.
Israel	Tensions simmer between the government and central bank over the fiscal finances.
Jordan	Latest economic data highlights that growth remains very weak.
Kuwait	Contract awards suggest that Divided Zone oil production will restart in 2019.
Lebanon	Political risk remains elevated as negotiations over the new cabinet get bogged down.
Oman	The sultanate's most ambitious highway project is now operational.
Qatar	The market environment outlook undergoes an improvement.
Saudi Arabia	The IMF gives broad support to the authorities for their reform agenda.
Syria	Syrians prepare for the Idlib military offensive.
UAE	Growth in Abu Dhabi remained virtually stagnant in Q1 2018.
Yemen	The battle for the strategically-important Port of Hodeidah leaves dozens dead.

The Americas

Argentina	Deep cuts and higher taxes are proposed in the 2019 budget.
Bolivia	Economic activity looks set to gather some momentum.
Brazil	Inflation falls sharply as transportation costs decline.
Canada	Trade provides support for growth as second-quarter GDP accelerates.
Chile	Growth strengthens in Q2.
Colombia	Growth accelerates in Q2, but remains broadly constrained.
Costa Rica	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Costa Rica amid an ongoing national strike.
Cuba	A new constitution is to be put to the vote in November.
Dominican Republic	Growth remained very buoyant in Q1.
Ecuador	The arrest of the former president could exacerbate political divisions.
El Salvador	Private consumption will continue to support growth.
Guatemala	The worsening domestic and external backdrop makes the economic outlook increasingly uncertain.
Honduras	Economic growth is expected to moderate as external conditions worsen.
Jamaica	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Jamaica's country risk rating due to ongoing economic improvements.
Mexico	Inflation accelerates for the third consecutive month.
Nicaragua	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Nicaragua's country risk rating as the sociopolitical crisis intensifies.
Panama	Economic growth is set to pick up again.
Paraguay	Domestic demand will sustain sturdy economic growth.
Peru	Stronger growth will be spurred by several factors.
Trinidad & Tobago	A modest economic recovery is projected for full-year 2018.
USA	Second-quarter real GDP grows faster than originally estimated.
Uruguay	Public concerns increase due to the rise in violent crime.
Venezuela	A new economic plan to curb hyperinflation is likely to fail.

Western Europe

Austria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Austria as the economy shows signs of slowing.
Belgium	Recent governance data reflects Belgium's competitive business environment.
Cyprus	GDP growth slows slightly in Q2 but is still strong at 3.9%.
Denmark	Growth moderates due to a slowdown in exports.
Finland	The pace of economic growth is softening.
France	The manufacturing sector outlook is improving.
Germany	The political risk outlook deteriorates.

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Greece	Net exports and private spending support a higher-than-anticipated rate of H1 expansion.
Iceland	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades Iceland's country risk rating amid ongoing economic improvements.
Ireland	The growth outlook for 2018 improves.
Italy	The government now looks unlikely to trigger an early election.
Luxembourg	The Christian Social People's Party is on course to win the elections.
Malta	Key indicators suggest that real GDP has continued to expand in Q2.
Netherlands	Inflation reaches its highest level in nearly five years.
Norway	The oil minister resigns, underlining the governing coalition's challenges.
Portugal	The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to 0.2% of GDP.
Spain	Cross-border payments performance to EU suppliers deteriorates in Q2.
Sweden	The ultra-nationalists' electoral gains complicate the formation of a new government.
Switzerland	The share of prompt payments rises in the first half of 2018.
Turkey	The lira starts to appreciate following a sharp interest rate hike.
United Kingdom	The risk of a no-deal Brexit rises following an unsuccessful EU summit.

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