

## WorldWatch Headlines: April 2020

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>	The oil price crash makes recourse to the IMF more likely.
<b>Angola</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Angola due to sustained economic contraction.
<b>Botswana</b>	The ruling party wins the election by a large margin.
<b>Cameroon</b>	The country is set to join a multilateral political risk agency.
<b>Congo, D.R.</b>	FX reserves dip to critically low levels.
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Uncertainty surrounds October 2020's presidential election.
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Political risk rises ahead of the rescheduled general election.
<b>Gabon</b>	Corruption remains a key feature of the commercial environment.
<b>Ghana</b>	Falling oil production will affect growth.
<b>Kenya</b>	Economic policy adjustments aim to boost growth.
<b>Libya</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Libya as the oil blockade continues.
<b>Malawi</b>	The constitutional court annuls the presidential election result.
<b>Mauritius</b>	Deficiencies are highlighted in the country's legal and regulatory regimes.
<b>Morocco</b>	Tourism is vulnerable to the impact of the coronavirus.
<b>Mozambique</b>	President Nyusi faces political in-fighting and major security issues.
<b>Namibia</b>	Namibia ratifies a major regional free-trade area agreement.
<b>Nigeria</b>	The credit outlook deteriorates as exports suffer due to oil output restrictions.
<b>Senegal</b>	Growth will remain brisk in 2020, spurred by hydrocarbon investment.
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Sierra Leone's country risk rating in anticipation of the impact of the coronavirus.
<b>South Africa</b>	External factors will subdue economic growth prospects in 2020.
<b>Sudan</b>	The political and security situation remains tense.
<b>Tanzania</b>	The mining sector could get a boost following the settlement of a tax dispute.
<b>Tunisia</b>	Snap elections become more likely.
<b>Uganda</b>	The country's largest hydroelectric project will be commissioned in the first half of 2020.
<b>Zambia</b>	Business activity is disrupted by both power and fuel shortages.
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	The IMF says that the country's reform process is 'off-track'.

### Asia Pacific

<b>Afghanistan</b>	Taliban attacks reached a ten-year high in October to December 2019.
<b>Australia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Australia amid downside risks due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Bangladesh as risks for the garments sector increase.
<b>Cambodia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Cambodia's country risk rating as tourism and exports slump.
<b>China</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for China as the national emergency mobilisation succeeds in controlling new cases.
<b>Fiji</b>	Economic growth is slowing as public consumption falls.
<b>Hong Kong (S.A.R)</b>	Rapid action seems to have contained the spread of the coronavirus.

<b>India</b>	The economy was already slowing in 2019, even before the coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Indonesia</b>	The proposed job-creation law is good for businesses but politically risky.
<b>Japan</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Japan's country risk rating as the global economic emergency deepens.
<b>Korea (South)</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades South Korea's country risk rating as a consequence of the coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Malaysia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Malaysia's country risk rating as its coronavirus outbreak begins.
<b>Myanmar</b>	The coronavirus outbreak in neighbouring China undermines growth prospects.
<b>Nepal</b>	Economic growth is forecast to weaken this year and next.
<b>New Zealand</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades New Zealand's country risk rating given the impact of the coronavirus.
<b>Pakistan</b>	External sector pressures ease, but regulatory challenges remain.
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	Bougainvilleans have voted overwhelmingly to seek independence from Papua New Guinea.
<b>Philippines</b>	Budget implementation results in large gains for President Duterte's 'Build, Build, Build' programme.
<b>Singapore</b>	The growth forecast for 2020 is cut.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	A temporary national curfew is imposed to try and contain the coronavirus.
<b>Taiwan</b>	The supply environment outlook deteriorates as the coronavirus outbreak continues.
<b>Thailand</b>	The growth forecast tumbles amid the coronavirus shock to tourism.
<b>Vietnam</b>	Economic growth is likely to slow sharply in Q1 at least.

## Eastern Europe

<b>Albania</b>	Faster economic growth in 2020 will still be weak by recent standards.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	The country's external balances are improving as exports grow steadily.
<b>Belarus</b>	Economic growth remains fragile.
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	The political environment outlook improves.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Political tensions are expected to heighten following the recent water and waste crises.
<b>Croatia</b>	Prospects for a strong government diminish following presidential elections.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	The currency gains strength as investors bet on a rise in interest rates.
<b>Estonia</b>	Tough trading conditions and capacity constraints weigh on the growth outlook.
<b>Georgia</b>	Economic growth remains buoyant but is set to decelerate.
<b>Hungary</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Hungary's country risk rating as the coronavirus hampers the economy.
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Kazakhstan as the coronavirus outbreak undermines growth prospects.
<b>Kyrgyz Republic</b>	Economic growth remains robust.
<b>Latvia</b>	A new governor is appointed to the scandal-ridden central bank.
<b>Lithuania</b>	The population grows for the first time since the Soviet era.
<b>Macedonia</b>	The VMRO-DPMNE party is likely to win the early elections in April.
<b>Poland</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Poland's country risk rating as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic.
<b>Romania</b>	A stable and responsible government looks possible as elections approach.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	The country closes its border with China due to the coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Serbia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Serbia's country risk rating as the coronavirus disrupts the economy.
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	The newly-elected OĽaNO party pledges a crackdown on corruption.
<b>Slovenia</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Slovenia following the collapse of the government.
<b>Tajikistan</b>	The government reports strong growth for 2019.

<b>Turkmenistan</b>	The president removes the head of the security ministry from his post.
<b>Ukraine</b>	Reports suggest that the government has secured a three-year IMF loan.
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Buoyant increases in investment are underpinning current economic growth.

## Middle East

<b>Bahrain</b>	US-Iran tensions pose a risk to Bahrain's domestic security.
<b>Egypt</b>	Growth in private consumption remains weak.
<b>Iran</b>	Tensions between Iran and the US are likely to reignite.
<b>Iraq</b>	The president nominates a new prime minister.
<b>Israel</b>	The general election in March was inconclusive.
<b>Jordan</b>	The latest data confirms that growth is stagnating.
<b>Kuwait</b>	Growth will slow as the coronavirus depresses oil prices.
<b>Lebanon</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Lebanon's country risk rating as the government defaults on a bond repayment.
<b>Oman</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Oman's country risk rating given the collapse in oil prices.
<b>Qatar</b>	US-Iran tensions weaken Qatar's outlook.
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Saudi Arabia ramps up oil production, boosting real growth prospects.
<b>Syria</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Syria's country risk rating as the security situation deteriorates.
<b>UAE</b>	The collapse of the oil price will curtail growth.
<b>Yemen</b>	Increased fighting dents hopes for a peace deal.

## The Americas

<b>Argentina</b>	The economy contracted in 2019.
<b>Bolivia</b>	Risks to growth remain tilted to the downside.
<b>Brazil</b>	Growth expectations are trimmed due to the impact of the coronavirus.
<b>Canada</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Canada amid downside risks from the coronavirus outbreak and oil price falls.
<b>Chile</b>	The short-term outlook is uncertain due to domestic turbulence and reduced demand from China.
<b>Colombia</b>	The economy grew at its fastest pace for five years in 2019.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	The government faces a challenge to bring down the fiscal deficit.
<b>Cuba</b>	The tightening of US sanctions is exacerbating debt sustainability challenges.
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	The Dominican Liberation Party candidate is set to win the May presidential election.
<b>Ecuador</b>	A government plan to cancel fuel subsidies causes mass protests.
<b>El Salvador</b>	The projected slowdown in the US will weigh on economic activity.
<b>Guatemala</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Guatemala as the new president is sworn in.
<b>Honduras</b>	Anti-corruption efforts suffer a severe blow as an anti-graft body ceases operations.
<b>Jamaica</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Jamaica as the economic outlook deteriorates.
<b>Mexico</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Mexico's country risk rating as the coronavirus pandemic impacts trade and tourism.
<b>Nicaragua</b>	The main non-partisan opposition groups attempt to create a unified opposition.
<b>Panama</b>	Economic growth will remain solid.
<b>Paraguay</b>	The deepening public security crisis is stoking tensions in the government.
<b>Peru</b>	An upturn in public investment will help economic activity to gain steam.
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Trinidad & Tobago due to a drop in hydrocarbon prices and the spread of the coronavirus.
<b>USA</b>	The supply and market environment outlooks both deteriorate due to the coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Uruguay</b>	The new president could sometimes struggle to maintain the unity of his multi-party coalition.
<b>Venezuela</b>	President Maduro expands the armed forces.

## Western Europe

<b>Austria</b>	Growth is expected to slow again in 2020.
<b>Belgium</b>	Domestic demand provides a buffer to weak trade.
<b>Cyprus</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Cyprus's country risk rating due to the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Denmark</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Denmark's country risk rating due to the impact on the economy from the coronavirus pandemic.
<b>Finland</b>	The economy slumps as trading conditions deteriorate.
<b>France</b>	A further economic slowdown is expected as external and domestic risks both rise.
<b>Germany</b>	Political instability rises as the CDU leadership election looms.
<b>Greece</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Greece's country risk rating due to the coronavirus-induced economic shock.
<b>Iceland</b>	Economic growth is expected to rebound in 2020.
<b>Ireland</b>	Brexit negotiations start from a difficult position.
<b>Italy</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Italy's country risk rating due to the coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Luxembourg's country risk rating as the coronavirus outbreak spreads.
<b>Malta</b>	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Malta amid encouraging political developments.
<b>Netherlands</b>	Economic growth slowed in 2019.
<b>Norway</b>	Growth prospects decline amid slumping oil prices and softer export demand.
<b>Portugal</b>	The growth outlook is cautiously optimistic.
<b>Spain</b>	The government struggles to reconcile the demands of different political forces.
<b>Sweden</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Sweden's country risk rating as domestic demand contracts sharply.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Switzerland's country risk rating due to the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.
<b>Turkey</b>	The lira weakens as the central bank cuts interest rates again.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades the United Kingdom's country risk rating amid the coronavirus pandemic.