

WorldWatch Headlines: June 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.

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 will halve government spending.
Angola	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Angola's country risk rating amid the dual shock of low oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic.
Botswana	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Botswana's country risk rating as the coronavirus threatens the economy.
Cameroon	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Cameroon's country risk rating due to the economy's exposure to the coronavirus outbreak.
Congo, D.R.	The economy is expected to undergo a coronavirus-induced slump in 2020.
Cote d'Ivoire	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Cote d'Ivoire's country risk rating as the coronavirus affects travel, trade and investment.
Ethiopia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Ethiopia's country risk rating as the economy slows.
Gabon	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Gabon amid the coronavirus pandemic and a drop in oil prices.
Ghana	Coronavirus will impact trade and GDP significantly in 2020.
Kenya	The economy will contract in 2020.
Libya	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Libya as an end to the country's conflict becomes more likely.
Malawi	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Malawi's country risk rating due to the impact of Covid-19.
Mauritius	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Mauritius' country risk rating as Covid-19 impacts key sectors.
Morocco	The government draws down on its USD3bn IMF facility.
Mozambique	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Mozambique's country risk rating as the economy weakens.
Namibia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Namibia's country risk rating due to the economy's forecast contraction.
Nigeria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Nigeria's country risk rating due to the double impact of low oil prices and Covid-19.
Senegal	Growth will remain brisk in 2020, spurred by hydrocarbon investment.
Sierra Leone	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Sierra Leone's country risk rating in anticipation of the impact of the coronavirus.
South Africa	The central bank cuts its benchmark interest rate for a third month running.
Sudan	The economy is expected to contract for the third year running in 2020.
Tanzania	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Tanzania's country risk rating as the coronavirus undermines the economic outlook.
Tunisia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Tunisia's country risk rating due to the global coronavirus outbreak.
Uganda	The country's largest hydroelectric project will be commissioned in the first half of 2020.
Zambia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Zambia's country risk rating as the economy contracts amid Covid-19.
Zimbabwe	The IMF says that the country's reform process is 'off-track'.

Asia Pacific

Afghanistan	The coronavirus is expected to have a major impact on the economy.
Australia	The phased re-opening of businesses increases revenue potential.
Bangladesh	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Bangladesh's country risk rating as the garments sector faces substantial losses.
Cambodia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Cambodia's country risk rating as tourism and exports slump.
China	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades China's country risk rating as ordinary life returns in key respects.
Fiji	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Fiji's country risk rating as the coronavirus hits short-term economic activity.
Hong Kong (S.A.R)	Hong Kong's special status comes under threat.
India	Real GDP will shrink in the current fiscal year due to the lockdown.
Indonesia	The economy will contract in 2020 after Q2's coronavirus shock.
Japan	The state of emergency is lifted, but the outlook continues to deteriorate.
Korea (South)	The coronavirus seems to have been contained but export demand has slumped.
Malaysia	The country strives to exit its lockdown.
Myanmar	The coronavirus outbreak in neighbouring China undermines growth prospects.
Nepal	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Nepal's country risk rating due to the coronavirus pandemic.
New Zealand	The community transmission of Covid-19 cases has ceased.
Pakistan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Pakistan's country risk rating amid the threat of coronavirus.
Papua New Guinea	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Papua New Guinea's country risk rating due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Philippines	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades the Philippines' country risk rating due to the expected economic damage from the coronavirus.
Singapore	The economic outlook sags as the domestic lockdown is extended.
Sri Lanka	A temporary national curfew is imposed to try and contain the coronavirus.
Taiwan	Taiwan Region looks set to weather the global coronavirus shock.
Thailand	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Thailand's country risk rating amid growth uncertainties and coronavirus fallout.
Vietnam	Economic growth slows sharply due to disease control measures at home and abroad.

Eastern Europe

Albania	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Albania's country risk rating as the coronavirus outbreak radically undermines the economy.
Azerbaijan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Azerbaijan's country risk rating as the coronavirus hits business activity.
Belarus	The number of coronavirus cases looks set to significantly increase.
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Bosnia & Herzegovina's country risk rating as the coronavirus undermines the business environment.
Bulgaria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Bulgaria as the coronavirus pandemic threatens a major economic shock.
Croatia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Croatia's country risk rating as the coronavirus pandemic undermines short-term economic activity.
Czech Republic	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades the Czech Republic's country risk rating as the coronavirus outbreak hits the economy.
Estonia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Estonia's country risk rating as the coronavirus epidemic bites.
Georgia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Georgia's country risk rating due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Hungary	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Hungary's country risk rating due to the effects of the coronavirus.
Kazakhstan	Slumping demand will prompt a GDP contraction in 2020.

Kyrgyz Republic	The authorities move to end the state of emergency.
Latvia	The economic impact of Covid-19 exceeds initial estimates.
Lithuania	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Lithuania's country risk rating as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic.
Macedonia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades North Macedonia's country risk rating as the coronavirus outbreak hits the economy.
Poland	Economic growth is severely impacted by Covid-19.
Romania	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Romania's country risk rating due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Russian Federation	Coronavirus-driven supply and demand shocks will hit the economy hard.
Serbia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Serbia's country risk rating as the coronavirus disrupts the economy.
Slovak Republic	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Slovakia's country risk rating due to the coronavirus crisis.
Slovenia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Slovenia's country risk rating as coronavirus suppresses the economy.
Tajikistan	Growth is set to fall drastically.
Turkmenistan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Turkmenistan's country risk rating as the coronavirus pandemic makes its presence felt.
Ukraine	The economy is forecast to contract by 4.7% in 2020.
Uzbekistan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Uzbekistan's country risk rating due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Middle East

Bahrain	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Bahrain's country risk rating given the coronavirus and oil crises.
Egypt	FX reserves receive a double boost.
Iran	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Iran on the back of multiple challenges.
Iraq	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Iraq due to the crash in oil prices.
Israel	A new coalition government takes office.
Jordan	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Jordan's country risk rating as policies to mitigate coronavirus push the economy into contraction.
Kuwait	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Kuwait's country risk rating due to low oil prices.
Lebanon	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Lebanon as the government calls for IMF support.
Oman	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Oman's country risk rating as the outlook for oil weakens further.
Qatar	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Qatar because of the crash in oil prices.
Saudi Arabia	The short-term economic outlook remains under considerable pressure.
Syria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Syria's country risk rating as the security situation deteriorates.
UAE	The economy is set to contract sharply.
Yemen	Increased fighting dents hopes for a peace deal.

The Americas

Argentina	A missed bond interest payment increases concerns about a disorderly default.
Bolivia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Bolivia due to the coronavirus's economic impact.
Brazil	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Brazil again due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Canada	Job losses speed up and household/business solvency risks increase.

Chile	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Chile's country risk rating as the coronavirus impacts short-term economic and investment prospects.
Colombia	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Colombia due to the severe impact of coronavirus.
Costa Rica	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Costa Rica's country risk rating due to the economic and social cost of the coronavirus pandemic.
Cuba	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Cuba's country risk rating due to the coronavirus-induced economic shock.
Dominican Republic	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades the Dominican Republic's country risk rating due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Ecuador	The economy is expected to contract as world oil prices collapse.
El Salvador	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades El Salvador's country risk rating due to the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.
Guatemala	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Guatemala's country risk rating amid the impact from Covid-19.
Honduras	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Honduras' country risk rating due to the socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.
Jamaica	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Jamaica as the economic outlook deteriorates.
Mexico	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Mexico's country risk rating as the coronavirus crisis leads to a record economic contraction.
Nicaragua	The government's insistence that there is no national transmission of coronavirus risks a humanitarian crisis.
Panama	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Panama as the coronavirus harms growth prospects.
Paraguay	The deepening public security crisis is stoking tensions in the government.
Peru	A four-phase plan to re-open the economy is in motion.
Trinidad & Tobago	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Trinidad & Tobago due to a drop in hydrocarbon prices and the spread of the coronavirus.
USA	The weakness of economic output is expected to continue.
Uruguay	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Uruguay's country risk rating as the coronavirus pandemic impacts business and investment opportunities.
Venezuela	The coronavirus outbreak and lack of emergency funding exacerbate the economic crisis.

Western Europe

Austria	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Austria's country risk rating as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
Belgium	Bankruptcy and redundancy risks undermine confidence.
Cyprus	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Cyprus as the lockdown eases.
Denmark	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Denmark as the lifting of the lockdown begins.
Finland	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Finland's country risk rating as economic risks escalate.
France	The recession will deepen sharply in Q2 as activity and output plummet.
Germany	The recession deepens as households and businesses cut back.
Greece	The lockdown is being gradually lifted but the resumption of activity will be uneven.
Iceland	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Iceland's country risk rating as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.
Ireland	Consumer sentiment improves.
Italy	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Italy as the lockdown is lifted.
Luxembourg	The country's economy will fare better than most in Europe in the context of the coronavirus.
Malta	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Malta's country risk rating as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic.
Netherlands	The coronavirus outbreak pushes producer confidence to an unprecedented low.
Norway	Dun & Bradstreet downgrades Norway's country risk rating amid slumping oil prices and softer export demand.

Portugal	Economic conditions worsen.
Spain	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for Spain as the government gradually eases the lockdown.
Sweden	The growth forecast falters as hopes of an early rebound in activity cool.
Switzerland	Covid-19 has caused substantial economic damage.
Turkey	A new currency crisis erupts as the lira hits record lows.
United Kingdom	Dun & Bradstreet upgrades its rating outlook for the United Kingdom as lockdown measures are slowly lifted.