

## Country Insight Update

February 2021

Welcome to the latest issue of D&B's Country Insight Update.

**Pandemic concerns remain the central uncertainty for business activity as pharmaceutical interventions begin, while constraints in container shipping, semiconductor manufacturing, and migrant labour are interfering with supply chains. Inflation may be unexpectedly higher in 2021 even if the pandemic continues, and especially if demand recovers fast.**

This complimentary newsletter from D&B's Country Insight Services group has been put together by their team of experts using the most up-to-date information to provide a snapshot of the latest macro market risk situation, and provides an excellent overview for those exposed to cross-border credit or investment risks.

### D&B Country Insight Snapshots

Designed with the help of our customers these reports build on the key areas assessed by 'D&B's Country Insight Model' and deliver a perfect balance between mitigating risk exposure and providing insight into new opportunities.

France	Business failures are expected to rise as payment delays lengthen to 15.65 days, with retail, hospitality and travel services likely to be at greatest risk.	
Panama	Business continuity improves as cargo transit efficiency is enhanced by an increase in the draught limit for vessels transiting the Panama Canal.	
United Arab Emirates	Political and security risk should improve as the UAE responds to US pressure to adopt a less assertive foreign policy, but Iranian reaction could still raise risks.	

To learn more about how these improvements have been designed to meet your needs when trading overseas, please use the contact details below

### Looking For Different Countries?

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### D&B Country Insight Services

D&B's Country Insight Snapshots above are written by a team of highly skilled analysts in D&B's Country Insight Services team using exclusive data from its global network of reporting offices as well as primary and secondary data from national and international sources.

These snapshot reports provide a succinct assessment of the risk of doing business in a country, given its economic, political and commercial situation.

To find out more information on the products and services available from D&B's Country Insight Services team email: [CountryInsight@dnb.com](mailto:CountryInsight@dnb.com).

Classification: Public

## World Snapshot - Recent News & Events

To obtain full analysis please contact your [local D&B Office](#).

### AFRICA

**Mozambique:** Business continuity risks are elevated due to an escalation of the Covid-19 outbreak across southern Africa and a fresh round of virus containment measures in Mozambique.

**Tunisia:** The risk rating has been downgraded because the persistent economic crisis has triggered violent protests, which will remain significant through 2021.

### MIDDLE EAST

**Jordan:** Market potential, which was already weak prior to the global pandemic, will remain constrained into 2022 at least as the country struggles to access Covid-19 vaccines.

**United Arab Emirates** Political and security risk should improve as the UAE responds to US pressure to adopt a less assertive foreign policy, but Iranian reaction could still raise risks.

### WESTERN EUROPE

**France:** Business failures are expected to rise as payment delays lengthen to 15.65 days, with retail, hospitality and travel services likely to be at greatest risk.

**Spain:** The short-term economic outlook is clouded by the slow rollout of coronavirus vaccine, posing a serious threat to companies operating in the vulnerable service sector.

### EASTERN EUROPE

**Latvia:** Physical retail trade businesses are facing an extended period of strict lockdowns, and should explore alternative strategies for reaching customers.

**Russian Federation:** Political risk has risen amid mass anti-government protests, but the Kremlin's grip on power does not face any serious challenges.

### ASIA PACIFIC

**Afghanistan:** Political/insecurity risk is set to remain elevated after the Biden administration recently indicated that it plans to leave some US troops in Afghanistan.

**China:** The broadening of the recovery into transportation and hospitality in Q4 was encouraging, and the credit environment outlook is improving despite new epidemic controls in January.

### AMERICAS

**Panama:** Business continuity improves as cargo transit efficiency is enhanced by an increase in the draught limit for vessels transiting the Panama Canal.

**United States of America:** The short-term economic outlook improves with the adoption of a budget resolution, clearing the way for major components of the administration's proposed USD1.9trn fiscal package.