

Country Insight Update

2019 February



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

Our forecast for global growth in 2019 remains solid at 2.9%, but a number of interrelated factors are due to weigh on global growth prospects in 2019 and into 2020.

These factors are: slowing Chinese growth (including recessions in some sectors); protectionist headwinds; general policy uncertainty; and concerns over global financing conditions – driven in part by uncertainty over the speed of monetary normalisation in the context of the heavy accrual of debt in both OECD and emerging economies in the past decade.

Corporate earnings do not always have macroeconomic significance. However, Samsung reported lower y/y earnings in Q4 2018, Ford reported y/y falls in Asia-Pacific revenue due to the China market, Caterpillar's construction industry sales for Asia-Pacific fell by 4% y/y, and Apple's guidance for the current quarter was disappointing.

The common denominator may be China, where the shift in consumer sentiment has been swift.

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.

Australia

Slower Chinese growth may have far-reaching implications for the Australian economy.



Germany

Lower oil prices help the rupee but will not accelerate the economy.



Brazil

Consumer price inflation will remain subdued in H1



World Snapshot

Recent News & Events

AFRICA

Tunisia: A general strike brings Tunisia to a complete standstill.

Zambia: Dun & Bradstreet downgrades its rating outlook for Zambia after regulatory and fiscal changes unsettle the mining sector.

MIDDLE EAST

Jordan: Growth remains anaemic, putting pressure on businesses.

United Arab Emirates: The IMF commends the government's recent policy initiatives.

WESTERN EUROPE

France: Muted economic growth is expected as headwinds strengthen.

Spain: The economy looks set to grow, but downside risks are rising.

EASTERN EUROPE

Latvia: Parliament approves a new coalition government.

Russian Federation: Growth was robust in 2018 but market sentiment remains low.

ASIAN PACIFIC

China: A slowdown in industrial output and investment looks to be under way.

India: The Reserve Bank of India cuts interest rates amid weakening inflation.

AMERICAS

Brazil: Consumer price inflation will remain subdued in H1.

United States of America: Labour market strength continues to defy expectations.

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.

D&B Country Insight Services provides analysis on over 130 countries worldwide and its products are available for purchase online by D&B subscribers.

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