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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Penny Phua, Marcom & Product Manager
penny.phua@dnb.com.sg
+65 6513 8336

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

End of good run as global insolvency risks heighten in 2H11 - D&B Global Insolvency Index

Singapore, 19 September 2011– The number of business failures in Singapore has dropped significantly riding along global insolvency trends falling to their lowest level in nearly four years. This report comes as a sign of optimism amidst the negativity that has shrouded global business sentiments of late.

In Q2 2011, the level of global insolvencies fell to its lowest since Q3 2007, a surprising insight despite the economic slowdown since the second half of this year. As measured by the D&B Global Insolvency Index, the index fell to 92.7 in Q2, down from 95.2 in Q1 this year. The index has dipped significantly since peaking at 108.3 in Q1 2009.

D&B proprietary regional data shows that the level of insolvencies in Q2 2011 continued to fall more sharply in emerging economies than in advanced ones. All regions except Euroland, which has been hit by the impact of the sovereign debt crisis in several countries, saw year-on-year decreases in insolvencies in Q2. Eastern Europe was the region with the sharpest fall in business failures in Q2, followed by North America, Emerging Asia and the Nordic region. At a country level, Singapore has joined the likes of South Africa, Brazil and Poland reporting one of the strongest declines in business failure levels.

D&B Global Insolvency Index (Q2 2010=100)



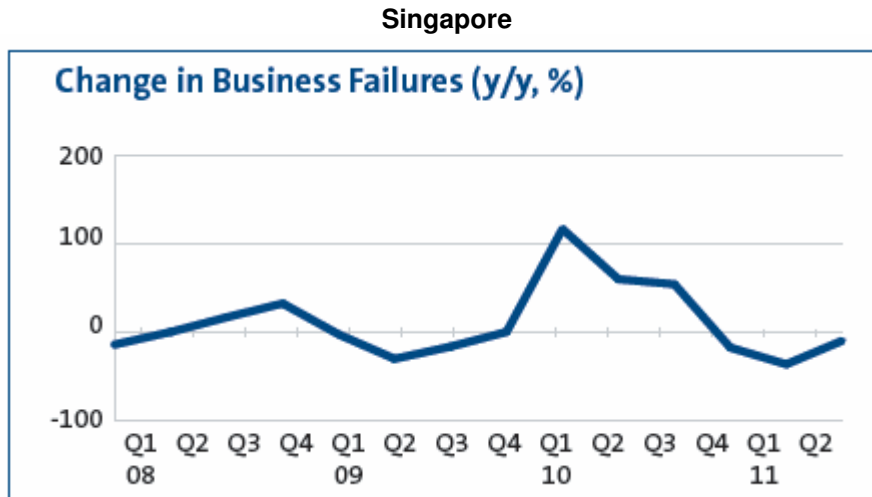
Sources: National Statistics Offices, D&B

Global Insolvency Data for Q2 2011

	D&B Global Insolvency Index	Year on year change (%)	
		Q2 11	yr to Q2
World	92.7	-7.3	-7.1
Advanced economies	94.3	-5.7	-5.8
North America	87.5	-12.5	-4.0
Euroland	101.5	1.5	-2.2
Nordic Region	93.5	-6.5	-8.7
Emerging economies (ex. China)	88.2	-11.8	-11.3
Emerging Asia (ex. China)	87.8	-12.2	-3.4
Eastern Europe	75.4	-24.6	-15.4



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Dun & Bradstreet Singapore observed local business failures falling to 10 per cent year-on-year in Q2, 2011, compared to a 36.8 per cent year-on-year fall in Q1, 2011. Nevertheless, the weakening global backdrop is a cause for concern. Caution should be drawn from Euroland’s Q2 increase in business insolvencies as an indication that the global economic recovery is running out of steam. The global slowdown is likely to compromise corporate profitability and payment performance, leading to an eventual reversal of the recent downward trend in insolvency levels towards the end of 2011 and into 2012.

D&B is keeping Singapore’s risk indicator trend at ‘stable’, but downside risks remain high. The outlook for the global economy has worsened, while Singapore’s economy has demonstrated some volatility and vulnerability. Mr Yun Kok Siong, Dun & Bradstreet Singapore Chief Executive Officer commented, “The world economy is facing a turning point. Issues in Europe and the US are far from being over. The debt problems shrouding the global economy were never resolved, rather just postponing the inevitable when economic woes will reach critical mass and tip markets into a global recession.”

In October, D&B Singapore will be offering *Portfolio Manager*, a new analysis tool that will allow companies to have a better understanding and monitoring of their customers’ risk profiles in order to initiate preemptive measures to safeguard their business interests.

A full copy of D&B Global Business Failures report, September 2011 is available upon request to the press.

Commentary

About D&B Global Insolvency Index

The D&B Global Insolvency Index is a D&B Country Risk Services product calculated as the weighted average of the insolvency index for each country based on the information available.

The D&B Global Insolvency Index aggregates the indices for 30 countries organised in seven regions covering more than 70% of global GDP. The country's GDP (nominal terms) in US dollars provides the weighting for each national insolvency index. The D&B Global Insolvency Index benchmark value is 100 for Q2 2010. An increase in the index implies more negative events concerning insolvencies, while a decrease represents a positive development.

About D&B Country Risk Services

D&B's suite of Country Risk products are produced by a team of highly skilled regional analysts using exclusive data from D&B's network of reporting offices and D&B's database of over 130 million companies worldwide. Our analysis is supplemented by primary data from national and international sources and secondary data from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and other multilateral organizations, providing a unique insight into the relative performance of different countries.

About D&B

D&B is the world's leading provider of business-to-business credit, marketing and purchasing information and receivables management services. D&B manages the world's most valuable commercial database with information on more than 195 million businesses.

Information is gathered in over 200 countries, in 95 languages or dialects, covering 186 monetary currencies. The database is refreshed more than one million times daily as part of D&B's commitment to provide accurate, comprehensive information for its customers around the world.

Contact Penny Phua at 6513 8336/ penny.phua@dnb.com.sg for more information.