

Statistical bulletin

Mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies: July to September 2018

Transactions which result in a change of ultimate control of the target company and have a value of £1 million or more.

Contact:
Mergers and Acquisitions team
MA@ons.gov.uk

Release date:
4 December 2018

Next release:
5 March 2019

Table of contents

1. [Main points](#)
2. [Things you need to know about this release](#)
3. [The value and number of inward M&A declined in Quarter 3 2018](#)
4. [The value of outward M&A increased in Quarter 3 2018](#)
5. [The value of domestic M&A in Quarter 3 2018 saw a notable decline](#)
6. [M&A activity during 2017 was higher compared with averages for 2012 to 2016](#)
7. [External evidence suggests business investment intentions remained positive](#)
8. [Data revisions](#)
9. [Response rates](#)
10. [Links to related statistics](#)
11. [Quality and methodology](#)
12. [Background notes](#)
13. [Disclosure](#)
14. [Discussing ONS business statistics online](#)
15. [Annex 1: Changes to how mergers and acquisitions statistics are collected and produced](#)

1 . Main points

- The value of inward mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018 was £3.5 billion, the lowest value since Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2017; the value of inward disposals also declined reporting a value of £1.8 billion, the lowest since Quarter 4 2017.
- Outward M&A values were reported at £4.5 billion in Quarter 3 2018, up £2.0 billion on the previous quarter (Apr to June 2018); in comparison, the value of outward disposals (£5.0 billion) was the highest since Quarter 3 2017.
- The value of domestic M&A was £3.0 billion in Quarter 3 2018, which was £9.0 billion lower than the previous quarter and the first quarterly decline since Quarter 4 2016.
- In Quarter 3 2018, the number of M&A transactions fell for all directions of M&A (inward, outward and domestic).
- M&A statistics from Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018 fully incorporate the new data source and methods announced in the previous bulletin; this new data source has improved the coverage of smaller M&A transactions and therefore result in a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported; users are therefore advised to take care when comparing the latest estimates with the number of transactions reported for previous quarters (see Annex 1 for more information).

2 . Things you need to know about this release

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) occur when one company takes control of another company. The internationally-agreed definition of a M&A deal is when one company gains more than 50% of the ordinary shares (or voting rights) of the acquired company. These can be domestic transactions – where a UK-based company acquires another UK company – or international. Outward M&A transactions are when a UK-based company gains control of another company overseas, while inward M&A are from overseas companies acquiring UK companies.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) produces statistics on the number and value of M&A transactions. This information is presented in the following way:

- transactions are only recorded in ONS statistics once the deal has been legally completed
- each transaction has a value of at least £1 million
- the transactions results in a change of ultimate control of the target company
- all values are in current prices, and therefore have not been adjusted for the effects of inflation

These four bullet points are among the main reasons ONS M&A statistics can differ from those reported in other sources. There can be a substantial time gap between the point at which a deal is announced and when it is legally completed. In some cases, announced M&A deals do not take place. ONS statistics on disposals (or de-mergers) are also included in tables alongside this bulletin. These are typically fewer in number per quarter, which can lead to greater suppression of statistics to mitigate disclosure. The focus of this bulletin is on acquisitions although some of the more complex deals can include the disposal of some part of the newly-created corporate structure.

It is not uncommon for the value of quarterly M&A transactions to vary considerably from one quarter to the next. This mainly reflects the nature of M&A activity in that these capture one-off deals. Therefore, if a particularly high-value M&A deal completes in a given quarter, it can make that quarter seem out-of-line with those that precede and follow it. Details of any notable M&A deals that completed in Quarter 3 2018 can be found in the respective sections of this bulletin. This also makes it difficult to link M&A statistics with other economic indicators – like gross domestic product (GDP) – or global events because of the time it can take between announcing and completing a M&A deal. It can therefore be more informative to look at longer-term trends within M&A statistics rather than focusing on quarter-to-quarter movements.

We have recently undertaken a review of the data sources used for identifying completed M&A transactions and creating the sampling frame for M&A involving UK companies. It has replaced the use of multiple online public sources with one comprehensive commercial data source (provided by Bureau van Dijk) for identifying completed and successful M&A transactions. It also uses values from this commercial data source to estimate for transaction values worth less than £100 million, while surveys continue to be dispatched to companies to collect information directly on any transactions identified as exceeding £100 million – which generally dominate reported headline values. More information about these changes can be found in Annex 1 of this bulletin.

From Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018, the M&A statistics fully incorporated the new data source and methods announced in the previous bulletin. This new data source has improved the coverage of smaller M&A transactions and therefore result in a discontinuity in the number of completed M&A transactions when compared with previous quarters. In contrast, the overall value of M&A transactions from Quarter 1 2018 remains consistent and largely unchanged.

Supplementary information about mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies was published in a recent article: [UK mergers and acquisitions in context, activity by industry: 2015 to 2017](#).

3 . The value and number of inward M&A declined in Quarter 3 2018

The estimates for the value of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) of UK companies made by foreign companies over Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018 saw a notable decline when compared with the value recorded during Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018, while also reflecting a sizeable fall in the number of transactions that completed.

The total value of inward M&A in Quarter 3 2018 was £3.5 billion, showing a decrease of £2.7 billion compared with the value of £6.2 billion for the previous quarter. This was the lowest value for inward M&A since Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2017. There were no inward M&A transactions with values above £1.0 billion that completed during Quarter 3 2018.

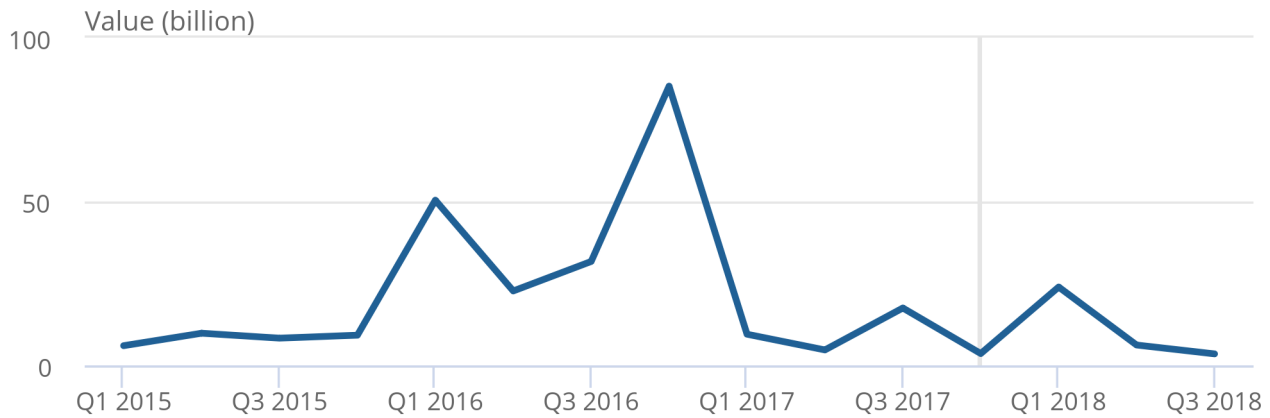
There was also a fall in the estimates for the number of completed inward M&A deals in Quarter 3 2018 (108 deals) compared with Quarter 2 2018 (169 deals).

Figure 1a: Value of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

Figure 1a: Value of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September, and Quarter 4 covers October to December.
2. Users are advised that a new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 (January to March) 2018. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.
3. All values are at current prices (See Section 1: Things you need to know about this release).
4. .. denotes disclosive figures.

Figure 1b: Number of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

Figure 1b: Number of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September, and Quarter 4 covers October to December.
2. Users are advised that a new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 (January to March) 2018. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.
3. .. denotes disclosive figures.

Notable inward acquisitions – each valued at £100 million or above – that took place in Quarter 3 2018

[Novo Nordisk A/S of Denmark acquired Ziylo Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 82KB\)](#)

[Archer-Daniels Midland Company of the USA acquired Probiotics International Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 367KB\)](#)

[Federated Investors Inc of the USA acquired Hermes Fund Managers Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 184KB\)](#)

[Nomad Foods Ltd of The British Virgin Islands acquired Aunt Bessie's Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 117KB\)](#)

[Stamps.com Inc of the USA acquired Metapack Ltd of the UK](#)

[Roche Holding AG of Luxembourg acquired Tusk Therapeutics Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 201KB\)](#)

There were also 33 inward disposals made abroad by UK companies involving a change of majority share ownership during Quarter 3 2018. These were worth £1.8 billion, the lowest value recorded since Quarter 4 2017.

One notable inward disposal that took place in Quarter 3 2018

[Droia Oncology Ventures of Switzerland disposed of Tusk Therapeutics Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 201KB\)](#)

4 . The value of outward M&A increased in Quarter 3 2018

The latest estimate for the value of outward mergers and acquisitions (M&A) of foreign companies by UK companies during Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018 was £4.5 billion. This was a £2.0 billion increase when compared with the previous quarter, but similar to the value reported for Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2017.

The total number of outward M&A deals reached 62 in Quarter 3 2018. This represents a decrease of 14 acquisitions on the number of deals reported for the previous quarter (Apr to June).

Figure 2a: Value of acquisitions abroad by UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

Figure 2a: Value of acquisitions abroad by UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

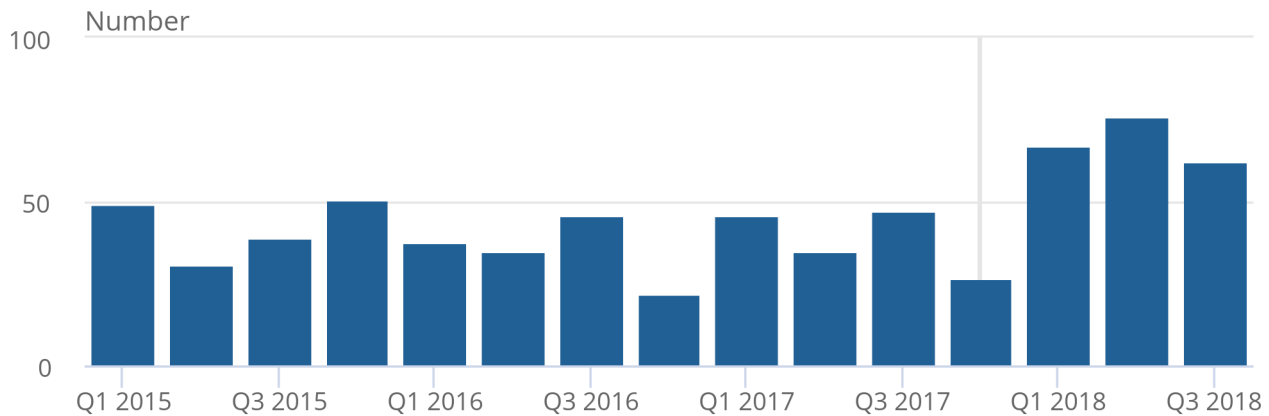
1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September, and Quarter 4 covers October to December.
2. Users are advised that a new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 (January to March) 2018. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.
1. All values are at current prices (See Section 1: Things you need to know about this release).
2. .. denotes disclosive figures.

Figure 2b: Number of acquisitions abroad by UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

Figure 2b: Number of acquisitions abroad by UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September, and Quarter 4 covers October to December.
 2. Users are advised that a new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 (January to March) 2018. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.
1. .. denotes disclosive figures.

Notable outward acquisitions – each valued at £100 million or above – that took place during Quarter 3 2018

[S4 Capital Ltd of the UK acquired Mediamonks Multimedia Holding B.V of the Netherlands](#)

[Future Plc of the UK acquired Business Consumer \(B2C\) business unit of the USA](#)

[BTG Plc of the UK acquired Novate Medical Ltd of Ireland](#)

[Royal Mail Plc of the UK acquired Dicom Transportation Group Canada Inc of Canada](#)

[Diageo Plc of the UK acquired Sichuan Shuijingfang Co Ltd of China](#)

There were 12 outward disposals that completed during Quarter 3 2018. These were worth £5.0 billion, recording an increase of £2.2 billion on the value of 13 transactions during Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018, and was the highest value of outward disposals since Quarter 3 2017.

Notable outward disposals – each valued at £100 million or above – that took place during Quarter 3 2018

[Liberty Global Plc of the UK disposed of UPC Austria GmbH of Austria \(PDF, 196KB\)](#)

[Aviva Plc of the UK disposed of Cajamurcia Vida Y Pensiones De Seguros Y Reaseguros SA of Spain](#)

5 . The value of domestic M&A in Quarter 3 2018 saw a notable decline

The Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018 estimate for the value of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) between UK companies (domestic M&A) was notably lower than for the previous quarter because there were no acquisitions with values of £1.0 billion and above.

Domestic M&A totalled £3.0 billion in Quarter 3 2018, compared with £12.0 billion in Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018, a decline of £9.0 billion.

One high-valued M&A transaction that completed in the previous quarter (Apr to June) was [Melrose Industries Plc of the UK, which acquired GKN Plc of the UK](#). This acquisition largely explains the notable decline seen in the latest estimates for the value of domestic M&A during Quarter 3 2018.

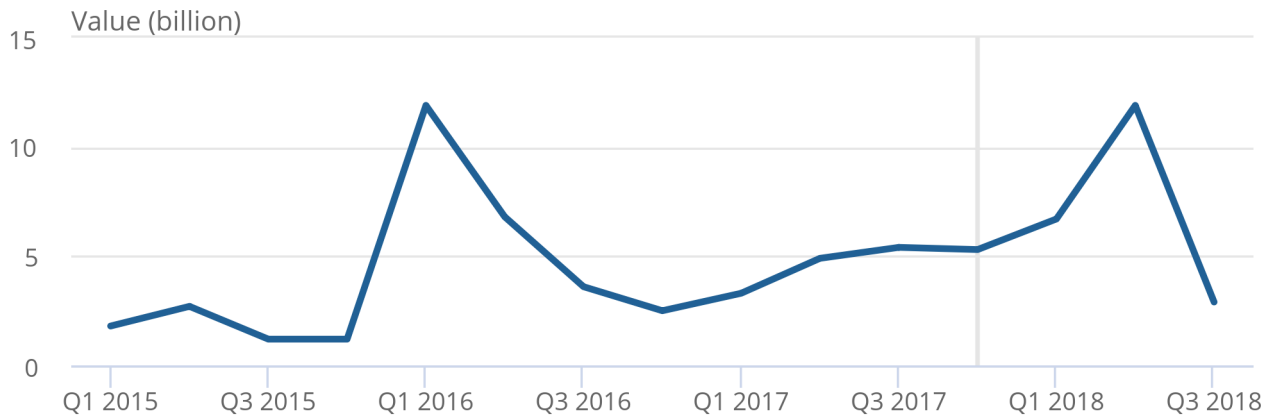
The number of completed domestic acquisitions in Quarter 3 2018 reached 212 deals, 12 deals fewer than in Quarter 2 2018 and 22 fewer than in Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018.

Figure 3a: Value of acquisitions in the UK by other UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

Figure 3a: Value of acquisitions in the UK by other UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

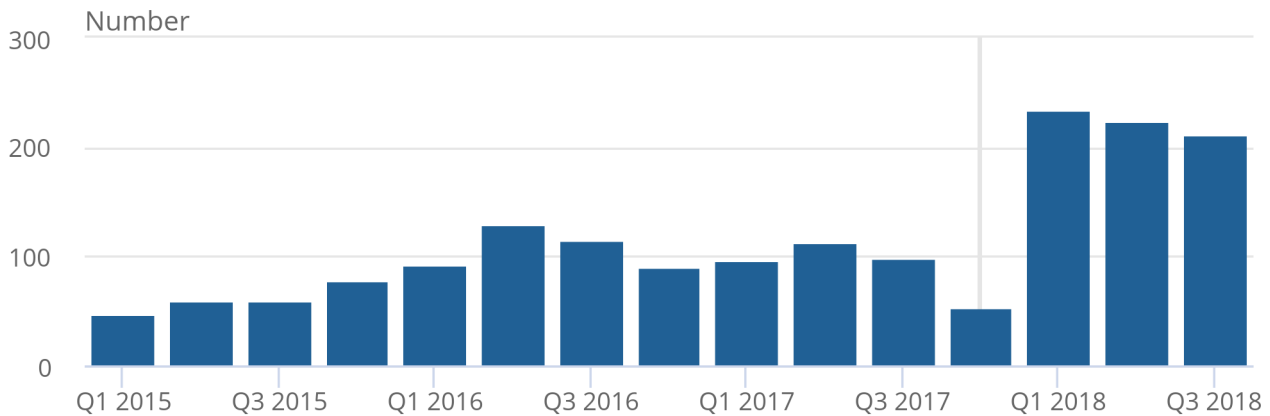
1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September, and Quarter 4 covers October to December.
2. Users are advised that a new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 (January to March) 2018. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.
1. All values are at current prices (See Section 1: Things you need to know about this release).
2. .. denotes disclosive figures.

Figure 3b: Number of acquisitions in the UK by other UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

Figure 3b: Number of acquisitions in the UK by other UK companies

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes:

1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September, and Quarter 4 covers October to December.
2. Users are advised that a new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 (July to September) 2018. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.
3. .. denotes disclosive figures.

Notable domestic acquisitions – each valued at £100 million or above – that took place in Quarter 3 2018

[ITE Group Plc of the UK acquired Ascential Events Ltd of the UK](#)

[Rathbone Brothers Plc of the UK acquired Speirs and Jeffrey Ltd of the UK](#)

6 . M&A activity during 2017 was higher compared with averages for 2012 to 2016

The longer-term trend in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity has been one of decreasing numbers and values for outward and domestic M&A. This can be seen in Table 1, which presents the average quarterly number and value of each type of M&A transaction over five-year intervals since 1997. For example, there was an average of 128 outward acquisitions per quarter between 1997 and 2001 and this decreased to an average of 30 transactions between 2012 and 2016. The average value of outward acquisitions also fell from £20.4 billion to £4.5 billion.

By contrast, the numbers of inward acquisitions have decreased on average per quarter since 1997 yet the values have increased. There were 54 inward transactions at £9.9 billion on average per quarter between 1997 and 2001 compared with 41 transactions at £14.4 billion on average between 2012 and 2016.

Table 1: Mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies, five-year and long-term intervals, 1997 to Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

	Abroad by UK companies		Overseas companies in the UK		Between UK companies	
	Average number	Average value	Average number	Average value	Average number	Average value
1997 - Q3 2018	74	10.3	52	11.3	123	6.2
1997-2001	128	20.4	54	9.9	136	10.9
2002-2006	79	6.8	46	9.2	164	6.4
2007-2011	67	8.0	54	11.8	121	4.8
2012-2016	30	4.5	41	14.4	68	2.5
2017 - Q2 2018	50	14.3	95	10.9	137	6.2
Q3 2018	62	4.5	108	3.5	212	2.9

Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. At Quarter 1 2010, the deal identification threshold was raised for the mergers and acquisitions surveys from £0.1 million to £1 million. There is therefore a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported as illustrated in the table.
2. Quarter 1 is January to March 2018; Quarter 2 April to June 2018; Quarter 3 July to September 2018; Quarter 4 is October to December 2018.
3. At Quarter 3 2018, the actual number of completed deals is used to calculate the average value per transaction.
4. Users are advised that a new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 (January to March) 2018 and consequently there is a discontinuity in the number of deals reported. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.

The impact of some very-high-valued M&A, which completed in 2017, can be seen in the average quarterly values for both outward and domestic M&A deals between the six quarters of Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2017 to Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018. During this period, the average value of M&A abroad by UK companies (outward M&A) was £14.3 billion compared with a much smaller average value of £4.5 billion during 2012 to 2016. Likewise, M&A between UK companies (domestic M&A) also saw a notable increase in quarterly values during Quarter 1 2017 to Quarter 2 2018 (£6.2 billion) compared with £2.5 billion over 2012 to 2016.

Similarly, the increase in the value of M&A by overseas companies into the UK (inward M&A) over 2015 and 2016 led to the value of this activity averaging £14.4 billion per quarter for 2012 to 2016 compared with a much smaller quarterly average value of £10.9 billion during Quarter 1 2017 to Quarter 2 2018.

During Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018, all M&A activity saw notable falls in their quarterly average values when compared with previous five-year intervals, which mainly reflects the lack of large-value transactions seen in previous periods. In contrast, there were increases in the numbers of completed deals reported for inward, outward and domestic M&A activity. These increases are attributable to the new method for compiling M&A statistics – introduced from Quarter 1 2018 – and hence there is a discontinuity in the number of completed transactions reported (see Annex 1 for more information).

7 . External evidence suggests business investment intentions remained positive

Global mergers, acquisitions and disposals activity can be driven by the availability of credit. Therefore, when credit conditions deteriorate, as happened in the 2008 to 2009 economic downturn, mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity declines. M&A activity can also be affected by the economic outlook and company profits, in addition to a range of other economic factors. The process of completing a M&A transaction takes time and sometimes there may be a lag between improving economic conditions and any change in M&A activity.

[The Bank of England's Credit Conditions Survey for Quarter 3 2018](#) reported that “the overall availability of credit to the corporate sector was reported to have been unchanged in Quarter 3 2018. Within this, the availability of credit provided to small businesses was reported to have increased in Quarter 3 2018 and was unchanged for medium and large businesses. The overall availability of credit to the corporate sector was expected to decrease slightly in Quarter 4 2018”.

[The Bank of England's Agent's Summary of Business Conditions \(PDF, 149KB\)](#) report update for Quarter 3 2018, stated that “growth in business services activity was slightly weaker but remained healthy. Softer corporate financing and mergers and acquisition activity followed a period of elevated demand as some companies sought to complete deals before Brexit”. The same report stated that “bank credit remained readily available for larger companies and those with strong balance sheets, with banks competing on price and non-price terms to win creditworthy borrowers. However, conditions were less favourable for small companies, and availability of all forms of credit, including trade credit insurance, has tightened for construction, consumer-facing and agricultural firms in recent months”.

[The Bank of England's Inflation Report for August 2018](#) reported that “business investment growth is expected to have picked back up in Quarter 2 2018 and to remain a little above its past average rate in coming quarters but subdued compared with previous recoveries. That is consistent with survey measures of investment intentions. Investment is likely to remain sensitive to developments in Brexit and the prospects for global growth”.

8 . Data revisions

Data for Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) and Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018 have been revised in the light of new information:

- mergers and acquisitions (M&A) data for Quarter 2 2018 have been revised to include the successful domestic M&A transaction for [Melrose Industries Plc of the UK, which acquired GKN Plc of the UK](#)
 - the Quarter 1 2018 M&A statistics presented in the M&A bulletin for Quarter 2 2018 were based on a mixture of old and new process; however, these have been adjusted using the new data source and process to ensure continuity across all three quarters of 2018 (see Annex 1)

No further revisions to estimates prior to Quarter 1 2018 have been made. Therefore, time series statistics for all quarters of 2017 and any previous historic quarterly periods remain unchanged.

Annual data tables for 2017 are produced in conjunction with the Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2017 data outputs. Revisions to the 2017 quarterly and annual figures were recalculated at Quarter 1 2018 only. Therefore, no revisions to annual estimates prior to 2017 have been made and subsequently the time series for previous historic annual periods remains unchanged.

Revisions to the aggregates used in M&A principally occur for several reasons.

Completion of transactions

On announcement of a proposed transaction an expected completion date is usually given. These values will be allocated to the quarter of expected completion. If the transaction is ultimately completed in an earlier or later quarter, the recorded values will be reallocated to the new quarter.

Publicly-reported values

Publicly-reported values are used for low-value transactions (those below £100 million). These are also initially used to compile estimates of higher-value transactions (over £100 million) in cases where a survey has not been returned in time, which can result in some revisions as the ultimate value supplied by the respondents can differ, frequently because the assumption of debt has been included in the publicly-reported value. An imputed value is applied if no publicly-reported value is available. The final values used to create the aggregates are those supplied by the respondent for large transactions (over £100 million) and publicly-available information for smaller transactions (below £100 million).

Non-completion of transactions

On announcement of a proposed transaction, the publicly-reported value of the transaction is recorded. If the transaction does not subsequently take place, the recorded value will be deleted.

Non-share transactions

On announcement of a proposed transaction it may appear that there will be transactions in the share capital of the companies involved and the publicly-reported values will be recorded. If subsequent information contradicts this the recorded values will be amended or deleted.

Control

On announcement of a proposed transaction it may appear that the transaction will give the purchasing company control of the target company, that is, a share ownership greater than 50%. If subsequent information contradicts this, the recorded values will be amended or deleted.

Revisions from respondents

Very occasionally respondents revise the values that they have previously supplied to us. The revised values are those used to create the aggregates.

Table 2: Average revisions by number, Quarter 2 (April to June) 2018

	First Published Number (Quarter 2 2018)	Number in Latest Revised Period (Quarter 3 2018)	Average Revision (Quarter 2 2017 to Quarter 2 2018)
Number of Outward Acquisitions	75	76	9
Number of Outward Disposals	8	13	7
Number of Inward Acquisitions	182	169	14
Number of Inward Disposals	11	33	6
Number of Domestic Acquisitions	244	224	23

Notes

1. Quarter 2 is Apr to June 2018; Quarter 3 is July to Sept 2018.
2. * Significant Revision," Suppressed.

Table 3: Average revisions by value, Quarter 2 (April to June) 2018

	First Published Value (Quarter 2 2018)	Value in Latest Revised Period (Quarter 3 2018)	Average Revision (Quarter 2 2017 to Quarter 2 2018)	Average without Regard to Sign (Quarter 2 2017 to Quarter 2 2018)
Value of Outward Acquisitions	1,917	2,531	-3,151	4,167
Value of Outward Disposals	2,764	2,823	951	951
Value of Inward Acquisitions	6,502	6,215	527	698
Value of Inward Disposals	2,855	3,242	3	264
Value of Domestic Acquisitions	4,014	11,872	1,738	1,827

Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. Quarter 2 is Apr to June 2018; Quarter 3 is July to Sept 2018.
2. * Significant Revision.
3. " Suppressed.

Analysing average revisions between provisional and final estimates can provide an indication of reliability in an initial statistic. Provisional statistics may be based on less information than is available for final statistics as they have been processed more quickly to meet the demand of customers. By looking at these average revisions it can help us determine whether revisions are being made consistently in one direction if early estimates are consistently under or over-estimating the later figures. A test is subsequently performed on these average revisions to determine if they are statistically different from zero. Revisions that are not statistically significant imply that an average revision might be non-zero simply through random effects.

9 . Response rates

Table 4: Response rates for Quarter 2 (April to June) 2018 and Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions (CBAM) Outwards

Statistics of Sample Size – Latest Survey Conducted:

Reference Period	Quarter 2 2018	Quarter 3 2018
Response Rate (%)	81%	88%

Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions (CBAM) Inwards

Statistics of Sample Size – Latest Survey Conducted:

Reference Period	Quarter 2 2018	Quarter 3 2018
Response Rate (%)	82%	92%

Domestic Mergers and Acquisitions (DAM)

Statistics of Sample Size – Latest Survey Conducted:

Reference Period	Quarter 2 2018	Quarter 3 2018
Response Rate (%)	100%	85%

Source: Office for National Statistics

Notes

1. Previous quarter has been revised
2. latest quarter is provisional.
3. Quarter 2 is Apr to June 2018; Quarter 3 is July to Sept 2018.

10 . Links to related statistics

This bulletin includes information on the high-value mergers and acquisitions (M&A) that completed in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018. Details for the high-value transactions in previous quarters can be found in the respective [bulletins for each quarter](#).

Cross-border mergers and acquisitions are also a component of foreign direct investment (FDI). More information on FDI involving the UK can be found in the [quarterly balance of payments](#) and [annual foreign direct investment](#) statistical bulletins. However, identifying the precise impact of mergers and acquisitions on FDI and the balance of payments is not immediately obvious owing to different measurement principles. In addition, FDI statistics also include other components, such as the acquisition of ordinary shares that does not result in a change of majority share ownership; in other words, transactions acquiring between 10% and 50% of the voting rights.

11 . Quality and methodology

The [Mergers and Acquisitions Quality and Methodology Information](#) report contains important information on:

- the strengths and limitations of these data and how it compares with related data
- uses and users of these data
- how the output was created
- the quality of the output including the accuracy of these data

12 . Background notes

The Cross-Borders Acquisitions and Mergers Survey (M&A) data are used in the compilation of the estimates of foreign direct investment (FDI). These data meet the needs of FDI by collecting data on all acquisitions that lead to a holding in excess of 10% of the issued share capital. The M&A estimates feed into the UK Balance of Payments and Financial Accounts, for which there is an EU legal requirement. Individual transaction information is also used to estimate the counterpart in “portfolio” investment flows for monthly balance of payments.

Data collected are also used in updating business structures and country of ownership codes on the Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR). The IDBR is a comprehensive list of UK businesses that is used by government for statistical purposes.

Feedback from users has indicated that the information received from the M&A survey has a high degree of relevance across many user groups, meets the vast majority of user needs, and all information currently collected and published is used.

Notable M&A transactions

Listings of notable M&A transactions with deal values of £100 million and above are provided within the text of the M&A statistical bulletin. The information shown is taken from each relevant company’s press release, which is available within the public domain. A direct link to each press release is provided. Should a company request that details of the transaction be kept confidential then the deal is excluded. However, the values are included in the aggregate tables. Occasionally, therefore, a large deal may be missing (suppressed) from the lists so it is best to regard these tables as an indication of the ranking of deals rather than a completely exhaustive listing.

Press reported figures for M&A transactions often differ to some extent from those supplied by companies to us and it is the latter that are used in compiling statistical aggregates in Tables 1 to 10. Included in the prices quoted in the tables of significant transactions is the total published price paid for the company excluding any assumed debt where known. Deferred payments are included in the reported price even if the payment is made in a different quarter.

Definition of M&A transactions

Mergers are acquisitions in which all or part of the payment is made in shares, such that the shareholders of the two companies become shareholders of a new, combined company group.

Demergers are disposals where a company group divides into two or more separate companies, in such a way that the shareholders of the restructured companies remain the same, or retain the equivalent value shareholding in one of the newly independent companies. Demergers are included in the statistics within disposals.

Acquisitions are transactions which involve one company purchasing the ordinary shares of a second company ("target company"). A target company is usually of a smaller size than the company undertaking the purchase.

Disposal is a term used to describe the action when a company or organisation sells or liquidates the ordinary shares of a second company ("target company").

Cross-border acquisitions denote transactions where a company in one country acquires, either directly or indirectly, a controlling interest in a company in another country.

Direct transactions are those where a company acquires a controlling interest in another company.

Indirect transactions are those where a company uses an existing foreign subsidiary to acquire a controlling interest in a company resident in another country. The acquiring foreign intermediate company may be located in the same country in which the acquisition is being made or in a different country.

Acquisitions within the UK by other UK companies denote mergers and acquisitions involving only UK-registered companies.

Where the acquired company was a subsidiary of another company the transaction is classified as a sale between company groups.

The phrase "acquisitions in the UK by UK companies" refer to deals where the ultimate ownership remains in the UK. This heading does not cover the total number or value of deals where a UK company is the acquirer. When a foreign company acquires a UK company through one of its existing UK subsidiaries or a UK-registered special purpose vehicle that deal is shown as part of the data under "acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies".

Acquisition of independent companies

The acquisition of an independent company means the purchase of a company in its entirety – the company itself and all of its subsidiaries.

Acquisition of subsidiary companies

The acquisition of a subsidiary company means the purchase of part of a company.

Financing

This statistical bulletin provides details of the application of funds to effect mergers and acquisitions and the proceeds raised from disinvestments and demergers.

For indirect foreign transactions there is the added complication of considering the movements of funds either as capital injection or in the form of loans between parent companies and their foreign subsidiaries making the acquisition. Occasionally, the foreign subsidiary obtains the funds required partly or entirely outside the UK from sources such as:

- own resources
- borrowing from banks and other local sources
- share, bond and other capital or notes issued abroad

Also, a transaction may be funded by more than one method.

Definitions of geographic and economic areas

Table 5: Definition of geographic and economic areas

Europe

EU	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia
	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia
	Finland	France	Germany	Greece
	Hungary	Irish Republic	Italy	Latvia
	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands
	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia
	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	
	Other European Countries	Albania	Andorra	Belarus	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Faroe Islands		Gibraltar	Iceland	Kosovo
Liechtenstein		Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of	Moldova	Montenegro
Norway		Russian Federation	San Marino	Serbia
Switzerland		Turkey	Ukraine	UK Offshore Islands (Guernsey, Jersey, other Channel Islands and Isle of Man)
Vatican City State				

The Americas

Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina	Aruba	Bahamas
Barbados	Belize	Bermuda	Bolivia	Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
Brazil	British Virgin Islands	Canada	Cayman Islands	Chile
Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Curacao	Dominica
Dominican Republic	Ecuador	El Salvador	Falkland Islands	Greenland
Grenada	Guatemala	Guyana	Haiti	Honduras
Jamaica	Mexico	Montserrat	Nicaragua	Panama
Paraguay	Peru	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	Sint Maarten
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago	Turks and Caicos Islands	Uruguay
US Virgin Islands	USA	Venezuela		

Asia

Afghanistan	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Bahrain	Bangladesh
Bhutan	Brunei Darussalam	Burma/Myanmar	Cambodia	China
Georgia	Hong Kong	India	Indonesia	Iran
Iraq	Israel	Japan	Jordan	Kazakhstan
Kuwait	Kyrgyzstan	Laos	Lebanon	Macao
Malaysia	Maldives	Mongolia	Nepal	North Korea

Oman	Pakistan	Palestinian Territory	Philippines	Qatar
Saudi Arabia	Singapore	South Korea	Sri Lanka	Syria
Taiwan	Tajikistan	Thailand	Timor - Leste	Turkmenistan
United Arab Emirates	Uzbekistan	Viet Nam	Yemen	
Australasia and Oceania				
American Samoa	Antarctica	Australia	Bouvet Island	Christmas Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Cook Islands	French Polynesia	French Southern and Antarctic Lands	Fiji
Guam	Heard Island and Macdonald Islands	Kiribati	Marshall Islands	Micronesia, Federated States of
Nauru	New Caledonia	New Zealand	Niue	Norfolk Island
Northern Mariana Islands	Palau	Papua New Guinea	Pitcairn	Samoa
Solomon Islands	South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands	Tokelau	Tonga	Tuvalu
US Minor Outlying Islands	Vanuatu	Wallis and Futuna		
Africa				
Algeria	Angola	Benin	Botswana	British Indian Ocean Territory
Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cameroon	Cape Verde	Central African Republic
Chad	Comoros	Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire)	Djibouti
Egypt	Equatorial Guinea	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Gabon
Gambia	Ghana	Guinea	Guinea Bissau	Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire)
Kenya	Lesotho	Liberia	Libya	Madagascar
Malawi	Mali	Mauritania	Mauritius	Morocco
Mozambique	Namibia	Niger	Nigeria	Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe	Senegal	Seychelles	Sierra Leone	Somalia
South Africa	South Sudan	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	Sudan	Swaziland
Tanzania	Togo	Tunisia	Uganda	Zambia
Zimbabwe				

Source: Office for National Statistics

13 . Disclosure

It is sometimes necessary to suppress figures for certain items in order to avoid disclosing information about an individual business. Further information on why data are suppressed is available in the ONS [Disclosure Control Policy](#).

14 . Discussing ONS business statistics online

There is a [Business and Trade Statistics](#) community on the [StatsUserNet](#) website. StatsUserNet is the Royal Statistical Society's interactive site for users of official statistics. The community objectives are to promote dialogue and share information between users and producers of official business and trade statistics about the structure, content and performance of businesses within the UK. Anyone can join the discussions by registering via either of the links.

15 . Annex 1: Changes to how mergers and acquisitions statistics are collected and produced

In March 2018, Office for National Statistics (ONS) changed the processes it uses to identify and collect data on mergers and acquisitions (M&A) involving UK companies. Part of this change was to review available commercial data sources to identify M&A deals. Bureau van Dijk's Zephyr database is now used as the starting point for ONS M&A deal identification, replacing the previous labour-intensive "press scrutiny" process, while also reducing the reliance on survey questionnaires.

Reduction in number of M&A survey questionnaires

Prior to March 2018, the M&A survey questionnaires were dispatched daily by ONS as soon as an M&A deal was identified as legally completed. The population of transactions was identified through a process of scrutinising the financial press, specialised publications and other internet sources. Relevant deals are characterised as being worth over £1 million, having UK involvement, and resulting in a change of ordinary share ownership of more than 10% (50% for domestic) of the issued share capital. Deals identified as meeting these requirements were sent a survey questionnaire to collect deal information and values.

In the future, only large deals, classified as transactions worth over £100 million, continue to receive a survey questionnaire. Our analysis revealed that, while fewer of these large deals take place, their value generally dominates headline estimates, usually making up around 90% of the total value. Thus, accurate company data of these deals will be ascertained to ensure retention of granular, high-quality data.

Deal values below £100 million are now taken directly from Bureau van Dijk's Zephyr database – which are based on information from the public domain. Transactions worth less than £100 million make up the majority of deal numbers, but only a small proportion of headline values. Using a combination of survey data for high-value transactions and Bureau van Dijk data for lower-value transactions means that values and numbers reported in the M&A bulletin continue to report on transactions worth over £1 million and that result in a change of ordinary share ownership of more than 10% (50% for domestic).

Improvements in M&A coverage

Previously, coverage for the M&A survey was limited to information gathered from the financial press, specialised publications, websites specialising in M&A and websites of businesses regularly engaged in M&A activity. These included the Financial Times, Guardian Business News, InvestEgate, Insider Media, NewsNow, Growth Business UK. Bureau van Dijk report over 100,000 new deals annually resulting in an ever-growing database of current and historical transactions¹.

Analysis of this new data source revealed that, compared with ONS, Bureau van Dijk identifies more M&A deals involving British companies. Utilising Bureau van Dijk data has therefore resulted in an increase in the number of deals. While the increased coverage will also affect deal values, the effect is not as significant, as previously ONS had sufficient coverage of the largest transactions that generally dominate headline estimates. Nevertheless, some caution is advised when interpreting any increase in activity in Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018 and thereafter – especially in terms of the number of deals.

New imputation methods for missing M&A deal values

In the past we collected information on deals from companies directly involved in the transactions. Survey questionnaires were sent to relevant parties, and these were returned, queried and verified. In cases where surveys were not returned in a timely manner, deals were given alternative values found in the public domain, before revising in a future period once the survey questionnaire was returned.

Since Bureau van Dijk relies on press releases and news sources to gather information about M&A deals, there are instances where the value of a transaction is undisclosed to the public. Our analysis reveals that for Quarter 1 2018, roughly 43% of viable Bureau van Dijk deals displayed no deal value, a percentage expected to remain stable for future quarters (47% in 2015, 45% in 2016, 43% in 2017). In these cases, it is necessary to assign a value to the deal by having an uplift factor to weight available deal values to account for deals with no deal values. The weight is used to calculate a value to distribute across the missing deals evenly within country groups. This process is conducted separately for domestic, inward and outward deals, as the average values for deals is not uniform across these domains.

As M&A results are published by country groups, the process of imputing values takes special care to address this consideration. Due to the unequal number of deals with missing values originating from different country groups, some of which have no populated cases, the method of estimating for empty deal values relies on alternative country groupings. Outward M&A deals are estimated according to whether they originate from the United States or elsewhere, while inward deals have grouped Asian and African deals into one category, but retain all other country groups. Domestic deals, all originating in the UK, have remained grouped together. Using these alternative groupings, we can ascertain potential values for deals in which no financial information was available.

Preliminary analysis of this imputation method for Quarter 1 2018 suggests that the imputed deal averages provide good deal estimation at country group levels and are in line with actual deal value averages determined by Bureau van Dijk, albeit at a slightly lower level. While the use of commercially-available data has made the use of imputation necessary, the method is only required for a relatively small proportion of headline M&A values (less than 10%).

Smaller M&A revisions expected

Previously, revisions to published data took place on a quarterly and annual basis. These mainly affected revisions in the number of deals, with relatively smaller revisions to values. There were multiple reasons for revisions, such as information from other ONS surveys (like the FDI Survey), corrections to data supplied by the company themselves, late response, late identification of deals, or unsuitable deal criteria for M&A activity.

Moving to Bureau van Dijk to collect information on most M&A deals and imputing any missing deal values, means that only large value deals of over £100 million will require the dispatch of survey questionnaires. As fewer survey questionnaires will be distributed and returned, we anticipate that even fewer large revisions will take place, since values for the smaller transactions are readily available. There is also an expectation that revisions to the number of M&A deals will be reduced, since all transactions are now identified from one comprehensive source at an early stage, whereas, under the previous process, new deals from multiple sources were often identified after the preliminary estimates were produced.

Conclusions and looking ahead

The use of Bureau van Dijk data for M&A has changed the sampling, coverage, imputation and revision processes for this survey. We are seeing an improvement in coverage, with associated increases in the number and value of M&A deals, although some of these deals will be produced using imputation methods where deal values are unavailable in the public domain.

As of the M&A bulletin for Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018, all three quarters of 2018 are measured using the new processes outlined in this note. We will continue to monitor the impact of these changes on our M&A estimates in the future, which are benefitting the quality of our statistics.

Notes about Annex 1: Changes to how mergers and acquisitions statistics are collected and produced

1. [Bureau Van Dijk: Zephyr deal information database.](#)

1 Summary of cross-border mergers, acquisitions and disposals

£million

	Transactions abroad by UK companies ⁵				Transactions in the UK by foreign companies ⁵			
	Acquisitions		Disposals		Acquisitions		Disposals	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAQ	CBBI	CBAS	CBBT	CBAU	CBCQ	CBAW	CBDB
2008	298	29 670	71	12 062	252	52 552	49	5 139
2009	118	10 148	37	5 101	112	31 984	38	7 820
2010	199	12 414	73	11 411	212	36 643	58	9 891
2011	286	50 234	80	14 111	237	32 967	69	11 748
2012	122	17 933	40	..	161	17 414	27	..
2013	58	..	..	..	141	31 839	26	1 913
2014	113	20 647	36	5 288	110	15 041	23	2 794
2015	170	25 561	42	16 852	145	33 335	35	7 451
2016	141	17 292	42	15 420	262	189 968	35	6 143
2017	155	77 525	56	10 480	259	35 227	55	13 216
2014 Q4	35	11 752	4	1 323	28	3 940	6	601
2015 Q1	49	9 391	..	..	28	6 047	7	802
Q2	31	11 058	..	..	31	9 797	10	2 402
Q3	39	2 103	9	1 113	37	8 315	9	3 502
Q4	51	3 009	16	8 606	49	9 176	9	745
2016 Q1	38	8 774	15	1 026	58	50 428	..	..
Q2	35	1 975	11	1 651	63	22 701	10	641
Q3	46	3 094	..	..	65	31 655	..	..
Q4	22	3 449	..	..	76	85 184	13	3 927
2017 Q1	46	2 587	15	1 412	70	9 461	11	1 878
Q2	35	18 548	16	2 050	68	4 727	20	3 809
Q3	47	51 773	17	6 507	77	17 480	17	6 463
Q4	27	4 617	8	511	44	3 559	7	1 066
2018 Q1	67 [†]	5 757 [†]	11 [†]	2 312 [†]	140 [†]	23 931 [†]	34 [†]	7 553 [†]
Q2	76	2 531	13	2 823	169	6 215	33	3 242
Q3	62	4 530	12	4 890	108	3 518	33	1 809

2 Mergers and acquisitions abroad by UK companies: source of funding

£million

	Total ³		Direct transactions ⁴		Indirect transactions of which:			
	Number	Value	Funds paid directly by UK parent		Funded by loan from UK parent		Funds raised locally abroad	
			Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAQ	CBBI	CBBU	CBBV	CBBW	CBBX	CBBY	CBBZ
2008	298	29 670	196	17 972	75	6 688	44	5 010
2009	118	10 148	97	7 456	17	2 530	11	162
2010	199	12 414	149	10 507	38	1 166	26	741
2011	286	50 234	223	36 912	47	4 999	35	8 323
2012	122	17 933	83	9 523	29	8 094	19	316
2013	58	..	44	2 935	11	..	4	..
2014	113	20 647	79	6 888	35	7 641	77	6 118
2015	170	25 561	155	21 604	30	1 323	83	2 641
2016	141	17 292	142	9 838	23	3 978	58	3 859
2017	155	77 525	148	74 230	37	2 191	74	1 104

[†] Indicates earliest revision, if any.

Disclosive data indicated by ..

1 Includes acquisitions by foreign companies routed through their UK subsidiary companies

2 The deal identification threshold has been increased at Q1 2010 from £0.1m to £1.0m and as a consequence there is a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported.

3 Where a transaction is funded in more than one way, it is included in 'Number' in each method but only once in 'Total'. Therefore numbers may not sum exactly across the columns.

4 Transactions for which details about financing have not been confirmed are included amongst direct transactions. The figures are subsequently revised when details become available.

5 A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Q1 2018, and as a consequence there is a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported.

3 Disposals abroad by UK companies: funds realised

£million

	Total ¹		Direct transactions ²		Indirect transactions of which:			
	Number	Value	Funds paid directly to UK parent		Repayment of loan made by UK parent		Funds retained abroad	
			Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAS	CBBT	CBCA	CBCB	CBCC	CBGD	CBCE	CBCF
2008	71	12 062	54	7 384	9	1 021	15	3 657
2009	37	5 101	33	4 198	2	..	3	..
2010	73	11 411	59	8 423	4	71	15	2 917
2011	80	14 111	66	12 533	6	598	13	980
2012	40	..	30	5 817	3	..	11	..
2013	..	..	28	5 682	2	..	..	..
2014	36	5 288	28	4 610	7	323	11	355
2015	42	16 852	44	16 617	–	–	8	1 222
2016	42	15 420	43	15 297	..	..	..	..
2017	56	10 480	60	10 078	4	85	11	315

4 Mergers and acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies: source of funding

£million

	Total ¹		Direct transactions ²		Indirect transactions of which:			
	Number	Value	Funds paid directly to UK by foreign company		Funded by loan from foreign company		Funds raised in the UK	
			Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAU	CBCQ	CBDC	CBDD	CBHZ	CBIA	CBIB	CBIC
2008	252	52 552	179	36 101	50	8 739	53	7 712
2009	112	31 984	87	21 091	20	..	10	..
2010	212	36 643	161	33 540	36	1 687	34	1 416
2011	237	32 967	158	17 112	50	12 598	49	3 257
2012	161	17 414	103	11 659	48	4 217	35	1 538
2013	141	31 839	94	8 391	39	..	25	..
2014	110	15 041	78	10 404	27	2 702	61	1 934
2015	145	33 335	150	29 009	14	707	39	3 620
2016	262	189 968	274	184 656	29	2 495	97	2 817
2017	259	35 227	257	31 567	26	1 582	94	2 078

5 Disposals in the UK by foreign companies: funds realised

£million

	Total ¹		Direct transactions ²		Indirect transactions of which:			
	Number	Value	Funds paid directly to foreign parent		Repayment of loan to foreign parent		Funds retained in the UK	
			Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAW	CBDB	CBID	CBIE	CBIF	CBIG	CBIH	CBII
2008	49	5 139	29	1 485	9	682	15	2 972
2009	38	7 820	32	6 572	–	–	7	1 248
2010	58	9 891	43	4 961	5	928	15	4 002
2011	69	11 748	49	8 589	9	1 190	22	1 969
2012	27	..	23	5 821	..	..	6	96
2013	26	1 913	19	1 541	3	..	9	..
2014	23	2 794	17	2 415	..	..	..	..
2015	35	7 451	38	7 006	..	..	..	..
2016	35	6 143	40	6 095	..	..	..	..
2017	55	13 216	58	13 015	..	..	..	..

[†] Indicates earliest revision, if any.
Disclosive data indicated by ..

1 Where a transaction is funded in more than one way, it is included in 'Number' in each method but only once in 'Total'. Therefore numbers may not sum exactly across the columns.

2 Transactions for which details about financing have not been confirmed are included amongst direct transactions. The figures are subsequently revised when details become available.

-indicates data is zero or less than £0.5m

6A Area analysis of acquisitions abroad by UK companies

£million

	World Total		EU		Other Europe		Europe Total		USA	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAQ	CBBI	CBAY	CBAZ	HCK3	HCK4	HCJ3	HCJ4	CBBA	CBBB
2008	298	29 670	102	13 613	29	1 720	131	15 333	88	7 244
2009	118	10 148	36	1 800	8	169	44	1 969	34	3 250
2010	199	12 414	66	2 979	18	471	84	3 450	53	6 223
2011	286	50 234	75	20 666	29	2 760	104	23 426	83	9 342
2012	122	17 933	34	7 932	12	842	46	8 774	41	5 384
2013	58	..	16	6 216	7	376	23	6 592	8	600
2014	113	20 647	33	11 404	15	2 279	48	13 683	27	4 987
2015	170	25 561	55	7 712	16	7 715	71	15 427	61	6 136
2016	141	17 292	49	2 112	13	1 494	62	3 606	36	12 542
2017	155	77 525	62	2 394	10	484	72	2 878	55	71 678

	Other Americas		Americas Total		Asia		Australasia & Oceania		Africa	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	HCL3	HCL4	HCM3	HCM4	HCN3	HCN4	HCO3	HCO4	HCP3	HCP4
2008	17	394	105	7 638	29	809	22	5 224	11	666
2009	7	1 746	41	4 996	14	964	13	609	6	1 610
2010	20	918	73	7 141	16	630	19	667	7	526
2011	30	2 410	113	11 752	33	6 807	16	7 666	19	583
2012	18	2 640	59	8 024	7	458	5	..	5	..
2013	13	323	21	923	..	..	..	..	..	..
2014	17	1 135	44	6 122	12	637	..	..	..	..
2015	18	2 381	79	8 517	..	..	9	859	..	..
2016	18	745	54	13 287	10	293	..	..	..	..
2017	10	392	65	72 068	..	..	..	..	..	..

6D Area analysis of disposals abroad by UK companies

£million

	World Total		EU		Other Europe		Europe Total		USA	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAS	CBBT	CBBJ	CBBK	HCK5	HCK6	HCJ5	HCJ6	CBBL	CBBM
2008	71	12 062	30	3 598	2	..	32	..	22	6 197
2009	37	5 101	15	2 134	3	64	18	2 198	7	1 277
2010	73	11 411	27	1 529	5	263	32	1 792	15	7 465
2011	80	14 111	32	4 857	4	57	36	4 914	18	4 715
2012	40	..	..	..	..	..	17	2 764	7	1 038
2013	..	..	12	1 589	3	128	15	1 717	9	3 691
2014	36	5 288	..	..	..	..	18	2 887	..	..
2015	42	16 852	18	6 270	4	541	22	6 811	..	..
2016	42	15 420	..	..	..	..	19	916	10	8 859
2017	56	10 480	..	..	..	..	23	2 486	..	..

	Other Americas		Americas Total		Asia		Australasia & Oceania		Africa	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	HCL5	HCL6	HCM5	HCM6	HCN5	HCN6	HCO5	HCO6	HCP5	HCP6
2008	6	1 033	28	7 230	7	388	2	234	2	..
2009	2	536	9	1 813	3	..	3	1 002	4	..
2010	4	897	19	8 362	11	117	5	609	6	531
2011	9	1 559	27	6 274	10	..	5	..	2	..
2012	6	2 189	13	3 227	2	1 220	3	..	6	46
2013	..	..	9	3 691	..	..	4	..	..	..
2014	..	..	14	2 228	..	..	..	..	..	..
2015	..	..	10	2 828	..	..	..	..	4	73
2016	11	5 621	21	14 478	..	..	..	..	..	..
2017	..	..	21	5 170	8	295	..	..	..	..

† Indicates earliest revision, if any.

Disclosive data indicated by ..

1 From 1 January 2007, figures for the European Union include Bulgaria and Romania. Croatia joined the EU in July 2013.

2 The deal identification threshold has been increased at Q1 2010 from £0.1m to £1.0 and as a consequence there may be a discontinuity in the number and value of transactions reported

-indicates data is zero or less than £0.5m

7A Area analysis of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies

£million

	World Total		EU		Other Europe		Europe Total		USA	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAU	CBCQ	CBCG	CBCH	HCJ7	HCJ8	HCI7	HCI8	CBCI	CBCJ
2008	252	52 552	85	17 918	40	11 063	125	28 981	74	8 269
2009	112	31 984	32	15 277	19	3 939	51	19 216	31	11 594
2010	212	36 643	47	3 856	29	4 079	76	7 935	85	19 124
2011	237	32 967	69	6 238	23	1 395	92	7 633	87	21 489
2012	161	17 414	53	3 533	21	1 094	74	4 627	50	6 217
2013	141	31 839	35	..	18	..	53	24 172	54	3 408
2014	110	15 041	31	4 681	14	700	45	5 381	42	6 318
2015	145	33 335	34	5 816	14	2 004	48	7 820	48	11 083
2016	262	189 968	84	125 172	23	1 370	107	126 541	89	30 313
2017	259	35 227	80	9 224	21	5 894	101	15 120	84	8 232

	Other Americas		Americas Total		Asia		Australasia & Oceania		Africa	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	HCK7	HCK8	HCL7	HCL8	HCM7	HCM8	HCN7	HCN8	HCO7	HCO8
2008	16	9 307	90	17 576	26	4 839	7	..	4	..
2009	14	886	45	12 480	12	199	4	89	..	..
2010	30	5 156	115	24 280	16	4 210	3	14	2	204
2011	22	1 690	109	23 179	18	1 367	14	762	4	26
2012	21	4 256	71	10 473	12	2 277	1	..	3	..
2013	16	1 529	70	4 937	13	..	2	..	3	..
2014	8	1 317	50	7 635	12	1 932	..	..	..	..
2015	25	9 052	73	20 137	17	4 680	..	..	..	..
2016	21	2 471	110	32 784	35	29 946	..	..	..	..
2017	34	6 653	118	14 885	26	2 856	9	2 260	5	105

7D Area analysis of disposals in the UK by foreign companies

£million

	World Total		EU		Other Europe		Europe Total		USA	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	CBAW	CBDB	CBCR	CBCS	HCJ9	HCK2	HCI9	HCI2	CBCT	CBCU
2008	49	5 139	18	2 628	9	447	27	3 075	12	1 359
2009	38	7 820	12	1 370	6	..	18	..	10	4 648
2010	58	9 891	19	6 722	10	271	29	6 993	15	1 216
2011	69	11 748	26	6 539	9	394	35	6 933	18	2 993
2012	27	..	11	1 054	7	..	18	..	4	..
2013	26	1 913	9	862	3	36	12	898	8	..
2014	23	2 794	..	..	..	..	13	1 949	..	..
2015	35	7 451	10	1 117	10	3 399	20	4 516	..	..
2016	35	6 143	13	3 322	8	1 336	21	4 658	..	..
2017	55	13 216	18	3 698	11	1 151	29	4 846	10	5 123

	Other Americas		Americas Total		Asia		Australasia & Oceania		Africa	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	HCK9	HCL2	HCL9	HCM2	HCM9	HCN2	HCN9	HCO2	HCO9	HCP2
2008	4	..	16	..	3	..	1	..	2	93
2009	4	42	14	4 690	2	..	1	..	3	..
2010	8	642	23	1 858	3	1 033	3	7	..	..
2011	6	687	24	3 680	8	..	2	..	..	..
2012	3	..	7	3 601	..	..	..	..	..	..
2013	2	..	10	611	3	328	1	..	..	..
2014	..	..	8	809	..	..	..	..	..	..
2015	..	..	13	2 911	..	..	..	..	..	..
2016	..	..	12	1 245	..	..	..	..	..	..
2017	7	1 108	17	6 230	6	1 562	..	..	..	..

† Indicates earliest revision, if any

Disclosive data indicated by ..

-indicates data is zero or less than £0.5m

8 Summary of mergers and acquisitions in the UK by UK companies

£million

	Total all mergers and acquisitions ²		Mergers and acquisitions of independent companies ²		Sales of subsidiaries between company groups ²	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
	AIHA	DUCM	DWVH	HIKB	DWVL	HIKC
2008	558	36 469	445	33 469	113	3 000
2009	286	12 195	198	11 455	88	740
2010	325	12 605	243	7 775	82	4 830
2011	373	8 089	276	5 265	97	2 824
2012	266	3 413	216	2 536	50	877
2013	238	7 665	175	4 135	63	3 530
2014	189	8 032	150	5 968	39	2 063
2015	245	6 920	194	4 640	51	2 280
2016	428	24 688	383	11 038	45	13 650
2017	364	18 783	323	15 451	41	3 332
2014 Q4	56	1 642	49	1 500	7	141
2015 Q1	47	1 755	36	1 368	11	387
Q2	59	2 739	43	1 687	16	1 052
Q3	60	1 195	50	727	10	468
Q4	79	1 231	65	858	14	373
2016 Q1	93	11 871	..	..	..	..
Q2	130	6 780	119	6 291	11	489
Q3	115	3 575	96	2 615	19	960
Q4	90	2 462	..	..	..	..
2017 Q1	97	3 295	83	2 658	14	636
Q2	114	4 855	..	..	..	..
Q3	99	5 379	92	5 308	7	70
Q4	54	5 254	..	..	..	..
2018 Q1	234 [†]	6 674 [†]	117 [†]	4 918 [†]	117 [†]	1 756 [†]
Q2	224	11 872	123	9 346	101	2 526
Q3	212	2 934	125	1 622	87	1 312

9 Mergers and acquisitions in the UK by UK companies: category of expenditure

£million

	Expenditure ²					Percentage of expenditure ²		
	Cash			Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities
	Total	Independent companies	Subsidiaries					
	DUCM	DWVW	DWVX	AIHD	AIHE	DWVY	DWVZ	DWWA
2008	36 469	31 333	2 851	1 910	375	94	5	1
2009	12 195	2 937	709	8 435	114	30	69	1
2010	12 605	6 175	4 520	1 560	350	85	12	3
2011	8 089	4 432	2 667	719	271	87	10	4
2012	3 413	1 937	789	419	268	82	10	8
2013	7 665	3 690	3 475	353	147	92	6	2
2014	8 032	3 249	1 947	2 782	51	65	35	–
2015	6 920	3 365	1 871	1 418	265	74	22	4
2016	24 688	5 493	5 308	13 471	418	43	55	2
2017	18 783	8 036	3 097	7 286	364	59	39	2
2014 Q4	1 642	1 399	137	101	4	94	6	–
2015 Q1	1 755	1 075	314	281	84	79	16	5
Q2	2 739	854	789	1 019	77	60	37	3
Q3	1 195	666	464	64	2	95	5	–
Q4	1 231	770	304	54	102	88	4	8
2016 Q1	11 871	630	3 603	7 617	22	36	64	–
Q2	6 780	1 983	388	4 237	172	35	62	3
Q3	3 575	1 610	943	875	148	71	24	5
Q4	2 462	1 270	374	742	76	67	30	3
2017 Q1	3 295	2 615	419	138	122	92	4	4
Q2	4 855	..	..	136	92	..	3	2
Q3	5 379	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Q4	5 254	1 922	390	..	..	44	..	..
2018 Q1	6 674 [†]	1 738 [†]	1 667 [†]	3 206	62	52 [†]	47	1
Q2	11 872	2 720	2 443	6 708 [†]	–	43	57 [†]	–
Q3	2 934	1 589	1 299	45	–	98	2	–

[†] Indicates earliest revision, if any
Disclosive data are indicated with ..

1 The deal identification threshold has been increased from q1 2010 from £0.1m to £1.0m and as a consequence there is a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported.

2 A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Q1 2018, and as a consequence there is a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported.

10 Summary of net cross-border acquisitions and disposals

£million

	Net transactions abroad by UK companies ³		Net transactions in the UK by foreign companies ³		Net cross-border transactions involving UK companies ³	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
2008	227	17 608	203	47 413	24	-29 805
2009	81	5 047	74	24 164	7	-19 117
2010	126	1 003	154	26 752	-28	-25 749
2011	206	36 123	168	21 219	38	14 904
2012	82	..	134	..	-52	..
2013	..	..	115	29 926	..	..
2014	77	15 359	87	12 247	-10	3 112
2015	128	8 709	110	25 884	18	-17 175
2016	99	1 872	227	183 825	-128	-181 953
2017	99	67 045	204	22 011	-105	45 034
2014 Q4	31	10 429	22	3 339	9	7 090
2015 Q1	..	..	21	5 245	..	..
Q2	..	..	21	7 395	..	..
Q3	30	990	28	4 813	2	-3 823
Q4	35	-5 597	40	8 431	-5	-14 028
2016 Q1	23	7 748	..	..	..	..
Q2	24	324	53	22 060	-29	-21 736
Q3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Q4	..	..	63	81 257	..	..
2017 Q1	31	1 175	59	7 583	-28	-6 408
Q2	19	16 498	48	918	-29	15 580
Q3	30	45 266	60	11 017	-30	34 249
Q4	19	4 106	37	2 493	-18	1 613
2018 Q1	56 [†]	3 445 [†]	106 [†]	16 378 [†]	-50 [†]	-12 933 [†]
Q2	63	-292	136	2 973	-73	-3 265
Q3	50	-360	75	1 709	-25	-2 069

[†] Indicates earliest revision, if any.

Disclosive data indicated by ..

1 Includes acquisitions by foreign companies routed through their UK subsidiary companies.

2 The deal identification threshold has been increased at Q1 2010 from £0.1m to £1.0m and as a consequence there is a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported.

3 A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Q2 2018, and as a consequence there is a discontinuity in the number of transactions reported.

R1 REVISIONS ANALYSIS

Revisions since last mergers and acquisitions publication

£ million

		2017	2018 Q1	2018 Q2
Cross-border mergers, acquisitions and disposals				
Transactions abroad by UK companies				
Value of acquisitions	CBBI	–	4 029	614
Value of disposals	CBBT	–	1 475	59
Transactions in the UK by foreign companies				
Value of acquisitions	CBCQ	–	2 182	–287
Value of disposals	CBDB	–	672	387
Mergers and acquisitions in the UK by UK companies				
Summary of transactions				
Value of all acquisitions and mergers	DUCM	–	769	7 858
Value of acquisitions of independent companies	HIKB	–	143	7 074
Value of sales of subsidiary companies	HIKC	–	626	785
Category of expenditure				
Cash paid for independent companies	DWVW	–	152	448
Cash paid for subsidiary companies	DWVX	–	637	701
Issue of ordinary shares	AIHD	–	–13	6 708
Issue of fixed interest securities	AIHE	–	–1	–