

Statistical bulletin

Mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies: October to December 2018

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

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1 . Main points

- In Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018, the total value of inward mergers and acquisitions (M&A) was £33.3 billion, the highest value since Quarter 4 2016 (£85.2 billion).
- The total value of inward M&A for the whole of 2018 (Jan to Dec) was £71.1 billion and is broadly explained by one very large successful acquisition. This was a sizeable increase on the value reported in 2017 (£35.2 billion), yet considerably lower than the value recorded in 2016 (£190.0 billion).
- The value of outward M&A (UK companies acquiring foreign companies abroad) was £9.9 billion in Quarter 4 2018, a sizeable increase on the value recorded in the previous quarter (£4.3 billion).
- In 2018, outward M&A was worth £22.7 billion, a notable decline when compared with 2017 (£77.5 billion).
- Domestic M&A (UK companies acquiring other UK companies) was valued at £5.0 billion in Quarter 4 2018 and was similar to the value (£5.2 billion) reported in the same quarter of the previous year.
- The total value for domestic M&A during 2018 was £26.5 billion, the highest value recorded since 2008 (£36.5 billion).
- M&A statistics from Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018 fully incorporate the new data source and methods; this new data source has improved the coverage of smaller M&A transactions and therefore results 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).
- A short article has been published alongside this release to provide [additional context for M&A involving UK companies that completed during 2018](#).

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.

The 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 our 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 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 4 (Oct to Dec) 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 – such as gross domestic product – 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.

The ONS has 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. 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 Mergers and acquisitions activity in context: 2018. [This article provides more detail on annual M&A statistics.](#)

3 . The value and number of inward M&A increased in Quarter 4 2018

The estimates for the value (Figure 1a) and number (Figure 1b) of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) of UK companies made by foreign companies over Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018 saw notable increases when compared with Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018.

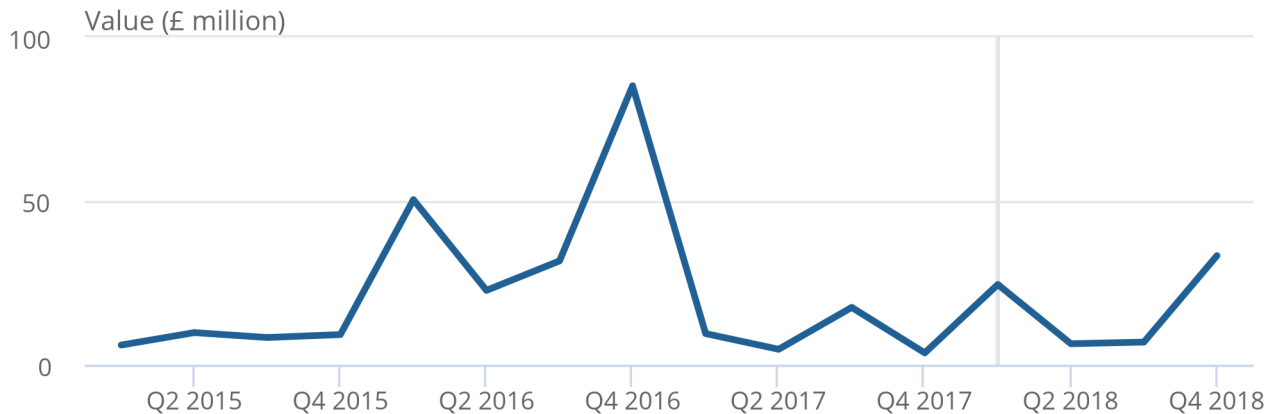
The total value of inward M&A in Quarter 4 2018 was £33.3 billion, the highest value since Quarter 4 2016 and is explained by one large acquisition of [Comcast Corporation of the US, which acquired Sky Plc of the UK.](#)

There were 119 successful inward acquisitions by foreign companies in Quarter 4 2018, a slight increase on the number reported in the previous quarter (109).

Value and number of inward M&A transactions involving UK companies per quarter

Figure 1a: Value of inward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018

Figure 1a: Value of inward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018



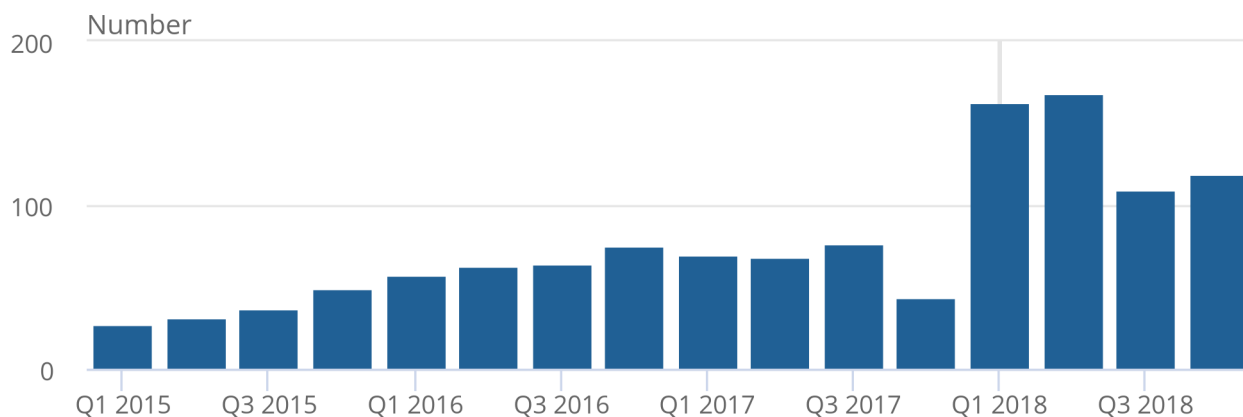
Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September; Quarter 4 covers October to December.
2. Values of deals are at current prices.
3. A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 2018 which may lead to a structural break in all M&A statistical time series. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.

Figure 1b: Number of inward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018

Figure 1b: Number of inward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September; Quarter 4 covers October to December.
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Other notable inward acquisitions – each valued at £100 million or more – that took place in Quarter 4 2018

[Macquarie Group Ltd of Australia acquired Parkingeye Ltd / Glyde Ltd of the UK](#)

[MML Capital Partners of Jersey acquired Parkingeye Ltd / Glyde Ltd of the UK](#)

[OSG Group Holdings Inc of the USA acquired Communisis Plc of the UK](#)

[Huadong Medicine Co of China acquired Sinclair Pharma Plc of the UK](#)

There were 19 inward disposals of UK companies involving a change of majority share ownership during Quarter 4 2018. These were worth £2.1 billion, the lowest value recorded since Quarter 4 2017 when the value was £1.1 billion.

Notable inward disposals – each valued at £100 million or more – that took place in Quarter 4 2018

[Bank of Cyprus Plc of Cyprus disposed of Bank of Cyprus UK Ltd of the UK](#)

[Stichting Depository APG of the Netherlands disposed of Grip Reit Plc of the UK](#)

[Iberdrola S.A. of Spain disposed of Scottish Power Generation Ltd of the UK](#)

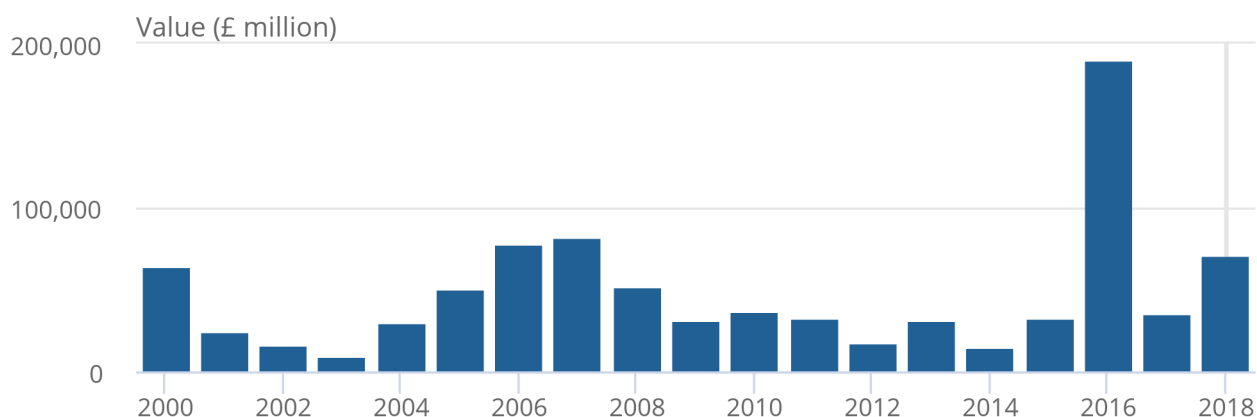
4 . Transactions in the UK by foreign companies (Jan to Dec) 2018

The value of successful inward mergers and acquisitions (M&A) saw a notable increase in 2018, reaching a total of £71.1 billion. This was a sizeable increase on the 2017 total of £35.2 billion (Figure 1c).

While historically the value of inward M&A has been volatile, the increase seen during 2018 is largely reflecting a small number of very-high-value acquisitions, with values greater than £10.0 billion, which were not evident in the previous year. The [contributions of these transactions](#) can be found in a short article published alongside this bulletin.

Figure 1c: Value of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies, 2000 to 2018

Figure 1c: Value of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies, 2000 to 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. Values of deals are at current prices.
2. A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 2018 which may lead to a structural break in all M&A statistical time series. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.

Other notable inward acquisitions – each valued at £100 million and above – that took place in 2018

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018

[3i Infrastructure Plc of Jersey acquired Wireless Infrastructure Group Ltd of the UK](#)

[FirstRand Ltd of South Africa acquired Aldermore Group of the UK](#)

[Scientific Games Corporation of the USA acquired Nyx Digital Gaming \(OB Holdings\) Ltd of the UK](#)

[Refresco Group N.V. of the Netherlands acquired Cott's bottling activities of the UK](#)

[Patrizia Immobilien AG of Germany acquired Rockspring PIM LLP and Rockspring Property Holdings Ltd of the UK](#)

[Vantiv Inc of the USA acquired Worldpay Group Plc of the UK](#)

[GVC Holdings Plc of the Isle of Man acquired Ladbrokes Coral Group Plc of the UK](#)

Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018

[Elliott Management Corporation of the USA acquired Waterstones Booksellers Ltd of the UK](#)

[Reliance Worldwide Corporation Ltd of Australia acquired John Guest Holdings Ltd of the UK](#)

[Wisdomtree Investments Inc of the USA acquired ETF Securities \(UK\) Ltd of the UK](#)

[TransUnion of the USA acquired Callcredit Information Group Ltd of the UK](#)

[La Financiere Atalian S.A.S. of France acquired Servest Ltd of the UK](#)

[Compagnie Generale Des Etablissements Michelin SCA of France acquired Fenner Plc of the UK](#)

Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 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 \(PDF, 63KB\)](#)

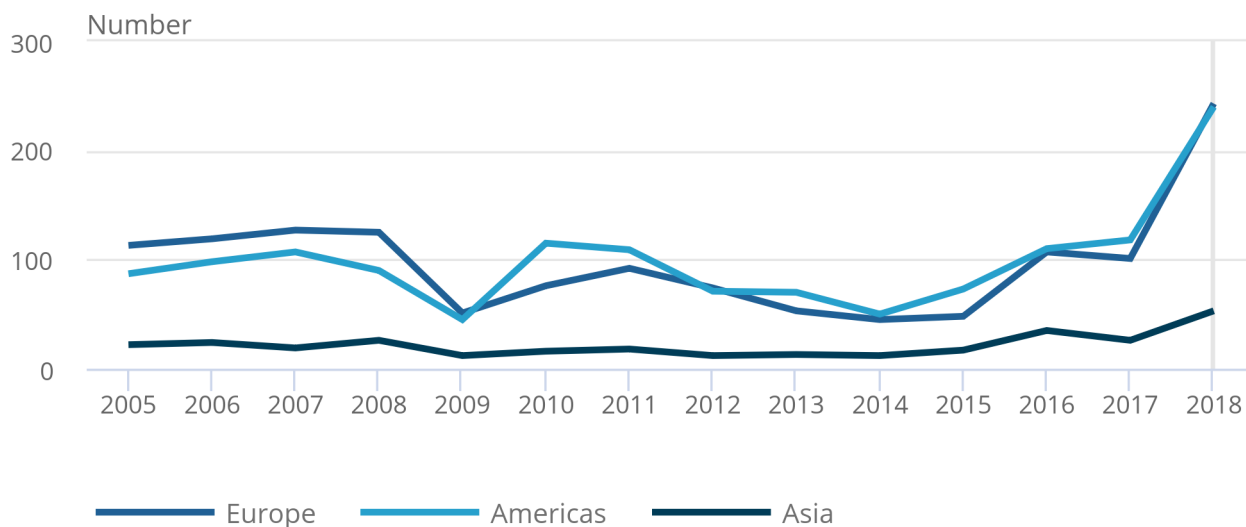
[Stamps.com Inc of the USA acquired Metapack Ltd of the UK](#)

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

The majority of the total number of inward M&A deals (560) worth £71.1 billion in 2018 came from Europe (243) and the Americas (240). In comparison, the number of inward M&A in 2017 (259) saw the majority of acquisitions come from the Americas (118) and Europe (101) (Figure 1d).

Figure 1d: Area analysis of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies, 2005 to 2018

Figure 1d: Area analysis of acquisitions in the UK by foreign companies, 2005 to 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 2018 which may lead to a structural break in all M&A statistical time series. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.

During 2018, the value of completed inward disposal transactions saw a small increase when compared with the previous year. There were £16.4 billion of inward disposals compared with £13.2 billion in 2017.

Notable inward disposals – each valued at £100 million and above – that took place in 2018

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018

[Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company of the USA disposed of WIG Holdings I Ltd of the UK](#)

[San Quirico SPA of Italy disposed of Brockaghboy Windfarm Ltd of the UK](#)

[Patron Capital LP IV of Guernsey disposed of Cala Group Ltd of the UK](#)

Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018

[A&NN Capital Management Fund Ltd of the Bahamas disposed of Waterstones Booksellers Ltd of the UK](#)

[ETF Securities UK Ltd of Jersey disposed of ETF Securities UK Ltd of the UK](#)

[GTCR LLC of the USA disposed of Crown Acquisition Topco Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 80KB\)](#)

[Lonestar Global Holdings IV Ltd of Bermuda disposed of MRH \(GB\) Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 207KB\)](#)

[Servest \(Pty\) Ltd of South Africa disposed of Servest Ltd of the UK](#)

Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

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

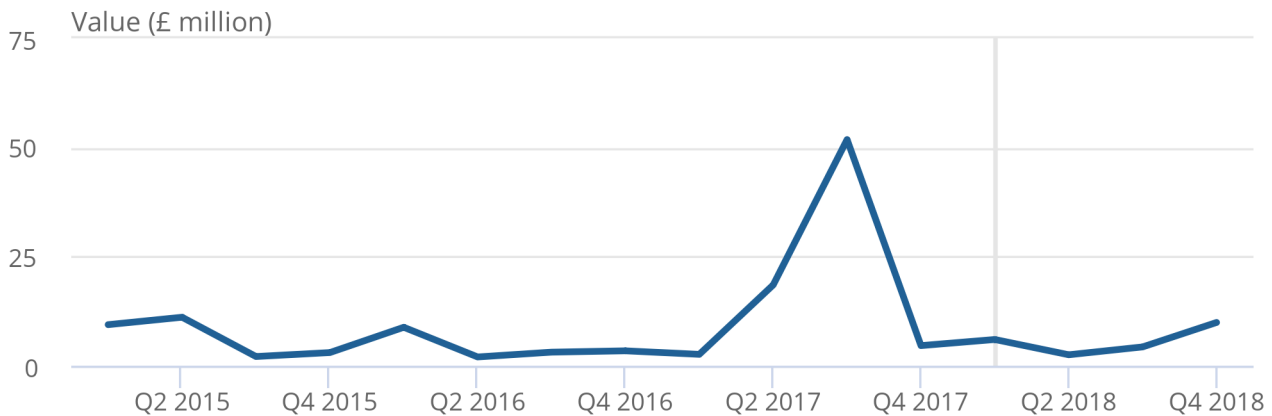
5 . The value of outward M&A increased in Quarter 4 2018

The latest estimate for the value of outward mergers and acquisitions (M&A) of foreign companies by UK companies during Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018 was £9.9 billion. This was a £5.6 billion increase when compared with the previous quarter (£4.3 billion) and the largest value seen since Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2017 (Figure 2a).

The total number of outward M&A deals reached 61 in Quarter 4 2018 and is similar to the number (64) recorded in the previous quarter (Figure 2b).

Figure 2a: Value of outward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018

Figure 2a: Value of outward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018



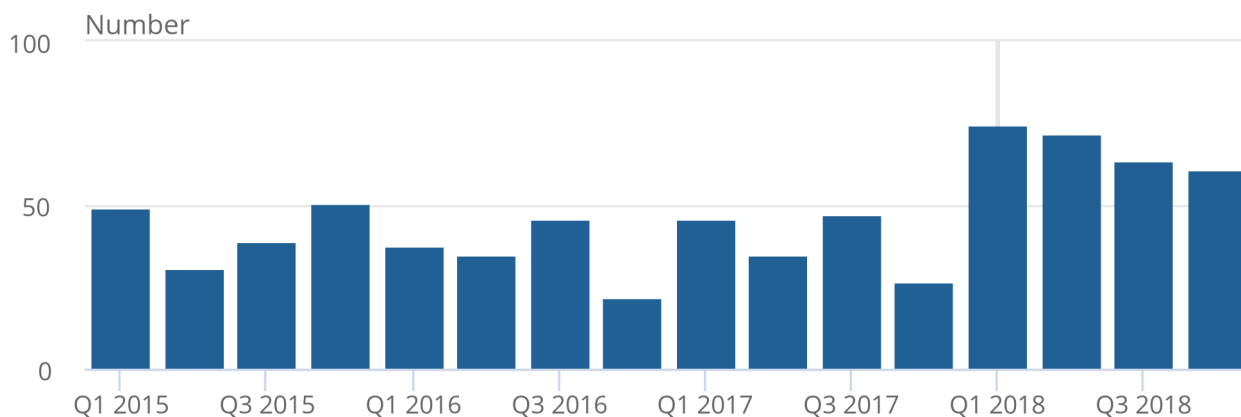
Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

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Figure 2b: Number of outward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018

Figure 2b: Number of outward M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

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Notable outward acquisitions – each valued at £100 million or more – that took place during Quarter 4 2018

[Elementis Plc of the UK acquired Mondo Minerals Holding BV of the Netherlands](#)

[BP PLC of the UK acquired Petrohawk Energy Corporation of the USA \(PDF, 155KB\)](#)

There were seven outward disposals that completed during Quarter 4 2018. These were worth £1.6 billion, recording a decrease of £3.5 billion on the value of £5.1 billion transactions recorded in the previous quarter. Quarter 4 2018 saw the lowest value of outward disposals since Quarter 4 2017.

Notable outward disposals – each valued at £100 million or more – that took place during Quarter 4 2018

[The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board of the UK disposed of Shell E&P Ireland Ltd of Ireland \(PDF, 180KB\)](#)

[Montagu Print Equity LLP of the UK disposed of Equatex Group Holding AG of Switzerland](#)

6 . Transactions abroad by UK companies (Jan to Dec) 2018

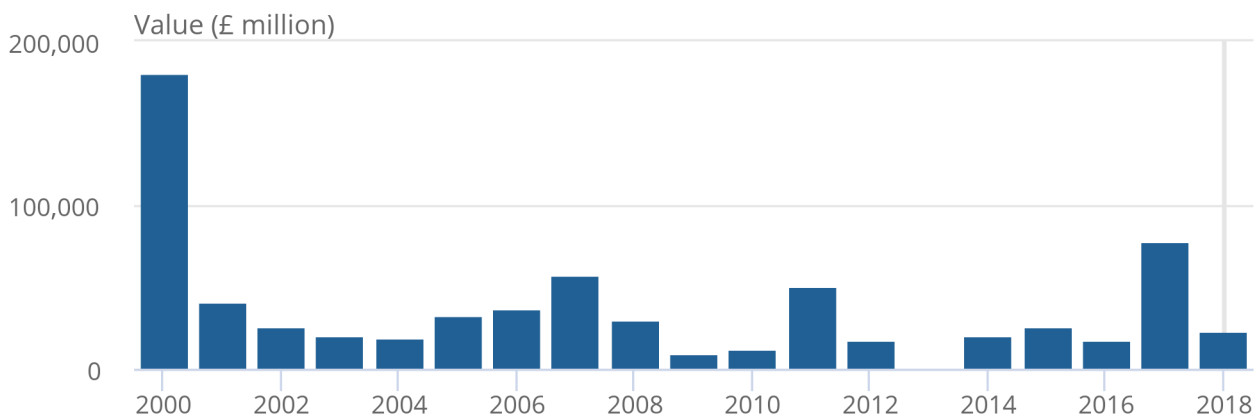
Outward M&A saw a sizeable decrease in value during 2018 when compared with the previous year

In 2018, successful mergers and acquisitions abroad by UK companies (outward M&A) saw a notable fall in the value of acquisitions. The total value recorded for outward acquisitions for the whole of 2018 was £22.7 billion.

Year-on-year comparison shows the value of completed outward M&A in 2018 saw a sizeable decrease of £54.8 billion when compared with the value of £77.5 billion recorded in 2017 (Figure 2c). This decrease can be explained by the notable absence of any high-valued acquisitions during 2018 but which were present in the previous year. The article [Mergers and acquisitions activity in context 2018](#) provides more details on annual M&A statistics.

Figure 2c: Value of acquisitions abroad made by UK companies, 2000 to 2018

Figure 2c: Value of acquisitions abroad made by UK companies, 2000 to 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. Values of deals are at current prices.
2. * some values have been suppressed to mitigate disclosure.
3. A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 2018 which may lead to a structural break in all M&A statistical time series. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.

Other notable outward acquisitions – each valued at £100 million and above – that took place in 2018

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018

[IMI Plc of the UK acquired Bimba Manufacturing Company Inc of the USA](#)

[TDR Capital of the UK acquired Buffalo Grill of France](#)

[LivaNova Plc of the UK acquired ImThera Medical Inc of the USA](#)

[Neptune Oil and Gas Ltd of the UK acquired Engie E&P International SA of France \(PDF, 133KB\)](#)

[Dechra Pharmaceuticals Plc of the UK acquired AST Farma BV / Le Vet Beheer BV of the Netherlands](#)

[DS Smith Plc of the UK acquired Ecopack SRL / Ecopaper SA of Romania](#)

[Inchcape PLC of the UK acquired Grupo Rudelman of Costa Rica](#)

Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018

[Aviva Plc of the UK acquired Friends First Life Assurance Co Dac of Ireland](#)

[Learning Technologies Group Plc of the UK acquired Peoplefluent Holding Corp of the USA](#)

[Livanova Plc of the UK acquired CardiacAssist Inc. doing business as TandemLife of the USA](#)

[JD Sports Fashion Plc of the UK acquired The Finish Line Inc of the USA \(PDF, 25KB\)](#)

[Mondi Plc of the UK acquired Powerflute Group Holdings OY of Finland](#)

Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018

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

[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](#)

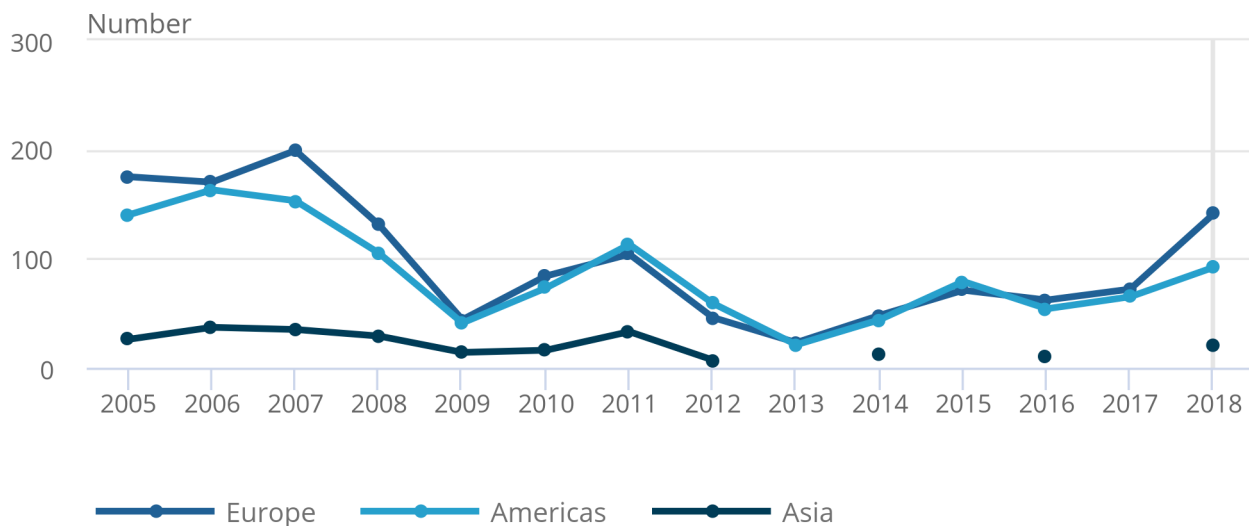
[Jura Holdings Ltd of the UK acquired John Laing Infrastructure Fund Ltd of Guernsey](#)

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

In 2018, UK companies acquired 272 acquisitions of foreign companies, the majority were in Europe (141) and Americas (92) (Figure 2d).

Figure 2d: Area analysis of acquisitions abroad by UK companies, 2005 to 2018

Figure 2d: Area analysis of acquisitions abroad by UK companies, 2005 to 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 2018 which may lead to a structural break in all M&A statistical time series. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.
2. * some numbers have been suppressed to mitigate disclosure

There were 49 successful disposals of companies abroad by UK companies in 2018, worth £12.1 billion, broadly in line with the value and number of disposals recorded since 2015.

Notable outward disposals – each valued at £100 million and above – that took place in 2018

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018

[A&NN Capital Management Fund Ltd of the Bahamas disposed of Waterstones Booksellers Ltd of the UK](#)

[ETF Securities UK Ltd of Jersey disposed of ETF Securities UK Ltd of the UK](#)

[GTCR LLC of the USA disposed of Crown Acquisition Topco Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 80KB\)](#)

[Lonestar Global Holdings IV Ltd of Bermuda disposed of MRH \(GB\) Ltd of the UK \(PDF, 207KB\)](#)

[Servest \(Pty\) Ltd of South Africa disposed of Servest Ltd of the UK](#)

Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018

[William Hill Plc of the UK disposed of William Hill Australia Pty Ltd of Australia](#)

[Northern Foods Ltd of the UK disposed of Green Isle Foods Ltd of Ireland](#)

[Rolls-Royce Holdings Plc of the UK disposed of L'Orange GmbH of Germany](#)

[EQT VII \(No.1\) Ltd of the UK disposed of Piab Group AB of Sweden](#)

[Nordic Packaging and Container \(UK\) Holdings Ltd of the UK disposed of Powerflute Group Holdings OY of Finland](#)

Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 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](#)

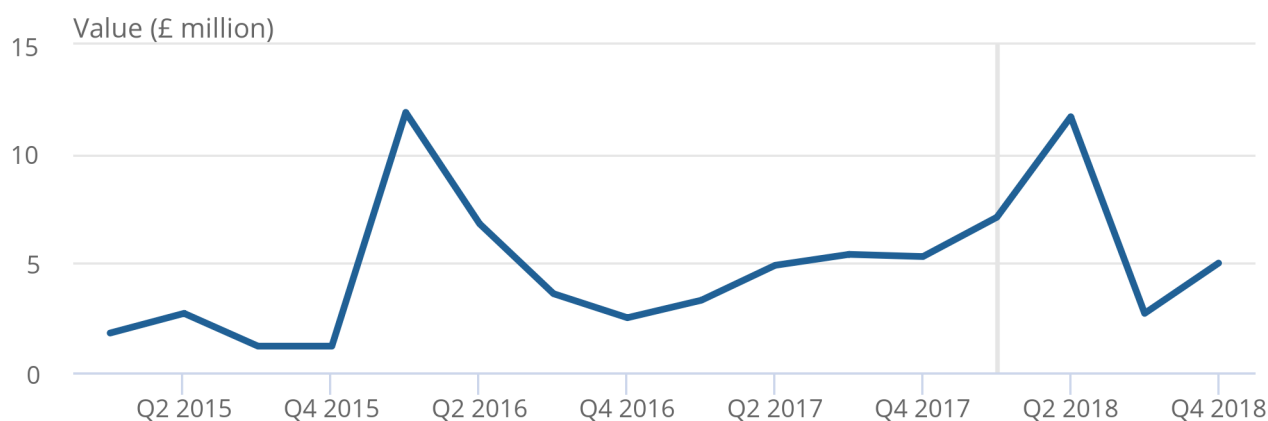
7 . The value of domestic M&A in Quarter 4 2018 increased

The total value of domestic mergers and acquisitions (M&A) totalled £5.0 billion in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018 compared with £2.7 billion in Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018, an increase of £2.3 billion. This value is similar to those previously reported in Quarter 3 2017 (£5.4 billion) and Quarter 4 2017 (£5.2 billion) (Figure 3a).

There were 214 successful domestic acquisitions involving a change in majority share ownership in Quarter 4 2018, consistent with the numbers of domestic M&A deals recorded in each of the previous quarters of 2018 (Figure 3b).

Figure 3a: Value of domestic M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018

Figure 3a: Value of domestic M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018



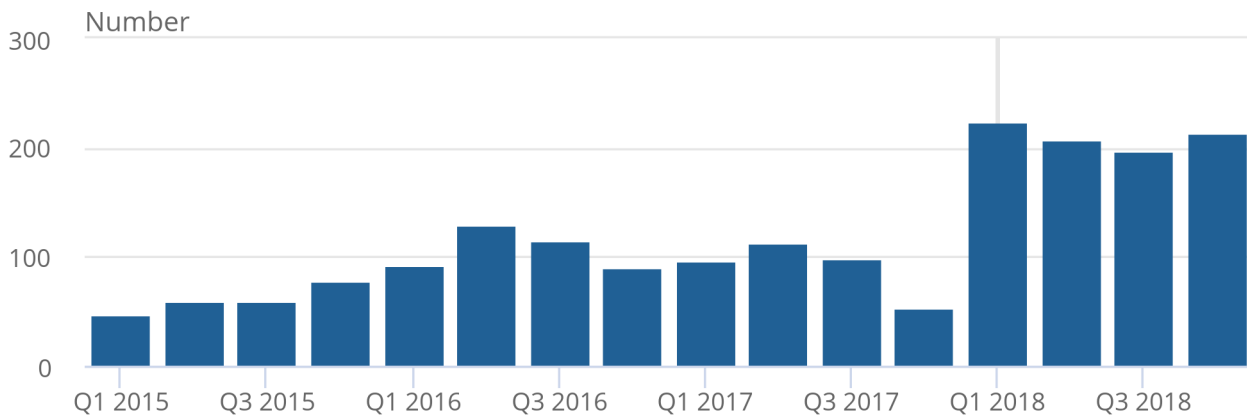
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Figure 3b: Number of domestic M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (January to March) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018

Figure 3b: Number of domestic M&A transactions involving UK companies, Quarter 1 (January to March) 2015 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. Quarter 1 covers January to March; Quarter 2 covers April to June; Quarter 3 covers July to September; Quarter 4 covers October to December.
2. A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 2018 which may lead to a structural break in all M&A statistical time series. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.

Notable domestic acquisitions – each valued at £100 million or above – that took place in Quarter 4 2018

[Caledonia Investments Plc of the UK acquired Deep Sea Electronics Ltd of the UK](#)

[CYBG Plc of the UK acquired Virgin Money Holdings Uk Plc of the UK](#)

[Cynergy Capital Ltd of the UK acquired Bank of Cyprus UK Ltd of the UK](#)

[The Restaurant Group Plc of the UK acquired Mabel Topco Ltd of the UK](#)

[Grainger Plc of the UK acquired Grip Reit Plc of the UK](#)

8 . Transactions in the UK by other UK companies, (Jan to Dec) 2018

Domestic mergers and acquisitions (M&A) have increased between 2017 and 2018.

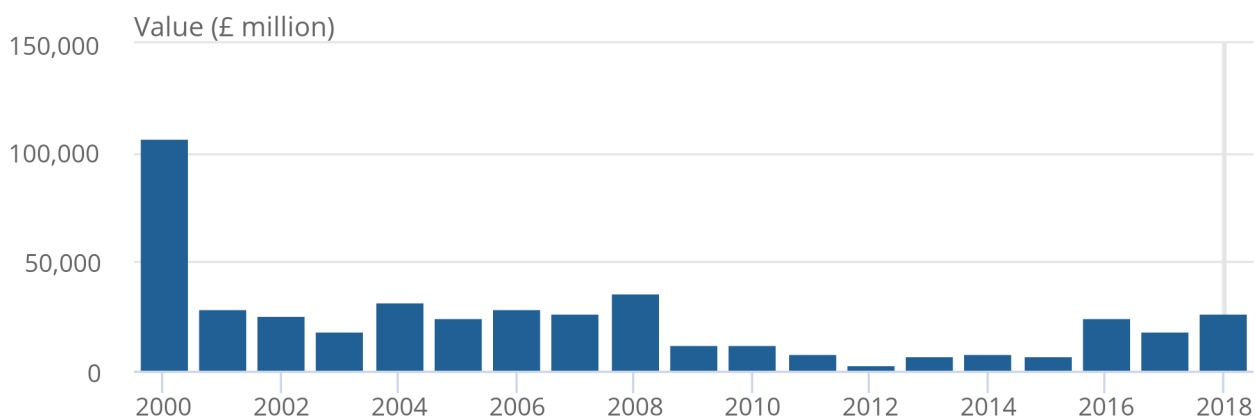
The total value of domestic M&A for the whole of 2018 was £26.5 billion, with more than half of the value (£18.8 billion) being reported for Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) and Quarter 2 (April to June) 2018.

Year-on-year comparison shows that domestic acquisitions involving a change of majority share ownership in 2018 were worth £26.5 billion, the highest value recorded since 2008 (£36.5 billion) (Figure 3c). This increased value can be explained by a handful of transactions with values greater than £1.0 billion. One successful and high-valued transaction that occurred in Quarter 1 2018 was [Tesco Plc of the UK, which acquired Booker Group Plc of the UK](#).

A second very large value domestic transaction that completed in Quarter 2 2018 was [Melrose Industries Plc of the UK, which acquired GKN Plc of the UK](#).

Figure 3c: Value of domestic M&A transactions involving UK companies, 2000 to 2018

Figure 3c: Value of domestic M&A transactions involving UK companies, 2000 to 2018



Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes:

1. Values of deals are at current prices.
2. A new method for compiling M&A statistics was introduced from Quarter 1 2018 which may lead to a structural break in all M&A statistical time series. More information regarding these changes can be found in Annex 1.

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

Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018

[Xafinity Plc of the UK acquired Punter Southall Holdings Ltd of the UK](#)

[Spectris Plc of the UK acquired Concept Life Sciences Ltd of the UK](#)

[Montagu Private Equity LLP of the UK acquired Servelec Group Plc of the UK](#)

[Greencoat UK Wind Plc of the UK acquired Brockaghboy Windfarm Ltd of the UK](#)

Quarter 2 (Apr to June) 2018

[Countryside Properties Plc of the UK acquired Westleigh Group Ltd of the UK](#)

[Cooperative Group Ltd of the UK acquired Nisa Retail Ltd of the UK](#)

Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 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](#)

9 . M&A activity during 2018 was higher than the averages for 2008 to 2017

The longer-term trend in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity has been one of decreasing numbers and values. This can be seen in Table 1, which shows the average number and value of each type of M&A transaction over five-year intervals since 1993. For example, there was an average of 186 domestic acquisitions per year between 2003 and 2007 and this decreased to an average of 73 transactions between 2013 and 2017. The average value of domestic acquisitions also fell from £6.5 billion to £3.3 billion between these periods.

Similarly, the numbers of inward acquisitions have also decreased since 2003, yet the values have increased. There were 54 inward transactions at £12.5 billion on average between 2003 and 2007 compared with an average 46 transactions at £15.3 billion between 2013 and 2017.

Table 1: Mergers and acquisitions involving UK companies, five-year and long-term intervals, 1993 to Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 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
1993 to 2017	80	9.3	49	9.7	124	5.9
1993 to 1997	111	3.4	46	2.4	140	5.3
1998 to 2002	117	20.8	51	10.0	132	10.8
2003 to 2007	88	8.4	54	12.5	186	6.5
2008 to 2012	51	6.0	49	8.6	90	3.6
2013 to 2017	32	7.6	46	15.3	73	3.3
2018*	68	5.7	140	17.8	211	6.6
Q4 2018	61	9.9	119	33.3	214	5.0

Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes

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

The impact of some very-high-valued M&A deals that completed in 2018 can be seen in the average values for both inward and domestic M&A deals. During this period the average value of M&A made by overseas companies (inward M&A) was £17.8 billion compared with a smaller average value of £15.3 billion during 2017 to 2018. Likewise, M&A between UK companies (domestic M&A) also saw a notable increase in average values during 2018 (£6.6 billion) compared with an average value of £3.3 billion over 2013 to 2017.

Similarly, the increase in the value of M&A abroad by UK companies (outward M&A) over 2013 to 2017 led to the value of this activity averaging £7.6 billion, compared with a slightly smaller average value of £6.0 billion during 2008 to 2012.

The number of deals in Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018 was lower than the average number of deals per quarter in 2018. However, the value of inward (£33.3 billion) and outward (£9.9 billion) deals were both above the average values over 2018 (£17.8 billion and £5.7 billion respectively). This indicates that some of the highest-value cross-border M&A transactions completed in the first quarter of 2018.

10 . External evidence suggests business investment intentions remained positive

Global merger, 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 (BoE) [Credit Conditions Survey for Quarter 4 2018](#) reported that:

"The overall availability of credit to the corporate sector was reported to have been unchanged in Quarter 4 2018. Within this, the availability of credit provided to medium businesses was reported to have fallen slightly in Quarter 4 2018 and was unchanged for small and large businesses. The overall availability of credit to the corporate sector was expected to remain unchanged in Quarter 1 2019".

The BoE [Agents' Summary of Business Conditions report for Quarter 4 2018](#) stated that:

"Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity continued to hold up, though there were some signs of slowing following a period of robust growth, and demand remained strong for IT services. But demand had weakened in sectors reliant on discretionary spending, such as hospitality and marketing. A number of contacts warned that if Brexit uncertainty continued, activity could slow in Quarter 1 2019, potentially quite sharply, as businesses were likely to avoid completing large transactions close to the date of EU withdrawal". The same report also stated that:

"...demand for credit from corporates softened slightly, reflecting subdued investment intentions, and slower refinancing and mergers and acquisitions activity. Credit availability tightened for some contacts in sectors vulnerable to a potential slowing in demand such as construction, procurement and consumer-facing businesses".

The BoE [Inflation Report for November 2018 \(PDF, 5MB\)](#) reported that:

"...weak demand for investment appears to have been reflected in slowing growth of bank lending to both large companies and small and medium-sized enterprises since late 2016. Results from the Quarter 3 2018 BoE Credit Conditions Survey suggest that lenders anticipate a further reduction in large companies' demand for credit in Quarter 4 2018. While a broader measure of companies' external financing suggests larger companies have continued to raise finance at a reasonably steady pace since 2015, some of that financing has been raised through leveraged loans for mergers and acquisitions or balance sheet restructuring, and so is unlikely to have provided direct support to business investment growth".

11 . Revisions

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) statistics for Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar), Quarter 2 (Apr to June) and Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018 have been revised in the light of new information.

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.

M&A statistics from Quarter 1 2018 fully incorporate the new data source and methods. This new data source has improved the coverage of smaller M&A transactions and therefore results 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).

Annual data tables for 2018 are produced in conjunction with the Quarter 4 2018 results. 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 for M&A transactions valued at £100 million and greater, principally occur for the following reasons.

Completion of transactions

On announcement of a proposed transaction an expected completion date is usually given. The publicly reported 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 initially used to compile the aggregates. These can vary considerably from the values ultimately supplied by the respondents, frequently because the assumption of debt has been included in the publicly reported value. A nominal value is applied if no publicly reported value is available. The final values used to create the aggregates are those supplied by the respondent.

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 purchased company, that is, a share ownership of 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.

12 . Response rates

Table 2: Response rates for Quarter 3 (July to Sept) 2018 and Quarter 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018 for completed M&A valued £100 million and more

Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions (CBAM) Outwards

Statistics of Sample Size – Latest Survey Conducted:

Reference Period	Quarter 3 2018	Quarter 4 2018
Response Rate (%)	88%	88%

Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions (CBAM) Inwards

Statistics of Sample Size – Latest Survey Conducted:

Reference Period	Quarter 3 2018	Quarter 4 2018
Response Rate (%)	92%	100%

Domestic Mergers and Acquisitions (DAM)

Statistics of Sample Size – Latest Survey Conducted:

Reference Period	Quarter 3 2018	Quarter 4 2018
Response Rate (%)	85%	88%

Source: Office for National Statistics - Mergers and Acquisitions Survey

Notes

1. Previous quarter responses have been revised
2. latest quarter responses are provisional.,Quarter 3 covers July to September; Quarter 4 covers October to December.

13 . Quality and methodology

The [Mergers and acquisitions Quality and Methodology Information](#) report contains important information on: check this link is to the new QMI?

- 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

14 . 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](#).

15 . 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.

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

In January 2018, the 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 January 2018, the M&A survey questionnaires were dispatched daily by ONS as soon as a 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.

Now, only large deals, classified as transactions worth over £100 million, continue to receive a survey questionnaire. ONS 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 per quarter. 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.

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 and Growth Business UK.

Bureau van Dijk report over 100,000 new deals annually resulting in an ever-growing database of current and historical transactions.¹ Analysis of this new data source revealed that, compared with the ONS, Bureau van Dijk identifies more M&A deals involving British companies. Using the Zephyr database 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 big, since previously the ONS had sufficient coverage of the largest transactions that generally dominate headline estimates. Nevertheless, some caution is advised when interpreting changes in activity from Quarter 1 (Jan to Mar) 2018 with earlier periods – especially in terms of the number of deals.

New imputation methods for missing M&A deal values

In the past, the ONS 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. ONS 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 M&A statistics took place on a quarterly and annual basis. These mainly affected 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, the ONS anticipates 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 4 (Oct to Dec) 2018, all quarters of 2018 are measured using the new processes outlined in this annex. We will continue developing our methods for calculating M&A statistics.

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

1. Bureau Van Dijk Zephyr 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
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
2018	272	22 708	49	12 089	560	71 105	60	16 432
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	75 [†]	6 029 [†]	16 [†]	2 511 [†]	163 [†]	24 489 [†]	10 [†]	7 065 [†]
Q2	72	2 453	13	2 823	169	6 419	15	2 926
Q3	64	4 291	13	5 098	109	6 915	16	4 344
Q4	61	9 935	7	1 657	119	33 282	19	2 097

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
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
2018	272	22 708	225	17 639	69	686	203	4 383

[†] 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
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
2018	49	12 089	38	11 816	..	..	..	..

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
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
2018	560	71 105	108	64 427	..	..	..	..

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
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	..	..	..	..
2018	60	16 432	46	10 041	..	..	..	..

[†] 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

3 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.

4 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.

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
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
2018	272	22 708	131	3 859	13	1 884	141	5 743	68	15 322

	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
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	..	..	..	..	..	..
2018	24	815	92	16 137	20	598	..	..	..	..

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
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	..	..
2018	49	12 089	..	..	..	..	25	6 279	..	..

	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
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	..	..	..	..
2018	..	..	8	1 906	9	3 042	..	..	..	..

† Indicates earliest revision, if any.

Disclosive data indicated by ..

-indicates data is zero or less than £0.5m

1 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.

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.

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
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
2018	560	71 105	187	5 122	56	11 789	243	16 911	201	46 190

	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
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
2018	39	4 306	240	50 496	53	1 500	18	888	9	1 310

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
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
2018	60	16 432	22	3 155	7	3 430	29	6 584	14	1 353

	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
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	..	..	–	–
2018	7	1 686	21	3 040	8	6 784	..	..	..	..

† Indicates earliest revision, if any

Disclosive data indicated by ..

-indicates data is zero or less than £0.5m

1 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.

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.

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
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
2018	842	26 538	457	18 356	385	8 181
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	223 [†]	7 107 [†]	108 [†]	5 009 [†]	115 [†]	2 098 [†]
Q2	207	11 689	119	9 285	88	2 403
Q3	198	2 710	120	1 529	78	1 181
Q4	214	5 032	110	2 533	104	2 499

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	DWVA
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
2018	26 538	6 944	7 981	11 552	63	56	44	–
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	7 107 [†]	1 825 [†]	1 997 [†]	3 222 [†]	63 [†]	54 [†]	45 [†]	1 [†]
Q2	11 689	2 659	2 321	6 709	–	43	57	1 [†]
Q3	2 710	1 498	1 169	45	–	98	2	–
Q4	5 032	962	2 494	1 576	–	69	31	–

[†] 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
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
2018	223	10 619	500	54 673	-277	-44 054
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	59 [†]	3 518 [†]	153 [†]	17 424 [†]	-94 [†]	-13 906 [†]
Q2	59	-370	154	3 493	-95	-3 863
Q3	51	-807	93	2 571	-42	-3 378
Q4	54	8 278	100	31 185	-46	-22 907

[†] 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	2018	2018
			Q1	Q2	Q3
Cross-border mergers, acquisitions and disposals					
Transactions abroad by UK companies					
Value of acquisitions	CBBI	–	272	–78	–239
Value of disposals	CBBT	–	199	–	208
Transactions in the UK by foreign companies					
Value of acquisitions	CBCQ	–	558	204	3 397
Value of disposals	CBDB	–	–488	–316	2 535
Mergers and acquisitions in the UK by UK companies					
Summary of transactions					
Value of all acquisitions and mergers	DUCM	–	433	–183	–224
Value of acquisitions of independent companies	HIKB	–1	91	–61	–93
Value of sales of subsidiary companies	HIKC	–1	342	–123	–131
Category of expenditure					
Cash paid for independent companies	DWVW	–	87	–61	–91
Cash paid for subsidiary companies	DWVX	–1	330	–122	–130
Issue of ordinary shares	AIHD	–	16	1	–
Issue of fixed interest securities	AIHE	–	1	–	–