

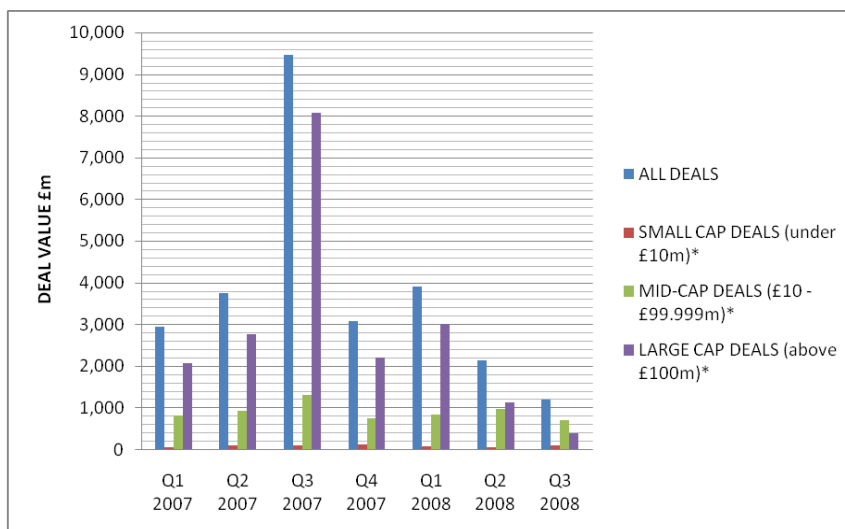
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REPUBLIC OF IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

Q3 2008 M&A and IPO report

According to Corpfm, an Experian company specialising in the provision of financial information, the number of transactions announced in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in Q3 2008 decreased to 77 deals in comparison with the previous quarter, which represents a 22.2% drop on Q2's 99 transactions.

The total deal value has also gone down to £1.2billion, showing a decrease of 44.4% on the Q2 figures of £2.1billion.



Deal volumes by deal size

There were 3 transactions with a consideration of over £100million recorded, 2 less than in Q2. The deal value total reached only £389.9million, while previous quarter recorded £1.1billion.

No deals in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland exceeded the £1billion mark this quarter, same as in Q2.

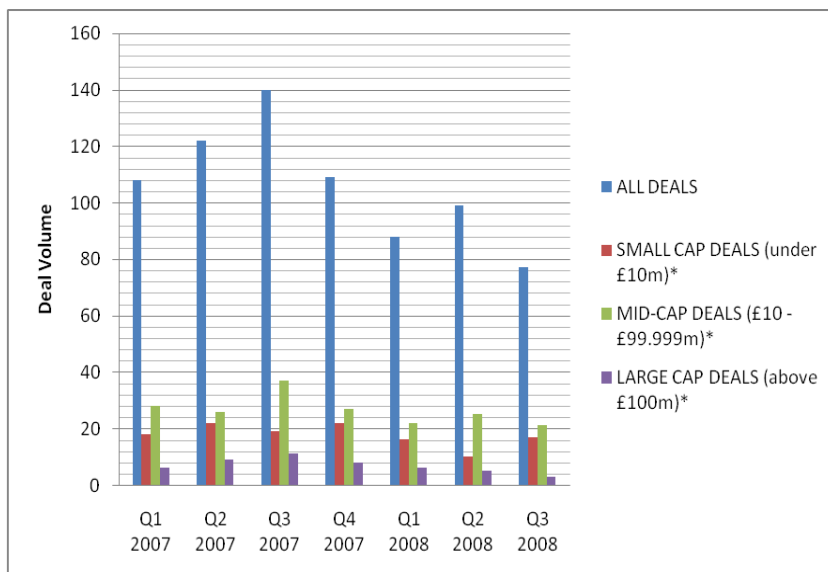
*Where consideration disclosed

Source: Corpfm, a part of Experian

The acquisition of Airtricity Ltd, Glashule, Republic of Ireland by Scottish & Southern Energy Plc, Perth, Perthshire, Scotland for £1.9billion was the only transaction announced in these regions worth over a billion pounds this year.

In the mid-cap range (£10-100million*), both deal volume and value have dropped in comparison with the Q2 results. A total of 21 transactions and £694.8million represented a 16% and 27.5% decrease respectively on the 25 deals and £958.8million recorded in the previous quarter.

Small deals (value under £10million*) accounted for 17 announced transactions and deal value of £92.7million as opposed to last quarter's 10 deals and £35.4million. This makes Republic of Ireland and the Northern Ireland the only region which recorded a growth in both fields in this category.



Advisors activity by volume

The most active financial advisor for Republic of Ireland and the Northern Ireland deals was Ernst & Young with 5 transactions, followed by IBI Corporate Finance Ltd with 3 deals. Farragut Capital has taken the third place after assisting on 1 deal with the highest deal value.

*Where consideration disclosed

**Q3 2008 League tables
Any REPUBLIC OF IRELAND or
NORTHERN IRELAND involvement**



Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Financial Advisor	Deal volume	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Legal Advisor	Deal volume
-	1	ERNST & YOUNG TRANSACTION ADVISORY SERVICES	5	-	1	LK SHIELDS & PARTNERS	8
9	2	IBI CORPORATE FINANCE LTD	3	3	2	ARTHUR COX	4
-	3	FARRAGUT CAPITAL	1	-	3	A & L GOODBODY	4
-	4	DANIEL STEWART & CO	1	-	4	LOVELLS	3
-	5	HSBC BANK	1	2	5	WILLIAM FRY	3
-	6	PIPER JAFFRAY COMPANIES	1	1	6	MATHESON ORMSBY PRENTICE	3
-	7	DOLMEN CORPORATE FINANCE	1	-	7	NORTON ROSE	2
-	8	LANDSBANKI	1	6*	8	ODONNELL SWEENEY EVERSLEDGS	2
5	9	DELOITTE	1	6*	9	MILLS SELIG	2
-	10	CHARLES STANLEY SECURITIES	1	-	10	LESTRANGE & BRETT	1

LK Shields & Partners topped the table for legal advisors with 8 transactions. Arthur Cox and A&L Goodbody placed second and third respectively, both having advised on 4 transactions. The disclosed deal values were used as a distinguisher.

UK overview

The final Q3 2008 figures for the whole of UK show that despite a decline in deal volume of 36.3% in comparison with Q2 2008, the total deal value in fact increased by 11.6%. There were 972 deals announced in Q3, representing a total deal value of £64billion, as opposed to £57.4billion and 1526 transactions in the previous quarter.

Overall seven regions saw the value of deals conducted increase from Q2 2008 to Q3 2008: London (up 80.4%), the South West (up 3.4%), East Anglia (up 46.7%), Midlands (up 47.1%), Yorkshire (up 223.2% after witnessing 2 deals worth over £1billion each), the North West (up 77.2%) and Scotland, boosted by the HBOS and Lloyds TSB deal (up 285.1%).

Across the UK, the small-cap deals (with consideration under £10million) are booming with a deal average of £3.57million the highest recorded since 1993. In terms of mid-cap deals (transactions from £10million to £99.99million), the deal value average of £34.72million is the highest of 2008. Large deals (over £100 million) then show a deal average within Q3 of £1billion, the largest since Q2 2000. It needs to be said that 2 deals played a big role in this:

*Where consideration disclosed

the already mentioned HBOS takeover and also the recommended cash offer for British Energy Group by Lake Acquisitions, both worth over £12billion.

This report is based on transactions announced between 1st July and 30th September 2008. Target, bidder or parent of either party must be located in the region which is analysed in order to be included. The deal value of transactions covered in this report is £500,000 or above. Deal activity analysis referring to deal values is based on disclosed actual figures only.

ENDS

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Experian plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (EXPN) and is a constituent of the FTSE 100 index. Experian has corporate headquarters in Dublin, Ireland and has operational headquarters in

*Where consideration disclosed

Source: Corpfin, a part of Experian

Costa Mesa, California and Nottingham, UK. The Group employs approximately 15,500 people in 38 countries worldwide, supporting clients in over 65 countries around the world. Continuing sales for the year ended 31 March 2008 were \$4,059m (£2,020m / €2,858m).

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About Corpin

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Corpin offers International M&A deal data, with specialist regional search ability; Company and Director Information and Filed Documents to enable our clients to effectively source deals; sell businesses; make valuations decisions; conduct deal due diligence and build their Corporate Finance practice.