

Deal Drivers: APAC Q1 2023

A spotlight on mergers and acquisitions trends in 2023

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Foreword: Region rousing itself for 2023 recovery

APAC was hardly immune to the global headwinds that characterized and hindered M&A through most of 2022. Considering the dealmaking statistics for the first three months of this year, the region still seems stuck in that squall. Overall deal volumes and aggregate deal values continue to trend in the wrong direction.

The trajectory of the Chinese M&A market of course has an outsized impact on APAC's region-wide figures, and its largest economy continued to struggle in Q1. But there are signs outside the dealmaking arena that may point to recovery in the not-so-distant future.

In its most recent World Economic Outlook, published in early April, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected that China's economy will expand by 5.2% in 2023, up from 3% last year, on the back of higher retail consumption, export growth, and infrastructure investment following the undoing of the country's zero-Covid restrictions. A more upbeat economy will invariably precipitate more M&A both in China and throughout the region.

Future-proofing M&A

China may be the bellwether for APAC M&A overall, but it would be short-sighted to overlook other markets in APAC, which through Q1 2023 generated a handful of big-ticket deals that may prove indicative of the future of M&A in key industries.

From digital transformation and alternative energy to precious metals and mobility solutions, dealmakers in the region are capitalizing on major trends and innovations that will characterize M&A in core sectors moving forward, especially in APAC's more advanced economies.

India and other emerging markets in Southeast Asia likewise continue to generate exciting deals. Telecommunications, financial services, industrial, and infrastructure transactions remain vital to the maturation of these countries, and benefit from strong government support. Taken together, APAC's diverse and growth-minded economies appear ready to rally back from a disappointing 2022.



Outlook: APAC heat chart

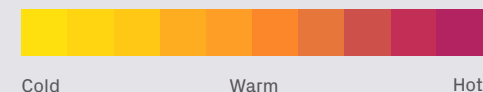
The M&A arena in APAC is banking on the resurgence of the Chinese economy to drive transactions through the remainder of 2023. If recent reports about the country's growth projections hold up, dealmakers may see that hope fulfilled, as our forward-looking heat chart, which breaks down 'companies for sale' stories on the Mergermarket intelligence tool, also illustrates.

The heat chart for APAC is showing red-hot activity in all of the largest sectors for M&A in Greater China. There were 1,523 stories overall logged on the intelligence tool relating to assets in the subregion, comprising more than half (54%) of all such stories across all parts of APAC.

The industrials & chemicals (I&C) sector, which contributed five of the seven largest deals announced in Greater China through the first three months of this year, is expected to again provide the bulk of this activity. The heat chart shows 374 stories relating to potential I&C targets, representing a quarter of all stories about Chinese assets. Moreover, that represents just over 70% of all stories about I&C companies across APAC as a whole, underscoring the significance of China's industrials sector to the region. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, the country's manufacturing purchasing managers index stood at 51.9 in March (anything above 50 represents expansion), up from a low of 47 in December 2022.

Heat chart based on potential companies for sale

	Greater China	Southeast Asia	South Korea	Japan	India	Australia & New Zealand	TOTAL
Industrials & chemicals	374	36	35	27	31	31	534
TMT	202	75	39	18	49	68	451
Financial services	120	63	13	16	37	31	280
Business services	172	24	8	3	33	31	271
Consumer	115	40	16	9	53	37	270
Energy, mining & utilities	136	50	8	9	18	36	257
Pharma, medical & biotech	118	47	10	11	31	32	249
Real estate	100	18		3	3	7	131
Construction	83	7	6	1	9	8	114
Leisure	40	20	12	4	2	16	94
Transportation	40	17	10		12	12	91
Agriculture	21	11	2	1	5	14	54
Defense	2				1		3
TOTAL	1,523	408	159	102	284	323	2,799



Note: The Intelligence Heat Charts are based on 'companies for sale' tracked by Mergermarket in the respective regions between October 01, 2022 and March 31, 2023. Opportunities are captured according to the dominant geography and sector of the potential target company.

Supported by government measures to stimulate investment in core sectors, the latter half of 2023 can be expected to see a wave of high-value Chinese dealmaking as businesses pursue inorganic growth. And I&C will hardly be the only sector to benefit from this post-crisis economic recovery. After a strained couple of years, China's business services (172 stories) and financial services (120) industries are also showing the potential for red-hot activity this year. Consumer sector M&A is likewise expected to climb (115 stories) on the back of higher consumer confidence and rising retail expenditures.

From digital transformation among large enterprises in Japan, where businesses have long been viewed as set in their ways, to innovative fintech in emerging economies such as Vietnam, the potential applications of TMT assets is almost limitless. After I&C, which generated 534 'for sale' stories across APAC (19% of the total), TMT is expected to be the next most prolific sector for M&A, with 451 stories (16%), far ahead of third-place financial services (280, 10%).

Beyond China's border, the next biggest contributor of 'for sale' stories in APAC is Southeast Asia, with 408 across all sectors. The bulk of these (75, 18% in the subregion) related to technology, media & telecoms (TMT) assets, which have been under particular stress as valuations declined over the course of 2022 in line with weaker equity markets. But the sector's interconnectedness with other parts of the economy mean it has remained a vital part of the M&A arena in APAC.



Summary: APAC M&A looks for a break in the clouds

The number of M&A transactions announced across APAC totaled 2,196 in Q1 2023, a regression of 15% from the preceding quarter. It reflects a persisting downward trend for dealmaking in the region that began as the calendar flipped from 2021 to 2022. That sum of 2,196 deal announcements represents a 25% decline year-on-year.

With deal volumes down, aggregate deal values likewise dipped. Q1's transactions were worth a combined US\$195bn, down 10% quarter-on-quarter and 27% lower than the same period last year. Moreover, that sum of US\$195bn is the lowest quarterly total recorded in two and a half years—the last time APAC dealmaking in any quarter failed to eclipse the US\$200bn mark was during the early peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, when Q2 2020 saw just US\$139bn worth of transactions, albeit from many fewer deal announcements (934).

For all that, the APAC market did perform better overall than that of either the Americas or EMEA, at least in value terms. Against APAC's 10% quarter-on-quarter decline, the Americas recorded a drop of 28%, and EMEA one of more than 34%.

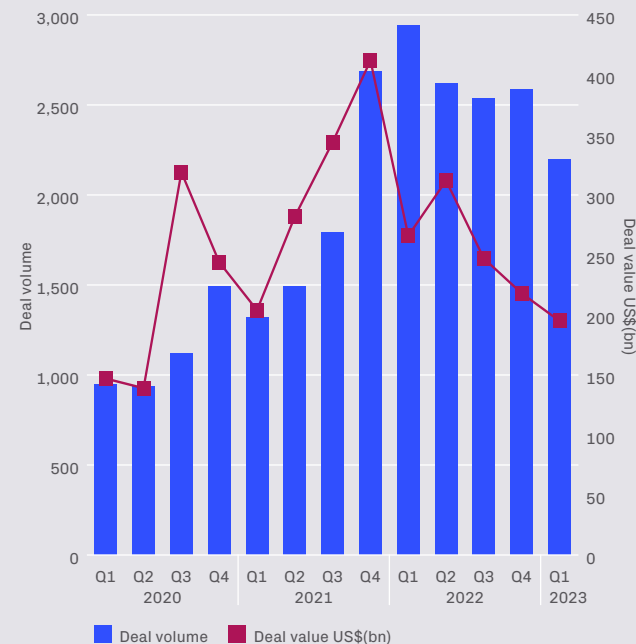
China struggles to recover

Considering the region more closely, some markets of course fared better than others. A couple, in fact, managed to record buoyant opening quarters to the year. South Korea, for instance, recorded marginal increases in both deal volume and total deal value compared to Q4 2022, and Japan's M&A space generated its highest aggregate deal value in years. Australia & New Zealand, too, saw a 36% quarter-on-quarter spike in deal value, in spite of M&A volumes again trending down.

These encouraging signs, however, were not sufficient to outweigh the broad decline in Greater China, the region's largest M&A market. It logged 590 transactions worth almost US\$70bn combined, accounting for more than a quarter of total announcements and over a third of aggregate deal value in APAC in Q1. However, those figures represent quarter-on-quarter declines of 29% and 32%, respectively, dragging down the region's overall performance.

Still, APAC's core markets continued to generate a handful of large deals that illustrate the region's strengths and the future of its M&A space, with a particular emphasis on industrials and natural resources.

APAC M&A activity, 2020-Q1 2023



Source: Mergermarket



Renewed energy for deals

The energy, mining & utilities (EMU) sector produced four of APAC's seven largest deals in Q1. This helped push the sector to the top of the M&A pile, at least in value terms. In spite of seeing only 145 M&A announcements, making it just the sixth busiest sector by volume, those EMU deals were worth almost US\$50bn, a year-on-year increase of 42%.

The four large EMU transactions illustrate ongoing developments in the sector. In a US\$12.3bn deal, Australia's Origin Energy was taken over by investors EIG and Brookfield Asset Management, with the latter expected to invest upwards of US\$10bn over the next decade in Australian renewables assets. In another cross-border deal, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) acquired a stake in ReNew Energy Global, India's largest renewable energy provider, for around US\$6bn.

In the mining space, Newmont Goldcorp's US\$18.1bn bid for Melbourne-based Newcrest Mining was the largest transaction announced in APAC in Q1. The deal may signal the start of a round of consolidation among mining firms, who are benefiting from rising demand for metals used in battery technology. Likewise, American chemicals group Albemarle made a US\$3.6bn bid for Perth-based Liontown Resources, which controls one of Australia's most promising lithium mines.

APAC top sectors by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
Energy, mining & utilities	49,682
TMT	41,493
Industrials & chemicals	37,536
Financial services	14,169
Real estate	11,728

APAC top sectors by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
TMT	622
Industrials & chemicals	389
Business services	223
Pharma, medical & biotech	190
Consumer	155

APAC top bidders by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
China	50,615
USA	34,289
Japan	30,570
Australia	17,700
Singapore	11,985

APAC top bidders by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
Japan	776
China	513
India	154
South Korea	134
Australia	134

Making history

Besides EMU, the only other large sector to see a year-on-year spike was I&C. With a 10% increase, it contributed the fifth and sixth largest deals in APAC in Q1, including electric-vehicle (EV) manufacturer Lotus Tech's US\$5.5bn merger with L Catterton Asia Acquisition Corp, a Singapore-based special acquisition company (SPAC).

TMT likewise contributed two of APAC's largest deals, but overall the sector has been through the ringer. It generated 622 transactions in Q1, making it still the busiest sector by volume, but that figure represents a year-on-year decline of 37%, while in value terms it contracted by 24%.

The latter figure would have been even worse were it not for the scale of TMT's largest transaction in the region, worth US\$16.1bn. In Japan's largest ever take-private, investment firm Japan Industrial Partners acquired all outstanding shares in Toshiba, the country's aching conglomerate that has been plagued by worries for the last several years.

APAC top 10 announced deals, Q1 2023

	Announced date	Bidder company	Target company	Sector	Vendor company	Deal value (US\$m)
1	05-Feb-23	Newmont Goldcorp Corporation	Newcrest Mining Limited (100% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities		18,143
2	23-Mar-23	Japan Industrial Partners, Inc.; TBJH Inc.	Toshiba Corporation (100% Stake)	TMT		16,076
3	27-Mar-23	Consortium led by Brookfield Asset Management and EIG	Origin Energy Limited	Energy, mining & utilities		12,310
4	03-Mar-23	Canada Pension Plan Investment Board	ReNew Energy Global plc (17.14% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities	Goldman Sachs Principal Strategic Investments group	5,862
5	31-Jan-23	L Catterton Asia Acquisition Corp.	Lotus Tech (100% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals		5,500
6	27-Mar-23	Saudi Arabian Oil Co; Aramco Overseas Company B.V.	Rongsheng Petro Chemical Co., Ltd. (10.66% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	Zhejiang Rongsheng Holding Group Co., Ltd.	3,578
7	27-Mar-23	Albemarle Corporation	Liontown Resources Limited (97.32% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities		3,573
8	17-Jan-23	Cosco Shipping Holdings Co., Ltd.; China Chengtong Holdings Group Company Limited; National Council for Social Security Fund; China State-owned Enterprise Structure Fund Phrase II Co., Ltd.; China Government-Enterprise Cooperation Investment Fund Co., Ltd.	Fortune COFCO Co., Ltd. (22.2% Stake)	Consumer		3,102
9	30-Mar-23	GIC Private Limited	Works Human Intelligence Co., Ltd. (50% Stake)	TMT	Bain Capital, L.P.	2,660
10	20-Mar-23	Australian Clinical Labs Ltd.	Healius Ltd. (100% Stake)	Pharma, medical & biotech		2,174

An aerial photograph of the Shanghai skyline at sunset. The Oriental Pearl Tower is prominent on the left, with its two spheres glowing in the golden light. The Bund is visible on the right, with numerous skyscrapers and the Huangpu River. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with a grid of semi-transparent colored rectangles overlaid on the right side. A yellow banner with the text 'Greater China' is centered over the image.

Greater China

Downcast dealmakers pinning hopes on economic rebound

Greater China's economic and M&A market performance have been under significant strain over the last three years. The imposition of markedly strict zero-Covid protocols had a severe dampening effect on economic activity; geopolitical tensions have smothered cross-border dealmaking; and China's real estate sector was at risk of widespread debt defaults.

But circumstances began to improve considerably at the end of 2022, when China abandoned its zero-Covid restrictions. Through the first three months of this year, its economy expanded by 4.5% year-on-year, surpassing analysts' expectations. Retail consumption rebounded, as did export growth and infrastructure investment.

Though still below the government's official full-year target of 5% growth, there is confidence in the market that China is now firmly on the path to recovery and will be able to meet that goal.

That momentum, however, has not yet been carried over into Greater China's M&A market, which hit a three-year-low in aggregate value terms in Q1. But given the uptick in economic activity, there is reason to hope that the first three months of this year will soon represent the end of the downturn.

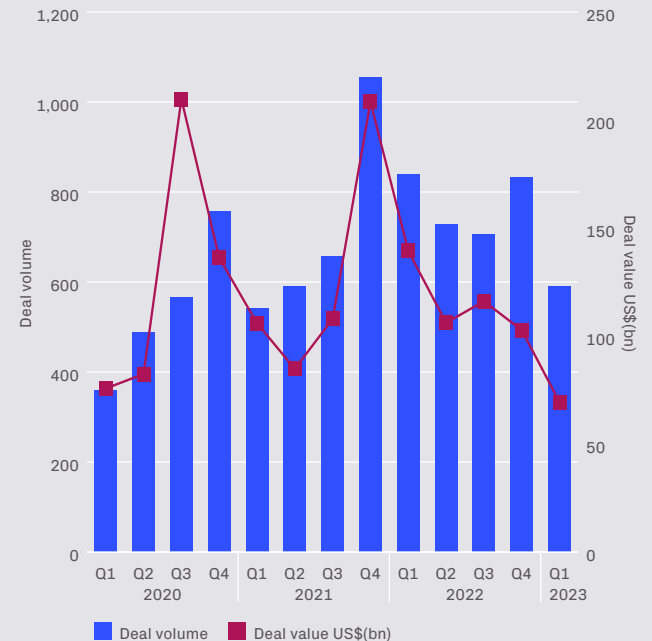
Low-water mark

Overall, 590 M&A transactions were announced in Greater China in Q1, the weakest level since early 2021 and representing a decline of 29% from the preceding quarter. These deals were worth a combined US\$69.4bn, down 32% from Q4 2022 and lower even than the total achieved during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic (US\$75.7bn and US\$82.4bn in Q1 and Q2 of 2020, respectively).

These figures are indicative of a broad-based decline in dealmaking, with only two sectors, specifically I&C and real estate, recording year-on-year increases in aggregate value. But other major sectors suffered tremendous reductions in activity, including TMT (down 58% year-on-year), financial services (down 65%), and EMU (down 77%).

One notable change over the last couple of years has been the drop-off in inbound M&A to Greater China, which reflects rising protectionist attitudes among major economies and Sino-US tensions in particular. Of the 590 deals announced in Q1, only 61 involved bidders from outside the subregion.

Greater China M&A activity, 2020-Q1 2023



Source: Mergermarket



EVs hit the road

Helping cement I&C's position as the most valuable sector for M&A in Q1 in Greater China was the announcement of several high-profile transactions. Of the seven biggest deals announced in the subregion through the first three months of the year, five originated in the I&C sector, including both the largest and second largest overall.

In the latter, global energy giant Saudi Aramco acquired a 10.66% stake in Shenzhen-listed Rongsheng Petro Chemical in a US\$3.6bn transaction. The deal marks a significant expansion of Aramco downstream presence in China, and will see the company supply almost half a million barrels per day of crude oil to Rongsheng affiliate Zhejiang Petroleum and Chemical.

Meanwhile, the largest deal in Greater China fell in the automakers space. The US\$5.5bn transaction saw Wuhan-based global luxury electric-vehicle (EV) maker Lotus Tech go public via a merger with Singapore-based SPAC L Catterton Asia Acquisition Corp. The subregion's fourth largest deal also concerned an EV asset, with Hong Kong-based Apollo Future Mobility acquiring WM Motor Global for just over US\$2bn. These two transactions underscore the rapid growth of China's EV capabilities, with the country primed to overtake Japan as the world's largest car exporter by volume.

China top sectors by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
Industrials & chemicals	24,659
TMT	8,875
Financial services	8,860
Real estate	6,494
Consumer	5,058

China top sectors by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
Industrials & chemicals	157
TMT	85
Pharma, medical & biotech	67
Business services	53
Energy, mining & utilities	52

China top bidders by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
China	48,408
Singapore	7,098
Hong Kong	4,242
Saudi Arabia	3,843
USA	3,517

China top bidders by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
China	498
Hong Kong	22
USA	17
Taiwan	9
Japan	7
Singapore	7

National logistics

Outside of I&C, the only other sector to contribute a top-five deal in Greater China in Q1 was the consumer space. Overall the sector generated 41 transactions, down 27% from the same period last year and making it just the seventh busiest sector for M&A in volume terms. Those deals were worth a combined US\$5.1bn, a 16% decline compared to Q1 2022, with the bulk of that total (61%) coming from the sector's lone sizable transaction.

In that deal, logistics company COFCO Fortune, the agri-business arm of Cofco Group, China's largest food manufacturer, sold a 22.2% stake in the company in exchange for a US\$3.1bn capital injection. The investors include Cosco Shipping Holdings and the National Council for Social Security Fund, among other state-owned organizations. The involvement of Cosco Shipping is especially important, and will see the two companies strengthen their collaboration regarding warehousing and transport logistics.

Greater China top 10 announced deals, Q1 2023

	Announced date	Bidder company	Target company	Sector	Vendor company	Deal value (US\$m)
1	31-Jan-23	L Catterton Asia Acquisition Corp.	Lotus Tech (100% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals		5,500
2	27-Mar-23	Saudi Arabian Oil Co; Aramco Overseas Company B.V.	Rongsheng Petro Chemical Co., Ltd. (10.66% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	Zhejiang Rongsheng Holding Group Co., Ltd.	3,578
3	17-Jan-23	Cosco Shipping Holdings Co., Ltd.; China Chengtong Holdings Group Company Limited; National Council for Social Security Fund; China State-owned Enterprise Structure Fund Phrase II Co., Ltd.; China Government-Enterprise Cooperation Investment Fund Co., Ltd.	Fortune COFCO Co., Ltd. (22.2% Stake)	Consumer		3,102
4	11-Jan-23	Apollo Future Mobility Group Limited	WM Motor Global Investment Limited (100% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	WM Motor Holdings Limited	2,029
5	24-Mar-23	Shandong Energy Group New Material Company Limited	Zibo Qixiang Tengda Chemical Co., Ltd. (51.31% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals		1,516
6	07-Mar-23	Tricor Group	Vistra Group Limited	Financial services		1,484
7	29-Mar-23	Shanghai Electric Group Company Limited	Shanghai Electric Industrial Company Limited (48.18% Stake); Shanghai Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd. (48.88% Stake); Shanghai Electric Nuclear Equipment Co., Ltd. (42.2% Stake); Shanghai Electric Group Shanghai Electric Machinery Co., Ltd. (39.42% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited; Bank of China Limited; Bank of Communications Co., Ltd.	1,455
8	27-Mar-23	Aquaron Acquisition	Bestpath (Shanghai) IoT Technology Co., Ltd. (100% Stake)	TMT		1,350
9	15-Mar-23	Wuxi Guolian Development (Group) Co., Ltd.	Minsheng Securities Co., Ltd. (30.3% Stake)	Financial services	Oceanwide Holdings Co., Ltd.	1,320
10	16-Jan-23	AIA Life Insurance Company Limited	Shanghai Shisen Property Co., Ltd. (9.63% Stake)	Real estate		1,246

An aerial night view of a South Korean city skyline, likely Seoul, featuring numerous modern skyscrapers with illuminated windows and light trails from traffic on the roads below. The sky is a deep blue, and the city lights create a vibrant contrast. A yellow banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text "South Korea".

South Korea

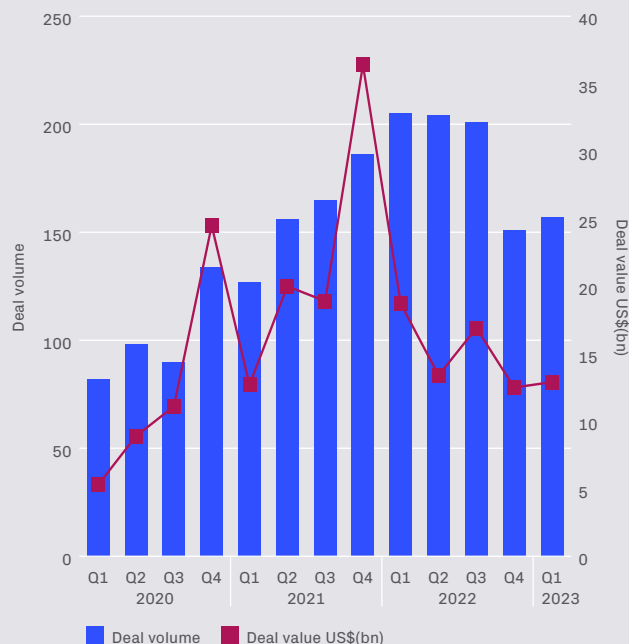
From K-pop to dental implants, South Korea shows its resolve

In a world of downbeat economic projections and browbeaten M&A markets, South Korean dealmakers have more reason for confidence than their peers elsewhere in the world.

After declining over the course of 2022, with Q4 of last year seeing 151 deals worth US\$12.5bn announced in South Korea—versus 186 worth US\$36.4bn during the same period in 2021—Q1 2023 saw quarter-on-quarter increases in both volume and aggregate deal value.

Both figures were up 4% compared to the preceding quarter, with volume rising to 157 and the total value of those deals reaching US\$12.9bn. While those figures do represent year-on-year declines of 23% and 31%, respectively, any increase in activity, however slight, should be viewed positively given the current climate. Moreover, across APAC as a whole deal volumes declined by 15% and value by 10% in Q1—South Korea is evidently on the right track. In addition, those upticks in activity seem sustainable, with no anomalously large deals muddying the waters.

South Korea M&A activity, 2020-Q1 2023



Source: Mergermarket

PE powers up

The PE space in particular clearly demonstrated its resilience in Q1. South Korea logged 42 PE deal announcements through the first three months of the year, with these worth a combined US\$6.8bn, up 40% and 42% from the preceding quarter, respectively.

These figures seem to affirm the reversal in fortunes that began slowly to materialize in H2 2022, and while PE deal volume is down 22% year-on-year, total value is down only 2% from the same period in 2022.

As with its M&A market as a whole, South Korea's PE space is outperforming the regional averages, with volumes down 11% and value up marginally by 2% quarter-on-quarter across APAC as a whole.

Four of the 10 largest transactions announced in the country in Q1 involved PE players, including noteworthy inbound M&A in a market that is otherwise quite insular. Of the 157 South Korean assets targeted in deals through the first three months of this year, 123 (78%) involved domestic bidders.



Buyout bonanza

The largest South Korean deal announced in Q1 fell in the I&C sector, which generated 35 transactions (the second most across all industries) worth a combined US\$3.2bn (also the second highest).

Just under half of that total was generated by Swedish PE firm EQT Partners' US\$1.5bn acquisition of a 65.69% stake in industrial security service provider SK Shieldus, one of the rare deals to involve an international bidder. Specifically, it was EQT Value-Add Infrastructure, one of the firm's key funds, who made the acquisition, its first investment in South Korea.

SK Shieldus provides central security monitoring and dispatch services to almost 700,000 commercial customers, in addition to cybersecurity consulting and monitoring services. It holds around 30% of the local market share, second only to the Samsung group's efforts in this field.

South Korea's second biggest transaction also involved PE bidders, in this case domestic players. In late January a consortium of local firms MBK Partners and Unison Capital Korea tendered a US\$1.466bn offer for 65.06% of the shares in dental implant manufacturer Osstem Implant, raising its ownership share to 83.34%. The consortium followed this up in late March with another tender offer, intending to acquire a further 10.62%, with a view to delisting Osstem Implant from the junior Kosdaq bourse.

South Korea top sectors by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
TMT	3,753
Industrials & chemicals	3,173
Pharma, medical & biotech	2,354
Financial services	1,185
Leisure	670

South Korea top sectors by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
TMT	51
Industrials & chemicals	35
Pharma, medical & biotech	14
Consumer	14
Financial services	13

South Korea top bidders by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
South Korea	9,140
Sweden	1,501
Saudi Arabia	928
Japan	404
Singapore	321

South Korea top bidders by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
South Korea	123
USA	7
China	5
Japan	5
Singapore	3

South Korea top 10 announced deals, Q1 2023

	Announced date	Bidder company	Target company	Sector	Vendor company	Deal value (US\$m)
1	02-Mar-23	EQT Partners AB	SK shieldus Co., Ltd. (65.69% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	Keystone Partners; Daishin Private Equity; Macquarie Asset Management Holdings Pty. Ltd.; SK Square Co., Ltd.	1,501
2	25-Jan-23	MBK Partners Inc.; UCK Partners	Osstem Implant (65.05% Stake)	Pharma, medical & biotech		1,466
3	07-Mar-23	Kakao Corporation; Kakao Entertainment Co., Ltd.	S.M. Entertainment Co., Ltd. (35.36% Stake)	TMT		956
4	12-Jan-23	GIC Private Limited; Public Investment Fund	Kakao Entertainment Co., Ltd. (10.21% Stake)	TMT		928
5	14-Mar-23	Yeju Savings bank	Apro Financial (consumer lending business) (100% Stake)	Financial services	Apro Financial Co., Ltd.	766
6	31-Jan-23	BlueCove Investment	Grand Hyatt Seoul (100% Stake)	Leisure	PAG Capital; KH Group; Inmark Asset Management Ltd.	568
7	25-Jan-23	BF Logistics Real Estate Investment Ltd. Co. No.3	Kplogistic PFV Co., Ltd. (Incheon logistics center) (100% Stake)	Transportation	Kplogistic PFV Co., Ltd.	527
8	17-Mar-23	MBK Partners Inc.	NexFlex Co.,Ltd. (100% Stake)	TMT	SkyLake Investment Co.	406
9	24-Feb-23	Olympus Corporation	Taewoong Medical Co., Ltd. (100% Stake)	Pharma, medical & biotech		370
10	10-Feb-23	HYBE Co., Ltd.	S.M. Entertainment Co., Ltd. (14.9% Stake)	TMT	Lee Soo-man (Private Individual Investor); Dream Maker Entertainment Ltd.; SM Brand Marketing	334

K-pop in the spotlight

In the TMT sector, the biggest deal related to South Korea's booming K-pop scene. The transaction saw internet company Kakao spend US\$956m on a 35.36% stake in SM Entertainment, making it the largest shareholder in one of South Korea's leading music agencies. Kakao had been in a bidding war with HYBE, the country's top music agency and the home of K-pop sensation BTS, before coming out on top.

Another sizable Q1 TMT transaction—the eighth largest announced in South Korea through the first three months of the year—involved MBK Partners. In that deal, the buyout house acquired a 100% stake in NewFlex, the country's leading flexible copper-clad laminates (FCCL) manufacturer, from domestic peer SkyLake Equity Partners for US\$406m.

FCCL is vital in the production of flexible printed circuit boards, an essential component of modern mobile devices, including smartphones. NewFlex's annual revenue almost quadrupled between 2019-22, and MBK Partners is confident that rising 5G demand and rampant smartphone consumption will continue to produce high growth for the company.



Japan

Toshiba take-private eclipses Japanese M&A market

Among M&A markets globally, Japan's belongs to the small club, of which most members are to be found in APAC, that enjoyed a broadly buoyant Q1. Although deal volume through the opening three months of this year was down from Q4 2022—albeit almost imperceptibly, declining from 771 to 768—aggregate transaction value rose for another consecutive quarter.

Japan logged US\$33.4bn worth of transactions, up 27% from Q4 2022 and the highest total recorded in all but one quarter over the past three years, being surpassed only by the inordinate US\$57.6bn recorded in Q3 2020.

The market has the PE sector to thank for this upswing. PE dealmakers contributed 203 transactions in Japan in Q1, down 9% in volume terms from the preceding quarter but generating a more than fourfold increase in aggregate value quarter-on-quarter, reaching US\$21.1bn. That is easily the highest quarterly total recorded in the last three years, easily eclipsing the US\$13.4bn logged in second-place Q2 2022.

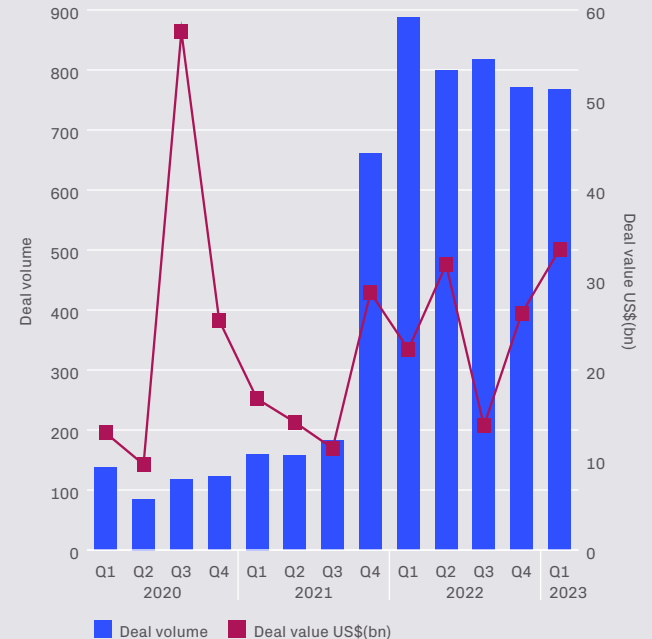
Digitalization drive

That US\$21.1bn sum, accounting for almost two-thirds of all dealmaking activity in Japan, was generated almost exclusively by three large transactions worth a combined US\$19.7bn. Across all M&A in Japan in Q1, these were the fifth, second, and single largest deals announced, including one exit and two buyouts.

In the exit, the second largest of the three deals, PE giant Bain Capital sold a 50% stake in Works Human Intelligence, a human resources software provider, to Singaporean sovereign wealth fund GIC for almost US\$2.7bn. Japanese corporates have long held a reputation as being resistant to change, despite the country's deserved reputation in technology innovation. This deal suggests the pursuit of digital transformation is now reaching into the M&A sphere, opening the possibility for a boom in software dealmaking.

Notably, five of the nine biggest transactions announced in Japan in Q1 fell in the TMT sector, which contributed 324 deals overall. Whereas other markets globally have seen a tremendous decline in tech dealmaking, that figure is down just 6% year-on-year.

Japan M&A activity, 2020-Q1 2023



Source: Mergermarket

Japan top sectors by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
TMT	23,056
Industrials & chemicals	3,327
Real estate	2,665
Business services	1,898
Leisure	1,135

Japan top sectors by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
TMT	324
Industrials & chemicals	110
Business services	67
Pharma, medical & biotech	56
Consumer	53

Japan top bidders by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
Japan	27,563
USA	2,777
Singapore	2,728
United Kingdom	110
South Korea	87

Japan top bidders by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
Japan	736
USA	13
Singapore	5
Hong Kong	4
South Korea	3

End of an era

While TMT deal volumes were encouraging, the TMT sector's performance in value terms was nothing short of astounding in Q1. Dealmaking in the sector was worth just under US\$23.1bn in aggregate, an almost fivefold increase year-on-year and representing 69% of all M&A value generated in Q1 in Japan.

Most of that sum came via the TMT sector and the country's largest transaction overall, which was worth more than US\$16bn. The buyout sees TBJH Inc, a subsidiary of investment firm Japan Industrial Partners, acquire all of the shares on the Tokyo and Nagoya Stock Exchanges of Toshiba. It would be the biggest take-private in Japan's history.

The country's best-known multinational conglomerate, which is almost a century and a half old, Toshiba has been beset by troubles over the last several years, including an accounting scandal in 2015, the failure of its US nuclear business in 2017, a brush with bankruptcy, and the sale of valuable assets to shore up its finances.

In 2021 Toshiba was approached by European PE giant CVC with a take-private offer in the range of US\$20bn, but the deal fell through. Other buyout houses expressed interest in the conglomerate, but to see the process come to the close with a domestic consortium at the helm was more appealing to Toshiba's board. Once the take-private is completed, large-scale restructuring is expected to be pursued, with non-core units likely to come to market.



Trailing behind TMT

After TMT, the greatest contributors to Japanese M&A in Q1 were the I&C and business services sectors, which contributed 110 and 67 transactions worth US\$3.3bn and US\$1.9bn in aggregate, respectively, including two of the 10 biggest transactions apiece.

The biggest I&C deal, and the fourth largest Japanese transaction overall, saw Hitachi and Honda amend the ownership structure of Hitachi Astemo, their automotive component joint venture. The US\$1.184bn reorganization brings in JIC Capital as another partner, which will control a 20% stake, while Hitachi and Honda will each hold 40%.

Only slightly larger than this deal was the US\$1.2bn merger of Pono Capital Two, a US-based SPAC listed on the Nasdaq, with SBC Medical Group, a marketing consultancy for medical companies with an emphasis on cosmetic surgery, infertility treatment, dental work, and orthopedics.

Japan top 10 announced deals, Q1 2023

	Announced date	Bidder company	Target company	Sector	Vendor company	Deal value (US\$m)
1	23-Mar-23	Japan Industrial Partners, Inc.; TBJH Inc.	Toshiba Corporation (100% Stake)	TMT		16,076
2	30-Mar-23	GIC Private Limited	Works Human Intelligence Co., Ltd. (50% Stake)	TMT	Bain Capital, L.P.	2,660
3	31-Jan-23	Pono Capital Two, Inc.	SBC Medical Group Co., Ltd. (100% Stake)	Business services		1,200
4	30-Mar-23	Honda Motor Co., Ltd.; Hitachi Astemo	Hitachi Astemo (22.55% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	Hitachi, Ltd.	1,184
5	23-Mar-23	KKR & Co. Inc.; Dai-ichi Life Holdings, Inc.; Gaw Capital Partners; The Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited	Odakyu Electric Railway (two large buildings, including the Hyatt Regency Tokyo) (100% Stake)	Leisure	Odakyu Electric Railway Co., Ltd.	988
6	13-Jan-23	KDDI Evolva Inc.	Relia, Inc. (100% Stake)	TMT	Mitsui & Co., Ltd.; KDDI Corporation	741
7	02-Feb-23	Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.	Nissin Electric Co., Ltd. (48.55% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals		688
8	10-Feb-23	Ichigo Trust	Japan Display Inc. (19.18% Stake)	TMT		659
9	27-Jan-23	Kanematsu Corporation	Kanematsu Electronics Ltd. (42.16% Stake)	TMT		576
10	02-Feb-23	Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	Aim Services Co. Ltd. (50% Stake)	Business services	ARAMARK Holdings Corporation	535



India

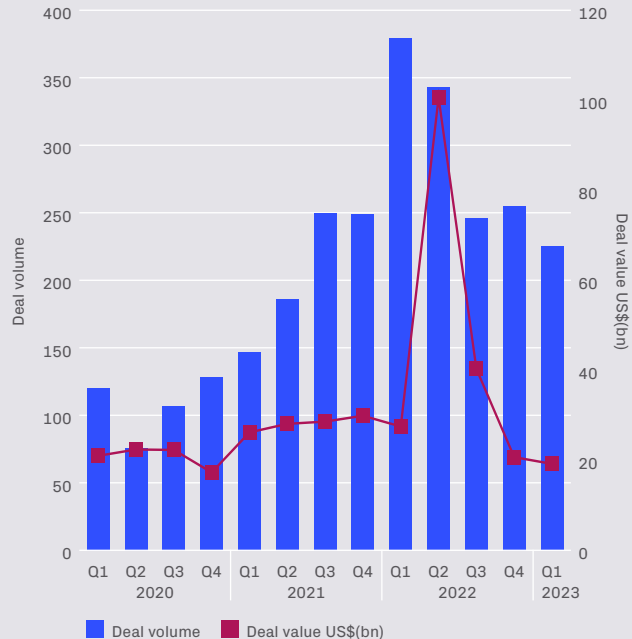
Renewables M&A powers India's market resilience

India is expected to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world this year, with the IMF forecasting GDP expansion of 5.9%, far ahead of both China (5.2%) and emerging and developing Asia as a whole (5.3%). Growth is projected to accelerate to 6.3% in 2024, propelled by rising private consumption—India is set to become the most populous country in the world this year, overtaking China—and private investment supported by government initiatives.

And yet that feeling of economic buoyancy has not yet filtered through to the Indian M&A market, which has been on a downward trend since H1 2022. Dealmakers can take some solace, however, in the rate of regression seemingly leveling off in Q1 of this year.

Indian assets were targeted in 225 transactions through the first three months of this year, with those deals worth a combined US\$19.2bn. Those figures represent declines of 41% and 30%, respectively, from the same period last year, but of only 12% and 7% quarter-on-quarter.

India M&A activity, 2020-Q1 2023



Source: Mergermarket

Sector volatility

The relative resilience that the market demonstrated can be attributed in large part to the performance of a couple of key industries for M&A. The EMU sector, for one, logged US\$7.9bn worth of transactions—including two of the four largest in Q1—making it the largest in India in value terms and representing an almost 12-fold surge year-on-year. The transportation sector almost doubled its output, securing US\$1.8bn worth of deals, and the pharma, medical & biotech (PMB) space saw a year-on-year increase on 15% to US\$956m.

These figures nearly offset the considerable declines logged in the financial services sector, down 88% year-on-year from just over US\$5bn to US\$594m, and the TMT space, which tumbled by 77% from US\$13.6bn to US\$3.1bn. That sum still leaves TMT as the second most valuable sector for M&A in Q1 after EMU, and it also remains the busiest, recording 61 transactions announcements, including two of the nine largest announced.

India top sectors by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
Energy, mining & utilities	7,887
TMT	3,104
Industrials & chemicals	2,373
Transportation	1,794
Consumer	1,056

India top sectors by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
TMT	61
Industrials & chemicals	37
Business services	23
Pharma, medical & biotech	22
Consumer	17

India top bidders by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
India	9,722
Canada	6,074
USA	1,656
United Arab Emirates	558
Germany	403

India top bidders by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
India	147
USA	37
Singapore	6
United Arab Emirates	5
Canada	5
Japan	5

Upwardly mobile

In the larger of the two sizable TMT deals announced in Q1, the Government of India acquired a 33.4% stake in Vodafone Idea, the country's third largest mobile service provider, for just under US\$2bn. The loss-making telecommunications company is saddled with remarkably high levels of debt—2.2tn rupees, or around US\$27bn, as of September 2022—which the government's capital injection is intended to address.

By helping to stem losses, Vodafone Idea should find it easier now to secure further bank funding and attract other investors to facilitate much needed upgrades to its network. The telecommunications space in India is highly competitive. While Vodafone Idea has struggled with its finances and shed subscribers, rival Bharti Airtel has seen an increase in its user base.

Only slightly smaller than this leading TMT deal was a US\$1.8bn corporate reorganization in the transportation space, which helped the sector to record its 99% year-on-year increase in aggregate value. That transaction saw GMR Airports Infrastructure merge with subsidiary GMR Airports, a joint venture with French group Aéroports de Paris, which will retain a stake. With a simplified capital structure, the combined company will be better placed to scale up its business as demand for air travel in India continues to recover post-pandemic.



India top 10 announced deals, Q1 2023

	Announced date	Bidder company	Target company	Sector	Vendor company	Deal value (US\$m)
1	03-Mar-23	Canada Pension Plan Investment Board	ReNew Energy Global plc (17.14% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities	Goldman Sachs Principal Strategic Investments group	5,862
2	03-Feb-23	Government of India	Vodafone Idea Limited (33.4% Stake)	TMT		1,968
3	19-Mar-23	GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd.	GMR Airports Limited (49% Stake)	Transportation	Aeroports de Paris S.A.	1,761
4	20-Feb-23	National Mineral Development Corporation (Shareholders)	NMDC Steel Limited (100% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities	National Mineral Development Corporation	1,126
5	14-Mar-23	GAIL (India) Limited	JBF Petrochemicals Ltd. (100% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals		968
6	16-Mar-23	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority	Lenskart Solutions Private Limited (10% Stake)	Consumer		500
7	04-Feb-23	Sahana Group	Oasis Realty – Three Sixty West (100% Stake)	Leisure	Oasis Realty Pvt. Ltd.	484
8	25-Jan-23	Hapag-Lloyd Holding AG	JM Baxi Ports & Logistics Ltd. (40% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	Bain Capital Private Equity L.P.	403
9	19-Jan-23	General Atlantic Service Company, L.P.	PhonePe Private Limited (2.92% Stake)	TMT		350
10	09-Mar-23	Manipal Health Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.; Manipal Global Education Services Pvt. Ltd.	AMRI Hospitals	Pharma, medical & biotech	Emami Limited	293

Runway for renewables

The number-one deal involving an India asset in Q1 saw Goldman Sachs sell a 17.14% stake in ReNew Energy Global, the country's biggest renewable energy producer, to CPPIB. The transaction, with a total estimated value of just under US\$5.9bn, makes the pension fund the majority shareholder in the Nasdaq-listed company, capping a string of share sales by Goldman Sachs that began in February.

CPPIB controls a diverse portfolio of renewables investments, focusing on long-term assets. ReNew is best known for its traditional wind and solar energy-related output, but is also involved in emerging decarbonization solutions including hydrogen power, energy storage, and carbon markets.

At the end of February, the Indian parliament announced that the country's total installed renewable energy capacity reached almost 170 gigawatts, with just over a third of that contributed by solar power, 30% from hydro, and around a quarter from wind. Another 82.62 gigawatts of capacity is currently being installed and a further 40.89 gigawatts' worth is in various stages of tendering. With a goal of reaching 500 gigawatts of green electricity capacity by the end of the decade, renewables M&A is likely to grow into a mainstay of Indian dealmaking.

The image is a composite of several elements. The background is a wide-angle photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with a body of water in the foreground and a bridge on the right. The sky is filled with orange and blue clouds. A yellow rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "Southeast Asia". There are also several semi-transparent rectangular overlays in white, grey, and orange scattered across the image.

Southeast Asia

I&C only redeeming feature of a downbeat deal market

The Southeast Asian M&A market has been trending in the wrong direction for the best part of a year and a half. In total, 205 transactions were announced in Q1 of this year, a 4% decline quarter-on-quarter and down 24% from the same period in 2022. But it is the decline in dealmaking in value terms that is even more worrying.

Those 205 deals were worth a combined US\$13.4bn, down more than a third from Q4 2022 and by almost 60% year-on-year. That figure represents the lowest quarterly total recorded since the initial outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic when Southeast Asia generated just US\$8.3bn from 94 transactions in Q3 2020.

Moreover, only two of the deals announced in Q1 had stated values in excess of US\$1bn, symptomatic of the waning of mega deals in a time of significant monetary tightening and financial stress.

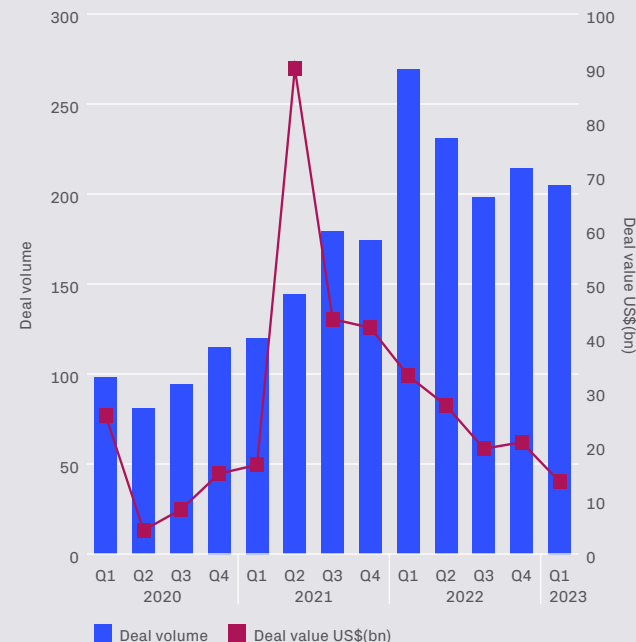
Far-reaching regressions

The PE space, for what it's worth, did record increases in activity, albeit from a very low floor. Volume rose from 29 in Q4 2022 to 41 through the first three months of this year, with those worth a combined US\$1.6bn, representing a 73% increase. However, not one of the 10 largest deals announced in Southeast Asia in Q1 involved PE firms as either buyers or sellers.

The subregion has endured a broad-based decline in M&A across almost all key sectors. Aggregate deal value in the EMU sector, for instance, collapsed year-on-year, falling to just US\$661m in Q1. That represents a 93% decline from the same period in 2022, in spite of deal volume in the sector shrinking by just 28%. Business services fared only slightly better, falling to US\$855m, a 65% drop year-on-year in value terms, against a 14% decline in volume terms, which is again indicative of the shelving of bigger-ticket deals.

Other core sectors suffered similar fates. Deal volumes were down by around a third year-on-year in the financial services, TMT, and real estate industries, which also logged declines of 49%, 56%, and 62% in value terms, respectively.

Southeast Asia M&A activity, 2020-Q1 2023



Source: Mergermarket



Industrials on top

Southeast Asia's sole saving grace was I&C, the only sector to record year-on-year increases in both deal volume and aggregate deal value. It generated just under US\$3.6bn from 34 transactions—up 27% and 127%, respectively, from Q1 2022—including two of the three biggest deals announced in Southeast Asia in Q1.

The smaller of the two, worth US\$778m, saw American oil major ExxonMobil sell its 65.99% stake in Esso Thailand—comprising a refinery complex that produces 174,000 barrels per day, a distribution network, and more than 700 gas stations—to domestic energy firm Bangchak Corporation. The deal is expected to close later in the year, after which Bangchak says it will move to acquire all remaining ordinary shares.

The biggest I&C deal, however, was almost twice as large as Bangchak's opening play for Esso Thailand. In early February, China Hainan Rubber Industry Group made a bid worth almost US\$1.6bn for the outstanding 64% stake in Halcyon Agri Corporation, the Singapore-based natural rubber supply-chain giant. The deal follows on from a transaction in November 2022, wherein Hainan Rubber acquired 36% of Halcyon's shares, mandating the subsequent conditional cash offer.

SE Asia top sectors by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
Industrials & chemicals	3,566
Financial services	2,429
TMT	2,072
Consumer	1,476
Real estate	1,256

SE Asia top sectors by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
TMT	49
Industrials & chemicals	34
Business services	24
Financial services	21
Energy, mining & utilities	21

SE Asia top bidders by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
Singapore	34
USA	22
Japan	20
Vietnam	17
Indonesia	16

SE Asia top bidders by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
Japan	2,212
Thailand	1,968
China	1,781
USA	1,453
Singapore	1,420

Growth markets

Sandwiched between these two leading I&C transactions was the sole sizable Q1 deal contributed by the financial services sector, which, though it recorded a 49% decline in aggregate value year-on-year, remained the second largest sector for M&A in Southeast Asia, with US\$2.4bn generated from 21 transactions.

The largest of these, worth just over US\$1.5bn, saw Japanese behemoth Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) acquire a 13% stake in Vietnam Prosperity Joint Stock Commercial Bank, the country's sixth largest lender. The deal reflects the wealth of financial opportunities in emerging and developing Asia, whose economies are expected to expand by 5.3% and 5.1% on average in 2023 and 2024, respectively, according to the latest IMF projections.

Vietnam has one of the highest rates of unbanked or under-banked adults in the world, with more than two-thirds of people without access to financial services. However, almost three-quarters of adults in Vietnam have smartphones, opening the door for technologically-savvy financial institutions to serve potential customers through digital solutions.

Southeast Asia top 10 announced deals, Q1 2023

	Announced date	Bidder company	Target company	Sector	Vendor company	Deal value (US\$m)
1	03-Feb-23	China Hainan Rubber Industry Group Co., Ltd.	Halcyon Agri Corporation Limited (64% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals		1,574
2	27-Mar-23	Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc.; Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation	Vietnam Prosperity Joint-Stock Commercial Bank (13% Stake)	Financial services		1,527
3	11-Jan-23	Bangchak Corporation Public Company Limited	Esso (Thailand) Public Company Limited (65.99% Stake)	Industrials & chemicals	Exxon Mobil Corporation	778
4	06-Feb-23	Carlsberg	Carlsberg South Asia Pte. Ltd. (33.3% Stake)	Consumer	Khetan Group	744
5	05-Jan-23	StoneBridge Acquisition Corp	Digiasia Bios (100% Stake)	TMT	MasterCard Incorporated; PT Reliance Capital Management	500
6	26-Jan-23	Frasers Centrepoint Trust; Frasers Property Limited; #duplicate – Thai Charoen Corporation Group (TCC)	Gold Ridge Pte. Ltd. (50% Stake)	Real estate	Mercatus Co-operative Ltd.	497
7	17-Jan-23	Diageo Plc	Don Papa Rum (100% Stake)	Consumer		473
8	12-Jan-23	ESR Group Limited	BW Industrial Development JSC	Real estate		450
9	09-Jan-23	Undisclosed bidder	Flash Express (21.43% Stake)	Transportation		448
10	25-Jan-23	Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc.	Bank of the Philippine Islands (4.4% Stake)	Financial services	GIC Private Limited	353

Australia & New Zealand



Aussie M&A dependent on deep-pocketed US EMU bidders

The performance of Australia & New Zealand's M&A arena is rather unique among APAC markets covered in this study, and indeed doesn't really align with the general direction of travel one can currently observe in markets in Europe or the Americas either. Where APAC as a whole suffered quarter-on-quarter declines of 15% in volume terms and 10% in value terms through the first three months of 2023, and respective drops of 25% and 27% year-on-year, Australia & New Zealand has enjoyed a largely upbeat run of things since the start of 2022.

Q1 saw 226 deals announced in the subregion, the lowest quarterly total since the same period in 2021 (210 transactions), down around 30% compared to the figures recorded in both the preceding quarter (338) and in Q1 2022 (319). However, the aggregate value of all deals announced through the first three months of this year stood at US\$46bn, a 36% increase quarter-on-quarter from US\$34bn and more than double the total recorded in Q1 2022, with US\$22bn.

Much of this surge can be attributed to the revival of bigger-ticket deals. Of the 10 biggest deals announced in APAC in Q1, four involved Australian targets, more than any other country, including the largest and third largest transactions.

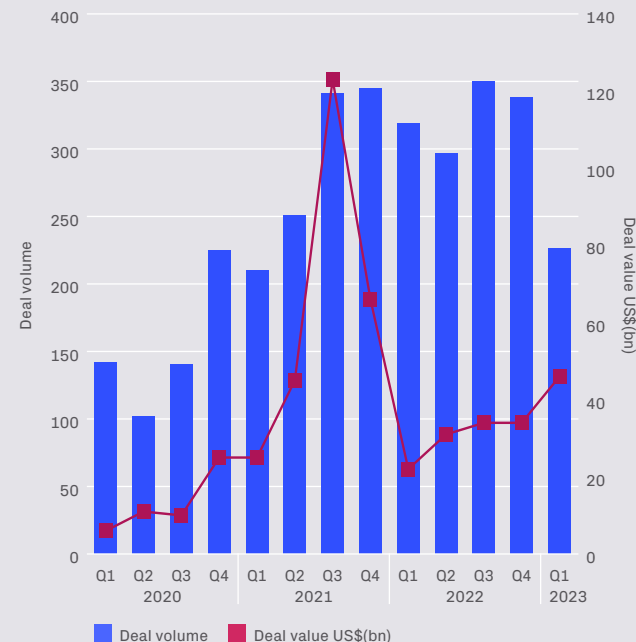
Interest rate incompetence

As detailed in other chapters of this report, in other APAC markets generally positive economic projections have not yet appeared to filter through to the M&A arena. But in Australia & New Zealand, the opposite seems to be true; total M&A values have been on the rise, in spite of flat growth forecasts.

Australia's economy is expected to expand by just 1.6% in 2023, according to IMF figures, while New Zealand's is forecast to grow by just 1.1%. Moreover, the annual rate of inflation in Australia rose consistently from September 2021 through to the start of this year, peaking at 7.4% in January.

The Reserve Bank of Australia came under fire for its slow inflation response and mishandling of interest rate guidance, prompting the most serious reforms in decades to the central banks' operations. In early 2020 its governor indicated that the bank did not expect to raise rates until 2024, and then proceeded to do so for 10 consecutive months starting in May 2022, leaving many borrowers in an untenable position.

Australia & New Zealand M&A activity, 2020-Q1 2023



Source: Mergermarket



Mining for more

If the silver lining in the skies above the Australia & New Zealand M&A arena is consecutive quarters of rising aggregate deal value, the dark cloud might be the fact that much of the US\$46bn posted in Q1 2023 relied largely on one sector, and in that sector largely on one transaction.

The sector in question is EMU, Australia's M&A mainstay, which contributed 30 deals in Q1, the third most after TMT (48) and business services (44). Those transactions were worth a combined US\$36.1bn, making it almost 12 times bigger in value terms than second-place PMB's US\$3.1bn.

Of that US\$36bn, just over half was attributable to US-based Newmont Goldcorp's US\$18.1bn bid for Melbourne-headquartered Newcrest Mining, one of the largest consolidation-minded deals to arise in the highly fragmented mining subsector.

Dealmakers globally feel this transaction might be the starting gun for a flurry of consolidation in the space, especially among mid-tier mining outfits. Although operating costs have risen and new deposits are increasingly difficult to secure, the sector is enjoying tailwinds from soaring demand for metals needed in battery technology, which will be essential to countries' decarbonization efforts and the energy transition more broadly.

ANZ top sectors by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
Energy, mining & utilities	36,137
Pharma, medical & biotech	3,132
Consumer	2,648
Leisure	824
Business services	706

ANZ top sectors by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
TMT	48
Business services	44
Energy, mining & utilities	30
Financial services	20
Pharma, medical & biotech	20

ANZ top bidders by value | Q1 2023

	US\$(m)
USA	24,762
Australia	17,372
France	1,312
Malaysia	572
South Africa	319

ANZ top bidders by volume | Q1 2023

	Deal count
Australia	126
USA	33
United Kingdom	14
France	7
Canada	6

Future-ready sectors

The second and third largest deals announced in Australia & New Zealand in Q1 also originated in the EMU sector. The former saw a consortium led by Brookfield Asset Management and EIG take over Australian utility Origin Energy for US\$12.3bn. Following the deal, Brookfield is expected to invest around US\$13bn over the next 10 years in renewable energy assets around Australia, facilitating the closure of Origin Energy's coal-fired power plants.

Australia's third largest EMU deal, though smaller than either the Newcrest or Origin transactions, was still the seventh largest announced in APAC in Q1. American chemicals group Albemarle, the world's largest lithium producer, made a US\$3.6bn bid for Liontown Resources, which the Australian battery metals exploration and development company rejected.

The bid was Albemarle's third in five months, but Liontown believe the US giant has more money to offer. The Perth-based outfit controls one of Australia's most auspicious lithium projects, as well as supply agreements with automakers Tesla and Ford, whose EVs' batteries depend on lithium.

Australia & New Zealand top 10 announced deals, Q1 2023

	Announced date	Bidder company	Target company	Sector	Vendor company	Deal value (US\$m)
1	05-Feb-23	Newmont Goldcorp Corporation	Newcrest Mining Limited (100% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities		18,143
2	27-Mar-23	Consortium led by Brookfield Asset Management and EIG	Origin Energy Limited	Energy, mining & utilities		12,310
3	27-Mar-23	Albemarle Corporation	Liontown Resources Limited (97.32% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities		3,573
4	20-Mar-23	Australian Clinical Labs Ltd.	Healius Ltd (100% Stake)	Pharma, medical & biotech		2,174
5	28-Mar-23	Malteries Soufflet S.A.S.; InVivo AgroSciences	United Malt Group Limited (100% Stake)	Consumer		1,301
6	07-Mar-23	TPG Global LLC; TPG Inc.	InvoCare Limited (83.03% Stake)	Consumer		1,243
7	29-Mar-23	Home Consortium Limited; HealthCo Healthcare & Wellness REIT	Medical Properties Trust (Healthscope hospital portfolio) (100% Stake)	Pharma, medical & biotech	Medical Properties Trust, Inc.	802
8	24-Mar-23	Bain Capital, L.P.	Estia Health Limited (100% Stake)	Real estate		595
9	27-Mar-23	ConocoPhillips Company	Australia Pacific LNG Pty. Limited (2.49% Stake)	Energy, mining & utilities	Origin Energy Limited	500
10	02-Mar-23	Sime Darby Berhad; Sime Darby Allied Operations Pty. Ltd.	Onsite Rental Group Pty. Ltd. (100% Stake)	Financial services	Next Capital Pty. Limited	427



About this report

Produced in partnership with Mergermarket

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For a full version of the Mergermarket M&A deal database inclusion and league table criteria, go to: www.mergermarket.com/pdf/deal_criteria.pdf

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