

M&A

JULY 2013

PREDICTOR

What is KPMG's M&A Predictor?

Appetite for deals still fragile

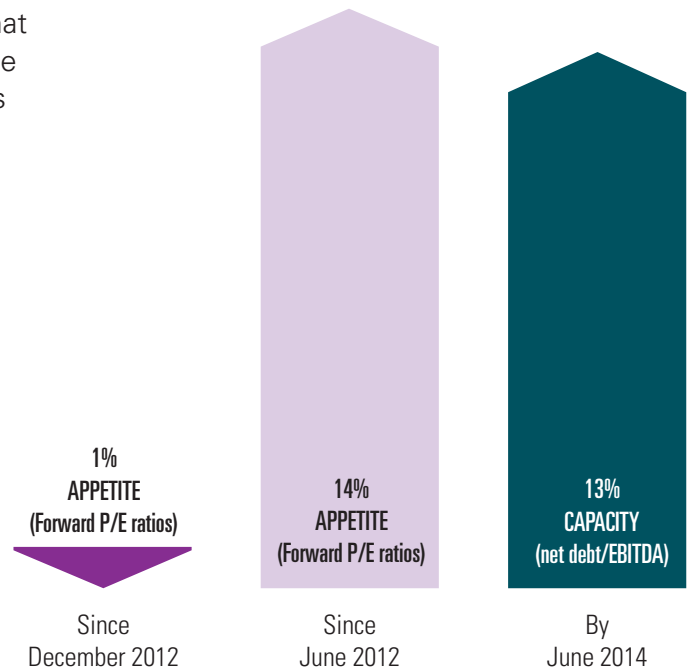
Analysts are expecting the world's largest corporates to show an increasing appetite for deals compared with June 2012, with predicted forward P/E ratios (our measure of corporate appetite) 14 percent higher than 12 months ago. However, macroeconomic factors (such as nervousness over the continuation of quantitative easing) continue to impact forward P/E ratios which have returned to the levels seen at the start of the year.

Despite the uncertainty in the markets, the capacity to transact, as measured by forecast net debt to EBITDA, holds steady with an expected improvement of 13 percent over the next year.

KPMG's M&A Predictor is a forward-looking tool that helps member firm clients to forecast worldwide trends in mergers and acquisitions. The Predictor was established in 2007. It looks at the appetite and capacity for M&A deals by tracking and projecting important indicators 12 months forward. The rise or fall of forward P/E (price/earnings) ratios offers a good guide to the overall market confidence, while net debt to EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) ratios helps gauge the capacity of companies to fund future acquisitions.

The Predictor covers the world by sector and region. It is produced twice a year, using data comprising 1,000 of the largest companies in the world by market capitalization.*

Tom Franks
Global Head of Corporate Finance



Source: S&P Capital IQ/KPMG analysis

*The financial services and property sectors are excluded from our analysis, as net debt/EBITDA ratios are not considered relevant in these industries. All the raw data within the Predictor is sourced from Capital IQ. Where possible, earnings and EBITDA data is on a pre-exceptionals basis with the exception of Japan, for which GAAP has been used.

“ The capacity to transact continues to rise as companies pay down debt. ”

Regions echo global trends

The nervousness around global appetite in recent months is reflected in all regions except North America, where predicted forward P/E ratios are up 4 percent over the past 6 months to June 2013. However, confidence in the M&A market is still higher than a year ago in all markets.

The capacity to transact continues to rise as companies pay down debt. Global net debt to EBITDA ratios are expected to fall 13 percent over the next 12 months. This trend is seen across the regions, to varying levels. Africa and the Middle East will see a significant increase in capacity, with a forecast 34 percent increase by next year.

According to Tom Franks, Global Head of Corporate Finance at KPMG, “Despite several years of forecast growth in capacity, the market is clearly still affected by macroeconomic factors which are driving down M&A volumes. This imbalance is likely to lead to continuing tensions between companies and their investors over how to use ‘surplus’ cash.”

Sector performance variable

Healthcare, Consumer Discretionary and Industrials are the strongest sectors, with forward P/E ratios up 20, 20 and 21 percent respectively over 12 months. Even in the past 6 months, where confidence has been shaky across the market, Healthcare is up 9 percent over the past 6 months to June 2013. Consumer Staples and Telecommunications show slight increases in confidence in the same period, with a 1 percent and 3 percent rise. Basic Materials has had the most dramatic shift, with a 16 percent decrease in confidence over the past 6 months.

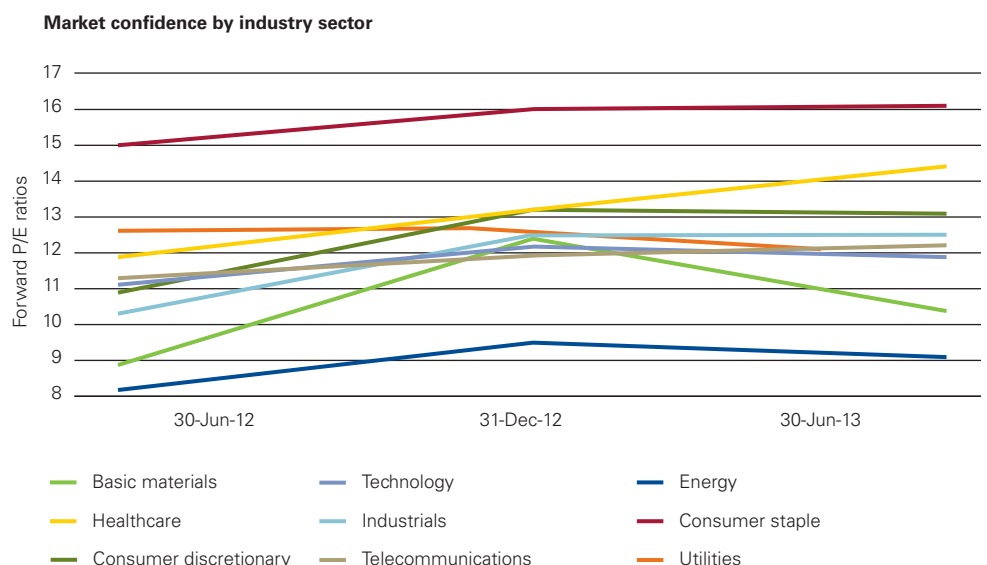
In terms of capacity, the Technology sector continues to command a strong position as it improves its cash reserves, with an anticipated increase in capacity by 29 percent over the next year. Healthcare is another strong performer, with its net debt to EBITDA ratios expected to fall – and thereby increasing capacity – by 54 percent.

Some bright spots in a muted market

Japan is one of the brightest spots in the analysts’ data, with a 24 percent year-on-year increase in appetite and an 8 percent increase in capacity.

“The increased expectations for both capacity and appetite agree with what we hear from company leadership. Domestic stock markets have been reacting positively to the monetary policies being implemented by Abe leadership. We expect deal volume to increase with market prices as more potential sellers become willing to transact,” says Hikaru Okada, Head of Corporate Finance, KPMG in Japan.

Similarly, the US continues to outperform the market even when times are tough. Forward P/E ratios are 4 percent higher than 6 months ago – modest but positive in an uncertain market – and 14 percent up year-on-year. The US’s capacity to transact is robust, with an expected improvement of 20 percent over the next year.



Source: S&P Capital IQ/KPMG Analysis



The market is still clearly affected by macroeconomic factors which are driving down M&A volumes.



“Despite uncertainty in the global economy the US M&A market has held fairly constant,” commented Phil Isom, Head of Corporate Finance, KPMG in the US, “relatively easy access to capital has been a strong driver for deal flow.”

Global merger levels down while values hold on

The total number of deals completed worldwide within the past 12 months has continued its downward trajectory, down almost 10 percent between June 2012 and June 2013. AsPac and EMA are the two regions which have had a particular decline in volumes in the past year.

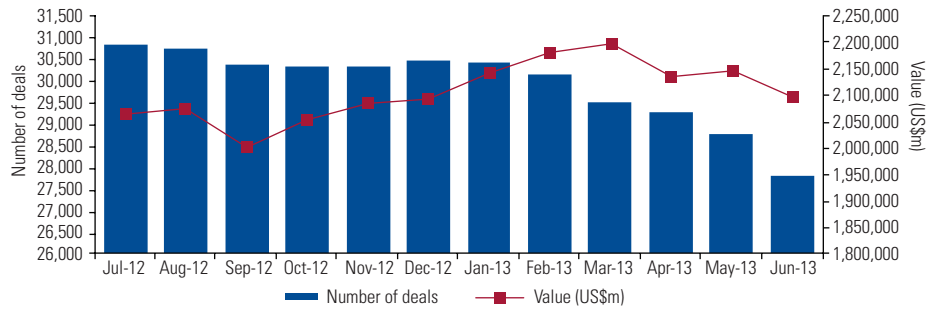
After a brief rally at the start of the year, global deal values are back at 2012 year end levels and worryingly look to be on a declining trend.

“The evidence from the top 1,000 companies is that while confidence is fragile, it is there, and this is reflected in average (as opposed to total) deal values, which continue to increase. Beyond the largest corporates, however, the mid-market and below is continuing to struggle,” commented Tom Franks.

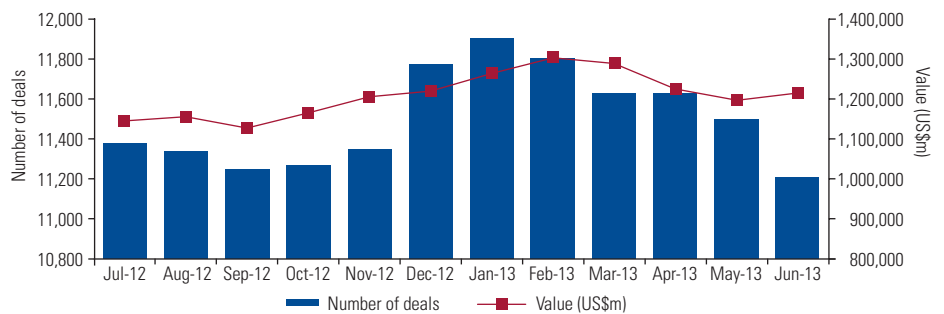
Despite some uncertainty in the last few months, confidence in the M&A market is still higher than it was a year ago, across all markets. This confidence, combined with a continued capacity to transact, should lead to a lift in the M&A market.

According to Bob Cowell, at KPMG Makinson Cowell, “The rise in appetites over 12 months shows that shareholders in all regions are still hungry for growth and, despite ongoing difficulties in the markets, are supportive of inorganic growth where it’s a viable option.”

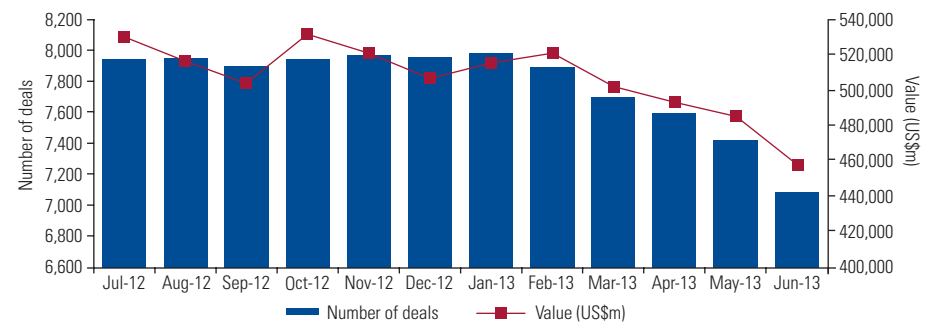
Worldwide completed deals: 1 year trailing Jul 12 – Jun 13



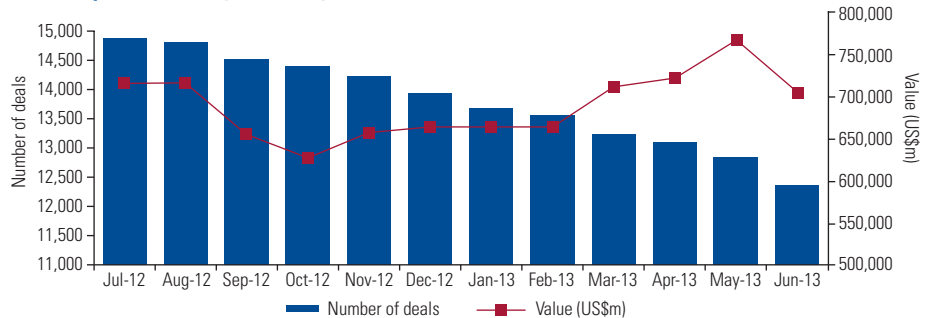
Americas completed deals: 1 year trailing Jul 12 – Jun 13



AsPac completed deals: 1 year trailing Jul 12 – Jun 13



EMA completed deals: 1 year trailing Jul 12 – Jun 13



Source: Thomson Reuters SDC/KPMG analysis
 Note: Figures shown are totals for the 12 month period up to the specified date

KPMG's Global M&A team

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