

A tale of two corridors

The steep fall in US-UK activity during the first half of 2019 brings the corridor deal volumes to 70% of those seen in 2016. This is comparable with the decline that has been seen between US-Europe, except that US-UK deal activity had robustly bucked the downward trend during 2018.

US-UK corridor activity continues to be the powerhouse of transatlantic dealmaking, with the 467 deals between the US and UK representing more than that of US deals with Germany, France, and Spain combined. This is supported by the upturn in the number of completed deals in H2 2019.



Greater commonality between the UK and US in terms of language, culture, and legal structures enhances the ability to leverage business models across these markets.

Outward investment from the UK and Europe into the US has been particularly reduced in 2019. However, this should be considered in the context of the softening M&A market across European markets.

While US investment into Europe continues to drop off in 2019, the trend is significantly less pronounced than 2018.

Transaction volumes in continental Europe remain soft, where there is less focus on M&A as a driver of value in corporate strategies.

There continues to be strong appetite for technology assets in cross-border transactions. This is attributable to the asset-light business models which enable greater scalability and potential for geographical expansion in a dynamic global market.