State of notifications related to business combinations in fiscal year 2018 (Tentative Translation)

June 19, 2019 The Japan Fair Trade Commission

Part I State of acceptance and investigation of notifications of acquisition of stock

In FY2018, the JFTC received 321 notifications of business combination plans (up 4.9% from the previous fiscal year), of which notifications of acquisition of stock numbered 259, notifications of merger 16, notifications of demerger 15, notifications of joint share transfer 2, and notifications of business acquisition, etc. 29.

Of the 321 notifications received in FY2018, the "number of cases where the JFTC issued a notice to the effect that the JFTC would not issue a cease and desist order on the grounds that the primary review found no problems under the Antimonopoly Act (hereinafter referred to as the "AMA)" was 315, the "number of cases subjected to the secondary review on the grounds that further detailed examination would be necessary", was 2, and the "number of cases withdrawn during the primary review", was 4.

With regard to 8 cases of those closed in FY2018, the JFTC concluded that there would be no problem under the AMA, given that remedial measures proposed by the relevant companies would be implemented.

The state of acceptance and investigation of notifications in the past three years is shown in Table 1, Table 2, and Table 3.

Table 1. Processing status of notifications received in the past three fiscal years

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Number of notifications	319	306	321
Cases closed at the primary review (Note 1)	308	299	315
Cases where the waiting period was shortened among above	(171)	(193)	(240)
Cases withdrawn prior to the conclusion of the primary review	8	6	4
Cases which received the secondary review	3	1	2

(Note 1) Cases where the JFTC issued a notice to the effect that the JFTC would not issue a cease and desist order on the grounds that the primary review found no issues in terms of the AMA

Table 2. Processing status of the secondary review in the past three fiscal years

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Cases closed at the secondary review (Note 3)	3	1	3
Cases found to have no issues given the implementation of remedies	3	0	2
Cases in which a cease and desist order was issued	0	0	0

(Note 2) The above table shows the number of notifications processed in each fiscal year regardless of whether they were received during the same fiscal year.

(Note 3) Cases where the JFTC issued a notice to the effect that the JFTC would not issue a cease and desist order on the grounds that the secondary review found no problems under the AMA

Table 3. Changes in the number of notifications concerning business combination plans that include a foreign enterprise in the Parties

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Integration plans between Japanese enterprises and foreign enterprises	12	12	6
Integration plans between foreign enterprises	47	31	34
Total	59	43	40

Part II Number of cases by type of business combination

1. Acquisition of stock

(1) Number of cases by total domestic sales (Table 4)

Table 4. Number of notifications of acquisition of stock by total domestic sales

Total domestic sales of a share issuing company and its subsidiaries Total domestic sales of a share acquiring company	5B yen or	20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	500B yen or more	Total
20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	30	11	7	0	0	48
50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	21	5	3	1	0	30
100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	57	22	12	3	0	94
500B yen or more and less than 1T yen	19	7	5	2	1	34
1T yen or more and less than 5T yen	16	11	5	11	4	47
5T yen or more	5	0	1	0	0	6
Total	148	56	33	17	5	259

(2) Number of cases by percentage of acquired voting rights (Table 5)

Table 5. Number of notifications of acquisition of stock by percentage of acquired voting

More than 20% up to 50%	More than 50%	Total
66	193	259

(Note 4) A percentage of acquired voting rights is calculated by dividing the sum of the number of voting rights concerning a share issuing company which will be owned by a notifying company after acquisition and by corporations, other than the notifying company, which belong to a group of combined companies which the notifying company is part of, by the total number of voting rights of the share issuing company owned by all stockholders.

2. Mergers

- (1) Number of cases by merger type
 - By type of merger, 16 notifications were about mergers (absorption-type mergers) and there was no notification of consolidation.
- (2) Number of cases by total domestic sales (Table 6)

Table 6. Number of notifications of merger by total domestic sales

Total domestic sales of a dissolving company Total domestic sales of a surviving company	5B yen or more and less	20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	500B yen or more	Total
5B yen or more and less than 20B yen	0	2	1	0	1	4
20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	0	2	1	1	0	4
50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	2	0	1	0	1	4
100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	0	0	0	1	0	1
500B yen or more and less than 1T yen	0	0	0	1	0	1
1T yen or more and less than 5T yen	0	0	0	0	2	2
5T yen or more	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	4	3	3	4	16

(Note 5) The above table only includes the dissolving company with the largest domestic

sales if the merger is among three or more companies, in other words, if there are two or more dissolving companies.

3. Demergers

(1) Number of cases by demerger type

By type of demerger, 15 notifications were about absorption-type demergers and there was no notification of joint incorporation-type demerger.

(2) Number of cases by total domestic sales (Table 7)

Table 7. Number of notifications of demerger by total domestic sales

Total domestic sales of a company which is split (or domestic sales concerning the business which is transferred) Total domestic sales of a succeeding company		20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	500B yen or more	Total
5B yen or more and less than 20B yen	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	1(2)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(2)
50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	0(2)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(2)
100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	1(3)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(3)
500B yen or more and less than 1T yen	0(0)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)
1T yen or more and less than 5T yen	1(3)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	1(3)
5T yen or more	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(1)
Total	3(11)	0(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	3(12)

(Note 6) The number of received notifications by total domestic sales of an alienating company which transfers all its business is shown outside of brackets and the number of received notifications by domestic sales of the business to be split which is an important part of an alienating company is shown in brackets.

(Neither number is included in the other in any set of two numbers, one inside and the other outside of brackets.)

4. Number of cases of joint share transfer by total domestic sales (Table 8)

Table 8. Number of notifications of joint share transfer by total domestic sales

Total domestic sales of share- transferring company 2 Total domestic sales of share- transferring company 1	5B yen or more and less than 20B yen	20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	500B yen or more	Total
20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	1	0	0	0	0	1
50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	0	0	0	0	0	0
100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	0	0	0	0	0	0
500B yen or more and less than 1T yen	0	0	0	0	0	0
1T yen or more and less than 5T yen	0	0	0	1	0	1
5T yen or more	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	1	0	2

(Note 7) In the above table, "share-transferring company 1" refers to the company which has the largest total domestic sales and "share-transferring company 2" the company with the second largest total domestic sales among companies jointly transferring shares.

5. Acquisition of business, etc.

(1) Number of cases by type

By type of acquisition of business, etc. 25 notifications were about acquisition of business and 4 notifications were about acquisition of fixed assets for business.

(2) Number of cases by total domestic sales (Table 9)

Table 9. Number of notifications of acquisition of business, etc. by total domestic sales

Domestic sales concerning acquired business, etc. Total domestic sales of an acquiring corporation		20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	500B yen or more	Total
20B yen or more and less than 50B yen	5	0	0	0	0	5
50B yen or more and less than 100B yen	5	0	0	0	0	5
100B yen or more and less than 500B yen	8	0	0	0	0	8
500B yen or more and less than 1T yen	4	1	0	0	0	5
1T yen or more and less than 5T yen	2	2	0	0	0	4
5T yen or more	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	26	3	0	0	0	29

(Note 8) The above table only includes an assignor company with the largest domestic sales in the case of acquisition of business, etc. from two or more companies, in other words, if there are two or more assignor companies.

Part III Number of notifications by industry (Table 10)

1. Acquisition of stock

Of 259 notifications of acquisition of stock, apart from "Others", "Manufacturing" accounted for the largest part and recorded 49 notifications, followed by "Wholesale and retail trade", 30 and "Transportation/communication/warehousing, 19.

2. Mergers

Of 16 notifications of merger(s), "Wholesale and retail trade" accounted for the largest part, 5 notifications, followed by "Manufacturing" and "Transportation/communication/warehousing", respectively 3 notifications.

3. Demergers

There was no notification of joint incorporation-type demerger.

Of 15 notifications of absorption-type demerger, apart from "Others",

"Manufacturing", "Wholesale and retail trade" and "Services" accounted for the
largest part and recorded 3 notifications respectively, followed by "Construction"
and "Transportation/communication/warehousing", respectively 1 notification.

4. Joint share transfer

2 notifications of joint share transfer were received in "Manufacturing" and "Finance and insurance" respectively.

5. Acquisition of business, etc.

Of 29 notifications of acquisition of business, etc., apart from "Others", "Manufacturing" accounted for the largest part and recorded 15 notifications, followed by "Wholesale and retail trade", 5 and "Finance and insurance", 1.

Table 10. Number of notifications by industry

By industry	Acquisition of stock	Merger	Joint incorporation-type demerger	Absorption- type		Acquisition of business, etc.	Total
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	4	0	0	1	0	0	5
Manufacturing	49	3	0	3	1	15	71
Wholesale and retail trade	30	5	0	3	1	5	44
Real estate	10	0	0	0	0	0	10
Transportation/com munication/warehou sing	19	3	0	1	0	0	23
Services	18	2	0	3	0	0	23
Finance and insurance	11	1	0	0	0	1	13
Electricity, gas, heat supply and water	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Others	112	2	0	4	0	8	126
Total	259	16	0	15	2	29	321

(Note 9) Notifications were classified by the industry of the share acquiring company in the case of acquisition of stock, the industry of the surviving company after merger in the case of merger, the industry of the succeeding company in the case of joint incorporation-type demerger and absorption-type demerger, the industry of the newly established company in the case of joint share transfer, and the industry of the company which acquires business, etc. in the case of acquisition of business, etc.

Part IV Number of notifications by type of relationship (Table 11)

1. Acquisition of stock

Of 259 notifications of acquisition of stock, horizontal relationship was the most prevalent and involved in 135 notifications, followed by vertical relationship (forward), 68 and vertical relationship (backward), 61.

- (Note 10) Types of relationship are detailed below. The same shall apply hereinafter.
 - (1) Horizontal relationship: Cases where parties constituting the company group are competing with each other in the same particular field of trade.
 - (2) Vertical relationship: Cases where parties constituting the company group do not share the same transaction stage.
 - Forward: Cases where a share acquiring company, surviving company, succeeding company or acquiring corporation combines with a corporation which is closer to end-users
 - Backward: Cases where a business combination is made with a corporation which is farther from end-users.
 - (3) Conglomerate relationship: Cases where neither horizontal nor vertical relationship applies

Market extension: Cases where parties constituting the company group are supplying the same kind of goods or services in different markets

Product extension: Cases where parties constituting the company group are supplying different kinds of goods or services that are related in terms of production or sales

Pure: Cases where none of the above applies

(Note 11) Notifications involving multiple types of relationship are counted towards their respective type. Therefore, the sum of the number of notifications of each type does not always match the number of notifications in total. The same shall apply hereinafter.

2. Mergers

Of 16 notifications of merger(s), horizontal relationship was the most prevalent and involved in 10 notifications, followed by vertical relationship (forward), 4 and conglomerate relationship (market extension), 3.

3. Demergers

There was no notification of joint incorporation-type demerger.

Of 15 notifications of Absorption-type demerger, horizontal relationship was the most prevalent and involved in 10 notifications, followed by vertical relationship (forward), 5 and conglomerate relationship (market extension), 4.

4. Joint share transfer

Horizontal relationship was involved in all 2 notifications of joint share transfer.

5. Acquisition of business, etc.

Of 29 notifications of acquisition of business, etc., horizontal relationship was the most prevalent and involved in 22 notifications, followed by vertical relationship (forward), 5 and vertical relationship (backward), 4.

Table 11. Number of notifications by type of relationship

By type		Acquisition of stock	Merger	Joint incorporation-type demerger	Absorption- type demerger	Joint share transfer	Acquisition of business, etc.
Horizontal relationship		135	10	0	10	2	22
Vertical	Forward	68	4	0	5	0	5
relationship Ba	Backward	61	2	0	2	0	4
	Market extension	42	3	0	4	0	2
Conglomerate relationship	Product extension	29	0	0	1	0	0
	Pure	40	1	0	1	0	0
Number of noti	fications	259	16	0	15	2	29

(Note 12) Notifications involving multiple types of relationship are counted towards their respective type. Therefore, the sum of the number of notifications of each type does not always match the number of notifications in total.

Table 12. Changes in the number of notifications in the past three years of horizontal, vertical and conglomerate business combinations

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Horizontal business	197 (62%)	179 (58%)	179 (56%)
combination			
Vertical business	120 (38%)	121 (40%)	129 (40%)
combination			
Conglomerate business	167 (52%)	132 (43%)	105 (33%)
combination			
Total	319 (100%)	306 (100%)	321 (100%)

(Note 13) Notifications involving more than one type of business combination, namely horizontal, vertical and conglomerate, are counted towards their respective type. Therefore, the sum of the number of notifications of each type does not always match the number of notifications in total.

Data: Changes in the number of notifications/reports related to business combinations (Note 1)

		1		(* '	ote 1)				
	Business	Notification of		Notification of	Report of			Notification of	Notification of
Fiscal	report	incorporation	Notification of	interlocking	shareholding	Notification of		joint share	acquisition of
year	pursuant to	pursuant to	acquisition of	directorate	by other than company	merger (Note 6)	demerger	transfer	business, etc.
	Article 9 (Note 2)	Article 9 (Note 2)	stock (Note 3)	(Note 4)	(Note 5)	(Note 6)	(Note 7)	(Note 8)	(Note 9)
1947	(11000 2)	(11000 2)	(2)		(0)	(23)			(22)
23			(31)		(0)	(309)			(192)
					(0)				
24			(13)			(123)			(53)
			2,373		0	448			143
25			3,840		0	420			207
26			4,546		0	331			182
27			4,795		0	385			124
28			3,863	268	0	344			126
29			2,827	328	0	325			167
30			3,033	268	0	338			143
31			3,080	457	0	381			209
32			3,069	375	0	398			140
33			3,316	557	0	381			118
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34			3,170	466	0	413			139
35			2,991	644	0	440			144
36			3,211	675	1	591			162
37			3,231	804	0	715			193
38			3,844	758	0	997			223
39			3,921	527	4	864			195
40			4,534	487	1	894			202
41			4,325	462	0	871			264
42			4,075	458	2	995			299
43			4,069	480	3	1,020			354
44			4,907	647	0	1,163			391
45			4,247	543	2	1,147			413
46			5,832	552	0	1,178			449
47			5,841	501	1	1,184			452
48			6,002	874	0	1,028			443
49			5,738	794	0	995			420
50			5,108	754	9	957			429
51			5,229	925	6	941			511
52			5,085	916	1	1,011			646
53			5,372	1,394	0	898			595
54			5,359	3,365	0	871			611
55			5,759	2,556	2	961			680
56			5,505	2,958		1,044			771
57			6,167	2,958 2,477	1	1,044			815
					1				
58			6,033	3,389	4	1,020			702
59			6,604	3,159	2	1,096			790
60			6,640	3,504	6	1,113			807
61			7,202	2,944	1	1,147			936
62			7,573	3,776	1	1,215			1,084
63			6,351	3,450	0	1,336			1,028
1989			8,193	4,420	0	1,450			988
2			8,075	4,312	0	1,751			1,050
3			8,034	6,124	2	2,091			1,266
4			8,776	5,675	0	2,002			1,079
			8,036	6,330	3	1,917			1,153
5									
6			8,954	5,137	18	2,000			1,255
7			8,281	5,897	1	2,520			1,467
8			9,379	5,042	0	2,271			1,476
9	0		8,615	5,955	7	2,174			1,546
10	2	0	7,518	447	0	1,514			1,176
11	1					151			179
12	5					170			213
13		7	898			127	20		195
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Fiscal year	Business report pursuant to Article 9 (Note 2)	Notification of incorporation pursuant to Article 9 (Note 2)	Notification of acquisition of stock (Note 3)	Notification of interlocking directorate (Note 4)	Report of shareholding by other than company (Note 5)	Notification of merger (Note 6)	Notification of demerger (Note 7)	Notification of joint share transfer (Note 8)	Notification of acquisition of business, etc. (Note 9)
14	16	7	899			112	21		197
15	76	4	959			103	21		175
16	79	1	778			70	23		166
17	80	5	825			88	17		141
18	87	2	960			74	19		136
19	93	2	1,052			76	33		123
20	92	4	829			69	21		89
21	93	5	840			48	15	3	79
22	92	2	184			11	11	5	54
23	100	0	224			15	10	6	20
24	99	1	285			14	15	5	30
25	100	0	218			8	14	3	21
26	103	0	231			12	20	7	19
27	104	2	222			23	17	6	27
28	108	2	250			26	16	3	24
29	105	0	259			9	13	3	22
30	107	2	259			16	15	2	29

(Note 1) Numbers in brackets are the numbers of authorized cases.

(Note 2) As the provisions for business report and notification of incorporation of Article 9 of the AMA were established in the 1997 revision of the Act, no data is available for years prior.

In addition, before the 2002 revision of the AMA, business reports and notifications of incorporation were required for holding companies with total amounts of assets exceeding a certain level. Since the 2002 revision, however, financial companies and non-financial companies with total amounts of assets exceeding a certain level in addition to holding companies have been required to submit business reports and notifications of incorporation.

(Note 3) The (total asset) threshold requiring reports of shareholding has been revised as follows:

Revised	(Total asset) threshold		
year			
1949	Over 5 million yen		
28	Over 100 million yen		
40	Over 500 million yen		
52	Over 2 billion yen		

Before the 1998 revision of the AMA, domestic corporations (excluding those engaged in financial business) with total assets of over 2 billion yen as well as foreign corporations (excluding those engaged in financial business) were required to submit a report of shareholding within three months of the end of every business year, if they had shares of domestic corporations. Under the 1998 revision of the AMA, a corporation which had total assets exceeding 2 billion yen and belonged to a group of combined companies which had a sum of total assets exceeding 10 billion yen was required to submit a report of

shareholding if it acquired or held more than 10%, 25%, or 50% of stocks of a domestic corporation with total assets exceeding 1 billion yen or a foreign corporation with domestic sales exceeding 1 billion yen. In addition, notification standards have been changed since the revision of the AMA in 2009 and a corporation with total domestic sales exceeding 20 billion yen has been required to submit a notification in advance just as in the case of a merger, etc., if it plans to acquire stocks of another corporation with total domestic sales, including those of subsidiaries, exceeding 5 billion yen, and to

(Note 4) Before the 1998 revision of the AMA, officers and employees of a corporation were required to notify the JFTC if they also held positions as officers of another corporation which was in competition with the first corporation in Japan and a total amount of assets of one of the two corporations exceeded 2 billion yen. This requirement was removed in the 1998 revision.

hold more than 20% or 50% of voting rights (notification at two stages).

- (Note 5) Before the 1998 revision of the AMA, a person other than a company was required to submit a report of shareholding, if he was to hold more than 10% of all issued stocks of each of two or more domestic corporations which were in competition with each other in Japan. This requirement was removed in the 1998 revision.
- (Note 6) Before the 1998 revision of the AMA, a corporation was required to notify the JFTC in advance without exception, if it planned to merge with another. Under the 1998 revision, however, notification was required if the Parties included a corporation which belonged to a group of combined companies which had a sum of total assets exceeding 10 billion yen and another corporation which belonged to a group of combined companies which had a sum of total assets exceeding 1 billion yen.

In addition, notification standards have been changed since the revision of the AMA in 2009 and now the JFTC must be notified if a corporation with total domestic sales exceeding 20 billion and another corporation with total domestic sales exceeding 5 billion yen plan to merge.

- (Note 7) As notification of demerger was introduced in the 2000 revision of the Commercial Code, no data is available for years up to FY2000.

 In addition, notification standards have been changed since the revision of the AMA in 2009 and now the JFTC must be notified of a plan of demerger in cases where the Parties include a total succession company (a corporation which intends to alienate all of its business) whose total domestic sales exceed 20 billion yen and a corporation with total domestic sales exceeding 5 billion yen which intends to succeed to the business.
- (Note 8) As notification of joint share transfer was introduced in the 2009 revision of the AMA, no data is available for years up to FY2008.

(Note 9) Before the 1998 revision of the AMA, a corporation was required to notify the JFTC in advance without exception, if it planned to acquire the whole or a substantial part of the business of another company. Under the 1998 revision, however, notification was required if a corporation which belonged to a group of combined companies which had a sum of total assets exceeding 10 billion yen planned to acquire the whole business of another domestic corporation whose total assets were over 1 billion yen.

In addition, notification standards have been changed since the revision of the AMA in 2009 and now the JFTC must be notified of a plan to acquire a business if a corporation with total domestic sales exceeding 20 billion plans to acquire the whole business of another corporation with domestic sales exceeding 3 billion yen.