

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported) July 26, 2018

CME GROUP INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

001-31553
(Commission
File No.)

36-4459170
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

20 South Wacker Drive Chicago, Illinois
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

60606
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (312) 930-1000

N/A
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405) of this chapter or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

The information set forth under “Item 2.02. Results Of Operations and Financial Condition,” including the Exhibit attached hereto, shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Attached and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit 99.1 is a copy of a press release of CME Group Inc. dated July 26, 2018, reporting CME Group Inc.’s financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2018.

To supplement CME Group’s financial statements on a GAAP basis, the attached press release includes financial measures that are not in accordance with GAAP, consisting of non-GAAP net income and earnings per share. Management believes that the presentation of non-GAAP net income and earnings per share provide important supplemental information to management and investors about financial and business trends relating to CME Group Inc.’s financial condition and results of operations. Management believes that the use of these non-GAAP financial measures provide a better measure of comparability with the Company’s prior financial reports. Management acknowledges that non-GAAP adjustments may include recurring items. These non-GAAP measures should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, the corresponding measures calculated in accordance with GAAP. Pursuant to the requirements of Regulation G, CME Group Inc. has included a reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures in the press release.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CME Group Inc.

Registrant

Date: July 26, 2018

By: _____ /s/ Kathleen M. Cronin

Name: Kathleen M. Cronin

Title: Senior Managing Director, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| 99.1 | Press Release, dated July 26, 2018 |



News Release

Media contact

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John Peschier, 312.930.8491

CME-G

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CME Group Inc. Reports Second-Quarter 2018 Financial Results**

- **Second-quarter 2018 revenue increased 15 percent compared with second-quarter 2017**
- **GAAP diluted earnings per share increased 36 percent and adjusted diluted earnings per share were up 41 percent compared with second-quarter 2017**

CHICAGO, July 26, 2018 - CME Group Inc. (NASDAQ: CME) today reported revenue of \$1.06 billion and operating income of \$667 million for the second quarter of 2018. Net income was \$566 million and diluted earnings per share were \$1.66. On an adjusted basis, net income was \$591 million and diluted earnings per share were \$1.74. Financial results presented on an adjusted basis for the second quarters of 2018 and 2017 exclude certain items, which are detailed in the reconciliation of non-GAAP results.¹

"With double-digit growth in five of our six asset classes, Q2 2018 was our second best quarter ever in average daily volume, following record performance in the first quarter of 2018," said CME Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Terry Duffy. "We continued to see strong global growth as our trading volume increased 30 percent in Asia and 9 percent in Europe. Total revenue grew 15 percent and, along with our continued focus on expense discipline, resulted in margin expansion and an adjusted earnings per share increase of more than 40 percent."

Second-quarter 2018 average daily volume was 18.4 million contracts, up 12 percent compared with second-quarter 2017. Clearing and transaction fee revenue was \$906 million, up 14 percent compared with second-quarter 2017. Second-quarter 2018 total average

1. A reconciliation of the non-GAAP financial results mentioned to the respective GAAP figures can be found within the Reconciliation of GAAP to non-GAAP Measures chart at the end of the financial statements and earnings presentation materials.

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rate per contract was \$0.757, compared with \$0.706 in first-quarter 2018, driven primarily by an increase in the proportion of the business from higher priced commodity products. Market data revenue was \$114 million, up 18 percent compared with the second quarter last year.

As of June 30, 2018, the company had \$1.2 billion of cash and marketable securities, excluding \$1.6 billion held in escrow related to the potential NEX Group plc acquisition, and \$3.4 billion of long-term debt. The company paid dividends during the second quarter of \$237.6 million. The company has returned more than \$10.1 billion to shareholders in the form of dividends since implementing the variable dividend policy in early 2012.

CME Group will hold a Q&A conference call to discuss second-quarter 2018 results at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time today. A live audio Webcast of the Q&A call will be available on the Investor Relations section of CME Group's Web site at www.cmegroup.com. An archived recording will be available for up to two months after the call.

As the world's leading and most diverse derivatives marketplace, CME Group (www.cmegroup.com) is where the world comes to manage risk. CME Group exchanges offer the widest range of global benchmark products across all major asset classes, including futures and options based on [interest rates](#), [equity indexes](#), [foreign exchange](#), [energy](#), [agricultural products](#) and [metals](#). Around the world, CME Group brings buyers and sellers together through its [CME Globex](#)® electronic trading platform. CME Group also operates one of the world's leading central counterparty clearing providers through [CME Clearing](#), which offers clearing and settlement services across asset classes for exchange-traded and over-the-counter derivatives. CME Group products and services ensure that businesses around the world can effectively manage risk and achieve growth.

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Statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements. We want to caution you not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Among the factors that might affect our performance are increasing competition by foreign and domestic entities, including increased competition from new entrants into our markets and consolidation of existing entities; our ability to keep pace with rapid technological developments, including our ability to complete the development, implementation and maintenance of the enhanced functionality required by our customers while maintaining reliability and ensuring that such technology is not vulnerable to security risks; our ability to continue introducing competitive new products and services on a timely, cost-effective basis, including through our electronic trading capabilities, and our ability to maintain the competitiveness of our existing products and services, including our ability to provide effective services to the swaps market; our ability to adjust our fixed costs and expenses if our revenues decline; our ability to maintain existing customers, develop strategic relationships and attract new customers; our ability to expand and offer our products outside the United States; changes in regulations, including the impact of any changes in laws or government policy with respect to our industry, such as any changes to regulations and policies that require increased financial and operational resources from us or our customers; the costs associated with protecting our intellectual property rights and our ability to operate our business without violating the intellectual property rights of others; decreases in revenue from our market data as a result of decreased demand; changes in our rate per contract due to shifts in the mix of the products traded, the trading venue and the mix of customers (whether the customer receives member or non-member fees or participates in one of our various incentive programs) and the impact of our tiered pricing structure; the ability of our financial safeguards package to adequately protect us from the credit risks of clearing members; the ability of our compliance and risk management methods to effectively monitor and manage our risks, including our ability to prevent errors and misconduct and protect our infrastructure against security breaches and misappropriation of our intellectual property assets; changes in price levels and volatility in the derivatives markets and in underlying equity, foreign exchange, interest rate and commodities markets; economic, political and market conditions, including the volatility of the capital and credit markets and the impact of economic conditions on the trading activity of our current and potential customers; our ability to accommodate increases in contract volume and order transaction traffic and to implement enhancements without failure or degradation of the performance of our trading and clearing systems; our ability to execute our growth strategy and maintain our growth effectively; our ability to manage the risks and control the costs associated with our strategy for acquisitions, investments and alliances; our ability to continue to generate funds and/or manage our indebtedness to allow us to continue to invest in our business; industry and customer consolidation; decreases in trading and clearing activity; the imposition of a transaction tax or user fee on futures and options on futures transactions and/or repeal of the 60/40 tax treatment of such transactions; our failure to maintain our brand's reputation; the unfavorable resolution of material legal proceedings and the uncertainties of the ultimate impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. For a detailed discussion of these and other factors that might affect our performance, see our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our most recent periodic reports filed on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q.

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CME Group Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Balance Sheets
(in millions)

| | June 30, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 1,098.9 | \$ 1,903.6 |
| Marketable securities | 80.9 | 90.1 |
| Accounts receivable, net of allowance | 433.9 | 359.7 |
| Other current assets (includes \$1,635.5 and \$0 in restricted cash) | 1,801.6 | 367.8 |
| Performance bonds and guaranty fund contributions | 36,885.2 | 44,185.3 |
| Total current assets | 40,300.5 | 46,906.5 |
| Property, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization | 380.0 | 399.7 |
| Intangible assets—trading products | 17,175.3 | 17,175.3 |
| Intangible assets—other, net | 2,299.0 | 2,346.3 |
| Goodwill | 7,569.0 | 7,569.0 |
| Other assets (includes \$1.4 and \$2.4 in restricted cash) | 1,475.5 | 1,394.4 |
| Total Assets | \$ 69,199.3 | \$ 75,791.2 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| Current Liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 27.8 | \$ 31.3 |
| Other current liabilities | 266.6 | 1,456.3 |
| Performance bonds and guaranty fund contributions | 36,885.2 | 44,185.3 |
| Total current liabilities | 37,179.6 | 45,672.9 |
| Long-term debt | 3,419.0 | 2,233.1 |
| Deferred income tax liabilities, net | 4,863.1 | 4,857.7 |
| Other liabilities | 614.0 | 615.7 |
| Total Liabilities | 46,075.7 | 53,379.4 |
| Shareholders' equity | 23,123.6 | 22,411.8 |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$ 69,199.3 | \$ 75,791.2 |

CME Group Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Income
(dollars in millions, except per share amounts; shares in thousands)

| | Quarter Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Clearing and transaction fees | \$ 906.1 | \$ 792.0 | \$ 1,879.7 | \$ 1,584.0 |
| Market data and information services | 113.8 | 96.1 | 208.7 | 192.9 |
| Access and communication fees | 26.2 | 24.9 | 52.2 | 49.2 |
| Other | 13.5 | 11.6 | 28.0 | 27.8 |
| Total Revenues | 1,059.6 | 924.6 | 2,168.6 | 1,853.9 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Compensation and benefits | 150.8 | 139.7 | 303.5 | 282.3 |
| Communications | 5.9 | 6.0 | 11.8 | 12.3 |
| Technology support services | 19.3 | 18.2 | 38.9 | 36.9 |
| Professional fees and outside services | 31.9 | 28.6 | 74.5 | 57.2 |
| Amortization of purchased intangibles | 23.6 | 24.0 | 47.3 | 48.0 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 27.5 | 28.8 | 55.6 | 58.2 |
| Occupancy and building operations | 20.2 | 19.2 | 40.2 | 39.3 |
| Licensing and other fee agreements | 39.9 | 32.9 | 89.4 | 66.7 |
| Other | 73.6 | 22.0 | 99.6 | 46.9 |
| Total Expenses | 392.7 | 319.4 | 760.8 | 647.8 |
| Operating Income | 666.9 | 605.2 | 1,407.8 | 1,206.1 |
| Non-Operating Income (Expense) | | | | |
| Investment income | 241.9 | 112.4 | 398.3 | 251.3 |
| Interest and other borrowing costs | (33.1) | (29.0) | (63.2) | (58.8) |
| Equity in net earnings of unconsolidated subsidiaries | 36.4 | 31.8 | 76.5 | 62.6 |
| Other non-operating income (expense) | (155.3) | (83.1) | (273.9) | (116.9) |
| Total Non-Operating Income (Expense) | 89.9 | 32.1 | 137.7 | 138.2 |
| Income before Income Taxes | 756.8 | 637.3 | 1,545.5 | 1,344.3 |
| Income tax provision | 190.7 | 221.5 | 380.6 | 528.7 |
| Net Income | \$ 566.1 | \$ 415.8 | \$ 1,164.9 | \$ 815.6 |
| Earnings per Common Share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.23 | \$ 3.43 | \$ 2.41 |
| Diluted | 1.66 | 1.22 | 3.42 | 2.40 |
| Weighted Average Number of Common Shares: | | | | |
| Basic | 339,465 | 338,556 | 339,386 | 338,448 |
| Diluted | 340,872 | 340,020 | 340,838 | 339,974 |

CME Group Inc. and Subsidiaries
Quarterly Operating Statistics

| | 2Q 2017 | 3Q 2017 | 4Q 2017 | 1Q 2018 | 2Q 2018 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Trading Days | 63 | 63 | 63 | 61 | 64 |

Quarterly Average Daily Volume (ADV)

CME Group ADV (in thousands)

| Product Line | 2Q 2017 | 3Q 2017 | 4Q 2017 | 1Q 2018 | 2Q 2018 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Interest rate | 8,210 | 7,424 | 7,970 | 11,948 | 9,200 |
| Equity | 2,707 | 2,624 | 2,632 | 4,096 | 3,086 |
| Foreign exchange | 879 | 971 | 941 | 1,100 | 1,035 |
| Energy | 2,632 | 2,693 | 2,489 | 2,754 | 2,630 |
| Agricultural commodity | 1,491 | 1,381 | 1,278 | 1,593 | 1,734 |
| Metal | 533 | 611 | 616 | 713 | 674 |
| Total | 16,453 | 15,704 | 15,925 | 22,204 | 18,359 |

Venue

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Electronic | 14,582 | 14,264 | 14,265 | 19,796 | 16,644 |
| Open outcry | 1,115 | 889 | 1,066 | 1,556 | 1,066 |
| Privately negotiated | 756 | 551 | 594 | 851 | 649 |
| Total | 16,453 | 15,704 | 15,925 | 22,204 | 18,359 |

Average Rate Per Contract (RPC)

CME Group RPC

| Product Line | 2Q 2017 | 3Q 2017 | 4Q 2017 | 1Q 2018 | 2Q 2018 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Interest rate | \$ 0.491 | \$ 0.485 | \$ 0.467 | \$ 0.464 | \$ 0.491 |
| Equity | 0.731 | 0.738 | 0.768 | 0.781 | 0.797 |
| Foreign exchange | 0.807 | 0.796 | 0.785 | 0.762 | 0.741 |
| Energy | 1.096 | 1.072 | 1.133 | 1.140 | 1.142 |
| Agricultural commodity | 1.300 | 1.251 | 1.251 | 1.246 | 1.274 |
| Metal | 1.449 | 1.376 | 1.315 | 1.367 | 1.403 |
| Average RPC | \$ 0.749 | \$ 0.749 | \$ 0.736 | \$ 0.706 | \$ 0.757 |

CME Group Inc. and Subsidiaries
Reconciliation of GAAP to non-GAAP Measures
(dollars in millions, except per share amounts; shares in thousands)

| | Quarter Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Net Income | \$ 566.1 | \$ 415.8 | \$ 1,164.9 | \$ 815.6 |
| Restructuring and severance | 0.3 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 3.9 |
| Amortization of purchased intangibles | 23.6 | 24.0 | 47.3 | 48.0 |
| Litigation matters | 1.4 | — | 10.3 | — |
| Acquisition-related costs ⁽¹⁾ | 4.8 | — | 14.3 | — |
| Foreign exchange transaction (gains) losses ⁽²⁾ | 47.3 | (4.6) | 48.9 | (7.1) |
| Acceleration of contractual commitments | 0.7 | — | 0.7 | — |
| Unrealized and realized gains on CME Ventures investments | (88.2) | — | (89.3) | — |
| Gains on sale of BM&FBOVESPA shares | — | — | — | (86.5) |
| Loss on disposal of assets | — | 0.6 | — | 0.6 |
| Loss on derivatives | 36.9 | — | 36.9 | — |
| Debt costs related to acquisition | 3.5 | — | 3.5 | — |
| Income tax effect related to above | (6.2) | (9.1) | (15.5) | (18.0) |
| Other income tax item | 1.2 | (9.9) | 1.2 | 77.9 |
| Adjusted Net Income | \$ 591.4 | \$ 418.9 | \$ 1,224.9 | \$ 834.4 |
| GAAP Earnings per Common Share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.67 | \$ 1.23 | \$ 3.43 | \$ 2.41 |
| Diluted | 1.66 | 1.22 | 3.42 | 2.40 |
| Adjusted Earnings per Common Share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 1.74 | \$ 1.24 | \$ 3.61 | \$ 2.47 |
| Diluted | 1.74 | 1.23 | 3.59 | 2.45 |
| Weighted Average Number of Common Shares: | | | | |
| Basic | 339,465 | 338,556 | 339,386 | 338,448 |
| Diluted | 340,872 | 340,020 | 340,838 | 339,974 |

1. Acquisition-related costs include professional fees related to the proposed acquisition with NEX Group plc.

2. Results include foreign exchange transaction net gains and losses principally related to cash held in British pounds within entities whose functional currency is the U.S. dollar.