

Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 [IFRSs]

April 27, 2018

Company Name: Yahoo Japan Corporation Share Listings: 1st section of TSE
 Code No.: 4689 URL: <https://www.yahoo.co.jp/>
 Representative: Manabu Miyasaka, President and Representative Director Tel: 03-6898-8200
 Contact: Ryosuke Sakaue, Executive Vice President,
 Corporate Officer, CFO

Scheduled Ordinary Shareholder's Meeting Date: June 19, 2018

Scheduled Dividend Payment Date: June 5, 2018

Scheduled Securities Report Submission Date: June 18, 2018

Fiscal Results Supplementary Briefing Materials to Be Created: Yes

Fiscal Results Investors Meeting to Be Held: Yes (for Financial Analysts)

(Amounts less than one million yen are omitted)

1. Consolidated Results for FY2017 (April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018)

(1) Consolidated Business Performance (April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018) (Figures in parenthesis are % change YoY)

	Revenue	Operating income	Income before income taxes	Net income	Net income attributable to owners of the parent	Total comprehensive income
	Millions of yen (%)	Millions of yen (%)	Millions of yen (%)	Millions of yen (%)	Millions of yen (%)	Millions of yen (%)
FY2017	897,185 (5.1)	185,810 (-3.2)	193,177 (-0.2)	134,412 (1.3)	131,153 (-4.0)	136,045 (1.2)
FY2016	853,730 (30.9)	192,049 (-14.6)	193,475 (-14.6)	132,634 (-23.1)	136,589 (-20.4)	134,436 (-22.5)

	Basic earnings per share	Diluted earnings per share	Profit ratio to equity attributable to owners of the parent	Profit before tax ratio to total assets	Operating margin
	Yen	Yen	%	%	%
FY2017	23.04	23.03	13.5	9.5	20.7
FY2016	23.99	23.99	15.4	13.4	22.5

(For reference) Equity in earnings of associates and joint venture: FY2017 ¥1,045 million FY2016 ¥947 million

(2) Consolidated Financial Position

	Total assets	Total equity	Equity attributable to owners of the parent	Ratio of equity attributable to owners of the parent	Equity attributable to owners of the parent per share
	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	%	Yen
FY2017	2,516,633	1,121,887	1,013,368	40.3	177.97
FY2016	1,534,212	998,709	930,820	60.7	163.51

(3) Consolidated Cash Flows Status

	Cash flows from operating activities	Cash flows from investing activities	Cash flows from financing activities	Cash & cash equivalents at the end of the period
	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	Millions of yen	Millions of yen
FY2017	75,457	232,556	21,289	868,325
FY2016	127,023	-57,047	23,996	543,067

2. Dividends

(Record date)	Dividends per share					Total amount (Full year)	Payout ratio (Consolidated)	Dividend ratio to equity attributable to owners of the parent (Consolidated)
	1Q	2Q	3Q	Year end	Full year	Millions of yen	%	%
FY2016	—	0.00	—	8.86	8.86	50,438	36.9	5.7
FY2017	—	0.00	—	8.86	8.86	50,449	38.5	5.2
FY2018(Estimates)	—	0.00	—	8.86	8.86	—	—	—

3. Consolidated Performance Estimates for FY2018 (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019)

In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019, the consolidated revenue is expected to grow over the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018, due to the expansion of the existing businesses. The consolidated operating income is expected to be in between ¥130 billion to ¥140 billion due to launching of the mobile payment service in the Commerce Business and increased expenses related to content procurement in the Media Business, etc. For details, please refer to 3. Outlook for Fiscal 2018 (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019) in (1) Qualitative Information regarding the Consolidated Business Performance of 1 Analysis of Business Results and Financial Position on page 5 of the Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months (Attachments).

*** Notes**

(1) Changes in significant subsidiaries during the period (changes in significant subsidiaries causing changes in scope of consolidation): Yes

Newly consolidated subsidiary: 1 (The Japan Net Bank, Limited)

(2) Changes in the accounting principles, procedures and presentation methods

1) Changes due to IFRSs: Yes

2) Changes other than 1): None

3) Changes in accounting estimate: None

Note: For details, please refer to 2. Significant accounting policies in (7) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of 4 Consolidated Financial Statements on page 33 of the Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 (Attachments).

(3) Number of stocks issued (common stock)

1) Number of stocks issued at year end (including treasury stocks)

FY2017	5,696,866,300	FY2016	5,695,577,600
FY2017	2,818,585	FY2016	2,800,000
FY2017	5,693,586,076	FY2016	5,692,618,274

2) Number of treasury stocks at year end

3) Average number of stocks

* The Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months are not subject to audit.

* Explanation of the proper use of performance estimates, and other special notes

• The performance estimates, etc., and other forward-looking statements contained in this document are based on the information currently available to the Company and premised on assumptions that have been deemed reasonable by management. For a variety of reasons, actual performance estimates, etc., could differ significantly.

○ Table of contents of attachments

1 Analysis of Business Results and Financial Position	2
(1) Qualitative Information regarding the Consolidated Business Performance	2
(2) Qualitative Information regarding the Consolidated Financial Position	6
(3) Basic Policy regarding Profit Distribution and Dividend Payments for Fiscal 2017 and 2018	7
(4) Risk Factors	8
2 Management Policy	24
(1) Fundamental Business Management Policies	24
(2) Management Performance Indicators Used for Goals	24
(3) Medium- to Long-Term Business Strategies	24
(4) Major Business Issues	25
3 Basic Stance on Selecting Accounting Standards	25
4 Consolidated Financial Statements	26
(1) Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	26
(2) Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss	28
(3) Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	29
(4) Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity	30
(5) Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	31
(6) Going Concern Assumption	32
(7) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	32
(Reference: Quarterly Information)	39

1 Analysis of Business Results and Financial Position

(1) Qualitative Information regarding the Consolidated Business Performance

1. Business Results Summary (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018)

	FY2016	FY2017	Year-on-Year Change (Amount)	Year-on-Year Change (%)
Revenue	¥853.7 billion	¥897.1 billion	+¥43.4 billion	+5.1%
Operating Income	¥192.0 billion	¥185.8 billion	-¥6.2 billion	-3.2%
Income before income taxes	¥193.4 billion	¥193.1 billion	-¥0.2 billion	-0.2%
Net Income attributable to owners of the parent	¥136.5 billion	¥131.1 billion	-¥5.4 billion	-4.0%

In the consolidated fiscal year ending March 31, 2018, the Yahoo Japan Group recorded a revenue growth of 5.1% compared with the same period last year due to the increase in the advertising-related revenue including paid search advertising and Premium Advertising. The revenue growth of the ASKUL Group and other factors also contributed to this result.

Operating income, income before income taxes and net income attributable to owners of the parent decreased year on year due to increased investments in maximizing e-commerce transaction value and in becoming a data-driven company, etc., despite the revenue expansion.

2. Segment Business Results Summary (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018)

Revenue and Operating Income by Segment

	FY2016	FY2017	Year-on-Year Change (Amount)	Year-on-Year Change (%)
Media Business				
Revenue	¥281.1 billion	¥288.3 billion	+¥7.2 billion	+2.6%
Operating income	¥164.4 billion	¥169.1 billion	+¥4.7 billion	+2.9%
Commerce Business				
Revenue	¥560.9 billion	¥596.5 billion	+¥35.5 billion	+6.3%
Operating income	¥72.1 billion	¥75.2 billion	+¥3.1 billion	+4.4%
Others				
Revenue	¥25.7 billion	¥24.4 billion	-¥1.3 billion	-5.4%
Operating income	¥5.1 billion	¥1.8 billion	-¥3.2 billion	-63.9%
Adjustments				
Revenue	-¥14.1 billion	-¥12.1 billion	—	—
Operating income	-¥49.5 billion	-¥60.4 billion	—	—
Total				
Revenue	¥853.7 billion	¥897.1 billion	+¥43.4 billion	+5.1%
Operating income	¥192.0 billion	¥185.8 billion	-¥6.2 billion	-3.2%

Notes: 1. Reporting segments have been changed from the consolidated first quarter of the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. The main changes in the segments are: i) change in the segment name from “Marketing Solutions Business” to “Media Business”; ii) integration of Financial & Payment-related figures that were previously recorded in “Others” and “Consumer Business” to “Commerce Business”; iii) transfer of some of the services previously included in “Marketing Solutions Business” and “Consumer Business” to “Others”.

2. If some of the services have been transferred between segments, prior data and comparative figures have been adjusted to the current segments retroactively.

3. Adjustments figures represent inter-segment transactions and general corporate expenses not belonging to any reporting segment.

Reporting Segment

	Main business areas
Media Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid search, Display and other advertising-related services
Commerce Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAHUOKU!, Yahoo! Shopping, ASKUL Corporation, and other commerce-related services • Yahoo! Premium, and other membership services • Credit card and other financial and payment-related services

Main types of advertising

Advertising products		Main Format	Fee Calculation	Placement Pages	Main Advertiser Base	
Paid Search Advertising	Sponsored Search®		Text	Search results pages	Major corporations Small and medium-sized companies	
Display Advertising	YDN and others	Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) *1	Text Banner	Per-click rate (Performance-based) *2		Top page *1
			Video	Per-view rate (Performance-based) *2		
		Yahoo! Premium DSP	Banner	Per-impression page view rate (Performance-based) *2	Interior pages of service sites *1	Major corporations
	Premium Advertising	Brand Panel, Prime Display, etc.	Rich ad (Including video) Banner	Per-impression page view rate (Guarantee-based) *3	Yahoo! Shopping	Stores in Yahoo! Shopping
		Banner Text ads Others	Text Banner	Per-guaranteed period rate, etc. (Guarantee-based) *3		
	PR Option	Conversion-based				

*1 Includes In-feed Advertising on timeline view pages

*2 Advertising that is programmatically or manually managed on a real-time basis to optimize advertising effects

*3 Advertising for which specific placement is reserved in advance

1) Media Business in the Consolidated Fiscal Year

As paid search advertising revenue increased year on year due to continuous functional improvements and other measures, the advertising-related revenue grew year on year.

As a result, revenue of the Media Business amounted to ¥288.3 billion, rising 2.6% year on year, and accounted for 32.1% of total revenue. Operating income increased 2.9% year on year, to ¥169.1 billion.

2) Commerce Business in the Consolidated Fiscal Year

Revenue of the Commerce Business rose from the same period last year, due to increase in the advertising revenue from Yahoo! Shopping (*1). Steady revenue increase in the ASKUL Group also contributed to this result.

As a result, revenue of the Commerce Business amounted to ¥596.5 billion, increasing 6.3% year on year and accounting for 66.5% of total revenue. Operating income increased 4.4% year on year, to ¥75.2 billion.

- Total domestic e-commerce transaction value (*2) amounted to ¥2.1 trillion, increasing 13.7% year on year.
- The total transaction values of Yahoo! Shopping, LOHACO (transaction value of ASKUL Corporation's LOHACO business (closed on every 20th)) and Charm Co., Ltd. expanded by 31.1% year on year, due to significant increase in the number of customers, T Point reward measure for SoftBank smartphone users, etc., as well as ASKUL Corporation's consolidation of Charm Co., Ltd.

- In Yahoo! Shopping, ratio of transaction value of Yahoo! Premium members continued to expand year on year.
- Number of Yahoo! Premium member IDs (*3) was 19.79 million IDs as of March 31, 2018, showing major year-on-year expansion, due to the collaborative measures with SoftBank Corp.
- Number of valid credit card holders (*4) continued to increase year on year and amounted to 4.68 million.

*1 Total of the Company's Shopping-related advertising revenue; advertising revenue of "StoreMatch", an advertising product in Yahoo! Shopping sold by ValueCommerce Co., Ltd. to stores in Yahoo! Shopping, etc.; and revenues of paid search advertising and YDN, etc., placed by stores in Yahoo! Shopping.*2 Includes the Shopping- and Auction-related transaction values, as well as business-to-business (BtoB) revenue (closed on every 20th) via Internet in ASKUL Corporation's revenue.

*3 Yahoo! Premium member IDs include: SoftBank members and Y!mobile members, etc., who are eligible for Yahoo! Premium privileges. Overlap in IDs is excluded.

*4 Number of card holders who can purchase goods and receive services, etc., using the card. Includes card holders of KC Card, Yahoo! JAPAN Card and SoftBank Card ("Omakase charge").

3. Outlook for Fiscal 2018 (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019)

Year-on-year growth is expected in revenue of display advertising such as Premium Advertising. The Group anticipates that the growth in paid search advertising revenue in fiscal 2018 will be almost flat compared with the previous fiscal year. In light of these circumstances, the Group expects an increase in total Advertising-related revenue in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

The e-commerce transaction value (sales of goods) (*) is forecast to increase year on year. Accordingly, the revenues of advertising in Yahoo! Shopping and Financial- and Payment-related services is also expected to increase. Thus, the Group expects a year-on-year increase in the revenue of the Commerce Business for fiscal 2018.

* Includes the Shopping- and Auction-related transaction values, as well as business-to-business (BtoB) revenue (transaction value; closed on every 20th) via Internet in ASKUL Corporation's revenue.

(2) Qualitative Information regarding the Consolidated Financial Position

1. Assets, Liabilities and Equity

1) Assets

Total assets at the end of fiscal 2017 amounted to ¥2,516,633 million, increasing ¥982,421 million, or 64.0% from the end of fiscal 2016. The main components of change were the following:

- Cash and cash equivalents increased from the end of fiscal 2016, mainly because of the consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited.
- Investment securities for banking business, call loans for banking business and loans for banking business were newly recognized due to the consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited.
- Loans for credit card business increased from the end of fiscal 2016, mainly due to the increase in the transaction value of the Credit Card business.
- Other financial assets increased from the end of fiscal 2016, attributed primarily to the consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited.
- Assets that are classified as held-for-sale were newly recognized because the Company entered into an agreement to transfer the shares of IDC Frontier Inc.

2) Liabilities

Total liabilities at the end of fiscal 2017 were ¥1,394,746 million, increasing ¥859,243 million, or 160.5%, from the end of fiscal 2016. The major components of change were the following:

- Deposits for banking business were newly recognized due to the consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited.
- Interest-bearing liabilities increased from the end of fiscal 2016, mainly because of issuance of bonds.

3) Equity

Total equity at the end of fiscal 2017 amounted to ¥1,121,887 million, increasing ¥123,177 million, or 12.3%, from the end of fiscal 2016. The primary reason for change in equity was as follows:

- Retained earnings increased from the end of fiscal 2016 because of the recognition of profit for the year attributable to owners of the parent, despite payment of dividends.

2. Cash Flows

At the end of fiscal 2017, cash and cash equivalents amounted to ¥868,325 million, up ¥325,257 million from the end of fiscal 2016, out of which deposit with the Bank of Japan for banking business was ¥284,234 million.

The following are the movements in the main components of cash flow and the factors contributing to the changes for the period under review:

Cash flows from operating activities amounted to a cash inflow of ¥75,457 million mainly because of the recognition of profit before tax despite the payment of income taxes and the increase of receivables related to the credit card business.

Cash flows from investing activities amounted to a cash inflow of ¥232,556 million, chiefly due to an inflow from the consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited despite the acquisitions of property and equipment and intangible assets.

Cash flows from financing activities amounted to a cash inflow of ¥21,289 million, attributed mainly to issuance of bonds despite payment of dividends.

(3) Basic Policy regarding Profit Distribution and Dividend Payments for Fiscal 2017 and 2018

Yahoo Japan Corporation aims to achieve sustained growth in corporate value over the medium to long term. For that purpose, the Company recognizes the importance of actively pursuing upfront investments to our services, capital expenditures, and capital and business alliances for future growth. At the same time, Yahoo Japan Corporation recognizes its responsibility as a listed company to recompense shareholders by returning profits to them.

Guided by the above policy, for the fiscal year ended March 2018, the Company has resolved to pay year-end dividends of ¥8.86 per share, equivalent to a total dividend payout of ¥50.4 billion. For the fiscal year ending March 2019, the Company plans to pay the same amount of dividends per share.

Going forward, while continuing to invest for business growth, the Company will aim to build corporate value by providing an appropriate return of profits to shareholders.

(for reference) Transition of Dividends per share (after adjustments for stock split)

Fiscal year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Dividends per share (yen)	4.43	8.86	8.86	8.86	8.86

(4) Risk Factors

Major risk factors with regard to the businesses of Yahoo Japan Corporation (the Company) and its consolidated subsidiaries and affiliates (the Yahoo Japan Group) as of the time of preparation of this document are discussed below. We proactively disclose risk factors deemed necessary for potential investors to consider in their investment decision-making, including external factors beyond our control and business risks with a low probability of materializing. Cognizant of potential risks, we make every effort to prevent them from materializing and will respond rapidly should problems arise. Management recommends that shareholders and potential investors consider the issues below before assessing the position of the Yahoo Japan Group and its future performance. Please note that the following is not an exhaustive discussion of all risk factors that should be considered before investing in the shares of Yahoo Japan Corporation.

1. Impact of Internet Markets and Competition

1) Macroeconomic Trends, Internet Markets, and Users

a. The Yahoo Japan Group's ongoing business expansion is contingent upon steadily increasing Internet usage and Internet-based market growth, the outlook for which is uncertain.

Internet usage in terms of both user numbers and usage times has grown steadily in Japan since the Internet's emergence as a recognizable force in 1995, with particularly notable growth due to the spread of broadband communications and the proliferation of technologically advanced smart devices. Because the Yahoo Japan Group is dependent on the Internet both directly and indirectly, ongoing business expansion is contingent upon continuous growth in Internet-based information exchange and commercial activity in line with steadily increasing Internet user numbers and usage times, as well as constant maintenance of a stable and secure Internet access environment for users.

The outlook for continuous growth of Internet-based markets is uncertain owing to several eventualities, including (1) Internet user numbers and usage times might begin to decline, (2) new Internet regulations or fees might discourage Internet usage, and (3) misguided development and faulty implementation of new protocols and technologies in response to growing user numbers and increasingly advanced applications might disrupt Internet usage.

b. Continuous growth in our advertising media value is uncertain.

The Internet-based advertising industry in Japan is generally thought to have begun with the Company's start of operations in 1996. Since then, the Internet advertising market has grown significantly, accounting for 23.6% of the total domestic advertising market in calendar year 2017, according to a DENTSU INC. report.

The Yahoo Japan Group engages in a range of activities aimed at enhancing its advertising media value. For example, in an ongoing effort to consolidate and expand our client base of corporate advertisers and advertising agencies we conduct periodic seminars aimed at enhancing awareness within the overall advertising industry of Internet advertising's unique capabilities. In the area of promotional advertising, including Sponsored Search® and Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN), we are working to improve the match between advertisements and user interests and preferences, thereby becoming a more valuable advertising media both for users and for advertisers.

Further progress in this regard, however, could be hindered by such factors as lower-than-anticipated growth, or a slowing of growth, in the Internet advertising market. As a result, we might not achieve anticipated levels of advertising revenues, which could negatively impact our business performance.

c. Cyclical macroeconomic trends and related shifts in user behavior could exacerbate underlying volatility in our advertising business.

Advertising expenditures are among the first that companies reduce during economic downturns, making the advertising business highly susceptible to cyclical macroeconomic trends and related shifts in user behavior. This could exacerbate underlying volatility in our advertising business stemming both from relatively short advertising contract durations and from brief fluctuations in Internet usage throughout the year.

Demand for recruiting, real estate, and other information listing services is also strongly influenced by cyclical macroeconomic trends.

On the other hand, because our cost structure includes a high proportion of fixed costs such as personnel and lease expenses, expenditures cannot be quickly adjusted downward during periods of declining revenue, thereby exacerbating underlying volatility in our advertising earnings stream.

d. Trends in advertising budget allocations could affect our advertising revenues.

Generally in Japan, major corporations outsource the bulk of their advertising activities to advertising agencies. In addition to how the advertising budget is allocated among the various media, for example, Internet, television, and newspapers, our advertising revenues depend on the inclinations of major corporate advertisers and the amount of discretion granted to advertising agencies. While we have implemented various measures to enhance our appeal as an advertising media, including efforts to boost the effectiveness of advertising products, trends in advertising budget allocations among the various media could affect our advertising revenues.

e. A decline in the number of users of member services and other fee-based services could affect our business results.

With the spread of broadband and mobile communications in recent years, the number of Internet users has increased dramatically, fueling growth in the market for fee-based services. Recognizing that the number of Internet users in Japan is likely to eventually peak, we regularly implement innovative measures to enhance users' satisfaction with and promote broader usage of various services. Despite these efforts, the eventual decline in the number of users of such fee-based member services as Yahoo! Premium, our premier member service offering a variety of members-only benefits, could negatively impact our overall business results.

f. Some of our fee-based content services, including videos and games, might fail to attract a critical mass of devoted daily users.

The Yahoo Japan Group offers a variety of fee-based content services, including videos and games, to meet changing user needs. Although we expect usage of such fee-based content services to grow in line with increasing Internet user numbers, some of these services might fail to attract a critical mass of devoted daily users.

2) Competition

With competitors in each of our service areas, we might have difficulties maintaining our dominant position in the Japanese Internet market.

Our flagship Yahoo! JAPAN portal site offers a diverse range of Internet-based services, including search services, various types of information services such as news, Internet tool services such as e-mail, shopping and other e-commerce services, and payment services. In each of these service areas, we vie against multiple competitors for market share.

In such a competitive environment, a degree of uncertainty exists as to whether or not we will be able to maintain our dominant market position. Earnings deterioration could result from price competition or increased customer acquisition costs. Also, we might be obligated to pay higher advertising commissions and content provider fees to advertising agencies and content providers, which could adversely affect our business performance.

Moreover, within our industry there have been cases of start-up companies introducing new services that attain popularity with users and spread rapidly throughout the market. Although we will continue gauging user opinions and usage patterns with an eye to offering services that users want, it is nevertheless possible that new services offered by a start-up company could pose a competitive challenge to our existing services. Furthermore, we could be obligated to make significant investments in developing new services to maintain our competitive advantage. Either eventuality could have a negative impact on our business performance.

3) Reliance on Social Infrastructure, and Other Companies' Products and Services

In providing services, the Yahoo Japan Group relies on social infrastructure including electricity and Internet connection lines, and other companies' products and services, including facilities such as servers, and users' information devices and software.

Many of the products and services necessary for the provision of our services, including social infrastructure such as electricity and Internet connection lines, and facilities such as servers, and users' information devices and software, are provided by other companies. The smooth, uninterrupted provision of such products and services, and their operation are a prerequisite to the successful provision of our services.

In providing Yahoo Japan Group services, we depend in particular on a stable supply of electricity to run our servers and other equipment and facilities. Given the possibility of disruptions to the electric power supply arising from power blackouts, usage restrictions, or other eventualities, we are setting up back-up data centers and autonomous power generation facilities with the goal of responding quickly and appropriately throughout the Yahoo Japan Group in the case of an actual electric power supply disruption. Despite these proactive efforts, we might be unable either to continuously provide services or to quickly restore them following an electric power supply disruption. In addition, higher electricity charges could affect our business results.

To access the Internet today, users can choose from several types of browser software and from a range of information devices including PCs, smart devices, TVs, video-game consoles, and car navigation systems. Some types of browser software and certain information devices, however, might be incompatible with our services. Moreover, sub-optimal usage conditions and faulty settings on software and information devices could prevent some users from accessing Yahoo Japan Group services. Furthermore, specification changes, rate adjustments, or insufficient market supply with regard to software and information devices could similarly block user access to our services, potentially resulting in lower usage times and could affect our services and business results.

4) Technological Change

Failure to quickly and appropriately implement new technologies in our services could significantly impact our competitiveness.

The Japanese Internet industry, a competitive market constantly teeming with new entrants, is particularly noted for rapid technological innovation and short service lifecycles. To maintain a competitive edge, we continuously enhance our services by quickly and appropriately implementing new technologies. If, however, despite our best efforts we fail to successfully implement new technologies and our services become obsolete, we could suffer a significant decline in competitiveness.

2. Legal and Institutional Changes

1) Legal Restrictions

a. New laws or amendments to existing laws could negatively impact our business performance and adversely affect the development of the Japanese Internet industry.

The Yahoo Japan Group complies with all applicable laws and regulations and carries out policies and awareness campaigns in cooperation with relevant organizations. Recurring media reports in Japan of Internet-based malfeasance might galvanize public support for new laws or amendments to existing laws applicable to the Internet industry. This could result in increased compliance-related expenses or otherwise negatively impact our business performance, as well as adversely affect the development of the Japanese Internet industry.

b. Changes to the Provider Liability Limitation Act could restrict our business.

The Act on the Limitation of Liability for Damages of Specified Telecommunications Service Providers and the Right to Demand Disclosure of Identification Information of the Senders (Provider Liability Limitation Act) merely clarifies the scope of liability for illegal behavior established by the Civil Code and therefore does not increase the liability of businesses that act as intermediaries in Internet-based information distribution. Should a social consensus in support of increased liability of information distribution intermediaries emerge, however, our business could be restricted as a result of the introduction of new laws, amendments to existing laws, or the implementation by industry associations of rules for self-regulation.

c. Amendments to the Telecommunications Business Act could restrict our business.

Within our business of operating Internet-based information communication services, there are areas where we are required to comply with the Telecommunications Business Act and related ordinances enforced by relevant government divisions. Amendments to this law or to related ordinances could restrict our business.

d. The Act on Development of an Environment that Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People could impinge upon the development of the Internet industry in Japan.

Since our establishment, we have engaged in a variety of activities supporting the sound development of the Internet, including the operation of our Yahoo! Kids site, a safe Internet environment for children. In April 2009, the government promulgated the Act on Development of an Environment that Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People. Although the effect of the act on the Yahoo Japan Group's business has been minor, the law nevertheless raises many issues that could impinge upon the development of the Japanese Internet industry and consequently affect our business performance, including restrictions on freedom of expression and inhibition of filtering development.

e. Legislation relating to e-commerce business could negatively affect our financial results.

In our YAHUOKU! auction service, there are sometimes reports on listings of illegal items and fraudulent activities. Auction sellers who are judged to be operators as prescribed in the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions are instructed to comply with the obligation to identify themselves as operators. We revoke the Yahoo! JAPAN IDs of sellers who do not comply. In collaboration with other Internet auction operators, we have formulated and implemented Internet Auction Services Guidelines. In addition, as the chair of the Conference on Anti-distribution of Pirated Intellectual Property on the Internet, we are actively working to devise measures to prevent violations. For example, to help educate sellers and buyers of items on Internet auctions, we have published on our website "Intellectual Property Rights Protection Guide," which defines and explains copyrights, image rights, and trademarks.

An increasing number of stores registered on Yahoo! Shopping could lead to a higher number of violations of our usage guidelines and Terms of Service, resulting in a growing number of buyer complaints. Proactively addressing this potential problem, we are applying the accumulated know-how and proven operational methods for reducing fraudulent activity on YAHUOKU! to our Yahoo! Shopping business.

If these measures fail to bring about the expected results and reports of illegal merchandise and other fraudulent activity persist, legislation could be enacted restricting commercial activity carried out via the Internet. Depending on the degree of restriction entailed by such legislation, it could negatively affect our business results.

f. Legislation relating to social media services could affect our provision of such services.

Social media services provide a space for users to communicate with each other via postings of opinion and content. In the context of such services, the potential exists for defamation, invasion of privacy, and infringement of intellectual property and other rights. We prohibit postings that violate these rights. Regarding postings containing copyright-protected content, we make concerted efforts to prevent and eliminate such infringements, such as operating a patrol system for detecting illegal content, soliciting user reports of illegal content, and responding swiftly to requests by legitimate rights holders to remove illegal content.

If these measures fail to bring about the expected results and reports of illegal postings continue and become an object of public concern, new legislation might be enacted that could restrict comment posting services on the Internet. Depending on the degree of restriction entailed, such legislation could significantly affect our provision of services that incorporate social media functions.

g. The formulation of new laws or amendments to existing laws concerning financial services could affect some Yahoo Japan Group services.

Yahoo! Money service, operated by Yahoo Japan Corporation, is subject to the Payment Services Act. In compliance with this act, Yahoo Japan Corporation is registered as a Fund Transfer Service Provider and as an Issuer of Prepaid Instruments for Third-Party Business with the Kanto Local Finance Bureau.

Moreover, as an intermediary in opening yen savings accounts, etc., in collaboration with The Japan Net Bank, Limited, Yahoo Japan Corporation is registered as a Bank Agent with the Kanto Local Finance Bureau.

As an issuer of credit cards and loan cards, our consolidated subsidiary YJ Card Corporation is subject to the Installment Sales Act for revolving payment and other transactions in its credit card business, as well as to the Money Lending Business Act and the Interest Rate Restriction Act for cash advance transactions in its credit card and loan card businesses. In compliance with the Installment Sales Act, YJ Card Corporation is registered as an Installment Seller with the Kyushu Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry. In compliance with the Money Lending Business Act, YJ Card Corporation is registered as a Money Lender with the Fukuoka Local Finance Branch Bureau. As a result of the recent revision to the Money Lending Business Act lowering the interest rate ceiling on loans to match the interest rate ceiling specified in the Interest Rate Restriction Act, customers might claim that interest paid in excess of the rate permitted under the Interest Rate Restriction Act represents unfair profits, and demand repayment. Although adequate reserves, estimated conservatively, have been set aside, YJ Card Corporation's business is especially exposed to the risk of refund claims.

Strengthening or revising financial services compliance structures or trading systems in case of a revision of relevant regulations might entail increased costs and could therefore negatively impact our business results.

h. Obligated to comply with Japan's Travel Agency Act, the Yahoo Japan Group's travel agency business could be restricted by future legal revisions.

In Ikyu, a business operated by the Yahoo Japan Group, we are obligated to comply with the Travel Agency Act and related ordinances. Revisions to this act or to related ordinances could therefore restrict our business operations.

i. In addition to legal restrictions, official administrative guidance and governmental requirements could adversely affect our service provision and performance.

In addition to the aforementioned legal restrictions, official administrative guidance and requirements by the national government, governmental ministries, or local governments regarding the self-regulatory systems of companies in the information communications industry could adversely affect our service provision and performance.

j. Restrictions on the collection and analysis of users' behavioral history information could affect such advertising services as Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN).

Based on an analysis of users' Internet usage histories, such advertising services as Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) distribute advertisements for products or services only to user groups with a demonstrated preference for or interest in those specific products or services. These advertising products are designed to boost advertising efficacy for all concerned parties, namely, advertisers, users, and the Internet media itself.

The Yahoo Japan Group rigorously respects the privacy of individual users in its collection and analysis of behavioral history. Advertising services such as YDN analyze three aspects of users' behavioral history: (1) the Yahoo! JAPAN services viewed by users, or more specifically, accessed via users' browsers; (2) the keywords employed by users in searches; and (3) the type of display advertising viewed, or clicked-on, by users. This information is used only for the purpose of grouping users, or more specifically, users' browsers, on the basis of similar preferences and interests; it is not used to analyze the preferences and interests of specific users.

Although we believe that we are taking adequate precautions to respect users' privacy, some users might object to the collection and analysis of their behavioral history, or legal restrictions might be placed on these activities. In addition to damaging our brand image, such objections or restrictions could lead to a prohibition on future sales of such advertising services as YDN, which could have a detrimental impact on our business performance.

2) Litigation

a. We could be subject to damage claims by related parties who do not wish to have information displayed in our search results.

With regard to information displayed in search results, we established a Panel of Experts on Internet Search Results and Privacy with the goal of examining the issue of freedom of expression and access to information versus the protection of user privacy. Reflecting the panel's conclusions, Yahoo Japan Corporation announced in March 2015 its policy regarding individual requests to have information removed from its search results. By responding appropriately and consistently to such requests on the basis of our new policy, we aim to both improve our service and reduce risks.

If, however, our efforts in this regard fail to have the expected effect, related parties could demand compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group. In such cases, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

b. Victims of auction fraud might again take legal action against the Yahoo Japan Group.

We have implemented various measures to improve systems security for a safer and more stable auction environment. In May 2001, we introduced a fee-based personal identification system. In July 2004, we initiated a system that verifies by postal mail the physical addresses of users listing items on the auction site. To further reinforce security, we introduced an Internet auction fraud-detection model in November 2005. Moreover, through the establishment of a patrol team that searches out and eliminates auction listings of illegal items, and in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and copyright-related groups, the Yahoo Japan Group aims to provide crime-related information, improve service quality, and reduce risks.

A lawsuit brought against the Company by certain users of YAHUOKU! seeking damage compensation relating to the non-receipt of paid auction items was ruled definitively in our favor in October 2009 when the Japanese Supreme Court dismissed the appeal by said users, effectively upholding an initial judgment that the Yahoo Japan Group was not liable for damages because it had forewarned YAHUOKU! users of the potential for auction fraud by citing actual examples of fraud.

Despite this ruling in our favor, the likelihood that auction fraud will to some extent continue implies that certain YAHUOKU! users might again take legal action against the Yahoo Japan Group, regardless of responsibility. Moreover, the implementation of additional measures to further strengthen systems security in order to prevent illegal activity, as well as the improvement of management systems, could entail increased costs and, as a result, negatively affect our financial results.

We have instituted a system whereby users victimized by auction fraud are paid a limited solatium. This solatium system could lead to higher expenditures for the Yahoo Japan Group.

c. We could be subject to complaints, reprimands, or damage suits brought by related parties or governmental agencies with regard to the content of advertisements and display method, or of websites accessed through advertisement links on Yahoo Japan Group sites.

The Yahoo Japan Group gives due considerations to prohibit inappropriate advertising, distribution of illegal or harmful information, and to protect user privacy, etc., through the following voluntary standards, restrictions and measures. i) To avoid conflict with Japanese legal restrictions, we have established an independent publication standard, "Advertisement Publication Standard" that internally regulates the content of advertisements and of websites accessible through advertisement links on our sites. ii) As stipulated in our written contracts with advertisers, we confirm that advertisers accept full responsibility for the content of advertisements. iii) In regards to the display method of advertisements, we endeavor to display them in ways that users can recognize them as advertisements and provide appropriate explanations. iv) For such services as message boards, blogs, and YAHUOKU!, where users can exchange information freely, we indicate clearly in our contracts with users that illegal or harmful content is prohibited and that full responsibility lies with users. We maintain the right to remove content that is in violation of our contracts with users and will do so immediately upon discovering such content.

In addition, we publish a disclaimer stating clearly that users bear full responsibility for web browsing and information posting, and that we accept no responsibility for damages incurred by users as a result of web browsing or use of Yahoo Japan Group sites. However, there is no guarantee that such measures are sufficient. We could be subject to complaints, reprimands, or damage suits brought by users, related parties, or governmental agencies with regard to the content of advertisements and display method, websites accessible through advertisement links on our sites, posts to community message boards, and/or trading on our YAHUOKU! site, etc.

This could result in financial burden, decline in user confidence which could lead to a drop in the number of users or time spent on our sites, or to a suspension of certain of our services.

d. We could be subject to compensation demands from interested parties with regard to content procured from companies outside the Yahoo Japan Group.

With regard to information services such as news, weather reports, and stock prices, and for entertainment services such as videos and games, we procure content from outside companies and provide it to our users. Aiming to maintain the reliability and quality of this content, we request that content providers understand and observe the basic policies detailed in our Yahoo! JAPAN Media Statement, produced by the Yahoo Japan Group in February 2016. In addition, content providers make contractual agreements to take responsibility for all content. In case interested parties make claims, both the Yahoo Japan Group and content providers are responsible for quickly investigating and dealing with them. Despite said contractual agreements and the implementation of other measures, interested parties could demand compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group even though responsibility is contractually assigned solely to content providers. As a result, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

e. We could be subject to compensation demands from interested parties with regard to content produced entirely or in part by the Yahoo Japan Group.

With regard to certain of our information services, including news, the Yahoo Japan Group is involved in the production of content provided to our users. In all of our content production activities, we aim to produce high-quality, reliable information stated clearly to prevent misunderstanding, free of factual inaccuracies and demagoguery, and respectful of social norms and common decency. In case interested parties make claims, the Yahoo Japan Group is responsible for quickly dealing with them. Despite our adherence to high standards for content production, interested parties could demand compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group. Even in cases where such demands do not result in our actually making compensation payments, we could nevertheless incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

f. We could be subject to damage compensations that are in fact the responsibility of a third party.

To prevent misunderstanding or confusion about the scope of services provided by third parties through agreements with the Yahoo Japan Group and those provided by the Group itself, measures are taken to ensure the understanding and agreement of users through Terms of Service and related clauses posted on relevant Yahoo Japan Group websites. Even so, it is possible that these measures will fail and that users will demand compensation for damages from the Yahoo Japan Group that are in fact the responsibility of a third party. As a result, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance.

The Yahoo Japan Group assigns all responsibility to users and accepts no responsibility regarding YAHUOKU!, making no guarantees as to the selection, display, or bidding process for goods or services offered or the formation or honoring of contracts agreed to while using this service. Similarly, a disclaimer published on the Yahoo! Shopping site states that we assume no responsibility for the activities, products, services, website content, or content of live channels of the many retailers employing these services. Nor do we guarantee that users of these services will be able to purchase goods or services listed by these retailers. In addition, we do not accept responsibility for damage, loss, or delay in the delivery of such goods or services. It remains possible, however, that users of these services, or related parties, will take legal actions against the Yahoo Japan Group for claims or compensation related to the content of our services. As a result of such legal actions, we could incur substantial expenses or suffer a loss of brand image, which could negatively affect our business performance. Furthermore, it is possible that the treaty regarding the jurisdictions of international courts could result in future legal disputes with users of our services who reside outside of Japan.

g. We could be subject to damage claims by third parties for infringement of intellectual property rights, such as patents or copyrights owned by third parties.

Considering intellectual property to be an important management asset, the Yahoo Japan Group has established an in-house section devoted exclusively to activities related to patent rights, including investigation, filing, and internal awareness campaigns.

In many cases, the extent to which patent rights can be applied remains unclear. To avoid potential conflicts, we might be obligated to substantially increase expenditures related to patent management, which could impact our business results. The geographic boundaries for the application of patent rights on Internet technologies also remain unclear. Consequently, we cannot rule out the possibility of patent issues arising overseas, in addition to in Japan.

Moreover, we have set up internal regulations and training programs with the goal of ensuring that our services or business-use software do not infringe on copyrights owned by third parties. Despite these efforts, infringements still might occur. If so, we could be sued for compensation, required to pay substantial royalty fees, or forced to cease providing certain services.

h. Advertisers could claim reimbursement of excessive fees resulting from click fraud or other methods of artificially increasing promotional advertising fees.

Regarding certain promotional advertising products, including paid search advertising and Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN), a problem known as click fraud might arise. Fees for promotional advertising are determined by the number of times an advertising link is clicked by users. Click fraud is used to artificially inflate the number of clicks, thereby increasing promotional advertising fees charged to advertisers. In the United States, major advertisers victimized by this type of fraud have brought class-action lawsuits against companies offering promotional advertising products. The Yahoo Japan Group systematically and in some cases manually monitors and determines whether click fraud is occurring and, in cases where click fraud is detected, removes fraudulent clicks from the count for billing. Nonetheless, a similar lawsuit might be brought against the Yahoo Japan Group, thereby damaging our brand image and negatively affecting our business performance.

3) Other Legal Regulations

a. Because we routinely consign business to outside contractors, the possibility exists for violations of the Worker Dispatch and Subcontract laws, resulting in diminished public confidence in the Yahoo Japan Group.

We periodically offer training courses related to the Worker Dispatch and Subcontract laws to all employees newly joining the Yahoo Japan Group and at regular intervals thereafter to ensure compliance with these laws in business transactions. Despite such efforts, violations of the Worker Dispatch and Subcontract laws might occur, which could damage our credibility and performance.

b. Changes to accounting standards or tax codes could have a material impact on our business results.

Against the backdrop of the recent trend in Japan to establish international accounting standards, the Company has made quick and appropriate changes to our accounting standards. Even so, significant future changes to accounting standards or tax codes could have a material impact on our business results.

3. Disasters and Emergency Situations

1) Disasters

The Yahoo Japan Group's operations are potentially vulnerable to disasters.

Our operations are potentially vulnerable to disasters including earthquakes, fires, and other large-scale catastrophes such as extensive outbreaks of infectious diseases, as well as to the resultant destruction of buildings, power outages, and network failures. Our network infrastructure and human resources are concentrated mainly in Tokyo. To cope with disasters and resultant surges in Internet access, we are committed to buttressing the reliability of our entire network infrastructure by building a redundancy system that effectively duplicates and disperses server capacity and data centers.

Although we have taken steps to ensure a quick and appropriate response throughout the Yahoo Japan Group in the event of a disaster, the unexpected nature and large scale of certain disasters might make it especially difficult to carry on with normal operations or to recover fully. Advertisers might be forced by circumstances to reduce or cancel advertising contracts, or users might be blocked from accessing our fee-based services, or we might be obligated to undertake major building reconstruction projects or be liable for damage to surrounding buildings in the event of large-scale fires originating in one of our buildings. Any of these eventualities could negatively affect our operations, business performance, and brand image.

2) Emergency Situations

Emergency situations could render us incapable of maintaining some of our services.

In the event of an international conflict or a terrorist attack that significantly disrupts global economic activity, our operations could be substantially affected, particularly with regard to a potential decline in revenues and the incurring of extraordinary costs. For example, a temporary inability to operate Yahoo Japan Group sites could disrupt planned advertising business, or advertisers might be forced to reduce or even cancel advertising contracts. Furthermore, the Internet access infrastructure might be damaged or some other circumstance arise, effectively blocking users' access to our fee-based services. In such cases, our revenue may be negatively affected and we may be forced to bear special expenses. In addition, our operations and business results could be affected by damage to communications or transportation lines in the United States or other countries, which could impede our links to important business alliances. In the event of extensive physical damage to our offices or to the offices of companies offering closely related business services such as Internet connection or data-center services, it is possible that the Yahoo Japan Group could be rendered incapable of maintaining some of its services.

4. Business Management

1) Management Policy and Business Strategies

Failure to quickly and flexibly modify strategies in response to changing market conditions could compromise our competitive advantage.

Focused on our overriding management goal of increasing user numbers and per-user usage times, we are pursuing key strategies with a primary emphasis on smart devices. These strategies are modified quickly and flexibly according to changes in user needs, partner requirements, or technological or competitive trends.

If management fails either to modify these strategies as required or to implement them in a timely manner, our competitive advantage could be compromised.

2) Technological Development and Improvement

a. Although our R&D efforts aim to meet user needs by strategically developing new businesses, such efforts might fail to adequately address user needs or result in R&D delays or failures.

To respond to the growth and diversification of Internet usage and maintain a competitive advantage, we focus on strategically developing new businesses capable of providing content and services that meet user needs. To support this process, we established a new research institution, Yahoo! JAPAN Research, in April 2007. Although R&D expenses directly related to such efforts to date have been limited, future R&D expenditures could exceed projections, depending on the time period required for development, resulting in diminished competitiveness.

The Internet industry is crowded with entrants and highly competitive, the pace of technological innovation is rapid, and service lifecycles are short. In such an environment, we will improve operating efficiency not only by hiring specialists and technically skilled staff but also by engaging cooperatively with other companies boasting proven records of accomplishment in their respective business fields. To constantly respond quickly to changing market needs, we will also focus on strengthening our service planning and systems development. Despite such efforts, we might fall short of achieving targeted earnings owing to delays or failures of R&D programs, excessive expenses, or a failure to adequately address user needs. Moreover, focusing R&D investment on strategically developing new businesses might hinder the development and operation of our existing services. In addition, technical and operational issues could ultimately result in user demands for compensation from the Yahoo Japan Group.

b. Failure to effectively implement a program aimed at continuously improving our services could eventually render them obsolete.

Quick-paced technological innovation and short service lifecycles result in a steady stream of new Internet services. In such an environment, we believe that continuously improving the user experience is central to maintaining our competitive advantage. To this end, we focus broadly on (1) improving the visibility and design layout of the display screen with an eye to enhancing operational convenience; (2) tightening the correspondence between the results of searches and other information services and actual user requests; and (3) accelerating display speeds of the results of searches and other information services.

To maintain and increase our competitive advantage, we must continuously invest in such service improvements. Should these capital investments not be appropriately made, we could suffer a decline in competitiveness or damage to our brand image. Moreover, the level of investments required for achieving service improvements could rise. Either of these eventualities could adversely affect our business performance. Also, although we conduct adequate surveys and tests to determine the likely effects of planned improvements to or renewal of services, the actual effects could be a reduction in the number of users or of page views. As a result, advertising revenues could decline, negatively impacting our business performance.

c. Inadequate planning and implementation of capital investment programs could result in lower service quality and higher expenditures.

To support future business expansion and facilitate ongoing provision of quality services that meet user needs, we maintain a continuous capital investment program of comparatively large scale relative to the size of our current business operations. Against a background of continuing growth in the Internet user base, increasing diversification of Internet-enabled devices, and expanding Internet accessibility, we are obligated to add new and upgrade existing network-related facilities to accommodate higher peaks in access volume and more quickly handle larger volumes of data transmission and reception. With the recent acquisition of a proprietary large-scale data center, the Yahoo Japan Group benefits not only from stable and efficient server operations but also from cost reductions.

Consequently, we anticipate a growing need for ever larger capital investments made in a timely manner to build systems and networks for smoothly controlling large volumes of communications traffic, strengthen security systems to protect payment services and users' personal information, expand systems to appropriately respond to the growth and diversification of user inquiries, and utilize our big data. Furthermore, in line with our expanding business scope we will be required to continuously acquire more office space and invest in the expansion and upgrading of our facilities.

In making these capital investments, we intend to minimize cash outflows by closely considering costs and benefits with a mid- to long-term view and by keeping a tight rein on system development and equipment-related expenditures.

Although we believe that business expansion will result in earnings growth sufficient to provide operating cash flows to cover increased costs and cash outflows, insufficient returns on capital investments could substantially impact our future earnings and cash flows. Moreover, since the Internet industry is characterized by continuous technological innovation and rapidly changing user needs, the useful lives of new or upgraded facilities might be shorter than planned. Accordingly, depreciation timeframes might be shortened, annual depreciation costs might exceed current levels, and the accelerated disposal of existing facilities might result in higher-than-expected one-time losses.

d. Failure to properly adopt the specific information transmission standards of the full range of Internet-enabled devices could adversely affect our business development.

In recent years, the range of Internet-enabled terminals has grown to include smart devices, video-game consoles, TVs, and car navigation systems, resulting in a vastly expanded Internet-connection infrastructure for information terminals other than PCs. In response to this trend, we are promoting Internet usage via a wide range of information devices with the goal of increasing accessibility to and boosting usage times of our services. In line with this strategy, the following risks are implied:

To offer our services to users via various information devices, we must adopt the information transmission standards of each information device with the support of the company that developed it. If we fail to properly adopt the standards for a given information device, then we will not be able to provide services via that information device.

Our commitment to enabling users to easily connect to our websites via any Internet-enabled information device is a key element of our competitiveness, and we will continue working closely with companies that have developed Internet-enabled information devices to ensure easy connectivity. Failure to achieve smooth Internet connectivity could undermine our competitiveness. Furthermore, should higher-than-expected costs be incurred in achieving connectivity, our performance could be negatively affected.

In addition, each information device has unique features, such as screen size and input system. We are optimizing our websites for each information device. Achieving this goal might take longer than expected, or our services might be inferior to other companies' optimized services, resulting in an erosion of competitiveness. Moreover, higher-than-expected optimization-related expenditures could adversely affect our business performance.

e. Failure to properly incorporate innovative advertising methods could adversely affect our advertising revenues.

Many new advertising products incorporating a wide range of advertising methods have emerged in the Internet advertising market. The Yahoo Japan Group develops and sells a variety of advertising products suited to the specific needs of individual advertisers, including products with guaranteed exposure periods and page views; video advertising products with audio accompaniment; rich advertising products boasting such features as user-activated display-area expandability; Yahoo! Premium DSP products fully leveraging Yahoo! JAPAN's multi big data and media; and promotional advertising products such as Sponsored Search® and Yahoo! Display Ad Network (YDN) supporting effective advertisement distribution across major partner sites in addition to Yahoo! JAPAN.

In addition, we have developed and sold various advertising products incorporating innovative advertising distribution methods, including targeting advertising, which distributes advertising based on users' Internet usage histories, keyword search histories, demographic factors, and real-time physical location; Interest Match®, which distributes advertising based on the aforementioned usage histories and the content of web pages viewed at the time of ad distribution; and Yahoo! Ad Partner, which distributes advertising over a network of partner sites and thus achieves greater reach than single-site-distribution products.

If we fail to properly incorporate innovative advertising methods, our advertising revenues could decrease even as the cost of developing new products and forming new partnerships with companies possessing expertise in innovative advertising methods increases. As a result, our business performance could be negatively affected.

3) New Businesses

Although the Yahoo Japan Group is diversifying into new businesses and services, these new businesses and services might yield lower-than-expected contributions to our business results.

We plan to further diversify into new businesses and services to strengthen our operating base and provide a growing range of quality services. To this end, we might be obligated to incur additional expenses to employ new staff, expand and upgrade facilities, and conduct research and development.

Moreover, new businesses are unlikely to begin contributing to our financial results immediately. Consequently, our profitability could decline temporarily.

In addition, new businesses might not develop in line with our expectations. Furthermore, we might be unable to recover investment expenses, which could negatively affect our business performance.

4) Services Provided

a. The agreement with Yahoo Holdings, Inc. is crucial to our operations, and modifications to the license agreement with Yahoo Holdings, Inc. could affect our business performance.

The Yahoo Japan Group's operations are based on a license agreement with Yahoo Holdings, Inc. Most of the trademark, software, and tools (hereinafter referred to as the trademark) used in the operation of our Internet search services are the property of Yahoo Holdings, Inc. We conduct business operations through a license obtained for the use of the trademark. As such, the agreement with Yahoo Holdings, Inc. is crucial to our core operations, and any modifications to the agreement could affect our business performance.

Note: The counterparty of the YAHOO JAPAN LICENSE AGREEMENT formerly entered into between the Company and Yahoo! Inc. was changed from Yahoo! Inc. to Yahoo Holdings, Inc. Yahoo Holdings, Inc. is a company that holds all of the assets and liabilities of Yahoo! Inc.'s core businesses which were sold by Yahoo! Inc. to Verizon Communications Inc. on June 13, 2017. Verizon Communications Inc. holds all the shares of Yahoo Holdings, Inc.

Contract name	YAHOO JAPAN LICENSE AGREEMENT
Contract date	April 1, 1996
Contract term	From April 1, 1996; termination date unspecified Note: The license agreement may be terminated under the following conditions: (i) mutual decision by the companies to terminate the agreement; (ii) cancellation of the agreement following bankruptcy or loan default by one of the companies; (iii) purchase of one-third or more of the outstanding shares of Yahoo Japan Corporation by a competitor of Yahoo Holdings, Inc.; or (iv) merger or acquisition of Yahoo Japan Corporation rendering shareholders of Yahoo Japan Corporation before such merger or acquisition incapable of maintaining over 50% of shareholder voting rights of Yahoo Japan Corporation (may be waived by agreement of Yahoo Holdings, Inc.).
Counterparty	Yahoo Holdings, Inc.
Main details	<p>1) Licensing rights granted by Yahoo Holdings, Inc. to Yahoo Japan Corporation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation for reproduction and use of Yahoo Holdings, Inc.'s Internet search and other services customized and localized for the Japanese market (hereinafter referred to as the Japanese version of the Yahoo! search services) • Non-exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation for use in Japan of the Yahoo! trademark • Exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation for publishing of the Yahoo! trademark in Japan • Exclusive rights granted to Yahoo Japan Corporation worldwide for development, commercial use, and promotion of the Japanese version of the Yahoo! search services <p>2) Non-exclusive rights granted (gratis) to Yahoo Holdings, Inc. worldwide for use of Japanese content added by Yahoo Japan Corporation</p> <p>3) Royalties to be paid by Yahoo Japan Corporation to Yahoo Holdings, Inc. (see Note, below) Note: Initially, royalties were calculated as 3% of gross profit less sales commissions. Effective January 2005, the calculation method for determining royalties was revised, as follows:</p> <p>Royalty calculation method $\{(Revenue) - (Advertising\ sales\ commissions\ on\ a\ consolidated\ basis) - (Cost\ of\ sales\ of\ consolidated\ subsidiaries\ with\ a\ different\ gross\ margin\ structure\ and\ others)\} \times 3\%$</p>

b. Issues related to the management of the Yahoo! brand overseas could restrict the expansion of the Yahoo Japan Group's business.

We consider the establishment and proliferation of the Yahoo! JAPAN brand to be important, both for attracting users and advertisers and for expanding our business. The importance of brand recognition is increasing rapidly with the growth in the number of Internet services and low barriers to entry in the Internet business. Especially given the intensifying competition among Internet companies, expenditures for establishing the Yahoo! JAPAN brand and boosting brand recognition could increase substantially.

Although efforts are under way to promote the Yahoo! brand with cooperation from Yahoo! Group companies overseas, it is impossible for the Yahoo Japan Group to guarantee the outcome of these efforts. Failure on the part of Yahoo! Group companies overseas to effectively establish and proliferate the Yahoo! brand could impact the Yahoo Japan Group in the form of weaker brand presence. In addition, some agreements with overseas Yahoo! Group companies contain exclusionary provisions. We are not able to place certain advertisements while these agreements are in force. Although Yahoo Holdings, Inc. is making efforts around the world to protect trademarks that are core to its brand rights through applications, registrations, and presence, the possibility exists that Yahoo Holdings, Inc. has not registered trademarks necessary to our business in Japan.

It is also possible that third parties will acquire domain names that we might find necessary to our business or will use domain names that resemble Yahoo! JAPAN or the services we offer with the intention of carrying out unfair competition or harassment. Such actions could affect our brand strategy and damage our brand image.

c. Development, operation, and maintenance of the system for the Yahoo Japan Group's search-related services are commissioned to Google Inc. and others.

Currently, we are using the search engine and paid search advertising distribution system of Google Inc.

In the future, should our business relationship with Google Inc. change or Google Inc.'s service operations be disrupted, the sustainability of certain of our services could be jeopardized and our performance negatively affected as a result.

d. Any modifications to the business alliance contract with Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. could affect our business.

To enable the Yahoo Japan Group to provide search and paid search advertising distribution technologies and other services, the Company has an ongoing business alliance contract with Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd. Because search service is one of our core business pillars, any modifications to the following contract could affect our business performance.

Contract name	GOOGLE SERVICES AGREEMENT
Contract date	October 21, 2014
Contract term end	March 31, 2019
Counterparty	Google Asia Pacific Pte Ltd.
Main details	<p>1) Non-exclusive provision of search and paid search advertising distribution technologies by counterparty The counterparty shall provide its search and paid search advertising distribution technologies to Yahoo Japan Corporation on a non-exclusive basis, which will be used by Yahoo Japan Corporation to offer its own brand of services.</p> <p>2) Differentiation of search services Both parties are entitled to freely develop and use additional functions for the search results in order to differentiate their search results. Yahoo Japan Corporation may decide on its own whether to display the search results provided by the counterparty.</p> <p>3) Payment for counterparty's services The consideration for the counterparty's services shall be the sum of (1) an amount calculated using a method determined on an annual basis based on the revenue of the website of Yahoo Japan Corporation and (2) an amount calculated using the standard for excess amounts on any revenue of the website of Yahoo Japan Corporation in excess of a specific amount during the specified period. The consideration for the services used by Yahoo Japan Corporation on a partner site shall be the amount calculated by multiplying the revenue derived from the partner site by a rate determined on an annual basis.</p>

e. For advertising products with guaranteed page views, failure to attain the guaranteed number of views could obligate the Yahoo Japan Group to provide some form of compensation.

Advertising contract periods and page views are guaranteed for some of our products, with advertising fees based on those two parameters. Failure to attain the guaranteed number of page views due to problems with the Internet connection environment or to similar problems could obligate the Yahoo Japan Group to extend advertising contract periods or to provide some other form of compensation, which could negatively impact advertising revenues.

Moreover, we might fail to provide services that meet the needs of certain advertisers, which could result in the loss of opportunities to earn advertising revenue as well as reduced demand from those advertisers, thereby negatively impacting our advertising revenues.

f. Expenditures for additional Internet connections and capital investment in infrastructure could rise in line with expanding video services and high-bandwidth advertising.

We provide streaming and other services, such as GYAO!, requiring relatively large bandwidth compared with services consisting only of text and images. Brand Panel and video advertising, incorporating interactive features, also require relatively large bandwidth. Because usage of these types of services and advertising products is likely to grow steadily in the future, expenditures for additional Internet connections and capital investment in infrastructure such as servers required to deliver these services and products could increase as well.

5) Compliance

Despite our efforts to ensure compliance with laws and regulations, compliance-related risk exists.

The Yahoo Japan Group recognizes that legal and regulatory compliance is a prerequisite for enhancing corporate value. Consequently, we have established various compliance-related regulations and standards for all corporate officers and employees with regard to relevant laws and our Articles of Incorporation. In an effort to promote thorough observation of those regulations and standards, we have posted them on our intranet and conduct periodic in-house training.

Despite these efforts, it is impossible to entirely eliminate compliance-related risk. If a violation occurs, our brand image and business performance could be affected.

6) Management and Operation Systems

a. Failure to adequately increase staff levels as required by business diversification could negatively affect our business development.

In addition to personnel and organizational enhancements geared toward higher advertising sales and strengthened technological development, we must increase staff in line with ongoing business diversification to support operational expansion and quality improvement of various services arising from the recent surge in Internet users, as well as to handle billing and provide customer support for fee-based services.

Failure on the part of management or staff to respond adequately to these expanding administrative duties could inconvenience users and owners of stores registered on the Yahoo! Shopping and YAHUOKU! sites, affect operational efficiency, and undermine our competitiveness.

Although we aim to minimize the effects of increased staff levels on our operating results, personnel expenses, lease expenses, and other fixed costs are likely to rise, resulting in lower profit margins.

b. The resignation of key personnel could temporarily hinder our continuous business development.

The development of the Yahoo Japan Group's businesses depends on senior management and, notably, on key personnel, including corporate officers as well as representatives of each department who possess specialized knowledge and technical expertise concerning the Yahoo Japan Group and its businesses. In the case of the departure of key personnel, management replaces them as quickly as possible with appropriate successors, either from within or from outside the Yahoo Japan Group. Even so, the replacement process could temporarily disrupt our continuous business development.

In addition, we grant stock-based remunerations, such as stock option plans to some corporate officers and employees as one of our personnel incentive measures. Rather than motivate participants, however, these remunerations might actually be an inducement for certain corporate officers and employees to leave the Yahoo Japan Group.

c. Efforts to protect our intellectual property rights with the goal of maintaining competitive advantages might not be effective.

The Yahoo Japan Group believes that its intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trademarks, designs, and domain names, are valuable management resources central to its ability to maintain competitive advantages in the market and that it is therefore necessary to protect them. Applying for, registering, and maintaining patents, however, entail a great deal of time and expense, including expenditures required to secure appropriate human resources. Moreover, in some cases patent rights are not granted to applicants, or requests for the invalidation of patents are made but fail to result in the provision of sufficient protection. Even if the Yahoo Japan Group successfully protects its intellectual property rights, including patents, these rights do not immediately confer competitive advantages. Considering that the Yahoo Japan Group operates in an industry noted for rapid-fire technological innovation, efforts to protect intellectual property rights might not be especially effective and, moreover, could have a negative impact on our business performance.

d. As the Yahoo Japan Group conducts a growing proportion of business transactions with a base of unspecified individual and corporate users, costs related to payment/collection and customer service might increase.

In line with the expansion of our business scope and the strengthening of our promotional advertising, fee-based member services, and paid-content businesses, our direct revenue opportunities derive increasingly from a diverse base of unspecified individual and corporate users.

The Yahoo Japan Group has assembled a special team responsible for strengthening the management of this pool of users and for taking such steps as introducing a new system to improve business efficiency. Despite these measures, we might be exposed to increased risks related to the payment and collection of receivables owing to increasing amounts of small sales receivables and uncollected receivables, expanding credit-card payment problems, and rising costs of receivables collection.

Meanwhile, the array and quantity of user inquiries continue to broaden, including questions related to service usage, payment issues, and the return or exchange of goods and services as well as matters relating to distribution or payment services provided by consigned third-party vendors. To maintain an effective response capacity, we are in the process of increasing staff, strengthening and expanding our management organization, and improving efficiency by standardizing and automating businesses. Higher costs associated with these measures could negatively affect our financial results. In addition, these measures do not guarantee that all users will be sufficiently satisfied, implying potential damage to our brand image and a negative impact on our business performance.

5. Relationship with Major Stakeholders

1) Major Shareholders

a. Changes in parent company policies or in major shareholders could affect the Yahoo Japan Group's business.

With SoftBank Group Corp. as the parent company of Yahoo Japan Corporation, the Company provides Internet portal services in Japan under the Yahoo! brand name provided by Yahoo Holdings, Inc. The business relationships between the Yahoo Japan Group and the various associated business partners such as SoftBank Group Corp. are favorable. Moving forward, we will maintain these favorable relationships. It is possible, however, that our services or business contracts could be affected, or relationships with associated business partners transformed, as a result either of changes in the business strategies of certain companies or of changes in important shareholders, most notably the parent company and other major investors in the Company. Such changes could adversely affect our businesses in various ways.

b. Competition within the SoftBank Group could arise in the future.

The Company works with SoftBank Group Corp. on mobile communications, Yahoo! BB, and other businesses. If SoftBank Group Corp. should invest in or tie up with a company offering services similar to those offered by the Company, competition within the SoftBank Group could arise in the future. Although we intend to proactively deal with such an eventuality by collaborating, any resultant competition within the SoftBank Group could affect our performance in some manner.

2) Consolidated Group Management

a. Inadequate consolidated management coordination could impact our performance.

The Company has subsidiaries and affiliates of all sizes with varying degrees of in-house management depending on their size. Each of the subsidiaries and affiliates maintains a policy of acquiring necessary additional staff and strengthening the organization as businesses expand. If these measures are not implemented in a timely manner, the Yahoo Japan Group's performance could be negatively affected.

Tie-ups with the Company's services or network as well as personnel support are essential to the operations of all of the services of the Company's subsidiaries and affiliates. The relevant sections of the Company work closely with each subsidiary and affiliate to provide necessary support. However, it might become difficult to adequately provide such cooperative support owing to operational expansion of the Company's businesses and those of its subsidiaries and affiliates, which could negatively impact the performance of each company.

b. The Yahoo Japan Group faces risks related to its financial instruments business and banking business.

(i) Regulatory infringements could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

On January 31, 2013, the Company converted FX trading company YJFX, Inc., into a wholly owned subsidiary. As a Financial Instruments Business Operator registered under Japan's Financial Instruments and Exchange Act (FIEA), YJFX carries out its operations in compliance with the FIEA, related regulations, and Cabinet Office ordinances. In addition, on February 1, 2018, the

Company consolidated The Japan Net Bank, Limited, a pure play Internet bank with a banking license conducting business in accordance with the Banking Act and other relevant laws, rules and regulations. As a registered financial institution, The Japan Net Bank, Limited conducts foreign exchange (FX) margin trading operations and sells investment trust products as incidental business, etc., in accordance with the FIEA, Act on Sales, etc. of Financial Instruments, and other relevant laws, rules and regulations.

Nevertheless, should an infringement of any of these regulations or ordinances occur, our operations may be suspended, deregistered, or receive some other administrative disciplinary action. Moreover, in the case of future tightening of regulations the Yahoo Japan Group could be obligated to incur additional expenses to strengthen its compliance structures or trading systems or to implement other organizational adjustments, and there may be a decline in the business performance of our services. Any of these actions could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

(ii) Customer FX margin transactions could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

Under the Yahoo Japan Group's FX margin trading system, customers conduct transactions after making margin cash deposits in amounts specified by the Yahoo Japan Group based on customers' chosen levels of leverage. Because this system allows customers to conduct transactions in excess of their actual cash deposits, they can earn high returns on their investments or suffer great losses. In accordance with the transaction agreement with customers, the Yahoo Japan Group is able to take action to protect customers from further losses when their trading accounts fall below a certain margin level by forcing customers to close out their positions using a reversing transaction method specified by the Yahoo Japan Group. However, should customers suffer losses in excess of their deposits and be unable to cover those losses, it is possible that the Yahoo Japan Group would have to assume a write-off loss for all or a portion of the outstanding liability of its customers. If such a situation occurs, it could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

(iii) Covering transactions with counterparties could negatively affect our performance and financial condition.

To minimize the risk associated with FX margin trading and transactions of foreign currency deposits carried out with our customers, the Yahoo Japan Group places covering transactions with various reputable banks, securities companies, and other financial institutions. However, should any of these financial institutions become unable to honor their contractual obligations owing to deterioration in business performance or financial condition or to other circumstances, we might as a result be unable to cover our customers' trading positions. In addition, the Yahoo Japan Group might be unable to recover its collateral deposits placed with such financial institutions in the case of their bankruptcy or failure. As a result, our performance and financial condition could be negatively affected.

(iv) Violations of asset segregation requirements could adversely affect our performance, financial condition, and business development.

In order to safeguard customer assets, Financial Instruments Business Operators are required to segregate customer assets from proprietary assets and manage them separately. Accordingly, the Yahoo Japan Group systematically deposits customer assets with major financial institutions, thereby segregating them from proprietary assets and managing them separately as trust assets. Nevertheless, if a computer system failure or other unforeseen circumstance were to impair our ability to properly calculate customer assets, or if unforeseen circumstances were to make it impossible to manage customer assets on a segregated basis, the Yahoo Japan Group's FX business operations could be suspended, deregistered, or subjected to other administrative disciplinary action. Any of these actions could negatively affect our performance, financial condition, and business development.

(v) Computer system failure could negatively affect our performance, financial condition, and business development.

In regards to our FX margin trading and banking business, the Yahoo Japan Group is dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the computer system stability. However, in the event of a computer system failure or unauthorized system access customers could suffer losses for which the Yahoo Japan Group is not covered by the liability exclusion clauses in customer contracts. As a result, customers could endure opportunity losses and the Yahoo Japan Group could suffer a loss of credibility and increased damage liability, thereby negatively affecting its performance and financial condition.

Furthermore, the Yahoo Japan Group does not hold the copyright to some of the software used in the systems of its FX margin trading or its banking business. Although we have obtained the legally required licenses to use such software, if after the expiration of a software licensing contract we become unable to continue using the software in question owing to the bankruptcy or failure of the company holding the copyright, our performance, financial condition, and business development could be negatively affected.

(vi) Foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations could adversely affect our performance and financial condition.

Foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations largely affect the trading losses or gains of customers using our FX trading services and foreign currency deposits. An increase in trading losses due to unfavorable movements in foreign currency exchange rates could dampen customer sentiment, leading to a decrease in this business' transaction value. Because our operating results from this business are based on transaction value, a prolonged period of depressed transaction value could adversely affect our performance and financial condition. Moreover, if currency exchange rates fluctuate sharply, our covering transactions with major financial institutions might be inadequate for covering customer positions. As a result, our performance and financial condition could be negatively affected.

(vii) The Yahoo Japan Group could be penalized for violating FIEA regulations related to customer suitability.

Under FIEA regulations, Financial Instruments Business Operators are obligated to confirm the suitability of individual customers with regard to trading activities. Accordingly, we undertake appropriate background investigations before allowing customers to use our FX trading services, investment trust funds and foreign currency deposits. However, if as a result of inadequate investigations or other oversight on our part a customer is allowed to engage in inappropriate transactions, we could be subjected to administrative disciplinary action or to legal action initiated by the customer in question.

(viii) The Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds could negatively affect our performance and business development.

Effective March 1, 2008, the Act on Prevention of Transfer of Criminal Proceeds requires that financial institutions conduct customer identification procedures as well as maintain customer identification and customer transaction records, activities previously undertaken on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, the Act mandates the establishment of customer management and information storage systems, which facilitate the tracing of funds to, and help to prevent the flow of funds to, terrorists, as well as discourage money laundering.

In accordance with said Act, the Yahoo Japan Group collects required documentation from customers when conducting FX margin trading and banking transactions with them, conducts customer identification procedures, and maintains customer identification and customer transaction records. Nevertheless, if the Yahoo Japan Group's operational management is found to not be in accordance with said Act, or if a new regulatory framework is imposed, our performance and business development could be negatively affected.

(ix) The Japan Net Bank, Limited could be exposed to market and credit risks.

The financial assets of The Japan Net Bank, Limited (the Bank) consist mainly of marketable securities (government bonds, municipal bonds, FILP bonds, corporate bonds, investment trust, etc.) as well as short term call loans and monetary claims bought. These monetary assets are exposed to various risks, such as credibility of the issuer, fluctuations in interest rates, foreign exchange and market price. As for loans, all non-business loans to individuals are loans guaranteed by guarantee companies, thus are not subject to direct credit risks. However, business loans are subject to credit risk due to customers' default.

The financial liabilities of the Bank consist mainly of deposits, and the Bank sometimes raises funds through the call money market. Both liabilities are subject to fluctuation risks of interest rates.

In order to manage these risks appropriately, the Bank employs an asset liability management system by setting upper limits to risks on assets and liabilities and monitoring their compliance and so on.

Nevertheless, despite such control, volatility in the financial market may be caused by economic changes, changes in international relations, and occurrence of large-scale natural disasters, etc., resulting in increased interest rates and foreign exchange risks, sudden drop in share and bond prices, and rise in credit risks of customers due to deterioration in their business results. These results may have negative effect on the business performance and financial status of the Bank.

(x) The Japan Net Bank, Limited may be exposed to liquidity risks.

The Japan Net Bank, Ltd. procures its funds through deposits that are short-term or without a set period, and invests the funds in loans with various maturities and securities, etc. If, for some reason, the customers concentrate their withdrawal of their deposits, the Bank may have a maturity gap in its funding and investments. Thus, the Bank is exposed to liquidity risks.

In order to minimize such risk, the Bank sets thresholds to the necessary short-term funding amount and periodically monitors the compliance. Moreover, it monitors the balance of liquid investment assets and performs thorough control in order to avoid funding liquidity risks.

However, it is impossible to eliminate the risk of concentrated outflow of deposits that exceeds expectations as a result of turmoil in the financial market or bankruptcy of other financial institutions, etc.

Emergency funding under unfavorable terms to respond to such risks could cause negative impact on the Bank's performance. Moreover, in the worst case, the continuity of the Bank's business may be at risk if fundraising becomes difficult.

3) Other Major Business Partners

a. Any modifications to the business alliance contract with SoftBank Corp. could affect our business.

The Company has signed a business alliance contract concerning various kinds of communications-related services, including Yahoo! BB services, with SoftBank Corp., a subsidiary of SoftBank Group Corp. Should any modifications be made to the business alliance contract, our business performance could be affected.

b. Because various kinds of communications-related services, including the Yahoo! BB business, rely on SoftBank Corp., the service quality of SoftBank Corp. could affect our performance.

The portion of such communications-related services handled by SoftBank Corp. could indirectly influence our performance. If SoftBank Corp. fails to complete construction on time and services to subscribers are delayed, we might be unable to account for projected revenue on time and could lose revenue opportunities due to cancellations. Failure to build infrastructure and problems with service quality could cause subscribers to cancel services early, thereby negatively impacting our business results.

6. Finances, Loans, and Investments

1) Funds Procurement and Interest Rate Changes

a. In our Yahoo! ezPay service, we might be required to borrow funds to bridge the collection of reimbursement funds from buyers.

Yahoo! ezPay is a payment service provided by the Company whereby upon request of the seller and buyer of an item listed on YAHUOKU!, the Company acts as the intermediate in the payment of the transaction.

Because the Company reimburses the seller of an item one to three business days after the buyer has made payment by credit card or Internet banking, it must carry the credit-card receivables for the period up to the fixed payment date of the financial institutions used by the credit-card company. If the pace of growth of this service should substantially exceed expectations, then we might not be able to raise the required funds at a reasonable cost. Moreover, should the amount of the reimbursement funds increase to a substantial level, interest payments to financial institutions might increase owing to rising interest rates, which could have a negative impact on our business performance.

b. In our Yahoo! JAPAN Card service, etc., we reimburse payments made by cardholders to merchants and we procure funds for this purpose.

The Yahoo! JAPAN Card is a credit card issued by our consolidated subsidiary, YJ Card Corporation. In Yahoo! JAPAN Card, etc., we reimburse payments made by cardholders to merchants honoring the card. Payments are collected from cardholders once a month while reimbursements to merchants are made about twice a month. Moreover, if the cardholder specifies payment in installments or revolving payment as his/her payment method, the reimbursed funds will be collected from the cardholder throughout the agreed period. Therefore, it will be necessary to finance those reimbursements for the relevant period. Although

we are considering diversifying our funding sources as this business expands, we might not be able to obtain the necessary funding for making reimbursements to merchants at a suitable cost.

2) Investments

The Yahoo Japan Group often makes investments in or loans to other companies. In some cases, appropriate returns might not be obtained on investments or loans, or investments or loans could become irrecoverable.

We make investments as a result of business tie-ups or with an eye to forming business tie-ups in the future. The recoverability of these investments is not guaranteed.

Some of the public companies in which we have invested have already produced evaluation profits or losses. In the future, evaluation profits could decline or become evaluation losses; moreover, evaluation losses could worsen.

We take the utmost care to ensure that the performances of the companies in which we invest are reflected appropriately in our own performance results by observing in-house rules in accordance with general accounting standards and by applying asset-impairment accounting. Nevertheless, depending on the direction of the stock market and the performances of the companies in which we have invested, they could have an increasingly adverse effect on our profit or loss in the future.

To maximize business synergies or to expand our business, we expect to further invest or loan funds for capital participation in third-party companies, fund joint ventures, engage in new investments by establishing companies, or provide new loans to adequately provide for the capital needs of subsidiaries and affiliates. These investments or loans will be made based on a careful investigation of the risks of the investments or loans based on thorough analysis in compliance with in-house procedures. However, if these new investments or loans do not achieve the originally projected level of profit or, in the worst case, become irrecoverable, our future financial condition could be adversely affected.

7. Relationship with Other Companies and Partners

1) Business Alliances and Contracts

a. Our emphasis on building partnerships entails certain risks.

By actively forming partnerships with both corporate and personal websites, we are building an extended network that is expected to result in increased usage of our services by users of partner sites as well as by our users.

In the advertising business, the Yahoo Japan Group is expanding its advertising network, such as Yahoo! Ad Partner, by partnering with new sites and incorporating their advertising space in a network-wide advertising distribution system, thereby enabling partner sites with limited viewer reach to increase their advertising media value. Advertisers, meanwhile, can achieve wider exposure by targeting advertisements at the entire network's user base. By jointly providing advertisers with advertising services, the Yahoo Japan Group and its partners are achieving superior performance. In addition, we are offering other services, such as our online payment service, Yahoo! Wallet, on partner sites. By establishing an extended network, we are helping to enhance the convenience, security, efficiency, user appeal, and performance of all partner sites on the network. At the same time, by working together with partner sites we aim to provide the full range of Internet services that users demand.

In pursuing these actions, we face the following risks:

- Although partnerships (business tie-ups) are established with an eye to ensuring mutual benefits, some partners might fail to achieve sales or traffic goals. Furthermore, competition with other companies might result in delays in or increase the costs of setting up partnerships. In addition, partners might suddenly cancel agreements. Any of these eventualities could adversely affect our performance.
- We provide services to partners via proprietary systems and via systems owned by the Company or by our affiliated and business tie-up companies. If partners were to suffer service disruptions or other damages as a result of these systems, then our brand image could be tarnished or we could be sued for damage compensation, either of which could negatively affect our performance.
- Because the quality and reputation of our partners' services reflect on our own reputation and credibility, any problems with partners' services could tarnish our brand image.
- The quality or reputation of a partner's services impact on the Yahoo Japan Group's reputation and trustworthiness. Any detrimental impact, therefore, could negatively affect our brand image.

b. The termination of paid search advertising business agreements could affect our performance.

The Yahoo Japan Group provides its paid search advertising services not only to Yahoo Japan Group companies but also to other domestic portal sites and partners with which it has business agreements. We will continue to expand the number of our partners and to create new services. However, should business agreements with such partners be terminated, our business results could be negatively impacted.

c. Our procurement of information and broadband content from third parties could be affected.

We offer and will continue offering Internet users high-quality, appealing information, such as news, weather, and stock quotes, as well as broadband content such as videos and games. However, should we not be able to acquire information and content as expected or the costs of acquiring information and content be higher than anticipated due to various factors such as termination of agreements caused by other companies, use of our services might decline, possibly resulting in a failure to achieve our projected financial results.

d. As we pursue business alliances with other sites and corporations, unforeseen problems could make it impossible to achieve our objectives.

We are pursuing business alliances with other sites and corporations in an effort to expand usage of our services. Even if we offer our services via such business alliances based on our own guidelines, in some cases we might be unable to achieve our objectives owing to troubles caused by business alliance partners, including leaks of personal information due to deficient information management systems, service disruptions caused by inadequate systems, and lengthy delays in service development.

Conversely, certain business alliance partners might fail to provide agreed-upon services owing to problems that we caused, in which case those business alliance partners might demand some form of compensation.

Either situation could have a negative impact on user numbers and, as a result, on our business performance.

2) Collection of Sales Credit Claims

a. Economic fluctuations or client business deterioration could hinder the collection of receivables from certain clients.

In sales of advertising and other products, we follow a set of internal rules in carefully examining the credit standing of clients. We also exercise sufficient precautions so that the collection of receivables will not be delayed, such as setting upper limits for transaction amounts, adopting advanced payments, making sales through advertising agencies, or using credit card payments. Nevertheless, economic fluctuations or deterioration of client businesses could increase delays in collection and the occurrence of defaults.

3) Relationship with Third Parties

a. Each of the Yahoo Japan Group's businesses depends to some extent on specific customers or sales agents.

Each of our businesses depends to some extent either on sales to specific customers or on sales by specific sales agents other than the related parties described above.

Part of our advertising revenue depends on specific advertising agencies and media representatives because of the marketing activities provided by advertising agencies. In our other businesses, as well, we have major business transactions with specific customers, which transactions account for a growing percentage of our total revenue.

If there were a change in our business relationships with or by these specific customers or sales agents, or deterioration in their business conditions, or a problem with their systems or other facilities, the viability of our services and our performance could be negatively impacted.

b. Relationships with third-party joint-venture partners could deteriorate.

Several companies in the Yahoo Japan Group have been established and are operated as joint ventures with third parties. These joint ventures depend substantially on their non-Group partners. Currently, cooperative relationships between joint-venture partners are excellent and contribute to the performances of the Yahoo Japan Group companies involved. However, if for some reason cooperative relationships between joint-venture partners were to deteriorate, the performance of each company could be damaged and, in certain cases, its operations discontinued.

c. In some cases, system development and operations essential to services are consigned to specific third parties.

Among the services offered by the Yahoo Japan Group, there are cases where system development and operations essential to the service are consigned to specific third parties or where service operations are premised on linkage with a third party. These third parties are selected by the Yahoo Japan Group, using standards based on suitable technical and operating capabilities judged by past performance. In addition, the Yahoo Japan Group maintains close contact with relevant sections to ensure that problems affecting our services do not arise. Nevertheless, a system development delay could occur owing to a situation at a consigned third party that we cannot manage, or a situation could arise whereby obstruction of operations or some other event causes the stoppage of third-party systems to which our services are linked. Such events could lead to a loss of sales opportunities and reduce the competitiveness of our services, negatively impacting our performance or, in the worst case, resulting in the termination of the services. In addition, in cases where third parties have direct contact with users, such as delivery-related services, mishandling of such services could damage our brand image.

d. Other services are also dependent on external third parties.

In addition to the aforementioned, the Yahoo Japan Group provides certain services by consigning operations to external third parties, in which cases we are reliant on the information and services provided by those third parties. Deterioration of business conditions and service quality at such third parties could hinder our service provision and negatively impact our performance.

8. Information Security

1) Efforts to Promote Information Security

a. Information leaks could erode public confidence in the Yahoo Japan Group and negatively affect our business performance.

The entire Yahoo Japan Group takes a mid- to long-term perspective on information security with the goal of providing safe and secure services to users.

Nevertheless, our efforts to promote information security could fall short. Information leaks, destruction or falsification of data, or termination of services could occur as a result of human operational error or intentional acts of sabotage, system failure due to natural disasters, cyber-attacks due to malware infections or targeted attacks, or vulnerability of systems and related equipment. Any of these eventualities could erode public confidence in the Yahoo Japan Group and negatively affect our business performance.

b. Information leaks at subsidiaries and affiliates could affect our business performance.

The Company provides information security support to its subsidiaries and affiliates. Specifically, support is provided with regard to the sharing and implementation of information security measures, sharing of security-related vulnerability information, and consulting about information security measures, as requested by specific subsidiaries and affiliates.

Moreover, we provide support to subsidiaries and affiliates with regard to the provision of regulations and the acquisition of third-party certifications in order to ensure that subsidiaries and affiliates implement security measures comparable to those of the Company.

Nevertheless, if threats such as cyber-attacks were to occur, additional costs could arise and affect our business performance.

c. Increased sophistication or scale of such threats as cyber-attacks could negatively affect our business performance.

The Yahoo Japan Group makes adequate investments in forward-looking measures required to protect against such threats as cyber-attacks, which are becoming increasingly sophisticated and larger in scale.

Nevertheless, if such threats as cyber-attacks were to unexpectedly increase in sophistication or scale, we could be obligated to incur additional costs, which could affect our business results.

2) Personal Data

a. Leaks of users' personal data could negatively affect our business performance.

The Yahoo Japan Group discloses its privacy policy to its users and fully complies with the policy in its usage of users' personal data obtained through the provision of services.

Users' personal data is protected by means of several measures, including storage in isolated systems to which only a very limited number of authorized persons are granted access. Nevertheless, such measures could fall short of preventing leaks of users' personal data, in which case termination or curtailment of services might occur, which could not only negatively affect our business performance but also damage our credibility. In addition, breaches of information security relating to personal data could lead to legal disputes.

Inquiries about, amendments to, and deletion of personal data can be carried out on the system only by individual users themselves. Measures have been implemented to prevent corporate officers and employees from browsing users' personal data except when absolutely necessary in order to answer user inquiries.

Moreover, when work related to users' personal data is consigned to outside contractors, we select only those companies that meet our strict criteria regarding information security. In addition, we offer supervision to and periodically undertake inspections of outside contractors throughout the consignment period.

Nevertheless, these efforts could fall short of preventing information leaks or the destruction or falsification of data, which could damage our credibility and lead to legal disputes.

b. Leaks of users' bank account numbers and credit card numbers could damage our brand image and result in legal disputes.

The Yahoo Japan Group obtains and stores the bank account and credit card numbers of users in order to provide financial and payment-related services such as Yahoo! Wallet, our online payment service, as well as for identity verification purposes.

Based on the understanding that direct financial damages could be inflicted upon users if their personal data were to be exploited by a third party, the Company places such sensitive information under strict control in isolated systems.

Yahoo! Wallet has received the highest level of Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) certification, as have almost all Yahoo Japan Group-affiliated stores accepting credit card payments. PCI DSS is a global security standard for handling credit card payment procedures.

Nevertheless, these measures do not guarantee perfect maintenance of our information security systems. If, under some circumstance, a problem such as an information leak were to occur, it could erode public confidence in the Yahoo Japan Group and negatively affect our business performance.

c. Leaks of personal data by stores registered on Yahoo! Shopping or YAHUOKU! could negatively affect our business performance.

In Yahoo! Shopping and YAHUOKU! BtoC transactions, personal data provided by buyers is sent directly to stores where buyers have made purchases. Accordingly, individual stores are the main repositories of personal data and take responsibility for controlling it. Moreover, to ensure that buyers' personal data is not disclosed to other individuals or entities, stores are given clear instructions on proper methods of information control and are strictly prohibited from using personal data for purposes other than the delivery of items or sales promotions.

To clear credit card payments, stores may either use the payment system operated by the Yahoo Japan Group or deal directly with credit card companies. Stores opting to use our payment system do not store credit card numbers, as these are provided directly to credit card companies by the Yahoo Japan Group. Stores opting to deal directly with credit card companies are provided with strict instructions for controlling buyers' credit card numbers in the same manner used to control other personal data.

Nevertheless, such measures could fall short of preventing the occurrence of information leaks, resulting in damage to our credibility and a decrease in user numbers, regardless of whether or not we are in fact responsible. In such cases, our business performance could be negatively affected.

3) Communications Privacy

Leaks of information related to communications privacy could negatively affect our business performance.

The Yahoo Japan Group handles information related to communications privacy in such services as Yahoo! Mail. In handling this type of information, we take appropriate measures with regard to information security to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Business Act.

Despite these measures, if such information were leaked, either deliberately or through negligence, by persons related to the Yahoo Japan Group, by companies with which business alliances have been forged, or by companies to which the Group consigns work, or as a result of malware or defective systems used to provide services such as Yahoo! Mail or physical intrusion into the Group's communications facilities, we could be drawn into legal disputes and our brand image could be tarnished, with a resultant negative impact on business performance due to a decrease in user numbers, damage compensation associated with the termination or curtailment of services, or a decrease in revenue.

4) Fraudulent Use

Fraudulent use of Yahoo Japan Group services by malicious users could negatively affect our business performance.

Malicious users might employ phishing or other methods to fraudulently obtain unsuspecting users' Yahoo! JAPAN IDs, passwords, or credit card information, and then impersonate unsuspecting users in order to use Yahoo Japan Group or partner site services, or fraudulently use Yahoo! JAPAN Cards to make payments. As examples of fraud, malicious users might use unsuspecting users' accounts to list fraudulent items in YAHUOKU! or make payments via Yahoo! Wallet or Yahoo! ezPay. Similarly, malicious users might send spoof e-mails via unsuspecting users' Yahoo! Mail accounts.

The Yahoo Japan Group has taken steps to protect Yahoo! JAPAN IDs and passwords, educate Internet users in Japan about safe ID management, and implement certain measures against anticipated fraud. Nevertheless, fraudulent use by malicious users could prevent the collection of advances paid or necessitate expenditures to prevent the recurrence of such fraudulent use, which could negatively affect our financial results in addition to damaging our brand image.

5) Internal Management Information

Leaks of internal management information (insider information) that could impact investment decisions might affect our business performance.

The Yahoo Japan Group separates internal management information such as patent information before application, undisclosed information regarding M&A and business alliances, personal data of business partners, shareholders, and employees, audit materials, and other sales materials from the personal data of users, and manages such information under appropriate access controls.

Despite these measures, this type of information could be leaked or falsified, or become unusable. In such cases, it could directly affect interested parties such as shareholders, business partners, or employees, weaken our market position, lead to the termination of business operations in the case of legal violations, or damage our brand image.

6) Genetic Analysis Service

In this service, genetic samples provided by subscribers to the service are analyzed and the personal genetic information resulting from the analysis is stored as sensitive personal information within the Yahoo Japan Group under extremely tight security conditions. However, if for some reason an information leak or some other problem were to occur, the credibility of the Yahoo Japan Group could deteriorate and legal disputes for damage compensation could arise.

9. Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance System

Inadequate systems for corporate governance might negatively affect operations and business performance.

To prevent or reduce the recurrence of problems related to improper employee conduct or human operational error, the Yahoo Japan Group has implemented stricter controls and operational standards under the guidance of the Internal Audit Office, an independent organization directly supervised by the President and Representative Director.

From June 2015 Yahoo Japan Corporation has based its corporate governance structure on an Audit and Supervisory Committee comprising three members, two of whom are outside directors. By clearly separating the monitoring and supervisory functions of the Board of Directors from the business execution function of corporate officers, this corporate governance structure encourages the quick, aggressive management decision-making necessary for success in Japan's Internet Industry while at the same time facilitating the rigorous monitoring of the effectiveness and appropriateness of management decision-making. More broadly, the structure promotes the aims of Japan's corporate governance code, namely, transparent, fair, timely, and decisive decision making and proactive management.

Despite our efforts to strengthen corporate governance, the incidence of human operational error and its recurrence or illegal conduct by Company officers or employees might increase, thereby negatively affecting operations and business performance.

2 Management Policy

(1) Fundamental Business Management Policies

As the Japanese Internet's problem-solving engine, the Yahoo Japan Group is dedicated to the mission of solving various problems in Japan by leveraging the power of information technologies. The Group aims to realize "UPDATE JAPAN," its vision of creating a hopeful future built on our experience in problem-solving. By providing high-quality services that leverage the convenience, public nature, and possibilities of the Internet, the Group will promote changes in the daily behaviors of users and contribute to social changes as well as the improvement of the quality of life of users.

In order to do so, the Group will adhere to a "users first" standpoint to improve corporate and shareholder value while continuing to improve services and invest for continuous growth.

(2) Management Performance Indicators Used for Goals

As its core management performance indicators, the Yahoo Japan Group gives priority to the revenue, operating income and net income per share for the overall Group. In order to monitor the usage trends of services, the Group also considers the number of visitors, usage frequency, time spent on sites, the number of active user IDs, the number of Yahoo! Premium membership IDs, the total domestic e-commerce transaction value of YAHUOKU! and Yahoo! Shopping, and the in-house payment ratio (usage ratio of internal payment service) as important indicators of performance evaluation.

(3) Medium- to Long-Term Business Strategies

With one of the largest size of users in Japan and providing more than 100 services, the Yahoo Japan Group is one of the most unique multi-big data companies in the world where a vast amount and types of data are amassed. Going forward, the Group intends to provide services that are easier to use by leveraging this strength and renewing the links between services.

Specifically, the Group will endeavor to improve services by collecting, storing and analyzing data in strict accordance with its privacy policy regarding users. The results will be utilized to provide and distribute information, advertising, and other services that fit users' needs. By combining the use of data of the Media Business and the Commerce Business, which have different characteristics, the Group is committed to realizing unique personalization and thereby maintaining its competitive advantage.

(4) Major Business Issues

With new information technologies and services emerging day after day, the Internet industry faces intense competition but offers many growth opportunities at the same time. Under these circumstances, supported by the business base and competitive advantages that the Group has built up to this point, it is essential to continuously take on the challenges of medium- to long-term growth opportunities.

Since the Internet is an indispensable infrastructure for people's daily lives and for businesses, the Group's public responsibility is also increasing. Consequently, the Group is making an effort toward thorough risk management measures in pursuing its activities in terms of both facilities and operations to address unexpected accidents, natural disasters, and other events. In addition, the Group gives top priority to reinforcing security with protecting the personal information of users at the top of the list. The Group will continue to take measures to ensure that users can feel safe and confident in using its services also in the future.

Since resolving those issues requires strengthening organizational capabilities and developing human resources, the Yahoo Japan Group aims to be the best human resource development company in Japan and is continuing its various efforts to unleash the talents and enthusiasm of its employees. Furthermore, the Group will further step up its efforts to fulfill its corporate social responsibility and establish and operate an internal control system to address corporate management risks.

3 Basic Stance on Selecting Accounting Standards

The Yahoo Japan Group adopted IFRSs beginning with the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015.

4 Consolidated Financial Statements

(1) Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

(Millions of yen)

	As of Mar. 31, 2017	As of Mar. 31, 2018	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	543,067	868,325	325,257	59.9
Call loans for banking business	—	78,000	78,000	—
Trade and other receivables	251,239	297,050	45,810	18.2
Inventories	14,352	17,685	3,333	23.2
Loans for credit card business	129,648	186,711	57,063	44.0
Investment securities for banking business	—	308,436	308,436	—
Loans for banking business	—	76,077	76,077	—
Other financial assets	101,678	163,380	61,701	60.7
Property and equipment	124,021	123,943	-78	-0.1
Goodwill	159,505	162,015	2,509	1.6
Intangible assets	138,692	167,112	28,419	20.5
Investments accounted for using the equity method	37,748	10,865	-26,883	-71.2
Deferred tax assets	24,511	27,686	3,175	13.0
Other assets	9,746	14,373	4,626	47.5
Subtotal	1,534,212	2,501,662	967,450	63.1
Assets classified as held-for-sale	—	14,970	14,970	—
Total assets	1,534,212	2,516,633	982,421	64.0

(Millions of yen)

	As of Mar. 31, 2017	As of Mar. 31, 2018	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Liabilities and equity				
Liabilities				
Trade and other payables	287,978	348,346	60,368	21.0
Deposits for banking business	—	708,054	708,054	—
Interest-bearing liabilities	104,546	190,574	86,027	82.3
Other financial liabilities	4,058	5,034	975	24.0
Income taxes payable	36,490	29,094	-7,395	-20.3
Provisions	30,729	30,652	-77	-0.3
Deferred tax liabilities	21,812	22,956	1,144	5.2
Other liabilities	49,885	56,818	6,932	13.9
Subtotal	535,502	1,391,532	856,029	159.9
Liabilities directly associated with assets classified as held for sale	—	3,214	3,214	—
Total liabilities	535,502	1,394,746	859,243	160.5
Equity				
Equity attributable to owners of the parent				
Common stock	8,428	8,737	309	3.7
Capital surplus	-4,366	-4,602	-236	—
Retained earnings	913,178	993,894	80,715	8.8
Treasury stock	-1,316	-1,316	-0	—
Accumulated other comprehensive income	14,896	16,655	1,758	11.8
Total equity attributable to owners of the parent	930,820	1,013,368	82,547	8.9
Non-controlling interests	67,888	108,518	40,629	59.8
Total equity	998,709	1,121,887	123,177	12.3
Total liabilities and equity	1,534,212	2,516,633	982,421	64.0

(2) Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss

(Millions of yen)

	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2017	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2018	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Revenue	853,730	897,185	43,455	5.1
Cost of sales	373,513	382,467	8,954	2.4
Selling, general and administrative expenses	277,430	339,573	62,143	22.4
Gain from remeasurement relating to business combination	—	372	372	—
Gain on sales of property and equipment	2,269	3,567	1,297	57.2
Insurance proceeds	—	4,973	4,973	—
Gain on forgiveness of debt	—	1,752	1,752	—
Disaster losses	13,006	—	-13,006	—
Operating income	192,049	185,810	-6,239	-3.2
Other non-operating income	2,590	9,112	6,522	251.8
Other non-operating expenses	2,112	2,791	678	32.1
Equity in earnings of associates and joint venture	947	1,045	97	10.3
Profit before tax	193,475	193,177	-298	-0.2
Income tax expense	60,841	58,764	-2,076	-3.4
Profit for the year	132,634	134,412	1,778	1.3
Attributable to:				
Owners of the parent	136,589	131,153	-5,436	-4.0
Non-controlling interests	-3,955	3,258	7,214	—
Profit for the year	132,634	134,412	1,778	1.3
Earnings per share attributable to owners of the parent				
Basic (yen)	23.99	23.04	-0.96	-4.0
Diluted (yen)	23.99	23.03	-0.96	-4.0

(3) Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

(Millions of yen)

	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2017	Fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 2018
Profit for the year	132,634	134,412
Other comprehensive income		
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss		
Available-for-sale financial assets	2,725	2,656
Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	-18	-1,023
Share of other comprehensive income of associates	-905	-0
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	1,802	1,632
Total comprehensive income	134,436	136,045
Total comprehensive income attributable to:		
Owners of the parent	138,306	132,912
Non-controlling interests	-3,869	3,132
Total comprehensive income	134,436	136,045

(4) Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

Fiscal year ended March 31, 2017

(Millions of yen)

	Equity attributable to owners of the parent						Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Common stock	Capital surplus	Retained earnings	Treasury stock	Accumulated other comprehensive income	Total		
Balance at April 1, 2016	8,358	-3,081	827,024	-1,316	13,180	844,165	68,598	912,764
Profit for the year			136,589			136,589	-3,955	132,634
Other comprehensive income, net of tax					1,716	1,716	86	1,802
Total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	136,589	—	1,716	138,306	-3,869	134,436
Transactions with owners and other transactions								
Issue of common stock	69	69				138		138
Payment of dividends			-50,435			-50,435	-1,094	-51,529
Changes attributable to obtaining or losing control of subsidiaries						—	2,150	2,150
Changes in ownership interests in subsidiaries without losing control		-1,310				-1,310	1,840	530
Others		-43				-43	263	219
Total	69	-1,284	-50,435	—	—	-51,651	3,160	-48,490
Balance at March 31, 2017	8,428	-4,366	913,178	-1,316	14,896	930,820	67,888	998,709

Fiscal year ended March 31, 2018

(Millions of yen)

	Equity attributable to owners of the parent						Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Common stock	Capital surplus	Retained earnings	Treasury stock	Accumulated other comprehensive income	Total		
Balance at April 1, 2017	8,428	-4,366	913,178	-1,316	14,896	930,820	67,888	998,709
Profit for the year			131,153			131,153	3,258	134,412
Other comprehensive income, net of tax					1,758	1,758	-126	1,632
Total comprehensive income for the year	—	—	131,153	—	1,758	132,912	3,132	136,045
Transactions with owners and other transactions								
Issue of common stock	309	309				618		618
Payment of dividends			-50,438			-50,438	-1,170	-51,608
Changes attributable to obtaining or losing control of subsidiaries						—	37,700	37,700
Changes in ownership interests in subsidiaries without losing control		-317				-317	1,066	748
Others		-228		-0		-228	-99	-327
Total	309	-236	-50,438	-0	—	-50,364	37,497	-12,867
Balance at March 31, 2018	8,737	-4,602	993,894	-1,316	16,655	1,013,368	108,518	1,121,887

(5) Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

(Millions of yen)

	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2017	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2018
	Amount	Amount
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Profit before tax	193,475	193,177
Depreciation and amortization	38,046	44,404
Disaster losses	13,006	—
Increase in call loans for banking business	—	-8,000
Increase in trade and other receivables	-14,357	-14,743
Increase in trade and other payables	21,719	42,395
Increase in loans for credit card business	-59,785	-57,063
Increase in loans for banking business	—	-2,715
Decrease in deposits for banking business	—	-27,931
Increase (decrease) in other financial assets	3,743	-15,707
Others	-4,905	-6,433
Subtotal	190,943	147,381
Income taxes—paid	-63,919	-71,924
Net cash generated by operating activities	127,023	75,457
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of investment securities for banking business	—	-45,790
Proceeds from sales of investment securities for banking business	—	14,969
Purchase of investments	-10,137	-11,010
Purchase of property and equipment	-39,807	-43,284
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	7,345	20,669
Purchase of intangible assets	-16,911	-44,338
Net cash inflow on obtaining control of subsidiaries	—	337,224
Others	2,464	4,117
Net cash generated by (used in) investing activities	-57,047	232,556
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net increase of short-term bank loans	20,200	4,321
Proceeds from long-term bank loans	25,300	2,800
Proceeds from issuance of bonds	35,000	70,000
Dividends paid	-50,414	-50,439
Others	-6,088	-5,392
Net cash generated by financing activities	23,996	21,289
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	-70	-562
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents arising from transfer to assets classified as held for sale	—	-3,484
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	93,902	325,257
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	449,164	543,067
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	543,067	868,325

(6) Going Concern Assumption

Not applicable.

(7) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Changes in presentation

(Consolidated Statement of Financial Position)

Due to the consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited and increased significance of the assets and liabilities of the Company's consolidated subsidiaries that conduct finance business such as credit card business, assets and liabilities which were formerly classified as current and non-current are listed in the order of liquidity commencing with the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018. In order to reflect the change, items in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position have been reclassified as follows:

- 1) The sum of other financial assets, which was classified separately as current assets and non-current assets in the previous consolidated fiscal year, is recorded as "other financial assets" for this consolidated fiscal year.
- 2) The sum of other financial liabilities, which was classified separately as current liabilities and non-current liabilities in the previous consolidated fiscal year, is recorded as "other financial liabilities" for this consolidated fiscal year.
- 3) The sum of interest-bearing liabilities, which was classified separately as current liabilities and non-current liabilities in the previous consolidated fiscal year, is recorded as "interest-bearing liabilities" for this consolidated fiscal year.
- 4) The sum of other current assets and other non-current assets, which was classified respectively as current assets and non-current assets in the previous consolidated fiscal year, is recorded as "other assets" for this consolidated fiscal year.
- 5) The sum of other current liabilities and other non-current liabilities, which was classified respectively as current liabilities and non-current liabilities in the previous consolidated fiscal year, is recorded as "other liabilities" for this consolidated fiscal year.
- 6) Loans for credit card business which were included in trade and other receivables in the previous consolidated fiscal year are separately recorded for this consolidated fiscal year, since the significance of the amount increased.

(Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss)

In order to express the provision of Financial- and Payment-related services, and the investment results of financial assets and liabilities due to the consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited, former "Uriagedaka" (revenue) is presented as "Uriage-shueki" (revenue) in the Japanese-language Results for the Fiscal Year and the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018, commencing with this consolidated fiscal year. The wording in this English-language document remains unchanged. For the same reason, gross profit will not be presented from this consolidated fiscal year.

(Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows)

Increase in loans for credit card business which was included in Increase in trade and other receivables in Cash flows from operating activities for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016 is separately presented for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 since the significance of the amount increased. In order to reflect the change, (59,785) million yen which was included in Increase in trade and other receivables in Cash flows from operating activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016, is reclassified as Increase in loans for credit card business of (59,785) million yen.

Increase in other financial assets which was included in Others in Cash flows from operating activities for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016 is separately presented for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 since the significance of the amount increased. In order to reflect the change, 3,743 million yen which was included in Others in Cash flows from operating activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016, is reclassified as Increase in other financial assets of 3,743 million yen.

Expenditures on acquisition of control over subsidiaries which was separately presented in Cash flows from investing activities for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016 is included in Others for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017 since the significance of the amount decreased. In order to reflect the change, (1,909) million yen which was separately presented as Expenditures on acquisition of control over subsidiaries in Cash flows from investing activities in the consolidated statement of cash flows for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2016, is included in Others of (1,909) million yen.

2. Significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies applied by the Yahoo Japan Group in preparing the statements are the same as those applied to Consolidated Financial Statements for the previous fiscal year, except for the following:

(Change in the significant accounting policies)

From the consolidated first quarter of fiscal 2017, the Yahoo Japan Group applies the following standards and interpretations:

IFRS		Summary of new/amended provisions
IAS 7	Statement of Cash Flows	Disclosure requirement for changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

The adoption of the standards, etc., mentioned above had no significant impact on the interim condensed consolidated financial statements.

3. Business combination

The Japan Net Bank, Limited

(1) Outline of Business Combination

The Board of Directors of the Company, at its meeting held on August 1, 2017, resolved to modify the shareholders agreement with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation on The Japan Net Bank, Limited (The Japan Net Bank) and the Company entered into a modified agreement with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation. Along with such modification, the Company has made The Japan Net Bank its consolidated subsidiary by sending the majority of The Japan Net Bank's directors through the resolution in the Extraordinary Meeting of the Shareholders of The Japan Net Bank held on February 1, 2018.

The Company has rapidly increased transaction value since its commencement of new strategies in the Commerce Business in October 2013, by means of various measures such as waiving store tenant fees, etc., point reward measures and start of the Credit Card business. The Company believes that it needs to strengthen its Financial and Payment business further in order to revitalize the Commerce Business from here on. The Company will reinforce the ecosystem in its services through the full-scale entry into the banking business by consolidating The Japan Net Bank.

In addition, the Company will lead the management of The Japan Net Bank through the consolidation and utilize the customer base and multi big data that the Company has fostered thus far to provide high value-added financial services for The Japan Net Bank customers.

The voting rights ratio in The Japan Net Bank held by the Company remains the same as before at 41.2% and the Company does not hold a majority. However, since the Company sends the majority of The Japan Net Bank's directors through the resolution in the Extraordinary Meeting of the Shareholders of The Japan Net Bank held on February 1, 2018, it is judged that the Company has effective control over The Japan Net Bank. Thus, the Company has made The Japan Net Bank its consolidated subsidiary following the said resolution.

Equity interest of The Japan Net Bank already held by the Company was remeasured at fair value as of the date of acquisition, and gain on step acquisitions of ¥372 million was recognized. This gain is accounted as "gain from remeasurement relating to business combination" in the Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss.

(2) Outline of Acquired Company

Name: The Japan Net Bank, Limited

Business description: Banking business

(3) Date of Acquisition

February 1, 2018

(4) Fair value of equity interest already held, assets acquired and liabilities assumed; and non-controlling interests; as of the date of acquisition

(Millions of Yen)

Fair value of equity interest already held	26,224
Fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed	
Assets	818,796
Cash and cash equivalents	337,224
Investment securities for banking business	277,515
Loans for banking business	73,393
Others	130,663
Liabilities	-754,871
Deposits for banking business	-735,986
Others	-18,885
Net assets	63,924
Non-controlling interests (*)	-37,700
Total	26,224

(*) Non-controlling interests

Non-controlling interests are measured based on appropriate share of acquiree's identifiable net assets value.

(5) Profit and loss information after the acquisition date of the business combination

We do not disclose the profit and loss information after the acquisition date of the business combination because the business combination has no material impact on the consolidated financial statements.

4. Segment information

The Yahoo Japan Group's reporting segments are business segments for which it is possible to obtain financial information separate from the overall compositional structure of the Group. The Board of Directors of Yahoo Japan Corporation regularly examines this information in order to decide on allocation of business resources and evaluation of business performance.

The Group's reporting segments comprise two business segments, the Media Business and the Commerce Business.

The Media Business mainly provides two types of services. It provides planning, operation, and information listing services for each of the Group's services for the purpose of planning, sales, and placement of advertising products. It also provides other corporate services.

The Commerce Business mainly sells products, plans and provides services via Internet to small and medium-sized business enterprises and to individuals and also offers Financial- and Payment-related services.

The Others segment contains business segments not covered in the reporting segments, including cloud-related services, etc.

The accounting policies adopted for each reporting segment are the same as the Yahoo Japan Group's accounting policies referred to in 2. Significant accounting policies. Segment profit is adjusted with the operating income in the Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss. The adjustments figure for segment profit is general corporate expenses not belonging to each reporting segment. General corporate expenses principally comprise general and administrative expenses not belonging to each reporting segment. Inter-segment revenue is based on actual market prices.

In addition, the Company periodically reorganizes the segments of our services and consolidated subsidiaries, to give importance to efficient provision of services and to promptly respond to market changes. Beginning with this consolidated fiscal year, we mainly renamed the former Marketing Solutions Business to the Media Business and integrated the Financial- and Payment-related services included in the Others segment into the former Consumer Business and renamed it to the Commerce Business.

Consequently, we have restated segment information of the last fiscal year.

The Yahoo Japan Group's segment information is as follows:

Prior Consolidated Fiscal Year (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017)

(Millions of yen)

	Reporting segment			Others	Adjustment figures	Consolidated figures
	Media Business	Commerce Business	Total			
Revenue						
Sales to customers	279,898	553,119	833,017	20,713	—	853,730
Intersegment sales	1,207	7,876	9,084	5,083	-14,168	—
Total	281,105	560,995	842,101	25,796	-14,168	853,730
Segment income (*)	164,416	72,125	236,542	5,103	-49,596	192,049
Other non-operating income						2,590
Other non-operating expenses						2,112
Equity in earnings of associates and a joint venture						947
Profit before tax						193,475
Others						
Depreciation and amortization	3,255	17,930	21,186	3,662	13,197	38,046

* Commerce Business includes the disaster losses of ¥13,006 million.

Current Consolidated Fiscal Year (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018)

(Millions of yen)

	Reporting segment			Others	Adjustment figures	Consolidated figures
	Media Business	Commerce Business	Total			
Revenue						
Sales to customers	286,914	590,457	877,371	19,814	—	897,185
Intersegment sales	1,444	6,110	7,554	4,602	-12,157	—
Total	288,359	596,567	884,926	24,416	-12,157	897,185
Segment income (*)	169,180	75,267	244,447	1,840	-60,477	185,810
Other non-operating income						9,112
Other non-operating expenses						2,791
Equity in earnings of associates and a joint venture						1,045
Profit before tax						193,177
Others						
Depreciation and amortization	3,287	21,135	24,422	5,221	14,760	44,404

* Commerce Business includes the insurance proceeds of ¥4,973 million, the gain on sales of property and equipment of ¥3,561 million and the gain on forgiveness of debt of ¥1,752 million.

5. Per Share Information

Basic earnings per share attributable to owners of the parent and diluted earnings per share are calculated on the following basis:

	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2017	Fiscal year ended March 31, 2018
	Amount	Amount
Basic earnings per share	23.99	23.04
Profit for the year attributable to owners of the parent (million yen)	136,589	131,153
Profit for the year not attributable to owners of the parent (million yen)	—	—
Profit for the year used in the calculation of basic earnings per share (million yen)	136,589	131,153
Weighted-average number of common stock (1,000 shares)	5,692,618	5,693,586
Diluted earnings per share	23.99	23.03
Adjustments on profit for the year (million yen)	—	—
Increase in the number of common stock (1,000 shares)	790	765
Potential common stock that are anti-dilutive and therefore excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share	Option Series: 3rd, 4th of 2007; 1st of 2008; 2nd of 2012; 1st, 2nd of 2013; 1st of 2014	Option Series: 2nd of 2012; 1st, 2nd of 2013; 1st of 2014

6. Significant Subsequent Events

Not applicable.

(Reference: Quarterly information)

Interim Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss

(Millions of yen)

	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2017	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2018	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Revenue	222,773	238,391	15,618	7.0
Cost of sales	95,905	102,620	6,714	7.0
Selling, general and administrative expenses	76,238	99,934	23,695	31.1
Gain from remeasurement relating to business combination	—	372	372	—
Gain on sales of property and equipment	2,269	0	-2,268	-100.0
Insurance proceeds	—	43	43	—
Gain on forgiveness of debt	—	1,752	1,752	—
Disaster losses	13,006	—	-13,006	—
Operating income	39,891	38,006	-1,885	-4.7
Other non-operating income	1,114	134	-980	-88.0
Other non-operating expenses	731	625	-105	-14.4
Equity in earnings of associates and joint venture	237	17	-219	-92.5
Profit before tax	40,512	37,532	-2,980	-7.4
Income tax expense	12,681	8,891	-3,790	-29.9
Profit for the quarter	27,830	28,641	810	2.9
Attributable to:				
Owners of the parent	31,790	28,015	-3,775	-11.9
Non-controlling interests	-3,959	626	4,585	—
Profit for the quarter	27,830	28,641	810	2.9
Earnings per share attributable to owners of the parent				
Basic (yen)	5.58	4.92	-0.66	-11.9
Diluted (yen)	5.58	4.92	-0.66	-11.9

Breakdown of Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

(Millions of yen)

	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2017	Three months ended Mar. 31, 2018	Increase/decrease	
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Change (%)
Selling, general and administrative expenses				
Personnel expenses	20,042	26,091	6,049	30.2
Sales promotion costs	12,117	18,447	6,330	52.2
Business commissions	10,328	13,723	3,394	32.9
Depreciation and amortization	9,082	10,949	1,866	20.6
Lease and utility expenses	4,714	6,235	1,520	32.3
Packing and freight	4,117	5,059	942	22.9
Royalties	3,773	3,953	180	4.8
Content provider fees	2,002	2,545	542	27.1
Communication charges	1,981	2,281	300	15.2
Allowance for doubtful accounts	1,157	2,002	845	73.1
Others	6,921	8,643	1,722	24.9
Total selling, general and administrative expenses	76,238	99,934	23,695	31.1

1. Revenue

Revenue in the quarter under review amounted to ¥238,391 million, increasing ¥15,618 million, or 7.0%, from a year earlier. The increase can mainly be attributed to growth in the revenue of the ASKUL Group, and consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited.

For clarification purposes, the ASKUL Group's revenue in the quarter under review amounted to ¥94,607 million, rising ¥9,343 million, or 11.0%, year on year.

2. Cost of Sales and Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Cost of sales in the quarter under review increased ¥6,714 million, or 7.0% year on year to ¥102,620 million, primarily due to the increase in the ASKUL Group's revenue and consolidation of The Japan Net Bank, Limited, despite cancellation of agreements related to search system usage.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the quarter were ¥99,934 million, increasing ¥23,695 million, or 31.1%, from the same quarter last year.

The major components of change in selling, general and administrative expenses were as follows:

- Personnel expenses amounted to 26,091 million, growing ¥6,049 million, or 30.2%, year on year. The higher personnel expenses resulted primarily from the increase in the investment in human resource development. The total number of employees of the Yahoo Japan Group rose to 12,244, an increase of 1,013 employees, or 9.0%, from the same quarter in the previous fiscal year.
- Sales promotion costs amounted to ¥18,447 million, increasing ¥6,330 million or 52.2%, from the same quarter last year. The increase can be attributed to the increase in promotion costs for e-commerce.
- Business commissions rose ¥3,394 million or 32.9% year on year, to ¥13,723 million. This is mainly due to the increase in the logistics costs affected by the fire at the Logistics Center of ASKUL Corporation.
- Depreciation and amortization increased ¥1,866 million or 20.6% year on year to ¥10,949 million. This increase can be primarily attributed to the increase in intangible assets.

For clarification purposes, the ASKUL Group's cost of sales in the quarter under review increased ¥6,675 million, or 10.2%, year on year to ¥72,155 million and its selling, general and administrative expenses for the quarter were ¥21,732 million, increasing ¥3,959 million, or 22.3% from the same quarter last year.

3. Gain on forgiveness of debt

Gain on forgiveness of debt arose because there was an exemption in the payment of stipulated loss in relation to the February 2017 fire incident at the logistic center of ASKUL Corporation (ASKUL Logi PARK Tokyo Metropolitan).

4. Income Taxes

Income taxes for the quarter under review amounted to ¥8,891 million. The effective income tax burden ratio for income before income taxes was 23.7% for the quarter.

5. Profit for the Quarter

Profit for the Quarter amounted to ¥28,641 million, increasing ¥810 million, or 2.9%, from a year earlier. Basic earnings per share attributable to owners of the parent was ¥4.92 for the quarter.

Unless otherwise specified, English-language documents are prepared solely for the convenience of non-Japanese speakers. If there is any inconsistency between the English-language documents and the Japanese-language documents, the Japanese-language documents will prevail.

The English notations of the account items have been revised to coincide with the notations used for the Annual Report commencing with this fiscal year. Japanese notations remain the same.