

## Legal Services - UK - May 2019

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“The UK legal services industry is forecast to show more moderate annual growth than in recent years, due to projections for lower economic growth, lower volumes of housing transactions, and slower growth in exports of legal services. However, continuing work relating to regulatory changes after Brexit will provide a positive impetus for the sector in the foreseeable future.”

– **Claudia Preedy, B2B Analyst**

This report looks at the following areas:

- Legal services providers face competition from accountancy firms
- Legal services sector under increased pressure to adopt Lawtech

The UK legal services sector has faced increased competitive pressures following the liberalisation of the market. The introduction of the Legal Services Act 2007 opened up the market to non-legal entrants, especially since the introduction of ABS in 2011, with the legal profession experiencing a period of gradual but significant restructuring which is still ongoing.

Firms have responded to challenges in recent years by focussing on cost management and overhauling traditional business models. The more competitive market environment is forcing firms to increase their focus on marketing, pricing, new delivery models and the adoption of new technology (“Lawtech”), with a view to becoming more cost-effective, dynamic, client-focussed legal service providers. It has also driven consolidation, with firms looking to strengthen their business and service offering, and benefit from economy of scale through mergers.

The legal services sector is also becoming more complex as law firms, alternative legal services providers (ALSP) and technology firms compete and collaborate.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market

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New business models evolve in response to market liberalisation, increased price pressure and changing customer demands  
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Regulatory bodies and professional associations

Advocate General for Scotland

Solicitors Regulation Authority

The Bar Council

The Commercial Bar Association

The Law Society

The Law Society of Northern Ireland

The Law Society of Scotland

The Sole Practitioners Group

Trade magazines

Lawyer Monthly

Legal Business

Legal Week

New Law Journal

Solicitors Journal

The Journal of the Law Society of Scotland

The Law Gazette

The Lawyer

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