

Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) IPOs Through 2020

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Table 15: How Many IPOs Are There?

Table 15a: IPO Volume and Average First-day Returns with Banks, LPs, and ADRs Included

Table 15b: SPAC IPOs, 1980-2020

Table 15 (updated December 29, 2020)

How Many IPOs Are There?

The net number of IPOs excludes Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs), closed-end funds, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), unit offers (typically composed of a share plus a warrant to buy a share), IPOs with an offer price of less than \$5.00, commercial banks and savings and loans, companies not promptly listed on the Amex, NYSE, or Nasdaq, master limited partnerships, small best efforts offers (included in the other exclusions column), and foreign companies issuing American Depositary Receipts (6 of which are banks). 11 ADRs are missing a first-day return, and the “including ADRs” averages exclude them. SPACs that are unit offers are classified as SPACs rather than units. No CRSP listing refers to IPOs not listed on CRSP within six months of the IPO. CRSP covers stocks listed on Nasdaq, the NYSE, and the NYSE MKT (the Amex prior to May 10, 2012).

Table 15

Year	Number of IPOs		CEFs, SPACs, and REITs	Units and penny stocks	LPs	Banks and S&Ls	No CRSP listing or others	ADRs	Including ADRs	
	Gross	Net							No.	Mean return
1980	234	71	1	56	0	0	104	0	71	14.3%
1981	439	193	0	103	0	0	139	0	193	5.9%
1982	198	77	1	14	0	4	102	1	78	10.9%
1983	850	451	1	168	0	75	156	2	453	9.9%
1984	518	171	4	139	1	46	154	6	177	3.8%
1985	326	186	18	102	6	42	0	0	186	6.4%
1986	710	393	28	183	20	100	7	1	394	6.1%
1987	531	285	36	131	15	52	2	0	285	5.6%
1988	293	105	73	88	3	26	5	5	110	5.4%
1989	254	116	42	83	2	8	6	3	119	8.0%
1990	213	110	41	55	1	5	0	1	111	10.7%
1991	408	286	44	65	2	7	2	2	288	11.9%
1992	602	412	103	80	1	4	1	4	416	10.2%
1993	772	510	167	93	3	17	1	17	525	12.5%
1994	594	402	78	106	3	8	0	23	418	9.5%
1995	574	462	9	77	2	3	0	16	477	20.7%
1996	845	677	11	104	5	11	2	33	710	16.9%
1997	601	474	30	63	1	11	1	34	507	13.7%
1998	379	281	39	20	2	31	4	13	294	21.8%
1999	565	476	36	18	3	8	1	26	502	69.5%
2000	431	380	2	8	0	1	0	40	420	55.2%
2001	130	79	38	5	4	0	0	4	83	13.9%
2002	157	66	81	2	6	4	0	2	68	9.0%
2003	131	63	56	5	0	5	0	3	66	13.0%
2004	304	173	95	5	5	8	4	16	188	11.9%
2005	283	159	88	4	9	7	2	13	172	11.7%
2006	261	157	63	5	18	5	0	15	172	12.5%
2007	326	159	116	4	14	2	0	31	190	14.4%
2008	53	21	22	3	4	0	0	3	24	4.3%
2009	80	41	22	3	0	2	3	8	50	8.8%
2010	198	91	37	13	7	10	4	34	125	12.2%
2011	166	81	50	5	18	1	2	12	93	13.3%
2012	174	93	45	4	16	13	1	4	97	17.2%
2013	255	158	59	3	19	5	3	10	168	22.3%
2014	305	206	30	10	19	19	1	19	225	14.8%
2015	182	118	34	4	9	7	1	8	126	18.7%
2016	113	75	13	1	1	5	2	8	83	14.1%
2017	201	106	50	3	5	11	4	19	125	13.6%
2018	240	134	51	8	1	9	0	32	166	17.1%
2019	226	112	67	6	1	7	4	26	138	19.8%
2020	464	165	257	7	0	0	0	33	198	38.1%
Total	14,586	8,775	2,038	1,856	226	579	718	525	9,284	18.3%

Table 15a (updated December 29, 2020)

IPO Volume and Average First-day Returns with Banks, LPs, and ADRs Included

In the last two columns of the table, the net number of IPOs is expanded to include LPs, banks and S&Ls, and ADRs. Only CRSP-listed IPOs that have first-day return information are included, and therefore the number of IPOs added is slightly less for many years than if the “net” IPO count is added to the LP count, the bank and S&L count, and the ADR count. CRSP covers IPOs that are listed on Nasdaq, NYSE, and NYSE Market (formerly Amex). If a stock takes more than six months before CRSP-listing, it is not included in the count. The sample size of 14,315 IPOs from 1980-2020 includes the 8,773 IPOs from 1980-2020 used in most tables, plus 519 ADRs with a first-day return, 227 natural resource industry limited partnerships, and 577 bank and S&L IPOs (6 of which are ADRs). There are also 11 ADRs with a missing first-day close (1 in 1988, 1 in 1993, 3 in 1997, 1 in 1999, 2 in 2000, 1 in 2004, 1 in 2009, and 1 in 2017).

As with Table 15, the net number of IPOs in the first column excludes Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs), closed-end funds (not including interval funds), Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), unit offers (typically composed of a share plus a warrant to buy a share), IPOs with an offer price of less than \$5.00, commercial banks and savings and loans, companies not promptly listed on the Amex, NYSE, or Nasdaq, natural resource master limited partnerships, small best efforts offers (included in the other exclusions column), and foreign companies issuing American Depositary Receipts (6 of which are banks). SPACs that are unit offers are classified as SPACs rather than units.

Table 15a also differs from Table 15 in that the category of SPACs, closed-end funds, and REITs in Table 15 is decomposed into the three component parts. Blind pool offerings from the pre-2004 era are not included as SPACs. These blind-pool offers are almost always screened out of the net number of offerings because they are either unit offers, penny stocks (offer price below \$5 per share), small best efforts deals, or were not CRSP-listed. The remaining blind pool offers are excluded in the “other reasons” category. A typical blind pool offering raised a few million dollars and investors never received anything in return.

The average first-day return on 577 bank and S&L IPOs is 6.1%, with a range of -20% to +57.5%. In most of my tables, I exclude Bank and S&L IPOs because, among other reasons, it is not always clear how many shares are sold to the general public versus sold to depositors and employees, since most of these offerings are demutualizations. The same can be said of some insurance IPOs, which I include.

The average first-day return on 525 ADR IPOs with a closing market price, including banks, is 16.7%, with a range of -37.2% to 414.3%, with the 2000 internet company Crayfish Co. Ltd IPO having the highest return, at 414.3%. In most of my tables, I exclude ADRs because, among other reasons, the accounting data is not always reliable (SDC sometimes makes translation mistakes) and the U.S. tranche may be a small part of a larger offering, especially in the home country of the company.

The average first-day return on 227 limited partnerships is 3.7%, with a range of -6.8% to +33.3%. In most of my tables, I exclude natural resource company limited partnerships because it is frequently difficult to discern the founding date of the underlying business, since most of these IPOs are spinoffs partly motivated by tax minimization strategies. Also, most of these LPs are created at the time of the IPO, and identifying whether the LP is profitable, what its trailing sales are, and what its assets are, is sometimes problematic. The same can be said of rollups, which I include. I also include newly created reinsurance companies.

Table 15a

Year	Number of IPOs		CEFs, SPACs, and REITs	Closed -end funds	REITs	SPACs		LPs	Banks and S&Ls	Including LPs, Banks, & ADRs	
	Gross	Net				Non- unit	Unit			No.	Mean IR
1980	234	71	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	71	14.3%
1981	439	193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	193	5.9%
1982	198	77	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	80	10.5%
1983	850	451	1	0	1	0	0	0	75	526	8.9%
1984	518	171	4	0	4	0	0	1	46	222	3.1%
1985	326	186	18	3	15	0	0	6	42	223	6.4%
1986	710	393	28	25	3	0	0	20	100	498	5.8%
1987	531	285	36	32	4	0	0	15	52	351	5.5%
1988	293	105	73	65	8	0	0	3	26	140	5.2%
1989	254	116	42	42	0	0	0	2	8	129	7.6%
1990	213	110	41	41	0	0	0	1	5	118	10.3%
1991	408	286	44	42	2	0	0	2	7	297	11.7%
1992	602	412	103	98	5	0	0	1	4	421	10.1%
1993	772	510	167	121	46	0	0	3	17	547	12.4%
1994	594	402	78	37	41	0	0	3	8	432	9.4%
1995	574	462	9	2	7	0	0	2	3	483	20.8%
1996	845	677	11	5	6	0	0	5	11	729	16.8%
1997	601	474	30	7	22	1	0	1	11	521	13.6%
1998	379	281	39	24	15	0	0	2	31	331	20.1%
1999	565	476	36	34	2	0	0	3	8	515	67.8%
2000	431	380	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	423	54.8%
2001	130	79	38	38	0	0	0	4	0	87	13.7%
2002	157	66	81	77	4	0	0	6	4	78	7.8%
2003	131	63	56	49	6	0	1	0	5	71	13.1%
2004	304	173	95	55	28	0	12	5	8	203	11.8%
2005	283	159	88	50	11	4	23	9	7	190	11.5%
2006	261	157	63	23	5	0	35	18	5	195	11.4%
2007	326	159	116	47	4	0	65	14	2	205	14.0%
2008	53	21	22	3	2	0	17	4	0	28	4.1%
2009	80	41	22	13	9	0	0	0	2	52	9.7%
2010	198	91	37	22	8	0	7	7	10	144	11.2%
2011	166	81	50	25	9	0	18	18	1	113	11.6%
2012	174	93	45	28	9	1	8	16	13	125	15.8%
2013	255	158	59	29	20	3	8	20	5	192	20.2%
2014	305	206	30	13	6	0	11	19	19	264	14.2%
2015	182	118	34	8	7	1	19	9	7	142	17.4%
2016	113	75	13	1	3	0	13	1	5	89	13.7%
2017	201	106	50	9	8	0	34	5	11	143	12.7%
2018	240	134	51	1	6	0	46	1	9	176	16.4%
2019	226	112	67	6	2	0	59	1	7	142	19.4%
2020	464	165	257	4	4	11	237	0	0	198	38.1%
Total	14,122	8,775	2,038	1,081	334	21	612	227	579	10,041	17.3%

Table 15b
Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) IPOs

IR is the initial return, measured from the offer price to the first close. Proceeds are in millions and do not include overallotment shares. For 2004-2007, 25 of the initial returns are missing for OTC issues.

Year	Operating Company IPOs		SPAC IPOs			SPAC IPOs	
	Number	Mean IR	Non-unit	Unit	Total	Proceeds, \$b	Mean IR
1980	71	14.3%	0	0	0		
1981	192	5.9%	0	0	0		
1982	77	11.0%	0	0	0		
1983	451	9.9%	0	0	0		
1984	171	3.7%	0	0	0		
1985	186	6.4%	0	0	0		
1986	393	6.1%	0	0	0		
1987	285	5.6%	0	0	0		
1988	105	5.5%	0	0	0		
1989	116	8.0%	0	0	0		
1990	110	10.8%	0	0	0		
1991	286	11.9%	0	0	0		
1992	412	10.3%	0	0	0		
1993	510	12.7%	0	0	0		
1994	402	9.6%	0	0	0		
1995	462	21.4%	0	0	0		
1996	677	17.2%	0	0	0		
1997	474	14.0%	1	0	1	\$0.480	
1998	281	21.9%	0	0	0		
1999	476	71.2%	0	0	0		
2000	380	56.3%	0	0	0		
2001	80	14.0%	0	0	0		
2002	66	9.1%	0	0	0		
2003	63	11.7%	0	1	1	\$0.024	0.9%
2004	173	12.3%	0	12	12	\$0.425	0.8%
2005	159	10.3%	4	23	27	\$1.846	1.9%
2006	157	12.1%	0	35	35	\$3.013	3.2%
2007	159	14.0%	0	65	65	\$10.985	0.7%
2008	21	5.7%	0	17	17	\$3.627	0.2%
2009	41	9.8%	0	0	0	0	
2010	91	9.4%	0	7	7	\$0.492	-1.5%
2011	81	13.9%	0	16	16	\$1.049	0.4%
2012	93	17.7%	1	8	9	\$0.475	0.0%
2013	158	20.9%	3	7	10	\$1.325	0.2%
2014	206	15.5%	0	12	12	\$1.555	-0.1%
2015	118	19.2%	1	19	20	\$3.620	0.4%
2016	75	14.5%	0	13	13	\$3.224	0.3%
2017	106	12.9%	0	34	34	\$8.996	0.7%
2018	134	18.6%	0	46	46	\$9.935	0.4%
2019	112	23.5%	0	59	59	\$12.115	0.6%
2020	165	41.6%	11	237	248	\$75.337	1.6%
Total	8,775	18.4%	21	612	633	\$138.523	1.1%