

Fund of Funds

Unrivalled capacity to execute
the world's largest deals



“Deal timescales are getting shorter, which plays directly to our strengths: only buyers with outstanding data and IT systems can move this fast.”



VINCENT GOMBAULT
Head of Ardian
Fund of Funds and
Ardian Private Debt,
and Member of the
Executive Committee

\$84Bn
value of
secondary deals
in 2019

23
secondary
transactions
and
62 primary
commitments
in 2019

80+
investment
professionals

Ardian dominates the secondary fund of funds market globally and is a major player in primary commitments, where it invests with leading GPs, mainly through its fast-growing Mandates business.

During 2019, the team reinforced its position at the top end of the Secondary market by successfully executing several of the largest and most complex transactions attempted to date. This was epitomized by the closing of the largest ever secondary transaction in December 2019, a landmark deal in which Ardian acquired a \$5 billion portfolio from a financial institution. Overall, Ardian deployed more than \$10 billion in secondary transactions in 2019, with the team having largely committed Secondary Fund VII. On the primary side, Ardian continued to use its strong network to provide its investors access to top-tier funds worldwide.

As private equity becomes an increasingly liquid asset class, more institutional sellers are looking to the secondary market to implement strategic shifts or respond to regulatory changes. Ardian occupies a unique position as a provider of rapid, dependable solutions to these sellers, thanks to its market-leading data and intelligence, established relationships with GPs globally and the scale of its financial resources.

The high level of primary fundraising from 2016-19 indicates that Secondary turnover is set to rise significantly, with annual deals likely to top \$100 billion within the next two years. Even at that level, turnover would represent a tiny percentage of the overall asset class and leave significant room for growth.

The team responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by carrying out a detailed analysis of all portfolio holdings. It is monitoring the situation but does not currently anticipate any cash constraints or major covenant breaches in the secondary portfolio.