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## UKINDUSTRIAL

Structural drivers continued to offset any negativity stemming from political uncertainty in 2018. Industrial take-up of units over 50,000 sq ft registered a 39% increase when compared to 2017 reaching 37.8m sq ft at year-end. The primary factor for the rise was sustained growth in online retailing. The retail sector accounted for 56% of 'big shed' take-up in 2018, up from 39% last year. The Midlands remained the dominant market accounting for 37% of space acquired by occupiers. Even so, six of the nine regions studied in this report registered a year-on-year increase in activity.

Industrial property continued to carry favour with investors in 2018 accounting for 14% of all UK commercial property investment during the year. Industrial investment volumes reached £8.3bn, although less than in 2017, the 2018 total is 53% above the 10-year average. Portfolio deals again featured heavily, with the 39 deals completed accounting for 31% of investment turnover. Sustained investor demand meant yields remained under pressure. Yields on the best long-let prime stock continued at a record low, with single-let, distribution yields at 4.00%. Yields on modern regional estates moved in to 4.5% during 2018 reflecting a shift of -50bps in 2018.

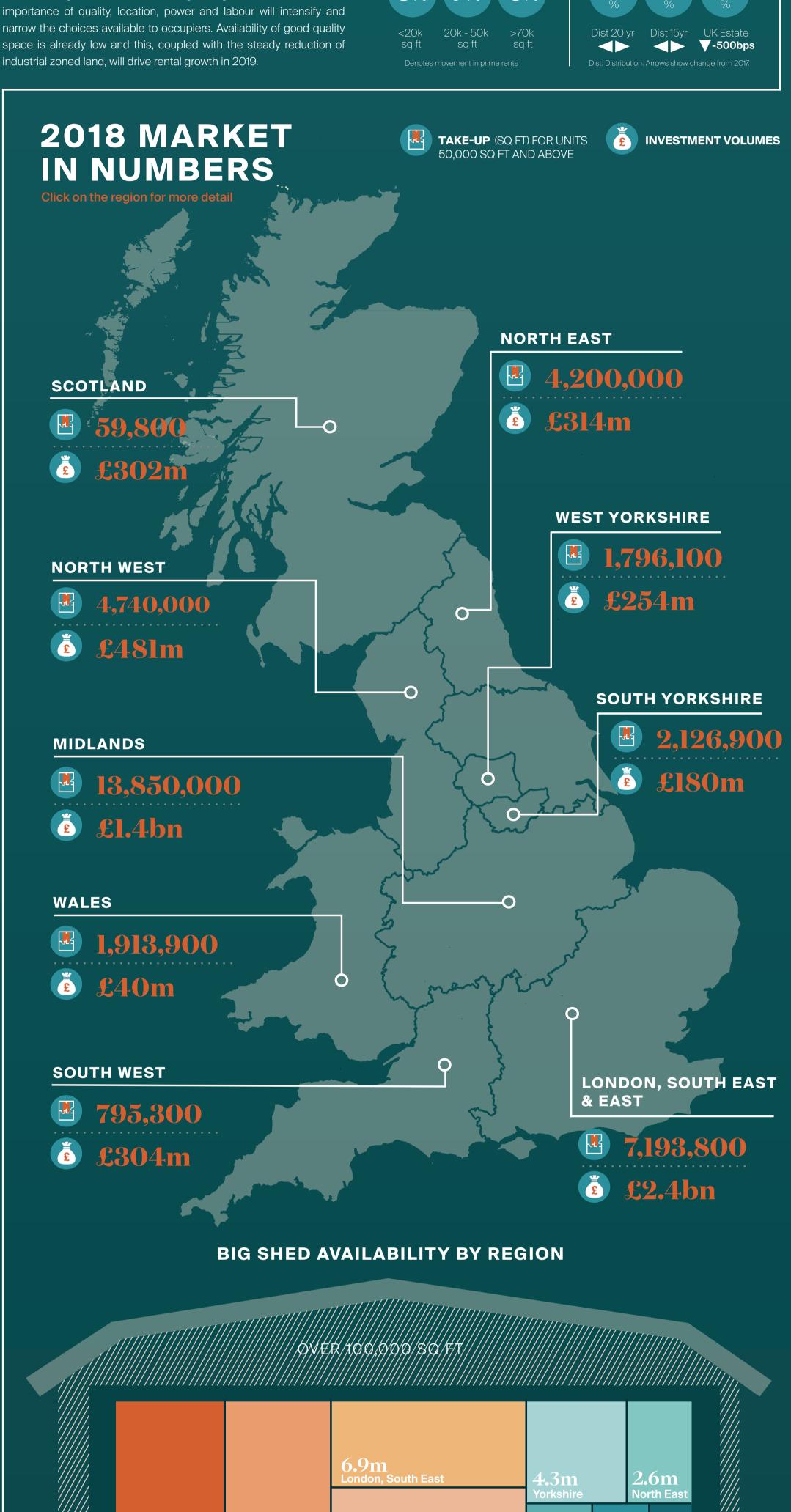
Whilst a conclusion to Brexit is unclear, demand for industrial and distribution space will remain underpinned by structural shift in 2019. Foremost, digital innovation is driving change. This means that the industrial zoned land, will drive rental growth in 2019.











## **DRIVERS FOR 2019**

6.8m

**East Midlands** 

7.4m

**North West** 

**7.7**m

**West Midlands** 

1.8m

South

West

**1.6**m

Wales

1.2m

**Scotland** 

