

# **Maturing Office Market Provides Stability, Opportunities**

The Phoenix office sector finished the year in solid form as the market finds its equilibrium.

Though absorption for the year is down slightly from last, 2016 was the third-largest increase in net absorption in a decade. The pace of new construction is strong, but not overheated, adding to the sense of market maturity after a long slog through the Great Recession. This speaks to the solid market fundamentals present in the Valley to begin with: a young, dynamic workforce, lower cost of doing business, motivated economic development groups and solid population increases. These factors have helped make the Valley's office sector more stable, rather than the perceived boom-or-bust mentality for which Phoenix has been known for decades.

Perceptions and reality are both evolving about the Valley. New energy from out-of-state companies (many from Silicon Valley) have begun to transform the market according to Chris Camacho, CEO of Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC). He sees the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem as thriving.

He also says these companies are also changing the Valley's physical infrastructure.

With this newer breed of office user entering the market, it poses challenges and opportunities for landlords and tenants to think creatively about how to best make the best decisions regarding space requirements. Most office users are now planning less square footage per employee. Since 2012, when the average was 225 SF per worker, it is now only 151 SF per person, according to a recent CoreNet Global report. With these lower space requirements, many companies have given back space they no longer require. This means increasing pressure for landlords as more tenants are needed to meet occupancy goals.

Vacancy remained steady at 18.6% from last quarter, but is down 90-basis points from the beginning of the year when vacancy was 19.5%. Over 3.5 million SF of deliveries were added to inventory this year. New construction remained strong as nearly 2.7 million SF is currently under construction. Most new building activity is centered in Tempe, Airport Area and Chandler.

Net absorption posted at 519,391 SF for the quarter and 2.9M SF for 2016.

Asking rents increased by an average of 0.6%. Arrowhead and Paradise Valley submarkets have posted the highest gains. Concessions still remain and tenant improvements continue to be generous in select submarkets. Leasing activity remained in historically modest territory, but is down by a third compared with 2015.

The largest lease transaction of the quarter was ADP leasing 225,000 SF at the former US Airways Operations Center at 111 W. Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe. The largest sales transaction in Q4 was the sale of Renaissance Square, 2 and 40 N. Central Ave., Phoenix for \$151.3M. Price per SF was calculated at \$156.65. Both buildings comprise 965,508 SF.

The future of the Valley's office sector appears to be on solid footing. There is stronger than expected population growth, a stable legislative agenda and a modest regulatory climate. These factors appeal to outside firms seeking a new place to call home and the Valley seems to be rolling out the red carpet.

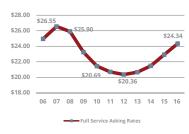
### Absorption/Vacancy

in SF, 2006-2016



#### **Rental Rates**

Per month, 2006-2016



#### **Buyer Type**

Q4 16 Sales



#### **Economic Indicators**

as of Q4 2016

#### Unemployment

U.S. Down to 4.6%
Arizona Down to 5.0%
Phoenix Metro Down to 4.5%

Consumer Price Index Up 0.2% U.S. GDP Up 2.2%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

Sales by the Numbers: Q4 2016

No. of Transactions

**Q3 16:** 128

**125** 

Q3 16: \$366.3M

**Average PSF** 

\$165.18

**Q3 16:** \$177.25

Average Cap Rate

**Q3 16:** 7.31%

#### **Q4 2016 Top Office Leases**

**Tenant Name** Address Submarket SF **Property Name** Class Type ADP Former U.S. Airways HQ 111 W. Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe 225.000 Tempe New Α 1930 W. Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe Carvana Liberty Center at Rio Salado III Α Airport Area 67,774 New The Advisor Group 20 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix 20 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix Α Midtown 65.783 New Amazon Nexus@ASU Research Park 8600 S. Science Dr., Tempe Α S. Tempe/Ahwatukee 64,892 Expansion Orbital ATK Allred Park Place Central 10 122 S. Spectrum Blvd., Chandler В Chandler 46,225 New

#### **Q4 2016 Top Office Sales**

#### **Property Address**

2-40 N. Central Ave., Phoenix 3100-3200 W. Ray Rd., Chandler 3200 N. Central Ave., Phoenix 5090 N. 40th St., Phoenix 2211 S. 47th St., Phoenix

#### Ruver

Oaktree Capital Management City Office REIT, Inc. Bridge Investment Group, LLC City Office REIT, Inc. Cole REIT

#### Seller **Sales Price** SF **PSF** Class Hines REIT, Inc. \$151,250,000 965,508 \$156.65 Α Columbia Property Trust Α \$58,500,000 266,531 \$219.49 EverWest Real Estate Ptrs. Α \$49,000,000 344,958 \$142.05 \$42,600,000 Lowe Enterprises Inv. Mgmt. В 175,835 \$242.27 Lexington Realty Trust \$32,000,000 176,402 \$181.40

## **Q4 2016 | Phoenix Office Market Stats**

Office	Total	Vacancy Rate		<b>Net Absorption</b>		Under	<b>Building Completions</b>		Asking	Change
Submarkets	Inventory	Total SF	Q4 2016	Q4 2016	YTD 2016	Construction*	Q4 2016	YTD 2016	FS Rate	from Q3
1. Downtown Phoenix	6,678,453	1,035,465	15.5%	(7,849)	22,024	_	122,220	122,220	\$28.42	0.3%
2. Midtown Phoenix	9,630,094	2,271,095	23.6%	(15,674)	(2,993)	67,650		-	\$22.26	2.8%
3. East Phoenix	1,644,001	203,966	12.4%	45,340	12,925	-	-	-	\$16.95	0.8%
4. 44th St. Corridor	2,922,270	501,880	17.2%	13,156	(83,241)	-	_	25,200	\$24.57	1.2%
5. Camelback Corridor	7,996,541	1,520,588	19.0%	(33,434)	94,270	-	-	-	\$29.16	-3.3%
6. Piestewa Corridor	2,066,137	472,647	22.9%	6,724	62,244	-	-	-	\$19.78	3.7%
7. Northwest Phoenix	4,974,217	1,263,847	25.4%	(61,676)	(42,865)	-	-	-	\$19.13	2.9%
8. Southwest Phoenix	824,733	220,213	26.7%	28,172	31,616	-	-	-	\$22.29	-1.5%
9. Airport Area	5,190,251	1,336,101	25.7%	(87,267)	(142,428)	810,792	-	370,663	\$23.37	0.7%
10. South Tempe/Ahwatukee	5,774,137	894,770	15.5%	86,704	53,232	-	-	-	\$22.82	2.0%
11. Tempe	5,410,199	726,672	13.4%	94,232	1,575,083	908,583	585,429	2,505,295	\$28.04	-3.7%
12. Scottsdale South	3,697,877	526,366	14.2%	(29,018)	(68,312)	166,606	145,000	145,000	\$29.83	1.1%
13. Central Scottsdale	5,017,896	663,349	13.2%	34,247	152,753	271,000	-	-	\$24.57	1.4%
14. Paradise Valley	2,104,319	364,550	17.3%	45,713	86,259	-	-	-	\$24.58	4.1%
15. Deer Valley Airport	4,111,736	887,084	21.6%	32,348	147,103	150,000	-	-	\$22.84	1.1%
16. Arrowhead	796,449	126,170	15.8%	25,261	27,563	-	-	-	\$23.29	5.9%
17. Glendale	1,349,972	210,032	15.6%	24,527	60,765	-	-	-	\$21.35	-4.1%
18. Chandler	4,017,931	798,877	19.9%	78,182	243,987	290,785	-	313,973	\$25.59	-0.7%
19. Gateway Airport/Loop 202	492,075	126,477	25.7%	(2,064)	8,603	17,611	-	-	\$25.32	2.0%
20. Superstition Corridor	2,115,043	428,808	20.3%	(12,564)	151,582	-	-	-	\$19.82	-1.3%
21. Mesa Downtown	360,601	5,543	1.5%	2,332	2,332	-	-	-	\$19.16	0.0%
22. Mesa East	87,984	12,649	14.4%	-	6,927	-	-	-	\$18.91	0.0%
23. Scottsdale Airpark	8,239,453	1,177,863	14.3%	207,426	452,062	-	-	39,750	\$27.52	1.3%
24. N. Scottsdale/Carefree	315,743	123,383	39.1%	25,127	73,949	-	-	-	\$23.55	0.4%
25. N. Phoenix/Cave Creek	13,607	-	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-	\$12.00	0.0%
26. North I-17	150,908	74,106	49.1%	338	8,103	-	-	-	\$20.62	-0.1%
27. Loop 303/Surprise	410,900	90,499	22.0%	14,092	5,895	-	-	-	\$21.00	0.0%
28. West I-10	549,917	75,226	13.7%	5,016	(11,096)	-	-	-	\$23.58	1.7%
Phoenix Metro Total	86,943,444	16,138,226	18.6%	519,391	2,928,342	2,683,027	852,649	3,522,101	\$24.34	0.6%
By Building Type										
Class A	39,648,543	6,671,452	17.0%	455,227	1,973,415	1,312,055	280,663	2,717,461	\$27.84	-0.2%
Class B	44,448,801	8,872,695	19.6%	42,182	935,241	1,370,972	571,986	804,640	\$21.75	0.7%
Class C	2,846,100	594,079	14.6%	21,982	19,686	-	-	-	\$18.02	0.4%
Building Type Total	86,943,444	16,138,226	18.6%	519,391	2,928,342	2,683,027	852,649	3,522,101	\$24.34	0.6%

When inaccurate or newly updated information is discovered, it is incorporated into current reporting which may negate comparison to previously published market reports.

#### **Phoenix Office Submarket Map**

1. Downtown Phoenix

2. Midtown Phoenix

3. East Phoenix

4. 44th St. Corridor

5. Camelback Corridor

6. Piestewa Corridor 7. Northwest Phoenix

8. Southwest Phoenix

9. Airport Area

10. S. Tempe/Ahwatukee

11. Tempe

12. Scottsdale South

13. Central Scottsdale

14. Paradise Valley

15. Deer Valley Airport

16. Arrowhead

17. Glendale

18. Chandler

19. Gateway/Loop 202

20. Superstition Corridor

21. Mesa Downtown

22. Mesa East

23. Scottsdale Airpark

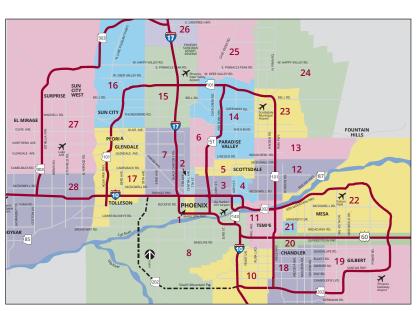
24. N. Scottsdale/Carefree

25. N. Phoenix/Cave Creek

26. North I-17

27. Loop 303/Surprise

28. West I-10



#### **About This Report**

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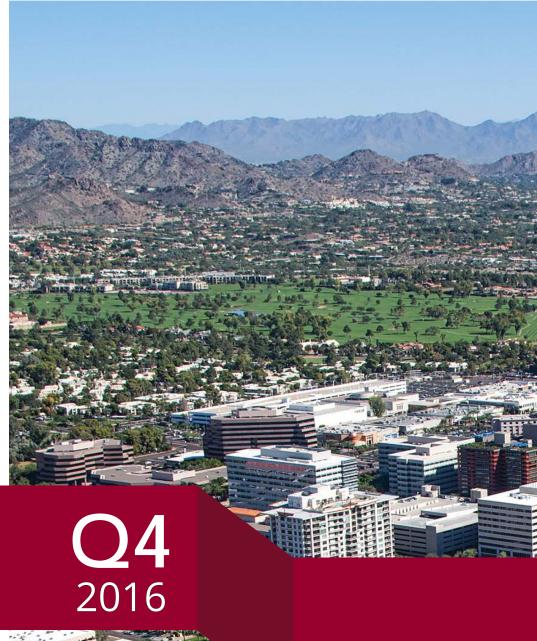
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The Phoenix Office Market Report compiles relevant market data by using a third-party database for the proprietary analysis of specific office properties above 10,000 SF in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

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