MARKETBEAT

Ottawa, ON

Office Q3 2020



8.1% Vacancy Rate YoY Chg 12-Mo. Forecast

\$35.35 Gross Asking Rent, PSF

(Overall, All Property Classes)

Net Absorption, SF

ECONOMIC INDICATORS Q3 2020

561.5KOttawa
Employment

YoY

8.7%
Ottawa
Unemployment Rate

9.0% Canadian Unemployment Rate

12-Mo.

Source: Statistics Canada

ECONOMY: Unemployment Rates Lower as Ottawa Copes With Recession

The National Capital Region (NCR) continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic heading into the third quarter of 2020. Employment within Ottawa has been bolstered by the presence of the federal government and a booming e-commerce sector that has adapted well to the remote workplace. Unemployment rates are down as the city benefited from low case numbers throughout the summer months, allowing for retailers, restaurants, and fitness centres to reopen as restrictions began to lift. Currently, Ottawa is in a second wave of the pandemic causing stricter restrictions for businesses and social gatherings which could potentially lead to another dip in employment.

DEMAND: Sublet Space Continues to Rise

The repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic have started to become apparent within the Ottawa office market as vacancy rates slowly climb. While the suburban market remained relatively stable, increasing by only 20 basis points to 7.1% overall, vacancy within the Central market jumped from 8.5% to 9.1% quarter-over-quarter. Significant contributors to this rise in vacancy are the significant pockets of sublet space coming available within the downtown core. Most notable of these is local tech darling, Shopify, embracing the "digital by default" lifestyle and subletting their headquarters at 150 Elgin, adding an additional 170,000 square feet (sf) of space to the market. The suburban market also saw a continued influx of sublet space with a high concentration in Kanata, which made up close to 70% of the 212,475 sf of sublease space available in the Suburban market. The Ottawa office market's response to a battered economy has been slow moving and full effects are yet to be seen. As we head into the final quarter of 2020, it should hopefully become more apparent on where the Ottawa office market is heading.

PRICING: Rental Rates Continue to Hold Steady

Since lockdown, gross rental rates have seen very little fluctuation, floating around the mid-\$30s per square foot (psf) overall and \$40 psf for Class A space. While sublet space is booming, causing vacancy rates to rise, asking net rents have experienced only minimal variances throughout 2020. Historically, gross rental rates have stayed within the \$35 psf range, peaking in 2017 at \$38.75 psf before settling back to mid range. As Ottawa approaches a new year, one that begins with knowledge of the pandemic, it will be interesting to see where rental rates go in response to almost a full year of a new normal.





OVERALL VACANCY & GROSS ASKING RENT



Ottawa, ON

Office Q3 2020

CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD

MARKET STATISTICS

| SUBMARKET | INVENTORY (SF) | SUBLET VACANT (SF) | DIRECT VACANT (SF) | OVERALL VACANCY RATE | CURRENT QTR OVERALL NET ABSORPTION | YTD OVERALL ABSORPTION (SF) | YTD LEASING ACTIVITY (SF) | UNDER CNSTR (SF) | OVERALL AVG ASKING RENT (ALL CLASSES)* | OVERALL AVG ASKING RENT (CLASS A)* |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Downtown Core | 16,073,095 | 254,142 | 1,105,068 | 6.9% | -142,824 | -172,741 | 330,574 | 183,540 | \$40.84 | \$47.32 |
| Centretown | 1,739,326 | 5,766 | 175,876 | 10.4% | 16,682 | -6,433 | 58,973 | 0 | \$30.72 | N/A |
| Byward Market | 842,861 | 25,319 | 140,657 | 19.7% | -32,955 | -47,732 | 34,182 | 0 | \$36.21 | \$44.40 |
| CENTRAL AREA TOTALS | 18,655,282 | 285,227 | 1,421,601 | 9.1% | -159,097 | -226,906 | 423,729 | 183,540 | \$39.56 | \$47.12 |
| Kanata | 6,654,948 | 145,034 | 298,027 | 6.7% | -78,151 | -145,546 | 214,632 | 100,000 | \$28.18 | \$28.34 |
| Ottawa West | 3,972,145 | 25,957 | 181,991 | 5.2% | -10,081 | 23,335 | 90,080 | 0 | \$33.17 | \$36.07 |
| Nepean | 5,564,642 | 21,711 | 229,870 | 4.5% | 8,526 | 21,549 | 97,912 | 0 | \$29.78 | \$34.09 |
| Ottawa East | 4,961,982 | 17,682 | 339,159 | 7.2% | 5,365 | -2,241 | 62,738 | 0 | \$29.77 | \$31.76 |
| Gloucester | 1,532,201 | 2,091 | 399,422 | 26.2% | -28,715 | -154,996 | 29,906 | 0 | \$34.72 | \$35.42 |
| TOTAL SUBURBAN TOTALS | 22,685,918 | 212,475 | 1,448,469 | 7.3% | -103,056 | -257,899 | 495,268 | 100,000 | \$30.55 | \$32.50 |
| OTTAWA TOTALS | 41,341,200 | 497,702 | 2,870,070 | 8.1% | -262,153 | -484,805 | 918,997 | 283,540 | \$35.35 | \$39.32 |
| SUMMARY BY CLASS | INVENTORY (SF) | SUBLET VACANT (SF) | DIRECT VACANT (SF) | OVERALL VACANCY RATE | CURRENT QTR OVERALL NET ABSORPTION | YTD OVERALL ABSORPTION (SF) | YTD LEASING ACTIVITY (SF) | UNDER CNSTR (SF) | OVERALL AVG ASKING NET RENT | OVERALL AVG ASKING GROSS RENT |
| Class A | 26,528,953 | 458,965 | 1,293,886 | 6.6% | -286,262 | -539,484 | 530,969 | 283,540 | \$19.89 | \$39.32 |
| Class B | 12,110,973 | 13,654 | 1,283,537 | 10.7% | 4,505 | 44,551 | 303,693 | 0 | \$15.13 | \$31.47 |
| Class C | 2,701,274 | 25,083 | 292,647 | 11.8% | 19,604 | 10,128 | 42,842 | 0 | \$13.49 | \$28.37 |

^{*}Rental rates reflect full service asking

KEY LEASE TRANSACTIONS Q3 2020

| PROPERTY | SUBMARKET | TENANT | SF | TYPE |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|------------|
| 45 O'Connor Street | Central Business District | IDRC | 65,693 | New Direct |
| 159 Cleopatra Drive | Nepean | PWGSC | 41,424 | Renewal |
| 427 Laurier Avenue West | Central Business District | Federal Government | 17,300 | New Direct |

^{*}Renewals not included in leasing statistics

KEY SALES TRANSACTIONS Q3 2020

| PROPERTY | SUBMARKET | SELLER / BUYER | SF | PRICE / \$PSF |
|------------------------------|--------------|---|---------|----------------------|
| 1495 Heron Road | Ottawa South | Her Majesty the Queen / Canada Lands Company CLC Ltd | 219,000 | \$7,570,000 / \$35 |
| 126 York & 151 George Street | Lowertown | 126 York St Ltd / Numbered Company | 70,000 | \$33,000,000 / \$471 |

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