KOLKATA

Retail Q1 2021

6.3% MALL VACANCY RATE (Q1 2021)

0.28 msf MALL SUPPLY DEFERRED TO Q2 2022

4.71 msf MALL INVENTORY (Q1 2021)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS Q1 2021

	2020	2021	2022 Forecast
GDP Growth	-7.7%	10.2%	7.0%
CPI Growth	6.1%	5.0%	4.3%
Consumer Spending	-8.5%	6.3%	7.2%
Govt. Final Expenditure Growth	5.7%	10.8%	9.7%

Source: Oxford Economics, IMF, RBI

Gradual recovery in retail leasing led by main street activity

Kolkata's retail sector continued to progress gradually on its path to recovery in the first quarter of the year on the back of recovery in main street traction. The city's shopping malls did not record any major transaction in the current quarter. However, demand for quality mall space remains in tact, with single digit vacancy rates in superior malls and footfalls being at 60-65% of pre-COVID levels. Retail sales in leading malls posted robust growth during the festive period last quarter but has tapered off since then and reverted largely to focused and need-based shopping that was being witnessed prior to the festive period. However, improving consumer sentiments and faster vaccinations are likely to drive recovery in mall lease transactions in the second half of the year. With a few movies set to be released at multiplexes over the next couple of quarters, mall footfalls are expected to rise further, and this is likely to drive growth in retail sales activity. Hypermarkets, consumer durables, electronics and apparel brands such as More, Croma and Pantaloons took up retail spaces in the Northeast (Rajarhat), South Peripheral (Patuli) and North Peripheral (Barrackpore) submarkets, respectively. Increase in casual dine-outs helped maintain the F&B sector recovery momentum while QSRs witnessed healthy growth through home deliveries. It is, however, imperative that any possible resurgence in COVID cases be controlled at the earliest so that the recovery momentum is not adversely affected going forward.

Higher space enquiries and gradual phasing out of rental discounts

With the retail sector showing visible signs of recovery amidst better footfall conversion rates and rising sales volumes in certain retail categories, developers/landlords have been phasing out rental discounts that were in place last year. However, pure revenue share agreements remain in place as negotiated earlier as a form of support especially to those brands which continue to face business uncertainty. Retailers in specific segments, which have seen healthier pickup in sales, have been gradually shedding their cautious approach and have been firming up space plans. As a result, space enquiries have increased at some of the city's superior malls. Several retailers have adopted an omnichannel business model, marrying physical stores with e-commerce. This trend is likely to persist over the next few quarters with consumers looking for the convenience of online retail as well as superior shopping experiences at physical outlook for the city's retail sector over the medium to long term remains positive with leading developers looking to invest in new projects. For instance, the current quarter saw Phoenix Mills backed subsidiary Mindstone Mall Developers invest in 7.48 acres in Alipore for a planned construction of a new retail mall with a development potential of approx. 1 million square feet.

Rentals remain stable at post COVID rates with minor revisions at select main streets

Rentals remained largely stable in the current quarter with higher consumer demand, increased sales volumes and revision of rental waivers by landlords/developers restricting any possible downward movement in overall city rentals. Vacancy increased marginally to 6.3% in Q1 2021, with few retailer exits in the average malls while the superior grade ones continued to witness healthy demand for space. Landlords at prime main streets of Park Street, Camac Street, and Gariahat among others, which had been offering rental discounts during entire 2020, cease to offer such benefits any further. This is due to the revival in de mand for space indicating early signs of recovery in the city's retail sector. Few other prominent main streets like Theatre Road, Shyambazar and Hatibagan witnessed a marginal recovery (3-4%) from post-COVID rentals amid rising demand for space. Rentals in the less active suburban and peripheral main streets remained unchanged even with negligible demand for space, since landlords are willing to wait and watch for the situation to evolve, instead of offering further discounts on quoted rentals. However, selective discounts for existing retailers across main street locations are likely to continue in the short to medium term, until there are visible signs of sustainable business recovery in the city.

MALL SUPPLY / VACANCY



CATEGORY-WISE STOCK / VACANCY



MARKETBEAT

KOLKATA

Retail Q1 2021

MARKET STATISTICS

PRIME RETAIL RENTS - MAIN STREETS	INR SF/MTH	EURO SF/YR	US\$ SF/YR	Q-O-Q ** CHANGE	Y-O-Y CHANGE
Park Street (CBD)	460	63	76	0%	-16%
Camac Street (CBD)	375	51	62	0%	-17%
Lindsay Street (CBD)	375	51	62	0%	-17%
Elgin Road (CBD)	270	37	45	0%	-17%
Theatre Road (CBD)	200	27	33	3%	-13%
Gariahat (South)	250	34	41	0%	0%
Shyambazar (North)	125	17	21	4%	-22%
Hatibagan (North)	130	18	21	4%	-19%
Kankurgachi (North East)	165	23	27	0%	-21%
VIP Road (North East)	120	16	20	3%	-20%
PRIME RETAIL RENTS - MALLS	INR SF/MTH	EURO SF/YR	US\$ SF/YR	Q-O-Q ** CHANGE	Y-O-Y CHANGE
South Kolkata	440	60	73	0%	0%
East Kolkata	415	57	68	0%	0%
Rajarhat/NewTown	130	18	21	0%	0%
Elgin Road	500	69	82	0%	-5%
Howrah	190	26	31	0%	-10%
Park Circus	600	82	99	0%	0%

Note: Asking rent (INR/sf/month) on carpet area of ground floor Vanilla stores is quoted US\$ $1 = INR 72.8, \in 1 = INR 87.5$

Note: The above mentioned rentals in main streets are based on marginal recovery from the discounted ones that were being offered during H2 2020 to support the retail business in times of sluggish demand. While Q1 2021 witnessed a marginal recovery from post-COVID rentals in some of the main streets, rentals are likely to be recalibrated to normal pre-COVID levels when business scenario improves for the better. We shall continue to monitor the retail rental scenario in the coming quarters with focus on the prevailing transaction momentum in the market.

SIGNIFICANT LEASING TRANSACTIONS Q1 2021

PROPERTY	LOCATION	TENANT	SF
Main Street	Barrackpore	Pantaloons	15,000
Main Street	Patuli	Croma	9,000
Main Street	Rajarhat	MORE	24,500

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

PROPERTY	LOCATION	SF	COMPLETION
Genexx Square	Joka	275,000	Q2 2022

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