MARKETBEAT ROANOKE

Industrial Q1 2021



Overall, Net Asking Rent

ECONOMIC INDICATORS Q1 2021



Employment

5.1% Roanoke

Unemployment Rate

6.0% U.S. Unemployment Rate

Source: BLS

KENT ROBERTS, CCIM

Senior Associate +1 540 767 3012 kent.roberts@thalhimer.com

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW: Early-Stage Recovery Gaining Momentum

The unemployment rate in the Roanoke market during the first quarter stands at 5.1%, up from 4.7% in the fourth quarter of 2020. Employment in the market remains strong with a modest increase during the first quarter. This is indicative of more people entering the labor market as the economy improves. Several business announcements during the quarter will jumpstart the industrial development pipeline. Munters Corporation announced plans to build a 365,000 square foot (sf) facility in Botetourt Center at Greenfield. The new facility will house manufacturing, R&D, and the sales of data center cooling systems and high-temperature industrial process systems. In neighboring Henry county, Crown Holdings announced plans to build a 355,000-sf plant in Commonwealth Crossing. Crown will be the third major tenant in the park. Additional announcements included MOOG Components in Radford, Belvac in Lynchburg, Intertape Polymer Group in Pittsylvania county, and Mohawk in Carrol county.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND: Limited Supply

The pace of leasing activity during the quarter increased with eleven new leases signed ranging in size from 1,500 to 72,000 sf. Total square footage of new leases as reported by CoStar was 291,350 sf and two lease renewals totaled 25,515 sf. Inventory of quality space continues to be quite low with vacancy at 6.1%. Net absorption in the Roanoke / Lynchburg markets is reported to be -519,000 sf. The significant change in absorption is related to the former GE Drives and Controls plant is Salem. Production ceased at the 760,000-sf plant in late 2018 and early 2019 but the facility was not brought to the market until March 2021. The facility consists of 500,000 sf of production and distribution space and 200,000 sf of office. GE plans to leaseback 30,000 sf of office.

PRICING: Minimal Change

Overall net asking rent hovers around \$4.33 per square foot (psf) as it has for several quarters. This is reflective of the quality and characteristics of much of the available inventory. Newer and more desirable space is offered at \$5.00 to \$6.00 psf or more. Pricing is expected to stay steady until there is a considerable change to the supply available.



OVERALL VACANCY & ASKING RENT



THALHIMER

A CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD RESEARCH PUBLICATION Cushman & Wakefield (NYSE: CWK) is a leading global real estate services firm that delivers exceptional value for real estate occupiers and owners. Cushman & Wakefield is among the largest real estate services firms with approximately 50,000 employees in 400 offices and 60 countries. In 2020, the firm had revenue of \$7.8 billion across core services of property, facilities and project management, leasing, capital markets, valuation and other services. To learn more, visit <u>www.cushmanwakefield.com</u> or follow @CushWake on Twitter.

©2021 Cushman & Wakefield. All rights reserved. The information contained within this report is gathered from multiple sources believed to be reliable. The information may contain errors or omissions and is presented without any warranty or representations as to its accuracy.

thalhimer.com