## MARKETBEAT BALTIMORE

### Industrial Q4 2023



#### **ECONOMIC INDICATORS Q4 2023**



Baltimore Unemployment Rate

**3.7%** U.S. Unemployment Rate

Source: BLS

#### ECONOMY:

U.S. stock markets rallied at the end of 2023 amid positive news of rate cuts by the Federal Reserve (Fed) heading into 2024. However, the Fed's December meeting notes indicate a great degree of uncertainty as to when cuts will happen, putting a damper on the economic outlook. Despite the slowdown of inflation to 2.2% in Baltimore as of October 2023, and prices set back by 0.2

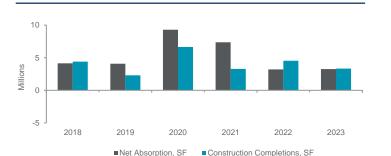
5 as compared to the preceding two-month period, the impact of rising prices and a constricted lending environment overall remain a concern for both private and commercial businesses.

Economic turbulence has yet to significantly impact the Baltimore industrial market, though absorption and construction have slowed from historic, pandemic highs. Investment in infrastructure at the Port of Baltimore is expected to help the market flourish even further. Ports America partnered with the State of MD and poured \$550 million into overhauling the Seagirt Marine Terminal since 2010. Another \$47 million was awarded in 2023 as part of a larger \$21 billion initiative to update U.S. ports to handle the increased demand that paralyzed West Coast ports during the pandemic. The Department of Transportation's Port Infrastructure Development Program grant will fund a new rolling cargo dock and offshore wind manufacturing hub, as reported by CNBC in December. As part of the improvements to handle an expected 50.0% increase in industrial demand by 2050, the Howard Street Tunnel expansion will relieve the current inability to transport double-stacked containers by rail in and out of Baltimore.

#### **SUPPLY AND DEMAND:**

In keeping with the expected rise in demand within the industrial sector, annual overall net absorption increased by 60,000 sf yearover-year (YOY) in the fourth quarter of 2023, while vacancies declined by 20 basis points (bps) YOY in tandem. More than 3.3 million square feet were added to the Baltimore industrial inventory in 2023, 91.0% of it along the I-95 Corridor. Out of that new inventory in 2023, about one-third was vacant at the end of the year. This is the same corridor where infrastructure funding is being directed to reinforce this vital transportation corridor with direct access to the Port of Baltimore.

New leasing activity year-to-date (YTD) was 295,000 sf lower in 2023 than at the end of 2022. Baltimore County East, where Tradepoint Atlantic and the Port of Baltimore are located, comprised 3,059,250 sf of total new lease activity in 2023 – or 41.3% of all deal volume. This bears reminder that the submarket likewise comprises the single largest amount of inventory out of any submarket in Baltimore at 27.9% of total industrial market inventory. In contrast, Cecil County comprised a 6.9% share of industrial market inventory, had the highest vacancy rate (8.0%), and had 11.6% of new lease activity in 2023. The fact that one-tenth of leasing activity was in this submarket despite imposed constraints, such as the moratorium issued on new, speculative construction in Sector for the first statement to persistent industrial de OVERALL VACANCY & ASKING RENT





## MARKETBEAT BALTIMORE Industrial Q4 2023

# CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD

#### MARKET STATISTICS

| SUBMARKET                       | INVENTORY<br>(SF) | OVERALL<br>VACANT (SF) | OVERALL<br>VACANCY RATE | CURRENT QTR<br>OVERALL NET<br>ABSORPTION (SF) | YTD OVERALL NET<br>ABSORPTION (SF) | UNDER CNSTR<br>(SF) | CONSTR<br>COMPLETIONS (SF) | DIRECT WEIGHTED<br>AVG NET RENT* | DIRECT WEIGHTED<br>AVG NET RENT (OS)* | DIRECT WEIGHTED<br>AVG NET RENT<br>(W/D)* |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Howard County                   | 36,408,705        | 430,271                | 1.2%                    | 205,029                                       | 260,662                            | 0                   | 0                          | \$8.45                           | \$14.99                               | \$7.82                                    |
| Anne Arundel County             | 32,166,329        | 421,072                | 1.3%                    | 68,433                                        | 376,436                            | 202,788             | 0                          | \$8.61                           | N/A                                   | \$8.61                                    |
| Baltimore City/County-Southwest | 24,389,129        | 893,538                | 3.7%                    | 44,816                                        | 407,105                            | 0                   | 300,726                    | \$7.45                           | N/A                                   | \$7.45                                    |
| Baltimore-Washington Corridor   | 92,964,223        | 1,744,881              | 1.9%                    | 318,278                                       | 1,044,203                          | 202,788             | 300,726                    | \$8.43                           | \$14.99                               | \$8.05                                    |
| Harford County                  | 27,259,384        | 664,461                | 2.4%                    | 225,961                                       | 381,370                            | 0                   | 0                          | \$11.15                          | \$11.15                               | N/A                                       |
| Cecil County                    | 15,946,856        | 1,268,280              | 8.0%                    | 154,308                                       | 263,000                            | 793,520             | 263,000                    | N/A                              | N/A                                   | N/A                                       |
| Baltimore County East           | 64,260,714        | 2,370,907              | 3.7%                    | 24,867                                        | 1,686,520                          | 414,960             | 2,773,610                  | \$8.58                           | \$15.36                               | \$6.70                                    |
| I-95 North Corridor             | 107,466,954       | 4,303,648              | 4.0%                    | 405,136                                       | 2,330,890                          | 1,208,480           | 3,036,610                  | \$8.69                           | \$14.59                               | \$6.70                                    |
| Baltimore County-North/West     | 15,805,568        | 567,157                | 3.6%                    | 24,993                                        | 42,750                             | 0                   | 0                          | \$8.61                           | \$15.18                               | \$7.86                                    |
| Baltimore City                  | 7,125,563         | 189,239                | 2.7%                    | 725                                           | -154,145                           | 0                   | 0                          | \$11.25                          | \$11.25                               | N/A                                       |
| Carroll County                  | 7,200,453         | 22,753                 | 0.3%                    | -2,915                                        | 1,095                              | 0                   | 0                          | \$17.59                          | \$17.59                               | N/A                                       |
| Beltway Corridor                | 30,131,584        | 779,149                | 2.6%                    | 22,803                                        | -110,300                           | 0                   | 0                          | \$9.26                           | \$12.79                               | \$7.86                                    |
| BALTIMORE TOTAL                 | 230,562,761       | 6,827,678              | 3.0%                    | 746,217                                       | 3,264,793                          | 1,411,268           | 3,337,336                  | \$8.72                           | \$13.92                               | \$7.63                                    |

\*Rental rates reflect weighted net asking \$psf/year

FX = Flex MF = Manufacturing OS = Office Service/Flex W/D = Warehouse/Distribution

| ТҮРЕ                     | INVENTORY<br>(SF) | OVERALL VACANT<br>(SF) | OVERALL VACANCY<br>RATE | CURRENT QTR<br>OVERALL NET<br>ABSORPTION (SF) | YTD OVERALL NET<br>ABSORPTION (SF) | UNDER CNSTR (SF) | CONSTR<br>COMPLETIONS (SF) | DIRECT WEIGHTED<br>AVG NET RENT |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Office Service / Flex    | 36,650,469        | 1,314,811              | 3.6%                    | 34,815                                        | 772,782                            | 0                | 0                          | \$14.28                         |
| Warehouse / Distribution | 193,612,292       | 5,512,867              | 2.9%                    | 711,402                                       | 2,923,861                          | 1,411,268        | 3,337,336                  | \$8.01                          |

#### **KEY LEASE TRANSACTIONS Q4 2023**

| PROPERTY                          | SUBMARKET             | TENANT                           | RSF     | ТҮРЕ      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 7700 Rolling Mill Road/Mill Bldg. | Baltimore County East | Boise Cascade Building Materials | 204,253 | Renewal*  |
| 8415 Kelso Dr                     | Baltimore County East | DHL                              | 144,500 | Renewal*  |
| 103 Chesapeake Park Plz           | Baltimore County East | Rocket Lab USA                   | 111,858 | New Lease |
| 1255 S Caton Ave                  | Southwest             | Carlisle Construction Materials  | 108,160 | New Lease |
| 1405 Magellan Rd                  | BWI / Anne Arundel    | Shaw Industries, Inc.            | 106,736 | Renewal*  |

\*Renewals not included in leasing statistics

#### **KEY SALES TRANSACTIONS Q4 2023**

| PROPERTY                | SUBMARKET | SELLER / BUYER                           | SF      | PRICE/\$ PSF        |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------|
| Lakeside Business Park  | Harford   | Link Logistics / Rockpoint               | 892,076 | \$112.1M / \$125.6* |
| 727 Old Philadelphia Rd | Harford   | Northwestern Mutual / Peterson Companies | 500,400 | \$51.3M / \$102.6   |

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#### \*Portfolio Sale Price Includes 9 properties in Lakeside Business Park

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