# MARKETBEAT COLUMBIA, SC Industrial Q4 2023

YoY 12-Mo. Chg **Forecast** 5.1% Vacancy Rate 1.1M YTD Net Absorption, SF \$4.67

Overall, Net Asking Rent

Asking Rent. PSF

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

12-Mo. YoY Chg Forecast 421.7K Columbia **Employment** 

2.8% Columbia **Unemployment Rate** 







## **ECONOMY: Employment Gains Decelerate**

Columbia exhibited another quarter of nonfarm employment gains, reaching 421,700 total jobs, a 1.7% increase vear-over-vear (YOY). The total employment level rose more rapidly than the civilian labor force, resulting in a 10-basis-point (bp) decrease in the unemployment rate, quarter-over-quarter. Although current forecasts depict a shift in the unemployment rate trend with an increase expected in 2024 as a deceleration in job growth was observed, the Columbia metro is positioned well for future economic expansion with over \$2.7 billion in capital investments and 5,100 new jobs announced in 2023.

## **SUPPLY and DEMAND: Vacancy Rises as Leasing Demand Slows**

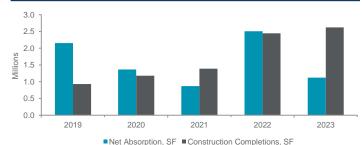
Supply of vacant space in the market climbed higher for the fourth consecutive guarter as new construction deliveries outpaced net absorption in Q4. The overall vacancy rate pushed higher by 30 bps to 5.1% with nearly half of the vacant supply concentrated within the Orangeburg County (17.2%), Aiken County (16.7%), and Cayce/West Columbia (15.2%) submarkets. Two speculative construction projects supplied the market with 288,000 square feet (sf) of additional Class A warehouse/distribution space available for lease while nearly 500,000 sf of existing manufacturing space was given back to the market. Vacancy in the market is forecasted to climb higher in the coming year, albeit modestly, with 1.3 million square feet of speculative new development currently under construction and set to deliver in 2024, 4.8% of which is pre-leased.

Space demand was tempered during Q4 in comparison to previous quarters with only 138,000 sf of new leasing activity recorded. The largest deals signed were the Jamison Metals renewal of 71,000 sf in Sumter County and a 30,000-sf new lease signed by Amgen America in the Northeast Columbia submarket. Despite the below-average quarterly leasing figures measured in recent quarters, health occupier demand persists and is poised to rebound in 2024.

## PRICING: New Product Pulls the Market Average Upward

Asking rent growth resumed in Q4 after taking a step back and holding firm earlier in the year. The overall average of the market reached \$4.67 per square foot (psf) and surpassed the previous historical high recorded in Q1 2023 by 5.8%. With limited existing Class A availabilities and multiple projects expected to deliver throughout the year, the overall average asking rent is forecasted to continue an upward progression toward the \$5.00-psf mark. Space under construction is priced on average above \$6.00 psf while smaller suites push the \$7.00-psf mark. Despite recording 16.0% rent growth YOY, Columbia remained one of the most affordable markets in the nation.

# **SPACE DEMAND / DELIVERIES**



# **OVERALL VACANCY & ASKING RENT** \$5.00 \$4.50 \$4.00 Asking Rent, \$ PSF ----- Vacancy Rate

# COLUMBIA, SC

Industrial Q4 2023

#### MARKET STATISTICS

SUBMARKET	INVENTORY (SF)	OVERALL VACANT (SF)	OVERALL VACANCY RATE	CURRENT QTR OVERALL NET ABSORPTION (SF)	YTD OVERALL NET ABSORPTION (SF)	UNDER CONSTRUCTION (SF)	YTD CONSTRUCTION COMPLETIONS (SF)	OVERALL WEIGHTED AVG NET RENT (MF)*	OVERALL WEIGHTED AVG NET RENT (FX)*	OVERALL WEIGHTED AVG NET RENT (W/D)*
Aiken County	17,050,994	887,683	5.2%	-139,790	-376,171	0	0	\$2.95	-	\$4.41
Cayce/West Columbia	16,318,021	804,678	4.9%	-20,172	804,663	519,792	1,337,892	\$7.00	\$13.54	\$6.00
Columbia CBD	455,287	35,000	7.7%	5,128	5,128	0	0	-	-	\$4.95
Northeast Columbia	11,492,517	727,227	6.3%	205,743	167,249	210,600	210,600	\$5.45	\$9.01	\$5.21
Northwest Columbia	2,582,278	273,109	10.6%	-5,538	15,488	0	0	\$4.11	\$10.34	\$8.00
Southeast Columbia	14,100,793	385,468	2.7%	37,112	-178,461	568,540	0	-	\$10.22	\$5.93
Fairfield County	2,600,925	91,000	3.5%	0	28,025	0	91,000	-	-	\$6.00
Kershaw County	6,978,483	415,629	6.0%	0	-225,134	0	0	-	-	\$3.36
Lexington	6,789,984	12,000	0.2%	31,345	356,482	0	337,137	-	-	-
Newberry County	3,348,565	138,500	4.1%	0	0	0	0	\$3.25	-	-
Orangeburg County	12,497,343	914,015	7.3%	0	743,422	0	534,702	\$9.75	-	\$3.00
Outlying Calhoun County	602,892	50,000	8.3%	0	-50,000	0	0	-	-	\$7.00
Saluda County	435,679	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
Sumter County	7,784,941	567,788	7.3%	0	-169,785	0	106,522	-	-	\$3.95
MARKET TOTALS	103,038,702	5,302,097	5.1%	113,828	1,120,906	1,298,932	2,617,853	\$4.03	\$10.74	\$4.76

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

FX = Flex MF = Manufacturing W/D = Warehouse/Distribution

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

PROPERTY	SUBMARKET	TENANT	SF	ТҮРЕ
2630 Hwy 15 S	Sumter County	Jemison Metals	70,519	Renewal
681 Clemson Rd	Northeast Columbia	Amgen America	30,000	New Lease
1117 Bluff Industrial Blvd	Southeast Columbia	Undisclosed	26,000	New Lease

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

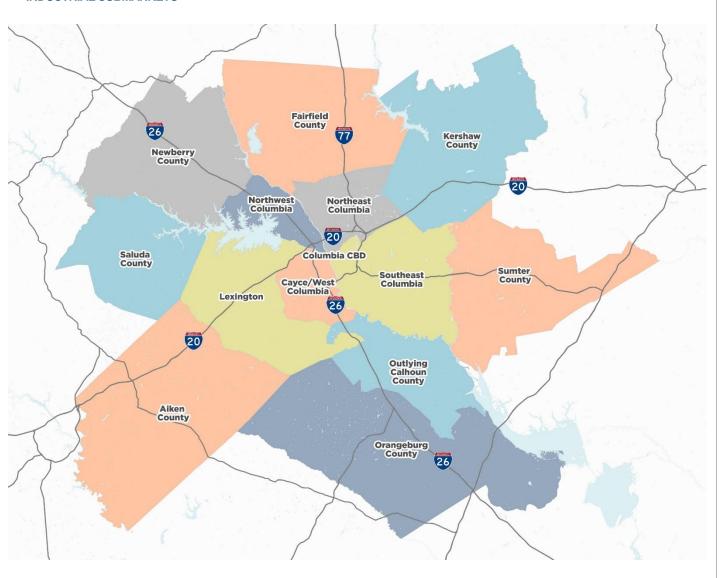
PROPERTY	SUBMARKET	SELLER   BUYER	SF	PRICE   \$ PSF
23 Windham Blvd (Sale Leaseback)	Aiken County	The Carlstar Group   Tempus Realty Partners	437,525	\$22.6 M   \$51.62
1485 Diebold Dr	Sumter County	Maysteel   Thompson Construction Group	128,292	\$5.75 M   \$44.82

#### **KEY CONSTRUCTION COMPLETIONS Q4 2023**

PROPERTY	SUBMARKET	MAJOR TENANT	SF	OWNER   DEVELOPER
803 Industrial Park – Gateway 1	Cayce/West Columbia	Mattress Warehouse	252,720	Magnus Development Partners
Fairfield Commerce Center – Building 9	Fairfield County	N/A	91,000	Fairfield County Economic Development



#### **INDUSTRIAL SUBMARKETS**



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