

Atlanta





Total market vacancy down 60 bps

year-over-year

5.5%

Warehouse vacancy down 60 bps

year-over-year

23.1 MSF

SF under construction in the first

quarter with 17.6% preleased

\$4.62 PSF

Average asking rental rates up 4.5%

year-over-year

Market Overview

The metro Atlanta industrial market started 2019 off on a positive note. While the total amount of positive absorption was lower than previous quarters, the vacancy rate remained stable. Construction activity saw an uptick during the guarter and rental rates continued to climb as landlords have the upper hand due to limited existing available space in the market.

Vacancy and Absorption

The Atlanta industrial market recorded its 31st consecutive quarter of positive absorption during the first three months of 2019 ending at 1.4 million square feet (msf). This is the second longest streak of positive absorption since the second quarter of 1991 to the third quarter of 1999. While this number is lower than past guarters, there were some significant occupancies recorded. The largest move-in during the first quarter was Blue Buffalo, absorbing 408,000 square feet (sf) at Westridge Logistics Center in the I-75 South submarket, which led the Atlanta

market in absorption activity. The Northeast submarket was not far behind in positive net gains as FCS Automotive International occupied 203,000 sf at Northbrook. The overall Metro Atlanta vacancy rate decreased by 60 basis points (bps) year-over- year to finish the first guarter at 5.6%. The warehouse market ended the guarter with a 5.5% vacancy rate, which also was a 60 bps decline from the same period in 2018. The flex market vacancy rate continued its downward trend, dropping 110 bps yearover-year to 5.8%. The Central and North Central flex submarkets have been the dominating force behind the significant decrease in vacancy. As long as absorption activity continues to outpace the amount of newly constructed vacant space entering the market, the overall vacancy rate should see a downward trend. While leasing activity overall is strong in the Atlanta market, new construction leasing activity has not reached a level to ensure the vacancy rate does not increase in future quarters.

Leasing activity in new construction projects needs to increase in order for the overall market vacancy rate to continue its downward trend

Vacancy Trends



Absorption vs. Completions



SF Under Construction



Leasing Activity

Leasing activity in the first quarter of 2019 remained strong. The market recorded 6.0 msf of new leases, up 13.7% from the activity seen at the end of 2018. The Airport/North Clayton submarket saw the most activity, recording 2.6 msf of signed leases. The largest lease signed in the first guarter was PVH Corp at Shugart Farms for 982,777 sf in the Airport/North Clayton submarket. Logistics companies such as XPO, Transouth and LeSaint dominated the top 20 leases for the quarter, where in the past e-commerce was the driving force in leasing activity for the Atlanta market. As these traditional industrial tenants look in the market, they will be able to have their choice of either newly constructed space, or less expensive second generation space for those that may not need all the amenities that newer buildings provide.

New Construction

The Atlanta industrial market currently has 23.1 msf under construction, close to the record amount of 23.5 msf seen in the third quarter of 2018. Out of the 23.1 msf, only 17.6% of the space is preleased. The market saw 4.4 msf of new space come online in the first quarter, slightly behind the average pace of deliveries over the last 12 months. Leasing activity reached an all time low in these properties as only 7.7% of the space was leased at the time of delivery. As 20.0 msf of the 23.1 msf underway has an estimated completion date of 2019, the market will need to see a significant increase in leasing activity so that these projects don't adversely affect the vacancy rate.

Rental Rates

Industrial average asking rental rates in

Metro Atlanta continue to see upward movement. The average asking rate ended the first quarter at \$4.62 NNN per square foot (psf), up 4.5% yearover-year. The average warehouse rate rose by 6.1% to \$4.33 NNN psf in the same period. Flex average asking rental rates grew at a slower pace, up 1.5% year-over-year, ending the quarter at \$9.36 NNN psf. Rents are expected to continue to rise as older generation space becomes obsolete and is replaced by new, more expensive space.

Investment Sales

The Atlanta industrial market recorded \$526 million in investment sales during the first quarter of 2019. This is up 53.4% from the pace of activity during the first three months of 2018. The largest sale of the quarter was GLL Real Estate Partners purchasing Southwest 85 Logistics Center from Core5 Industrial Partners for \$79.4 million. This 1.2 msf property was 100% leased at the time of the sale to Saddle Creek with a 10 year lease in place.

Outlook

Job growth continued its upward trend in Metro Atlanta during the first guarter. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the Atlanta Metro area grew by more than 60,000 jobs between March 2018 and March 2019. This is a growth rate of 2.2%, significantly ahead of the 1.7% growth the US is currently experiencing. The pace of leasing activity in under construction projects throughout the Atlanta industrial market will be the determining factor behind the vacancy rate remaining stable and rental rates continuing their upward trend in 2019.



Underway

Currently the Atlanta industrial market has 23.1 million square feet of new space under construction.



Delivered During the last 12 months the Atlanta industrial market has seen 17.2 million square feet enter the inventory.



Rank

Atlanta is third in the U.S. for industrial space under construction behind Dallas at 31.1 msf and Inland Empire at 23.6 msf.

20.0 MILLION SQUARE FEET

to be delivered in 2019, with 3.6 msf preleased





Construction Update

Metro Atlanta industrial construction remains very active, and near record amounts of space underway. Should this pace of activity continue, and leasing activity does not increase, it could lead to a rise in the vacancy rate.



Spec Developments

Spec development continues to capture the majority of Atlanta's industrial construction activity. Atlanta currently has 20.6 million square feet of spec space underway and is 7.3% preleased. This trend is expected to continue as developers are taking advantage of an active market.



Build-to-Suit Developments

Build-to-suit developments have seen a slight decrease over recent years due to the surge in speculative development offering tenants what they need. Metro Atlanta currently has 2.5 million square feet of buildto-suit product underway.

Average Asking Rental Rate (psf/year/NNN)



Metro Atlanta Employment (February of each year)



Industrial Sales (in millions)



Select 1Q 2019 Lease Transactions

Tenant	Property	Туре	Submarket	SF
PVH Corp	8500 Tatum Rd	New Lease	Airport/North Clayton	982,777
Trane US, Inc	4286 E Southmeadow Pky	New Lease	Airport/North Clayton	400,125
XPO Logistics	5345 Old Dixie Hwy	Renewal	Airport/North Clayton	373,900
Undisclosed	4505 N Commerce Dr	New Lease	Airport/North Clayton	336,960
Undisclosed	200 Interstate South Dr	New Lease	I-75 South	296,640
Transouth Logistics	1001 Cherry Dr	Renewal	Northeast	287,286
Sugar Foods	875 Maxham Rd	New Lease	I-20 W/Douglasville	247,000
Anixter	6525 Best Friend Rd	Renewal	Northeast	153,572

Select 1Q 2019 Sale Transactions

Property	Submarket	Buyer	Total SF	Sale Price	Price/SF
590 Coweta Industrial Park	I-85 South	GLL Real Estate Partners	1,208,301	\$79,350,000	\$66
21660 Anvil Block Rd	Airport/North Clayton	TA Realty	848,421	\$57,000,000	\$67
1015 Collinsworth Rd	I-85 South	MCB Real Estate	1,000,200	\$50,750,000	\$51
117 Valentine Industrial Pky	Northeast	Hillwood	1,021,440	\$44,943,360	\$44

Select Construction Projects

Property	Submarket	Projected Completion	Total SF	% Preleased	Major Tenant
700 Palmetto Logistics Pky	Airport/North Clayton	Fourth Quarter 2019	1,310,400	0%	N/A
Southern Gateway - Building B	I-75 South	Second Quarter 2019	1,104,320	0%	N/A
Commerce 85 Logistics Park*	Northeast	Second Quarter 2019	1,099,880	100%	Haier GE Appliance
2160 Anvil Block Rd	Airport/North Clayton	Fourth Quarter 2019	1,043,418	0%	N/A
980 Douglas Hill Road	I-20W/Douglasville	First Quarter 2020	1,026,000	0%	N/A
3150 Highway 42	I-75 South	Third Quarter 2019	1,011,907	0%	N/A
94 Logistics Lane	Northeast	Third Quarter 2019	1,003,386	0%	N/A

*Single-tenant leased property

Trends to Watch

Look for these three key trends to continue throughout 2019 in the Atlanta industrial market.



Vacancy Possible increase as new construction enters the inventory vacant.



Rental Rates Will continue to rise as new construction costs push rates up.



Construction Could break record for amount of space under construction in 2019.

Market By The Numbers

		VACANCY		NET AB	NET ABSORPTION		AVERAGE ASKING RE		G RENT	
BY SUBMARKET	Inventory	Total	W/D	Flex	1Q19	YTD	Construction	Total	W/D	Flex
Airport/North Clayton	98,227,169	5.4%	5.4%	6.5%	180,191	180,191	4,752,621	\$3.85	\$3.82	\$7.76
I-85 South	23,494,578	6.9%	7.1%	3.0%	14,024	14,024	1,127,908	\$4.47	\$4.24	\$9.02
I-75 South	60,556,883	8.6%	8.8%	0.7%	623,620	623,620	4,231,415	\$3.37	\$3.51	\$4.75
South Atlanta Total	182,278,630	6.6%	6.7%	3.6%	817,835	817,835	10,111,944	\$3.75	\$3.72	\$8.11
Central Atlanta	7,893,645	8.4%	10.2%	1.2%	38,058	38,058	-	\$11.73	\$9.73	\$22.81
Chattahoochee	16,520,442	4.2%	4.3%	3.8%	(21,194)	(21,194)	-	\$9.86	\$7.51	\$17.30
Fulton Industrial	51,016,744	2.4%	2.4%	1.2%	(244,434)	(244,434)	-	\$4.69	\$4.66	\$8.75
I-20 W/Douglasville	50,768,131	8.1%	8.3%	4.8%	248,467	248,467	2,702,153	\$4.04	\$4.00	\$6.79
North Central	29,652,632	3.8%	3.4%	4.8%	67,082	67,082	183,578	\$7.93	\$6.58	\$10.96
Northeast	194,852,674	6.9%	6.8%	8.5%	603,570	603,570	6,207,389	\$4.67	\$4.42	\$8.09
Northwest	74,829,025	2.4%	2.1%	5.0%	(107,568)	(107,568)	1,612,140	\$5.65	\$5.21	\$9.96
Snapfinger/I-20 East	38,678,825	3.1%	3.0%	5.4%	(44,237)	(44,237)	1,925,225	\$4.42	\$3.88	\$6.76
Stone Mountain	26,513,258	3.6%	3.2%	6.4%	(253)	(253)	351,700	\$6.06	\$5.61	\$7.40
Total Market	673,004,006	5.6%	5.5%	5.8%	1,357,326	1,357,326	23,094,129	\$4.62	\$4.33	\$9.36

BY PRODUCT TYPE	Inventory	Vacancy	1Q Absorption	YTD Absorption	SF Under Construction	Sublease SF
Warehouse/Distribution	619,849,999	5.5%	1,270,622	1,270,622	23,094,129	661,169
Flex	53,154,007	5.8%	86,704	86,704	-	87,080
Total Market	673,004,006	5.6%	1,357,326	1,357,326	23,094,129	748,249

Avison Young Atlanta currently tracks industrial buildings that are 10,000 square feet or greater, and built since 1960.





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