Office Vacancy and Commercial Valuation Trends

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From the Assessors Perspective



Institutional Grade Vs Non-Investment Grade Property

- Different Buyers/Different Motivations
 - Investors vs Owner Occupiers
- Use of Survey Data
- Affect of Financing- Rates and Availability
- Direct Capitalization
 - One year NOI vs Normalized NOI

Use of Income & Expense Data and Benchmarking

- Income and Expense Return Data
 - Are you getting good returns?
 - What property types should be providing good returns?
 - Make the most of your time
 - Sales
 - New tenants/leases
 - Renewals
 - Benchmarking- A Downtown Row Sale Example

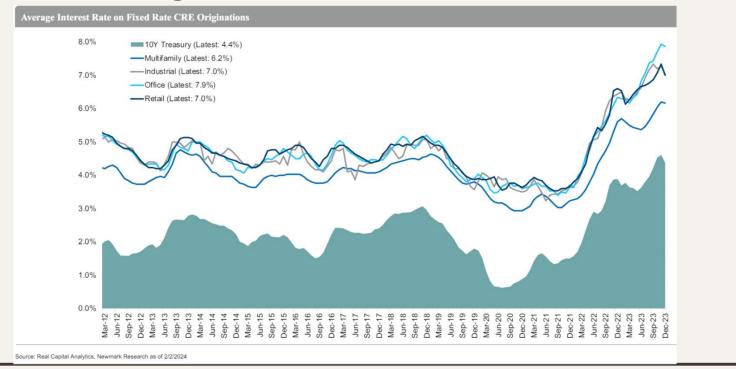
Income Modeling for Mass Appriasal

- Are they in Excel?
- Are Cap rates loaded for all classes?
- Interim Year Adjustments- A valuable tool





Effects of Financing



Effects of Financing



Monthly Payment on a \$1 million loan 2020 7% \$6,653

Monthly Payment on a \$1 million loan April 2024 57.8% Increase

02 Office Market



The Great Unknown

- The work from home model
 - Unknown Future
- Location Matters
 - Metro Boston vs The Burbs
- Quality Matters
 - High End Class A amenities in demand
 - Getting people back to the office-Cafeterias, Onsite Gyms, Daycare



- Vacancy and Renewals
 - Vacancy can be skewed based on leases in place
 - Many businesses looking to reduce footprint
 - Owners forced to offer concessions
 - Same space/less rent
 - Rent concessions



Cap Rates...

Post Covid-19

Cap Rates and Vacancy continue to increase (aka Value down) Fed rate changes and risk

	CAP	DISCOUNT	MARKET RENT (\$/SF)	VACANCY RATE	Q3'22	- Q3'23 VACANCY RATE
	BALL	RAIL	REAT (gist)	RAIL		TAGANGI NATE 2
EAST REGION CBD Class A Suburban Class A	8.02% 8.48%	9.14% 9.59%	\$40.04	16.82%	▲ 90 bps ▲ 90 bps	🔺 160 bps
CBD Class B Suburban Class B	8.65% 9.16%	9.73% 10.20%	\$27.60	17.85%	85 bps 77 bps	▲ 16 bps
Source: IRR Viewpoint 202	4				~	Δ

The approach we took...

- Post Covid Valuation Date Model Adjustments
 - Vacancy Up
 - Cap Rate Up (Risk)
- Two Post Covid Office Sales (late 2022)-
 - Multi Tenant Buildings +/- 25,000
 - Prices / Foot at 147/159 per foot
 - ASR's at .93/.92
 - Acutal vacancies likely in 30% range
 - Different Buyers-Owner Occupiers vs Investors



O3 Retail Market

A Period of Transition



Retail- A Period of Transition

- Big Box Getting Smaller
 - Footprints shrinking
 - Keeping less inventory on hand
 - Rear space less value
- Grocery Stores
 - Investor Preference towards Grocery Anchored
 - New grocery conversion with smaller footprints
 - Aldi/Mom's Organic



Retail- A Period of Transition

- Live/Work/Play Model
 - High End retail and restaurants
 - On site living- apartments and condominiums
- Non-Typical Uses
 - Minute Clinics/Medical Offices
 - Daycares



Retail- A Period of Transition

- The Death of the Anchor Store?
 - Entertainment- Dave and Busters, Pickleball, Indoor Golf, Escape rooms
 - Concerns of the "fad" slowing down and over saturation
- Other Conversions
 - Self Storage
 - Distribution Centers
 - Medical use





04

Hotels

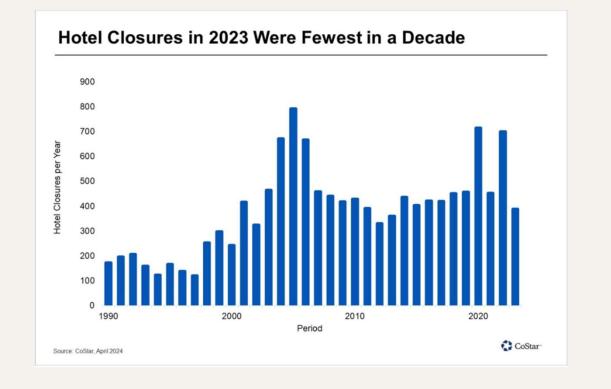
On the way back?

Hotels- On the way back?

- Occupancy Improving
 - Business Travel still down
 - Local trend- refugee occupancy
 - Low to Mid priced hotels
 - Not permanent income stream



Hotels- On the way back?



Hotels- On the way back?

What to do

• Review 38D's (should be providing!)

Recent National Metrics and Latest HVS Forecast

	Occupancy	ADR	% Chg	RevPAR	% Chg
2019	65.9 %	\$131		\$86	
2020	44.0	103	-21.1 %	45	-47.4 %
2021	57.5	125	21.0	72	58.3
2022	62.7	149	19.1	93	29.8
2023	63.0	156	4.6	98	5.1
2024	63.4	159	2.0	101	2.7

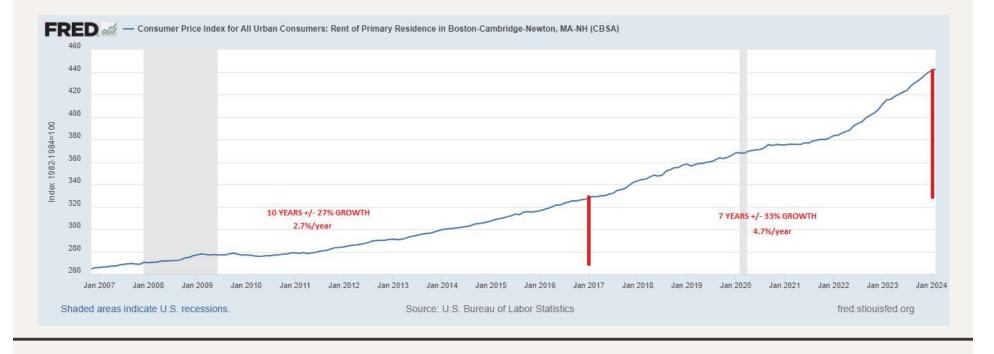
Source: HVS, Hotel Industry Outlook 2024



Apartments Wow, rents are high?

05

Apartments- Wow, rents are high!



Apartments- Wow, rents are high!

What to do?

- Review 111's and 112's separately- Different investors and markets (and models)
 - 111's
 - May need other rent sources- Craigslist, etc.
 - Cap rates harder to determine
 - 38D returns not generally normalized;
 - I.e. expenses taken as the occur



Apartments- Wow, rents are high!

What to do?

- 112's
 - Investment grade-can utilize Cap rate surveys
 - Should be providing full returns
 - Account for Affordable units

PROPERTY	LOCATION	# UNITS	SALE DATE	PRICE	PRICE/UNIT	
MATRIX	HUDSON	176	NOV 2022	\$ 55,500,000	\$	315,341
WOODVIEW	HOPKINTON	240	FEB 2023	\$ 82,500,000	\$	343,750
ROLLING GREEN	MILFORD	304	JAN 2022	\$ 87,000,000	\$	286,184
THE RETREAT	MARLBOROUGH	205	APRIL 2022	\$101,000,000	\$	492,683
ORCHARDS	MARLBOROUGH	156	MAY 2022	\$ 59,200,000	\$	379,487
	FRAMINGHAM	72	NOV 2022	\$ 24,000,000	\$	333,333
ELLINGTON	WESTBOROUGH	280	NOV 2021	\$100,000,000	\$	357,143
AVENU	NATICK	164	SEPT 2022	\$ 86,500,000	\$	527,439
	AVERAGE	200			\$	379,420
	MEDIAN	191			\$	350,446

Sales from Worcester Business Journal



Whats Happening

Warehouse/Truck terminal demand driven by "click"

shopping

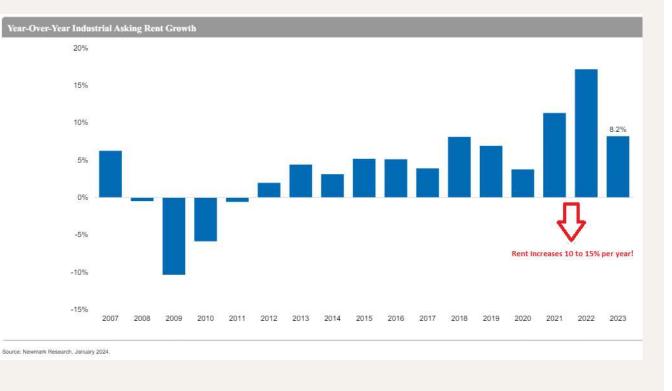
- Same day delivery goal-need to be close to major markets
- Accelerated by Covid-19, not going away
- BIO Tech and Medical Lab space
- Increasing Rents- may have stabilized
- Marketing is everything "flex" space
- Rush to build slowing



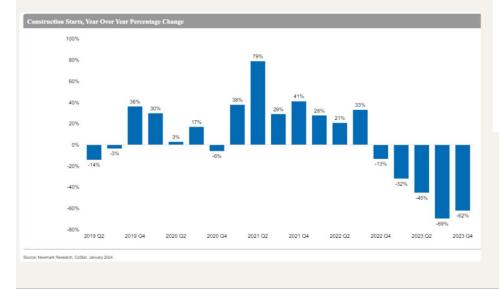
Whats Happening

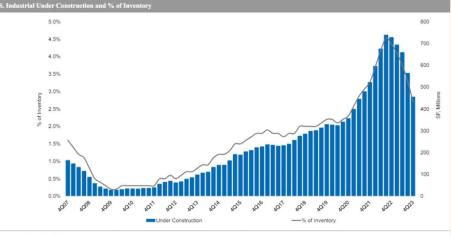
Rent Growth Slowing But still strong

Appeals- Can't use actual (contract) rent!



Whats Happening New Construction boom slowing

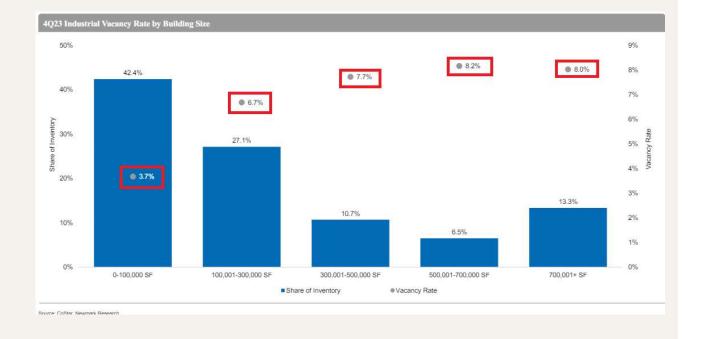




Source: Newmark Research, January 2024

Whats Happening Where is the demand?

- Smaller space
- Often for owner occupants



Conclusion

- Interim Year Adjustments
 - Great tool, avoids huge shift
 - Should be done for commercial too- small adjustments to models (rents, vacancy, cap rates) when market is shifting (interest rate changes)
- Use of Survey Data
 - Generally more for investment grade property
- Appeals
 - One year NOI vs Normalized NOI
 - Vacancy allowance (even when 100% occupied-single tenant)