# Office Leasing Resilient as Sublease Space Remains Elevated

#### MARKET OVERVIEW

Overall, market fundamentals remain resilient in the Metro Denver office market. Asking rental rates continue to rise, construction is booming, and leasing activity, although the lowest first quarter total since 2009, is still performing well with over 2 million square feet leased during the quarter. Negative absorption was reported during the first quarter as the market experienced an influx of vacant sublease space, as occupiers continue to shed unnecessary space or upgrade to newer space. Sublease space has trickled on to the market for the past two years with vacant sublease space now at levels seen immediately following the recession in 2009. Over the next two years, the metro will see the delivery of more than 4.5 million square feet of new office product, and as newer space is absorbed, sublease space will likely remain elevated.

# MARKET INDICATORS\* Q1 2017 VACANCY NET ABSORPTION DELIVERIES RENTAL RATE

#### **SUMMARY STATISTICS**

	Q1 2016	Q1 2017
VACANCY RATE	11.1%	11.9%
ABSORPTION YTD	478,759	-292,770
DELIVERIES YTD	86,425	371,653
UNDER CONSTRUCTION	3,056,323	5,385,002
ASKING RENTS/SF	\$25.56	\$26.46

#### Denver Office Market Q1 2016-Q1 2017



# ECONOMIC TRENDS

Local Unemployment Rates

As of **February 2017**, the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated the estimated unemployment rate for the Metro Denver area at **3.2**percent – up slightly from the previous year's unemployment rate of **3.1**percent in **February 2016**. The National unemployment rate is **4.7** percent.

Local Employment Growth

Metro Denver employment rose 2.7

percent, or an additional

**39,454 jobs** between **February 2016** and **2017**.

Investment Sales

\$387M

First quarter investment activity
totaled nearly \$387
million throughout
Metro Denver.

Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

<sup>\*</sup>Arrows compare current quarter to the previous quarter's historically adjusted figures.

### Metro absorption totaled negative 292,000 square feet during the first quarter.

#### **ABSORPTION**

The metro office market experienced negative absorption for the second time in the last three quarters with over 292,000 square feet of negative absorption. Six of ten submarkets reported negative absorption during the quarter with the bulk of the newly vacated space attributed to Class A space stemming from a handful of tenants. Class B product contributed over 223,000 square feet of positive net absorption; however, strong Class B absorption wasn't significant enough to overcome 537,000 square feet of negative absorption from Class A. Both the Southeast and CBD submarkets reported negative absorption over 80,000 square feet, with Class A buildings the determining factor for the total overall negative absorption for those submarkets. The Northwest submarket also contributed over 126,000 square feet of negative absorption to the metro total.

#### **VACANCY**

Office vacancy jumped 60 basis points during the first quarter as vacant sublease space reached levels not seen since 2009. The total overall vacancy rate sits at 11.9 percent – similar to the first quarter of 2015. The increase in vacancy should not be a cause for concern, as the current vacancy rate is still well-below pre-recession levels when vacancy was above 12 percent. With historic levels of office construction underway, and as companies downsize space requirements in the name of efficiency and increased collaboration, vacancy is likely to fluctuate over the next year, but still remain below 13 percent.

#### **DELIVERIES & CONSTRUCTION**

The metro added over 371,000 square feet to the market during the quarter with the completion of Union Tower West and Dairy Block in the CBD making up over 93 percent of the total delivered. Construction is still thriving throughout the metro with over 5 million square feet under construction – a majority of which is speculative, Class A product. Approximately 1.5 million square feet of new office product is slated for delivery over the next two quarters throughout the metro, with the long-awaited One Belleview Station, and the fully-leased Granite Place in the Southeast submarket scheduled for completion.

#### RENTAL RATES

Overall first quarter asking rental rates for office space in Metro Denver reached \$26.46 per square foot – a 3.5 percent increase year-over-year. Asking rates increased in all submarkets with the exception of the Southwest submarket, which experienced a moderate decrease from the previous quarter. Asking rates in the CBD increased to \$33.71 per square foot – similar to where rates were at the end of 2015, but down from the \$34 per square foot mark reached in early 2016. Asking rates in the Southeast submarket increased yet again, as the overall rate surpassed the \$25 per square foot mark for the first time. Landlords continue to push asking rates while concessions are increasingly becoming more apparent as the office market nears a plateau.

#### **Absorption**



Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

#### Vacancy



Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

#### **Rental Rates**



Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

#### **Submarket Statistics**

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cyll	Bill		STING PROP	ERTIES	78C, CIL	12° 6'1	ACTIVITY	ABS0	DRPTION	, den de	CONSTRUCTION	ON Trop Con	RENTS
DOWNTOW		DISTRICT/LODO/			v								
A	58	23,021,093	14.1%	2.1%	16.2%	14.2%	730,003	(157,898)	(157,898)	347,653	347,653	2,027,013	\$35.54
В	133	11,349,168	8.6%	1.0%	9.6%	10.2%	115,655	75,154	75,154	-	-	53,478	\$29.59
C Total	21 <b>212</b>	1,316,177 <b>35,686,438</b>	4.0% <b>12.0%</b>	0.0% <b>1.7%</b>	4.0% <b>13.7%</b>	3.9% <b>12.6%</b>	845,658	(1,182) (83,926)	(1,182) (83,926)	347,653	347,653	2,080,491	\$22.64 <b>\$33.71</b>
MIDTOWN													
A SOUTH MI	IDTOWN/CAI	1,112,854	5.2%	0.0%	5.2%	0.5%	_	(51,934)	(51,934)		_	_	\$31.84
В	50	3,197,875	5.2%	0.1%	5.3%	4.4%	21,282	(27,924)	(27,924)	-	-	300,000	\$24.74
C	39	1,617,351	4.3%	0.0%	4.3%	4.1%	1,600	(3,162)	(3,162)	-	-	-	\$21.90
Total SUBURBAI	96 N	5,928,080	5.0%	0.0%	5.0%	3.6%	22,882	(83,020)	(83,020)	-	-	300,000	\$25.40
AURORA													
Α	14	2,051,785	5.5%	0.0%	5.5%	4.9%	3,051	(11,405)	(11,405)	-	-	-	\$24.16
B C	78 16	5,251,788 561,515	9.2% 9.8%	0.0%	9.2% 9.8%	8.9% 10.1%	14,501 4,858	(13,829) 1,900	(13,829) 1,900	-	-	-	\$17.74 \$12.34
Total	108	7,865,088	8.2%	0.0%	8.2%	7.9%	22,410	(23,334)	(23,334)	-	-	-	\$18.92
BROOMFIE A	<b>ELD</b> 20	3,171,782	9.4%	1.1%	10.5%	11.2%	56,647	23,707	23,707		_	176,588	\$29.15
В	31	2,807,034	8.7%	0.0%	8.7%	8.3%	16,627	(12,272)	(12,272)	-	-	110,000	\$24.82
Total	51	5,978,816	9.0%	0.6%	9.6%	9.8%	73,274	11,435	11,435	-	-	176,588	\$27.17
COLORAD A	O BOULEVA 24	3,862,045	13.1%	0.2%	13.3%	13.0%	57,609	(9,927)	(9,927)		_	492,230	\$29.99
В	93	6,611,123	8.5%	0.2%	8.8%	9.0%	84,919	11,020	11,020	-	-	47 <u>2,</u> 230	\$23.16
2	25	1,003,615	4.2%	0.2%	4.4%	7.9%	4,320	34,683	34,683	-	-	-	\$16.66
otal	142 ORTHEAST	11,476,783	9.7%	0.3%	10.0%	10.3%	146,848	35,776	35,776	-	-	492,230	\$25.78
A CRITITION	11	1,263,489	5.0%	0.4%	5.4%	4.9%	-	(6,738)	(6,738)	-	-	43,586	\$24.30
3	74	5,213,422	6.5%	0.6%	7.1%	7.5%	21,992	21,969	21,969	-	-	-	\$19.47
Cotal Cotal	16 <b>101</b>	925,765 <b>7,402,676</b>	1.4% <b>5.6%</b>	0.0% <b>0.5%</b>	1.4% <b>6.1%</b>	1.4% <b>6.3%</b>	682 <b>22,674</b>	(706) <b>14,525</b>	(706) <b>14,525</b>	-	-	43,586	\$15.59 <b>\$20.70</b>
NORTHWE		1,402,010	0.070	0.070	0.170	0.0%	22,014	14,020	14,020			40,000	<b>VEU.10</b>
4	20	2,039,309	11.9%	4.6%	16.5%	8.7%	9,670	(157,835)	(157,835)	-	-	-	\$25.60
3	85 18	3,829,015 538,138	9.9% 10.9%	0.7%	10.7% 11.2%	11.6% 10.7%	23,189 3,476	34,617 (2,828)	34,617 (2,828)	-	-	57,700	\$22.00 \$19.00
Total	123	6,406,462	10.6%	1.9%	12.6%	10.6%	36,335	(126,046)	(126,046)	-	-	57,700	\$23.09
OUTHEA		22 (00 E/ 0	10.00/	1.70/	12.50/	11.70/	EDE 244	(101 2EE)	(101 255)			1.0// 407	¢27./F
3	143 300	22,498,560 19,371,207	10.8% 13.1%	1.7%	12.5% 14.1%	11.7% 14.6%	525,244 260,303	(181,255) 106,235	(181,255) 106,235	-	-	1,966,407 99,000	\$27.65 \$22.44
;	32	1,101,599	4.9%	0.1%	4.9%	4.5%	2,099	(4,987)	(4,987)	-	-	-	\$17.72
otal	475	42,971,366	11.7%	1.3%	13.0%	12.8%	787,646	(80,007)	(80,007)	-	-	2,065,407	\$25.25
OUTHWE	6	1,359,634	11.9%	0.2%	12.0%	13.7%	-	22,856	22,856	-	-	-	\$26.45
3	101	5,005,870	15.6%	0.4%	16.0%	16.5%	63,126	23,794	23,794	-	-	-	\$17.32
otal	19 <b>126</b>	669,573 <b>7,035,077</b>	4.0% <b>13.8%</b>	0.0%	4.0% <b>14.1%</b>	4.6% <b>14.8%</b>	3,188 <b>66,314</b>	4,103 <b>50,753</b>	4,103 <b>50,753</b>	-	-	-	\$13.19 <b>\$17.87</b>
VEST	120	1,033,011	13.070	0.570	14.170	14.070	00,314	30,133	30,133				<b>411.01</b>
4	19	2,448,728	7.8%	0.7%	8.5%	8.2%	35,163	(7,132)	(7,132)	-	-	169,000	\$27.80
3	132 26	7,817,434 731,308	14.9% 3.8%	0.4%	15.3% 3.8%	15.1% 3.0%	104,991 2,906	4,322 (6,116)	4,322 (6,116)	24,000	24,000	-	\$21.69 \$12.54
otal	177	10,997,470	12.6%	0.4%	13.0%	12.7%	143,060	(8,926)	(8,926)	24,000	24,000	169,000	\$22.35
UBURBA													
3	257 894	38,695,332 55,906,893	10.3% 11.6%	1.4% 0.6%	11.7% 12.2%	10.9% 12.5%	687,384 589,648	(327,729) 175,856	(327,729) 175,856	24,000	24,000	2,847,811 156,700	\$27.78 \$21.52
,	152	5,531,513	5.0%	0.1%	5.1%	5.6%	21,529	26,049	26,049	-	-	-	\$16.41
otal	1,303	100,133,738	10.8%	0.9%	11.6%	11.5%	1,298,561	(125,824)	(125,824)	24,000	24,000	3,004,511	\$23.95
DENVER N	MARKET GRA	62,829,279	11.6%	1.6%	13.3%	11.9%	1,417,387	(537,561)	(537,561)	347,653	347,653	4,874,824	\$30.66
3	1,077	70,453,936	10.8%	0.6%	11.4%	11.7%	726,585	223,086	223,086	24,000	24,000	510,178	\$22.74
	212	8,465,041	4.7%	0.1%	4.8%	5.0%	23,129	21,705	21,705	- 271 (F2	201 (50		\$17.07
Total QUARTER	1,611 LY COMPARI	141,748,256 SON	10.8%	1.0%	11.9%	11.3%	2,167,101	(292,770)	(292,770)	371,653	371,653	5,385,002	\$26.46
	1,611	141,748,256	10.8%	1.0%	11.9%	11.3%	2,167,101	(292,770)	(292,770)	371,653	371,653	5,385,002	\$26.46
21 17		4 (4 07 ( (00	10.4%	0.9%	11.3%	11.2%	2,857,320	200,008	859,048	364,615	836,849	5,131,620	\$26.21
Q4 16	1,607	141,376,603						(225 51 /)	/F0.0/0	102.070	672.227	4.0/0.E00	#3E 00
Q1 17 Q4 16 Q3 16 Q2 16	1,607 1,604 1,603	141,376,603 141,011,988 140,909,119	10.4%	0.8%	11.2%	10.9%	3,363,305 3,480,312	(225,514) 405,795	659,040 884,554	102,869 282,940	472,234 369,365	4,068,593 3,164,395	\$25.88 \$25.82

#### Southeast & Downtown Statistics

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EXIS	STING PRO	PERTIES				VACANCY			ACTIVITY	ABSORP.	CONSTR.	RENTS
DENVER-S	SOUTHEA	ST OFFICE MA	ARKET OVE	RVIEW								
Q1 2017	475	42,971,366	5,019,252	11.7%	564,270	1.3%	5,583,522	13.0%	787,646	(80,007)	0	\$25.25
Q4 2016	474	42,671,664	4,716,141	11.1%	466,809	1.1%	5,182,950	12.1%	648,113	169,373	0	\$24.89
Q3 2016	474	42,671,664	4,877,745	11.4%	474,578	1.1%	5,352,323	12.5%	1,563,790	(146,700)	0	\$24.30
Q2 2016	474	42,671,664	4,814,207	11.3%	391,416	0.9%	5,205,623	12.2%	1,117,455	(31,722)	20,282	\$23.94
Q1 2016	473	42,651,382	4,817,634	11.3%	335,985	0.8%	5,153,619	12.1%	936,343	496,448	0	\$24.23
Q4 2015	473	42,651,382	5,251,046	12.3%	399,021	0.9%	5,650,067	13.2%	1,268,466	103,836	582,792	\$23.61
Q3 2015	470	42,068,120	4,784,189	11.4%	386,452	0.9%	5,170,641	12.3%	991,984	(204,847)	0	\$23.45
Q2 2015	470	42,068,120	4,714,009	11.2%	251,785	0.6%	4,965,794	11.8%	1,569,802	536,720	45,000	\$23.09
Q1 2015	469	42,023,120	5,015,077	11.9%	442,437	1.1%	5,457,514	13.0%	1,137,548	47,766	22,075	\$22.77
DENVER-SC	DUTHEAST	OFFICE SUBMAR	RKET BREAKO	UT BY CLAS	S							
Α	143	22,498,560	2,430,333	10.8%	376,394	1.7%	2,806,727	12.5%	525,244	(181,255)	0	\$27.65
В	300	19,371,207	2,535,166	13.1%	187,226	1.0%	2,722,392	14.1%	260,303	106,235	0	\$22.44
С	32	1,101,599	53,753	4.9%	650	0.1%	54,403	4.9%	2,099	(4,987)	0	\$17.72
Total	475	42,971,366	5,019,252	11.7%	564,270	1.3%	5,583,522	13.0%	787,646	(80,007)	0	\$25.25
DENVER-DOWNTOWN OFFICE SUBMARKET OVERVIEW												
Q1 2017	212	35,686,438	4,279,175	12.0%	595,869	1.7%	4,875,044	13.7%	845,658	(83,926)	347,653	\$33.71
Q4 2016	210	35,338,785	3,956,612	11.2%	592,806	1.7%	4,549,418	12.9%	1,447,785	(11,810)	311,015	\$33.46
Q3 2016	209	35,027,770	3,711,978	10.6%	514,615	1.5%	4,226,593	12.1%	904,015	(90,976)	0	\$33.51
Q2 2016	209	35,027,770	3,747,193	10.7%	388,424	1.1%	4,135,617	11.8%	1,428,714	(177,109)	66,000	\$34.00
Q1 2016	208	34,961,770	3,475,361	9.9%	417,147	1.2%	3,892,508	11.1%	515,595	(18,254)	0	\$34.11
Q4 2015	208	34,961,770	3,452,202	9.9%	422,052	1.2%	3,874,254	11.1%	1,319,398	450,226	245,123	\$33.75
Q3 2015	206	34,747,047	3,706,378	10.7%	403,379	1.2%	4,109,757	11.8%	1,075,840	108,623	622,106	\$33.50
Q2 2015	203	34,124,941	3,251,794	9.5%	344,480	1.0%	3,596,274	10.5%	934,228	89,933	81,384	\$33.74
Q1 2015	202	34,043,557	3,242,230	9.5%	362,593	1.1%	3,604,823	10.6%	846,822	53,371	0	\$33.12
DENVER-DO	NWOTNWC	OFFICE SUBMAR	KET BREAKO		S							
Α	58	23,021,093	3,248,689	14.1%	487,443	2.1%	3,736,132	16.2%	730,003	(157,898)	347,653	\$35.54

#### Denver I Southeast Office Market Q1 2017

978,480

52,006

4,279,175

11,349,168

1,316,177

35,686,438

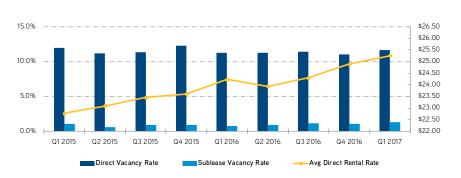
В

Total

133

21

212



8.6%

4.0%

12.0%

108,426

595,869

1.0%

0.0%

1.7%

1,086,906

4,875,044

52,006

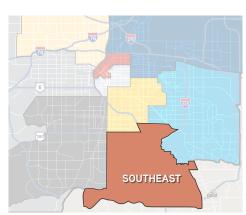
9.6%

4.0%

13.7%

115,655

845,658



75,154

(1,182)

(83,926)

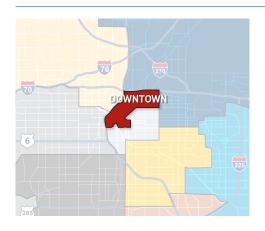
\$29.59

\$22.64

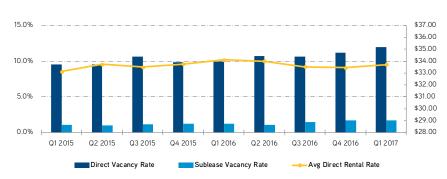
\$33.71

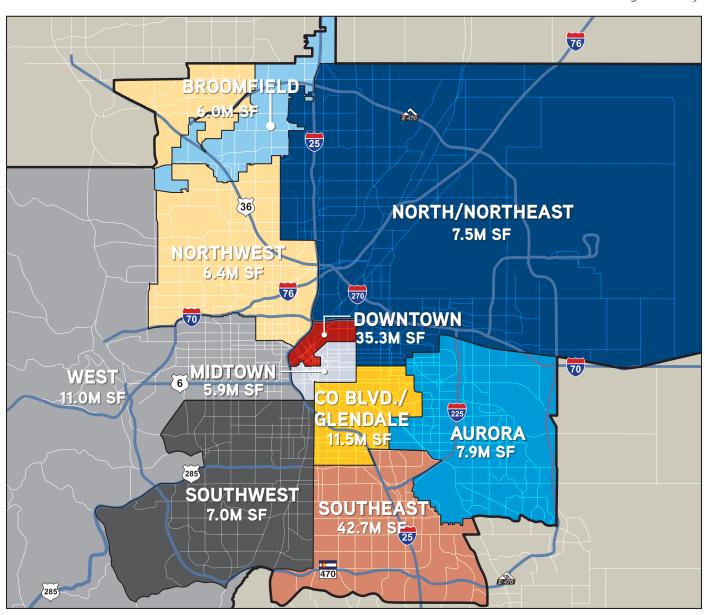
0

347,653



#### Denver I Downtown Office Market Q1 2017





SIGNIFICANT RECENT TRANSACTIONS									
SALES ACTIVITY									
PROPERTY	SUBMARKET	SALE PRICE	SIZE SF	BUYER	SELLER				
Bank One Tower 1125 17th Street	CBD	\$169,000,000	489,393	Goldman Sachs	Broadreach Capital Partners, Equity West Investment Partners				
Cascades 6300 S. Syracuse Way	Southeast	\$63,000,000	335,343	America's Capital Partners	SteelWave				
LEASING ACTIVITY									
PROPERTY	SUBMARKET	BLDG. CLASS	LEASED SF	COMPANY					
Republic Plaza 370 17th Street	CBD	А	333,929	Encana Oil & Gas (Renewal)					
Granite Place 6175 S. Willow Drive	Southeast	А	256,884	Charter Communications					
Denver Place 999 18th Street	CBD	А	180,000	Vertafore					

## **396** offices in 68 countries on 6 continents

United States: 153

Canada: 29

Latin America: 24 Asia Pacific: 79

EMEA: 111

\$2.6

billion in annual revenue

2.0

billion square feet under management

15,000

professionals and staff

#### About Colliers International

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#### **MARKET CONTACTS:**

Robert Whittelsey Principal +1 303 283 4581 robert.whittelsey@colliers.com

Jason Sheehy Principal +1 303 283 4593 jason.sheehy@colliers.com

Chris Wiley Principal +1 303 283 4588 chris.wiley@colliers.com

Jonathan Jones Senior V.P. +1 303 283 4582 jonathan.jones@colliers.com

Katy Sheehy Vice President +1 303 283 4563 katy.sheehy@colliers.com

Tenant Advisory Serv. +1 303 309 3526

Abby Vollmer Associate +1 303 283 4579 abby.vollmer@colliers.com

Jamie Faus

+1 303 283 1375

4643 S. Ulster Street, Suite 1000

Phil Sweeney Senior V.P. +1 303 565 3785 phil.sweeney@colliers.com

David Morrison, CCIM Senior V.P. +1 303 565 3784 david.morrison@colliers.com

Colliers International | Downtown Denver 1200 17th Street, Suite 1225

#### REGIONAL AUTHOR:

Tyson Price +1 303 283 4561 tyson.price@colliers.com

Drew Carlson Research Analyst +1 303 283 4624 drew.carlson@colliers.com



