## As Recession Rumblings Take a Back Seat, Denver Office Market Continues to Go Forward.

## MARKET OVERVIEW

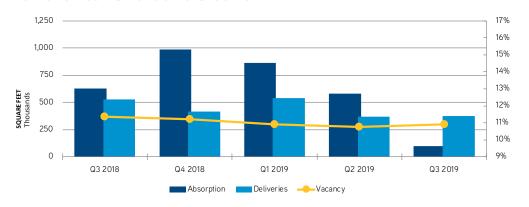
In August, recession warning alarms were activated when the economy experienced a sharp decline in long-term interest rates. Pessimists crowed that a recession was all but guaranteed when the yield curve inverted briefly and trade tensions with China reached new highs. Since then however, the Federal Reserve has made multiple rate cuts and it appears that the escalating trade tensions with China have de-escalated moderately, at least for the moment. While it would be foolish to think that a recession is off the table, in all likelihood, it appears that the economy, and consequently the real estate market, will continue to grow, albeit at a diminished pace into 2021.

Unlike the residential housing market, the commercial real estate market traditionally slows down during the summer months and this year, the Denver office market was no exception. For the tenth consecutive quarter, the market finished in positive absorption territory at 100,323 SF. However, this number was noticeably lower than previous quarters as the absence of any 100,000+ SF projects being delivered to the market during the quarter was largely to blame.

Nevertheless, lease rates continued to rise, eclipsing the \$28.00/SF full-service level for the first time, as the supply constrained market continued to leave companies seeking large blocks of space with limited options to choose from.

MARKET INDICATORS	S*		SUMMARY STATISTICS		
	Q3 2019	Projected Q4 2019		Q3 2018	Q3 2019
VACANCY	•	•	VACANCY RATE	11.4%	10.9%
NET ABSORPTION	+	+	ABSORPTION YTD	2,623,842	1,544,312
DELIVERIES	•	<b></b>	DELIVERIES YTD	3,685,616	1,023,197
RENTAL RATE	•	•	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	3,304,902	3,051,263
*Arrows compare current q	uarter to the	previous quarter's	ASKING RENTS/SF	\$27.47	\$28.11

## Denver Office Market Q3 2018-Q3 2019



Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

historically adjusted figures.

## HIGHLIGHTED ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Local Unemployment Rates

The local *unemployment* rate dropped **10 basis points** between July and August to

2.6%

2.6%, meanwhile the U.S. rate dropped to 3.5%, the lowest rate in *50 years*.

### Job Growth

Job growth in the metro areas continues to surge as 28,600 new jobs have

28.6K em

been added and year-to-date employment is up 1.7% through August.

#### Construction

Per the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business, over the last *five years*, new

5.2%

business filings have increased at an annual rate of **5.2%**.

## The Denver office market has absorbed on average 500,000 SF/quarter since 2012.

## **ABSORPTION**

Although the 100,323 SF of absorption posted during the quarter was substantially off the average quarterly pace of 500,000 SF dating back to 2012, the 12-month rolling average of 2.56 million square feet is well ahead of the 12-month average over the last ten years of 1.8 million square feet. Companies like Fios Capital, Pacific Western Bank, Jackson National Life and the Rocky Mountain Fertility Clinic helped push the Southeast market into the top position with nearly 250,000 SF of absorption. On the other end of the spectrum, the Boulder market dipped into negative territory (-154,476 SF) for the first time since 2017 with Medtronic accounting for nearly one third of the space given back. Overall Class B properties finished the quarter in negative territory (-135,361 SF), as the flight to quality trend continues as companies try to better position themselves to attract and retain top talent.

#### **VACANCY**

Even though the market was on the positive side of the absorption ledger, the overall vacancy rate in the metro area increased by 10 basis points to 10.9% as several new projects were delivered to the market less than 90% preleased. Vacancy rates in both direct and sublease space increased by 10 basis points over the quarter, and the rise in rates was equally distributed between Class A and Class B properties. Rates are expected to continue to hover around the 11% range as the market heads into 2020.

#### **DELIVERIES & CONSTRUCTION**

Four projects totaling over 300,000 SF were delivered to the market during the quarter, bringing the year-to-date total to just over 1 million square feet. While there is over 3 million square feet under development, only 342,000 SF or 11% of the projects are projected to be delivered by year-end. The new 350,000 SF World Trade Center, located within an opportunity zone at 38th & Blake, is expected to make the jump from the drawing board to development with plans to break ground by year-end.

Developers remain bullish on the metro area as several new projects were announced during the quarter. Hines announced their T3 offices, a 250,000 SF project at 3500 Blake and Schnitzer West announced two projects, the two-building, 730,000 SF Greenwood Plaza Boulevard project and their 235,000 SF project in RiNo, The Current, River North project.

## **RENTAL RATES**

Average full-service rental rates topped the \$28.00/SF mark for the first time as new developments delivered over the past few years have pushed traditional Class A rents up, thereby allowing Class B and C rents to follow suit. While Class A rents have flattened out over the past few quarters, Class B direct rates have increased by 3.1% and Class C direct rents have increased by 17.8% since the third quarter of 2018. The overall rent premium between Class A projects built within the last decade and those built prior to that currently sits at 25.4%, as the newer Class A buildings are averaging \$37.11/SF full service compared to \$29.59/SF for the legacy Class A properties. As a result, look for more and more older Class A properties to undergo extensive rehabs, as owners try to emulate the success that buildings like 1801 California and the Tabor Center have had from their recent renovations.

## **Absorption**



Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

## Vacancy



Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

## **Rental Rates**



Source: CoStar, Colliers Research

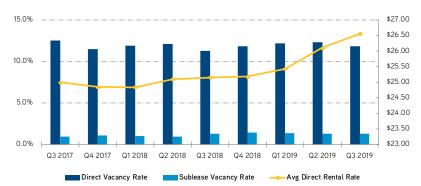
Submarket Statistics													
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VNTOWN		EXIS	STING PROPE				ACTIVITY	ABSOR	PTION		CONSTRUCTIO	ON	RENTS
al TOWN	74 137 21 <b>232</b>	25,954,945 11,675,377 1,319,077 38,949,399	10.6% 12.4% 3.2% 10.9%	1.9% 0.8% 0.0% 1.5%	12.5% 13.1% 3.2% 12.4%	13.2% 12.6% 4.2% 12.1%	444,830 117,630 - <b>562,460</b>	(62,523) 14,902 14,000 (33,621)	480,213 79,505 14,140 <b>573,858</b>	89,000 - 89,000	391,153 89,000 - 480,153	1,407,105 148,925 - 1,556,030	\$36.24 \$31.03 \$31.89 \$34.92
ITH MID	DTOWN/CAP 11 54 35 100	PITOL HILL 1,323,166 3,508,558 1,489,800 6,321,524	4.0% 7.0% 3.0% <b>5.4%</b>	0.6% 0.0% 0.0% <b>0.1%</b>	4.6% 7.0% 3.0% <b>5.5%</b>	2.9% 6.2% 3.5% <b>4.9%</b>	79,035 30,313 500 <b>109,848</b>	120,480 (28,480) 7,889 <b>99,889</b>	152,654 (124,603) 3,556 <b>31,607</b>	146,805 - - 146,805	146,805 - - 146,805	236,805 - - - 236,805	\$30.61 \$28.46 \$24.51 <b>\$28.81</b>
ORA	12 78 18 108	1,531,371 5,488,614 620,381 <b>7,640,366</b>	10.0% 7.4% 1.8% <b>7.5%</b>	0.0% 0.2% 0.0% <b>0.1%</b>	10.0% 7.6% 1.8% <b>7.6%</b>	10.0% 9.7% 5.1% <b>9.4%</b>	- 39,825 0 <b>39,825</b>	1 118,840 20,762 139,603	(23,076) 95,779 8,221 <b>80,924</b>		- - -	- - - -	\$23.16 \$20.78 \$12.92 \$21.06
ULDER C	27 169 12 208	2,369,974 8,672,585 529,220 11,571,779	8.6% 8.2% 6.9% <b>8.2%</b>	0.7% 0.6% 0.3% <b>0.6%</b>	9.3% 8.8% 7.2% <b>8.8%</b>	5.0% 7.6% 9.2% <b>7.2%</b>	34,041 218,654 0 <b>252,695</b>	(62,555) (102,367) 10,446 (154,476)	3,528 60,500 (8,336) <b>55,692</b>	40,169 - - 40,169	40,169 53,318 - <b>93,487</b>	160,000 118,000 - 278,000	\$33.77 \$25.09 \$19.99 <b>\$26.43</b>
ıl	25 32 <b>57</b>	3,609,628 2,836,205 <b>6,445,833</b> <b>RD/GLENDALE</b> 4,819,672	4.6% 7.4% <b>5.8%</b> 11.5%	0.7% 0.3% <b>0.6%</b>	5.3% 7.8% <b>6.4%</b>	3.1% 8.2% <b>5.3%</b>	19,682 18,671 <b>38,353</b> 71,055	(81,813) 11,751 (70,062) 35,645	196,486 59,067 <b>255,553</b> 303,088		140,085	38,500 38,500 155,000	\$27.66 \$26.80 <b>\$27.36</b> \$29.59
l GMONT	95 25 <b>151</b>	6,501,568 990,886 <b>12,312,126</b>	8.5% 10.4% <b>9.8%</b> 70.5%	0.9% 0.0% 1.0%	9.3% 10.4% <b>10.8%</b>	8.3% 9.8% 10.0%	89,694 29,026 <b>189,775</b>	(64,608) (5,728) (34,691)	(62,245) (6,663) 234,180	66,000	140,085	62,995 - <b>217,995</b>	\$26.95 \$21.14 <b>\$27.72</b> \$25.97
l TH	19 6 <b>26</b>	689,808 184,923 <b>979,536</b>	2.1% 0.0% <b>9.0%</b>	0.0% 0.0% <b>0.0%</b>	2.1% 0.0% <b>9.0%</b>	3.0% 0.0% <b>9.2%</b>	3,615 0 <b>11,775</b>	5,937 0 <b>1,476</b>	992 16,238 <b>8,345</b>	:	-		\$21.21 \$19.37 <b>\$24.60</b>
l THEAS		832,387 3,019,389 128,181 3,979,957	1.4% 10.3% 5.2% <b>8.3%</b>	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% <b>0.0%</b>	1.4% 10.3% 5.2% <b>8.3%</b>	0.4% 8.5% 6.8% 6.8%	3,557 29,748 3,342 <b>36,647</b>	(7,870) (54,910) 2,013 (60,767)	30,063 (62,734) 4,141 (28,530)	-	22,000 0 - 22,000		\$25.09 \$25.63 \$15.00 \$25.07
l RTHWES		564,086 2,530,300 935,719 <b>4,030,105</b>	9.7% 6.4% 2.8% <b>6.0%</b>	0.0% 0.0% 0.2% <b>0.1%</b>	9.7% 6.4% 3.0% <b>6.1%</b>	10.2% 6.0% 2.1% 5.7%	5,186 36,988 0 42,174	2,777 (12,122) (8,197) (17,542)	56,398 15,280 (1,622) 70,056		- - -	22,000	\$25.18 \$19.89 \$17.13 \$22.29
l KER/CA	18 60 17 <b>95</b> ASTLE ROCK		17.4% 13.0% 8.7% 14.4%	1.3% 0.6% 0.0% <b>0.9%</b>	18.7% 13.6% 8.7% <b>15.3%</b>	19.2% 13.2% 8.4% <b>15.2%</b>	29,858 29,657 0 <b>59,515</b>	8,346 (9,449) (1,656) (2,759)	(4,000) (70,477) 4,136 (70,341)			57,433 - - 57,433	\$27.27 \$21.24 \$17.68 <b>\$24.87</b>
l JTHEAS		277,308 1,002,880 26,000 <b>1,306,188</b>	10.1% 7.1% 0.0% <b>7.6%</b>	0.0% 0.1% 0.0% <b>0.1%</b>	10.1% 7.2% 0.0% <b>7.7%</b>	10.1% 8.3% 0.0% 8.6%	0 0 0	11,015 0 11,015	37,717 14,838 0 <b>52,555</b>		48,245 - - 48,245	21,406	\$29.31 \$28.04 \$0.00 <b>\$28.85</b>
ıl JTHWES		25,245,405 18,936,835 1,401,260 <b>45,583,500</b>	11.5% 13.0% 2.5% 11.9%	1.7% 0.8% 0.0% 1.3%	13.3% 13.7% 2.5% 13.1%	13.8% 14.1% 3.3% 13.6%	281,327 215,426 10,649 <b>507,402</b>	160,698 74,144 11,707 <b>246,549</b>	223,997 (57,726) (3,395) <b>162,876</b>	30,000	80,000 53,000 - 133,000	599,094 24,000 - <b>623,094</b>	\$28.81 \$23.62 \$18.87 <b>\$26.56</b>
l ST	7 103 16 <b>126</b>	1,552,623 5,107,051 589,410 <b>7,249,084</b>	6.7% 11.4% 1.2% <b>9.6%</b>	0.8% 0.3% 0.0% <b>0.4%</b>	7.5% 11.7% 1.2% 10.0%	10.8% 11.6% 1.4% 10.6%	28,377 110,272 3,845 <b>142,494</b>	51,663 (6,672) 1,193 46,184	43,566 (17,303) 295 <b>26,558</b>		32,360 0 0 32,360	- - - -	\$31.51 \$18.43 \$16.15 <b>\$19.40</b>
il BURBAN	22 135 26 <b>183</b> N TOTAL	2,727,718 8,788,180 749,503 <b>12,265,401</b>	3.8% 10.2% 1.1% <b>8.2%</b>	1.6% 0.3% 0.0% <b>0.6%</b>	5.3% 10.5% 1.1% <b>8.7%</b>	6.1% 9.4% 1.4% <b>8.2%</b>	25,817 125,243 957 <b>152,017</b>	21,047 (93,342) 1,820 (70,475)	69,558 12,719 8,702 <b>90,979</b>		- - -	- - - -	\$27.03 \$23.13 \$16.29 \$23.38
al NVER M <i>A</i>	324 1,103 173 <b>1,600</b> IARKET GRA		10.3% 10.1% 4.2% 9.9%	1.4% 0.5% 0.1% <b>0.8%</b>	11.7% 10.6% 4.2% <b>10.7%</b>	11.7% 10.4% 4.7% <b>10.6%</b>	507,060 917,793 47,819 <b>1,472,672</b>	123,478 (121,783) 32,360 <b>34,055</b>	928,440 (11,310) 21,717 938,847	136,169 - - 136,169	463,613 136,107 - <b>624,001</b>	1,053,433 204,995 - 1,258,428	\$28.16 \$23.31 \$18.29 <b>\$25.32</b>
al ARTERLY	409 1,294 229 <b>1,932</b> LY COMPARIS	72,918,305 81,005,210 9,459,587 <b>163,383,102</b> ISON	10.3% 10.3% 3.8% 9.9%	1.6% 0.5% 0.0% <b>1.0%</b>	11.9% 10.8% 3.9% <b>10.9%</b>	11.8% 10.6% 4.5% 10.8%	1,030,925 1,065,736 48,319 <b>2,144,980</b>	181,435 (135,361) 54,249 100,323	1,561,307 (56,408) 39,413 <b>1,544,312</b>	282,974 89,000 - 371,974	864,393 130,864 - 1,023,197	2,697,343 353,920 - 3,051,263	\$31.44 \$24.69 \$20.91 <b>\$28.11</b>
2019 2019 2019 2018 2018	1,932 1,926 1,917 1,913 1,907	163,383,102 163,011,128 162,215,611 161,830,353 160,957,308	9.9% 9.8% 10.0% 10.3% 10.4%	1.0% 0.9% 0.9% 1.0% 0.9%	10.9% 10.8% 10.9% 11.2% 11.4%	10.8% 10.9% 11.2% 11.4% 11.8%	2,144,980 2,100,309 2,159,782 2,893,179 2,878,811	100,323 582,671 861,038 988,070 860,092	1,544,312 1,468,562 861,038 3,483,483 2,623,842	371,974 370,521 540,080 414,666 65,000	1,023,197 910,601 540,080 4,100,282 3,685,616	3,051,263 2,926,602 3,211,506 3,691,996 3,304,902	\$28.11 \$27.97 \$27.63 \$27.43 \$27.47

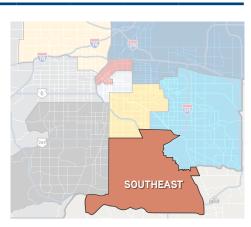
## Southeast & Downtown Statistics

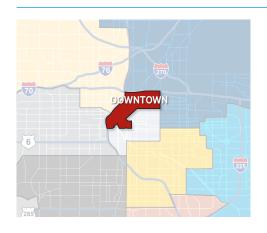
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EXISTING PROPERTIES	VACANCY	ACTIVITY ABSORP.	CONSTR. RENTS

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EXI	STING PRO	PERTIES				VACANCY			ACTIVITY	ABSORP.	CONSTR.	RENTS
DENVER-SOUTHEAST OFFICE MARKET OVERVIEW												
Q3 2019	497	45,583,500	5,403,856	11.9%	587,529	1.3%	5,991,385	13.1%	507,402	246,549	30,000	\$26.56
Q2 2019	496	45,553,500	5,621,279	12.3%	586,655	1.3%	6,207,934	13.6%	736,127	56,954	103,000	\$26.10
Q1 2019	494	45,450,500	5,526,746	12.2%	635,142	1.4%	6,161,888	13.6%	598,976	(140,627)	0	\$25.43
Q4 2018	494	45,450,500	5,382,197	11.8%	639,064	1.4%	6,021,261	13.2%	747,536	(154,112)	185,000	\$25.18
Q3 2018	493	45,265,500	5,109,949	11.3%	572,200	1.3%	5,682,149	12.6%	654,732	245,417	0	\$25.15
Q2 2018	493	45,256,500	5,492,000	12.1%	435,566	1.0%	5,927,566	13.1%	951,639	253,635	72,000	\$25.10
Q1 2018	491	44,867,924	5,338,957	11.9%	444,668	1.0%	5,783,625	12.9%	669,772	165,688	666,224	\$24.84
Q4 2017	489	44,527,276	5,120,869	11.5%	487,796	1.1%	5,608,665	12.6%	1,034,366	372,758	0	\$24.85
Q3 2017	489	44,527,276	5,567,086	12.5%	414,337	0.9%	5,981,423	13.4%	1,435,451	125,797	211,675	\$24.99
DENVER-SO	DUTHEAST	OFFICE SUBMAR	RKET BREAKO	UT BY CLAS	S							
Α	161	25,245,405	2,912,595	11.5%	440,720	1.7%	3,353,315	13.3%	281,327	160,698	30,000	\$28.81
В	303	18,936,835	2,456,641	13.0%	146,609	0.8%	2,603,250	13.7%	215,426	74,144	0	\$23.62
С	33	1,401,260	34,620	2.5%	200	0.0%	34,820	2.5%	10,649	11,707	0	\$18.87
Total	497	45,583,500	5,403,856	11.9%	587,529	1.3%	5,991,385	13.1%	507,402	246,549	30,000	\$26.56
DENVER-	DOWNTO	VN OFFICE SU	IBMARKET (	OVERVIEW								
Q3 2019	232	38,949,399	4,248,475	10.9%	580,538	1.5%	4,829,013	12.4%	562,460	(33,621)	89,000	\$34.92
Q2 2019	231	38,860,399	4,179,850	10.8%	526,542	1.4%	4,706,392	12.1%	545,715	373,436	111,836	\$35.28
Q1 2019	230	38,748,563	4,428,459	11.4%	539,533	1.4%	4,967,992	12.8%	783,471	234,043	279,317	\$35.22
Q4 2018	229	38,469,246	4,359,822	11.3%	562,896	1.5%	4,922,718	12.8%	1,188,202	625,137	0	\$34.57
Q3 2018	228	38,014,027	4,581,437	12.1%	538,199	1.4%	5,119,636	13.5%	1,203,474	393,485	0	\$34.39
Q2 2018	228	38,041,027	5,142,779	13.5%	370,342	1.0%	5,513,121	14.5%	992,001	367,172	50,000	\$34.38
Q1 2018	225	37,617,462	4,985,202	13.3%	471,526	1.3%	5,456,728	14.5%	803,570	560,714	1,836,013	\$33.73
Q4 2017	222	36,628,149	4,376,972	11.9%	651,157	1.8%	5,028,129	13.7%	890,000	(35,406)	0	\$33.79
Q3 2017	220	36,398,732	4,274,500	11.7%	668,806	1.8%	4,943,306	13.6%	555,205	252,439	0	\$33.43
DENVER-DO	NWOTNWC	OFFICE SUBMAR	RKET BREAKO	UT BY CLASS	5							
Α	74	25,954,945	2,759,829	10.6%	492,894	1.9%	3,252,723	12.5%	444,830	(62,523)	0	\$36.24
В	137	11,675,377	1,446,633	12.4%	87,644	0.8%	1,534,277	13.1%	117,630	14,902	89,000	\$31.03
С	21	1,319,077	42,013	3.2%	0	0.0%	42,013	3.2%	0	14,000	0	\$31.89
Total	232	38,949,399	4,248,475	10.9%	580,538	1.5%	4,829,013	12.4%	562,460	(33,621)	89,000	\$34.92

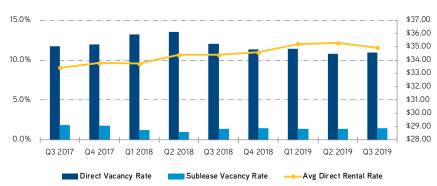
## Denver | Southeast Office Market



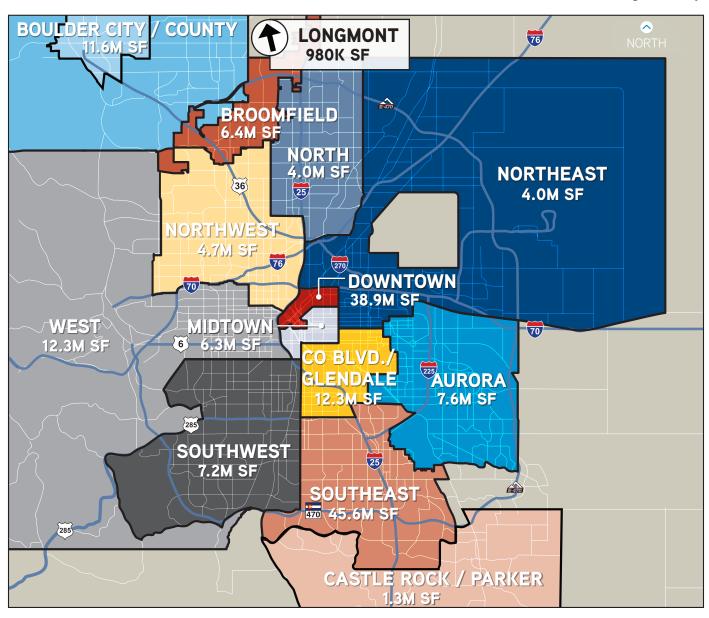




## Denver | Downtown Office Market



Submarket Map \*Existing Inventory



SIGNIFICANT RECENT TRANSACTIONS									
SALES ACTIVITY									
PROPERTY	SUBMARKET	SALE PRICE	SIZE SF	BUYER	SELLER				
4643 Ulster St. Regency Plaza	Southeast	\$71,300,000	319,967	Granite Properties	Barings Real Estate Advisors				
9655 Maroon Cir.	Southeast	\$61,300,000	166,912	Sentinel Real Estate Corp.	Lexington Realty Trust				
205 Detroit St. Financial House	Colorado Blvd/Glendale	\$55,000,000	74,085	Power Financial Corp.	Bow River Capital Partners				
7601 Technology Way 7601 DTC	Southeast	\$48,800,000	191,368	City Office REIT, Inc.	Griffin Capital Essential Asset REIT, Inc.				
LEASING ACTIVITY									
PROPERTY	SUBMARKET	BLDG. CLASS	LEASED SF	TYPE	COMPANY				
1621 18th St. St. Atrium	Downtown	В	92,447	New	Checkr				
2550 Crescent Dr. Lafayette Corporate Campus	Boulder	В	80,132	New	Blue Canyon Technologies				
6465 S. Greenwood Plaza Blvd. Peakview Tower	Southeast	А	55,000	New	Delta Dental				
2375 15th St. Platte 15	Downtown	А	54,232	New	EF Education				

# 400 offices in 68 countries on 6 continents

United States: 109

Canada: 43

Latin America: 18 Asia Pacific: 35

**EMEA: 85** 

\$3.3

billion in annual revenue

2.0

billion square feet under management

17,300

professionals and staff

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