## **THIRD QUARTER 2024 MARKET REPORT** SDQ324 SAN DIEGO INDUSTRIAL



**OVERVIEW.** A reduced level of leasing and sales volume in the San Diego industrial market continued over the first three guarters of 2024. Construction activity is still strong, and Amazon has reappeared among the buildings under construction for the first time in more than a year. There was negative net absorption in each of the first three guarters of the year. which moved the vacancy rate up, and asking rental rates were flat in Q3.

VACANCY & AVAILABILITY. Direct/sublease space (unoccupied) finished Q3 at 6.14%, an increase of 44 basis points from the previous quarter's vacancy rate of 5.70%, and a spike of nearly 2.5 percentage points compared to Q3 2023's rate of 3.80%. In 2010, during the "Great Recession," the overall vacancy rate for the county peaked at 9.7%. At the end of Q3 2024, every submarket other than South County had a vacancy rate of 5.25% or less. Available space being marketed (regardless of occupancy status) was 8.44% of the county's inventory at the end of Q3. South County had the highest availability rate in the county at the end of Q3, at 13.57%.

LEASE RATES. The average asking lease rate checked in at \$1.49 per square foot per month, no change from the previous quarter. Over the past three calendar years, asking rental rates have increased by an average of 13% per year. The San Diego industrial market has seen asking rental rates march ever higher since Q1 2013, peaking at \$1.52 per square foot at the end of 2023. But the decrease in asking rental rates in Q1 2024 might portend a pause in that long-term trend. The bull market in rent growth is over, at least for the short term, as increasing vacancy and slower transaction velocity have combined to curtail rental rate growth. The aggregate balance of negotiating leverage across the county has moved from heavily favoring landlords to a more balanced state. Of course, this varies depending on the submarket and building characteristics. Despite the slowing growth of starting rates, it is still common to see landlords insist on fixed annual rent increases of 4%, rather than the 3% increases which had been standard for many years preceding Covid-19.

TRANSACTION ACTIVITY. There were 214 lease transactions recorded in Q3. This is below the average of 222 leases recorded per quarter since the beginning of 2021. The preceding five years had a quarterly average of 295 lease transactions. On the sales side, 2023 marked the first year since 2017 without a sales volume of a billion dollars. The first three quarters of 2024 continued at that same pace, with \$633 million of industrial buildings trading hands. Despite the recent rate cut from the Fed, interest rates remain elevated by recent standards, and this has dampened activity levels in the sales market, especially on the investment side. While sales volume is down, pricing remains high. The median price per square foot for industrial sales in Q3 was \$327, a new high-water mark. This figure is highly influenced by the composition of properties which trade. Overall, sales pricing gains in San Diego have cooled, but pricing certainly remains elevated.





|                           | Change Over La | st Quarter | Q3 2024   | Q2 2024   | Q3 2023   | % Change Over Last Year |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Vacancy Rate              | <b>ا</b>       | JP         | 6.14%     | 5.70%     | 3.80%     | 61.44%                  |
| Availability Rate         | <b>ا</b>       | JP         | 8.44%     | 8.07%     | 7.27%     | 16.08%                  |
| Average Asking Lease Rate | F              | LAT        | \$1.49    | \$1.49    | \$1.51    | (1.32%)                 |
| Sale & Lease Transactions | <b>ا</b>       | JP         | 2,450,478 | 2,380,529 | 2,535,479 | (3.35%)                 |
| Gross Absorption          | <b>ا</b>       | JP         | 1,605,882 | 1,587,729 | 1,245,444 | 28.94%                  |
| Net Absorption            |                | NEGATIVE   | (128,124) | (230,736) | (431,390) | N/A                     |

## Markat Statistics

# SD Q3 24 INDUSTRIAL

**ABSORPTION.** There were 128,124 SF of negative net absorption in Q3, marking the seventh consecutive quarter of negative net absorption. This was spread out across the county, with not a single submarket registering positive net absorption through the first three quarters of the year. The dramatic increase in rental rates in recent years has pushed some tenants to make do with less space than they would prefer. Most areas of the county have relatively low vacancy levels. With the low levels of new construction outside of Otay Mesa, the decrease in occupied space in certain areas has given tenants in the market more options than they have had in years.

**CONSTRUCTION.** 1.4 MSF of new industrial projects were delivered in the first three quarters of 2024, and 5.2 MSF have been delivered since the start of 2022. Of the total space completed year to date, 75% remains available, while 36% of the area delivered in 2022-2023 is still available. The vast majority of the recent construction has been speculative, with minimal pre-leasing. With the constant flow of construction in Otay Mesa, most tenants looking in this area have had multiple choices of available space in recently completed buildings, negating the need to commit to buildings still underway. 71% of the construction completions in the first three quarters of 2024 were in Otay Mesa, and more than 80% of the new construction completions in the county since 2020 have been in Otay Mesa. The largest building under construction midway through 2024 was a 1.1 MSF Amazon fulfillment center in Otay Mesa.

**EMPLOYMENT.** The unemployment rate in San Diego County was 5.0% in August 2024, up from a revised 4.9% in July 2024, and above the year-ago estimate of 4.4%. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 5.9% for California and 4.4% for the nation during the same period. Over the 12-month period between August 2023 and August 2024, San Diego County employment increased by 10,800 jobs, an increase of 0.7%. With the normal delay in reporting from the California EDD, employment figures from September were unavailable at the time of publishing this report. For the nation as a whole, 254,000 jobs were added in September, the highest monthly payroll increase in six months.

## NEW DELIVERIES & NET ABSORPTION



## Forecast

The rise in vacancy, along with the slowdown in leasing activity, has pulled the market out of its meteoric growth. New supply has outpaced demand, and market-wide rental rate averages have eased back off their all-time peak. The low leasing volume and negative net absorption, not to mention the U.S. presidential election (which often elicits a wait-and-see approach), signal that the market will not likely see a dramatic shift towards tightening conditions in Q4.

| Sales                |                 |             |                  |                              | * Voit Real Estate Services Deal |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Property Address     | Submarket       | Square Feet | Sale Price       | Buyer                        | Seller                           |
| 1330 30th St.        | South San Diego | 105,465     | \$27,250,000     | GID Investment Advisors, LLC | Washington Capital Management    |
| 2345 Britannia Blvd. | Otay Mesa       | 115,542     | \$23,450,000     | EQT Exeter                   | Washington Capital Management    |
| 2065 Thibodo Rd.     | Vista           | 76,872      | \$22,617,500     | K-Tech Machine               | TPG Angelo Gordon & Co, LP       |
| 7191 Carroll Rd.     | Miramar         | 6,300       | \$14,600,000     | Miramar Capital              | TForce Freight                   |
| 2548 Cactus Rd.      | Otay Mesa       | 44,278      | \$11,442,500     | Best Fit Movers*             | Hamann Companies                 |
| Leases               |                 |             |                  |                              |                                  |
| Property Address     | Submarket       | Square Feet | Transaction Date | Tenant                       | Owner                            |
| 2081 Faraday Ave.    | Carlsbad        | 157,973     | Aug-2024         | Undisclosed                  | Lincoln Property Co.             |
| 7222 Airway Rd.      | Otay Mesa       | 101,145     | Jul-2024         | Foxx Development             | Hines                            |
| 1445 Engineer St.    | Vista           | 93,662      | Aug-2024         | Undisclosed                  | First Industrial Realty Trust    |
| 901 Bay Marina Dr.   | National City   | 91,541      | Jul-2024         | Avis                         | DWS                              |
| 1890 Ord Way         | Oceanside       | 50,851      | Aug-2024         | Hydranautics                 | BentallGreenOak                  |

## Significant Transactions

# SDQ324 INDUSTRIAL

|                               |                        | INVENTORY                      |                         |                           | VAC                      | VACANCY & LEASE RATES      |                             |                                 |                                 |                              | ABSO                      | RPTION                         |                             |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                               | Number<br>of<br>Bldgs. | Net<br>Rentable<br>Square Feet | Square<br>Feet<br>U / C | Square<br>Feet<br>Planned | Square<br>Feet<br>Vacant | Vacancy<br>Rate<br>Q3 2024 | Square<br>Feet<br>Available | Availability<br>Rate<br>Q3 2024 | Average<br>Asking<br>Lease Rate | Net<br>Absorption<br>Q3 2024 | Net<br>Absorption<br>2024 | Gross<br>Absorption<br>Q3 2024 | Gross<br>Absorption<br>2024 |
| Central County                |                        |                                |                         |                           |                          |                            |                             |                                 |                                 |                              |                           |                                |                             |
| Central City                  | 82                     | 1,397,840                      | 0                       | 0                         | 27,500                   | 1.97%                      | 43,520                      | 3.11%                           | \$1.17                          | 9,600                        | (27,500)                  | 9,600                          | 9,600                       |
| East City                     | 58                     | 602,299                        | 0                       | 0                         | 0                        | 0.00%                      | 0                           | 0.00%                           | \$1.50                          | 0                            | 7,575                     | 0                              | 7,575                       |
| Southeast City                | 368                    | 4,266,960                      | 0                       | 0                         | 239,253                  | 5.61%                      | 343,811                     | 8.06%                           | \$1.39                          | (154,213)                    | (170,804)                 | 51,560                         | 60,620                      |
| Kearny Mesa                   | 420                    | 9,963,850                      | 219,292                 | 0                         | 457,344                  | 4.59%                      | 631,367                     | 6.20%                           | \$1.85                          | (52,849)                     | (187,335)                 | 43,612                         | 179,264                     |
| Mission Gorge                 | 107                    | 1,793,229                      | 0                       | 0                         | 65,283                   | 3.64%                      | 119,763                     | 6.68%                           | \$1.93                          | (3,001)                      | (17,362)                  | 26,622                         | 64,286                      |
| Rose Canyon/Morena            | 132                    | 2,025,333                      | 0                       | 0                         | 105,727                  | 5.22%                      | 95,987                      | 4.74%                           | \$1.52                          | (13,304)                     | (2,558)                   | 1,420                          | 34,289                      |
| Sports Arena/Airport          | 132                    | 1,483,439                      | 0                       | 0                         | 39,360                   | 2.65%                      | 112,906                     | 7.61%                           | \$1.68                          | (7,559)                      | (8,351)                   | 2,000                          | 15,208                      |
| Miramar                       | 582                    | 13,421,096                     | 0                       | 85,000                    | 795,889                  | 5.93%                      | 1,279,324                   | 9.53%                           | \$1.75                          | (73,048)                     | (232,782)                 | 190,017                        | 391,292                     |
| Sorrento Mesa                 | 69                     | 3,249,642                      | 0                       | 0                         | 155,009                  | 4.77%                      | 208,028                     | 6.40%                           | \$1.88                          | (31,787)                     | (73,943)                  | 22,357                         | 46,227                      |
| Sorrento Valley/UTC           | 40                     | 980,361                        | 0                       | 0                         | 800                      | 0.08%                      | 800                         | 0.08%                           | \$2.11                          | 0                            | (800)                     | 2,400                          | 2,400                       |
| Central County Total          | 1,990                  | 39,184,049                     | 219,292                 | 85,000                    | 1,886,165                | 4.81%                      | 2,835,506                   | 7.20%                           | \$1.73                          | (326,161)                    | (713,860)                 | 349,588                        | 810,761                     |
| East County                   |                        |                                |                         |                           |                          |                            |                             |                                 |                                 |                              |                           |                                |                             |
| El Cajon                      | 452                    | 9,192,222                      | 381,240                 | 0                         | 49,783                   | 0.54%                      | 354,570                     | 3.70%                           | \$1.55                          | 18,108                       | 17,474                    | 38,213                         | 101,346                     |
| La Mesa/Spring Valley         | 308                    | 2,678,156                      | 7,500                   | 0                         | 94,229                   | 3.52%                      | 103,750                     | 3.86%                           | \$1.72                          | (63,122)                     | (73,456)                  | 10,244                         | 35,777                      |
| Santee / Lakeside             | 289                    | 3,980,557                      | 0                       | 251,500                   | 55,107                   | 1.38%                      | 172,149                     | 4.32%                           | \$1.49                          | (8,057)                      | (20,708)                  | 27,092                         | 57,680                      |
| Rural East County             | 87                     | 984,450                        | 0                       | 0                         | 100,000                  | 10.16%                     | 117,400                     | 11.93%                          | \$0.99                          | 48,400                       | 44,400                    | 48,400                         | 48,400                      |
| East County Total             | 1,136                  | 16,835,385                     | 388,740                 | 251,500                   | 299,119                  | 1.78%                      | 747,869                     | 4.34%                           | \$1.42                          | (4,671)                      | (32,290)                  | 123,949                        | 243,203                     |
| North County                  |                        |                                |                         |                           |                          |                            |                             |                                 |                                 |                              |                           |                                |                             |
| Escondido                     | 636                    | 7,642,425                      | 147,054                 | 67,300                    | 126,280                  | 1.65%                      | 266,039                     | 3.42%                           | \$1.54                          | 19,595                       | (37,607)                  | 37,510                         | 176,148                     |
| Oceanside                     | 399                    | 9,015,345                      | 0                       | 520,446                   | 453,285                  | 5.03%                      | 552,961                     | 6.13%                           | \$1.33                          | (45,111)                     | (57,577)                  | 153,123                        | 399,739                     |
| San Marcos                    | 475                    | 8,145,011                      | 24,461                  | 223,175                   | 713,178                  | 8.76%                      | 782,128                     | 9.57%                           | \$1.37                          | 21,762                       | (113,918)                 | 89,365                         | 209,124                     |
| Vista                         | 526                    | 13,443,182                     | 22,480                  | 123,705                   | 761,872                  | 5.67%                      | 1,361,767                   | 10.11%                          | \$1.38                          | (121,020)                    | (189,867)                 | 161,668                        | 375,462                     |
| Carlsbad                      | 225                    | 8,639,011                      | 0                       | 0                         | 427,766                  | 4.95%                      | 704,111                     | 8.15%                           | \$1.48                          | 154,855                      | 253,499                   | 199,516                        | 494,952                     |
| North Beach Cities            | 39                     | 232,596                        | 0                       | 0                         | 0                        | 0.00%                      | 0                           | 0.00%                           | -                               | 0                            | 0                         | 0                              | (                           |
| Rural North County            | 122                    | 1,071,818                      | 0                       | 0                         | 32,625                   | 3.04%                      | 76,896                      | 7.17%                           | \$0.90                          | 7,608                        | (10,625)                  | 14,313                         | 17,193                      |
| North County Total            | 2,422                  | 48,189,388                     | 193,995                 | 934,626                   | 2,515,006                | 5.22%                      | 3,743,902                   | 7.74%                           | \$1.39                          | 37,689                       | (156,095)                 | 655,495                        | 1,672,618                   |
| I-15 Corridor                 |                        |                                |                         |                           |                          |                            |                             |                                 |                                 |                              |                           |                                |                             |
| Poway                         | 187                    | 7,736,033                      | 0                       | 0                         | 234,734                  | 3.03%                      | 256,155                     | 3.31%                           | \$1.58                          | 43,095                       | 1,956                     | 73,858                         | 211,004                     |
| Rancho Bernardo               | 38                     | 2,876,004                      | 0                       | 0                         | 78,445                   | 2.73%                      | 124,715                     | 4.34%                           | \$1.75                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                              | C                           |
| Scripps Ranch                 | 26                     | 696,993                        | 0                       | 86,000                    | 11,253                   | 1.61%                      | 14,753                      | 2.12%                           | \$1.60                          | 0                            | (5,253)                   | 0                              | 10,805                      |
| I-15 Corridor Total           | 251                    | 11,309,030                     | 0                       | 86,000                    | 324,432                  | 2.87%                      | 395,623                     | 3.50%                           | \$1.61                          | 43,095                       | (3,297)                   | 73,858                         | 221,809                     |
| South County                  |                        |                                |                         |                           |                          |                            |                             |                                 |                                 |                              |                           |                                |                             |
| Chula Vista                   | 326                    | 8,958,173                      | 0                       | 178,156                   | 1,055,039                | 11.78%                     | 932,325                     | 10.41%                          | \$1.44                          | 77,270                       | (11,531)                  | 104,679                        | 162,081                     |
| National City                 | 255                    | 3,773,421                      | 0                       | 80,970                    | 100,526                  | 2.66%                      | 154,785                     | 4.10%                           | \$1.70                          | (6,465)                      | (59,623)                  | 55,796                         | 77,605                      |
| Otay Mesa                     | 391                    | 25,359,536                     | 1,394,943               | 3,883,410                 | 3,322,101                | 13.10%                     | 4,403,310                   | 16.46%                          | \$1.26                          | 46,988                       | (57,541)                  | 238,386                        | 1,003,757                   |
| South San Diego               | 63                     | 1,342,682                      | 0                       | 0                         | 4,303                    | 0.32%                      | 48,812                      | 3.64%                           | \$1.60                          | 4,131                        | 18,909                    | 4,131                          | 24,225                      |
| South County Total            | 1,035                  | 39,433,812                     | 1,394,943               | 4,142,536                 | 4,481,969                | 11.37%                     | 5,539,232                   | 13.57%                          | \$1.36                          | 121,924                      | (109,786)                 | 402,992                        | 1,267,668                   |
| San Diego County Total        | 6,834                  | 154,951,664                    | 2,196,970               | 5,499,662                 | 9,506,691                | 6.14%                      | 13,262,132                  | 8.44%                           | \$1.49                          | (128,124)                    | (1,015,328)               | 1,605,882                      | 4,216,059                   |
| 0.0.000                       | 0.000                  |                                | 3 500                   |                           |                          | 1.0001                     | 105.01                      |                                 | ¢1.05                           | F0.4=0                       | (657)                     | 110.000                        | 050.05                      |
| 0-9,999                       | 3,063                  | 15,615,461                     | 7,500                   | 0                         | 259,900                  | 1.66%                      | 485,314                     | 3.11%                           | \$1.68                          | 53,170                       | (205)                     | 143,208                        | 352,924                     |
| 10,000-19,999                 | 1,781                  | 25,257,528                     | 0                       | 0                         | 655,525                  | 2.60%                      | 1,112,880                   | 4.41%                           | \$1.59                          | (69,704)                     | (126,999)                 | 271,724                        | 752,408                     |
| 20,000-34,999                 | 964                    | 24,756,370                     | 46,941                  | 27,720                    | 930,055                  | 3.76%                      | 1,712,236                   | 6.90%                           | \$1.51                          | 11,837                       | (262,335)                 | 208,152                        | 707,533                     |
| 35,000-49,999                 | 383                    | 15,816,291                     | 43,000                  | 95,538                    | 761,913                  | 4.82%                      | 1,086,253                   | 6.85%                           | \$1.40                          | (3,490)                      | (94,153)                  | 150,889                        | 476,100                     |
| 50,000-99,999<br>100,000 Plus | 394<br>249             | 27,143,178<br>46,362,836       | 242,854                 | 527,038<br>4,849,366      | 1,925,872                | 7.10%                      | 2,945,715<br>5,919,734      | 10.76%<br>12.28%                | \$1.42                          | (67,110)                     | (475,501)                 | 407,160                        | 680,220<br>1,246,874        |
|                               |                        |                                | 1,856,675               |                           | 4,973,426                |                            |                             |                                 | \$1.28                          | (52,827)                     | (56,135)                  | 424,749                        |                             |
| San Diego County Total        | 6,834                  | 154,951,664                    | 2,196,970               | 5,499,662                 | 9,506,691                | 6.14%                      | 13,262,132                  | 8.44%                           | \$1.49                          | (128,124)                    | (1,015,328)               | 1,605,882                      | 4,216,059                   |

Lease rates are on an industrial-gross basis.



# THIRD QUARTER 2024 MARKET REPORT SAN DIEGO INDUSTRIAL





## Watching and Waiting in Q3

by Alex Jize VICE PRESIDENT/PARTNER, SAN DIEGO 858.458.3361 . ajize@voitco.com . Lic. #01947389

As we wrap up the third quarter of 2024, we continue to see the market cool down. Buyer and tenant demand has slowed, as there are more options appearing on the market. Many business and property owners have retreated to the sidelines as a very important presidential election is just around the corner. Notwithstanding these dynamics, industrial continues to be the strongest commercial asset class in the San Diego market, with relatively high demand from investors and owner-occupants.

Buyers who are currently in the market have gained the benefit of The Federal Reserve cutting rates by 50 basis points, with a signal for more rate cuts ahead. This has had a positive impact on conventional and SBA loan rates. We have seen consecutive rate cuts each month of the third quarter. The SBA 504 rate for 25-year money in September was 5.76%, which is approximately 93 basis points lower than where it was this past April. The consensus is that we will continue to see both conventional and SBA rates come down in the coming months ahead. This will continue to be a major factor in driving buyer activity and keeping pricing stable.

We have continued to see time-on-market for available properties for lease rise as more competing spaces come online, now often extending for months. Landlords are having to give up more concessions in free rent and come off their asking rate to be able to get deals done in today's marketplace. As available inventory continues to increase, owners with lower operating expenses will have a major advantage in attracting price-conscious tenants to their projects.

Overall, San Diego's industrial market remains relatively stable in comparison to the rest of the nation. We have seen pricing remain firm and building owners are still able to achieve near-peak prices on their industrial properties. Many investors and user-purchasers alike are in pursuit of industrial outdoor storage (IOS) properties, which rarely come to market. Investors have a strong appetite for industrial real estate and are actively in the market looking to purchase, but the lack of available inventory and the inability to make deals pencil has kept transaction volume low, which has been the case throughout 2024.

In conclusion, we have seen a continued slowdown in transaction volume and leasing activity through the third quarter but have high hopes there will be elevated activity as we head into the last quarter of the year. Lower interest rates coupled with putting the 2024 election behind us will lead to business owners committing to leasing or purchasing property and building owners executing on their disposition/acquisition strategies.

## Product Type

#### MFG./DIST.

Manufacturing / Distribution / Warehouse facilities with up to 49.9% office space.

## Submarkets

#### **CENTRAL COUNTY**

Central City, East City, Southeast City, Kearny Mesa, Mission Gorge, Rose Canyon/Morena, Sports Arena/Airport, Miramar, Sorrento Mesa, Sorrento Valley

#### **EAST COUNTY**

El Cajon, La Mesa / Spring Valley, Santee / Lakeside, Rural East County

#### **NORTH COUNTY**

Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Vista, Carlsbad, North Beach Cities, Rural North County

#### **I-15 CORRIDOR**

Poway, Rancho Bernardo, Scripps Ranch

#### SOUTH BAY

Chula Vista, National City, Otay Mesa, South San Diego

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This survey consists of properties representing both single tenant and multi-tenant buildings. The lease rates are based on a industrial-gross basis. The information contained in this report is gathered from sources that are deemed reliable, but no guarantees are made as to its accuracy. This information is for Voit Real Estate Services' use only and cannot legally be reproduced without prior written consent from the management of Voit Real Estate Services

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