

# R&D Market Report

VOIT COMMERCIAL BROKERAGE

Compared to last quarter:

### **Vacancy**



Net Absorption DOWN



Lease Rates DOWN

Transactions DOWN

Construction DOWN

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## Market Highlights

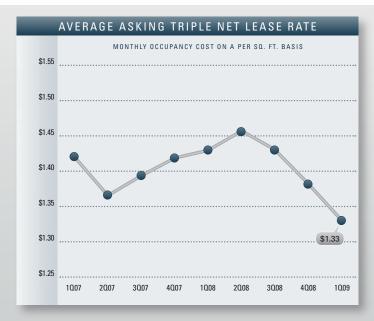
- ◆ The San Diego County Research & Development market is facing challenges due to the national recession and 2008's tumultuous financial events. The three primary concerns are as follows: expensive and scarce financing, economic uncertainty and volatility, and an increasing gap between "ask" and "bid" pricing between buyers and sellers. However, the region's strong local economy and high quality of life continue to make it a desirable location for business. The growing influence of new industries such as high technology, biotechnology and healthcare should further diversify the local economy and help to rejuvenate the Research & Development market. These industries will increase employment opportunities and help to ease vacancy rate concerns in the coming quarters.
- The Research & Development vacancy rate is 14.96% this quarter, which is higher than last quarter when it was 13.71%, and is higher than last year's figure of 12.18%. One of the lowest vacancy rates in the county can be found in the South Bay submarket, coming in at 7.23%.
- ♦ The average asking Triple Net lease rate per month per foot in San Diego County is currently \$1.33, which is lower than last year's fourth quarter rate of \$1.43. The highest rates in the county can be found in the North City submarket, where the average asking Triple Net lease rate is \$1.46 per square foot. Lease rates are expected to remain soft for the short run, and concessions should continue to increase in the forms of free rent, relocation funds and tenant improvement allowances.
- ◆ The level of activity registered at 548,969 square feet for the first quarter of 2009. This is down from the 1.1 million square feet of activity when compared to the same quarter last year, but still below the 2008 average of 750,000 square feet per quarter. This recent drop in activity is mostly a result of hesitancy in the marketplace from the continuous stream of negative news in a wide

- area of topics. The recent lack of activity can be tied to the credit crunch as well, which means we could see an increase in activity in the second half of 2009 from pent up demand, once financial markets correct themselves and as consumer confidence increases. The final outcome hinges on how the recession progresses and how quickly credit eases up.
- Research & Development net absorption checked in at a negative 358,998 square feet during the first quarter of 2009, after having a total of 716,212 square feet of negative absorption for 2008. Most of the negative absorption occurred in the Central Suburban and the I-15 Corridor submarkets: 143,892 and 109,341 square feet respectively.
- According to the State of California Employment Development Department, San Diego County lost 37,900 payroll jobs over the last twelve months. Between January 2009 and February 2009 San Diego County lost 2,700 jobs, mostly in the retail trade, transportation & utilities and construction sectors.
- ◆ The unemployment rate in San Diego County was 8.8% in February 2009. This is up from a revised 8.7% percent in January 2009, and above the year ago estimate of 5.0%. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 10.9 percent for California and 8.9 percent for the nation during the same period.
- Currently there is 51,517 square feet of Research & Development construction underway, and total construction is down just under 77.59% when compared to a year ago.
- Planned Research & Development construction in San Diego County is down when compared to last year.
  Currently, there is 1.05 million square feet of Research & Development space on the slate as being planned, compared to last year's figure of 1.32 million square feet.

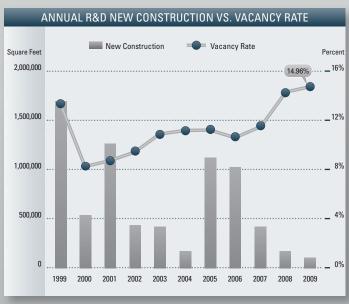
R&D MARKET OVERVIEW				
	102009	402008	102008	% CHANGE VS. 1008
Under Construction	51,517	128,539	229,908	-77.59%
Planned Construction	1,047,500	1,047,500	1,324,211	-20.90%
Vacancy	14.96%	13.71%	12.18%	22.82%
Availability	19.41%	17.23%	14.92%	30.09%
Avg. Ask Lease Rate	\$1.33	\$1.38	\$1.43	-6.99%
Transactions	548,969	686,839	1,075,647	-48.96%
Net Absorption	-358,998	-407,963	-306,637	N/A

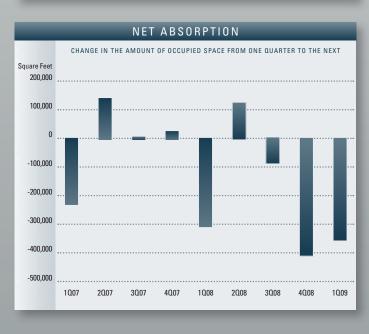
Real People. Real Solutions.







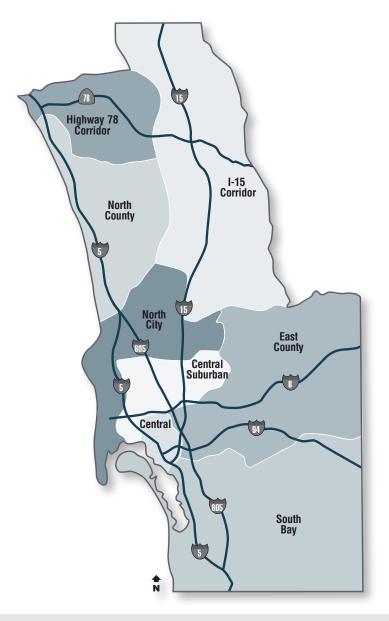








This survey consists of buildings greater than 10,000 square feet. Lease rates are on a triple net basis.



#### PRODUCT TYPE

Research and Development (R&D) buildings can be one story, one story with a mezzanine, and two story built-out structures with a high ratio of window wall to floor area with lower ceilings. They generally have over 30% built-out office space or laboratory use, with the remaining space being utilized as light manufacturing or warehousing. In addition, the parking ratio must be at least 3 spaces or greater per 1,000 square feet.

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