

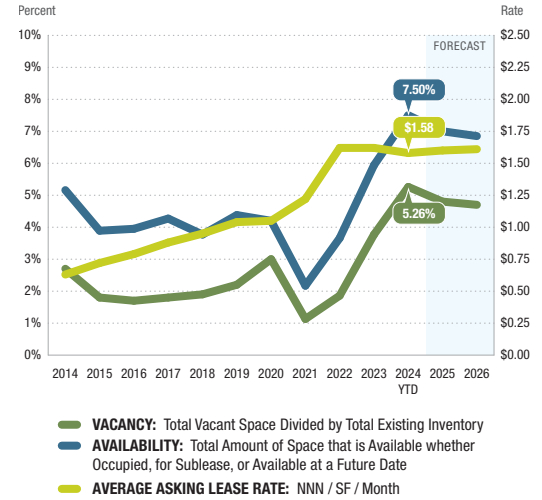
**OVERVIEW.** The Los Angeles industrial market remains on the downward trajectory that began back in 2022. Vacancy and availability both spiked again and net absorption remained firmly in negative territory. Transaction volume for both sale and lease product declined. The average asking lease rate fell sharply in the period and year-over-year rent growth turned negative for the first time in over a decade. Concessions were up too, which means effective rates are also taking a hit. The number of active requirements and prospective owner/user purchasers remains thin, as economic uncertainty and concern over the outcome of the presidential election are top-of-mind. Property is sitting on the market longer, as those tenants and buyers who are actively pursuing new facilities have more to choose from and are no longer faced with having to compete for space like they were before the market peaked in mid-2022. Total space under construction was down due to several new deliveries, mainly in the San Gabriel Valley.

**VACANCY & AVAILABILITY.** The recent sharp rise in vacancy continued in Q2, ending the period at 5.26%, up another 55 basis points on the heels of a 94-basis-point increase in Q1. In just the past year, vacancy has risen by 235 basis points, or 80.8%. Even the higher quality buildings, which were moving in a matter of days until mid-2022, are sitting on the market for months. Tenants just don't have the competitive pressure to close deals quickly, as they can afford to be more particular in terms of building choice and to get more aggressive during negotiations. The availability rate also moved higher in Q2, rising by 46 basis points to 7.5%.

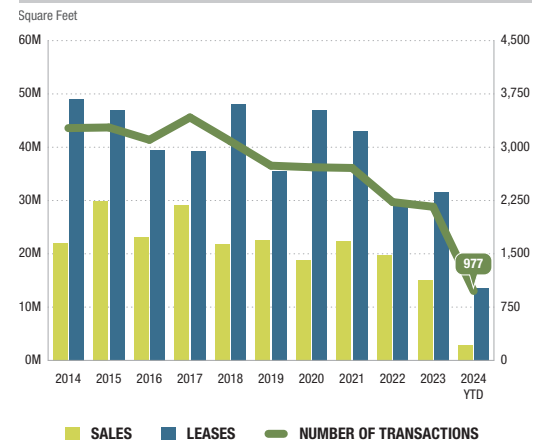
**LEASE RATES.** The average asking lease rate fell sharply in Q2, indicating that landlords are finally acquiescing to the reality of longer lease-up times. Until recently, they were sticking to keeping their asking or "coupon" rates because they enhance the underwriting of new financing and boost property value in the event of a disposition. Concessions are also in play and on the rise, so "effective" rates are coming down quickly. For the first time since the Great Recession, the year-over-year average asking lease rate is down. The quarter ended at \$1.58, down 15.96% year over year, or \$0.12 for the period. It appears the correction in lease rates many expected to occur much earlier is finally in play, a welcome respite for LA-area tenants who suffered from double-digit rent growth for years.

**TRANSACTION ACTIVITY.** Transaction activity both by square footage and by transaction count was down again in Q2, ending the period at 7,070,010 SF from 9,347,617 SF in Q1. The total number of sale and lease transactions fell to 465 from 511 in Q1. Lease transaction count fell to 410 from 446, and sale transactions fell to 55 from 65 in Q1. That is the lowest number of quarterly sales transactions in more than three years. Clearly, the increase in mortgage interest rates is having an impact, along with Measure ULA transfer taxes in the City of Los Angeles. Property owners are faced with 4.5% to 5.5% tax on the sales price depending on specific price thresholds.

### VACANCY, AVAILABILITY & AVERAGE ASKING LEASE RATES



### TRANSACTION VOLUME & NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS



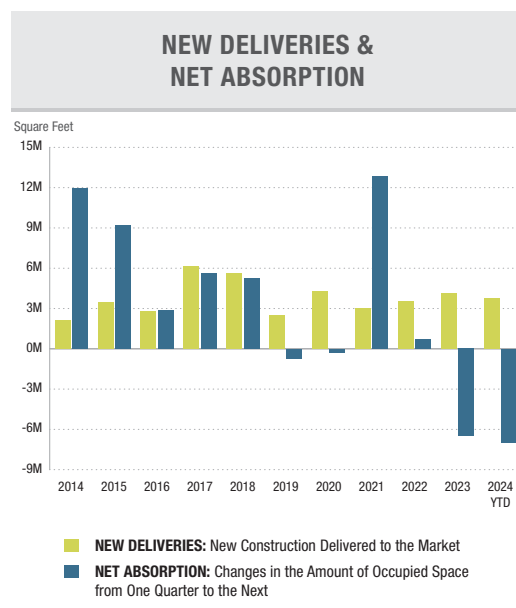
### Market Statistics

	Change Over Last Quarter	Q2 2024	Q1 2024	Q2 2023	% Change Over Last Year
Vacancy Rate	▲ UP	5.26%	4.71%	2.91%	80.80%
Availability Rate	▲ UP	7.50%	7.04%	5.03%	49.18%
Average Asking Lease Rate	▼ DOWN	\$1.58	\$1.70	\$1.88	(15.96%)
Sale & Lease Transactions	▼ DOWN	7,070,010	9,347,617	11,006,070	(35.76%)
Gross Absorption	▲ UP	9,318,928	8,274,461	8,719,107	6.88%
Net Absorption	▼ NEGATIVE	(3,091,322)	(3,870,528)	(1,058,665)	N/A

**ABSORPTION.** Net absorption in Q2 remained negative, with occupied space declining by 3,091,322 SF, following a 3,870,528 SF loss in Q1. The slower lease-up time is causing inventory accumulation and higher vacancy rates. Net absorption, a crucial metric reflecting business community growth or contraction, indicates a general business contraction across industries. E-commerce users, who expanded rapidly during the pandemic, are making significant adjustments to align with current economic conditions. Inflation has led to sluggish retail sales growth, with consumers prioritizing essential goods over discretionary items typically transported through the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. In 2023, negative absorption in the LA Region reached 6.5 MSF, and the first half of this year is outpacing that trend.

**CONSTRUCTION.** Construction fell significantly in Q2, due mainly to new deliveries in the San Gabriel Valley submarket. The period ended with just 3,690,156 SF in the construction queue, down from 5,459,653 SF in Q1. Over 1.4 MSF was delivered just in the City of Industry. Planned space fell sharply from 6.4 MSF to just 3.4 MSF, a clear indication that developers are taking their chips off the table until the direction of the local economy becomes clearer and the Fed makes up its mind about rate reductions.

**EMPLOYMENT.** Los Angeles County’s unemployment rate remained steady at 5.3% in May 2024, higher than the previous year’s 4.8%. Despite challenges, non-farm employment grew by 11,100 jobs. The mixed performance across business sectors, including growth in leisure and hospitality but declines in manufacturing, presents both opportunities and challenges for the industrial real estate market.



## Forecast

The Los Angeles industrial market will continue to spin its wheels for the foreseeable future. Demand will remain sluggish, vacancy will keep moving up and landlords will remain under pressure to lower asking rates and offer more concessions. Time on market will continue to increase. Owner/user sales will continue to lag unless prices come down far enough to offset higher mortgage interest rates. This is unlikely, as existing property owners who own older, lower-interest-rate loans will simply hold onto their properties and wait for prices to move back up when rates finally do come down. However, the timing of all that is uncertain because the Fed has been reluctant to lower rates as was expected by now. Economists are now expecting no more than one minor cut by the end of the year. New construction starts will slow further, which will bring some comfort to existing property landlords who are having trouble getting their space leased up. Uncertainty over the upcoming election is further reason for tenants and buyers to remain cautious through the end of the year.

## Significant Transactions

### Sales

Property Address	Submarket	Square Feet	Sale Price	Buyer	Seller
16203–16233 Arrow Hwy. - 4 Bldgs.	Irwindale	134,542	\$48,500,000	Rexford Industrial Realty	Panattoni Development Company
4101 Whiteside St.	Los Angeles	43,681	\$9,600,000	Ultimate Floors	Jomex LLC
15401 S. Figueroa St.	Gardena	38,584	\$10,225,000	Ichi Trading Co	Rexford Industrial Realty
1454–1458 Esperanza St.	Los Angeles	37,595	\$9,100,000	Tom Kim	Innovative Industrial Properties
2701 Signal Pkwy.	Signal Hill	31,500	\$10,500,000	R.E. Michael Company	2700 LLC

### Leases

Property Address	Submarket	Square Feet	Transaction Date	Tenant	Owner
1650 E. Glenn Curtiss St.	Carson	338,274	Jun-2024	KW International	Carson Companies
2501 West Rosecrans Ave.	Los Angeles	300,217	Apr-2024	Forward Air Corporation	Inland Empire Holdco LLC
18120 Bishop Ave.	Carson	286,104	Jun-2024	Prime Freight	Watson Land Company
18055 Harmon Ave.	Carson	253,354	Jun-2024	Agron	Watson Land Company
5801 S. 2nd St.	Vernon	185,089	Jun-2024	Reformation Group	Bridge Development



## Navigating the Shift to a Tenant-Friendly Landscape

by Dan Berkenfield and Rachel Burney



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The Mid-Counties industrial market continues to be a highly desirable Southern California submarket. We entered 2024 with signs of softening, evidenced by modest price corrections and rising vacancy rates. These market conditions took a more definitive turn in Q2. We're witnessing a slowdown in overall transactions and a consistent decline in lease rates.

While Q1 saw a slight uptick in vacancy (reaching 4.01%), the vacancy rate jumped in Q2 to 5.06%. We're witnessing a slowdown in product movement and a consistent decline in lease rates. This is indicative of a transition from a landlord-dominated market to a softer market in favor of tenants.

The high cost of capital seems to be the driving force. With mortgage interest rates staying north of 6%, we're finally seeing sale prices softening in response, especially in the owner/user market. Supply is accumulating while overall sales activity has decreased to roughly half of what it was this time last year.

Key takeaways for Q2 2024:

- **Softening Prices:** Prepare to see a change from historically high price points going forward.
- **Landlord Concessions:** Landlord concessions like free rent, tenant improvements and signing bonuses are on the rise.

Looking Ahead: Uncertainty and Opportunity

The upcoming Presidential election injects an additional layer of uncertainty into the market outlook. Additionally, several important provisions of the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act of 2017 expire at the end of 2025. Higher interest rates and global economic and political volatility are also impacting overall demand.

- **Tenants:** This could be an opportune time to leverage the shifting market dynamics and negotiate more favorable lease terms on upcoming renewals or new Leases. Be aggressive.
- **Landlords:** Be prepared to adapt your strategies and consider increasing concessions to attract tenants quickly to avoid excess downtime.
- **Investors:** Stick with stabilized assets with long-term leases. Avoid value-add plays that rely on substantial rent growth.

The Bottom Line:

The Mid-Counties industrial market is in a state of flux. While the future remains uncertain, there are opportunities for both tenants and landlords willing to adapt to the changing landscape. By staying informed and working with experienced brokers, you can navigate this market shift and make more informed decisions.

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This survey consists of properties representing both single tenant and multi-tenant buildings. The lease rates are based on a triple-net 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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## Product Type

### MFG./DIST.

Manufacturing / Distribution / Warehouse facilities with up to 29.9% office space.

## Submarkets

### CENTRAL

Bell / Bell Gardens / Maywood, City of Commerce, Huntington Park / Cudahy, Downtown, Montebello / Monterey Park, Pico Rivera, South Gate, Vernon

### MID COUNTIES

Artesia / Cerritos, Bellflower / Downey, Buena Park / La Palma, La Mirada, Norwalk, Paramount, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Alhambra, Arcadia / Temple City, Azusa, Baldwin Park, City of Industry / DB / HH / RH, Covina / West Covina, Duarte, El Monte, Irwindale, La Puente, La Verne / San Dimas / Glendora, Monrovia, Pomona / Claremont, Rosemead / San Gabriel, South El Monte, Walnut

### SOUTH BAY

Carson, Compton, El Segundo, Gardena, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lakewood / Hawaiian Gardens, Lawndale, Long Beach / Terminal Island, Lynwood, Rancho Dominguez, Redondo & Hermosa Beach, San Pedro, Signal Hill, Torrance, Wilmington