## Increased leasing activity indicates a slowly recovering office market led by technology firms and content creators

At year-end 2021, Los Angeles office leasing activity increased to a quarterly pandemic-high of 3.6 million square feet ( msf ). This brought total 2021 leasing activity up to 11.9 msf , up $25 \%$ from the 9.5 msf in leasing activity reported in 2020 but still down $34 \%$ from the 18.0 msf in leasing activity reported in 2019 and down $18 \%$ from the 14.5 msf in leasing activity reported in 2018. Despite the overall Los Angeles economy now reopened, a more robust office market recovery continues to depend on the path of the coronavirus as many workers remain at home, especially in light of the recent Omicron variant at year-end. Nevertheless, now more than ever the primary drivers of office space demand in Los Angeles are technology firms and entertainment/media companies heavily involved in content creation.

## Availability levels remain elevated as sublease space continues to be high

The total availability rate remained flat at $24.4 \%$ and remains at its highest level in over a decade. Available sublease space, which has been closely watched, ended the year at 8.6 msf , down from 8.8 msf last quarter but still up $9 \%$ from a year ago. Overall average asking rents increased from last quarter to $\$ 3.88$ per square foot (psf) per month, still up $3.6 \%$ from a year ago mostly due to new speculative office projects under construction. However, the market continues to see highly uneven conditions with some submarkets mainly on the Westside seeing record taking rents while other submarkets have seen taking rents decrease relative to pre-COVID. Overall, the tenant flight to quality into trophy Class A properties, as well as new creative office projects in the most in-demand submarkets is expected to continue into next year.

## Overall office market recovery will be highly uneven going into 2022

With a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of $8.9 \%$ in November, unemployment in Los Angeles County remains higher than the statewide unemployment rate of $6.9 \%$, as well as the national unemployment rate of $4.2 \%$. On the other hand, officeusing employment is now $5.6 \%$ higher than a year ago, contributing to recovery in the office market over the past year with a few submarkets, mostly on the Westside, reporting rents at all-time highs. As a result, expect the overall office market recovery to continue to be largely uneven across Los Angeles and that with few exceptions, tenant-favorable conditions will remain for the foreseeable future.

## Outlook

- Available sublease space continues to decrease as space becomes leased, is pulled off the market, or master lease terms expire and the space becomes directly available
- Concessions such as rental abatement and tenant improvement allowances remain at an all-time high as landlords aggressively compete for occupancy
- The long-term effect of work-from-home remains largely unknown as workers slowly begin to get back into the office, however, hybrid workplace strategies and employee flexibility appear to be sticking

| KEY STATISTICS |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Q4 2020 | Q4 2021 | $\begin{gathered} \text { y-o-y } \\ \text { Change } \end{gathered}$ |
| Inventory | 216.1 MSF | 218.5 MSF | A |
| Availability Rate | 22.5\% | 24.4\% | A |
| Asking Rental Rate (Monthly) | \$3.74 | \$3.88 | A |
| Class A Asking Rental Rate (Monthly) | \$3.92 | \$4.11 | A |
| Quarterly Leasing Activity | 2.1 MSF | 3.6 MSF | A |

## ASKING RENT TRENDS



AVAILABILITY TRENDS


## LEASING ACTIVITY



## MAJOR TRANSACTIONS

## 42.9\%

of top transactions were new locations by square footage, demonstrating growth in the market

## 25.0\%

of major transactions occurred in the Westwood/West LA submarket by square footage

## 58.2\%

TAMI tenants represented $58.2 \%$ of major transactions by square footage

| Tenant | Square feet | Address | Transaction type | Submarket | Industry |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Riot Games | 199,882 | 12101 W Olympic Boulevard | New Location | Westwood/West LA | TAMI |
| Los Angeles Chargers | 145,000 | 100 S Nash Street | Relocation | El Segundo | Personal Services \& Recreation |
| Riot Games * | 132,000 | 3301 Exposition Boulevard | New Location | Santa Monica | TAMI |
| USC Information Sciences Institute | 127,000 | 4676 Admiralty Way | Renewal | Marina/Playa Vista | Education |
| Adidas | 106,303 | 110 E 9 9th Street | Relocation | Downtown LA | Retail |
| Roku * | 93,926 | 2525 \& 2425-2501 Colorado Avenue | Expansion | Santa Monica | TAMI |
| Jeffer Mangels Butler \& Mitchell LLP | 90,000 | 1900 Avenue of the Stars | Renewal | Century City | Legal Services |
| Riot Games | 80,426 | 12100 W Olympic Boulevard | New Location | Westwood/West LA | TAMI |
| Age of Learning | 77,500 | 101 N Brand Boulevard | Renewal | Glendale | TAMI |
| Carvana | 67,886 | 12959 Coral Tree Place | New Location | Marina/Playa Vista | TAMI |

* Sublease

Source Savills Research

## AVAILABILITY RATE COMPARISON

Los Angeles Submarkets


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RENTAL RATE COMPARISON (\$/SF)
Los Angeles Submarkets

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[^0]:    Unless otherwise noted, all rents quoted throughout this report are average asking gross (full service) rents per square foot. Statistics are calculated using both direct and sublease information. Current and historical availability and rent data are subject to change due to changes in inventory.

    The information in this report is obtained from sources deemed reliable, but no representation is made as to the accuracy thereof. Unless otherwise noted, source for data is Savills Research.

