## January, 2020 Market Insight Report

**Exclusive insights for occupiers.** 



cresa

**Denver Office** 

### 2019 Market Review $\rightarrow$ 2020 Forecast



Bruce Johnson Managing Principal

Denver's office tenants leased an additional 2 million square feet in 2019, continuing an amazing 11 year run of positive absorption. This represents a 1.5 percent growth rate, as Denver companies expand in the face of higher rental rates and exploding construction costs. Average rents are up \$8 per square foot since 2010 and TI costs are up \$25 per square foot on full scale buildouts.

Tenant improvement costs now routinely hit \$75 per square foot and can be twice that number, depending on upgrades for tenants with higher private office/open plan ratios. In many cases, landlord allowances are just not sufficient and tenants face funding part of their own tenant improvement costs.

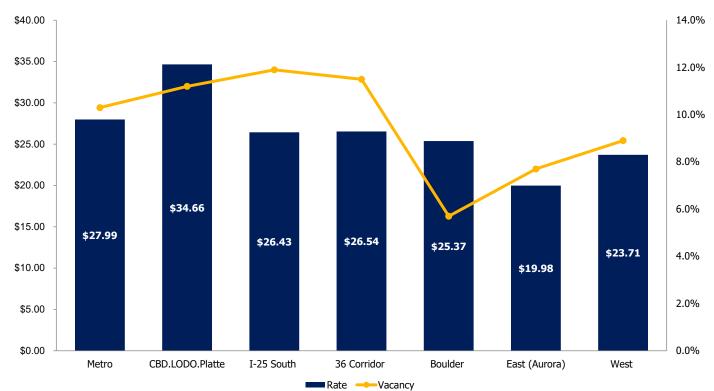
Managing Principal Full-service rates now range from \$20 per rentable square foot in older Class B suburban buildings and as high as \$60 per rentable square foot in new Class A downtown area developments. In response, our clients consider various strategies to control their rent costs—including higher space planning densities, moving from Class A to Class B buildings, and "desk sharing" in various forms. Longer term leases to realize additional tenant improvement allowances are also a fact.

The new Class A buildings are doing well, as companies are now seeing their building and their space as a competitive advantage in recruiting employees in this period of historic low unemployment. Similarly, new buildings are integrating amenities such as first-class fitness centers and outdoor spaces.

Vacancy is down to 10.3 percent, which signals a "Landlord Market," but there are there is another story brewing—excess space in the cowork and energy industries. There is widespread speculation about WeWork's new plans, after becoming downtown's largest tenant at 750,000 square feet. Look for aggressive pricing and possible disposition tactics—reportedly, WeWork is walking away from two recent letter-of-intent commitments. Furthermore, look for major sublease spaces to hit the downtown market as the oil and gas industry retrenches in Colorado. So far, mergers and acquisitions results include downsized staff and relocations to Houston.

The other factor driving demand has been companies relocating to Denver. If higher rents and higher labor costs slow that in-migration down, the impact will be significant.

There will also be another 3.5 million square feet added to the market as 31 new buildings are currently under construction, with deliveries scheduled in 2020 and 2021. These projects are spread throughout the metro area, including concentrations in the downtown area with five buildings, the River North (RiNo) district with 3 buildings, and Boulder with four new buildings.

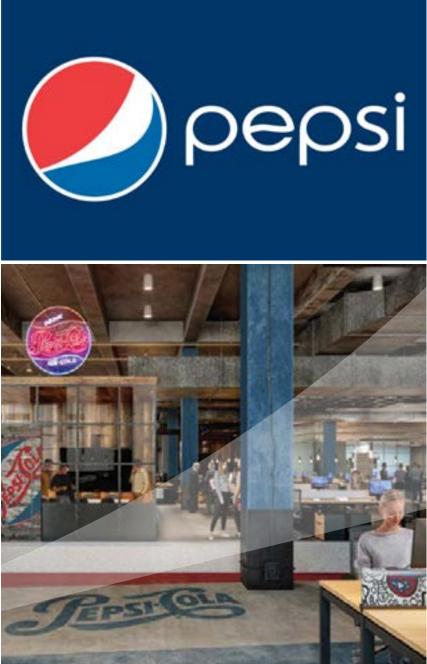


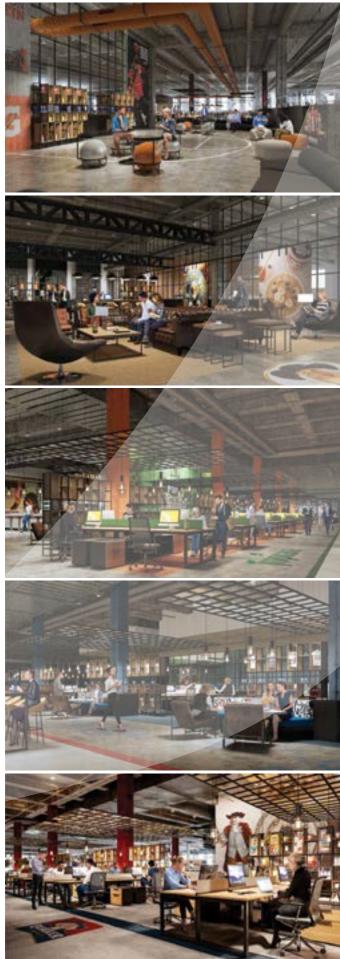
### Denver Metro Submarkets: Rent vs. Vacancy

## PEPSICO SPOTLIGHT

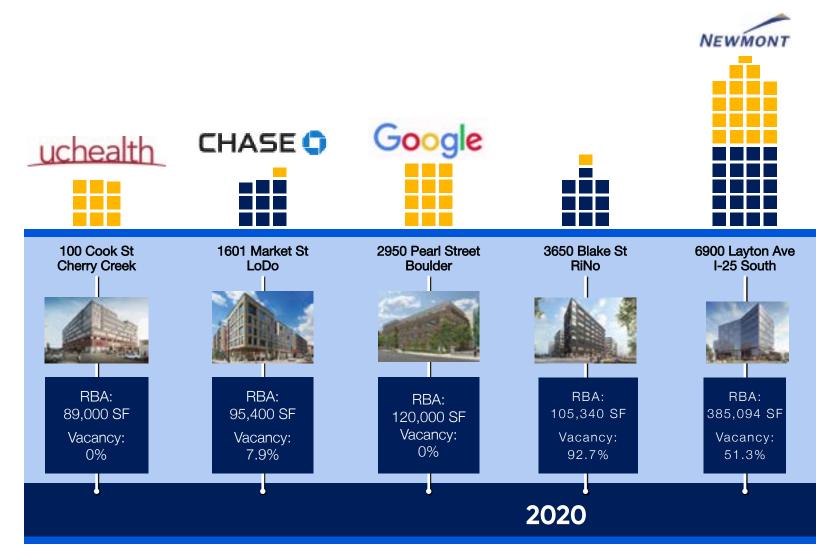
### PepsiCo is moving its Chicago office to the Old Post Office.

Managing Principals Adam Subber and Dan Sullivan in the Cresa Boston office and Allen Rogoway in the Cresa Chicago office represented PepsiCo in an office lease for 192,000 square feet in the recently redeveloped Old Post Office in Chicago. The New York-based food and beverage giant will move 1,300 workers from a 17-story building to one floor in the new ultrawide building.



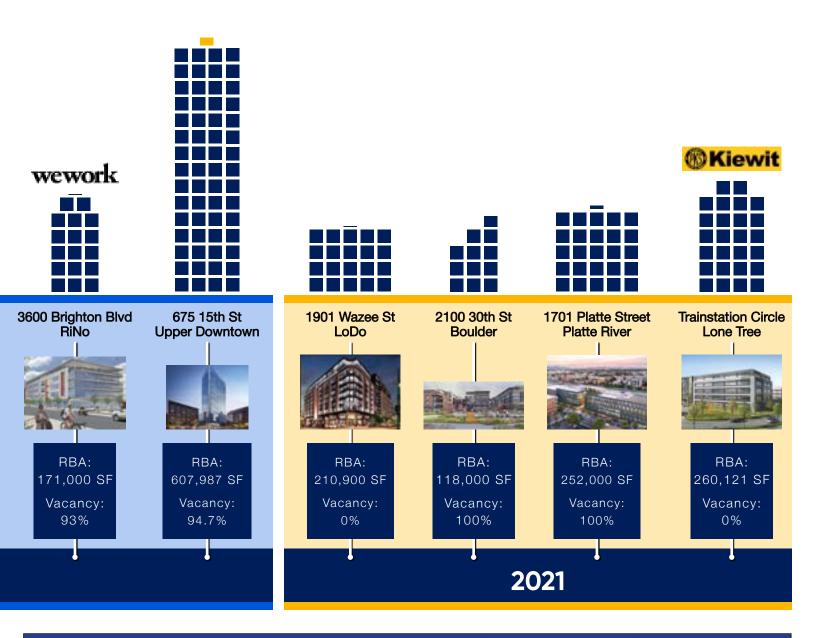






	VACANCY	AVG RENT	2019 ABSORPTION	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	2019 DELIVERIES
36 Corridor	9.7%	\$26.54/SF	84K SF	7 Bldgs   381K SF	0 Bldgs
Boulder	5.7%	\$25.37/SF	77K SF	4 Bldgs   360K SF	0 Bldgs
CBD	9.7%	\$34.66/SF	685K SF	8 Bldgs   1.4M SF	1 Bldg   157K SF
East	7.7%	\$19.98/SF	98K SF	0 Bldgs	0 Bldgs
West	8.6%	\$23.71/SF	30K SF	0 Bldgs	0 Bldgs
I-25 South	11.9%	\$26.43/SF	504K SF	4 Bldgs   773K SF	1 Bldg   80K SF
Metro	10.3%	\$27.99/SF	2M SF	31 Bldgs   3.5M SF	2 Bldgs   237K SF
CO Springs	9.8%	\$18.08/SF	196K SF	0 Bldgs	0 Bldgs
Industrial	4.6%	\$9.72/SF	4K SF	66 Bldgs   4.9M SF	14 Bldgs   1.8M SF

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		LARGEST LEASES		
36 Corridor	Boulder	CBD	East	West
DANONE	Google	รบทาบท	HEALTH TO BE	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
137,040 SF	33,000 SF	118,000 SF	101,000 SF	167,000 SF
I-25 South	CO Spri	ngs M	etro Denver	Industrial
Powered Eq Peopl	LOCKHEED MAI	RTIN A Pour	ored Eg Beople	Sealy
198,000 SF	104,000	SF 1	98,000 SF	289,113 SF





#### Ensure That Your Office Is the Right Fit

A lot of companies think they know exactly what their office needs are but end up regretting the decision before the lease is up. What I say is, "You don't know what you don't know." By thoroughly assessing your needs, a tenant broker can help ensure that you have a clear picture of what will work best for your employees in terms of square footage, location, layout and more.

The responsibility of searching for office space can fall on the desk of various departments within an organization

#### Save Time



# when there is no head of real estate. This is a time-consuming project that no full-time employee has time for. It requires time dedicated to assessing your office needs, searching for office space (see reason #4), assembling tours, negotiating with brokers and communicating with furniture vendors, design teams and more. A tenant broker will take on these tasks for you, leaving you with more time to focus on the business.



#### Utilize Market Knowledge and Data

Tenant brokers bring knowledge of the industry and the market. They can help define unfamiliar terms, explain the differences between various lease types and explain complicated concepts. Their market insight will help you to fairly evaluate deals and create leverage in negotiations.

#### Gain Access to More Spaces

The real estate market is accessed through one software company called CoStar which is unavailable to nonindustry professionals. Plus, some top-notch spaces may never become available to the public due to high demand. Through their connections, a tenant broker can get you into spaces that you would never have access to otherwise.



#### Introductions to the Experts You Need

Tenant brokers know other industry professionals and the good ones have built up a network of trusted referrals. Throughout the real estate process, you might need an architect, a space planner, an interior designer, or some other expert. A tenant broker can provide you with a short-list of referrals that you can trust.

#### Simplify Negotiations

When it comes time to negotiate a lease and solidify you deal, a tenant broker is by your side every step of the way to act as your advocate and advisor. This helps to streamline the negotiation process and ensures you feel confident that you're receiving the best possible deal when it comes time to sign.

#### Save Money



A tenant broker can help save your company money in a lot of ways. They can help you avoid offices that are overpriced, recommend the right office size without having you pay for unused square footage, and devise a real estate strategy that aligns with your growth plan to avoid having to sublease in the future. Plus, their presence alone at the negotiating table can increase your chances of getting deals on rent, an ample tenant improvement allowance, several months of free rent and more.

You might wonder how tenant brokers get paid and the answer is simple: by your landlord. This means that we work on your behalf and it won't cost you a thing!

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### BOULDER TECH PODCAST EPISODE 57: BILL BALDWIN

November 7, 2019 | Joel Davis, Boulder Tech Podcast



The Boulder Tech Podcast features conversations with leaders, thinkers and influencers, sharing their views on what's happening in Boulder's rapidly-evolving tech and startup scene.

Bill Baldwin Managing Principal

In episode 57 Cresa's Managing Principal Bill Baldwin sits down with the host Joel Davis to talk all things coworking including:

- A look at the WeWork "situation"
- The costs, benefits and risks of the co-working model
- Where the co-working industry is headed
- How your co-working space defaulting on its obligations could put your company out of business

### Below is an excerpt of the podcast. To listen to the entire podcast, please click on the link below.

**Bill:** I've worked with a lot of high-tech companies throughout the years, I've seen a lot of big mistakes made: people who have a lack of experience around what their growth patterns might be, where funding is tied to, and how much real estate they should take down. And hopefully, our clients try to avoid that kind of stuff by crafting a solution.

Think about a startup company who has just received \$20 - \$30M, they need to hire a whole bunch of people. Well, what happens 18 month or 24 months down the road? Sometimes it's binary. There's no more, so why sign up for a five-year lease and spend 30 percent of your funding on real esate, when there's other solutions that could work for it.

Joel: And is that where coworking comes in?

**Bill:** Coworking's a great solution. The scale that it's currently at is only a recent phenomena. And by that, I mean, WeWork certainly did it. They've run through probably around \$10B to get it at the global scale. There were operators doing that well in advance.

One of my first projects that I worked on was for a company called SoftBank. At the time I worked with Brad Feld and Chris Wand at that project to help them build out their offices and they served that as an incubator to their funded companies and that was probably almost 20 years ago now. So that was really a successful project from the aspect of them providing a creative space for their funded companies to grow and nurture and without having to take on large amounts of space and feel isolated.

The real growth of coworking and the real greatness of that business model is the flexibility that they offer, which is to basically lease you one space, one desk, one office, one room at a time for variable lengths. And it works very, very well for young companies, startup companies, or companies who are expanding into new markets and may not know how long they're going to be there, may not know how a market might respond to them and their offering, so it's a great way for companies to test the water as they grow into a market.

**Joel:** You talked about the benefits of the coworking space; what are some of the drawbacks to that?

**Bill:** Well, you're witnessing one of the biggest ones right now. The debacle of WeWork is really challenging, and that's more of a business problem on WeWork's side than an indictment of the industry. WeWork was expanding so quickly and burning through so much money that they ran into a challenge of creating a lot of risk for their members. And I'll just give you the biggest risk that I see.

Imagine that you're in a situation where you go to work one day, and the door is locked. So, you go to the property manager and say, "I can't get into my space. The door is locked."

And the property manager says, "Well, your coworking space has not been paying the rent for 30 days—or 60 days or 90 days they're in default of your lease."

"Well, what does that have to do with me? I'm a member of that, but that has nothing to do with me."

It has everything to do with you. You don't have any rights to your space. You don't have any rights directly with the landlord as a member of one of these coworking situations and it puts you at a great deal of risk.



### About Cresa

#### Occupiers Deserve Better.

A better space to work, create, build, grow. A better outcome for your people and organization. A better advocate who puts your needs first. In fact, your results depend on better.

At Cresa, we are proud to be by your side. We've purposebuilt our company with occupiers at the forefront of everything we do, empowering you no matter where you are. Helping you navigate the landscape, uncovering hidden opportunities that work in your favor for that extra edge.

We have a proven record of securing the results you need to power your business forward. Because we're Cresa. We work together to put occupiers first—for better.

### Contact

For more information about Cresa and the Denver market, please contact:

Cresa Denver 1001 17th Street, Suite 1225 Denver, CO 80202

303.228.0800 cresa.com/Denver

#### Learn More:

- in /company/cresa-denver/
- @CresaDenver
- (f) /CresaDenver
- (a) @CresaDenver

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### DENVER METRC Office Market Report | Q4 2019

SUPPLY (A&B) 153.8M SF

VACANCY 10.3%

AVG RENT \$27.99/SF

YTD ABSORPTION 2M SF

BUILDINGS 1,682



UNDER CONSTRUCTION 31 BLDGS | 3.5M SF

Q4 DELIVERIES 2 BLDGS | 237K SF





### BOULDER TECH PODCAST: **EPISODE 57 FEATURING BILL BALDWIN**

The Boulder Tech Podcast features conversations with leaders, thinkers and influencers, sharing their views on what's happening in Boulder's rapidly evolving tech and startup scene. In episode 57, Cresa's Managing Principal Bill Baldwin sits down with the host Joel Davis to talk all things coworking including:

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198K SF 12510 E Belford Avenue

1560 Broadway

\$143M = \$239/SF

**Rising Realty Partners** 



167K SF 12795 W Alameda Pkwy



\$127.3M = \$292/SF Rialto Holdings, LLC



161K SF 10350 Park Meadows Drive



\$110.9M = \$249/SF Nuveen Real Estate

# 36 CORRIDOR

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Office Market Report | Q4 2019

SUPPLY (A&B) 14.1M SF

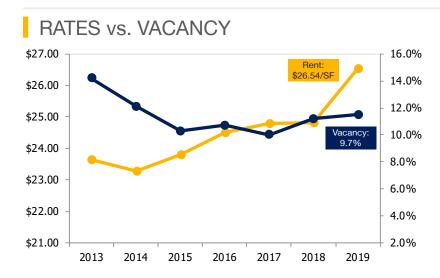
BUILDINGS 185

VACANCY 9.7%

UNDER CONSTRUCTION 7 BLDGS | 381K SF

AVG RENT \$26.54/SF

YTD ABSORPTION **84K SF** Q4 DELIVERIES **0 BLDGS** 





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### BOULDER Office Market Report | Q4 2019

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SUPPLY (A&B) 8.65M SF

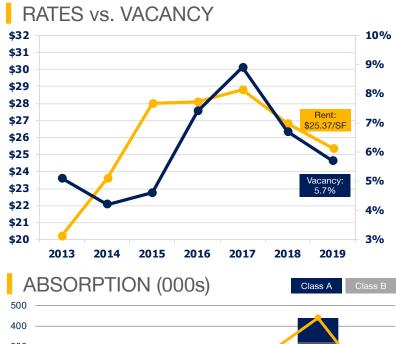
VACANCY 5.7%

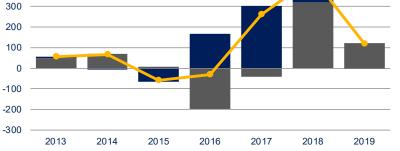
AVG RENT \$25.37/SF

YTD ABSORPTION 77K SF

**BUILDINGS 155** 

Q4 DELIVERIES 0 BLDGS





\$21.2M = \$386/SF

Joan & Charles Shepherd et al

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\$12.2M = \$200/SF

Trimble Inc



UNDER CONSTRUCTION 4 BLDGS | 360K SF

### CBD | LODO | Office Market Report | Q4 2019

SUPPLY (A&B) 37.8M SF

BUILDINGS 214

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**ABSORPTION (000s)** 

2014

2015

Morgan Stranley & Co. LLC

2016

2017

2018

2,500

2.000 1.500 1.000

> 500 0

-500 -1,000

2013

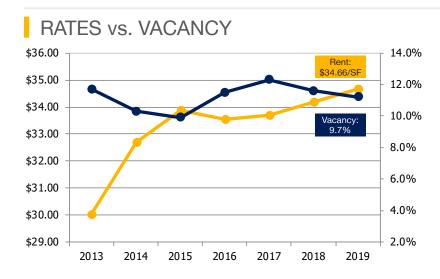
VACANCY 9.7%

Class A

AVG RENT \$34.66/SF UNDER CONSTRUCTION 8 BLDGS | 1.4M SF

Q4 DELIVERIES 1 BLDG | 157K SF

YTD ABSORPTION 685K SF



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2019

\$194M = \$365.36/SF Samsung SRA Asset Mgmt \$143M = \$239/SF **Rising Realty Partners** 

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### FAST Office Market Report | Q4 2019

SUPPLY (A&B) 7.0M SF

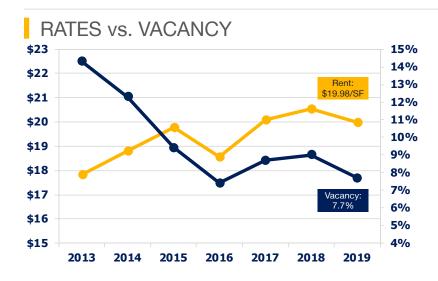
VACANCY 7.7%

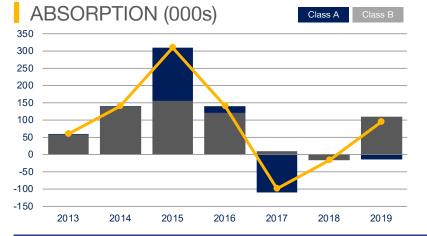
AVG RENT \$19.98/SF

YTD ABSORPTION 95K SF

BUILDINGS 91

Q4 DELIVERIES 0 BLDGS





\$10M = \$1,296/SF

CLR Property Corp

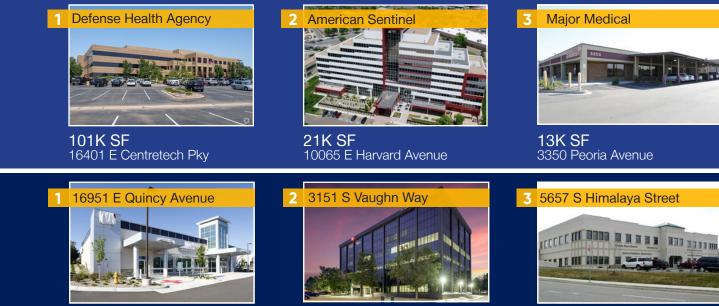
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\$6.6M = \$58.30/SF Pennybacker Capital, LLC \$5.4M = \$227/SF Darren Nakos

UNDER CONSTRUCTION 0 BLDGS

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**ABSORPTION (000s)** 

### Office Market Report | Q4 2019

SUPPLY (A&B) 11.5M SF

VACANCY 8.6%

AVG RENT \$23.71/SF

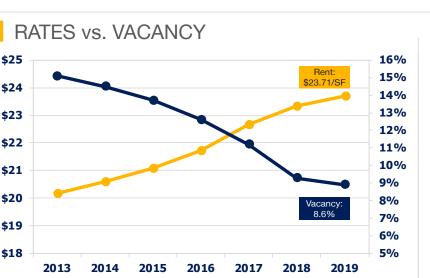
YTD ABSORPTION 30K SF Q4 DELIVERIES 0 BLDGS

WFST

**BUILDINGS 157** 

UNDER CONSTRUCTION 0 BLDGS

Class A

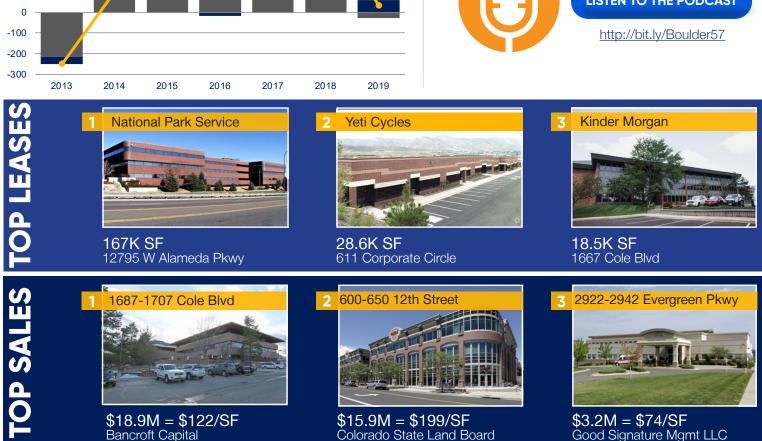


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### I-25 SOUTH Office Market Report | Q4 2019

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SUPPLY (A&B) 44.3M SF

VACANCY **11.9%** 

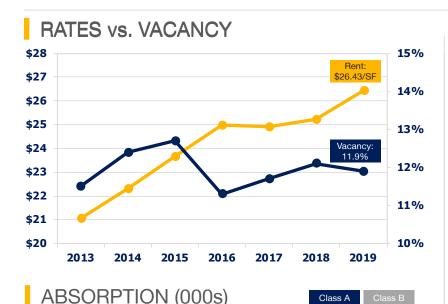
AVG RENT \$26.43/SF

YTD ABSORPTION 504K SF

BUILDINGS 466

UNDER CONSTRUCTION 4 BLDGS | 773K SF

Q4 DELIVERIES 1 BLDG | 80K SF



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1,400 1,200 1,000 800 600 400 200 0 -200 -400 2014 2013 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 TOP SALES TOP LEASES The Industrial Company **Cochlear Americas** 

198K SF

4643 S Ulster Street

\$71.2M = \$223/SF

Granite Properties. Inc



\$64.8M = \$251/SF

America's Capital Partners



78K SF 9193 S Jamaica Street



\$62.3M = \$170/SF Lowe Enterprises Investment

# COLORADO SPRINGS

Office Market Report | Q4 2019

SUPPLY (A&B) 19.5M SF

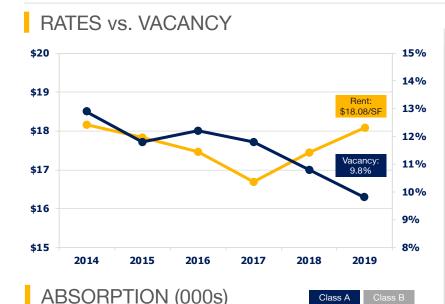
BUILDINGS 307

cresa

VACANCY 9.8%

AVG RENT \$18.08/SF UNDER CONSTRUCTION 0 BLDGS

YTD ABSORPTION 196K SF Q4 DELIVERIES 0 Bldgs



\$19.9M = \$159.69/SF

Flywheel Capital

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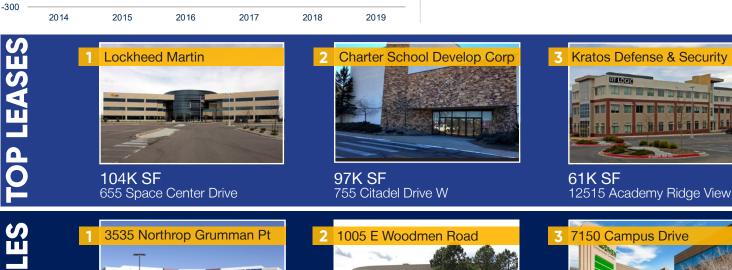
- A look at the WeWork "situation"
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OP SALES TOP LEASE

100 0

-100 -200



\$16M = \$113.81/SF

TEK Experts



\$13.7M = \$126.87/SF MJQ Woodmen LLC