

## **Orange County**

## Developers pressed to find opportunities as logistics users drive unprecedented demand

- The market ended 2021 with new records in yearly absorption as move-ins outpaced deliveries 5:1 this year.
- The development pipeline doubled quarter-over-quarter as developers shifted focus to industrial conversions headed into 2022
- Record low vacancy across the surrounding Southern California markets boosted activity in Orange County.
- Industrial assets in Orange County traded 32% higher than year ago on a price per square foot basis, reflecting strong investor demand.

The Orange County industrial market continued a solid run to round out the year with low vacancy and high rent growth. E-commerce continued to drive demand for logistics space; coupled with supply chain constraints, the region saw elevated activity throughout the year. The increases in leasing elevated rental rates, which increased 10% from the same period last year. Additionally, the effects of low vacancy and increased rents in the Inland Empire and Los Angeles markets were also reflected in Orange County. A lack of available space and few opportunities for development could lead to greater competition for space in 2022. With overwhelming positive demand fundamentals, industrial assets traded 32% higher than a year ago on a price per square foot basis.

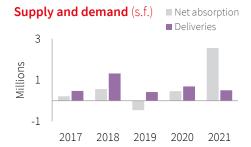
Developers got creative as they repositioned alternative product types for warehouse use. Highlighting this point, nine conversion projects entered the development pipeline this year in Orange County. Record high returns and a lack of quality space further increased new construction in the market. However, the boost to construction activity drove up land and building prices to record rates. Duke Realty recently purchased a mostly vacant 100k+ s.f. office building on 5.8 acres that will be converted to a modern warehouse facility.

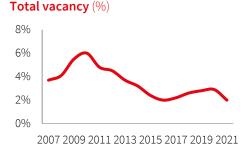
As the pandemic continued, so did the strains on the supply chain. Logistics tenants continued to scour the market for leasing opportunities. Additionally, apparel and biotech companies were significant contributors to positive absorption.

## **Outlook**

Construction data suggests that available inventory may be on the way in 2022. Still, tenants, especially those focused on logistics, should be prepared to secure leases far in advance of their expirations for much higher rates. As the Inland Empire and Los Angeles markets continue to see record-low vacancies and compressing cap rates, it stands to reason that Orange County will continue its own record-breaking trajectory.

Fundamentals	Forecast
YTD net absorption	2,556,515 s.f. ▲
Under construction	3,507,959 s.f. ▲
Total vacancy	2.0% ▼
Sublease vacancy	359,771 s.f. ▼
Direct asking rent	\$1.10 p.s.f. 🛕
Sublease asking rent	\$1.01 p.s.f. 🛕
Concessions	Falling ▼







## **Industrial Statistics**

	Inventory (s.f.)	Quarterly total net absorption (s.f.)	YTD total net absorption (s.f.)	YTD total net absorption (% of stock)	Total vacancy (%)	Total availability (%)	Average total asking rent (\$ p.s.f.)	Quarterly Completions (s.f.)	YTD Completions (s.f.)	Under construction (s.f.)
Orange County total Warehouse & Distribution	144,480,443	-160,368	1,330,908	0.9%	2.3%	5.4%	\$1.10	367,897	508,906	3,074,094
Manufacturing	63,062,530	115,821	1,225,607	1.9%	1.4%	2.7%	\$1.13	0	0	433,865
Overall Total	207,594,913	-44,547	2,556,515	1.2%	2.0%	4.6%	\$1.10	367,897	508,906	3,507,959
North County Warehouse & Distribution Manufacturing	73,554,968 28,970,687	107,192 28,409	871,648 171,506	1.2% 0.6%	1.5% 0.7%	5.6% 2.6%	\$1.10 \$1.25	108,125 0	265,930 0	1,946,974
Overall Total	102,525,655	135,601	1,043,154	1.0%	1.2%	4.7%	\$1.13	108,125	265,930	1,946,974
West County Warehouse & Distribution Manufacturing Overall Total	20,366,648 11,867,050 <b>32,233,698</b>	88,861 27,876 <b>116,737</b>	490,293 164,103 <b>654,396</b>	2.4% 1.4% 2.0%	2.6% 2.5% <b>2.6</b> %	4.3% 4.4% <b>4.3%</b>	\$1.03 \$1.16 <b>\$1.05</b>	259,772 0 <b>259,772</b>	242,976 0 <b>242,976</b>	571,135 433,865 <b>1,005,000</b>
Airport Area Warehouse & Distribution Manufacturing Overall Total	35,262,353 15,610,437 <b>50,924,730</b>	-362,486 -31,813 <b>-394,299</b>	-132,250 476,578 <b>344,328</b>	-0.4% 3.1% <b>0.7</b> %	3.9% 2.0% 3.3%	6.2% 2.7% <b>5.1%</b>	\$1.08 \$1.03 <b>\$1.07</b>	0 0	0 0	464,465 0 <b>464,465</b>
South County Warehouse & Distribution Manufacturing Overall Total	15,296,474 6,614,356 <b>21,910,830</b>	6,065 91,349 <b>97,414</b>	101,217 413,420 <b>514,637</b>	0.7% 6.3% 2.3%	2.4% 0.8% <b>1.9</b> %	4.4% 0.7% 3.3%	\$1.34 \$1.50 <b>\$1.34</b>	0	0	91,520 0 <b>91,520</b>