



MARKET FUNDAMENTALS YOY Outlook Chg 12.7% Vacancy Rate -650K YTD Net Absorption SF \$35.89 Asking Gross Rent PSF (Overall, All Property Classes) **ECONOMIC INDICATORS** YOY Outlook Chg 673K Ottawa **Employment** 5.9% Ottawa **Unemployment Rate**

6.7%

Rate

Canada Unemployment

Source: Statistics Canada

ECONOMY

In December 2024, Canada's unemployment rate increased to 6.7%, rising by 10 basis points (bps) from the previous quarter, reflecting persistent economic challenges. Despite the educational services sector posting the highest month-over-month employment gains, overall employment remained largely unchanged. Meanwhile, Ottawa's unemployment rate fell to 5.9%, a 60-bps decline from the prior quarter, representing its first drop in 2024. To stimulate business activity and support consumer spending, the Bank of Canada implemented two consecutive 50-bps policy rate cuts in Q4 2024, reducing the rate from 4.25% to 3.25%.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The overall vacancy rate in Ottawa slightly increased to 12.7% in the last quarter of 2024. The Central Class A market recorded a 70 bps increase in vacancy quarter-over-quarter (QOQ), rising from 13.2% to 13.9%, primarily due to 43k square feet (sf) of sublet space becoming available at 215 Slater Street. This pushed the sublet vacancy rate in the CBD Class A market from 14.7% to 17.2%. Meanwhile, the Central Class C market recorded an increase in vacancy of 120 bps, rising from 13.3% to 14.5%.

Leasing activity in the Ottawa office market totaled 385k sf in Q4 2024, a significant decline from the previous quarter. The overall Class A market contributed 187k sf of the overall total, although there were decreases of 50k sf in the Central Class A market and 56k sf in the Suburban Class A market compared to Q3 2024. In contrast, Class B markets had a mixed performance. The Central Class B market recorded a substantial decrease in activity of 116k sf QOQ, while the Suburban Class B market had a 114k-sf increase, effectively balancing overall Class B leasing activity.

PRICING

The overall average direct net asking rent in Ottawa remained stable in Q4 2024, with a city-wide average of \$17.47 per square foot (psf), reflecting a slight decrease from the prior quarter. The Suburban Class A market recorded a modest QOQ decline of \$0.16 psf, settling at \$15.72 psf. Meanwhile, the Central Class A market posted a minimal increase of \$0.05 psf, bringing its average net asking rent to \$24.33 psf.

SPACE DEMAND / DELIVERIES



OVERALL VACANCY & ASKING GROSS RENT



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MARKET STATISTICS

| SUBMARKET | INVENTORY (SF) | SUBLET VACANT (SF) | DIRECT VACANT (SF) | OVERALL VACANCY RATE | CURRENT QTR OVERALL NET ABSORPTION (SF) | YTD OVERALL NET ABSORPTION (SF) | YTD LEASING ACTIVITY (SF) | UNDER CNSTR (SF) | OVERALL AVG ASKING RENT (ALL CLASSES)* | OVERALL AVG ASKING RENT (CLASS A)* |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Downtown Core | 18,336,076 | 295,301 | 2,137,218 | 13.3% | -104,497 | -470,474 | 544,698 | 0 | \$39.62 | \$48.86 |
| Centretown | 1,137,653 | 12,110 | 165,338 | 15.6% | 56,229 | -16,446 | 152,865 | 0 | \$32.11 | \$34.01 |
| Lowertown/Sandy Hill | 918,212 | 13,751 | 235,706 | 27.2% | -4,384 | -14,830 | 29,245 | 0 | \$36.89 | \$43.13 |
| Glebe/Main | 255,845 | 0 | 32,291 | 12.6% | 1,137 | -10,261 | 23,534 | 0 | \$33.95 | N/A |
| Central Dispersed | 286,251 | 0 | 102,707 | 35.9% | -11,840 | -11,836 | 0 | 0 | N/A | N/A |
| CENTRAL AREA TOTALS | 20,934,037 | 321,162 | 2,673,260 | 14.3% | -63,355 | -523,847 | 750,342 | 0 | \$38.64 | \$47.97 |
| Ottawa West | 9,542,723 | 174,305 | 752,299 | 9.7% | 26,810 | -145,049 | 590,273 | 0 | \$31.65 | \$36.28 |
| Ottawa Deep West | 6,748,128 | 89,837 | 831,539 | 13.7% | -96,612 | -197,353 | 520,890 | 72,000 | \$26.08 | \$25.80 |
| SUBURBAN WEST TOTALS | 16,290,851 | 264,142 | 1,583,838 | 11.3% | -69,802 | -342,402 | 1,111,163 | 72,000 | \$29.75 | \$29.88 |
| Ottawa South | 450,018 | 0 | 58,780 | 13.1% | -4,174 | 476 | 48,370 | 0 | \$37.29 | \$37.29 |
| Ottawa East | 5,666,061 | 89,425 | 525,689 | 10.9% | -33,414 | 215,812 | 155,474 | 0 | \$36.20 | \$37.13 |
| TOTAL SUBURBAN TOTALS | 22,406,930 | 353,567 | 2,168,307 | 11.3% | -107,390 | -126,114 | 1,315,007 | 72,000 | \$31.92 | \$32.99 |
| OTTAWA TOTALS | 43,340,967 | 674,729 | 4,841,567 | 12.7% | -170,745 | -649,961 | 2,065,349 | 72,000 | \$35.89 | \$40.58 |

^{*}Rental rates reflect full service asking. Gross rent including operating costs and taxes.

KEY LEASE TRANSACTIONS Q4 2024

| PROPERTY | SUBMARKET | TENANT | SF | DEAL TYPE |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| 349 Terry Fox Drive | Kanata North | Ericsson | 248,578 | Renewal* |
| 350 Legget Drive | Kanata North | Undisclosed | 32,371 | New Deal |
| 500 Palladium Drive | Kanata South | Equispheres | 23,894 | Expansion |
| 343 Preston Street | Ottawa West Dispersed | Undisclosed | 19,553 | New Deal |
| 333 Preston Street | Ottawa West Dispersed | Sun Life | 13,993 | Relocation |
| 333 Preston Street | Ottawa West Dispersed | Sun Life | 13,837 | Renewal* |

^{*}Renewals not included in leasing statistics

KEY SALES TRANSACTIONS Q4 2024

| PROPERTY | SUBMARKET | SELLER/BUYER | SF | PRICE / \$ PSF |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--|--------|---------------------|
| 125 - 135 Rideau St & 90 George St | Lowertown / Sandy Hill | 90 George Street Nominee Inc / 135 Rideau Street Property Ltd | 52,267 | \$8,500,000 / \$163 |
| 110 Argyle Ave & 455 Metcalfe St | Centretown | 9513582 Canada Inc / 110 Argyle Holding Inc | 17,700 | \$6,900,000 / \$390 |
| 191 Laurier Ave W & 120 Metcalfe St | CBD | Slate Holdings (Canada) ULC / Slategreen GP Inc | 85,270 | \$3,075,000 / \$36 |

NATHAN SMITH, BROKER

Executive Vice President
Managing Director
Tel: +1 613 236 7777
info@cwottawa.com

YICHEN SHI

Research Analyst
Tel: +1 613 236 7777
yshi@cwottawa.com

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