Phoenix Office Market Overview



Market Observations



- Phoenix's labor market remains robust, with a November unemployment rate of 3.5%, 50 basis points below the national average.
- Education, health, and government sectors led job gains over the past 12 months, while four of the 10 super sectors recorded losses.
- Office-occupying employment is 5.9% above pre-pandemic levels. However, the potential impact of global tech layoffs by companies like Google, Meta, and Amazon remains a key concern for the market.
- The Fed cut interest rates by 25 basis points this quarter, bringing the benchmark short-term rate to a range of 4.25%-4.5%, a full percentage point below the fourdecade high reached in July 2023.

Major Transactions

- Tenant relocations were prominent in Q4 2024, often involving modest footprint reductions with new lease agreements.
- Owner-user and large portfolio sales rebounded after subdued activity in 2023 and early 2024, signaling renewed investor confidence.
- Sales of medical office properties outperformed traditional office assets due to Phoenix's strong healthcare fundamentals.
- As loan maturities approach, landlords face growing pressure, with more distressed and bank-owned office assets expected to enter the market, potentially influencing pricing dynamics in 2025.



Market Fundamentals

- Net absorption was negative for the ninth consecutive quarter, with 35,244 SF in losses. A contraction, but not a sharp one compared to recent quarters.
- Net absorption for 2024 totaled -1.8 MSF, much lower than 2023's -2.8 MSF.
- Hybrid work trends (less space needed) and rising vacancy have deterred new construction, with no starts recorded in the second half of 2024.
- Total vacancy climbed to 26.5%, a 200-basis-point increase year-over-year.
- Sublease space additions slowed, but transitions from sublease to direct availability are accelerating. More transitions are expected as major sublet terms expire in 2024 and 2025.



Outlook

- Macroeconomic uncertainty will drive cautious decision-making among occupiers and investors, likely suppressing leasing and sales activity.
- Market vacancy is expected to rise further as lease expirations prompt tenants to renew or sign smaller footprints.
- Despite rising vacancy, Phoenix remains an attractive market for office users due to its strong population growth, diversified economy, and highly educated workforce, which continue to underpin long-term demand.

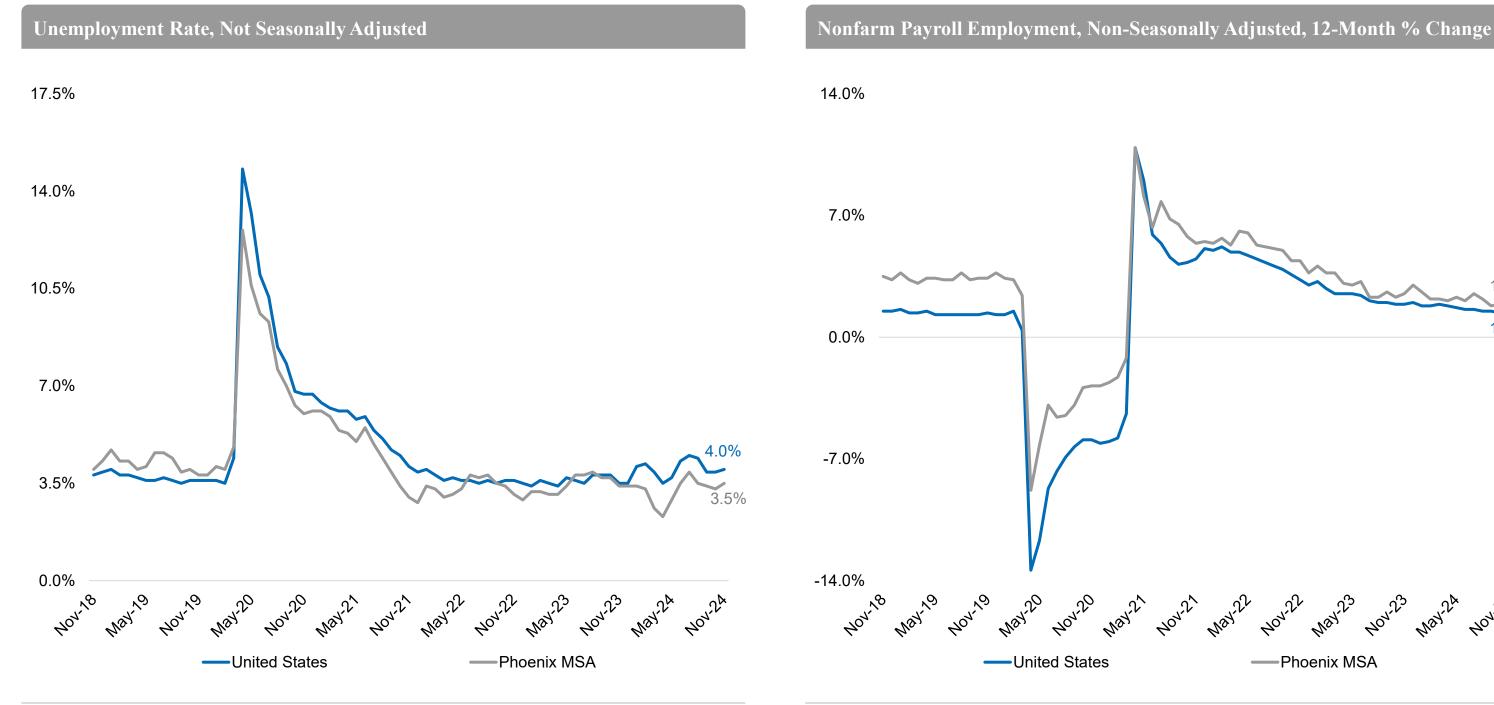
- 1. Economy
- 2. Market Fundamentals
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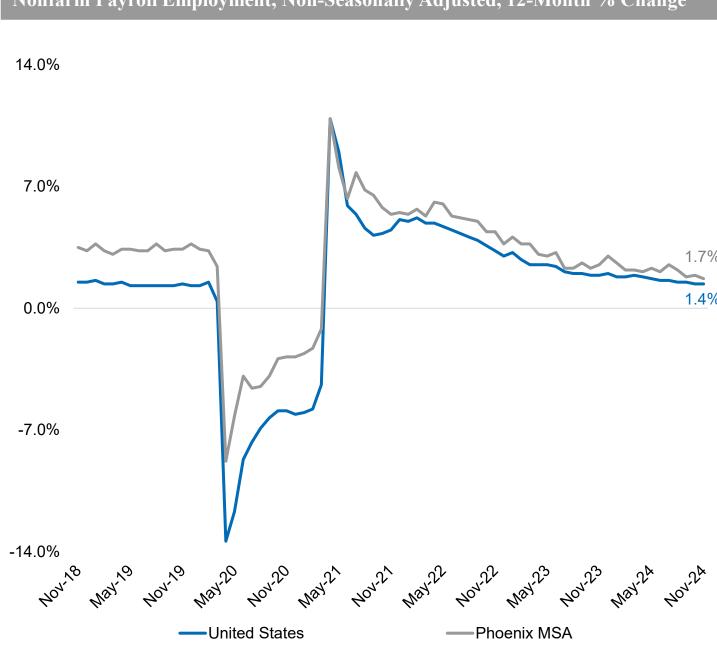
Economy



Resilient Labor Market Amid Economic Challenges

Local unemployment remains strong at 3.5%, outperforming the national average of 4.0% since August 2023. While job growth has decelerated, it remains positive as companies adjust to shifting economic conditions. Sustained lower unemployment highlights the region's economic resilience, though caution is warranted given broader uncertainty in the U.S. economy.



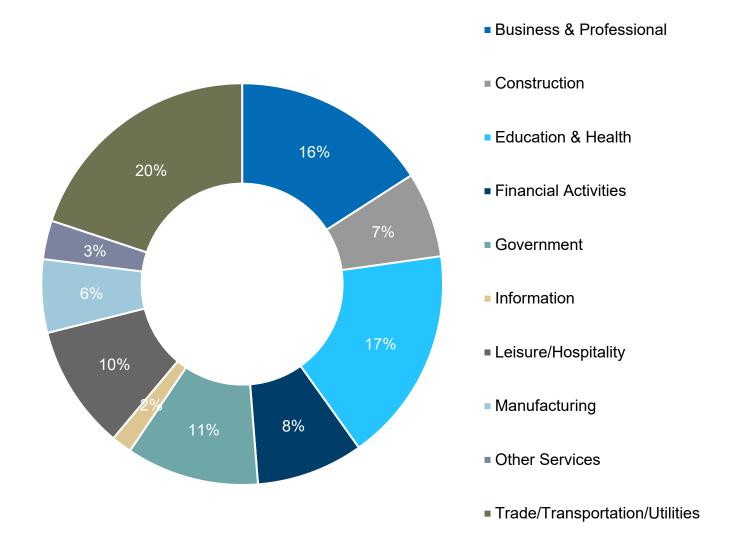


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Phoenix MSA Note: November 2024 data is preliminary.

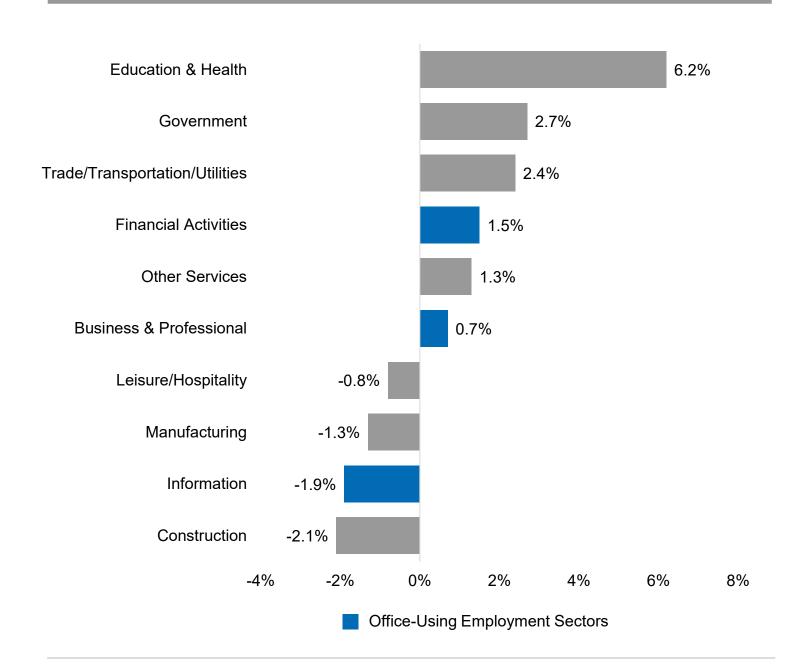
Job Growth Was Pronounced in Already Strong Employment Sectors

Education and health led annual job growth, followed by government and trade/transportation/utilities. Among office-using sectors, information (dominated by tech) contracted by -1.9%, while financial activities grew 1.5%, and professional/business services rose 0.7%. The contraction in tech reflects broader industry challenges, while steady gains in other office-occupying sectors indicate relative stability.





Employment Growth by Industry, 12-Month % Change, November 2024



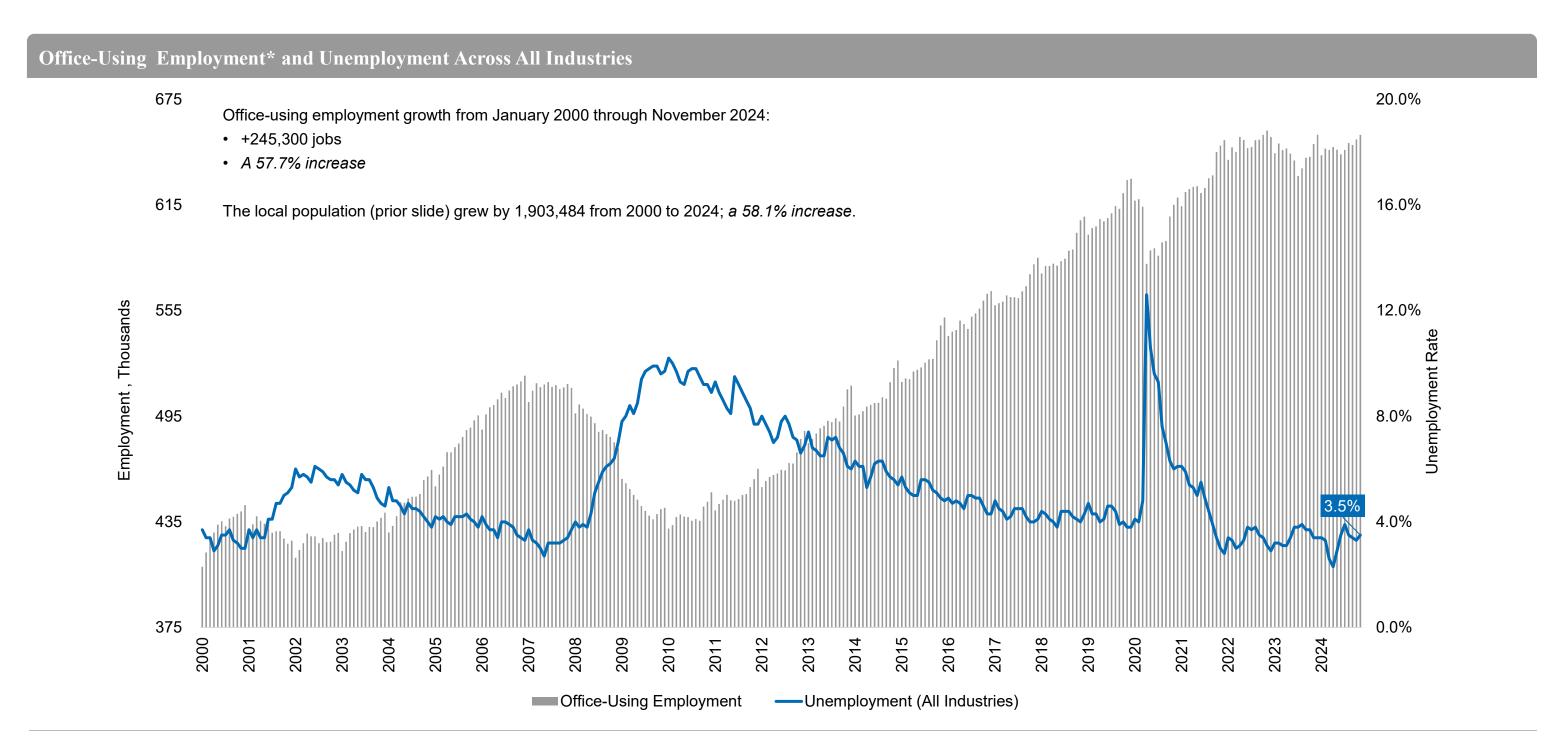
Population Growth in Recent Decades and Future Projections





Office-Using Employment Growth Driven by Population Expansion

Office-using employment stands 5.9% above pre-pandemic levels (February 2020) and 0.8% higher year-over-year, supported by robust population growth. This increase has fueled demand for population-serving office tenants, including insurers, banks, and law firms, as expanding local demographics drive broader service needs.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Phoenix MSA

Note: November 2024 data is preliminary.

^{*}Office-using employment includes employment in the following industry sectors: Professional & Business Services, Financial Activities and Information.

Phoenix Inflation is Cooling and is One of the Lowest Among U.S. Metros



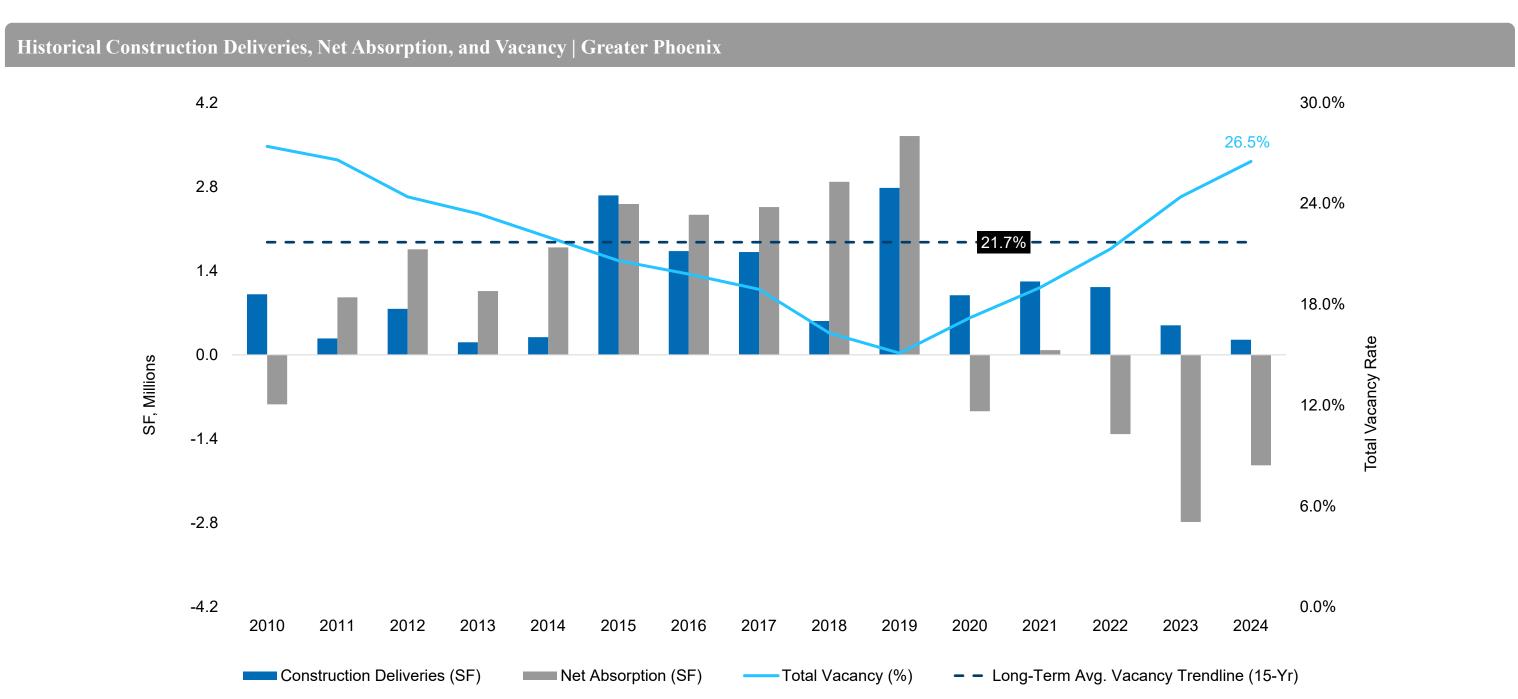


Market Fundamentals



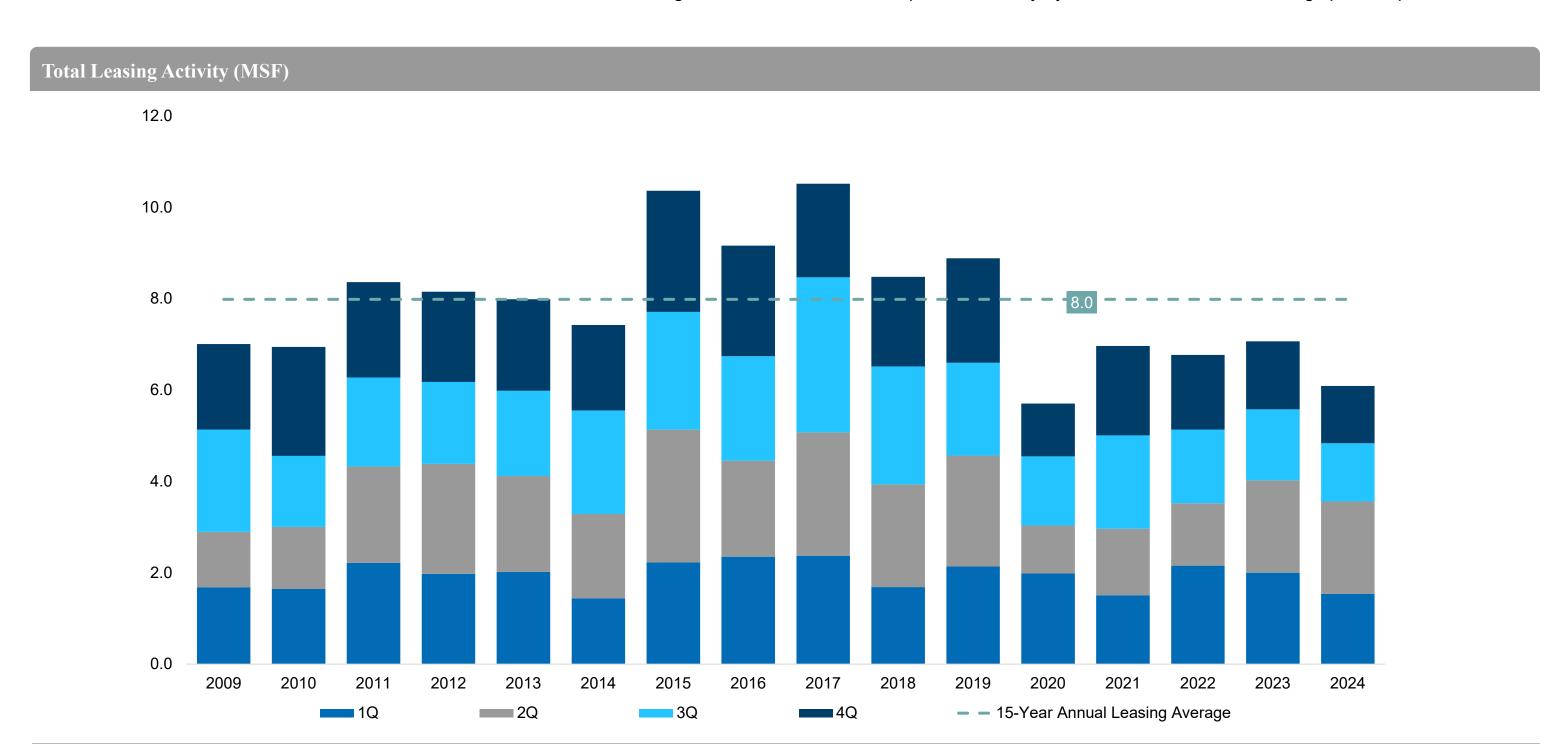
Vacancy's Rise Expected to Slow in 2025

Total vacancy reached 26.5% at year-end 2024, exceeding the 15-year average of 21.7% by 480 basis points. While space givebacks persisted as tenants reduced footprints, the rate of these reductions slowed compared to 2023. Limited construction deliveries and a constrained development pipeline are expected to moderate further vacancy increases, providing some stability as the market continues to adjust to evolving tenant needs.



Leasing Activity Reflects Smaller Tenant Footprints in 2024

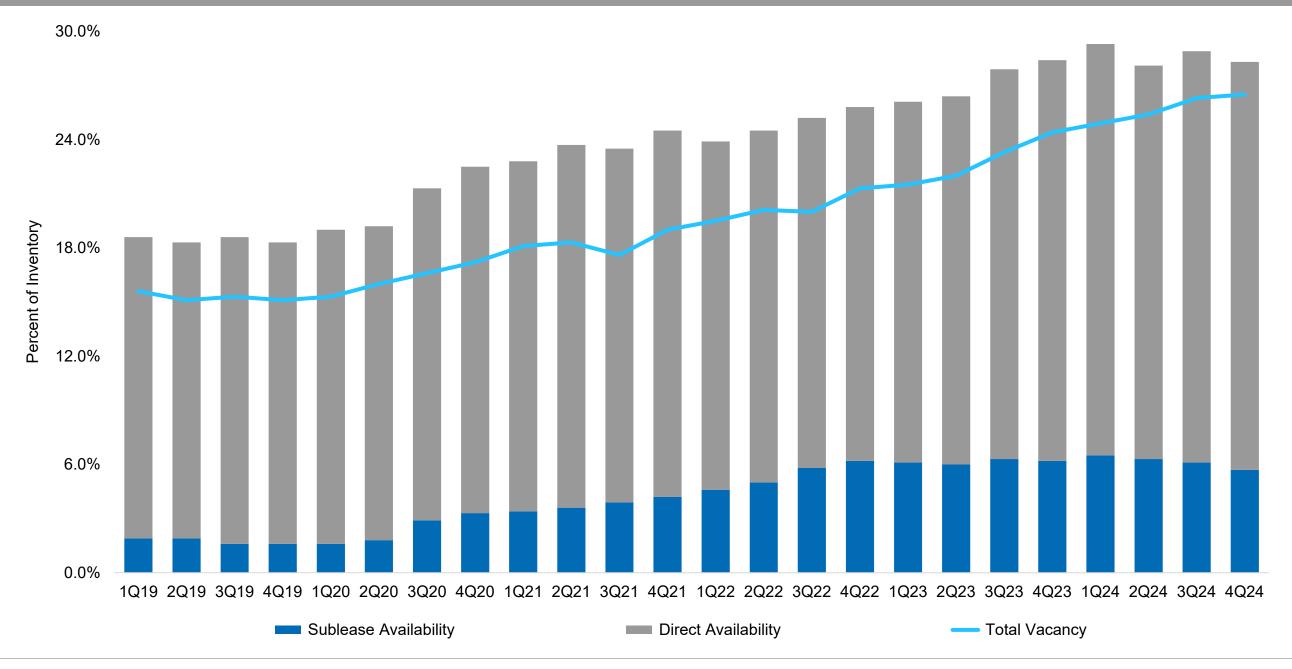
Leasing activity in the second half of 2024 was subdued, with fewer and smaller deals dominating the market. Annual transaction volume fell below 2021–2023 levels but remained above the 2020 low. Office tenants continued to favor lease renewals or new agreements with reduced footprints, driven by hybrid work models and evolving space requirements.



Sublease Availability Stabilizing Amid Prolonged Market Vacancies

Since the pandemic, sublease availability steadily increased due to hybrid work and cost-saving measures. However, Q4 2024 saw a 40-basis-point drop in sublease availability and a 20-basis-point decline in direct availability. Despite these improvements, vacant space continues to linger on the market for extended periods, contributing to a gradual uptick in overall vacancy as tenants shed larger spaces. The trend highlights ongoing challenges in balancing supply and demand in the Phoenix office market.





Elevated Sublease Availability Trends Downward in Phoenix





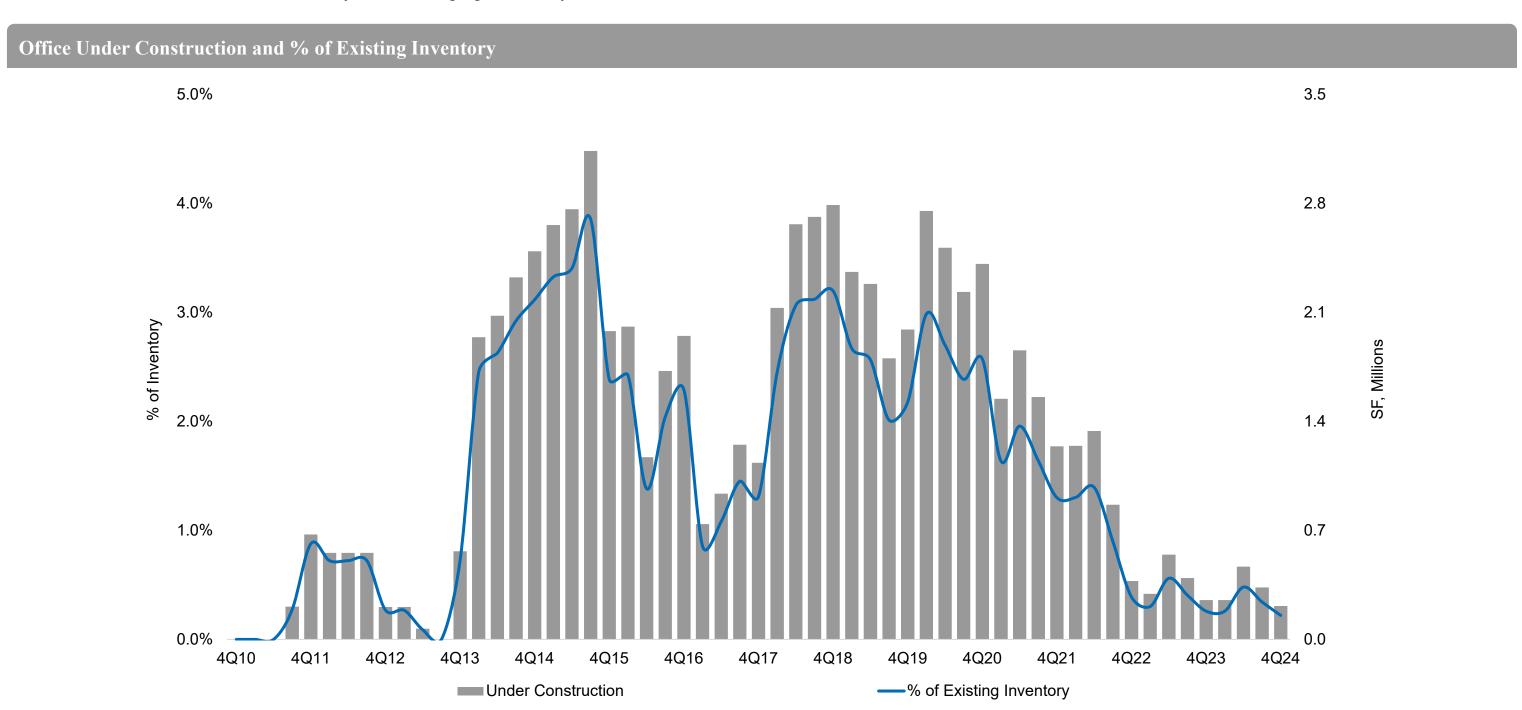
The Ten Largest Sublet Blocks Currently on the Market





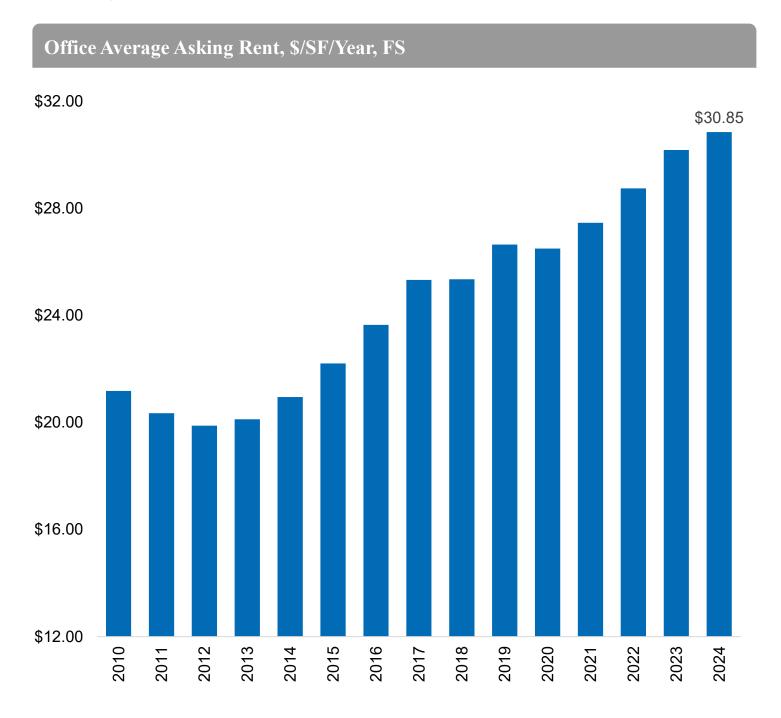
Constrained Office Development Amid Shifting Demand

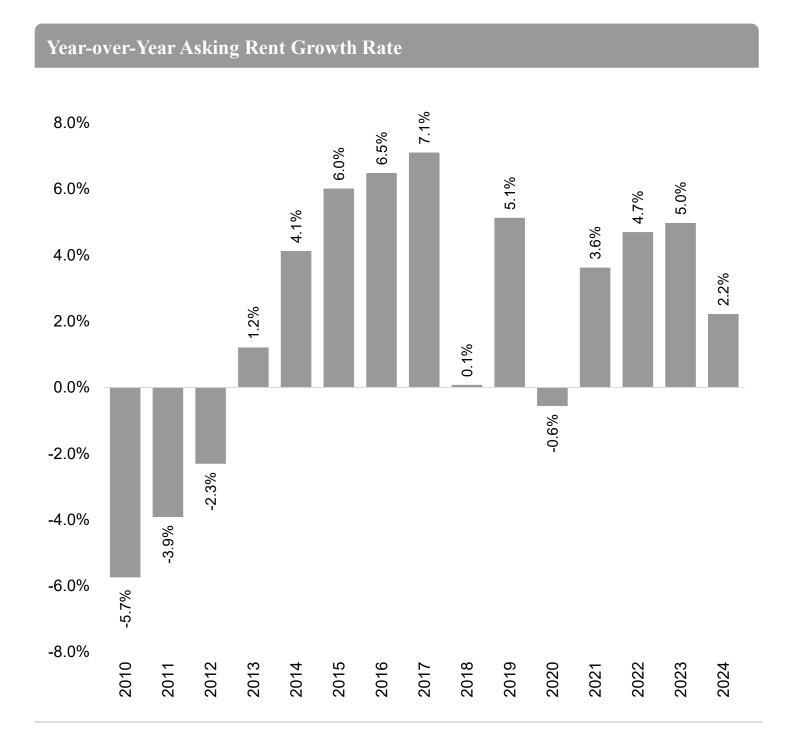
Hybrid work trends, elevated sublease availability, and tempered tenant demand have significantly curtailed office construction activity since 2020. With just 214,800 SF of traditional office space under development and only two deliveries in 2024, the pipeline remains limited, allowing tenants to absorb existing inventory. Developers are prioritizing other asset classes, such as industrial and multifamily, amid changing market dynamics.



Stagnant Rental Growth Amid Elevated Availability

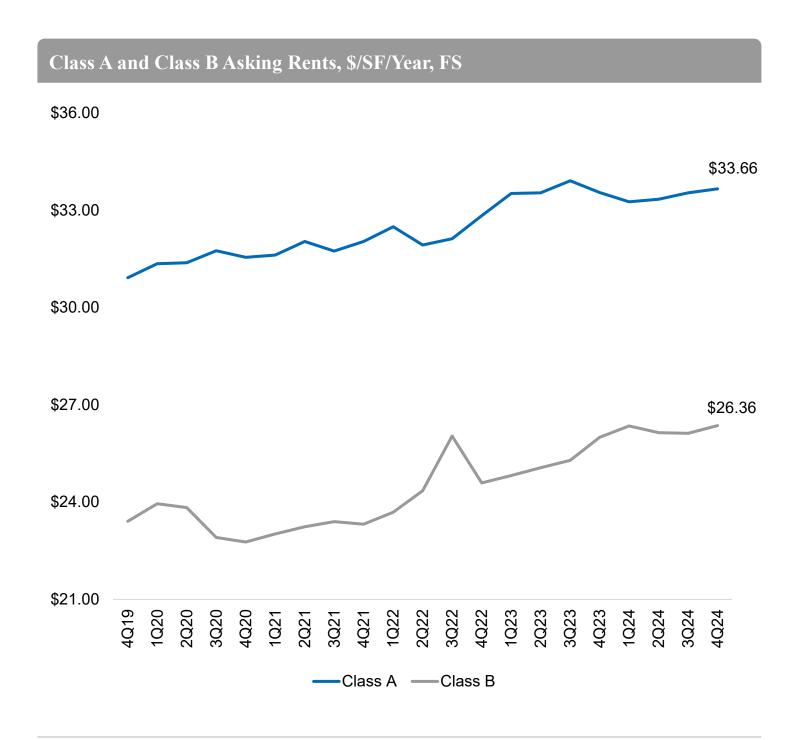
Prolonged vacancy periods stalled rent growth in 2024, with landlords maintaining asking rates for direct space while offering increased concessions and tenant improvement allowances to secure tenants. Few construction deliveries in 2025 are unlikely to establish new rate benchmarks. Rental rates are anticipated to remain steady until declining availability creates upward pressure.

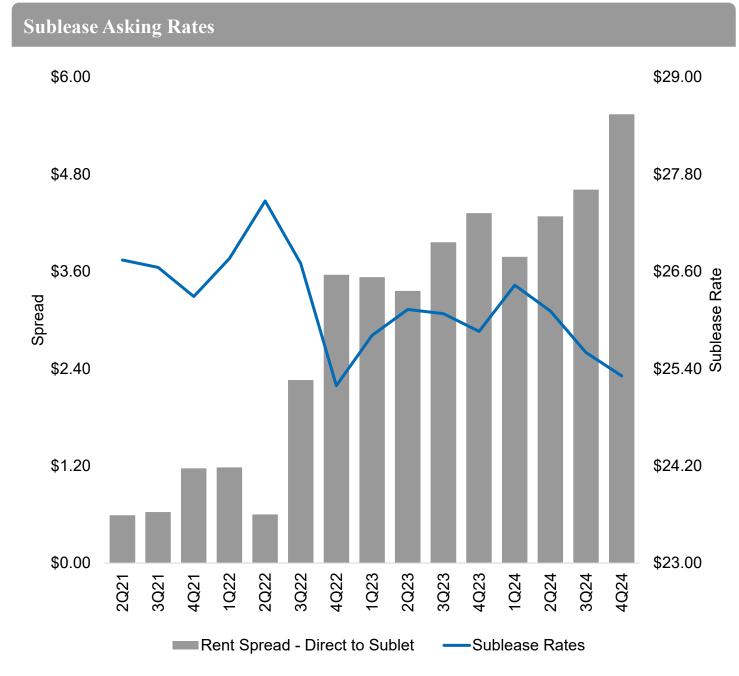




Sublease Competition Pressures Rent Dynamics

Sublessors are aggressively competing with landlords by reducing rents, creating a \$5.54/SF rent spread between direct and sublease space. Despite this pressure, Class A and Class B asking rates demonstrated moderate growth throughout 2024, reflecting resilient demand for higher-quality space in a challenging market.





Effective Rents are Marginally Down Since 2019, and Will Remain Flat





Tenant Improvement Allowances Remain Generous





4Q24 Notable Lease Transactions

This quarter's top deals are a mix of direct leases and one sublease all of which were on the smaller side compared to previous quarters. Most tenants continue to enact cost-cutting measures by downsizing to mitigate high costs of business.

Notable 4Q24 Lease Transactions							
Tenant	Building(s)	Submarket	Туре	Square Feet			
Adtalem	20410 N 19 th Ave	Deer Valley	Direct Lease	57,336			
Adtalem relocated to the Deer Valley submarket from 2149 West Dunlap Ave.							
SAP America	1101 W Washington St	Tempe	Direct Lease	32,880			
SAP America recommitted to their current location in a renewal transaction, but at a smaller footprint than the original term.							
C.H. Robinson Company Inc	16220 N Scottsdale Rd	Scottsdale Airpark	Sublease	26,042			
C.H. Robinson Company relocated from Desert Ridge in this 26,042 SF sublease.							
Assured Partners	14614 N Kierland Blvd	Scottsdale Airpark	Direct Lease	25,558			
Already subleasing space at 14614 N Kierland Blvd, Assured Partners decided to sign on for a direct lease to stay in place.							
NexMetro	2575 R Camelback Rd	Camelback Corridor	Direct Lease	20,803			
NexMetro took 20,803 SF in a relocation move from Camelback Center.							

2024 Welcomes Strong Year-End Activity





Capital Strategies and Phoenix's Resilient Medical Office Market





Sales Activity Increased from Previous Quarter

The increase in sales activity this quarter, along with gains from previous quarters, exceeded the total sales volume for 2023. The Federal Reserve's reductions in interest rates are expected to boost property sales volume in the coming year, especially as more distressed or bank-owned properties enter the market.

Notable 3Q24 Sale Transactions						
Building Address	Submarket	Sales Price	Price/SF	Square Feet		
24 th & Camelback Phase II - 2325 E Camelback Rd	Camelback Corridor	\$97,900,000	\$319.02	306,877		
24 th at Camelback II was 87% leased when it was sold by Hines & Invesco for \$97.9 million.						
Camelback Lakes – 2710, 2720, 2730, & 2850 E Camelback Rd	Camelback Corridor	\$60,000,000	\$260.62	230,222		
DRA & Mainstreet sold the four-building park as a portfolio in the Camelback Corridor.						
Desert Ridge Corporate Center I & II – 20830 & 20860 N Tatum Blvd	Scottsdale Airpark	\$35,000,000	\$127.18	275,208		
Discount Tire Company, already a large tenant within the center, purchased Deseret Ridge Corporate Center I & II from Regent Properties in an owner-user transaction.						
7272 Old Town- 7272 E Indian School Rd	Scottsdale South	\$42,250,000	\$266.47	158,556		
Location was purchased by Ascentris and George Oliver Companies as part of a larger portfolio with significant reposition plans for the near future.						
20 E Thomas Rd	Midtown	\$23,700,000	\$43.17	548,938		
U-Haul purchased the Midtown property to utilize as a corporate headquarters.						

Appendix



Phoenix Metro Office Submarket Map and High-Level Statistics | 4Q24





Phoenix Metro Office Submarket Statistics | 4Q24 (page 1 of 2)





Phoenix Metro Office Submarket Statistics | 4Q24 (page 2 of 2)





A Lower Cost Business Environment With Affordable Housing Favors Phoenix





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