## MARKETBEAT

# HAMPTON ROADS

Office Q3 2023



8.3% Vacancy Rate

\$22.02



YoY

Chg

12-Mo.

**Forecast** 

Asking Rent, PSF

(Overall, All Property Classes)

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS Q3 2023

**793K**Hampton Roads
Employment







Source: BLS

### **ECONOMY: Veteran Impact**

One in eight adults in Hampton Roads is a veteran, and roughly 5% of working-age adults are military retirees. Federal pensions and benefits received by local veterans total approximately \$200 million each month. These dollars flow directly into the local economy. Additional veteran investment in the local economy includes the potential closure and relocation of the Hampton VA medical center, which sits on 84 acres in Hampton. Currently a community-based outpatient clinic is currently under construction next to Chesapeake Regional Medical Center, and there are plans for brand new VA Medical Centers in Newport News and Norfolk. Old Dominion University (ODU) recently released its annual State of the Region report, and ODU economist Bob McNab called veterans the fourth pillar of the area's economy after defense, the Port, and tourism.

### **FUNDAMENTALS: Tenant Improvement Cost Increases Biggest Leasing Velocity Hurdle**

In this post pandemic world, tenants continue to look for more inviting, collaborative office environments that are ultimately more complex and expensive to build than traditional buildouts. That focus coupled with construction labor force shortages, building supply constraints, and an overall lack of right-sized office build-out contractors make penciling local office deals increasingly challenging. Rent has slightly increased, but nowhere near the almost doubled cost of office buildouts. Tenants are still hesitant to sign long term leases in a fast-moving dynamic market. However, demand for sub-20,000-square-foot (sf) owner-occupant purchase opportunities is red hot. Buildings are trading for 150-200% more than what they would trade for if they were occupied and sold as a stabilized asset to an investor. The flight to quality continues to be the theme. Class A office with walkable amenities is in the highest demand outside of Downtown Norfolk. Leasing velocity and new jobs continue to be created from internal local forces as opposed to organic growth from outside of the market. The overall vacancy rate of 8.3% is relatively healthy compared to similar sized markets but the lack of new inventory is the bigger driving factor, and the -313k sf absorption echoes that fact.

### **FORECAST: Sticky Tenants**

Despite negative absorption across the market, rents will continue to increase. The only way to overcome increased tenant improvement costs are increased rents and increased lease terms. Older product with cheaper rents will continue to struggle and in a market with tight commercial land opportunities, owners of Class B and Class C product might look to pivot to alternative uses. This negative supply growth will continue to keep the market healthy despite continued sluggish absorption and leasing velocity.

#### **SPACE DEMAND / DELIVERIES**



#### **OVERALL VACANCY & ASKING RENT**



# **HAMPTON ROADS**

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#### **MARKET STATISTICS**

| SUBMARKET                   | INVENTORY<br>(SF) | SUBLET<br>VACANT<br>(SF) | DIRECT<br>VACANT<br>(SF) | OVERALL<br>VACANCY<br>RATE | CURRENT QTR<br>OVERALL NET<br>ABSORPTION (SF) | YTD OVERALL<br>NET ABSORPTION<br>(SF) | YTDLEASING<br>ACTIVITY<br>(SF) | UNDER<br>CNSTR<br>(SF) | OVERALL AVG<br>ASKING RENT<br>(ALL CLASSES)* | OVERALL AVG<br>ASKING RENT<br>(CLASS A)* |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Chesapeake                  | 5,571,306         | 61,145                   | 526,547                  | 10.7%                      | 64,826  | 63,049                                | 147,691                        | 0                      | \$21.48                                      | \$23.55                                  |
| Gloucester                  | 121,725           | 0                        | 773                      | 0.6%                       | 0   | 0                                     | 0                              | 0                      | N/A  | N/A                                      |
| Hampton                     | 3,825,585         | 0                        | 322,330                  | 7.6%                       | -1,355  | 7                                     | 124,926                        | 0                      | \$16.04                                      | \$15.90                                  |
| Harborview / Western Branch | 1,807,953         | 0                        | 92,201                   | 4.8%                       | 6,909   | -209                                  | 32,642                         | 0                      | N/A  | N/A                                      |
| Newport News                | 7,722,210         | 0                        | 585,184                  | 5.3%                       | -2,341  | 39,742                                | 251,821                        | 80,000                 | \$17.28                                      | \$19.85                                  |
| Norfolk                     | 10,212,670        | 35,048                   | 1,084,891                | 11.2%                      | -31,502                                       | -321,879                              | 172,788                        | 0                      | \$24.73                                      | \$22.20                                  |
| Portsmouth                  | 1,269,035         | 3,155                    | 51,787                   | 5.8%                       | -11,515                                       | 47,724                                | 27,312                         | 0                      | \$18.41                                      | \$18.88                                  |
| Suffolk                     | 1,174,892         | 0                        | 32,494                   | 4.0%                       | 0   | 1,899                                 | 7,100                          | 0                      | \$28.00                                      | N/A                                      |
| Virginia Beach              | 12,156,504        | 77,681                   | 870,720                  | 6.4%                       | -38,462                                       | -217,458                              | 345,812                        | 10,000                 | \$20.94                                      | \$23.92                                  |
| Williamsburg                | 1,517,443         | 0                        | 47,857                   | 3.2%                       | 11,017  | 27,534                                | 40,295                         | 40,000                 | \$18.87                                      | N/A                                      |
| York                        | 623,630           | 340                      | 16,957                   | 2.8%                       | 7,931   | 46,267                                | 27,485                         | 0                      | \$18.29                                      | N/A                                      |
| HAMPTON ROADS TOTALS        | 46,002,953        | 177,369                  | 3,631,741                | 8.3%                       | 5,508   | -313,324                              | 1,177,872                      | 130,000                | \$22.02                                      | \$23.33                                  |

<sup>\*</sup>Rental rates reflect full service asking.

#### **KEY LEASE TRANSACTIONS Q3 2023**

| PROPERTY                 | SUBMARKET      | TENANT                              | SF     | TYPE      |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| 1122 Executive Boulevard | Chesapeake     | Sentry Solutions Product Group, LLC | 20,000 | New Lease |
| 530 Independence Parkway | Virginia Beach | Associated Builders & Contractors   | 11,809 | New Lease |
| 580 E. Main Street       | Norfolk        | The UP Center                       | 9,538  | New Lease |

#### **KEY SALES TRANSACTIONS Q3 2023**

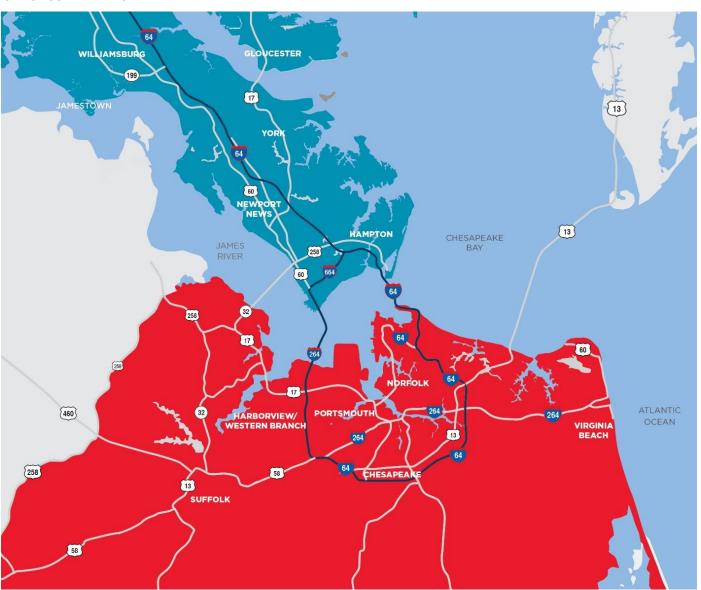
| PROPERTY               | SUBMARKET    | SELLER / BUYER  | SF     | PRICE / \$ PSF |
|------------------------|--------------|---|--------|----------------|
| 500 E. Plume Street    | Norfolk      | Plume Street Associates, LLC / 500 E Plume, LLC       | 63,000 | \$5.35M / \$83 |
| 9308 Warwick Boulevard | Newport News | BayPort Credit Union / Peninsula Rescue Mission, Inc. | 16,520 | \$895K / \$54  |
| 325 Volvo Parkway      | Chesapeake   | Parkway Executive Center, LLC / Behl Orthodontics     | 12,652 | \$2.3M / \$182 |

# **HAMPTON ROADS**

Office Q2 2023



#### **OFFICE SUBMARKETS**



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