

Q3 2025

Greater Boston CRE Market Insight Reports

Downtown Boston

Life Sciences

Industrial / Flex

Suburban Office

Cambridge Office





Downtown Office

Uptick in Leasing Activity

Q3 marked the first positive quarter in five years for Downtown Boston's office market. Leasing activity showed meaningful improvement, highlighted by several major commitments. In addition to **Hasbro's 265,000 SF lease** at 400 Summer Street and **KKR's 130,000 SF lease** at 2 International Place, **DataDog expanded its presence to125,000 SF** at 225 Franklin Street, more than tripling its footprint from 40,000 SF. **BNY Mellon also renewed its 205,000 SF lease** at One Boston Place.

This combination of relocations, expansions, and renewals signals that tenants are regaining confidence in making long-term real estate decisions. While challenges remain in the broader market, these deals illustrate that well-located, high-quality buildings are attracting sustained demand. If momentum continues, Downtown Boston could be entering the early stages of a recovery cycle.



Big Moves

Two major players signed leases in Q3. Hasbro committed to approximately 265,000 SF at 400 Summer Street, and KKR leased about ~130,000 SF at 2 International Place. These moves signal that companies are willing and able to relocate when the right opportunity arises.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

With companies showing renewed confidence in long-term workplace strategies, now is the time to evaluate your current space and plan for the future.



New Builds, Renewed Demand

Tenants remain focused on new, highly amenitized buildings. Newly delivered projects in the Financial District are continuing to build momentum, with Winthrop Center securing new leases this quarter.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

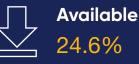
Newly constructed space with high-end amenities is attracting strong interest, and certain options are becoming more competitive. Tenants may benefit from exploring opportunities earlier to secure the best fit while desirable space is still available.







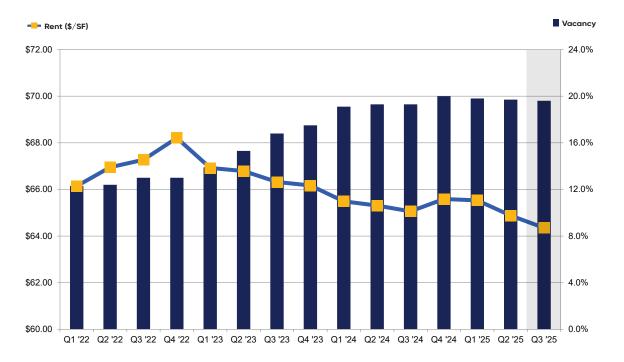




Arrows Indicate Quarterly Change

Historical Rent and Vacancy

Downtown Boston's office vacancy rate has climbed sharply, especially in the most recent year, while asking rents have remained relatively high but are beginning to soften.



Notable Market Transactions

Tenant	▼ Size (SF)	Submarket	Туре
Hasbro	265,000	Seaport	Relocation (Cresa)
BNY	205,000	Financial District	Renewal
KKR	132,000	Financial District	Relocation
DataDog	125,000	Financial District	Renewal/Expansion
Schneider Electric	74,000	Financial District	Relocation
ServiceNow	54,000	North Station	Relocation

On behalf of Hasbro, Cresa Boston successfully negotiated a landmark lease, marking one of the most significant office transactions in recent years. This substantial commitment reflects strong confidence in the Seaport's thriving Class A office market and Boston's status as a premier hub for talent.

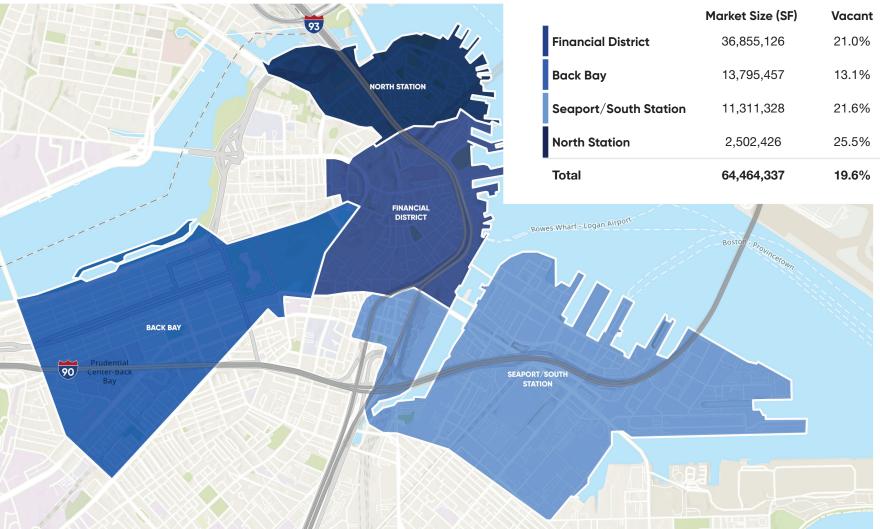


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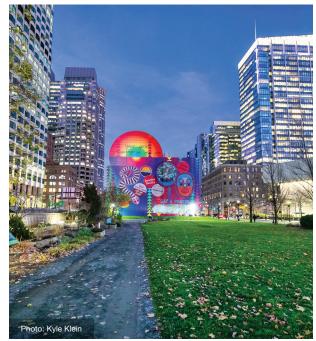


Rent/SF

By the Numbers Submarkets



_	Market Size (SF)	Vacant	Sublease	Available	Class A	Class B	
Financial District	36,855,126	21.0%	3.5%	24.5%	\$70.04	\$51.15	
Back Bay	13,795,457	13.1%	4.6%	17.7%	\$70.78	\$55.03	
Seaport/South Station	11,311,328	21.6%	9.3%	30.9%	\$77.32	\$55.22	
North Station	2,502,426	25.5%	9.6%	35.1%	\$63.00	\$50.29	
Total	64 464 337	10.6%	5.0%	24.6%	\$70.83	\$52.05	



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Derek Losi

Vicki Keenan

Managing Principal



Andrew Orpik



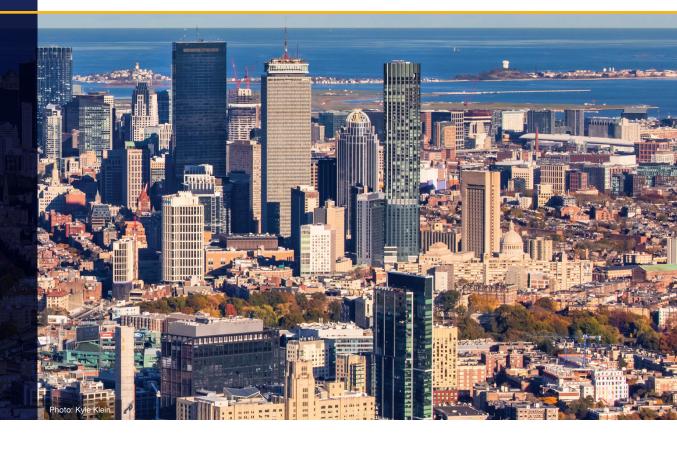
Olivia Weckwerth Advisor



Adam Subber Managing Principal



Managing Principal



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Leasing Activity Up

Q3 recorded more than 770,000 SF of leasing, doubling activity from Q2. Growth was driven by a mix of companies expanding within their existing buildings or submarkets, planting a new flag in Greater Boston, and extending current leases.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

With demand now exceeding 2.2M SF, competition for space is re-emerging. This marks a shift from the last 18 months when tenants largely had their pick of options.



Later-Stage Companies Faring Well in Funding

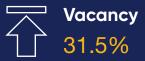
VC funding increased in Q3, though most investment went to later-stage companies with proven science or those already in clinical trials.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

Early-stage companies (pre-seed, seed, and Series A) should continue to extend their runway by maximizing incubator space or holding onto current facilities until capital markets become more favorable.







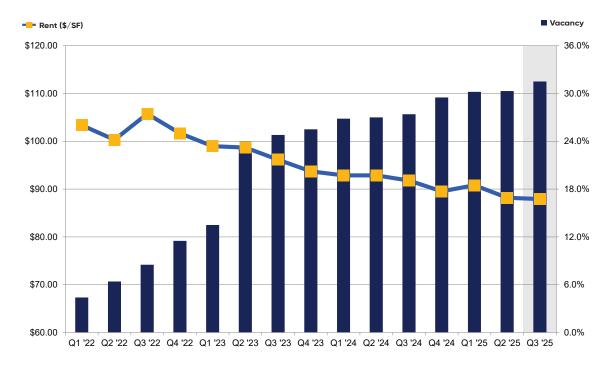




Arrows Indicate Quarterly Change

Historical Class A Rent and Vacancy

Vacancy continues to climb as new supply outpaces demand. Sublease space remains high, and leasing activity is limited, keeping rents steady but increasing competition among landlords.



Notable Market Transactions

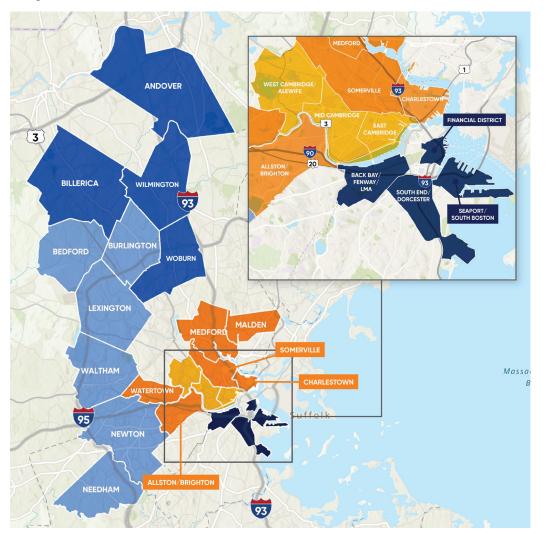
Tenant	▼ Size (SF)	Submarket	Туре
Lila Sciences	235,500	Alewife	New Location
CBSET	80,000	Waltham	New Location
Eli Lily	75,000	Boston	New Location
Al Proteins	40,000	Fenway	New Location
Psivant	20,000	Watertown	Relocation
Stellaromics	19,000	Boston	Expansion
Terrain Bio	13,397	Cambridge	New Location



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By the Numbers Submarkets



						Rent	t/SF
		Market Size (SF)	Vacant	Sublease	Available	Class A	Class B
	East Cambridge	11,973,499	14.7%	6.3%	21.0%	\$105.00	\$90.00
Cambridge	Mid Cambridge	3,435,557	21.6%	11.3%	32.8%	\$100.00	\$75.00
	West Cambridge/Alewife	2,700,204	36.1%	9.7%	45.7%	\$85.00	\$65.00
	Total	18,109,260	19.2%	7.7%	26.93%	\$101.07	\$83.43
	_						
	Seaport/South Boston	5,316,538	23.1%	5.6%	28.7%	\$100.00	\$85.00
Boston	Financial District	634,632	81.8%	6.5%	88.3%	\$100.00	\$95.00
BOSTOII	Back Bay/Fenway/LMA	2,130,437	28.1%	1.6%	29.7%	\$105.00	\$90.00
	South End/Dorchester	929,000	53.8%	6.2%	60.0%	\$82.00	\$70.00
	Total	9,010,607	31.6%	4.8%	36.3%	\$99.33	\$85.34
	Charlestown	761,866	47.4%	9.4%	56.8%	\$80.00	\$70.00
	Medford/Malden	790,618	48.7%	11.5%	60.2%	\$55.00	\$50.00
Inner Suburbs	Somerville	2,471,603	73.4%	0.7%	74.1%	\$85.00	\$75.00
	Watertown	3,433,694	46.6%	5.4%	52.1%	\$85.00	\$70.00
	Allston/Brighton	2,010,412	69.6%	0.0%	69.6%	\$95.00	\$80.00
	Total	9,468,193	58.7%	3.9%	62.6%	\$84.22	\$71.76
	Bedford/Burlington	3,327,569	44.5%	1.4%	45.9%	\$65.00	\$50.00
Route 128 West	Lexington/Waltham	8,137,432	24.0%	3.1%	27.0%	\$73.00	\$63.00
	Newton/Needham	540,342	26.5%	0.0%	26.5%	\$65.00	\$60.00
	Total	12,005,343	29.8%	2.5%	32.2%	\$70.42	\$59.26
	Wilmington	128,370	17.4%	0.0%	17.4%	\$30.00	\$25.00
Route 128	Woburn	1,298,511	14.9%	6.1%	21.0%	\$54.00	\$40.00
North	Billerica	385,763	16.3%	0.0%	16.3%	\$28.00	\$26.00
	Andover	666,209	56.9%	0.9%	57.7%	\$55.00	\$45.00
	Total	2,478,853	26.5%	3.4%	29.9%	\$48.98	\$38.39

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Venture Capital Activity

Venture investment in Greater Boston remained steady, driven by confidence in the region's life sciences ecosystem. Large, late-stage raises signaled investor focus on proven biotech platforms rather than early-stage risk, reflecting a selective but healthy funding environment. The market continues to show resilience, with capital concentrating in companies advancing clinical milestones and specialized research, which reinforces Boston's position as the anchor of U.S. life sciences innovation.



Total VC Raised

\$562.7M



Total Companies Funded

23

Notable Tenant VC Raises





\$85M HQ in Boston, MA





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Industrial/Flex

ROUTE 128 | ROUTE 495 | SOUTHERN NH

Flex Market in Transition

The flex segment is in transition. While demand from "tough tech" tenants once fueled activity from 2021 through 2023, today a mix of economic uncertainty and reduced venture capital has slowed momentum. Some companies are evaluating space dispositions or full exits, with Factorial Energy in Methuen and Ambri in Marlborough being notable examples.

At the same time, little to no speculative development has left a shortage of quality product for tenants. On the capital markets side, investors are steering away from office and prioritizing "utility" flex and industrial space, which helps sustain rent levels. Elevated construction costs remain a major hurdle, making it difficult for tenants to justify relocating or replicating capital-intensive facilities.



Concessions Increase

Lower tenant demand through Q3 has pushed landlords to offer more free rent and higher construction allowances to attract commitments.



Tenants can use the softer demand environment to negotiate for stronger economics, richer concession packages and more flexible lease terms.



Development Down

No notable new projects have entered permitting or development as the market works to re-balance fundamentals. With little new supply on the horizon, existing quality flex product will remain scarce.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

Tenants should start any real estate evaluation process early to secure the right space before competition returns.





Industrial Flex **Market Size**

198,860,882 SF

₹ 73,316,169 SF

Vacancy

Sublease

= 1.2%

= 2.2%

Available

10.2%

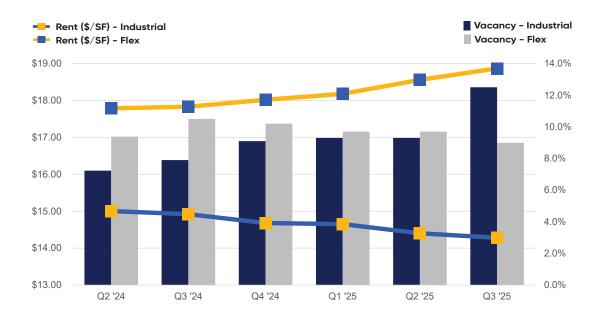
₽ 13.9%

Arrows Indicate Quarterly Change

Historical Rent and Vacancy

Note: Cresa began tracking this market in Q2 2024.

Relatively stable occupancy levels have held the market in check over the last year. Economic uncertainty continues to restrain demand for now.



Notable Market Transactions

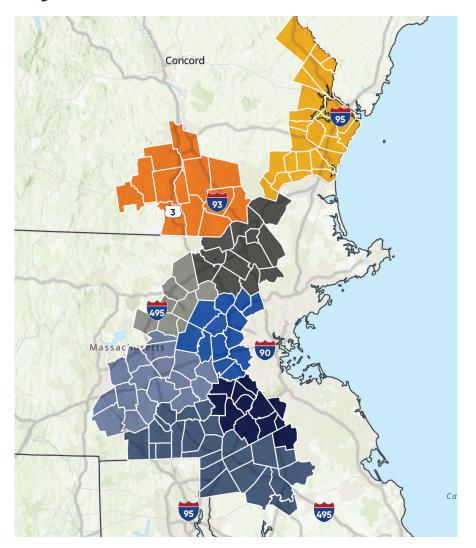
Tenant	▼ Size (SF)	Submarket	Use	Туре
Destination XL	674,000	128 South	Industrial	Renewal
IMS	87,000	Southern NH	Flex	Relocation
York HVAC	44,000	495 MetroWest	Industrial	New lease
LeMaitre Vascular	34,000	495 North	Flex	New lease
Dana Safety Supply	32,000	495 MetroWest	Industrial	New lease

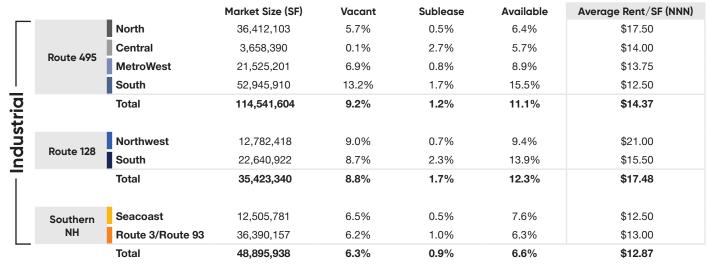


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By the Numbers Submarkets



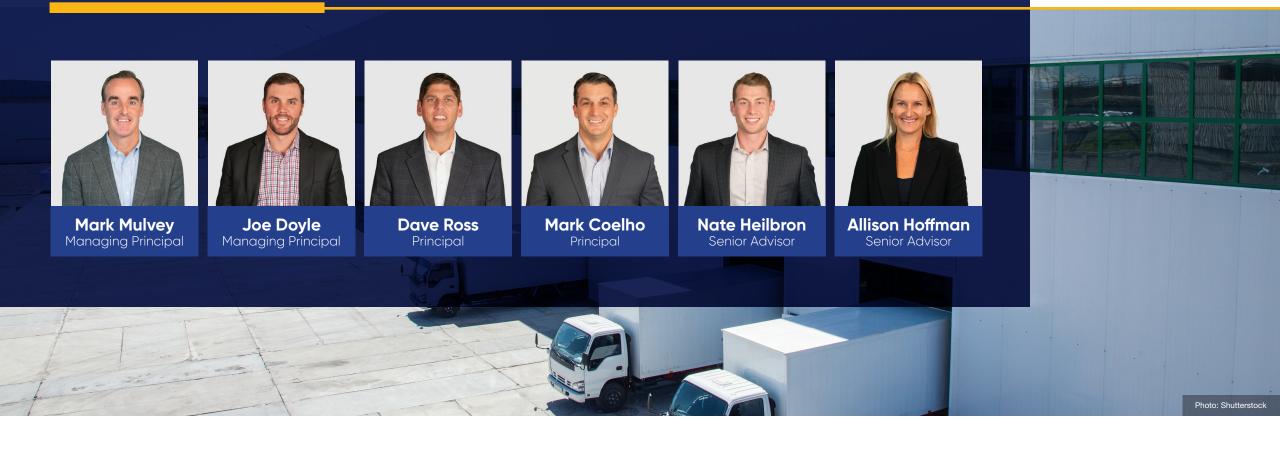


			Market Size (SF)	Vacant	Sublease	Available	Average Rent/SF (NNN)
		North	18,096,389	12.0%	2.7%	14.2%	\$21.00
	Route 495	Central	3,521,404	15.5%	9.2%	17.5%	\$17.00
	Route 495	MetroWest	13,401,789	9.7%	1.1%	11.9%	\$17.75
		South	7,834,911	11.9%	0.9%	12.8%	\$15.25
		Total	42,854,493	11.6%	2.4%	13.5%	\$18.60
Flex							
Ť	Route 128	Northwest	12,109,069	13.7%	3.4%	17.6%	\$24.50
	Route 120	South	7,318,905	11.3%	0.3%	14.8%	\$19.00
		Total	19,427,974	12.8%	2.2%	16.5%	\$22.43
	Southern	Seacoast	3,112,345	9.2%	1.8%	11.5%	\$14.00
	NH	Route 3/Route 93	7,921,357	9.4%	1.4%	10.8%	\$14.50
		Total	11,033,702	9.3%	1.5%	11.0%	\$14.36

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ROUTE 128 | ROUTE 495

New Ownership, New Basis, New Momentum?

The suburban Boston office market continues to recalibrate as asset pricing adjusts to new realities. While trophy product still dominates transaction volume, recent sales such as 93 Worcester Street in Wellesley and 130 Turner Street in Waltham highlight a broader re-pricing trend. This shift allows owners to reset basis and re-engage the market with greater flexibility. Lower acquisition costs give operators more room to offer concessions that were previously cost-prohibitive, creating opportunities for tenants to secure more competitive economic packages as the market resets.







Rising Office Relocation Commitments

As workplace behaviors and hybrid working models stabilize in the post-COVID market, occupiers are beginning to recommit capital toward relocations.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

Evaluate viable relocation options and align stakeholders early to secure the most favorable deals.



Quality Bias Continues

The majority of new leases were signed in Class A properties, reflecting tenant confidence in high-quality, amenity-rich buildings And, with virtually no new office development in the suburban pipeline and the demand for quality product persisting, the best-in-class segment will continue to tighten.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

Tenants should be prepared to move quickly when strong opportunities arise.



	Market Size				
Route 128	≡ 44,880,284 SF				
Route 495					

Vacancy
17.1%
21.0%

Sublease	
4.6%	
3.8%	

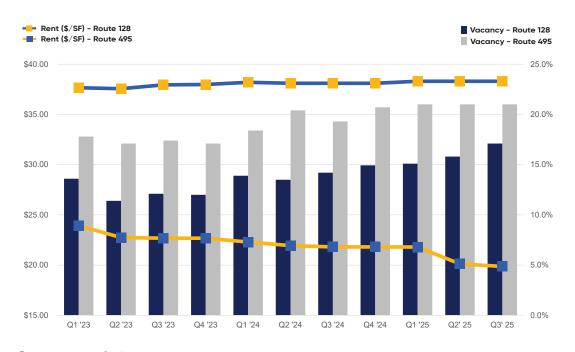
Available

Arrows Indicate Quarterly Change

Historical Rent and Vacancy

Average asking rents have remained relatively stable, with only modest upward movement. Despite rising availability, rents have held steady as landlords maintain face rates and use concessions to attract tenants.

Market Size



Notable Market Transactions

Suburban office activity is being sustained primarily by renewals and relocations rather than new demand. Most transactions occurred along Route 128, underscoring the corridor's strength as the core suburban hub.

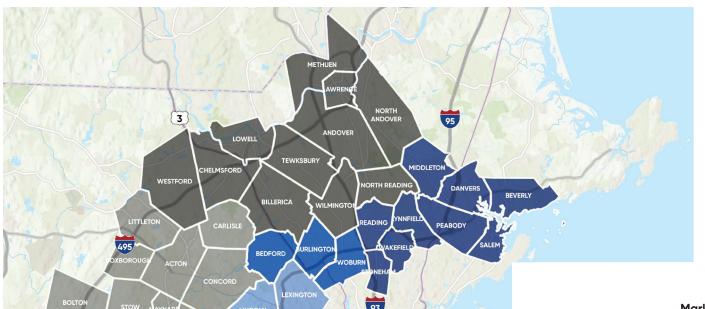
Tenant	▼ Size (SF)	Submarket	Туре
CBSET	87,000	128 West	Relocation
Apellis Pharmaceuticals	57,141	128 West	Renewal/Downsize
QinetiQ	49,260	128 West	Renewal
Comsol	45,020	128 North	Renewal/Expansion
Madrigal Pharmaceuticals	44,595	128 West	Relocation
Cogent Biosciences	31,578	128 West	Relocation
Boston University	23,000	495 West	Renewal
Planet Group	20,000	128 North	Renewal

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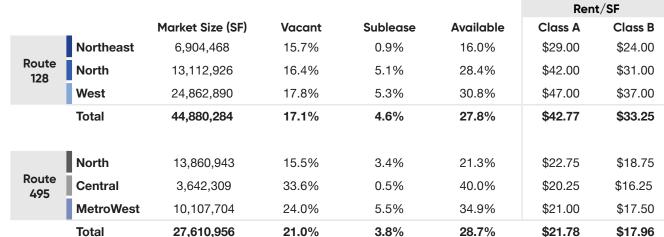
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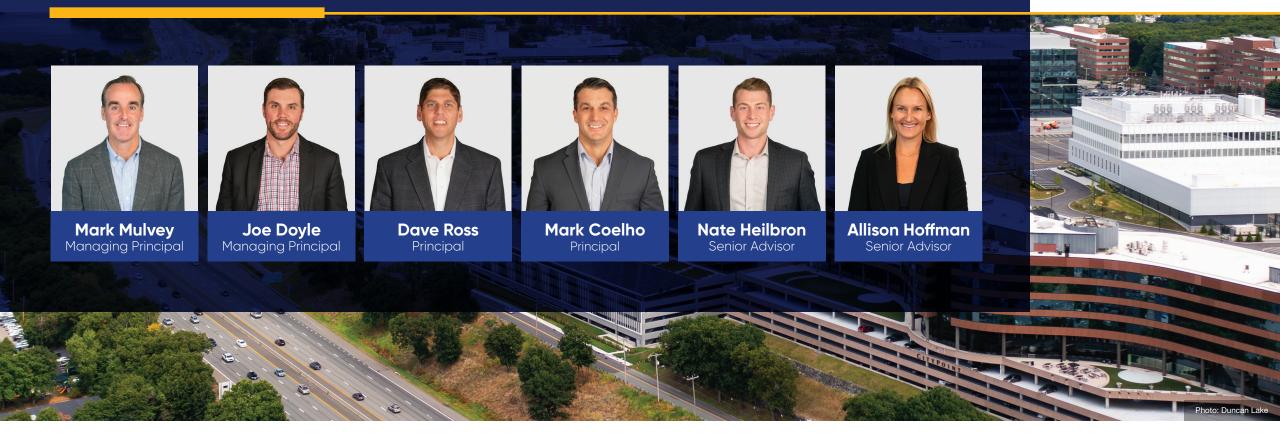






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Cambridge Office



No Big Groups

The market continues to see a lack of large (25,000+ SF) pure office users exploring space.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

With demand softening, tenants can use current conditions to secure prime space with strong negotiating leverage.



Kendall Square Sustains Its Competitive Edge

Despite broader headwinds, Kendall Square remains the top choice for biotech and tech tenants. Most groups touring or transacting continue to prioritize being in the heart of Kendall Square.

TENANT TAKEAWAY

The "bump-in" factor still matters - companies want to cluster near like-kind organizations, with added value placed on nearby retail and rapid transit access.









Sublease 8.9%

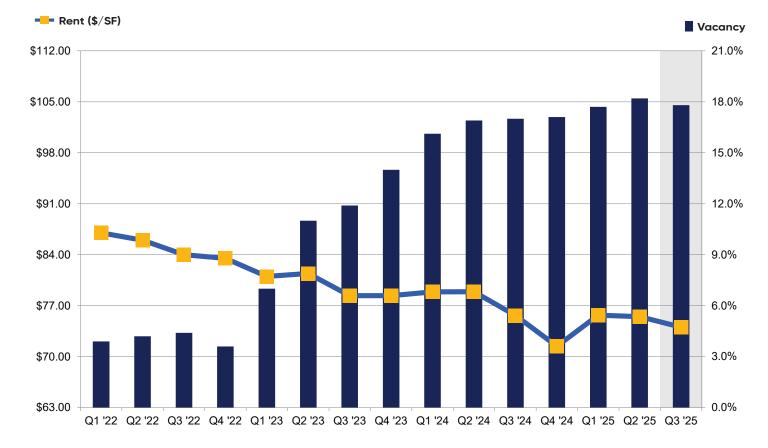
Available 26.6%

Arrows Indicate Quarterly Chang

Historical Class A Rent and Vacancy

As Sublease availability has climbed steadily since 2020, reaching its highest level in recent years, while direct vacancy has stabilized after an initial rise. This suggests that excess space is largely coming from tenants offloading space rather than new development, and that the market is gradually adjusting by absorbing surplus through sublease activity instead of new leasing demand.

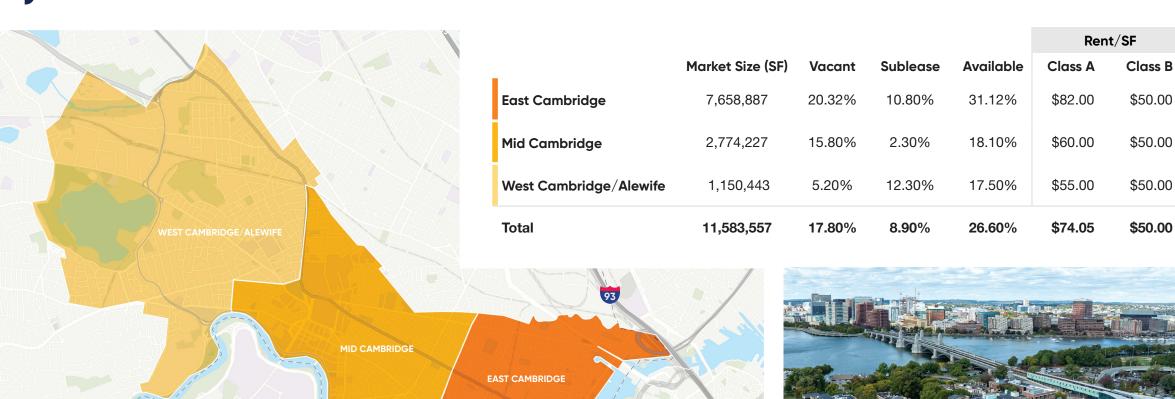




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