

## ROBUST EXPANSION CONTINUES:

10 Years of Real-Time Economic and Real Estate Insights



10TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE | AUGUST 2017

Nearly **200,000** responses

More than **25** reports

**10** years of data

**4** survey questions

**1** powerful indicator

*A unique leading indicator is born. With its first monthly survey in July 2007, we tapped into insights from a previously unexplored area of the economy: usage of America's logistics facilities. By asking our customers about their activity levels and space utilization, we have shed light on the velocity and volume of goods flowing through the nation's supply chains and our industry and portfolio. Consumption comprises more than 70 percent of the U.S. economy<sup>1</sup>, and nearly all consumer goods spend time in at least one (but more often multiple) logistics facilities. The Prologis Industrial Business Indicator (IBI)™ has proven to be a reliable leading indicator of not only demand for logistics real estate but also the state of the overall U.S. economy.*

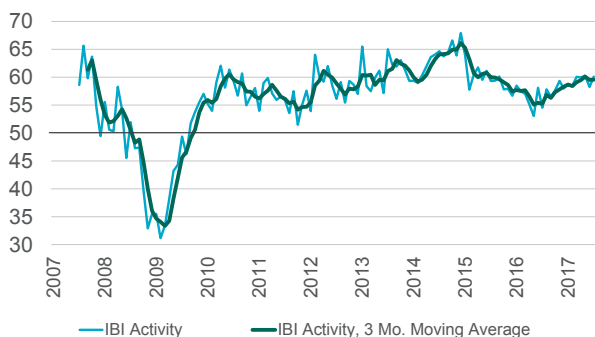
### CLOSE BUSINESS LINKS

**The IBI leads cyclical trends.** The IBI was introduced at a pivotal moment for the U.S. economy and logistics real estate. A diffusion index, with readings above 50 signifying growth, the IBI activity index hovered in the high 50s/low 60s for the first few months. The first result below 50 (indicating slowing activity in logistics facilities)

was in December 2007—just as logistics demand, GDP and employment were reaching their cyclical highs<sup>2</sup> — presaging the downturn to come in 2008 and 2009. Readings continued to lead the cycle both through the downturn and the subsequent recovery.

**EXHIBIT 1: IBI Activity Index**

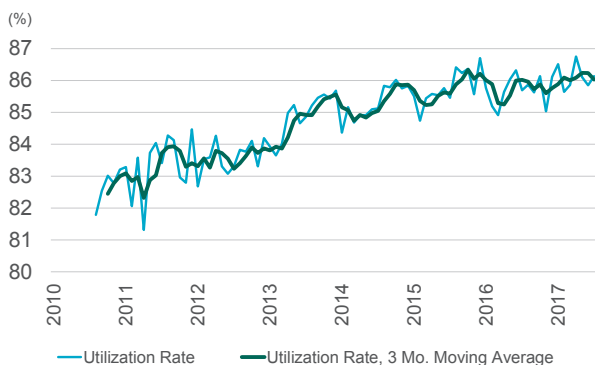
(Index, 50 = neutral, seasonally adjusted)



Source: Prologis Research

**Supply chain efficiency is more important than ever.**

In addition to predicting the cycle, the Prologis IBI reflects shifting sentiment within the logistics industry. Over the past several decades, supply chains have evolved into a crucial competitive advantage for our customers. When leasing space, they increasingly staff or consult with supply chain experts with an eye toward maximizing the value of leased space. Today, leasing decisions are more often made in the context of the broader supply chain, which includes managing the other (larger) costs—labor and transportation—to enable higher service levels. The IBI reveals that space usage has become more efficient over time and that logistics real estate users currently have little shadow space. The utilization rate has steadily trended upward over the past decade and currently hovers near an all-time peak of about 86%.

**EXHIBIT 2: IBI Utilization Rate**

Source: Prologis Research

**Our IBI reflects outperformance of logistics real**

**estate.** Net absorption has averaged more than 250 million square feet annually for the past four years.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, real GDP growth has averaged 2.2%.<sup>4</sup> Based on historical trends, this level of economic growth should have generated about 150 to 200 million square feet of logistics demand annually, or more than 20% less than was realized. Other economic indicators were similarly subdued. However, the IBI signaled higher levels of demand, with an average reading above 60 during the same period—indicating annual demand in the 225-250 million square foot range and showcasing its stronger relationship with realized net absorption than conventional economic metrics.

**BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS****The U.S. logistics real estate operating environment is healthy.**

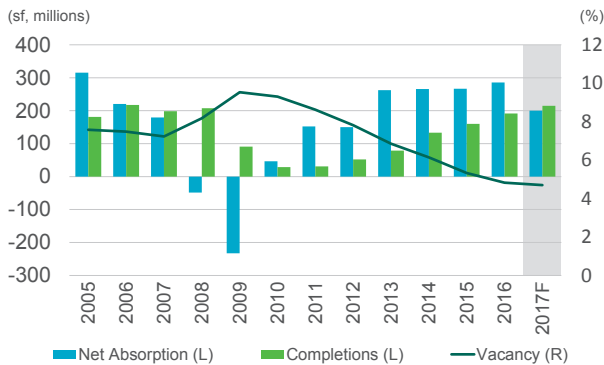
Customers remain active, as demand drivers—including consumption, e-commerce and trade flows—record solid growth.<sup>5</sup> The latest IBI activity reading came in at 60.1 in July 2017, consistent with robust logistics real estate demand growth. However, the lack of available space in many markets is constraining customers' ability to grow. Customers cannot find the space to expand, particularly in prime locations along the coasts, where vacancies are at the current historical lows and demand is healthy. Competition for scarce available space is fueling strong market rent growth, which re-accelerated in early 2017 relative to last year and is on pace to approach 8% growth in the U.S.<sup>6</sup>

**Sustained low vacancies mean that customers with the ability to plan ahead stand the best chance of securing space.**

Looking ahead, supply will rise to meet demand in markets where land is available for new development. However, large tracts of entitled land in the configuration and location that customers require is increasingly hard to find. In aggregate, new supply may continue to fall short of demand generated from population growth, economic expansion and structural changes. Consequently, net absorption will move in tandem with completions as new supply is rapidly leased up in most markets. As a result, the U.S. vacancy rate should remain near its historic low of 4.6%.<sup>7</sup>

**LATEST FINDINGS****Customers are busier and are utilizing nearly all their**

**space.** The headline IBI activity index has stabilized near 60 since the beginning of 2017, following a slowdown in mid-2016. At the same time, the utilization rate has

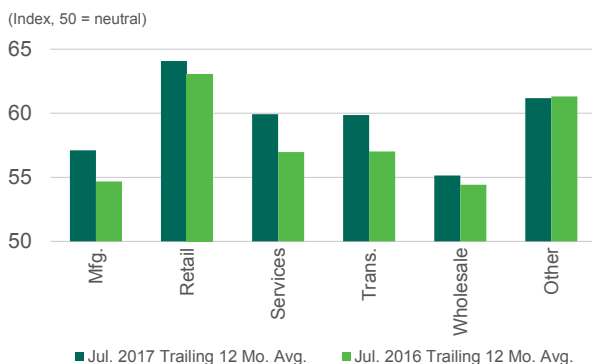
**EXHIBIT 3: U.S. Operating Fundamentals**

Source: CBRE-EA, Prologis Research

remained near its all-time high of 86%. Typically, space utilization tends to decline in the latter part of the cycle as logistics real estate users build out their distribution networks. However, current availability constraints may be producing higher-than-normal utilization rates as customers try to pack more activity into their existing supply chains given the lack of additional space alternatives.

**Demand is growing across a range of customers.**

Improvement in the IBI activity index was broad-based by industry and region. Among the largest customer types, retailers and transportation companies recorded the strongest growth and the fastest acceleration in activity between Q2'16 and Q2'17. Among U.S. regions, customers in the West region tend to have the highest utilization rates, and they have recorded a faster rise in activity in the past year.

**EXHIBIT 4: IBI Activity by Customer Type**

Source: Prologis Research

**The supply pipeline is rising to meet demand.** The pipeline of space under construction increased to 218 million square feet in Q2'17.<sup>8</sup> With a few exceptions, new supply is aligned with demand. One exception is that key logistics markets along the coasts are generally undersupplied. Market conditions in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles and New Jersey/New York City, for example, are very tight and new supply lags demand. On the other hand, there are a few pockets of potential oversupply primarily due to low barriers to new development. Locations to monitor closely include Louisville, Columbus, Central Pennsylvania, and South Dallas. In most other markets, new supply appears poised to roughly match the pace of demand.

**Securing space will likely remain difficult through the near term.**

A July 2017 survey from Consensus Economics reveals a forecast for real GDP growth of 2.2% in 2017 and 2.3% in 2018, similar to pre-election expectations. Our regression analysis of the IBI and other key leading indicators suggests that current economic conditions support logistics real estate demand growth of about 200 to 250 million square feet. However, persistent low vacancy will cause net absorption and completions to move in tandem through the near term. Prologis Research projects 200 million square feet of net absorption and 215 million square feet of completions in 2017. This supply/demand dynamic should hold through 2018, when we expect 215 million square feet of net absorption and 235 million square feet of completions.

**EXHIBIT 5: Summary of Net Absorption Indicators**

	Latest Reading	as of	Est. Net Absorption (M, sf)		Regression Fit (R-sqr)
			Quarterly	Annualized	
<b>IBI-Activity</b>	<b>59.6</b>	<b>Jul 2017</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>0.84</b>
<b>Weighted Average of Econ Variables</b>			<b>52</b>	<b>207</b>	
PMI (non-mfg)	56.1	Jul 2017	59	237	0.74
Jobs (private)	184	Jul 2017	60	240	0.73
Core Retail Sales	3.5%	Jun 2017	46	184	0.64
Inventories	-2.6	2Q 2017	39	156	0.65

Source: Institute for Supply Management, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Prologis Research

Note: Based upon 15-year regression analyses, with data when available, using an auto-regressive process. IBI and PMI are the three-month moving average index levels. Jobs series is the three-month moving average change for private sector employment in thousands. Core retail sales (ex. autos and gasoline) are yr/yr growth in the three-month moving average. Private inventories change is quarterly in billions of 2009 dollars. The weighted average is based on R-squareds

**Barriers to development will matter more as the expansion continues.**

In coastal markets, sustained low vacancy will continue to spur fierce competition for space, pushing market rents higher. Rent growth in these



coastal markets should approach 10% in 2017. In markets where it is easier to build, customers should get some relief as more new supply comes online. Throughout the U.S., market rent growth has accelerated in 2017, with the fastest growth concentrated in the largest population

centers with barriers to supply. Overall, our IBI and other economic indicators point to continued growth for logistics real estate occupiers, but a lack of availabilities will drive up costs in the most attractive markets and could potentially constrain expansion activity.

## ENDNOTES

1. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
2. CBRE-EA, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Prologis Research
3. CBRE-EA
4. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
5. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Census, various port authorities
6. Prologis Research
7. CBRE-EA
8. CBRE, CBRE-EA, Cushman & Wakefield, Jones Lang LaSalle, Colliers

This material should not be construed as an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any security. We are not soliciting any action based on this material. It is for the general information of customers of Prologis.

This report is based, in part, on public information that we consider reliable, but we do not represent that it is accurate or complete, and it should not be relied on as such. No representation is given with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the information herein. Opinions expressed are our current opinions as of the date appearing on this report only. Prologis disclaims any and all liability relating to this report, including, without limitation, any express or implied representations or warranties for statements or errors contained in, or omissions from, this report.

Any estimates, projections or predictions given in this report are intended to be forward-looking statements. Although we believe that the

expectations in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that any forward-looking statements will prove to be correct. Such estimates are subject to actual known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report. We expressly disclaim any obligation or undertaking to update or revise any forward-looking statement contained herein to reflect any change in our expectations or any change in circumstances upon which such statement is based.

No part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied, or duplicated in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed without the prior written consent of Prologis.

## PROLOGIS RESEARCH

Prologis' research department studies fundamental and investment trends and Prologis' customers' needs to assist in identifying opportunities and avoiding risk across four continents. The team contributes to investment decisions and long-term strategic initiatives, in addition to publishing white papers and other research reports. Prologis publishes research on the market dynamics impacting Prologis' customers' businesses, including global supply chain issues and developments in the logistics and real estate industries. Prologis' dedicated research team works collaboratively with all company departments to help guide Prologis' market entry, expansion, acquisition and development strategies.

## ABOUT PROLOGIS

Prologis, Inc., is the global leader in logistics real estate with a focus on high-barrier, high-growth markets. As of June 30, 2017, the company owned or had investments in, on a wholly owned basis or through co-investment ventures, properties and development projects expected to total approximately 684 million square feet (64 million square meters) in 19 countries. Prologis leases modern logistics facilities to a diverse base of approximately 5,200 customers across two major categories: business-to-business and retail/online fulfillment.

