



Commercial Real Estate Terms and Definitions

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About NAIOP

NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, is the leading organization for developers, owners, and related professionals in office, industrial, retail and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP comprises some 18,000 members in North America. NAIOP advances responsible commercial real estate development and advocates for effective public policy. For more information, visit naiop.org.

About the NAIOP Research Foundation

The NAIOP Research Foundation was established in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) organization to support the work of individuals and organizations engaged in real estate development, investment, and operations. The Foundation's core purpose is to provide these individuals and organizations with the highest level of research information on how real properties, especially office, industrial, and mixed-use properties, impact and benefit communities throughout North America. The initial funding for the Research Foundation was underwritten by NAIOP and its Founding Governors with an endowment fund established to fund future research. For more information, visit naiop.org/research.

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Sourcing and Citation

Public and private sector CRE professionals, academics, students, government employees, and others are encouraged to reference the terminology in this document. Below are suggested source and citation formats.

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This project is intended to provide information and insight to industry practitioners and does not constitute advice or recommendations. NAIOP disclaims any liability for action taken as a result of this publication.

Introduction

In 2004, the NAIOP Research Foundation funded a project to identify and define key words and concepts in the commercial real estate field. The goal was to provide a document that included standardized terminology for the CRE industry.

To accomplish this, NAIOP assembled a task force made up of NAIOP members, representing major disciplines in the commercial real estate industry, including developers, investors, financiers, brokers and researchers. A project team, spearheaded by Deloitte Consulting LLC, gathered and constructed definitions, then solicited comments and feedback from NAIOP members and industry consultants.

Definitions for selected commonly used office and industrial terms were gathered from real estate associations, research organizations, developers, brokerage firms, and technology providers.

Between 2008 and 2010, a group of national research directors from brokerage and data firms reviewed the office and industrial definitions and updated them to reflect current practices and information. Between June and December 2016, another group of national research directors updated the document again. Those individuals are listed under “Acknowledgements,” in this document.

This glossary is available for download on the NAIOP website at: naiop.org/researchreports.

Development Terminology

This section contains a collection of terms and concepts most commonly used in the commercial development of land and buildings. Included are the various stages of the development process, and types of development and redevelopment projects.

Development Process and Asset Lifecycle

Below are listed the general categories typically used to define the development process and the asset lifecycle.

1. Purchase land or asset.
2. Assess general economic conditions.
3. Assess the capital markets and obtain financing.
4. Assess the space markets.
5. Understand demographics and social forces.
6. Develop a master plan or site plan.
7. Design the base building or interiors.
8. Obtain entitlements and permits.
9. Construct the project.
10. Lease the project.
11. Operate and maintain the building.
12. Sell the asset.

Building Status Definitions

Delivered

A building that has completed construction (i.e. obtained its certificate of occupancy). With a COO, the property will be considered delivered whether or not tenants have occupied the space. (Synonyms: completion; new supply)

Letter of Intent (LOI)

A letter of intent is an agreement(s) between two or more parties before an actual agreement, such as a lease, is finalized. It is similar to a term sheet or memorandum of understanding (MOU). While LOIs may not be binding, provisions of them can be, e.g., non-disclosure and exclusivity. The intent is to protect both parties in the transaction until the transaction is executed.

Proposed or Planned

A building that has received zoning approval but has not yet started construction.

Under Construction

A building is under construction when construction permits have been obtained and site excavation has begun. If a site is being redeveloped, demolition of existing structures does not necessarily indicate that construction has begun. Sites are sometimes cleared years in advance of a groundbreaking.

Under Renovation

A building is typically under renovation when construction permits have been obtained and demolition has begun. A building is under renovation if it remains inhabitable by tenants during the construction. If an existing building is gutted extensively (i.e., elevators and bathrooms do not function and it can, therefore, not be occupied by a tenant), then the building should be removed from inventory and redelivered when the occupancy permit is issued.

Types of Development and Redevelopment Projects

Adaptive Reuse

A building converted to a different use in order to meet current demand. Examples include a factory converted to retail use or an office building converted to a school. (Also see conversion)

Build-to-suit

A building is designed and tailored for a specific tenant, often because the tenant is unable to find suitable space in the speculative market. Sometimes (but not always), a build-to-suit project includes specific design features not commonly found in the speculative market, thus compelling the tenant to have a special facility built. The build-to-suit project is usually contracted with a developer who owns and operates the completed facility occupied by the tenant. Generally, a build-to-suit project becomes a single-tenant building upon completion.

Conversion

A building that is changed from one use to another (i.e., an office building that is converted to a multifamily building). Space being converted is removed from current inventory and included in the under construction category for the planned future use (i.e., an office building being converted to an apartment building will be removed from office inventory and included under apartment space, or number of units, under construction). (Also see adaptive reuse)

Infill

Infill is the development of one or more buildings on underutilized land situated between existing buildings. Infill development is typically done in dense environments where land is scarce. The slightly broader term “land-recycling” is sometimes used.

Redevelopment

A building or site that involves teardown and rebuilding of most—if not all—structures on that site. This change typically occurs in sought-after areas that are usually well located, where buildings have become unattractive or obsolete or where there is a demand for different uses.

Renovation

Upgrading and modernizing common areas in a building such as lobbies, bathrooms, parking areas, etc. The tenant remains in the building, and the building use and square footage do not change. Renovation is often done together with a retrofit.

Retrofit

Modernization of building systems such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); security; fire alarms; and energy management. The tenant remains in the building, and the building use and square footage do not change. Retrofit is often done together with a renovation.

Speculative

A building developed and constructed without any preleasing in place. Construction commences without a prelease when the developer believes there is so much demand for that type of building in that market or submarket that a lease commitment is bound to come through.

Measurement Terminology

This section provides information about metrics and measures used to define and quantify market, parcel and building elements.

Location and Site Definitions

Air Rights

A type of property interest referring to the “space” above land.

Brownfield

Abandoned, idled, or underused land or facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Exurban

An emerging residential area beyond built-up suburbs and edge cities.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR)

FAR is the relationship between the total square footage of a building and the total square footage of the parcel on which the building is located. It is typically calculated by dividing the total square footage of the building by the land area in square feet. For example, if a 20,000-square-foot building is built on a 10,000-square-foot lot, the FAR is 2.0.

Market and Submarket

In commercial real estate (CRE), the terms “market” and “submarket” have many characteristics.

1. Hierarchy: In terms of geographic hierarchy, a region is made up of markets, and a market is made up of submarkets.
2. Boundaries: Markets and submarkets have generally accepted geographic boundaries that do not overlap. They are most commonly bound by streets, roads and natural features such as parks and rivers, which clearly indicate where one market or submarket ends and another begins.
3. Purpose: Markets and submarkets are the foundation upon which analysts track real estate fundamentals such as vacancy, absorption, rents and construction activity.
4. Markets and submarkets are further broken down by total buildings and by total square footage in those buildings.
5. Product types: Office and industrial product types may share generally accepted market or submarket boundaries because in the United States, office space tends to be clustered together as does industrial space. However, there may also be separate and distinct boundaries for each respective property type. Suburban retail is more closely tied to residential and, therefore, is dispersed across large geographic areas, whereas urban retail is typically clustered in specific areas or on specific streets.

Submarket

Submarkets are geographic divisions of markets. These smaller divisions or boundaries are generally recognized and accepted by the real estate industry and the business community in a market and region. Submarkets are geographic boundaries that delineate core areas that are competitive with one another, and together they constitute a generally accepted secondary set of competitive areas. In the real estate industry, submarkets are building-type specific and are nonoverlapping contiguous geographic designations with a cumulative sum that matches the boundaries of a market. They contain properties sufficient to provide meaningful information for aggregate statistics.

Suburban

Suburban means a geographic area that contains a variety of property types arranged in a setting that is less dense than neighboring urban areas. This broad term can be defined or measured a number of ways and is often defined relative to urban and exurban areas.

Town Center

A historical term used to refer to the commercial, civic or geographic center of a community. Today, the term is associated with retail and has come to be known as a robust retail cluster with civic or open spaces in proximity to a variety of uses such as residential, office, retail and hotel.

Transit-oriented Development (TOD)

Real estate projects that are built around transit to maximize access to shared transportation modes. Typically, the TOD project is dense and walkable, and it includes a mix of uses such as residential, office, retail, hotel and entertainment.

Transit Score

Transit score is a number between 0 and 100 that measures the relative usefulness of nearby routes. “Usefulness” is typically measured by a weighted algorithm of characteristics such as distance to the nearest stop; mode of the route such as bus, ferry or rail; and frequency of service.

90–100	Rider’s Paradise World-class public transportation
70–89	Excellent Transit Transit convenient for most trips
50–69	Good Transit Many nearby public transportation options
25–49	Some Transit A few nearby public transportation options
0–24	Minimal Transit Possible to get on a bus

Urban

Urban areas are commonly identified with a city, are typically built on a traditional street grid, have consistent building setbacks, have sidewalks and usually include multiple-story buildings.

Walk Score

Walk score is a number between 0 and 100 that measures the number of amenities such as retail, businesses, parks, theaters and schools that can be accessed by foot inside a 1-mile radius from a particular address.

90–100	Walker’s Paradise Daily errands do not require a car
70–89	Very Walkable Most errands can be accomplished on foot
50–69	Somewhat Walkable Some errands can be accomplished on foot
25–49	Car-dependent Most errands require a car
0–24	Car-dependent Almost all errands require a car

Base Building Definitions

Common Area

The generally accessible areas found on each floor of an office building such as washrooms, janitorial closets, electrical rooms, telephone rooms, mechanical rooms, elevator lobbies and public corridors that are available for use by all tenants on that floor. It does not include major vertical penetrations such as elevator shafts, stairways, equipment runs, etc., (identified as a percentage of rentable area).

Core Area

The common area plus vertical penetrations in an office building measured in square feet. Core area is typically expressed as a percentage of net rentable area. This factor, which ranges from 5 to 20 percent for typical office buildings, can be computed for an entire building or a single floor of a building.

Floor Plate

The gross square footage of each floor in a multistory building. Individual floor plate sizes may vary according to the design of a building.

Functional Obsolescence

A descriptive term used to characterize a building that cannot be improved to meet current market standards or tastes without a complete replacement of buildings systems and finishes.

Load Factor or Core Factor

The load factor is calculated by dividing the rentable building area (RBA) by the usable area. This factor can then be applied to the usable area to convert it to RBA for comparison. In markets where space is leased on the basis of the usable area, if the load factor is 15 percent, then the usable area can be multiplied by 1.15, resulting in the RBA. (Synonym: add-on factor)

Shell Space

Space within a property that is currently not built out.

Year Built

The year the building was delivered to the market as a result of completed construction.

Year Renovated

The year the building last received a certificate of occupancy (COO) for a major renovation.

Energy and Natural Resource Efficiency Definitions

As environmental awareness has grown, the real estate industry has developed rating systems as well as its own lexicon to capture and quantify efficiency measures. Some of the systems, especially those that pertain to ratings, have been developed by government agencies.

Energy Star®

Also referred to as an “EPA rating” or an “Energy Star rating,” the rating is a standardized national benchmark that helps architects and building owners assess energy use relative to similar buildings in the program. An Energy Star-qualified building means the building meets EPA criteria for energy efficiency and displays the Energy Star building label.

Green Globes®

Founded in Canada in 1996, Green Globes is a green building guidance and assessment program that offers a way to advance the overall environmental performance and sustainability of commercial buildings. After achieving a minimum of 350 of the total number of 1,000 points, new and existing commercial buildings can be certified for their environmental achievements and sustainability by pursuing a Green Globes certificate that assigns a rating of one to four globes.

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

LEED is a third-party certificate program under the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). It is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance sustainable buildings. Certificate levels are as follows: Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum. The levels are based on points obtained in six areas: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, material and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design.

Sustainable Development

In commercial real estate (CRE), this term generally means the practice of developing, redeveloping and operating CRE in ways that cause zero, minimal or improved environmental impact.

Space Markets and Leasing Terminology

Data help provide information about the health of real estate buildings and real estate markets. Real estate metrics run the gamut from basic measures of inventory and available space to indicators of leasing activity, rents, concessions and various forms of leases.

Space and Lease Definitions

Available Space

The total amount of space that is currently being marketed for lease. It includes space that is vacant or also space that is currently occupied but will be vacant in the future. Available space can include both direct and sublet space. If sublet space is excluded from the calculation, the term “direct available space” is recommended.

Asking Rent

The amount asked by landlords for available space, expressed in dollars per square foot per year in most parts of the country (and per month in areas of California and other selected markets). (Synonym: face rate)

Blend and Extend

A blend and extend lease is a type of renewal that allows tenants to blend their existing lease into a new and longer lease. If a tenant is paying rent that is above current market rents, this arrangement will lower the current rental rate. The tenant benefits by an immediate reduction in the rental rate, and the landlord benefits by securing a tenant for a longer term. Conversely, if rents are rising quickly and lease expiration is approaching a tenant may renew early and extend to lock in lower rates.

Competitive Inventory

Single-tenant and multi-tenant buildings typically consist of 10,000 square feet or more that are owned by one party and are made available for lease to another party. Owner-occupied and government-owned buildings are typically excluded from the competitive inventory.

Note: It is important to note that data providers each have their own set of buildings that make up the competitive inventory in their foundational data set. Some include buildings larger than 20,000 square feet, while others include buildings as small as 5,000 square feet. Those modest differences in the competitive set can cause variations in metrics such as vacancy and absorption reported by each shop.

Competitive Set

A subset of total inventory that enables one to isolate and compare buildings on the basis of similar characteristics rather than simply by location. For example, a broker preparing to show available space to a tenant may identify five properties to be toured on the basis of location, square footage available, class, asking rent, parking ratio, etc. An investment sales or finance broker may generate a competitive set of buildings according to access to transit, year built, percentage leased, etc., to help estimate the value of an asset to be bought, sold or refinanced.

Concessions

To secure a tenant when vacancy is high in a market or submarket, a landlord may need to grant concessions in the lease. Those concessions most often take the form of free rent but may also include lease buyouts, moving allowances and above-market tenant improvement allowances.

Contiguous Block(s)

Multiple suites or spaces on either the same floor or the adjoining floor(s) in the same building.

Construction Starts

The total number of buildings that broke ground (commenced construction) over a given period. The starts are typically measured in number of buildings and square feet.

Contract Rent

The rental rates stipulated in an executed lease agreement. Typically, the contract rate is based on the first year rate as opposed to the average rate over the term of the lease. (Synonym: base rate)

Creditworthy Tenant

A tenant with a business that has been in existence for numerous years, that has strong financial statements, or that has a large market presence that could be rated as investment grade by a rating agency. Financial and business stability implies that the tenant is highly likely to honor its lease commitment; the tenant is, therefore, viewed as a low-risk renter. Buildings with credit tenants as anchors are considered less risky investments for lenders.

Cubic Volume

In many industrial facilities, the cubic volume of the building must be calculated so a user can determine the size and type of racking and sorting equipment that can be accommodated.

Direct New Space

Space that is offered for lease directly by the building owner or landlord. If space is offered for lease by a building tenant, it is not direct space but rather is sublet space.

Direct Vacancy Rate

The total amount of physically vacant space divided by the total amount of existing inventory, expressed as a percentage. Space that is under construction (and, therefore, is vacant) is not included in vacancy calculations.

Effective Rent

Expressed in dollars per square foot either per year or per month depending on market standards, it is a measurement of the value of the lease when all the concessions plus escalations are included. Effective rent calculations may vary according to local market practices; for example, in some markets, broker commissions are included.

Effective Rent Calculation

Effective Rent = (total rent – free rent – cash allowances) / lease term / rentable square foot

Total Rent = rent paid during the term of the lease including escalations

Note: Cash allowances can include free rent, moving allowances and other cash considerations.

Assumptions: 5,000-square-foot (sf) lease
36 months
\$25 contract rate with \$0.50 annual escalations
1 month free rent (first month)

	Formulas	Total Rent
Year 1 (11 months)	$\$25.00 \times 5,000 \text{ sf} \times (11/12) =$	\$114,583
Year 2 (12 months)	$\$25.50 \times 5,000 \text{ sf} =$	\$127,500
Year 3 (12 months)	$\$26.00 \times 5,000 \text{ sf} =$	\$130,000
Total Rent or Consideration		\$372,083
Effective Rental Rate		\$24.85/sf/year

Encumbered Space

A block of space offered for lease by a landlord to which another tenant has some right to lease or occupy at some future date.

Gross Absorption

The total amount of space occupied over a given period of time, without subtracting the amount of space vacated. (Synonym: leasing activity)

Gross Building Area (GBA)

The total interior floor area of a building, usually measured from the innermost edge of the outside walls.

Gross Lease

A legally binding contract in which a landlord receives stipulated rent from a tenant and is obligated to pay all or most of the property's operating expenses and real estate taxes.

Note: Disclosure of the specified costs of operation is required in some states. (See Common Lease Types Matrix.) (Synonym: full service lease)

Ground Lease

A lease agreement (contract) whereby the landowner (lessor) agrees to lease a parcel of land for a set period of time to a third party (lessee). Depending on the agreement, the lessor can stipulate what the lessee can or cannot do with the property or build on the property. The lease term is typically 20 years or more, but many extend to 99 years. Upon expiration of the lease agreement, the lessor typically gains control and ownership of whatever is constructed on the land, unless the lease is renewed or an exception is created in the lease.

Leased Space

Space under contract between a landlord and a tenant or between a tenant and a subtenant.

Leasehold

A leasehold is an ownership structure in which a temporary right to use land has been granted by the landowner to another party. (See ground lease.) Although the tenants do not own the land, they are able to improve the land and operate it as stipulated in the ground lease for the term of the lease.

Leasing Activity

Leasing activity is a term that refers to the number of leases signed or square footage committed to over a specified period without regard to occupancy. Typically, leases are executed many months before a tenant occupies the space. This arrangement means that a lease can be executed in a given quarter, but the space commitment will not show up in the absorption figures until the space is occupied at some point in the future. Leasing activity includes direct leases, subleases and expansions of existing leases. Leasing activity also includes any preleasing activity in buildings that are under construction, are planned or are under renovation. (Synonym: gross absorption)

Master Lease

The controlling lease identifying the terms and length of the lease. Note that a sublease cannot extend beyond the term of the master lease. (See Common Lease Types Matrix.)

Modified Lease

A lease in which the landlord receives a stipulated rent, and payment of the property's operating expenses is divided between the lessor and lessee via specified terms in the lease; also called "Modified Gross," "Net-net" (Double Net), "Net-net-net" (Triple Net), etc., depending on the degree to which the tenant or landlord are responsible for operating costs. (See Common Lease Types Matrix.)

Net Absorption

The net change in occupied space over a specified period of time. This change is measured in square feet at the building, submarket and market levels. This figure reflects the amount of space occupied as well as the amount of space vacated. Net absorption can be either positive or negative and must reflect increases and decreases in inventory levels.

Net Lease

A lease in which the tenant pays a share of operating expenses in addition to the stipulated rent. Disclosure of the specific expenses to be paid directly by the tenant is required. (See Common Lease Types Matrix.)

New Space

Space delivered to the market that was never previously leased or occupied by a tenant.

Occupancy Cost

Includes rent, real estate and personal property taxes, plus insurance, depreciation and amortization expenses.

Occupied Space

Space that is physically occupied by a tenant, subtenant or owner. Occupied space is calculated by subtracting total vacant space from total competitive inventory. If subtenant space is excluded from the calculation, then the term "direct occupied space" is recommended.

Preleased Space

The term applies to space that has been leased in a building that is under construction.

Pro Rata Share

The percentage that, when multiplied by reimbursable expenses (less an expense stop if referring to a gross lease), equals the amount to be reimbursed by a tenant to the landlord for expense recoveries. Typically, the percentage is calculated by dividing the net rentable area of a tenant's leased premises by the net rentable area of the building, although this is not always the case.

Relet Space

Sometimes called “second-generation space,” it refers to existing space that was previously occupied by a tenant.

Renewal Option

The right of a tenant to extend the lease term for a specified period of time at a predefined rental rate. In many instances, the rate is defined as a percentage of market rent, and in other instances, the rate is a specified dollar amount. An auto-renewal option is a type of renewal option whereby the lease term is extended automatically on the expiration date without any notification requirement. Often, there is a date by which this option must be executed; otherwise, the option expires.

Rentable Building Area (RBA)

The total square footage of a building that can be occupied by or assigned to a tenant for the purpose of determining a tenant's total rental obligation. Generally, RBA includes common areas in the building including hallways, lobbies, bathrooms and phone/data closets. (Synonym: gross building area)

Sale or Leaseback

An owner-occupied property that is sold to a third-party investor. The previous owner becomes the tenant that pays rent to the new owner. This tactic allows property owners to convert their ownership (equity) into cash while still occupying the property. The seller's (now the tenant's) lease term must be for two or more years.

Shadow Space

A portion of leased space that is not being used by the tenant. This area can include unused space that a tenant leased and is holding for expected future growth. It can also include unused space that was previously occupied but is no longer used as a result of downsizing the company's workforce. Shadow space is difficult to measure because it is not officially marketed or tracked in industry databases. (Synonym: phantom space)

Straight-line Rent

The accumulation of rental income (including months that have free rent, discounted rent and fixed-rent increases) divided by the term of the lease will generate a straight-line rent. Straight-line rent provides a way to compare rents on various properties using a consistent methodology.

Sublet Space

Space offered for lease indirectly by a tenant rather than directly by a landlord.

Takeup

When the space is physically occupied. (Synonym: leasing activity)

Total Inventory

The total number of buildings and total square footage (net rentable area) in the competitive inventory. Buildings under construction are not part of total inventory. Total inventory increases when a new building is delivered and decreases when an existing building is demolished or changes use. Total inventory includes properties under renovation if the building remains inhabitable during the renovation but excludes properties converting to a different use.

Total inventory is typically measured at the submarket and market levels. A description of the characteristics and numeric thresholds that make up the total inventory should be provided. The total inventory figure may vary from one data provider to another as a result of tailored definitions of what constitutes the competitive inventory. (See competitive inventory for more information.)

Triple Net Lease

A lease agreement whereby the tenant pays taxes, maintenance and property insurance as well as all operating costs associated with the tenant's occupancy, including personal property taxes, janitorial services and all utility costs. The landlord is responsible for the roof and the structure and sometimes the parking lot. (See Common Lease Types Matrix.)

Usable Area

This relative term is best compared to rentable area. Usable area is the amount of space that can actually be used by tenants within the space they lease. For example, columns inside a tenant space are counted in the measure of rentable area, but the space occupied by the column cannot be used by the tenant. A tenant's usable area does not include common areas in the building.

Vacancy Rate

A measurement expressed as a percentage of the total amount of vacant space divided by the total amount of inventory. This measurement is typically applied to a building, a submarket or a market.

Vacant Space

Inventory that is not currently occupied. If subtenant space is excluded from the calculation, the term "direct vacant space" is recommended.

Work Letter

A legal document that outlines the obligations of the landlord relative to the improvements necessary to prepare leased premises for a tenant's occupancy. Items typically found in a work letter include a description of the improvements, the cost thereof, and the portion of the cost to be paid by the landlord, the completion date and the insurance requirements of contractors performing the improvements.

Common Lease Types Matrix

Lease Type	Responsibility for Expenses	Other
Gross (full service)	Landlord pays all or most of the operating expenses and taxes.	Costs of operation must be disclosed in lease.
Modified Gross	Expenses are divided between tenant and landlord.	Costs can be double or triple net depending on terms of lease.
Net	Tenant pays all operating expenses.	Landlord must disclose tenant responsibility in lease.
Triple Net (Net-net-net, or NNN)	Tenant pays all operating expenses, taxes and insurance.	Landlord is responsible for structure, roof and maybe parking lot.
Master		Controlling lease stipulates terms and length.

Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Investment Sales Terminology

This section contains a group of frequently used terms related to the purchase and financing of real estate assets.

1031 Exchange or Like-kind Exchange

U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 permits the deferral of capital gains taxes on the sale of property held for investment or productive use in a trade or a business. With a 1031 exchange, property owners can sell their real estate and then reinvest the proceeds in ownership of a like-kind property or several like-kind properties, thus deferring the capital gains taxes. The like-kind exchange under Section 1031 is tax-deferred, not tax-free. When the replacement property is ultimately sold (not as part of another exchange), the original deferred gain, plus any additional gain realized since the purchase of the replacement property, is subject to tax.

Basis Points (BPs)

Values equal to one-hundredth of one percentage point. For example, 100 basis points = 1 percentage point.

Capital Expenses or Cap Ex

Improvements (as opposed to repairs) to a fixed asset that will increase the value or useful life of that asset. A capital expenditure is typically amortized or depreciated over the useful life of the asset, as opposed to a repair, which is expensed in the year incurred.

Capitalization Rate or Cap Rate

Unlevered initial return from the acquisition of a real estate asset calculated by dividing net operating income (NOI) by the property sales price. For example, a property's capitalization rate (cap rate) is 10 percent if it is purchased for \$10 million and produces \$1 million in NOI during one year. The cap rate is typically calculated using the NOI generated in the first year of ownership so investors can normalize and compare potential returns among competing investment properties.

Commercial Mortgage-backed Securities (CMBS)

CMBS are a type of bond that is commonly issued in U.S. securities markets and is backed by the cash flow from a pool of mortgages on commercial properties. The CMBS are often arranged into groups or "tranches" according to geography, property type or underlying credit rating.

Core Investment

An investment in a high-quality real estate asset that is located in a highly accessible and highly desirable submarket. The asset commands among that submarket's highest rents and requires virtually zero near-term capital expenditures. The asset is at least 80 percent leased, carries long-term leases with creditworthy tenants, and is among the most sought-after assets in the market, suggesting there is significant market liquidity.

Debt Coverage Ratio

The debt coverage ratio is the ratio of the net operating income to the mortgage payment. If net operating income is projected to change over time, the investor typically reports the first year's net operating income.

Discount Rate

Interest rate used in discounted cash flow (DCF) analysis to determine the present value of future cash flows.

Internal Rate of Return (IRR)

For income properties, it is the interest or discount rate needed to discount the sum of future net cash flows, including amortization and payments of loans and depreciation of the real property, to an amount equal to the initial equity of the property.

For development projects, it is the interest or discount rate needed to convert (or discount or reduce) the sum of the development expenditures and incomes to equal zero.

Loan to Value Ratio (LTV)

The ratio between a mortgage loan and the value of the property pledged as security, usually expressed as a percentage.

Net Cash Flow

Net cash flow is the annual income produced by an investment property after deducting allowances for capital repairs, leasing commissions, tenant inducements (after the initial lease is up) and debt service from net operating income.

Net Operating Income (NOI)

The income generated after deducting operating expenses but before deducting taxes and financing expenses.

Opportunistic Investment

Ground-up development of a real estate project is considered an opportunistic investment. It is an investment in a parcel or site that typically involves some or all of the following: rezoning for use or density or both; net new or ground-up construction; conversion of a building from one use to another; complete gut or significant rehab of a building, requiring that it be entirely vacant to complete; introduction of uses not previously seen on this parcel or in this area; etc.

Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)

A REIT is a company that owns or finances income-producing assets, such as apartments, shopping centers, offices and warehouses. It may also invest in air or water rights, unharvested crops, permanent structures and structural components that are part of a structure but don't themselves produce income. Shares of REITs can be traded like stocks and can allow owners of the shares to participate in the real estate market.

Real Estate Owned (REO)

A sale in which a lender, either institutional or private, sells a property that the lender has taken back through foreclosure.

Recapitalization

A term used when owners liquidate some or most of their ownership position in an asset by selling some or most of their equity position.

Return on Investment (ROI)

A measure of the value created by a real estate investment. It is the difference between the net gains from investing in the property less the net cost from investing in the property divided by the purchase price of the property. Usually, it is reported as a percentage.

Short Sale

When the sale price of an asset is less than the amount owed to the lender and when the lender accepts this amount as full payment for the loan. Those funds not repaid to the lender will be written off.

Stabilized Cap Rate

A stabilized cap rate is the ratio between the net operating income produced by a property upon achieving target occupancy, and its purchase value.

Tenants or Tenancy in Common (TIC)

An estate held by two or more persons, each of whom has an undivided interest, which means that each party has the right to sell or transfer the ownership of his or her ownership interest.

Value Add Investment

An investment in a real estate asset with existing cash flow (and value) that can be increased by raising occupancy, rents or both. Owners typically carry out one or more of the following to add value to a building: improve or replace building systems, provide new finishes, introduce new amenities, improve access or circulation to the building, add square footage, etc.

Industrial Terminology

The industrial real estate vocabulary section includes definitions, characteristics and features of the major industrial product types.

Industrial Building-related Definitions

Apron

The area, within the truck court, where trucks are parked for loading and unloading. This area will be paved with more durable material than will the rest of the truck court (e.g., concrete or other structural reinforcement vs. asphalt) to withstand the heavy loads being parked there.

Automobile Parking Ratio

A ratio calculated by comparing the number of automobile parking spaces at a project to the gross leasable area (GLA) of a building. This ratio is usually expressed in number of spaces per 1,000 square feet of gross leasable space. It varies by property use, with labor-intensive operations needing higher parking ratios. For example, a building with a GLA of 800,000 sf would have 800 spaces expressed as 8 spaces/1,000 sf.

Bay Depth

The distance between columns. (Synonyms: clear span, column spacing)

Bay Width

The distance from one side of the bay to the other.

Biotech Space

Highly specialized laboratory or research and development space. The space is uniquely configured and is typically developed to the needs of the biotech tenant. It may require significant retrofit should the tenant vacate the space. The space is often characterized by robust mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, as well as by sophisticated ventilation systems to accommodate the highly specialized and complex activities that occur inside and that involve the handling of chemicals, drugs and biological matter.

Cantilever Rack

Racking system containing shelving supports that are connected to vertical supports at the rear of the rack. This type of rack is used for storing long material such as lumber and piping.

Ceiling Height

Distance from the floor to the inside overhead upper surface of the room. This measure will be higher than any hanging objects, beams, joists or trusses, unless there is a suspended ceiling.

Clear Height

Distance from the floor to the lowest-hanging ceiling member or hanging objects, beams, joists or truss work descending down into a substantial portion of the industrial work area. This is the most important measure of the interior height of an industrial building because it defines the minimum height of usable space within the structure. (Synonyms: clear headway, clearance)

Clear Span

An open area with no obstructions.

Column Spacing

The distance between posts or vertical supporting beams in a building.

Cross Dock

Loading docks on opposite sides of a relatively shallow distribution facility that allow for quick loading, sorting or unloading from one vehicle to another (i.e., materials from one truck at a loading dock are unloaded, sorted and reloaded onto one or more trucks).

Distribution Building

A type of warehouse facility designed to accommodate efficient movement of goods. (Typical characteristics are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

Dock-high Door

A loading dock door that is not at ground level but rather is elevated to 4 feet in order to be even with the standard tractor-trailer height for loading or unloading goods without a change in elevation. Some doors, called “semidock” or “half dock,” are constructed at a 2-foot height to accommodate smaller or lower delivery trucks.

Door-to-square-foot Ratio

The ratio of the total number of loading docks and drive-in doors to the building’s total square feet.

Drive-in Door

A door through which trucks, forklifts, and other machinery or vehicles can enter and exit without a change in elevation.

Flex Facility

As its name suggests, an industrial building designed to be used in a variety of ways. It is usually located in an industrial park setting. Specialized flex buildings can include service centers, showrooms, offices, warehouses and more. (Typical characteristics are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

Fulfillment Center

An industrial property type that enables goods to be efficiently moved or transported from a warehouse directly to a consumer. (Typical characteristics are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

High Cube

A relative term that refers to industrial buildings with an abundance of clear height or vertical cubic space. (Synonym: high bay)

Industrial Building

A structure used primarily for manufacturing, research and development, production, maintenance, and storage or distribution of goods or both. It can include some office space. Industrial buildings are divided into three primary classifications: manufacturing, warehouse or distribution, and flex. (The typical characteristics of the most common types of industrial buildings are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

Levelators or Levelors

Steel plates that are moved by auto-hydraulic lifts to make a loading dock level with a truck bed. A fully loaded truck may sit 4 to 6 inches lower than a standard 48-inch-high dock. The device is used to account for the difference so a forklift can be driven into and out of a truck. A building equipped with multiple loading docks may not have a levelator for each dock.

Less than Truckload or Less than Load (LTL) Shipping

LTL is the transportation of lightweight freight or smaller groupings of freight. LTL shipments typically weigh between 151 and 20,000 lbs. LTL carriers collect freight from various shippers and consolidate that freight onto enclosed trailers for line haul (the movement of cargo between two major cities or ports) to the delivering terminal or to a hub terminal.

Loading Dock

An elevated platform at the shipping or delivery door of a building; it is usually situated at the same height as the floor of a shipping container on a truck or railroad car to facilitate loading and unloading.

Loading docks can be exterior ramps that protrude from a building and that are covered with a canopy or some element to protect the loading area from the elements. Otherwise, they can be flush with the exterior of the building and accessed through a sliding door that is adjacent to the interior of the building.

Manufacturing Building

A facility used for the conversion, fabrication or assembly of raw or partly wrought materials into products or goods. (Typical characteristics are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

Mezzanine Office

Office space that is built in an industrial facility. It is usually along the perimeter of a facility and creates an intermediate floor.

Office Percentage

The percentage of total square feet in an industrial building that is built for use as office space. When the mezzanine office is built above a space that would otherwise be an industrial work area, this additional square footage is not counted in the total square footage of the building.

Push-back Rack

Racking system with a sliding device that pushes back pallets, thereby allowing multiple pallets to be placed in the same location.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

Inventory-tracking technology embedded in devices that are attached to labels on packages so an item's location can be tracked.

Rail Door

A door that is generally side-loading, that has access to railroad tracks, and that facilitates the loading or unloading of goods from a railroad car to an industrial building.

Rail Service

A railroad spur adjacent to a building structure that allows the building to be served by rail operations.

Ramp Door

A dock-high door that has been converted to a drive-in door by creating a ramp from ground level to dock level.

Service Center or Showroom

A type of flex facility characterized by a substantial showroom area, usually fronting a freeway or major road. (Typical characteristics are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

Side-loading Dock

A loading dock configuration designed to facilitate the loading and unloading of a vehicle through its side.

Super Flat Floors

Concrete floors with minimal variations in elevation from point to point. The floors are found primarily in warehouses with automated systems. Precisely calibrated and leveled picking machinery and racks require level flooring to ensure proper operation.

Third-party Logistics (3PL)

Businesses that provide one or more logistics services including multiclient warehousing, contract warehousing, transportation management, distribution management, inventory management and freight consolidation.

Truck Court

Exterior area adjacent to an industrial building's loading docks where trucks maneuver. The most important measure of the truck court is the depth from the building to the end of the truck court. Greater depth allows for greater maneuverability and better accommodates multiple trucks.

Truck Terminal

This specialized distribution building for redistributing goods from one truck to another serves as an intermediate transfer point. The facilities are primarily used for staging loads (rather than long-term storage) and possess very little, if any, storage area. (Typical characteristics are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

Truck-turning Radius

The tightest turn a truck can make, depending on several variables such as truck configuration, trailer size and location of adjacent objects that obstruct the inner turning radius.

Truss

A framework of beams forming a rigid structure (as in a roof truss).

Truss Height

Distance from the floor to the bottom edge of a truss used to support the ceiling or roof of a building. If there are hanging objects, beams or joists below the truss, the clear height will be lower than the truss height.

Warehouse

A facility primarily used for the storage or distribution or both of materials, goods and merchandise. (Typical characteristics are shown in the Industrial Building Types Matrix.)

Industrial Building Types Matrix

Manufacturing		Warehouse				Flex	
Primary Type	General Purpose	General Purpose Warehouse	General Purpose Distribution	Truck Terminal	Fulfillment Center	General Purpose Flex	Service Center or Showroom
Primary Use	Manufacturing	Storage	Distribution	Truck Trans-shipment	Distribution	Research and Development, Cold Storage, Office, Lab, Light Manufacturing, High-tech, Data or Call Center	Retail Showroom
Subsets	Heavy, Light Manufacturing	Bulk Warehouse, Cold or Refrigerator Storage, Freezer Storage, High-Cube	Overnight Delivery Services, Air Cargo	Heavy, Light Manufacturing	Delivery directly to consumer		
Size (sf)	Any	Any	Any	Any	100,000 – 1,000,000 +	Any	Any
Clear Height (ft)	10+	16+	16+	12–16	32+	10–24	Any
Loading Docks or Doors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cross-dock	Yes	Yes	Yes
Door-to-square-foot Ratio	Varies	1:5K–15K	1:3K–1K	1:50K–5K	Varies	1:15K+	1:10K
Office Percentage	< 20%	< 15%	< 20%	< 10%	< 20%	30–100%	30+%
Vehicle Parking Ratio	Varies	Low	Low	Varies	Very High	High	High
Truck-turning Radius (ft)	130	130	120–130	130	130	110	110

Note: This matrix is intended to be an aid in classifying the principal industrial building types. It is subject to the following considerations:

- These are intended to be typical characteristics of different properties, but actual characteristics may vary.
- In classifying properties, the owner should select the classification that most closely fits the design and use of the property.
- The most important characteristics of each type are highlighted. Although the characteristics are not “acid tests,” they should guide the user in most instances.
- The truck-turning radius is an important consideration and varies by building size. Large, pure distribution facilities need a turning radius of at least 130 feet, medium to large facilities need 120 feet and smaller facilities typically need 110 feet.

Office Terminology

The office terminology section is a collection of essential and commonly used terms describing various types of office space—often identified by the type(s) of tenants occupying the space. This section captures definitions around the current trends impacting the sector such as shared office space and more traditional terms such as “space classification.”

Office Building-related Definitions

Accelerator

A programming-based workplace designed to help startup companies grow more rapidly by providing them with technical and educational assistance, mentoring, networking opportunities and workspace.

Coworking Space

Workspace offered for lease for short- to long-term periods in a communal setting. Space for office, artistic or manufacturing use can be leased by the day, month, year or even hour. The physical space leased can range from a traditional dedicated private office with a door to an unassigned seat on a bench along a communal table. Coworking spaces go beyond just providing a physical work environment. They are typically operated by entities that offer business-related lectures, social events and a sense of community for their entrepreneurial tenants, thus helping them grow their businesses.

Creative Office Space

Previously industrial space with high ceilings and exposed air ducts. The space is often made of brick and timber and has been converted to office or studio space that often caters to technology, advertising, media and entertainment tenants (TAME).

Government Office Building

A building that is owned (and typically occupied) by public sector entities.

Incubator

An economic development tool created to support new businesses. Typically lab or office space or both provided for free or at a deep discount in buildings owned or leased by municipalities. Business assistance and financing opportunities may be provided as startups gain momentum.

Innovation Center or District

Geographic areas with concentrations of innovative firms and entrepreneurial activity that focus on strengthening and growing new businesses and commercializing their products or services or both.

Medical Office Building (MOB)

A structure with at least 75 percent of its interior built out to accommodate healthcare providers such as doctors and dentists or healthcare technicians who perform exams with specialized equipment. Typically, the buildings have more robust mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems as well as reinforced floors to accommodate numerous exam rooms and heavy medical equipment.

Mixed-use Development (MXD)

The grouping of multiple significant uses within a single site or building such as retail, office, residential or lodging facilities. Examples include office buildings that contain ground-level retail and housing, plus projects that have separate office, retail and multifamily properties.

Clustering of at least three different uses such as office, retail, residential and/or hotel adjacent to or in close walkable proximity to one another. Uses can be contained in the same building or dispersed in different buildings that are adjacent to or close to one another.

Multitenant Office Building

A building that is not owner occupied and space that is leased to two or more tenants.

Office Building

A structure providing environments that are conducive to the performance of management and administrative activities, accounting, marketing, information processing, consulting, human resources management, financial and insurance services, educational and medical services, and other professional services. At least 75 percent of the interior space is finished to accommodate office users, but the rest of the space can include other uses such as retail, restaurant or fitness.

Office Building Types and Sizes

Low-rise: Fewer than 7 stories above ground level

Mid-rise: Between 7 and 25 stories above ground level

High-rise: More than 25 stories above ground level

Office Condo

Short for “office condominium,” this term refers to the ownership structure of an office property in which individual units housed in one structure are sold to independent owners. Typically, there are covenants that govern the activities that can be carried out in and improvements that can be made to each unit. Such covenants also stipulate the distribution of costs related to the maintenance and operations of common elements in the building such as the roof and the elevators.

Office Park or Office Campus

Contiguous acres of land, master-planned with roads, sidewalks and trails, and extensive landscaping that accommodate stand-alone office buildings with adjacent surface parking lots or parking structures.

Owner-occupied Office Building

Buildings that are occupied by the owner and that generally are not included in the competitive inventory.

Secured Compartmental Information Facility or Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) Space

Highly secure space that meets specialized design guidelines and restrictions for building systems relating to data, power, communications, security, ductwork, ventilation and more. The highly controlled facilities are required by firms such as defense contractors or law firms that deal in sensitive industries.

Single-tenant Office Building

A building for which there is a single lease obligation.

Stacking Plan

A floor-by-floor and suite-by-suite graphical representation of each floor and suite within a building. The plan shows the suite number, the square footage of each suite and the tenant occupying each. On many stacking plans, lease expiration dates are also provided to give a quick view of the occupancy exposure within a building.

Office Building Classifications

The real estate industry uses a subjective classification system that divides buildings into three qualitative categories: Class A, Class B and Class C. Building classifications are relative and applied to all buildings that make up the competitive inventory in a market. A building that is Class A in a second-tier market may not be Class A in a first-tier market. The designations are determined primarily on the basis of building locations or submarkets, rents, building systems and finishes, and building upkeep and services.

Trophy Building

A landmark property that is located in a highly desirable submarket, is designed by a recognized architect, and features high-end finishes and modern or efficient systems. This building commands among the highest rents in the market and is more than 80 percent occupied by the market's premier tenants. It is highly sought after by institutional investors such as pension funds and insurance companies as well as by foreign investors. These properties are more desirable than Class A buildings.

Class A Building

A classification used to describe an office building with rents in the top 30 to 40 percent of the marketplace. Class A buildings are well-located in major employment centers and typically have good transit, vehicular and pedestrian access. Additionally, they are located adjacent to or in proximity to a high number of retail establishments and business-oriented or fast casual restaurants. Building services are characterized by above-average upkeep and management.

Class B Building

A classification used to describe an office building with rents that are based between those of Class A and Class C buildings. Class B buildings are in good to fair locations in major employment centers and have good to fair transit, vehicular and pedestrian access. They are located adjacent to or in proximity to a moderate number of retail establishments and business-oriented or fast casual restaurants. Building services are characterized by average upkeep and management.

Class C Building

A classification used to describe an office building with rents in the bottom 10 to 20 percent of the marketplace. Class C buildings are in less-desirable locations relative to the needs of major tenant sectors in the marketplace. They can be older, neglected buildings in good locations or moderate-level buildings in poor locations, so transit, vehicular and pedestrian access may vary. Typically, fewer amenities and restaurants are found in or near these buildings, and they are usually of moderate to low quality. Building services are characterized by below-average upkeep and management.

Office Building Classification Matrix

	Class A	Class B	Class C
Rents	Asking gross rents are based on a specified range in the top 30–40% of the office rents in the marketplace.	Asking gross rents are based on a specified range between the asking gross rents for Class A and Class C space.	Asking gross rents are based on a specified range in the bottom 10–20% of the office rents in the marketplace.
Location	The site is excellent and well-located.	It has an average-to-good location.	A less-desirable location depends chiefly on a lower price to attract tenants.
Building Systems	The mechanical, elevator, HVAC and utility systems can deliver services that meet both current tenant requirements and anticipated future tenant needs.	The mechanical, elevator, HVAC and utility systems are adequate to deliver services currently required by tenants.	The mechanical, elevator, HVAC and utility systems have capacities that may not meet current tenant needs.
Building Finishes	The finishes feature high-quality design and materials. Buildings must remain competitive with new construction.	The finishes use average-to-good quality design and materials.	The finishes project a dated appearance.
Building Services	Services include above-average maintenance, management and upkeep.	Services include average-to-good maintenance, management and upkeep.	Services include below-average maintenance, management and upkeep.

Note: This matrix is intended to serve as a guide for those who are evaluating buildings and determining their classifications with the following caveats:

- The final designation of Class A, B or C is always relative to the local market or submarket being analyzed. For example, buildings considered Class B in the central business district (CBD) might be considered Class A in the suburbs.
- The primary considerations for determining class are listed in the matrix. However, other variables worthy of consideration may include age, amenities, parking, construction materials and architecture.
- Buildings must exhibit more than one of the characteristics in each category, but they need not exhibit all of them to obtain that classification.

Retail Terminology

Retail-related real estate has been changing as a result of online sales and home delivery stemming from demographic shifts and technological advancements. This section defines traditional and new retail-related concepts, especially those relating to store formats and methods of delivery.

Retail Building-related Definitions

Anchor Tenant

The primary and usually the largest tenant in a shopping center. Larger shopping centers may have more than one anchor tenant. Rent for anchor tenants is often significantly lower than rent for other tenants in a shopping center because they draw consumers to the center.

Big Box

A freestanding structure occupied by a dominant retailer such as Home Depot. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Breakpoint

The point at which an additional lease rate kicks in. For example, in addition to base rent, after a certain amount of sales revenue is generated in a month, a retailer will pay the landlord some percentage of in-store sales, typically about 5 percent.

Buy Online and Pick up in Store (BOPIS)

(See omnichannel retail.)

Buy Online and Return in Store (BORIS)

(See omnichannel retail.)

Community Center or Community Shopping Center

A retail property with a wide range of apparel and general merchandise stores, as well as discount retailers or department stores such as Walmart, Kmart and Target. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Co-tenancy

A clause in a retail tenant's lease that provides remedies to a tenant in the event that another tenant, typically an anchor or major tenant, ceases its operations at the property.

E-commerce

Electronic commerce is the buying and selling of products or services mostly through the Internet. Typically, transactions are carried out via desktop and laptop computers as well as on mobile devices such as smartphones and smart tablets.

Experiential Retail

The notion that people buy goods online but pursue experiences at brick-and-mortar locations (i.e., do yoga, eat at restaurants, visit flagship stores for experience and entertainment, etc.).

Freestanding

A stand-alone retail structure that is not part of a complex (i.e., bank, bowling alley, Walmart, etc.). (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Go Dark

A clause in a retail tenant's lease that allows a tenant to cease operations at a property if a defined event, such as the departure of an anchor tenant, should occur.

Gross Leasable Area (GLA)

A site calculated as the summation of all rentable areas plus all common areas of a building.

High Street Retail

A concentration of shops in urban or urban-like areas that may also be referred to as "Main Street retail" in the United States and Canada.

In-line Store

A retail store placed adjacent to neighboring retailers so that the fronts of the stores are in a straight line and behind what is considered the lease line. Tenants operating in the common area are not considered in-line vendors.

Kiosk

A small, physically independent stand or cart often placed within the common area of a retail structure (typically a regional mall) from which specialty goods are sold.

Lifestyle Center

A type of retail property in an urban-like or Main Street setting with pedestrian circulation in the core and with vehicular circulation along the perimeter. Tenants are typically upscale, national-chain specialty stores, restaurants and theaters. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Locker

A storage compartment that enables a purchaser to pick up merchandise at a convenient satellite location. This arrangement allows for a type of self-service parcel delivery. Customers can select any locker location as their delivery address and can retrieve orders at that location by entering a unique pickup code on the locker touchscreen.

M-commerce

Mobile commerce is buying and selling via non-tethered devices such as smartphones and smart tablets.

Neighborhood Shopping Center

This type of retail property is most commonly found in the United States. Anchored by supermarkets and drug stores, the centers are typically one-level, rectangular structures with surface parking in the front and merchandise loading areas in the back. They provide for the sale of convenience goods (food, drugs, etc.) and personal services (laundry, dry cleaning, etc.) for the day-to-day living needs of the immediate neighborhood. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Omnichannel Retail

The merging of online and brick-and-mortar retail operations so customers can purchase and return items via more than one “channel.” For example, they can buy online and return in store (BORIS), buy online and pick up in store (BOPIS), buy online and pick up at a locker, etc. (Synonym: Multichannel Retail)

Online or Pure Play Retailer

A retailer that sells exclusively online and does not have any brick-and-mortar retail locations.

Pop-up Retail

A retail store, restaurant or kiosk intentionally designed to be in a location for a finite amount of time (i.e., a restaurant that opens for six months so it can test a market, or a store that operates in a location during the holiday season only).

Power Center

Among the largest types of retail properties, they typically feature three or more big box retailers such as Home Depot, Target and Walmart. Various smaller retailers are usually clustered together in a community shopping center configuration. Power centers are typically made up of multiple large buildings that are one-level, rectangular structures with surface parking in the front and merchandise loading areas in the back. Often, more money is spent on features and architecture at these locations than at big box shopping centers. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Regional Shopping Center

Among the largest types of retail properties, the center typically features large anchor tenants that sell general merchandise and fashion. Regional shopping centers were historically configured like traditional suburban malls, but many have evolved to Town Center or Main Street retail formats. Parking is accommodated via surface or structure spaces or both. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Retail Flagship

Flagship stores serve as retailers' main stores and are aimed at serving large numbers of customers. They are found in prominent shopping districts (e.g., Madison Avenue, Savile Row) and target high-income shoppers. They are typically larger than outlet or mall stores and hold large volumes of merchandise.

A retailer's primary location, a store in a prominent location, a chain's largest store, the store that holds or sells the highest volume of merchandise, or a retailer's best known location.

Strip Shopping Center

A strip shopping center is an attached row of stores or service outlets that are managed as a coherent retail entity with onsite parking usually located in front of the stores. Open canopies may connect the storefronts, but a strip center does not have enclosed walkways linking the stores. A strip center may be configured in a straight line or may have an "L" or "U" shape. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Super-regional Shopping Center

The enclosed, large anchor tenants that sell general merchandise and fashion offer more variety than does a regional center. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Traditional Outlet

The tenants offer a discount version of mainstream retailers and are often called "factory stores." They usually focus on apparel. Traditionally, the stores have been located far outside a city center. The outlets are designed as a destination or tourist magnet. (See Retail Building Types Matrix.)

Traditional Retailer

A retailer that started selling in brick-and-mortar locations but that now also sells items online.

Turn-key

A term used to describe a landlord's agreement to provide and pay for improvements to a tenant's premises. The landlord is required to deliver the premises in a condition ready for the tenant's stipulated use.

Retail Building Types Matrix

Center Type	Concept	Square Feet (approx.)	Typical Anchor(s)	Parking Type and Ratios	Primary Trade Area	Examples
Superregional	Enclosed, large anchor tenants, general merchandise and fashion, more variety than a regional center	800K +	Five or more department stores, tenants that sell a very large variety of goods	Surface or structured	25 miles	Tysons Corner Center, Tysons Corner, VA King of Prussia Mall, King of Prussia, PA Mall of America, Bloomington, MN
Regional	Enclosed, large anchor tenants, general merchandise and fashion	400K to 800K	Fewer than five department stores, tenants that sell a large variety of goods	Surface or structured	15 miles	Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica, CA Roosevelt Field, Garden City, NY
Community	Open to parking lot, provides general merchandise and commodities	125K to 400K	Discount department store, supermarket, drug store	Surface	3 to 6 miles	_____
Neighborhood	Open to parking lot, provides commodities to nearby neighborhoods	3K to 125K	Supermarkets or drug stores	Surface	3 miles	_____
Strip or Convenience	Open to parking lot, located along suburban transportation arteries on shallow parcels	Less than 30K		Surface		_____
Lifestyle	Upscale national chain specialty stores, dining or entertainment, urban-like Main Street concept, pedestrian circulation in core, vehicular circulation along perimeter	150K to 500K	Bookstore or other large-format specialty, cinema, small department store	Structured or street	8 to 12 miles	The Grove, Los Angeles, CA Americana at Brand, Glendale, CA
Power	Multiple category-dominant anchors such as Home Depot (i.e., multiple big boxes) with a few small stores	250K to 600K	Home improvement; warehouse club; off price	Surface	5 to 10 miles	_____
Big Box	A freestanding category-dominant retailer such as Home Depot	Minimum of 50K		Surface		_____
Freestanding	Stand-alone retail structure that is not part of a complex (i.e., bank, bowling alley, Walmart, etc.)			Surface		_____
Outlet	Manufacturers' outlet stores	50K to 400K	Manufacturers' outlet stores		25 to 75 miles	

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