#### RESEARCH

# MELBOURNE INDUSTRIAL VACANCY Q3 2019



### Strong prime absorption constricts vacancy to historical lows

- Total vacancy in Melbourne's industrial market contracted by 5% on a Quarter on Quarter basis to 670,259 sq m in Q3-19, underpinned by continuing demand for prime stock, driven largely by 3PL providers, online retailers and food distributors.
- The West and South East precincts accounted for 33% and 27% respectively of total vacancy, with under-construction, speculative stock replenishing the prime grade pipeline in these regions as demand continues to outstrip supply.
- Take-up for the current quarter totaled 147,265 sq m, whilst overall absorption in the last 9 months totaled 659,544 sq m, which is 23% higher than the same period last year. Demand for prime stock soared by 38%, while secondary stock absorption contracted by 7%.
- Approx. 59% of the total 234,532 sq m of speculative developments earmarked for completion in 2019 have already been leased. The strong take-up levels in the speculative space, especially in the West and the South East precincts bolstered developers appetite, with the development pipeline showing no signs of softening.



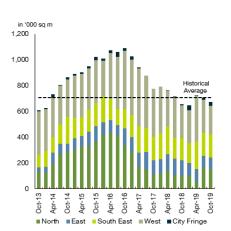
FINN TREMBATH Associate Director

#### TABLE 1

#### Melbourne Industrial Available Space $\geq$ 5,000sq m for Q3 2019

Precinct	Available Space (sq m)	No. of Buildings	Avg. Asking Rent (\$/sq m net)	Change Past Qtr (sq m)	Change Past Year (sq m)	Buildiı Prime %	ng Quality Secondary %
City Fringe	29,558	3	120	12,154	21,847	24%	76%
North	150,101	10	86	-15,236	47,626	41%	59%
East	89,900	7	79	256	-27,785	0%	100%
South East	181,410	18	83	1,922	10,083	44%	56%
West	219,290	16	81	-36,178	-37,421	86%	14%
Total	670,259	54	90	-37,082	14,350	50%	50%

FIGURE 1 Industrial Available Space By Region



Source: Knight Frank Research

#### FIGURE 2 Industrial Vacancy by Type

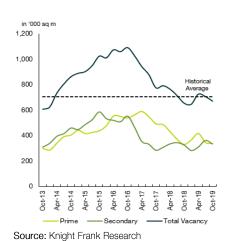
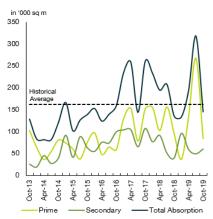


FIGURE 3 Industrial Take-up by Type Excl. D&C



Source: Knight Frank Research

## **City Fringe**

- · Available stock in the Fringe precinct increased in the current guarter to 29,558 sg m, which included a 7,000 sq m prime building in South Melbourne.
- Backfill space is expected to add to vacancy in the first half of 2020, as tenants relocate to more expansive properties.

### North

FIGURE 6

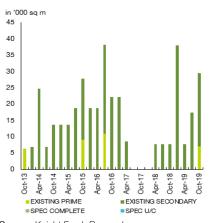
Vacancy By Type—North

- Vacancy in the North declined by 8% in Q3-19. Prime vacancy dropped by 13% with only 3 Agrade buildings available to lease in the 10,000 sq m+ space.
- Speculative space of circa 6,720 sq m was absorbed during the current quarter by a specialized manufacturer at 481 Cooper St in the Biodiversity Business Park.

### East

- Secondary stock levels remained unchanged at 89,900 sq m for the current quarter, while there continues to be no prime vacancy in the East.
- · Leasing was subdued with only 21,894 sq m being taken up during the past 9 months, mainly due to a lack of prime stock in the precinct.

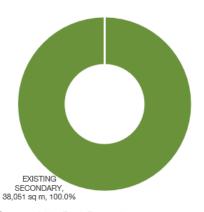
#### FIGURE 4 Vacancy By Type - City Fringe



Source: Knight Frank Research

#### FIGURE 5

Absorption by Type – City Fringe Take-up: 12 months to October 2019



Source: Knight Frank Research

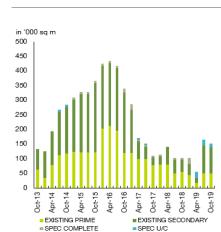
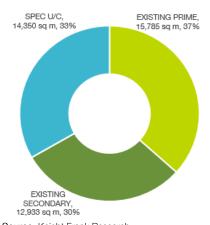




FIGURE 7

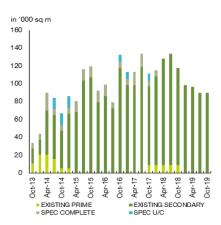
#### Absorption by Type—North Take-up: 12 months to October 2019



Source: Knight Frank Research

### Vacancy By Type-East

FIGURE 8

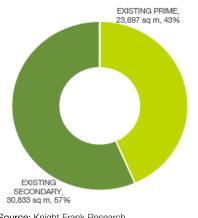


Source: Knight Frank Research

#### FIGURE 9

Absorption by Type-East





Source: Knight Frank Research

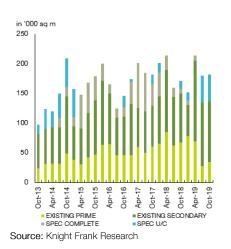
### South East

- Vacancy in the South East remained stable in the current quarter, but has increased by 19% from the start of the year.
- Tenant demand continued for prime grade properties, with 37,030 sq m leased during Q3-19, including Puma leasing a 14,552 sq m under-construction speculative warehouse in Fraser's Braeside Industrial Estate.

### West

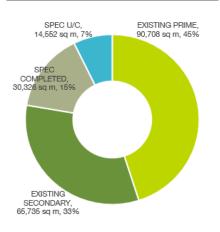
- Available space decreased by 14% during the current quarter to 219,290 sq m, on the back of continued demand by logistics operators for prime properties.
- Take-up in the West amounted to 101,383 sq m, headlined by Asaleo Care leasing 17,279 sq m and Dutton Cars leasing 18,815 sq m, both in Altona North.

#### FIGURE 10 Vacancy By Type—South East



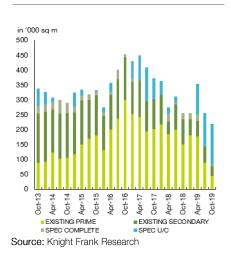
## FIGURE 11

Absorption by Type—South East Take-up: 12 months to October 2019



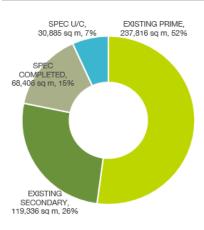
Source: Knight Frank Research

#### FIGURE 12 Vacancy By Type—West



### FIGURE 13

Absorption by Type—West Take-up: 12 months to October 2019



Source: Knight Frank Research

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#### Methodology:

This analysis collects and tabulates data detailing vacancies within industrial properties across all of the Melbourne Industrial Property Market. The analysis only includes building vacancies which meet the following criteria. 1. The sample data includes buildings with a minimum floor area of 5,000 sq m. 2. Buildings are categorized into the below three types of leasing options. A) Existing Buildings - existing buildings for lease. B) Speculative Buildings - buildings for lease which have been speculatively constructed and although have reached practical completion, still remain vacant. C) Spec. Under Construction - buildings for lease which are being speculatively constructed and will be available for occupation within 12 months.

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Sep 2019

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