# RESEARCH





# **HIGHLIGHTS**

- There is continued pre-commitment enquiry for larger buildings with few developers prepared to build speculatively. Pre-lease supply (buildings >3,000m²) totalling 417,445m² have entered the market since January 2010 to date.
- Absorption levels increased by 22% in the three months to April 2014 indicating an improvement in confidence.
- Industrial rents remained largely unchanged in the six months to April 2014. Prime-grade rents average \$111/m² net with secondary grade rents averaging \$90/m² net across the Perth metropolitan area.
- Investment activity continues to be constrained by tightly held stock. The bulk
  of sales in the past six months stemmed from owner occupiers with continued
  interest for well-located properties in the sub \$10 million range. Average
  prime-grade core market yields have experienced mild firming over the past
  six months, ranging between 7.75% and 8.25%, whilst secondary-grade core
  market yields range between 8.50% and 10.00%.

# PERTH INDUSTRIAL

Market Brief

Table 1 Perth Industrial Market Indicators as at April 2014														
Precinct	Avg. Prime Rent		Avg. Secondary Rent		Core Market Yields (%)		Avg. Land Value							
							<5,000m <sup>2</sup>		1 – 5 ha					
North	<b>\$/m² net</b> 109	(%p.a) -0.91	\$/m² net 88	(%p.a) -	<b>Prime</b> 7.75 – 8.25	Secondary 8.50 – 10.00	\$/m² 421*	(% p.a) -	\$/m² 252	(% p.a)				
South	108	-1.82	87	-0.57	7.75 – 8.25	8.50 - 10.00	327	-	240	0.60				
East	116	-0.98	94	-	7.75 – 8.25	8.50 – 10.00	436	-	303	-				
Blended Average	111	-1.23	90	-0.19	7.75 – 8.25	8.50 – 10.00	395	-	265	0.18				

Source: Knight Frank

Prime: Asset with modern design, good condition & utility with an office component 10-30%. Located in an established industrial precinct with good access. Secondary: Asset with an older design, in reasonable/poor condition, inferior to prime stock, with an office component between 10%-20%. Core Market Yield: The percentage return/yield analysed when the assessed fully leased market income is divided by the adopted value/price which has been adjusted to account for property specific issues (ie rental reversions, rental downtime for imminent expiries, capital expenditure, current vacancies, incentives etc)

## **Occupier Demand & Rents**

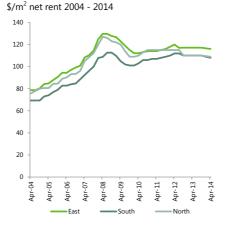
Vacant stock levels in the Perth industrial market were largely unchanged over the first quarter of 2014, recording a modest 3,578m<sup>2</sup> decline (1.3%). Total available floor space (>2,000m<sup>2</sup>) now measures 276,572m<sup>2</sup>, representing the first contraction in vacancy since October 2012, however remains 78% higher than the low point of 155,210m<sup>2</sup> reached 18 months ago.

Gross take-up (excl. D&C's) totalling 85,220m² was recorded during the six months to April 2014, down 7.8% from the previous half year period. On a quarter by quarter basis however absorption levels increased by 22% during the three months to April 2014 indicating that an improvement in confidence and enquiry is beginning to translate into stronger activity. Occupier demand has been dominated by medium sized tenants (2,000m² - 4,000m²), including Ezi-Hose (2,475m²), Tieman Industries (2,333m²) and AHG Holdings (3,390m²). Larger tenants (10,000m²+) remain cautious when deciding on leasing requirements.

Rental growth has been virtually flat with a softening bias across all Perth regions. Asking rents have been slow to adjust to increasing vacancy levels. As a result numerous properties have remained vacant on the market, some for over twelve months. Leasing incentives are creeping into the market in an attempt to maintain face rents. Anecdotal evidence indicates that incentives currently average 5% and are expected to grow in the near term. As a result, any

material reduction in face rents will likely be delayed.

Figure 1
Perth Region Prime Rents



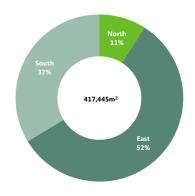
Source: Knight Frank

## **Development Activity**

Development is predominantly precommitment driven for large buildings (>3,000m<sup>2</sup>) with few developers prepared to build speculatively. There is, however, a number of smaller spec builds currently under construction. Activity is concentrated in the South and North regions, including a 2,725m<sup>2</sup> warehouse at 57 Conquest Way in Wangara. In addition, five 400m<sup>2</sup> warehouse units are currently under construction and available for lease at 1 Hathor Way in Bibra Lake, which sold in October 2013 to Mustang Property Group. The few remaining lots of land in Wangara and Bibra Lake are expected to be taken up by late 2014. Future small lot supply is then expected to shift to Neerabup

in the North and Latitude 32 in the South, which are being developed by LandCorp. Gross infill supply (in excess of 3,000m²) during 2013 was 69,800m² across eight buildings. This level of supply is relatively modest falling 38,128m² below the 2012 figure and sits 26% below the 4 year average.

Figure 2 Infill Supply by Region ('000m²) Buildings 3,000m²+ (Jan-10 to Apr-14)



Source: Knight Frank

The eastern suburbs of Kewdale, Welshpool, Forrestfield and Hazelmere continue to facilitate the bulk of new D&C's, with land availability the key driver of activity in these regions. Further development is expected within the Jandakot Airport precinct which has seen several major tenants, including Oceaneering, Caffi Logistics and PFP relocate to purpose built facilities.

Land rates at the smaller end of the market (<5,000m<sup>2</sup>) have remained stable over the

<sup>\*</sup>Average excludes Osborne Park land values

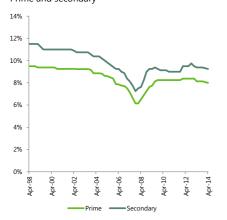


past twelve months, being supported by continuing demand from small developers and owner occupiers. Larger sites (1-5 ha) have experienced some mild price firming which is due to limited supply of available land and relatively stronger demand.

## **Sales & Investment Activity**

Investment demand for industrial assets has continued into 2014 with a steady flow of sales reaching completion over the past six months. The bulk of demand has been for medium sized assets (4,000m² to 6,000m²) however a number of larger properties also changed hands, including 305 Spearwood Avenue, Bibra Lake, which sold on a vacant possession basis in December 2013 for \$12.6 million.

Figure 3
Average Core Market Yields
Prime and secondary



Source: Knight Frank

Knight Frank recorded four transactions greater than \$10 million over the past six months, including two properties which were sold by Primewest as part of a national portfolio of six industrial assets valued at \$81 million. The properties, which were purchased by Australian Industrial AREIT (ANI), include 23 Selkis Road, Bibra Lake, (\$15.8 million) which is currently tenanted by Amcor Packaging. Amcor have occupied the premises since 2007 and are now ANI's largest tenant accounting for 14% of net passing income. In addition, 99 Quill Way, Henderson, sold for \$15.5 million and is currently leased to engineering firm CBI

Table 2											
Major Industrial Leasing Tran			erth Regior		- ·	C					
Address Reg	gion	Net	Area	Term	Tenant	Start					
		Rent (\$/m²)	(m²)	(yrs)		Date					
41-49 Pilbara St, Welshpool	Е	113	10,210	undis	United Equipment	undis					
404 Orrong Rd, Welshpool <sup>#</sup>	E	undis	4,628	10	Neptune Marine	Nov-14					
25-31 Kew St, Welshpool	E	113	2,475	3	Ezi-Hose	May-14					
25 Quarimore Rd, Bibra Lake	S	110	2,430	5	CTE Group	May-14					
111 Division St, Welshpool	Е	102	5,130	5	Automotive Parts	Apr-14					
18 Hazlehurst St, Kewdale	Е	105	3,359	5	Teco Australia	Dec-13					
Major Land / Development Sales Perth Region											
Address Reg	gion	Price	Area	\$/m²	Purchaser	Date					
		(\$ m)	(m <sup>2</sup> )	of site							
47.T		0.00	2.640	area		D 12					
	S	0.88	2,619	336	Power Free	Dec-13					
33-14 11	E	5.25	15,380	341	Airport Property	Nov-13					
=	S	1.02	2,910	351	Mustang Group	Oct-13					
1 Selkis Rd, Bibra Lake	S	0.92	2,591	355	Yuanzheng Int.	Oct-13					
Major Improved Sales Activit	V Pe	erth Regio	on								
_	egior		Bldg.	Core	Purchaser	Date					
Address	egioi	(\$m)	Area	Mkt.	ruichasei	Date					
		(4117)	(m <sup>2</sup> )	Yield (%	6)						
23 Selkis Rd, Bibra Lake	S	15.80	18,235	9.18	ANI^	Feb-14					
99 Quill Way, Henderson	S	15.50	16,419	9.03	ANI^	Feb-14					
28 Emerald Rd, Maddington	Ε	1.15	418	VP	Private	Feb-14					
32 Millrose Drv, Malaga	Ν	10.75	6,371	8.69*	Private	Dec-13					
305 Spearwood Ave, Bibra Lake	S	12.60	17,250	VP	ANZ Trading Co.	Dec-13					
4 Koojan Ave, Sth Guildford	Е	7.10	3,444	8.00*	PFT Corporate	Dec-13					
27-29 Glassford Rd, Kewdale	Е	4.50	1,321	VP	Gradow Pty Ltd	Dec-13					
273 Collier Rd, Bayswater	Е	6.10	5,239	VP	AWC Holdings	Nov-13					
365 Victoria St, Malaga	Ν	6.25	2,531	7.21	Goldcom Corp	Nov-13					
Source: Knight Frank *Passing Yiel		Australia	n Industria	I AREIT	VP-Vacant Possession	#D&C					
N=North, E=East, S=South, W=West											

Construction and engineering specialist Kentz for a term of five years.

Private investors and owner occupiers continue to be the most active purchasers in the market with continued interest for well-located properties in the sub \$10 million range. Enquiry from institutional investors remains strong particularly for larger assets (\$10 million plus) with longer average lease expiries, low capex requirements and secure income streams. However, activity is being constrained by a lack of supply.

Average core market yields have experienced mild firming (13bps) over the past six months and now range between 7.75% - 8.25% for Prime and 8.50% - 10.00% for secondary. Stronger capital flows coupled

with limited investment opportunities will likely see core market yields continue to tighten, particularly for prime assets offering long WALE's as investor groups pursue greater exposure to WA's industrial market

Although mining expenditure has declined over recent months, WA's oil and gas sector continues to prosper and is one of the key drivers of demand for industrial assets in Perth. This, coupled with improving conditions within Perth's population growth driven sectors, such as construction and retail, should see demand for industrial assets be maintained in the near term.

# RESEARCH



#### Americas

USA Bermuda Brazil Canada Caribbean Chile

#### Australasia

Australia New Zealand

#### Europe

UK Belgium

Czech Republic

France

Germany Hungary

Ireland

Italy

Monaco

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Russia

Spain

The Netherlands

Ukraine

#### **Africa**

Botswana

Kenya

Malawi Nigeria

South Africa

Tanzania

Uganda

Zambia Zimbabwe

#### Asia

Cambodia China

Hong Kong

India

Indonesia

Macau

Malaysia Singapore

South Korea

Thailand

Vietnam

## The Gulf

Bahrain Abu Dhabi, UAE



#### **Knight Frank Research**

#### **Gabriel Payne**

Research Analyst, WA +61 8 9225 2412 Gabriel.payne@au.knightfrank.com

#### **Matt Whitby**

National Director – Head of Research and Consulting +61 2 9036 6616 Matt.whitby@au.knightfrank.com

#### **Knight Frank Valuations**

#### **Marc Crowe**

Director, Valuations WA +61 8 9225 2521 Marc.crowe@au.knightfrank.com

#### **Industrial Agency Contacts**

#### **Jarrad Grierson**

Director, Industrial +61 8 9552 2411 Jarrad.grierson@au.knightfrank.com

varraa.grierson@aa.kingrieriank.com

#### **Craig Rowe**

Associate Director, Industrial +61 8 9225 2413 Craig.rowe@au.knightfrank.com

#### **Scott Bailey**

Senior Executive, Industrial +61 8 9225 2421 Scott.bailey@au.knightfrank.com

#### **Sam Hammond**

Senior Sales and Leasing Negotiator, Industrial +61 8 9225 2471 Sam.hammond@au.knightfrank.com

#### **Martin Vogt**

Senior Sales and Leasing Negotiator, Industrial +61 8 9225 2437 Martin.vogt@au.knightfrank.com

Knight Frank Research provides strategic advice, consultancy services and forecasting to a wide range of clients worldwide including developers, investors, financial and corporate institutions. All recognise the need for the provision of expert independent advice customised to their specific needs.

Knight Frank Research reports are also available at KnightFrank.com.au

#### © Knight Frank 2014

This report is published for general information only. Although high standards have been used in the preparation of the information, analysis, views and projections presented in this report, no legal responsibility can be accepted by Knight Frank Research or Knight Frank for any loss or damage resultant from the contents of this document. As a general report, this material does not necessarily represent the view of Knight Frank in relation to particular properties or projects. Reproduction of this report in whole or in part is not permitted without prior consent of, and proper reference to Knight Frank Research.