Q4 2016 RESEARCH BULLETIN | SINGAPORE



PROMINENT TRANSACTIONS IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR SET RECORD HIGH IN 2016

Commercial transaction activity dominated the investment sales scene in 2016; domestic and foreign investors alike sought refuge in Singapore assets that are perceived to provide safe returns.

- Total investment sales value rose to S\$8.4 billion in Q4 2016 (Exhibit 1), bringing total transaction value for the year to S\$22.6 billion.
- The public sector more than doubled in investment sales volume in Q4 2016, owing to IOI Properties Group Bhd's purchase of the white site at Central Boulevard; notwithstanding, the private sector contributed 66.4% of the quarter's transactions, and made up a substantial 75.4% of transaction sales volume for the whole of 2016.
- The commercial sector took the lead with S\$4.9 billion worth of transactions in Q4 2016 as investors contended for assets in the Central Business District, through both government land sale (GLS) and private deals (Exhibit 3).
- The residential sector saw an increase of 6.6% to \$2.4 billion in the last quarter, underpinned by keen interest in bulk deals and collective sale (Exhibit 3). Over the same period, only one residential GLS site at Margaret Drive was awarded (S\$238.4 million).
- Slowing outbound investment activity, which fell 62.8% quarter-on-quarter or 87.1% year-on-year to S\$1.7 billion in Q4 2016, can be attributed to economic uncertainty stemming from geopolitical tensions in Europe and the United States.
 Viewed as a safe harbour in the tempest, Singapore witnessed \$3.3b worth of inbound investments in Q4 2016 and a notable \$8.9b for the whole year.



Source: Knight Frank Research

To be considered as private investment sales under Knight Frank Research definition, it must fulfil either of the following pre-requisite:a. Investment transactions should comprise an entire building or property with a total worth of S\$10 million and above; OR

b. Any bulk sales within a development which amounts to S\$10 million or more
 Public Investment Sales: The sale of a development site that is made available by the government to private entities.
 Private Investment Sales: Sales transaction of an existing development made between two private entities.

EXHIBIT 2

Key Statistics for Q4 2016, by Sector

	Residential	Retail	Office
Island-Wide	91.6%	92.5%	88.9%
Occupancy (%)	1 0.3pp	10.9pp	🔶 0.8pp
Available Stock (sq ft, unless otherwise stated	348,080 units	65.1 million	83.2 million
Upcoming Supply by 2020 (sq ft, unless otherwise stated)	40,294 units	4.6 million ¹	6.5 million ¹
Market Outlook for H1 2017	+	+	+
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Source: Knight Frank Research

¹ Upcoming supply for Retail Sector in terms of Net Lettable Area (NLA) and for Office Sector in terms of Gross Floor Area (GFA) *Arrows indicate q-o-q movement from the preceding quarter, unless otherwise stated.



IAN LOH Executive Director & Head, Investment & Capital Markets

"We continue to see investment interest in bulk prime residential, office, retail and hospitality asset in Singapore as outbound investment slows."

EXHIBIT 3 Top 5 Transactions in Q4 2016								
Building								
Site / Development	Sector	Price (S\$ mil)	Current Net Lettable Area (sq ft)	Price psf (S\$ psf)	Yield (%)	Buyer	Transaction Date	
Nouvel 18 ¹	Residential	\$965.4 mil	351,000	\$2,750	Not disclosed	Green 18 Pte Ltd	Oct 2016	
77 Robinson Road	Office	\$530.8 mil	293,269	\$1,810	3.5% ²	CLSA Capital Partners	Nov 2016	
Capital Square (50% interest)	Office	\$475.5 mil	388,215	\$2,450	Not disclosed	ARA Asset Management Ltd	Dec 2016	
Land								
Site / Development	Sector	Price (S\$ mil)	Maxim Gross F Area (se	loor pe	ce per sq ft r plot ratio \$ psf ppr)	Buyer	Transaction Date	
White Site at Central Boulevard	White Site	\$2,569 mil	1,520,8	374	\$1,689	Wealthy Link Pte Ltd ³	Nov 2016	
Raintree Gardens	Residential	\$449.5 mil⁴	563,93	34	\$797	UVD (projects)⁵	Oct 2016	

Source: Knight Frank Research

¹ Profit participating securities will be issued in the form of ordinary and preference shares to Green 18 Pte Ltd, a special purpose vehicle company whose shareholders are high net worth Singaporeans and companies wholly-owned by Singapore citizens
 ² Quoted net yield (Source: Real Capital Analytics, 20 January 2016)
 ³ A unit of IOI Properties Group Bhd
 ⁴ Includes estimated \$\$115.3 million of upgrading premium and differential premium (Source: The Straits Times, 7 October 2016)
 ⁵ A joint venture between UOL Group and United Industrial Corporation

EXHIBIT 4 Top 5 Outbound Transactions in Q4 2016

Site / Development	Property Type	Destination of Capital	Price ¹ (S\$ mil)	Yield (%)	Buyer	Transaction Date
4 sites in Chongqing	Development Site	China	\$753.0mil	Not disclosed	GLL Chengdu ²	Dec 2016
4 logistics properties	Industrial	Australia	\$151.9 mil	7.6% ³	Mapletree Logistics Trust	Dec 2016
Property at Worli, Mumbai	Development Site	India	\$129.7 mil	Not disclosed	K Raheja Corp, GIC	Dec 2016
Keppel DC Frankfurt 1	Industrial	Germany	\$116.8 mil	Not disclosed	Alpha Data Center Fund, Keppel Data Centers Holding	Nov 2016
The Flats at West Village⁴	Residential	United States	\$107.7 mil	Not disclosed	Mapletree Investments	Nov 2016

Source: Knight Frank Research

Outbound investments refer to all outbound capital flows relating to the direct and indirect acquisition (e.g. equity stake) of a property situated outside of Singapore, by Singapore-based entities. Only transactions with quantum of at least US\$2.5 million are captured.

Estimated price in SGD was derived using foreign exchange rate as at the date of transaction (Source: RCA data downloaded on 5 January 2017, Oanda)
 A unit of Guocoland Limited
 Approximate net property income yield (Source: The Business Times, 16 December 2016)
 Part of a portfolio transaction comprising 7 student accommodation

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