

COMMERCIAL RESEARCH



# BANGKOK OFFICE

MARKET OVERVIEW Q3 2017

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Business sentiment in Thai economy soars 1.5 points after the government announced the next election would be held in late 2018.
- From Q1 to Q3, three new office buildings entered into the market, bringing the total cumulative supply to 4.95 million square metres.
- This quarter, the market experienced positive net absorption. Meanwhile, the amount of new office space leased was extremely high at 143,014 square metres due to the relocation of tenants, especially in Grade B office.
- The overall occupancy rate was 91.77%.
- The quarterly average rents significantly increased by 2.85% to 722 baht per square metre per month.
- The trend for a small office is now moving into co-working spaces.



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After the government announced that the next election will be held in late 2018, the Business Sentiment Index (BSI) expanded to its highest point in six months because many investors believe the smooth running of the elections is a significant factor that will drive Thai economic growth in the coming years.

## Supply

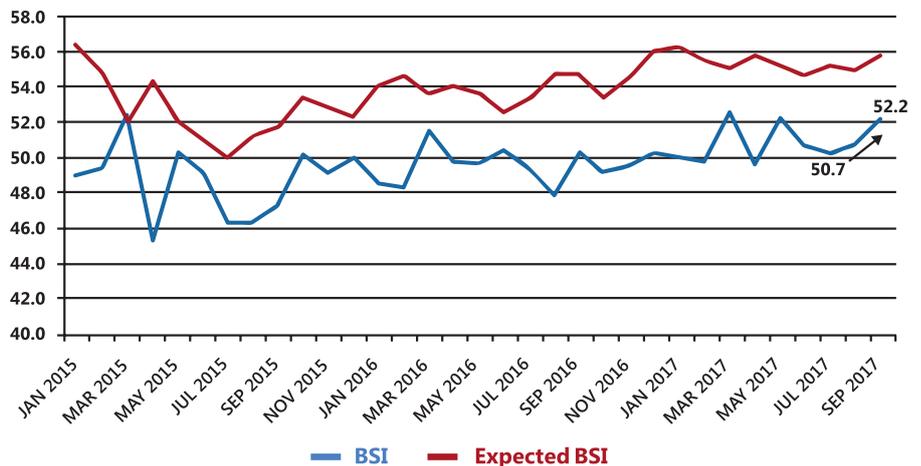
From Q1 to Q3 2017, the total Bangkok office supply increased to 4,951,672 square metres when three new office buildings entered the market. In the future, we still expect that the trend of the new office development projects will be in locations outside of the areas traditionally viewed as the CBD but are rapidly emerging to become new commercial districts.

Note: These figures exclude multi-owner occupied premises and office buildings smaller than 5,000 square metres.

## Future Supply

Approximately 165,710 square metres of new supply will be completed next year. In addition to projects under construction, the total amount of new

FIGURE 1  
**Thailand Business Confidence Index**



SOURCE: BANK OF THAILAND (BOT)

REMARKS:

1/ BUSINESS SENTIMENT INDEX IS COMPILED FROM BOT SURVEY DATA OF 1,500 BUSINESSES.

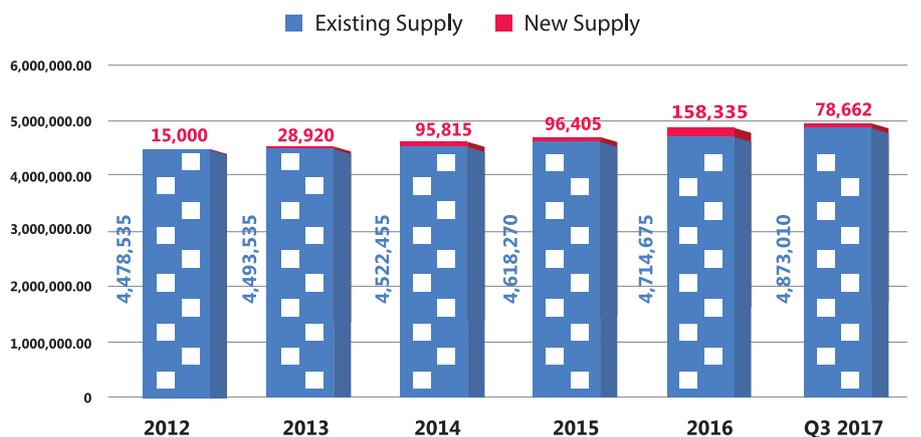
2/ BELOW IS THE INTERPRETATION OF THE INDEX:

INDEX = 50 INDICATES THAT BUSINESS SENTIMENT REMAINS STABLE.

INDEX > 50 INDICATES THAT BUSINESS SENTIMENT HAS IMPROVED.

INDEX < 50 INDICATES THAT BUSINESS SENTIMENT HAS WORSENE.

FIGURE 2  
**Bangkok Office Supply and New Supply from 2012-Q3 2017**



SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

supply of 214,609 square metres or more would be added to the market in 2019-2023. With this estimated increase, the total office supply will be around 5.4-5.6 million square metres in 2023.

## Demand

In Q3 the net occupied space stood at 4,544,012 square metres, representing an overall occupancy rate of 91.77%.

The occupancy rates in the office market continually rebounded in every segment from Q4 last year. The highest occupancy rate was shown in the Grade B category, at approximately 94.1 per cent, followed by Grade A and Grade C segments at 93.5 per cent and 89.8 per cent, respectively.

This quarter, the amount of new office space leased in Bangkok this quarter or the net take-up was extremely high at 143,014 square metres, an increase by 293% from Q2. Meanwhile, the net absorption was at 82,865 square metres, which means that 60,149 square metres of space were surrendered over the same period. This indicates that office tenants have been expanding; those relocating during this quarter expanded into larger blocks of space at their new premises. This was especially evident in the Grade B office sector.

So, from figure 5, if we compare the net take-up space with the new supply on an annual basis, we forecast that, going forth, the future supply in the next three years will be lower while the net take-up continues to grow, thereby implying that there will be an office supply shortage in the future.

Note: These figures exclude multi-owner occupied premises and office buildings smaller than 5,000 square metres.

TABLE 1

### Future Supply of Bangkok Office Space

Building Name	Lettable Space (sq.m.)	Completion	Location	Zone
<b>Expected completion in 2018</b>				
MS Siam Tower	37,000	Q1 2018	Rama 3	Non-CBD
Ari Hill	26,110	Q1 2018	Phaholyothin	Non-CBD
Singha Complex	50,600	Q2 2018	Asoke-Petchburi	Non-CBD
T1 Office Building	22,000	Q3 2018	Sukhumvit 40	Non-CBD
Whizdom 101	30,000	Q3 2018	Sukhumvit 101	Non-CBD
<b>Expected completion in 2019</b>				
Aspiration One	27,518	2019	Ratchatewi	CBD
CP Tower 4	48,091	2019	Rama 4	Non-CBD
Samyan Mitrtown	45,000	2019	Samyan	CBD
<b>Expected completion from 2020-2023</b>				
One Bangkok	NA	2021+	Suanlum	CBD
Super Tower	94,000	2023	Rama 9	Non-CBD
Dusit Thani	NA	2023	Silom	CBD
Sriboonruang	NA	2023	Silom	CBD

SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

TABLE 2

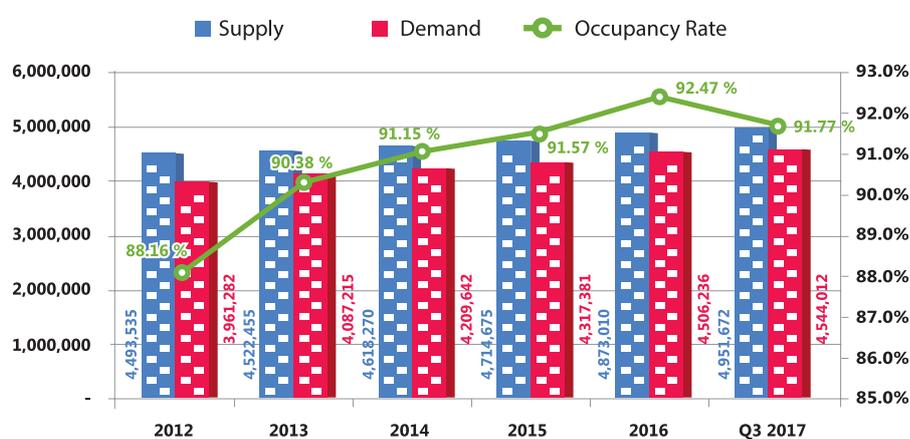
### Total Future Supply

Future Supply	CBD (sq.m.)	Non-CBD (sq. m.)
Total Completion in 2018	0	165,710
Total Completion in 2019	72,518	48,091
Total Completion from 2020-2023	NA	94,000
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>72,518 or more</b>	<b>307,801</b>

SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

FIGURE 3

### Office Supply, Demand and Occupancy Rate, 2012-Q3 2017



SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

## Rental Rates

The overall average rental rate was 722 baht per square metre per month, representing an increase of 2.85% quarter-on-quarter, from just 702 baht per square metre per month in Q2. The average monthly rental rate of Grade A office was 993.6 baht per square metre, while Grade B was 720 baht per square metre and Grade C was 454 baht per square metre.

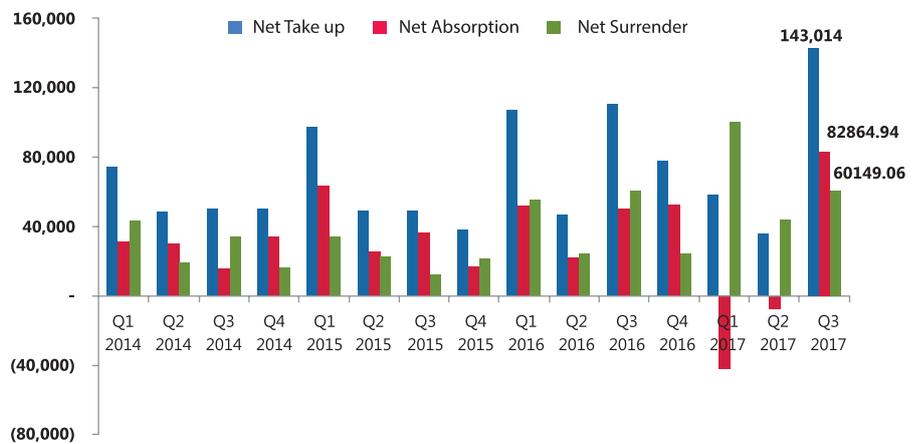
## Outlook

Nowadays, many tenants prefer plug and play offices, and developers are getting more and more flexible in providing fully furnished offices. A standard or traditional office is not the only single choice for tenants anymore. Co-working spaces and serviced offices are one of the fastest growing workplace movements of the last decade. The number of co-working spaces around the world has increased by 1,121 per cent since 2011.

In Thailand, The total number of co-working space has grown from fewer than 20 locations to over 100 locations over the past five years. We forecast that the total amount of new supply of co-working space will increase to 30,000 square metres within the next year. This is a small number when you compare with the overall market, but we believe that co-working and serviced offices will become an even more significant part of the office-leasing segment in the future.

FIGURE 4

Quarterly Net Take-Up, Net Absorption and Net Surrender from Q1 2014 to Q3 2017



SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

TABLE 3

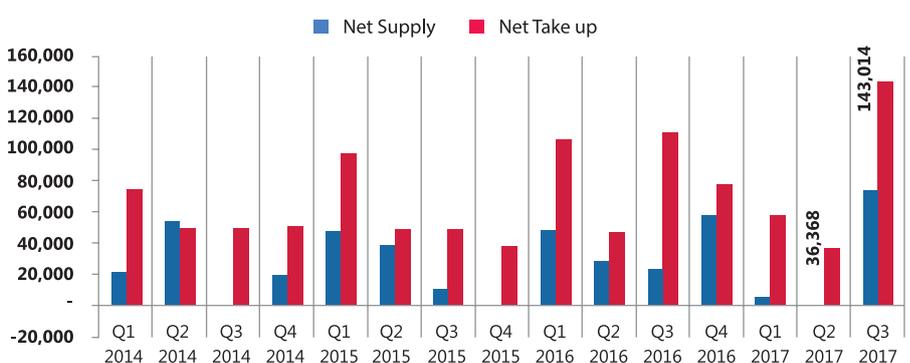
Occupancy Rate by Grade from Q1 2015 to Q3 2017

Quarter	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Overall	Change
Q1 2015	93.38%	92.22%	88.74%	91.18%	-
Q2 2015	91.85%	92.62%	88.64%	91.20%	Stood
Q3 2015	92.67%	93.38%	88.74%	91.40%	Increased
Q4 2015	93.74%	93.75%	88.44%	91.57%	Increased
Q1 2016	93.09%	93.49%	89.96%	92.11%	Increased
Q2 2016	93.27%	93.88%	89.62%	91.72%	Decreased
Q3 2016	95.67%	93.57%	89.78%	92.09%	Increased
Q4 2016	95.50%	93.43%	89.90%	92.47%	Increased
Q1 2017	92.84%	93.36%	89.27%	91.39%	Decreased
Q2 2017	92.50%	93.55%	87.86%	90.82%	Decreased
<b>Q3 2017</b>	<b>93.51%</b>	<b>94.13%</b>	<b>89.76%</b>	<b>91.77%</b>	<b>Increased</b>

SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

FIGURE 5

Bangkok Office Demand and Supply Analysis, Q1 2014 to Q3 2017



SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

# Glossary

- Central Business District (CBD) – Central business district, or CBD, is the centre of economic and financial activity of a city, and we define this as the area with the greatest concentration of prime office buildings, 5-star hotels and luxury retail.
- Grade A, Grade B and Grade C:

- Grade A, Grade B and Grade C :

- o Grade A – By virtue of their desirability, these prime properties command the highest rents in their market. You will find them located in the Central Business District near a mass transit station, and have a floor plate of at least 1,000 square metres.

- o Grade B – The largest sector of the office market, these are the buildings that are traditionally in the greatest demand; they might not be the most expensive properties in the market but represent good value for money.

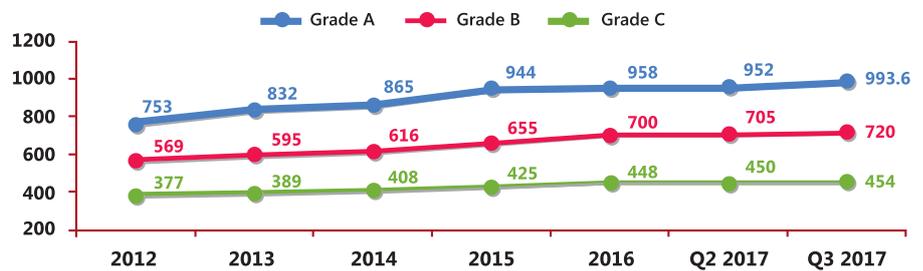
- o Grade C – Typically older properties, these buildings provide office space for rent at the most competitive rents in the market.

- Take up – the amount of new office space leased during a certain period of time.

- Net absorption – the net change in occupied space over a specified period of time.

- Co-Working Space – communities of freelancers and startups that involve different businesses collaborating for a greater end result.

FIGURE 6  
Asking Rent of Bangkok Office by Grade, Q1 2015 to Q3 2017



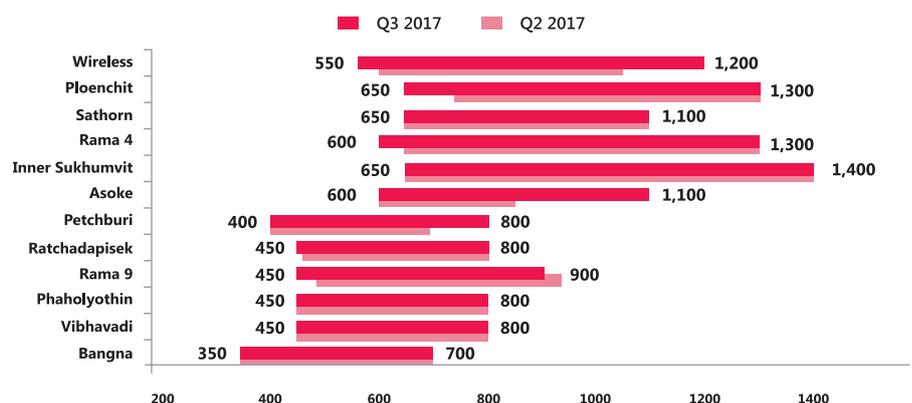
SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

TABLE 4  
Asking Rent of Bangkok Office by Grade, Q1 2015 to Q3 2017

Quarter	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Average
Q1 2015	891	636	422	649
Q2 2015	910	645	420	658
Q3 2015	936	651	425	670
Q4 2015	944	655	425	675
Q1 2016	943	664	425	677
Q2 2016	946	686	446	692
Q3 2016	956	694	448	699
Q4 2016	958	700	448	702
Q1 2017	947	704	449	700
Q2 2017	952	705	450	702
<b>Q3 2017</b>	<b>993.6</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>722</b>
Q-o-Q	+4.37%	+2.13%	+0.89%	+2.85%
Y-o-Y	+3.93%	+3.75%	+1.34%	+3.29%

SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH

FIGURE 7  
Asking Rent of Bangkok Office by Major Roads, Q2 - Q3 2017



SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH



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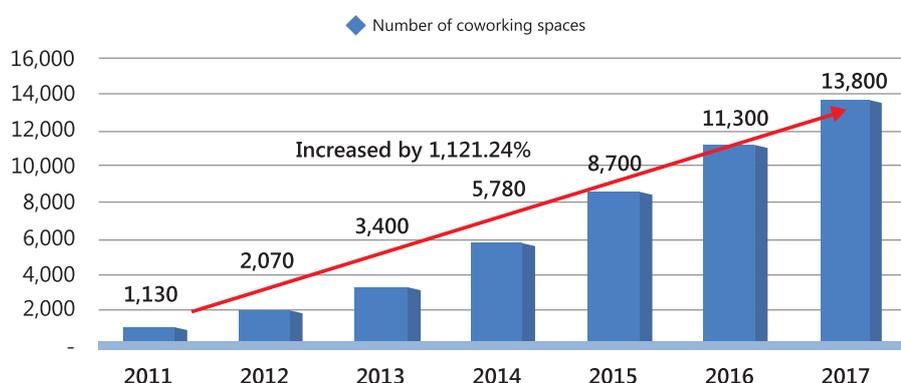
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FIGURE 8  
Number of Co-working Spaces Worldwide, 2011 - 2017



SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH AND STATISTA.COM

TABLE 5  
Differentiators of Office Type

Office Type	Key Differentiators
Traditional Office	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) minimum 3 year lease</li> <li>2) permanent space for employees</li> <li>3) more choice of Grade A, B and C establishments</li> <li>4) high fixed costs</li> </ol>
Serviced Office	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) fully furnished cabin spaces</li> <li>2) access to several amenities such as meeting and conference rooms</li> <li>3) flexibility in leasing and no fixed costs but more expensive than traditional office if we compare with same size and same location</li> </ol>
Co-Working Space	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) fully furnished cabin spaces</li> <li>2) access to several amenities such as meeting and conference rooms</li> <li>3) flexibility in leasing and no fixed costs but more expensive than traditional office if we compare with same size and same location</li> <li>4) networking events and opportunity to interact with investors and other entrepreneurs</li> </ol>

SOURCE: KNIGHT FRANK THAILAND RESEARCH AND STATISTA.COM

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