

Florida Panhandle Report



Industrial and Retail Development Cycle Heating Up; Investment Sales Activity at Cyclical Low Point

3000 2500 Total Consideration (\$/m) 2000 1500 1000 500 2012 2010 2011 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 H1 2024 ■ Multi-Family ■ Retail ■ Hospitality ■ Office ■ Industrial

Figure 1: Total Consideration of Real Estate Trades in Florida's Panhandle by Type and Year

Source: Real Capital Analytics, August 2024.

Market Overview

We have witnessed a notable uptick in new development throughout the Florida Panhandle in 2024, with emerging submarket areas reflecting the region's strong overall economic growth and northward expansion from the dense coastal markets. New industrial distribution and flex space is under way, including what we believe to be the largest spec industrial project ever developed in the FL Panhandle, the 550,000 Sf, multi-building Emerald Coast Logistics Center in Mossy Head, where the first two buildings (105,000 Sf each) topped out recently. Several other large projects are anticipated to break ground soon, including several build-to-suits for food & beverage distributors in the emerging Interstate 10/SR 87 interchange in Milton.

Retail development is also very healthy, following the region's continued population and housing growth,

and supported by still healthy consumer demand. Our FL Panhandle advisory team is reporting significant retail tenant demand in their pipeline, much of which remains unsatisfied due to the lack of availability – a great recipe for a continuation in the new development cycle in the retail segment.

Market conditions remain strong throughout Northwest Florida, with tight vacancy across most segments, continued demand for space from an expanding tenant base, and good rental economics for landlords, However, reflecting the volatile capital markets environment, investment sales volume in the region reached a low in H1 2024 not seen since the beginning of the last decade. With expectations for the beginnings of some interest rate relief in H2 2024, the strong fundamental market conditions should support a recovery in capital markets as we enter 2025. CBRE's mid-year cap rate survey revealed some compression from the prior period, another good sign for value recovery over the next year.

Office Sector

The FL Panhandle office segment is relatively stable and seeing some encouraging growth, as our advisory team is reporting expanding occupier pipelines. The market is experiencing overall positive absorption - 57,275 sq. ft. during H1 2024 and a trailing 12-month total of 124,370 sq. ft., with vacancy at a healthy 6.3% at the end of H1 2024 – well outperforming core markets in Florida. As usual, the primary office markets of Pensacola and Tallahassee lead the way in activity. During the first half of 2024, 18 leases over 5,000 sq. ft. and four leases over 15,000 sq. ft. occurred. If that trend continues, the office market will be in store for a more active finish to 2024.

Industrial Sector

The region's industrial market conditions remain very healthy with a trailing 12-month absorption of positive 864,173 sq. ft, resulting in vacancy rates at just 2.7% for the Panhandle overall. Having recognized the unsatisfied demand in the market, developers have kicked off several projects and there is now more than 352,900 Sf of space under construction. This includes the aforementioned Emerald Coast Logistics Center, which has two 105,000 Sf buildings slated to be completed by year-end, and more to come as this project (and others) come to fruition in the coming months.

Retail Sector

Northwest Florida's retail segment remains very healthy, with low vacancy, strong absorption of new inventory, and development under way throughout the region. Trailing 12-month positive absorption of over 516,850 sq. ft. is a clear indicator of the market's growth and support of newly developed space. The historically low vacancy rate of 2.1% at end of H1 2024 is further evidence of healthy conditions and provides market support for rent appreciation and continued development. The grocery anchored sector remains a key component of this development cycle, and single-tenant outparcel demand from both traditional tenants and emerging concepts is keeping retail developers busy.

Capital Markets

Total investment sales of \$284 million during the first half of 2024 represent a 53.5% drop from the same period in 2023. All segments have been impacted in the slowdown of capital markets activity. Counter to recent history, the Multi-family sector suffered the largest decline in the Panhandle (46% of the total and a 73.2% decline). The product type with the second biggest drop was Retail (63.6% decline) followed by Industrial (13.5%). The Multifamily market has essentially seized up with the recent economic and interest rate turbulence, and it appears that the overall investment market in the Panhandle is poised to see one of its slowest years in the past decade. Investment sales are expected to remain subdued until the Fed lowers interest rates starting in September. Expectations are that investment sales activity will start to improve during the second half of 2024.

Following a year of expectation-busting growth, which has given us interest rates higher for much longer, it seems we will get a "soft landing" in 2024. Last year's expansion was almost certainly driven by fiscal stimulus that far exceeded other western countries. Today, stimulus effects are fading, and higher interest rates continue to bite. There is evidence of this on the consumer front, wherein delinquency rates are trending upward, and credit growth is quickly slowing. The latter signals that consumption—a key driver of GDP growth in recent quarters—is poised to slow further. This partly explains why we believe growth will settle at the mid-1% range this year.

A more severe contraction in consumption would require the labor market to contract. Presently, conditions are merely softening. Both job openings and hours worked are falling. Also, most of the job growth is clustered in sectors that are immune to higher interest rates and receive at least some public funding, such as education, healthcare and government jobs. Leisure & hospitality has been a growth sector, but these cooling trends are evident here too.

A soft landing in consumption and hiring point to further disinflation. Labor-intensive service costs are poised to soften and falling rents across the Sun Belt suggest weaker housing inflation is on the horizon. Fed rate cuts are downstream of disinflation, and a most welcome outcome within the commercial real estate space where higher financing costs and devaluations are triggering distress. The prospect of a rate cut this fall will at least help ease rate volatility, put cap rates on a slight downward trajectory, and generate more common ground between buyers and sellers in coming quarters.

Market Statistics

Figure 7: Office Market Statistics

Market	Total Inventory (SF)	Direct Vacancy (%)	Total Vacancy (%)	H1 2024 Net Absorption (SF)	Trailing 12 Absorption (SF)	Under Construction (SF)	Avg. Asking Lease Rate (\$/SF/FSG)
Pensacola	6,666,056	4.2	4.2	4,813	38,338	-	26.67
CBD	2,020,119	3.1	3.4	(42,311)	(19,707)	-	28.29
Suburban	4,645,937	4.6	4.6	47,124	58,045	-	25.66
Destin/Fort Walton/Okaloosa	2,806,513	7.9	7.9	(7,628)	(27,826)	123,500	19.17
Destin	901,289	10.5	10.5	12,248	11,298	-	19.17
Fort Walton Beach	1,106,323	11.3	11.3	(18,460)	(36,308)	123,500	26.86
S Walton/Miramar Beach	362,481	0.8	0.8	3,381	(1,981)	-	25.84
Niceville/Freeport/Crestview	493,868	-	-	-	-	-	15.00
Panama City	2,847,065	8.1	8.1	(64,559)	(51,973)	-	16.89
Panama City Beach	551,557	14.4	14.4	(62,687)	(70,828)		17.82
Panama City	2,247,420	6.7	6.7	(1,872)	18,855	-	16.71
Tallahassee	13,501,641	6.4	6.6	124,649	165,831	-	20.60
CBD	3,115,682	2.7	3.0	25,157	49,504	-	25.01
Suburban	10,385,959	8.0	8.1	99,492	116,327	-	20.40
Total Panhandle	25,821,275	6.2	6.3	57,275	124,370	123,500	20.75

Source: CBRE Research, H1 2024.

Tracked Set: 10,000 sq. ft. and greater single and multi-tenant office buildings. * Includes base data adjustments where previously untracked inventory is found. **Does not include medical office buildings (MOB)..

Figure 8: Industrial Market Statistics

Market	Total Inventory (SF)	Direct Vacancy (%)	Total Vacancy (%)	H1 2024 Net Absorption (SF)	Trailing 12 Absorption (SF)	Under Construction (SF)	Avg. Asking Lease Rate (\$/SF/NNN)
Pensacola	16,478,917	1.8	1.8	245,428	367,178	-	7.89
Escambia County	15,090,971	1.2	1.2	210,428	331,831	-	8.10
Santa Rosa County	1,387,946	8.3	8.3	35,000	35,347	-	6.95
Destin/Fort Walton/Okaloosa	4,947,877	4.0	4.4	(75,950)	(70,700)	352,930	12.72
Destin	180,933	5.6	5.6	(3,000)	24,800	-	14.18
Fort Walton Beach	2,497,835	5.0	5.0	(16,700)	(12,500)	-	8.37
S Walton/Miramar Beach	508,076	-	-	8,750	2,600	25,430	14.20
Niceville/Freeport/Crestview	1,118,747	5.8	5.8	(65,000)	(63,000)	327,500	12.00
Panama City	6,767,052	0.7	0.7	78,589	97,745	-	11.08
Panama City Beach	804,290	1.9	1.9	(6,000)	10,500	-	10.64
Panama City	5,182,528	0.6	0.6	84,589	87,245	-	11.15
Tallahassee	12,540,044	3.8	4.2	(307,508)	469,950	-	9.33
Total Panhandle	40,733,890	2.5	2.7	(59,441)	864,173	352,930	8.84

Figure 9: Retail Market Statistics

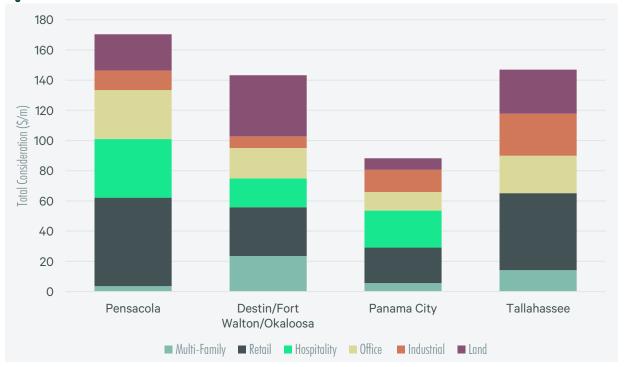
Market	Total Inventory (SF)	Direct Vacancy (%)	Total Vacancy (%)	H1 2024 Net Absorption (SF)	Trailing 12 Absorption (SF)	Under Construction (SF)	Avg. Asking Lease Rate (\$/SF/NNN)
Pensacola	30,276,699	2.8	2.9	(85,190)	176,238	69,848	15.72
Destin/Fort Walton/Okaloosa	19,811,793	1.5	1.5	135,724	311,633	122,671	19.12
Destin	4,890,441	2.1	2.1	1,675	8,361	68,644	25.96
Fort Walton Beach	7,323,166	1.4	1.5	113,713	115,552	-	14.25
S Walton/Miramar Beach	3,093,107	1.5	1.6	41,197	61,035	32,999	24.18
Niceville/Freeport/Crestview	3,480,957	0.7	0.7	20,680	108,365	21,028	18.20
Panama City	16,648,327	0.6	0.6	38,896	59,990	72,914	14.52
Panama City Beach	5,063,507	1.1	1.1	(10,923)	(12,493)	-	19.72
Panama City	10,261,269	0.4	0.4	49,819	71,688	72,914	13.57
Tallahassee	23,620,666	2.8	2.9	3,780	(31,011)	15,000	15.93
Total Panhandle	90,357,485	2.1	2.1	93,210	516,850	280,433	16.16

Source: CBRE Research, H1 2024.

Tracked Set: 2,500 sq. ft. and greater retail buildings

Capital Investment Overview

Figure 10: Sales Volume Totals H1 2024

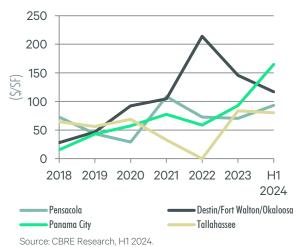


Source: CBRE Research, H1 2024.

Figure 11: Office Avg. Sale Price Per Sq. Ft.



Figure 12: Industrial Avg. Sale Price Per Sq. Ft.



Source: CBRE Research, H1 2024.

Figure 13: Retail Avg. Sale Price Per Sq. Ft.



Figure 14: Multi-Family Avg. Sale Price Per Unit

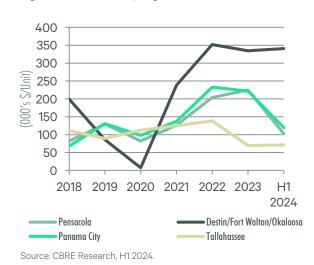


Figure 15: Hospitality Avg. Sale Price Per Room

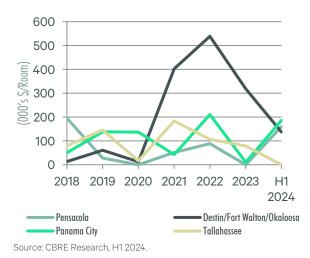


Figure 16: Land Avg. Sale Price Per Acre



Source: CBRE Research, H1 2024.

Figure 2: Pensacola Top 5 Jobs by Sector & Employers

Figure 3: Panama City Top 5 Jobs by Sector & Employers



Employer	Total Employed	Employer
Naval Air Station Pensacola	23,000	Tyndall Air Force Base
avy Federal Credit Union	8,729	Naval Support Activity
otist Health Care	5,434	Bay District Schools
cred Heart Health Systems	4,820	Bay Medical Center
niversity of West Florida	2,447	Wal-Mart and Sam's Club

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, August 2024 & Florida West Economic Development Alliance.

Figure 4: Destin Top 5 Jobs by Sector & Employers

Figure 5: Tallahassee Top 5 Jobs by Sector & Employers



Employer	Total Employed	Employer	Total Employed
Eglin Air Force Base	19,413	State of Florida	19,136
Hurlburt Field	10,124	Florida State University	14,378
Okaloosa County School District	3,561	Leon County Schools	5,383
Walmart Supercenter	1,520	Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare	4,583
HCA Florida Fort Walton Destin Hospital	1,300	Florida A&M University	2,200

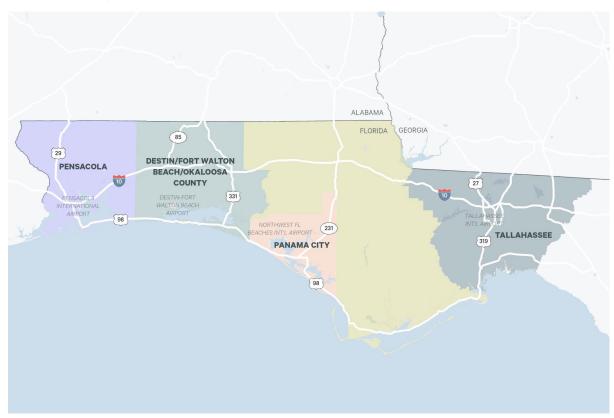
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, August 2024, One Okaloosa EDC & Florida West Economic Development Alliance.

Figure 6: Demographic Stats

Market	Unemployment Rate	Daytime Employment	Avg. Household Income (\$)	Median Home Value (\$)	Population
Pensacola	3.7%	241,596	98,723	330,875	534,840
Destin/Fort Walton/Okaloosa	3.2%	175,237	111,621	395,803	311,268
Panama City	3.3%	104,374	95,557	331,364	211,899
Tallahassee	3.9%	206,620	94,388	310,413	394,816

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics & U.S. Census Bureau, August 2024.

Market Map



Research Market Coverage: Includes the following counties: (Pensacola) Escambia, Santa Rosa, (Destin/Fort Walton/ Okaloosa) Walton, Okaloosa, (Panama City) Bay, (Tallahassee) Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, and Wakulla. The CBRE Northwest Florida office also covers the counties of Jackson, Gulf, Franklin and Calhoun, including the cities of Marianna, Port St. Joe and Apalachicola.

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