

# MARKET SURVEY (DECEMBER 2006) H.R.M. WAREHOUSES

## Scope

This survey included every warehouse building with a total rentable area of 20,000 ft<sup>2</sup> or greater, available for rent in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Rental, operating expense and vacancy data was collected on 138 buildings with an aggregate rentable area of 6,582,501 ft<sup>2</sup>, using a team of trained researchers. The survey successfully collected information on 100% of the rental stock polled. Data analysis prior to June 2006 is based on information gathered by a similar but smaller survey conducted by Cushman & Wakefield LePage for PWGSC.

## Vacancy Rates

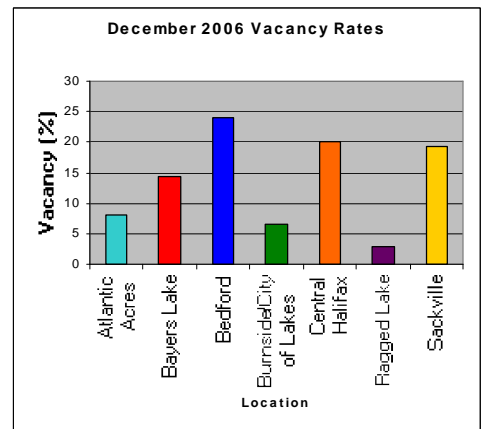
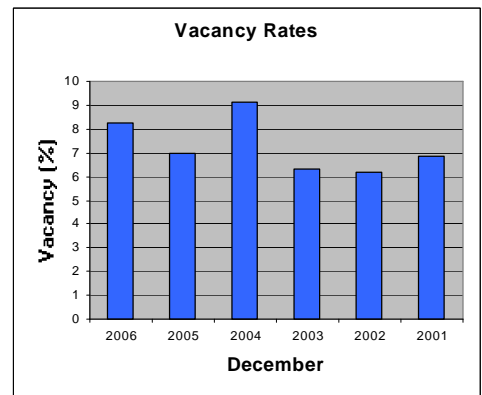
The vacancy rate **excludes** any space available for sub-lease: it is the total amount of space which is vacant and not currently leased. Our survey measured the overall vacancy rate in the urban area of H.R.M. (The industrial parks which lie outside the urban area are largely populated by owner occupied buildings). Vacancy rates prior to June 2006 are based on data collected by the Cushman & Wakefield LePage surveys, and employ heuristic algorithms which compensate for missing data. The overall vacancy rate is rising as new inventory is introduced to the market. The current overall vacancy rate is 8.25%. We anticipate this rate will rise in the next year as new buildings are completed.

Our survey also measured the vacancy rate by geographic node. The graph indicates the current vacancy rate in each of the following locations: Atlantic Acres Industrial Park; Bayers Lake Industrial Park; Bedford; Burnside/City of Lakes Industrial Park; Central Halifax; Ragged Lake Industrial Park; Sackville Industrial Park.

The **overall** vacancy rate is a useful predictor of changes in the net absolute rental rate/ft<sup>2</sup>. A falling vacancy rate portends increasing rents and vice versa. Empirical data indicates that net absolute rent/ft<sup>2</sup> movements follow the following pattern in a **falling** vacancy rate market: Fairly Stable ( $\geq 12\% < 16\%$ ); Very Slight Increase, Reduced Rental Incentives ( $\geq 10\% < 12\%$ ); Slight Increase, Rental Incentives Removed ( $\geq 8\% < 10\%$ ); Modest Increase ( $\geq 6\% < 8\%$ ); Strong Increase ( $\geq 4\% < 6\%$ ); Major Increase ( $< 4\%$ ).

## Forecast (Next 12 months)

We anticipate that the overall vacancy rate will rise to 12.12% from the current 8.25%. There will be no change in the net absolute rent/ft<sup>2</sup>.



**TURNER DRAKE & PARTNERS LTD.**  
Real Estate Counsellors, Brokers and Valuers  
6182 North St. Halifax, N.S. B3K 1P5  
Internet: [www.turnerdrake.com](http://www.turnerdrake.com)  
E-Mail: [tdp@turnerdrake.com](mailto:tdp@turnerdrake.com)  
Tel.: 1-902-429-1811  
Fax: 1-902-429-1891