## MARKET SURVEY (JUNE 2007) GREATER ST. JOHN'S 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 Greater St. John's Area. Rental, operating expense and vacancy data was collected on 89 buildings with an aggregate rentable area of 95,851 ft<sup>2</sup>, using a team of trained researchers. The survey successfully collected information on 90% 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. 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 has been declining for the past six years, dropping below the 5% mark in 2007. The current overall vacancy rate is 4.54%. Paradoxically, demand for rental accommodation has also fallen, though more slowly than space has been retired.

Our survey also measured the vacancy rate by geographic node. The graph indicates the current vacancy rate in each of the following locations: Central and Downtown 5.32%; East St. John's 0%; West St. John's 3.02%; North St. John's 8.71%; Mount Pearl/ Paradise 0%.

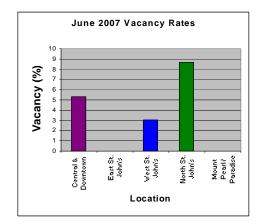
The *overall* vacancy rate is a useful predictor of changes in the net absolute rental rate/ft<sup>2</sup>. A falling vacancy rate portends increasing rents and vice versa. Empirical data indicates that net absolute rent/ft<sup>2</sup> movements follow the following pattern in a *falling* vacancy rate 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 5.50% from the current 4.54%. There will be an increase of 1.78% in the net absolute rent/ft<sup>2</sup>.









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