

NAR Commercial Real Estate Metro Market Report | 2021.Q2

Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT

Core-Based Statistical Area Code: 14860

The Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT commercial real estate market is weaker compared to the overall U.S. market.
NAR Commercial Real Estate Market Conditions Index* 45.5

Overall economic conditions are weaker than nationally.
The apartment property market is stronger than nationally.
The office property market is stronger than nationally.
The industrial property market is stronger than nationally.
The retail property market is weaker than nationally.
The hotel/lodging property market is stronger than nationally.

The commercial real estate market is slowly getting back on track although the rise of Delta variant cases is casting a shadow on the path of the recovery. The multifamily, industrial, and retail property markets will continue to recover more quickly than the office property market where vacancy rates will likely remain elevated in 2021-2022 compared to the pre-pandemic level.

I. Economic and Demographic

Economic	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT			U.S.			
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Total non-farm employment ('000)	381	367	357	146,603	143,315	138,501	
Y/Y chg.in nonfarm payroll employment ('000)	24	(29)	(57)	8,102	(6,637)	(13,215)	
Y/Y % chg. in nonfarm payroll employment	6.8%	-7.3%	-13.7%	5.8%	-4.4%	-8.7%	Job creation is stronger than nationally
Unemployment rate (%)	6.8%	7.8%	11.8%	5.9%	6.0%	11.1%	Unemployment rate is higher than nationally
Average weekly wages	\$1,236	\$1,276	\$1,274	\$1,059	\$1,046	\$1,016	
Wage growth, year-over-year (data are as of last month of the quarter)	-3.0%	4.9%	6.9%	4.3%	6.7%	5.6%	Wages are rising at a slower pace than nationally
	2019	2018	2017	2019	2018	2017	
GDP growth (%)	0.7%	0.3%	-0.3%	2.3%	2.9%	2.3%	
Median household income	\$97,053	\$67,845	\$66,863	\$87,470	\$84,423	\$81,284	
	2020	2019	2018	2020	2019	2018	
Demographic							
Net domestic migration ('000)	(7.4)	(8.2)	(7.2)	0	0	0	Area is experiencing net domestic out-migration
Population ('000)	942	944	946	329,484	328,330	326,838	
Population growth (%)	-0.21%	-0.12%	0.15%	0.35%	0.46%	0.53%	Population growth is slower than nationally
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Demand indicators							
Vacancy rate	6.1%	6.0%	8.9%	4.2%	4.7%	5.5%	The area has a higher vacancy rate than nationally
Absorption of units over the quarter	651	460	432	226,871	169,053	78,282	The area has a lower pace of absorption than nationally
Absorption of units in past 12 months	2,283	2,064	725	603,925	455,336	255,168	
Market asking rent per unit	\$2,399	\$2,307	\$2,215	\$1,004	\$978	\$953	
Market asking rent per unit, y/y % chg	8.3%	4.7%	-0.5%	6.1%	3.9%	1.8%	
Effective rent per unit	\$2,380	\$2,259	\$2,188	\$1,000	\$972	\$945	
Effective rent per unit, y/y % chg	8.8%	3.6%	-0.5%	6.4%	3.7%	2.3%	Rents are rising faster than nationally
Rent as a percent of 2-person annual wage income	22.2%	20.4%	19.8%	10.9%	10.7%	10.7%	The rent to income ratio is higher than nationally
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Supply indicators							
Inventory	30,831	30,111	29,299	17,259,876	17,168,283	16,881,961	
Net delivered units in past 12 months	1,532	1,036	1,958	377,954	387,779	389,240	Relatively fewer units are being delivered than nationally
Net delivered units, as % of inventory	5.0%	3.4%	6.7%	2.2%	2.3%	2.3%	
Units under construction	1,683	2,403	3,090	578,162	609,682	681,731	
Units under construction, as % of inventory	5.5%	8.0%	10.5%	3.3%	3.6%	4.0%	Construction activity is more robust than nationally
12-month total: 5+ unit building permits	1,237	1,170	1,390	463,443	435,217	452,345	
12-month total: all building permits	2,095	2,078	2,045	1,642,586	1,574,266	1,361,395	Building permits are not rising as fast as nationally
Ratio of jobs created to permits	11.6	(13.8)	(27.7)	4.9	(4.2)	(9.7)	
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Sales transactions							
Total investment acquisitions (in million \$)	\$387.9	\$339.7	\$17.0	\$41,291.4	\$28,735.4	\$13,346.3	Sales transactions are rising faster than nationally
Transaction sales price per unit	\$342,347	\$290,557	\$314,815	\$100,508	\$98,594	\$80,364	Prices are not rising as fast than nationally
Cap rate	6.0%	6.2%	6.2%	6.4%	6.6%	6.6%	Cap rates are lower than nationally

III. Office

Demand indicators	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT			U.S.			
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Vacancy rate	13.7%	13.0%	11.9%	6.1%	13.0%	11.9%	The area has a higher vacancy rate than nationally
Absorption in sq.ft. over the quarter	(452,310)	130,972	(224,664)	(9,309,111)	(51,131,309)	(13,966,267)	The area has a faster pace of absorption than nationally
Absorption in sq.ft. over 12 months	(1,021,029)	(793,383)	(891,417)	(140,700,116)	(145,357,270)	19,961,128	
Asking rent per sq.ft.	\$32.9	\$32.7	\$32.0	\$18.9	\$18.9	\$18.8	
Asking rent growth, y/y % chg.	2.9%	1.6%	-2.6%	0.3%	0.0%	1.3%	Rents are rising faster than nationally
Leasing activity in sq.ft.	552,886	426,221	238,958	100,568,800	81,175,252	81,276,145	Leasing volume is rising faster than nationally
Y/Y chg.in professional/business services jobs ('000) (as of last month of the quarter)	2	(4)	(7)	1,260	(501)	(1,715)	The area has stronger office job creation than nationally
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Supply indicators							
Inventory in sq. ft.	69,193,321	69,193,321	68,996,521	12,454,676,333	12,428,381,226	12,364,751,288	
Net delivered over 12 months, in sq.ft.	196,800	230,300	408,742	87,967,591	76,138,970	78,991,496	Relatively fewer units are being delivered than nationally
Net delivered units, as % of inventory	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	
Under construction in sq.ft.	282,625	277,000	196,800	177,275,188	186,528,025	209,268,041	
Under construction, as % of inventory	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	Construction activity is slower than nationally
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Sales transactions							
Total investment acquisitions (in million \$)	\$72.8	\$20.9	\$4.1	\$23,909.8	\$21,181.7	\$11,269.3	Sales transactions are rising faster than nationally
Transaction sale price per sq.ft.	\$107	\$59	\$106	\$108	\$106	\$105	Prices are not rising as fast than nationally
Cap rate	6.0%	6.2%	6.2%	6.4%	6.6%	6.6%	Cap rates are lower than nationally

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IV. Industrial

	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT			U.S.			
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Demand indicators							
Vacancy rate	7.5%	7.8%	6.9%	4.2%	7.8%	6.9%	<i>The area has higher vacancy rate than nationally</i>
Absorption in sq.ft. over the quarter	176,336	(5,149)	(620,123)	146,182,325	119,411,326	56,883,324	<i>The area has lower pace of absorption than nationally</i>
Absorption in sq.ft. over 12 months	(317,717)	(1,114,176)	(1,385,636)	437,432,148	348,133,148	231,052,238	
Asking rent per sq.ft.	\$11.4	\$11.3	\$10.8	\$6.5	\$6.4	\$6.1	
Asking rent growth, y/y % chg.	5.9%	5.9%	4.7%	5.2%	5.9%	4.7%	<i>Rents are rising faster than nationally</i>
Leasing activity in sq.ft.	490,405	456,340	438,856	319,474,044	296,163,970	254,024,482	<i>Leasing volume is not rising as fast than nationally</i>
Supply indicators							
Inventory in sq. ft.	61,372,265	61,388,571	61,292,595	26,553,663,022	26,461,805,496	26,166,021,757	
Net delivered over 12 months, in sq.ft.	79,670	(226,902)	(376,678)	385,387,457	398,260,005	382,527,483	<i>Relatively fewer units are being delivered than nationally</i>
Net delivered units, as % of inventory	0.1%	-0.4%	-0.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	
Under construction in sq.ft.	159,600	159,600	203,076	567,307,627	521,498,024	452,528,658	
Under construction, as % of inventory	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	2.1%	2.0%	1.7%	<i>Construction activity is slower than nationally</i>
Sales transactions							
Total investment acquisitions (in million \$)	\$34.3	\$12.4	\$17.6	\$27,261.9	\$21,600.7	\$13,713.9	<i>Sales transactions are not rising as fast than nationally</i>
Transaction sale price per sq.ft.	\$119	\$119	\$51	\$61	\$56	\$54	<i>Prices are rising faster nationally</i>
Cap rate	0.0%	6.8%	0.0%	7.4%	6.8%	0.0%	<i>Cap rates are lower than nationally</i>

V. Retail

	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT			U.S.			
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Demand indicators							
Vacancy rate	4.1%	4.5%	3.8%	4.3%	4.5%	4.2%	<i>The area has a lower vacancy rate than nationally</i>
Absorption in sq.ft. over the quarter	242,730	(14,314)	3,684	26,554,046	6,829,628	(12,969,003)	<i>The area has a faster pace of absorption than nationally</i>
Absorption in sq.ft. over 12 months	(43,955)	(283,001)	328,815	12,853,280	(26,669,769)	5,842,298	
Asking rent per sq.ft.	\$28.7	\$28.6	\$29.0	\$14.5	\$14.5	\$14.3	
Asking rent growth, y/y % chg.	-1.1%	-1.4%	0.9%	1.4%	1.0%	1.5%	<i>Rent growth is slower than nationally</i>
Leasing activity in sq.ft.	223,167	293,341	93,130	65,144,289	60,598,011	44,924,273	<i>Leasing volume is rising faster than nationally</i>
Y/Y chg. in retail trade payroll employment ('000) (as of last month of the quarter)	2.40	(5.60)	(2.80)	822.30	(1,100.50)	(245.60)	<i>The area has stronger retail trade job creation than nationally</i>
Supply indicators							
Inventory in sq. ft.	52,135,871	52,119,671	52,029,085	15,772,300,571	15,764,713,778	15,724,204,780	
Net delivered over 12 months, in sq.ft.	106,786	98,005	596,448	46,178,397	47,102,191	58,535,237	<i>Relatively fewer units are being delivered than nationally</i>
Net delivered units, as % of inventory	0.2%	0.2%	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	
Under construction in sq.ft.	98,410	106,710	133,630	55,829,483	58,628,746	71,303,691	
Under construction, as % of inventory	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	<i>Construction activity is slower than nationally</i>
Sales transactions							
Total investment acquisitions (in million \$)	\$43.1	\$43.2	\$22.3	\$20,811.7	\$15,469.2	\$8,857.2	<i>Sales transactions are not rising as fast than nationally</i>
Transaction sale price per sq.ft.	\$159	\$206	\$192	\$134	\$136	\$134	<i>Prices are not rising as fast than nationally</i>
Cap rate	9.6%	7.9%	8.2%	6.6%	6.6%	6.7%	<i>Cap rates are higher than nationally</i>

VI. Hotel/Lodging

	Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT			U.S.			
	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	2021 Q2	2021 Q1	2020 Q2	
Leisure and hospitality payroll workers ('000)	39.6	31.6	29.0	15,395.0	13,448.0	12,637.0	<i>Job creation in the leisure industry is stronger than nationally</i>
Y/Y change ('000)	10.6	(7.7)	(18.1)	2,758.0	(2,297.0)	(4,590.0)	
% share to nonfarm payroll employment	10.4%	8.6%	8.1%	10.5%	9.4%	9.1%	<i>The area has a smaller share of leisure jobs than nationally</i>

*An index below 50 means local market conditions are weaker than nationally, above 50 means local market conditions are stronger, and 50 means local market conditions are about the same as nationally. NAR derived the index by assigning 1 point for each indicator where local market conditions are better than the national (US) condition.

The total points for each local market are divided by the number of variables that are available at the local area, with 46 indicators if all the data are available. The fraction is multiplied by 100 to get the index.

Economic data may not be available for all markets. In some submarkets or metropolitan divisions (e.g., Long Island) reported by CoStar®, the economic data that is reported (e.g., employment) is of the metropolitan area (New York-Newark-Jersey City). The 390 markets in this report are based on the CoStar® market areas.

NAR reserves the right to add new variables or drop variables that comprise the index based on its analysis of variables that impact market trends.

Sources of data used: National Association of Realtors®, CoStar®, US Census Bureau, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, and US Bureau of Economic Analysis.

For information about this report, email data@nar.realtor.