# The Class A Office Market in Buenos Aires

# First Signs of Market Recovery

At the end of the third quarter, the Class A office market shows positive indicators; although the improvement observed is slight, it appears that recovery is beginning.

In March 2021, some companies have started, under the required protocols, to protect the health of employees. For third-quarter 2021, with the progress of vaccination, restrictions on access to public transportation were lifted, which facilitated mobility and access to offices. In addition, restrictions on most economic activities were made more flexible, which also had an impact on the return of companies to the workspaces. The release of restrictions translated into an increasing number of transactions, many of which were delayed and awaiting greater certainty about the control of the pandemic.

Net absorption closed in positive numbers, reversing the negative trend observed since the beginning of the pandemic; however, the annual accumulation continues to be negative as a result of the decline in demand during the first quarter of the year.

In line with the positive indicators, vacancy showed a slight decrease, partly due to a decrease in vacant space and a slight reactivation of demand. Meanwhile, in the context of a slight improvement in the market, rental values showed a stabilization compared to the last quarter.

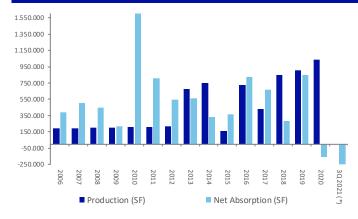
# Average Rent and Vacancy. 2006-Q3 2021 16% \$35 14% \$30 12% 10% \$25 \$20 6% 4% Ś15 2% 2021 Asking Rent (US\$/SF/month) Vacancy (%)

# **Current Conditions**

- The average rental value for Class A offices stabilized at \$27.00/SF, with no significant changes compared to the last quarter.
- The vacancy rate continues to decline moderately since the second quarter of 2021, averaging 16.5% of the total rentable area.
- In third-quarter 2021, a slight recovery of the market began to show, registering a positive net absorption of 43,130.12 square feet and an annual accumulated absorption of -246,654.12 SF.

Market Analysis							
	Current Quarter	Prior Quarter	Year Ago Period	12 Month Forecast			
Total Inventory (Const.)	28,1 MSF	28,1 MSF	27,0 MSF	7			
Total Stock (Lettable) (*)	17,8 MSF	17,8 MSF	17,1 MSF	71			
Availability Rate	16,5%	16,70%	11.01%	7			
Quarterly Net Absorption	43.131 SF	-5,219 SF	-322,530 SF	Я			
Average Asking Rate	\$27,0	\$26.71	\$29.03	И			
Under Construction	2.5 MSF	2.5 MSF	3,6 MSF	И			

# Annual Net Absorption and Production. 2006-Q3 2021



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### **Indicators by Submarkets**

During the third period of the year, vacancy continued to show a slight downward trend, which suggests that the market may be on the road to recovery.

In terms of square meters, vacancy showed a decrease of 1.45% compared to the previous period, totaling 2.94 MSF. Overall, the market showed variations in vacancy by less than 2%, maintaining the patterns presented during second-quarter 2021.

In the Central Business District, the Catalinas-Retiro submarket is the traditional Downtown area with the lowest vacancy (12.4%), while Microcentro has the highest vacancy in the market at 35.7%. In the Northern area, the North CABA (Autonomous City of Buenos Aires) stands out with a total of 15.1%, being the only corridor that presented a year-on-year decrease of 34.1%.

In terms of demand, the market showed positive values in net absorption, which could mean a change in the negative trend started in 2020. North CABA continues to stand out, maintaining a positive absorption of 43,604.56 square feet, resulting from the occupation of 53,819 square feet in Centro Empresarial Libertador. Other specific transactions in GBA Panamericana, such as the occupancy of 40,902 square feet at the Urbana Complex, pushed demand in the Northern corridors towards positive values.

Regarding rental values, the market averaged \$27.00/sf. Values remained stable, with moderate variations of less than 2%. The disparity showed in the blocks located in the Catalinas submarket, between Leandro North Alem Avenue and Madero Avenue stands out, where monthly rental values reach \$32.30/sf, while in the rest of this area, the average rent is \$30.47/sf.

In Zona Norte CABA, the Libertador Business Center distinguishes itself; it continues to maintain its values without major variations, and the asking rent reaches \$36.8/sf.

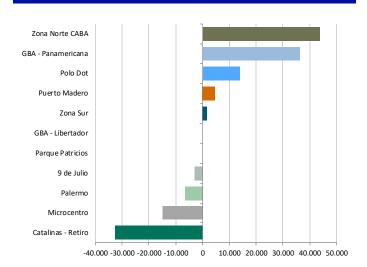
Finally, the Panamericana Corridor presents a very heterogeneous demand due to its geographical extension. Large corporate complexes, such as Lumina Panamericana, Lumina Olivos, Thames Office Park, Urbana, Optima Business Park and Edison Officia, have a vacancy rate below the market average and an asking rent of \$25.64/sf, well above the submarket average, which closed at \$21.40/sf.

# **Emerging Poles**

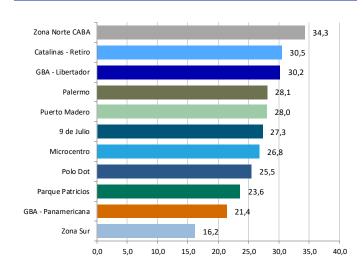
Emerging poles are areas of the city that are beginning to consolidate as new centers of attraction for the development of the office market. The implementation of the economic districts promoted by the City Government of Buenos Aires or the progressive decentralization of economic activity from the historic city center to other areas of CABA and Greater Buenos Aires are driving the formation of these emerging areas.

Parque Patricio is an example of an emerging area that has been consolidating as an attractive option for the relocation of technology companies, attracted by the tax benefits offered by the GCBA for development. Palermo, on the other hand, offers buildings with Class A characteristics, although adapted to the new flexibility needs sought by the companies that settle in this area.

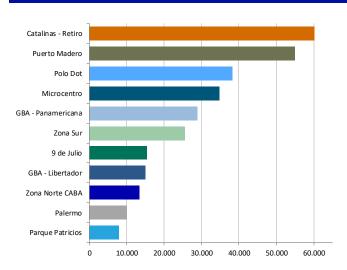
# Net absorption (SF)



# Asking Rent (US\$/SF/Month)



# Available Surface (SF)



#### **Future Surface Area**

In 2020, due to sanitary restrictions implemented in a pandemic context, buildings under construction presented delays in the estimated completion times.

Regarding new meters under construction, two projects in GBA Panamericana, totaling 492,060 square feet, were expected to enter in third-quarter 2021, which reaffirms developer interest in capturing the migration of companies to the Northern Zone. These buildings are expected to enter in 2022.

Regarding the distribution of the area under construction, 80.7% of the meters are concentrated in CABA, within which the Catalinas-Retiro submarket stands out, which concentrates 31.5% of the area with projects such as Quartier Puerto Retiro.

In terms of projected square meters, there is greater diversification in the locations. The greatest concentration is in the Northern area, including Zona Norte CABA, marking a clear growth trend towards this area.

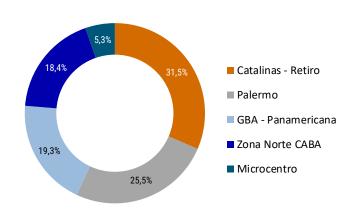
In the CBD, the Catalinas-Retiro submarket accounts for 35.3% of the total number of projects with the future development of Catalinas II, which will provide 2.5 million square feet of Class A office space.

# **Growth of the Emerging Poles**

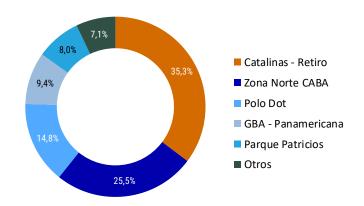
For the emerging poles, Palermo concentrates 25.5% of the underconstruction inventory, totaling 648,600 square feet. On the other hand, Parque Patricios has no buildings under construction, and the new meters are in projects that represent 8.0% of the total projected for the market.

The development of these new buildings is expected to drive the decentralization of the Class A office market from the traditional submarkets to new emerging poles.

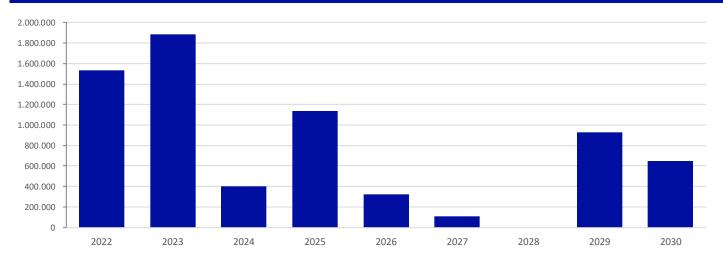
# Area under construction: 2.543.725 SF



# Surface area under project: 8.779.683 SF

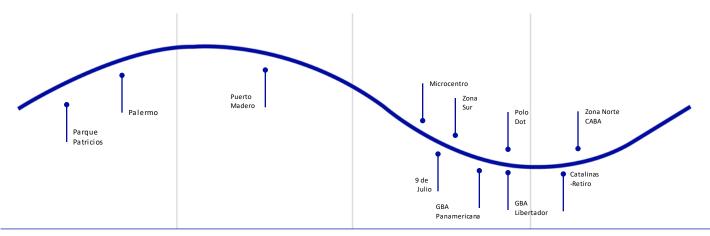


# **Evolution of future Class A office production (SF)**



Market Statistics							
By Submarket	Total Inventory (SF)	Under Construction (SF)	Projects (SF)	Total Availability Rate (%)	Qtr. Absorption (SF)	YTD Absorption (SF)	Direct Asking Rent (\$/SF/YR)
CABA							
Puerto Madero	5.138.804,26	-	-	16,9%	4.703,82	-12.895,15	27,99
Zona Sur	1.420.780,98	-	199.691,87	22,5%	1.729,22	90.337,65	16,16
Microcentro	1.383.430,25	134.947,01	-	35,7%	-15.037,17	-160.672,74	26,76
Catalinas-Retiro. Pza. San Martín. Pza. Roma	7.666.404,79	800.834,16	3.096.774,03	12,4%	-32.625,27	-95.647,91	30,47
9 de Julio	1.571.464,82	-	80.513,97	16,5%	-2.978,37	-24.355,48	27,27
Zona Norte CABA	1.349.620,84	467.325,48	2.237.061,34	15,1%	43.604,56	93.355,30	34,27
Polo Dot	2.103.244,53	-	1.295.586,06	30,0%	13.788,56	-18.298,63	25,47
GBA							
Corredor Panamericana	3.238.545,36	492.060,92	822.254,32	14,1%	36.360,45	-73.851,12	21,40
Corredor Libertador	1.724.828,86	-	342.873,27	12,1%	-	-47.597,97	30,22
Subtotal	25.597.124,69	1.895.167,58	8.074.754,86	17,3%	49.545,80	249.626,04	\$ 24,75
Emergent Poles							
Parque Patricios	2.159.787,30	-	704.940,73	4,7%	-	0,00	23,63
Palermo	361.419,47	648.600,32	-	47,9%	-6.415,28	2.971,91	28,06
Subtotal	2.521.206,77	648.600,32	704.940,73		-6.415,28	2.971,91	\$ 25,84
TOTAL	28.118.331,46	2.543.767,90	8.779.695,59	16,5%	43.130,52	246.654,12	\$ 26,97

# Class A office market cycle by submarkets



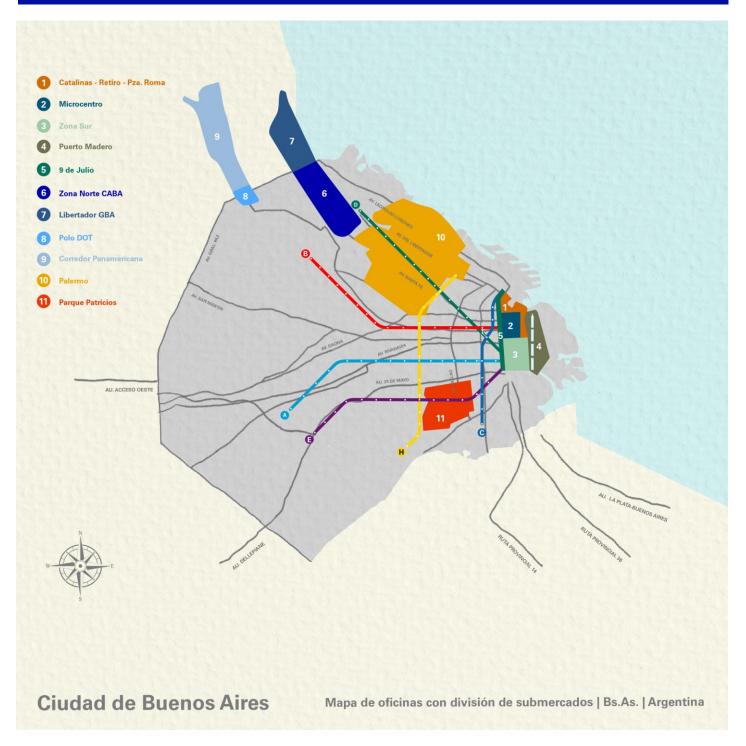
**Rental Decline - Slowing** 

**Rental Growth - Accelerating** 

**Rental Growth - Slowing** 

**Rental Decline - Accelerating** 

# Office market by submarket – Buenos Aires



#### **Economic Outlook**

The pandemic had a strong impact on the Argentine economy. During 2020, the country suffered a 9.9% drop in gross national product, the largest since 2002. Although the economy has begun to recover, by mid-2021, it was still below pre-pandemic levels.

During the third period of the year, with the progression of immunization of the population, new sanitary provisions were enabled that provided greater flexibility and opening of activities that added greater mobility within the country. This translated into a greater economic movement. Although these measures did not yet reflect a growth of the GDP, there was a deceleration in the fall of the economy, which in the second quarter of the year was -1.4% from the previous quarter.

The primary elections are part of the economic and social context of the country. The results of the PASO (primary, open and mandatory elections) and the expectations about the results of the November elections have put a brake on the economy, which has been waiting for more certainty about the economic and political direction that the country could take.

In a complex and weakened economic scenario, the unemployment rate stood at 9.6%, amid a delicate social climate, where the number of people receiving state aid through various social programs is growing, in an attempt to moderate the country's poverty level.

The domestic economy continues to show strong macroeconomic imbalances. The purchasing power of families continues to decline as a result of an inflationary context that for the moment seems out of control, where the consumer price index reached 51.4% annually at the end of the third quarter; the local currency continues to depreciate at the same pace as the growth of the dollar.

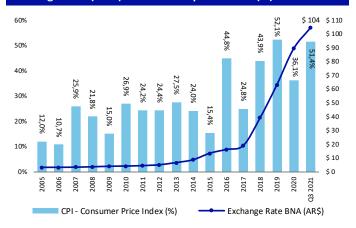
# **Economic indicators Q3 2021**



# **Unemployment rate (%)**

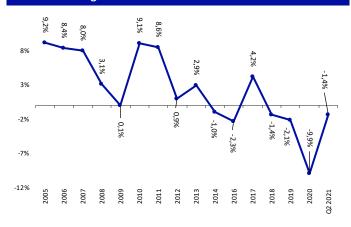


# Exchange Rate (BNA) - Consumer price index (%)



Source: Banco de la Nación Argentina, INDEC 1999-2007/2015-2021 INDEC. 2008-2014 Calculated using the weighted geometric average of the consumer price indexes provided by the provisional statistics institutes.

# **GDP: Percentage Variation**



 $Source: INDEC \\ 2015 = World \ Bank \ estimated \ value. \ 2021 = World \ Bank \ estimated \ value \ (June \ 2021 \ projection)$ 

 Proyect	Submarket	Total Area (SF)	Lettable Area (SF)	Date	LEED Certification
Worko	GBA Panamericana	526,279	421,020	1Q 2022	
Park 10	GBA Panamericana	86,111	64,583	2Q 2022	
Bureau Diagonal	Microcentro	185,505	134,947	4Q 2022	
Libertador y Pampa	Zona Norte CABA	263,715	219,755	4Q 2022	THE THE PARTY OF T
Quartier Puerto Retiro	Catalinas Retiro	418,500	348,750	1Q 2023	
Mirabilia Central	Palermo	398,264	182,340	2Q 2023	
Mirabilia 851	Palermo	645,834	319,903	4Q 2023	
Campos Salles	Zona Norte CABA	538.195	247,570	3Q 2023	
Nómada Palermo	Palermo	538.195	247,570	4Q 2024	
Alem y Córdoba	Catalinas Retiro	645,834	452,084	1Q 2025	

Are as of the projects are approximate. Pictures are illustrative.

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# Glossary of Terms

#### **Absorption**

Measures the demand in the office market based on the difference between the current occupied area versus the occupied area of the previous quarter.

#### **Availability**

Space marketed for lease regardless of when the space will be available or whether the space is vacant or occupied.

#### **Deliveries**

The total RBA of properties added to the inventory once construction has been completed.

#### **Direct Space**

Available space offered for lease by the building owner, landlord, or owner representative.

#### **Leasing Activity**

The volume of leases signed including new leases, direct and sublet leases, extensions and renewals, and leases signed in proposed or under construction buildings.

#### Occupancy

Any space physically occupied by a tenant, regardless of lease status of the space.

#### Rentable Building Area (RBA)

A measurement of the total square feet in a building including the tenant and common areas such as the lobby and hallways.

#### **Sublet Space**

Available space offered for lease by a building tenant seeking a subtenant to fulfill the remaining lease obligation.

# **Under Construction**

Buildings under construction are defined by the time the foundation is poured through the time the building is certified for occupancy.

#### Vacancy

Space not physically occupied by a tenant, regardless of the lease status or availability of space.

#### Weighted Average Rent

The asking dollar amount for the use of available space, weighted by size (the average does not include negotiable or unpublished rates and is reported as full service including operating costs).

Newmark has implemented a proprietary database and our tracking methodology has been revised. With this expansion and refinement in our data, there may be adjustments in historical statistics including availability asking rents, absorption and effective rents. Newmark Research Reports are available at ngkf. com/research.

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