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## The Midlands | Q4 2024 OFFICE MARKET REPORT

Market Indicators	Current Q4 2024	Prior Q3 2024	Year Ago Q4 2023
Inventory	35,869,760 SF	35,858,892 SF	35,843,488 SF
Vacancy	6.3%	5.9%	8.3%
Net Absorption	(116,762) SF	618,890 SF	258,238 SF
Market Rent/SF	\$19.15	\$18.87	\$18.71
Availability	3.7 MSF   8.6%	2.9 MSF   8.1%	3.3 MSF   9.3%
Under Construction   Delivered	76,180 SF   52,280 SF 🛛 💙 💙	128,460 SF   1,926 SF	179,904 SF   88,690 SF

## OFFICE OVERVIEW

At \$19.15/SF Columbia's office space comes at a significant discount when looking at comparable office markets in the region. The lack of supply pressure in the market has kept rents growing slightly faster than the national average at 1.2% annually. Slower leasing activity, however, has kept cooled rent growth below pre-pandemic trends when annual rent growth averaged roughly 3%.

At \$25.00/SF, 4 & 5 Star assets rent well below the national asking rate. Office properties in the city's central business district have historically commanded the highest rents in the metro; however, more recent trends have pushed rents higher in districts adjacent to the city's core such as the Dutch Fork/Irmo Submarket, where rents are just slightly above the CBD average. Coworking space Venture X leased 17,179 SF in 1901 Main in Downtown Columbia at a starting rate of \$24.09/SF FS in June 2024. A few months earlier in April 2024, the U.S. Secret Service leased 11,968 SF at St. Andrews starting at \$27.28/SF FS.

The lack of highly-amenitized office space has led some of the bestlocated and highest-end properties to list asking rents above \$30/SF FS. Main and Gervais, a 2009-built tower which includes law and commercial real estate tenants such as Burr & Forman, ParkerPoe, and EDENS, has space listed at \$33/SF FS (sublease).

Source: CoStar

"The Columbia office market is experiencing a surge in activity. I've observed a significant decrease in available inventory, while demand from businesses continues to be robust. This strong demand, coupled with limited supply, is creating a competitive environment for tenants seeking quality office space. The market is characterized by a flight-to-quality trend, with businesses prioritizing modern, amenityrich spaces that attract and retain top talent. This dynamic market suggests a positive outlook for the future of office space in Columbia."



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