



# U.S. industrial market report

Q3 2023

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**AVISON  
YOUNG**

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# U.S. industrial market trends

## -33.5%

**Q3 2023 net absorption vs. five-year average**

Industrial net absorption remained positive but declined relative to 2021 levels in late 2022 and the first half of 2023 due to global economic and financial headwinds and record levels of new construction deliveries. Net absorption was down just under 20% from 10-year averages, and slightly gained in the third quarter of the year over the second quarter. If the sector's net absorption remains positive over the next three to six months, despite surging new supply via deliveries, there could be a supply imbalance in favor of developers due to the comparatively limited pipeline that has broken ground since Q3 2022.

## 402.3 msf

**Q3 2023 gross leasing, on par with pre-COVID average**

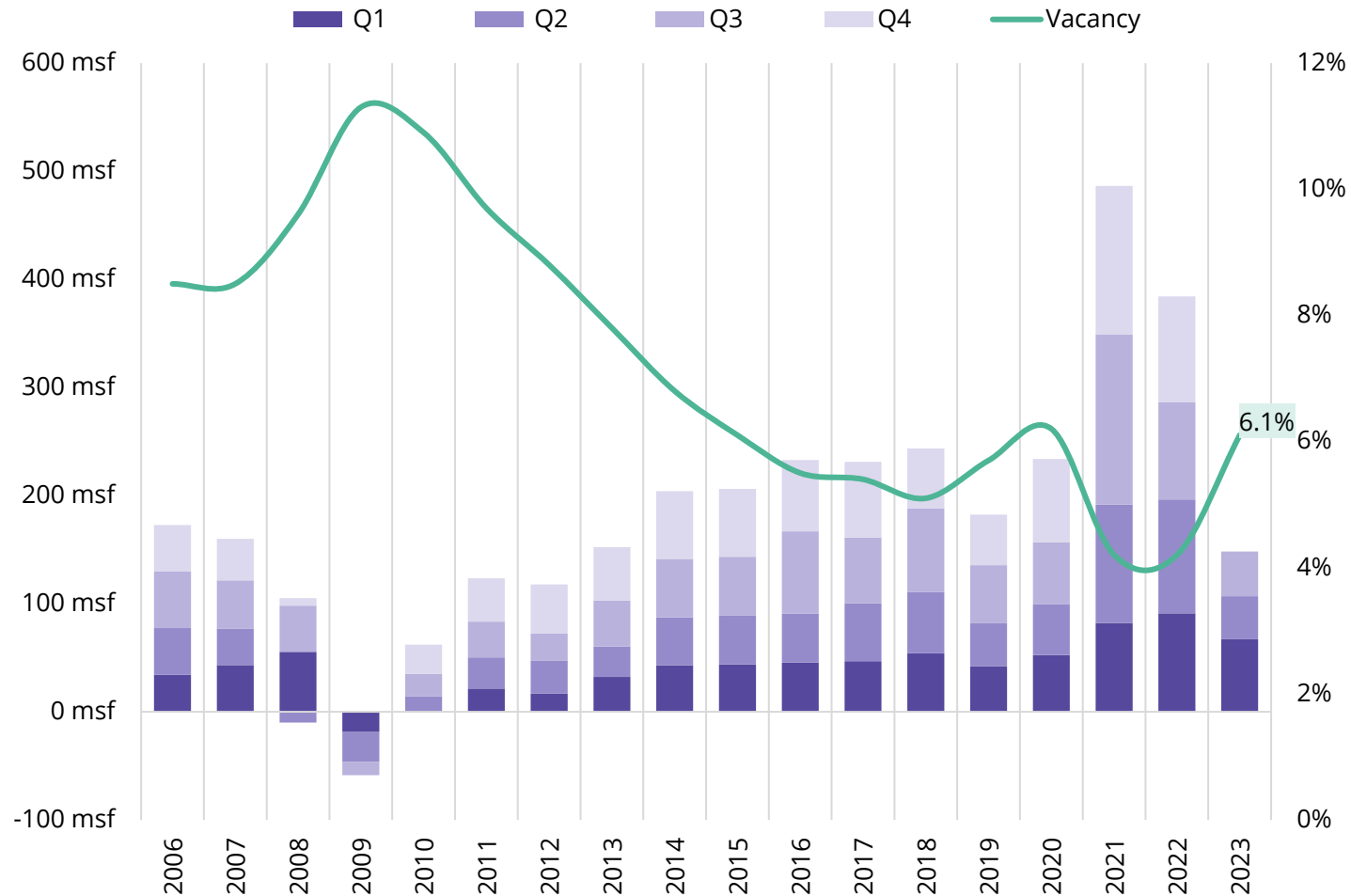
Overall leasing volume through the first three quarters of 2023 is substantially smaller when compared to the previous two years, however demand remains active throughout the U.S. industrial market. Despite the decline compared to recent performance, current leasing volumes are on par with the sector's pre-COVID 10-year average. As the economy continues to showcase resiliency, more users have been actively entering the pre-leasing process, indicating that leasing activity is aligning for increases in 2024.

## -27.4%

**Construction pipeline has fallen since Q3 2022 high**

New construction groundbreakings topped out in the third quarter of 2022. We are closely monitoring the market shift that decreasing groundbreakings will have on new space availabilities in six to nine months, as tenants looking for newly constructed space may have limited optionality relative to prior years.

# U.S. industrial net absorption vs. vacancy



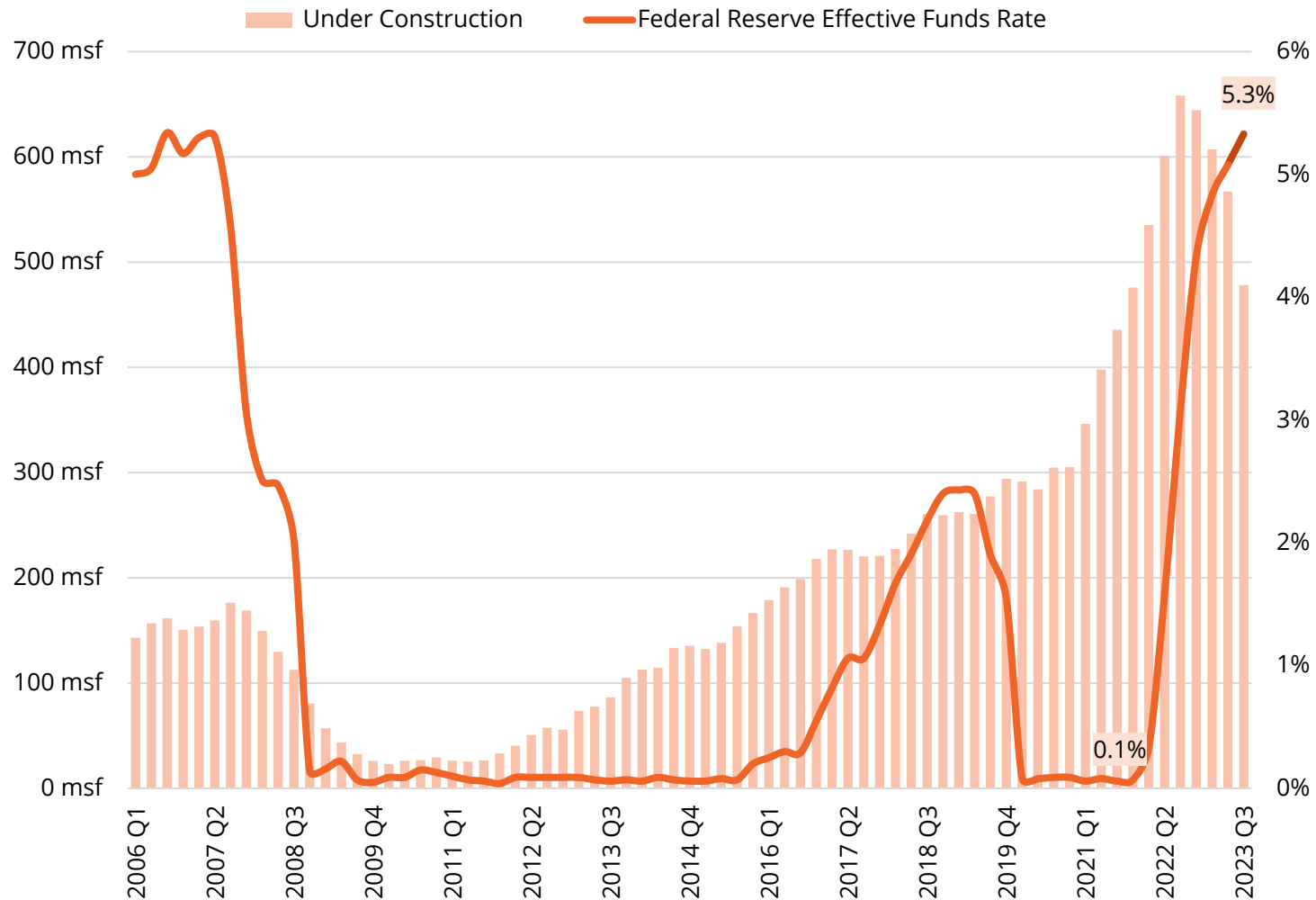
**Demand remains robust throughout the country; however, a flood of new deliveries are driving vacancies higher, and net absorption lower.**

# U.S. industrial gross leasing volume



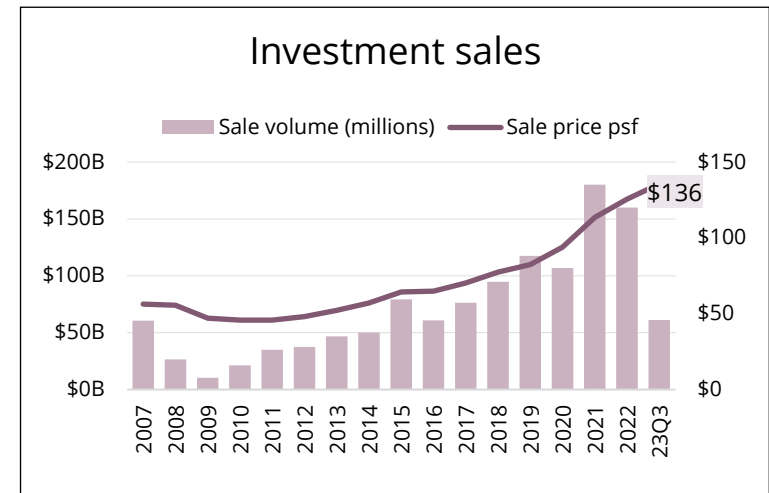
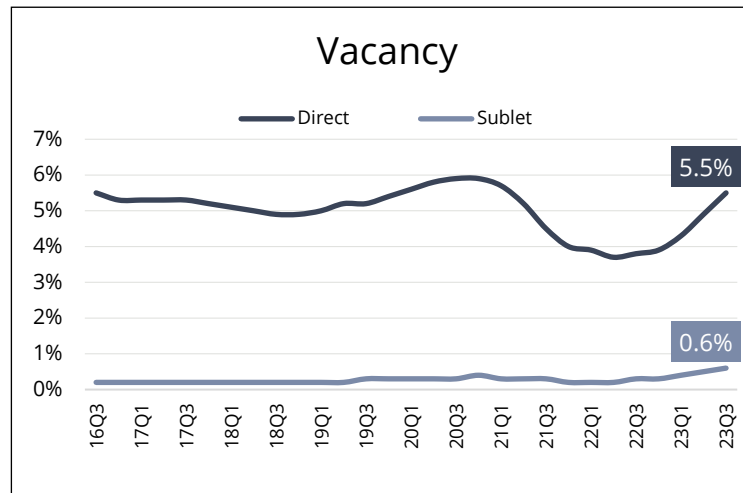
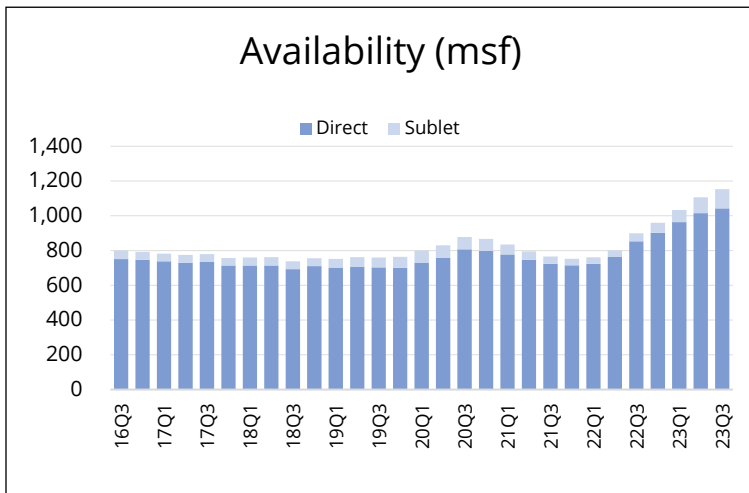
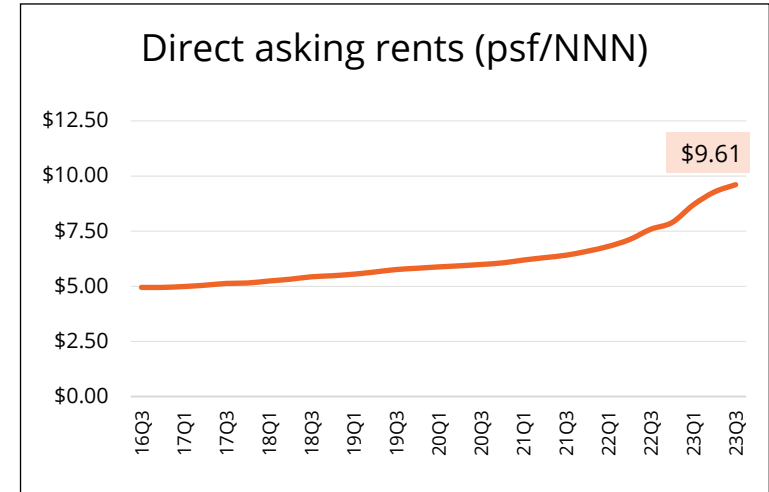
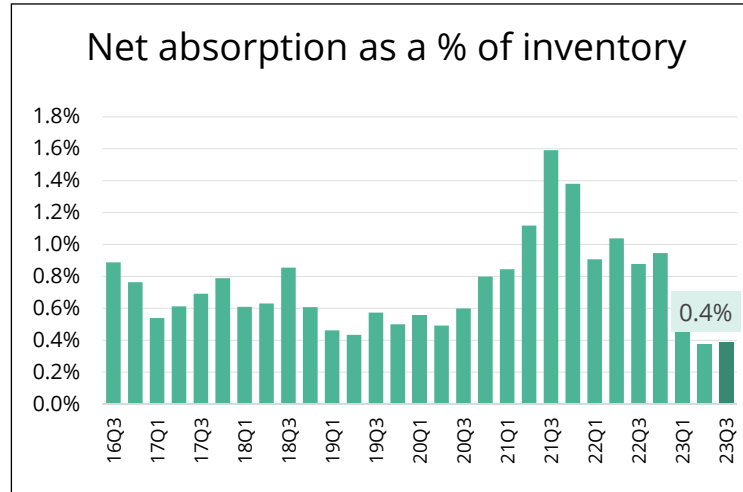
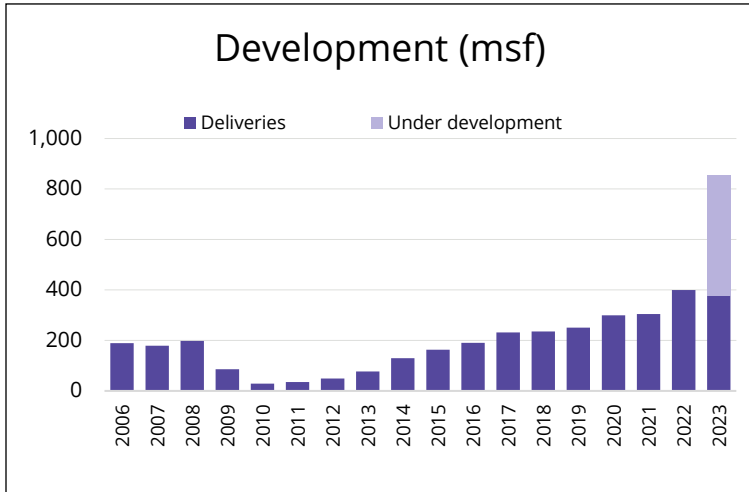
Leasing volume through the third quarter for buildings +500k sf is down 32.7% from its three-year average. Overall leasing is down 20.9% compared to the three-year average, however, leasing is only slightly below the pre-COVID average by 6.9%.

# New construction groundbreakings



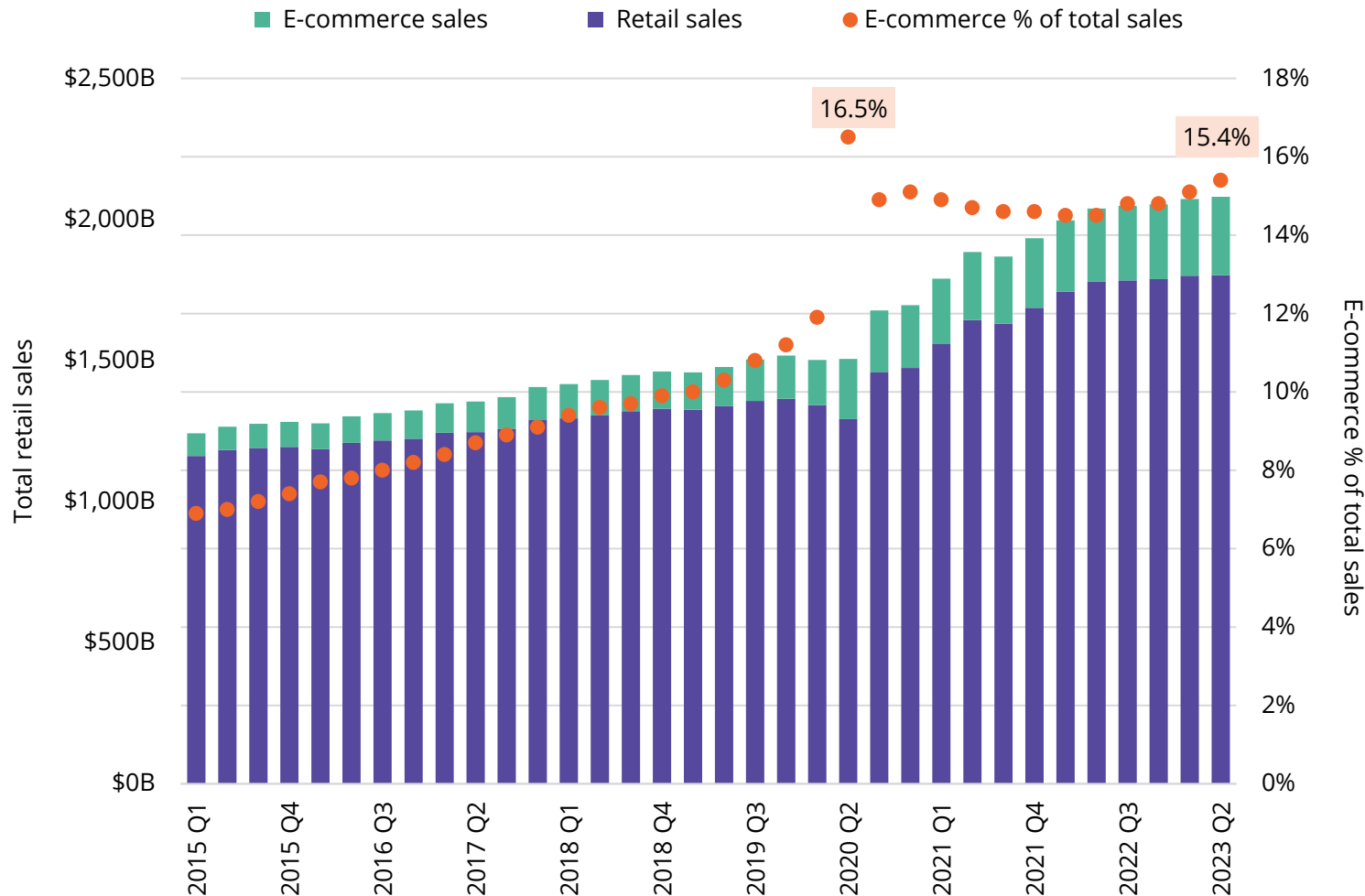
**With limited exceptions, groundbreakings have effectively stalled throughout the country as access to construction loans has been challenging since Q3 2022.**

# U.S. industrial market indicators



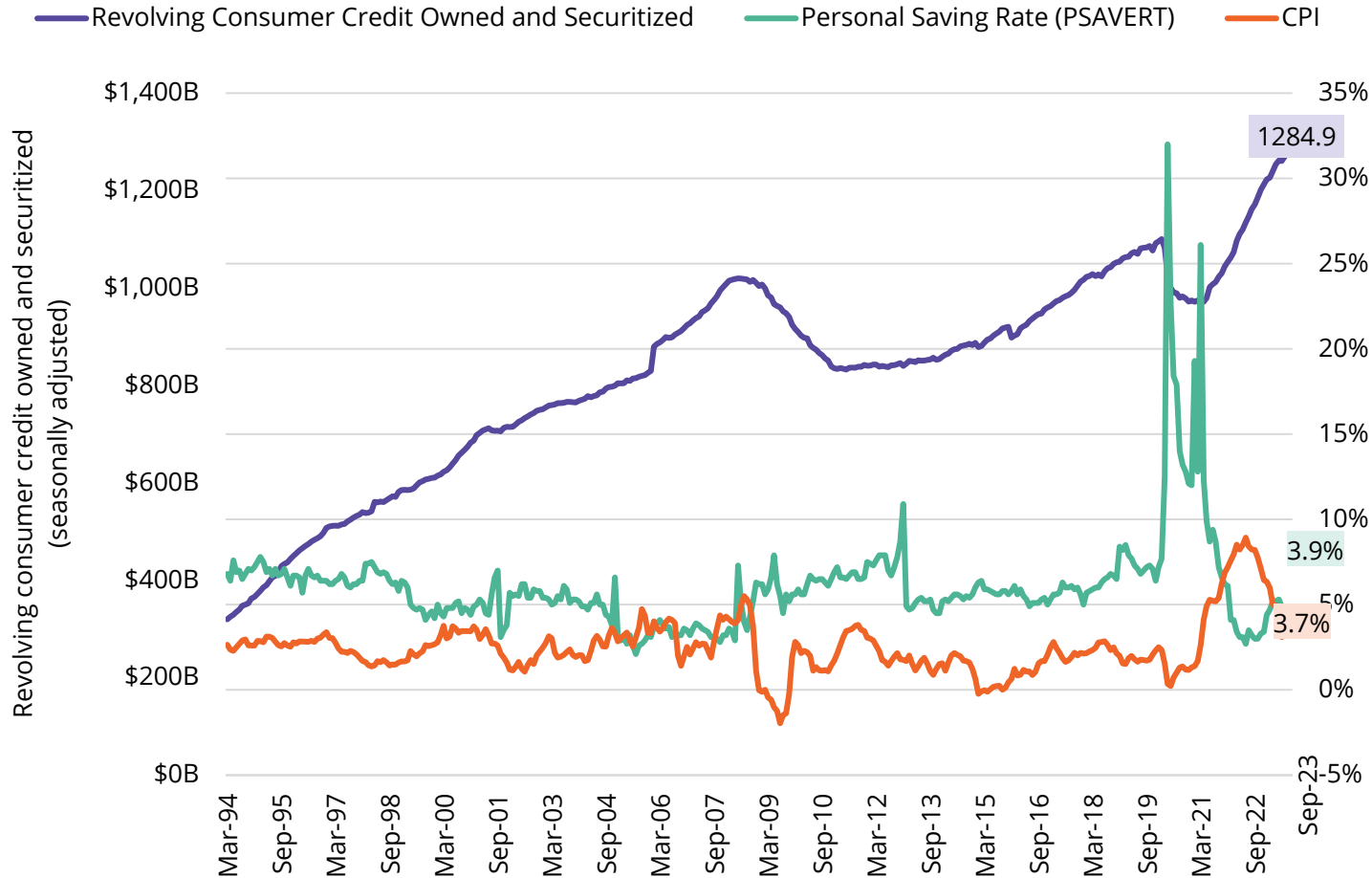


# Expanding e-commerce industrial demand



**E-commerce retail spending has increased by 30.2% since the beginning of 2020, making e-commerce a sustained source of industrial demand.**

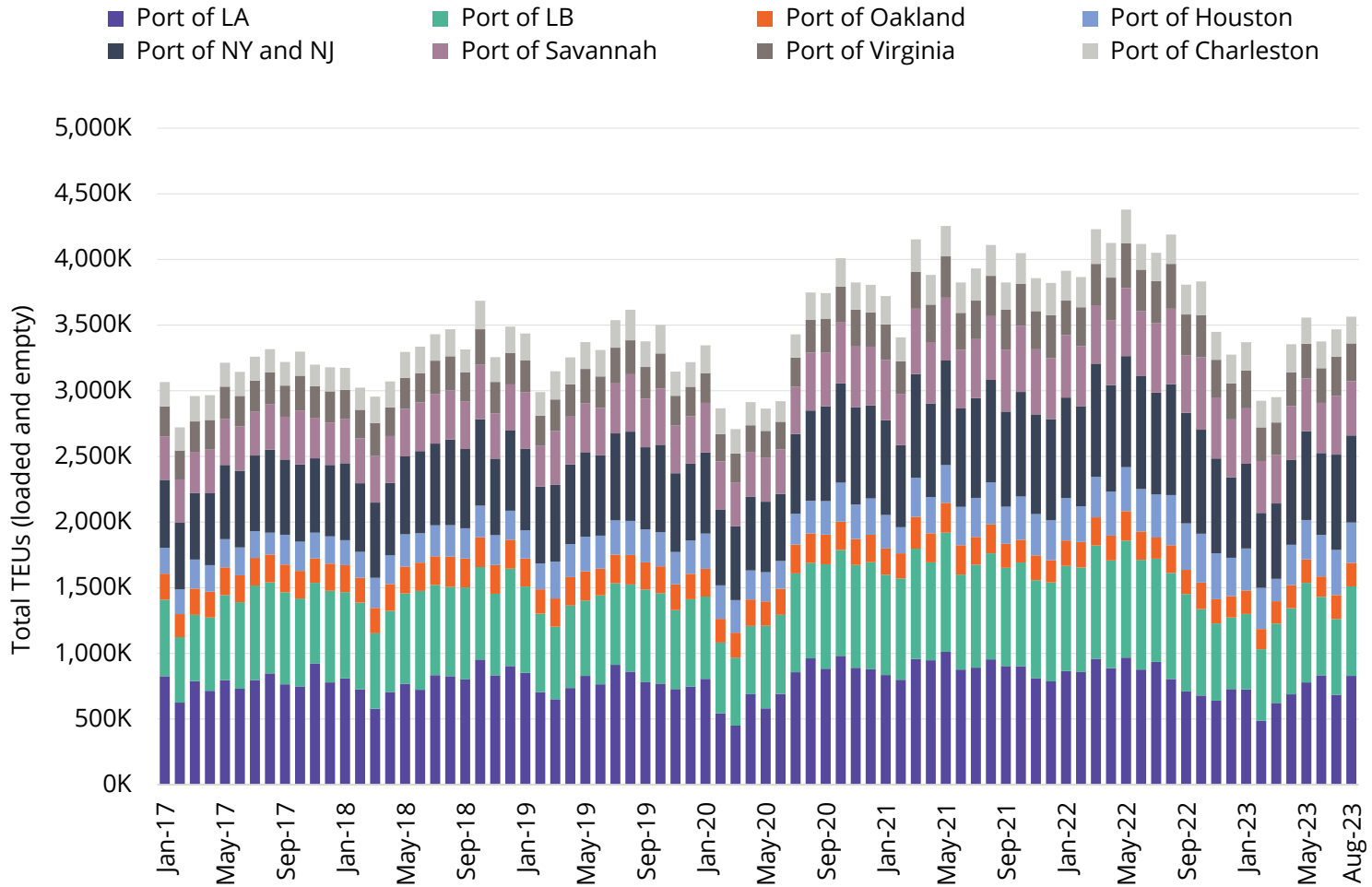
# Consumer conditions guiding industrial demand



**CPI is beginning to rise again, just as student loan payments are set to resume in October. Consumer credit utilization continues to surge at historic highs as core inflation left many consumers borrowing to pay for increased costs.**

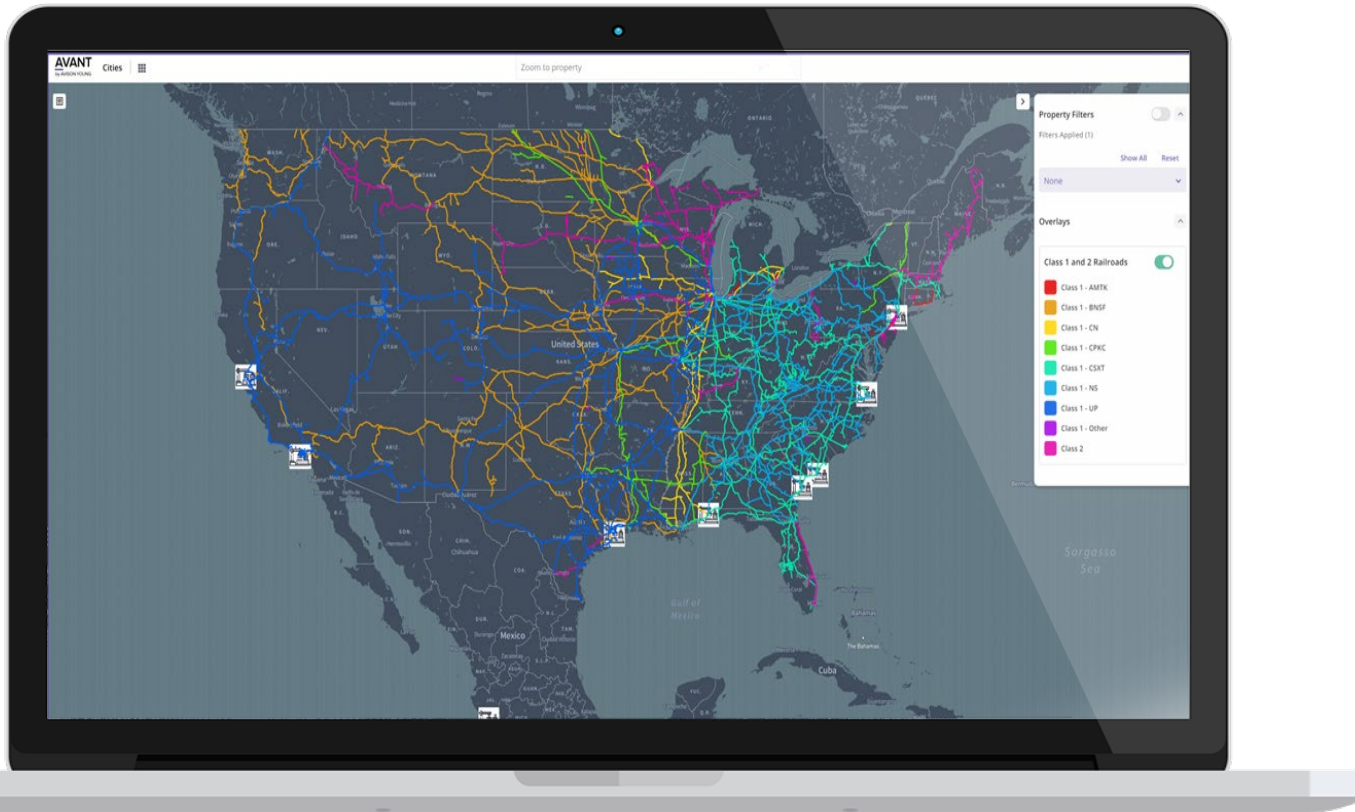


# Port activity on currently third highest on record despite slow start to year



**Port activity continues to accelerate despite economic concerns. Mexico's two largest ports also contribute close to 5M TEUs to North American volumes, offering supply chains ever more options.**

# Reshoring and nearshoring strategies continue to focus away from economies of scale and toward diversification



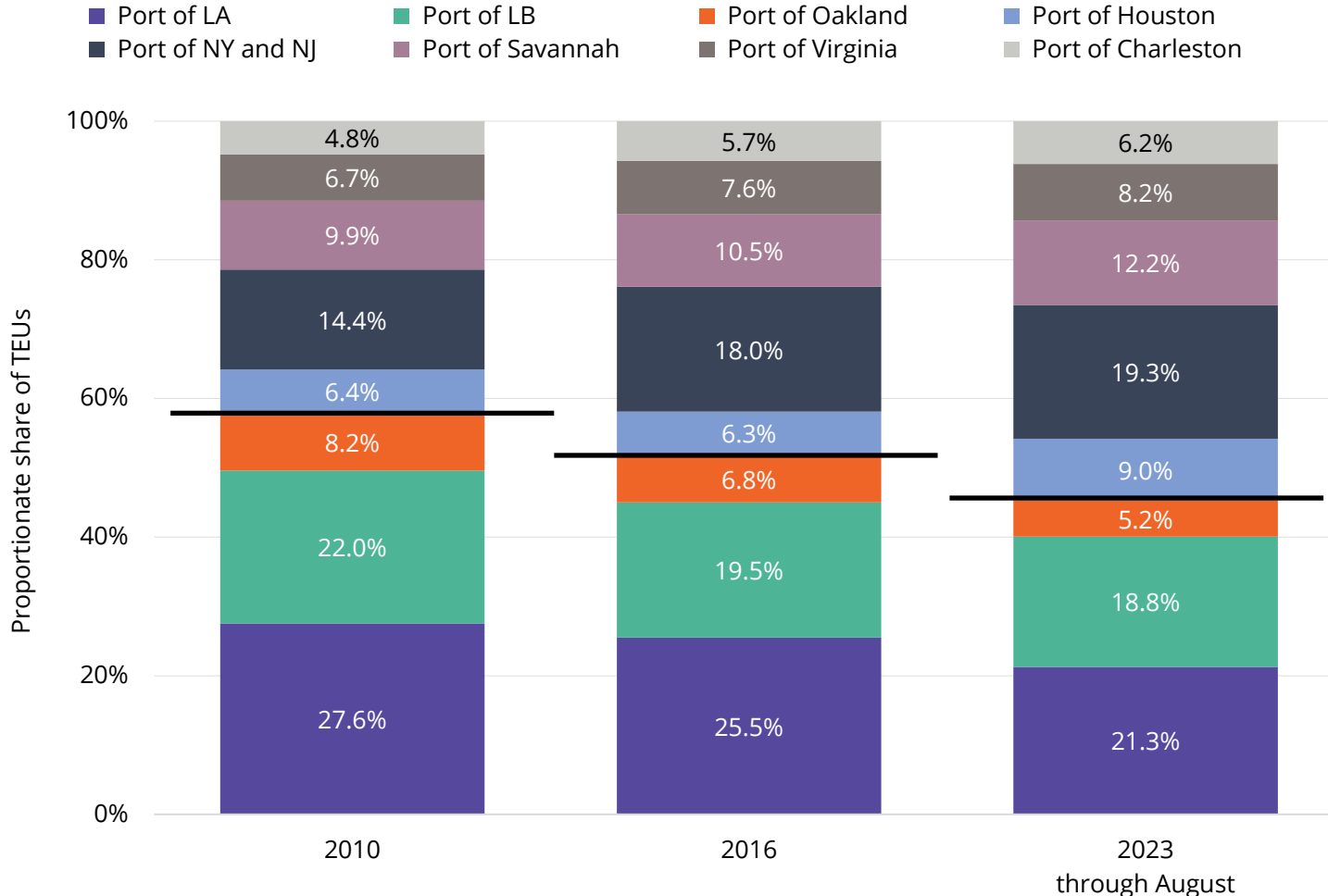
## 1M TEU

Port of Mobile capacity in 2025 when expansion and dredging are complete

## 3.5 + 2.0M

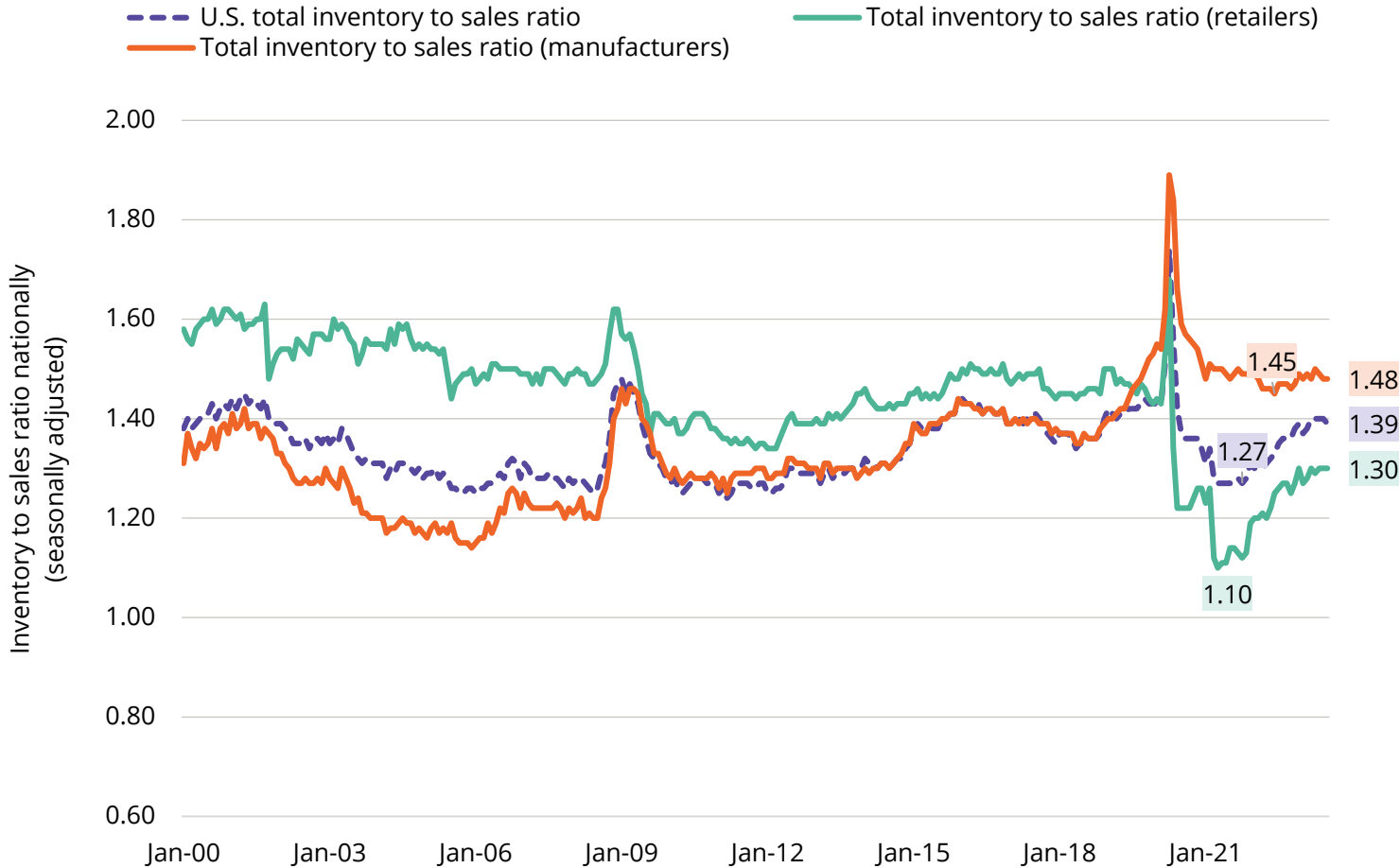
Record TEU volume in 2022 for Mexico's Port of Manzanillo and Port of Lazara Cardenas, respectively

# East Coast ports continue to build significant market share as firms seek diversified risk



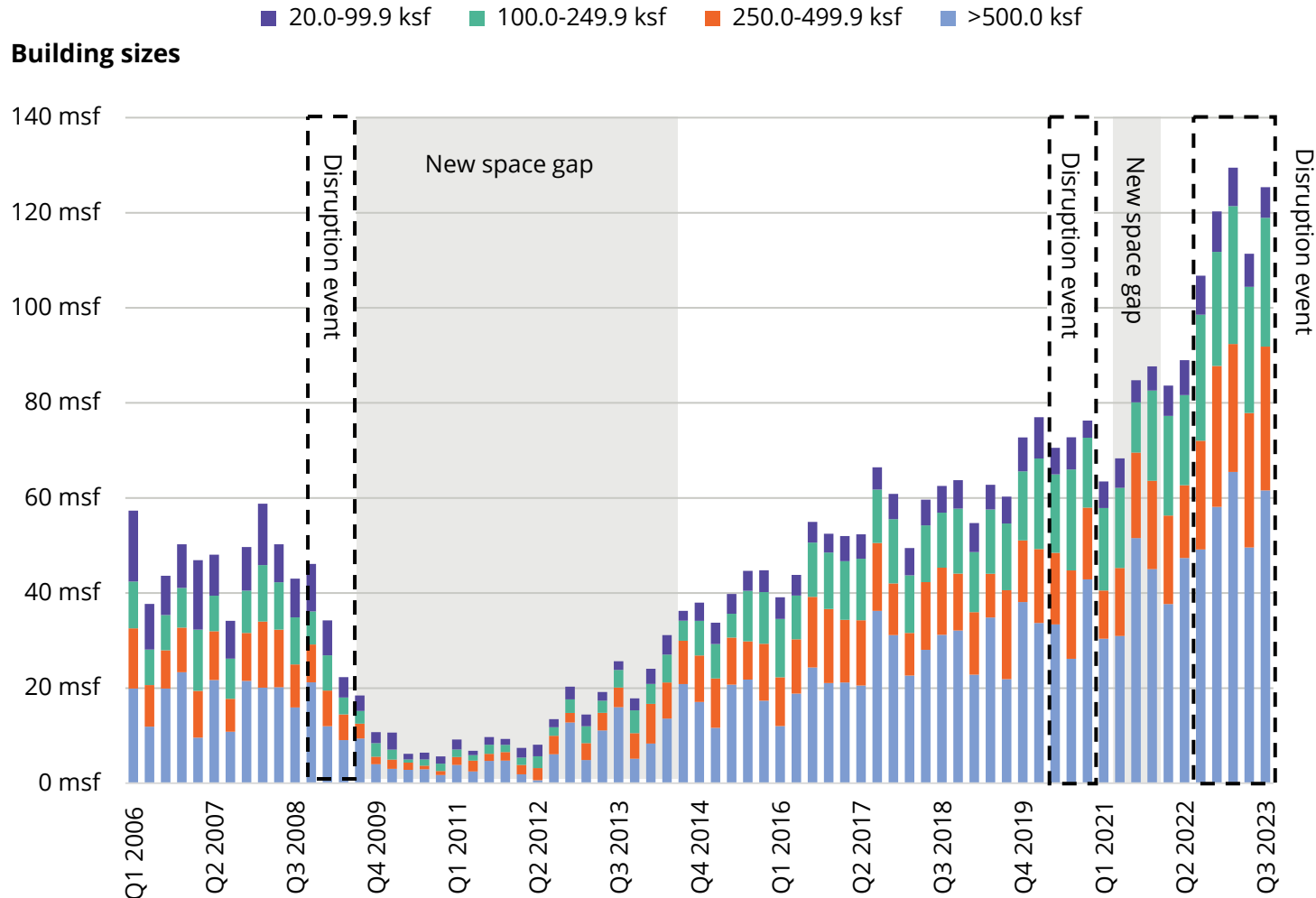
**Led by reshoring and an elevated focus on diversification, supply chain strategies begun in 2016 are now well into their execution, largely benefiting U.S. Eastern ports and, increasingly, Mexico's Western ports.**

# Inventory to sales ratios driver of demand for industrial space



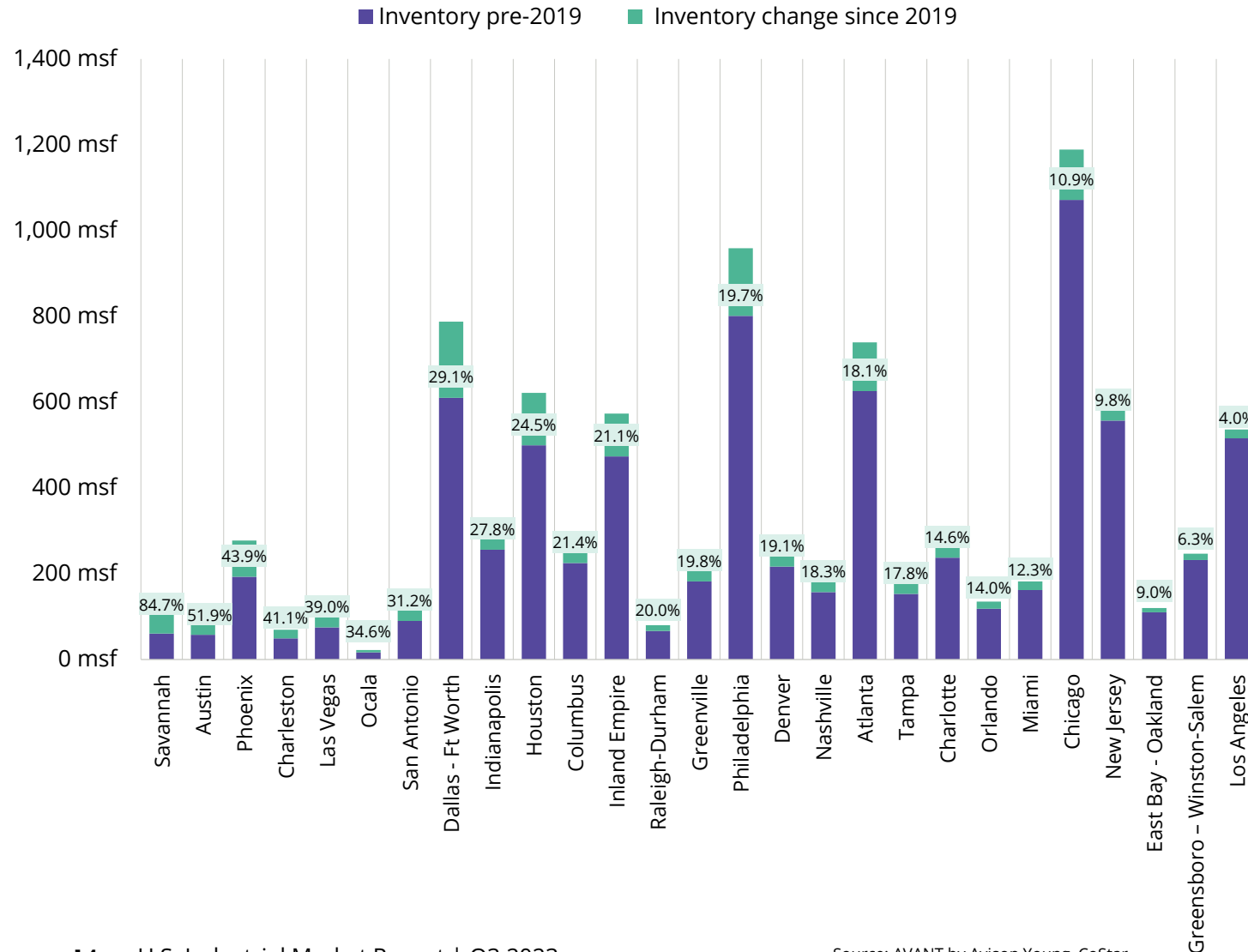
Retailers have inventories that are slowly building, suggesting why they may be delaying lease decision-making. Manufacturers, however, are building at historic new levels in efforts to limit production disruptions experienced during COVID.

# Future new space will be extremely limited, as experienced in previous volatile environments



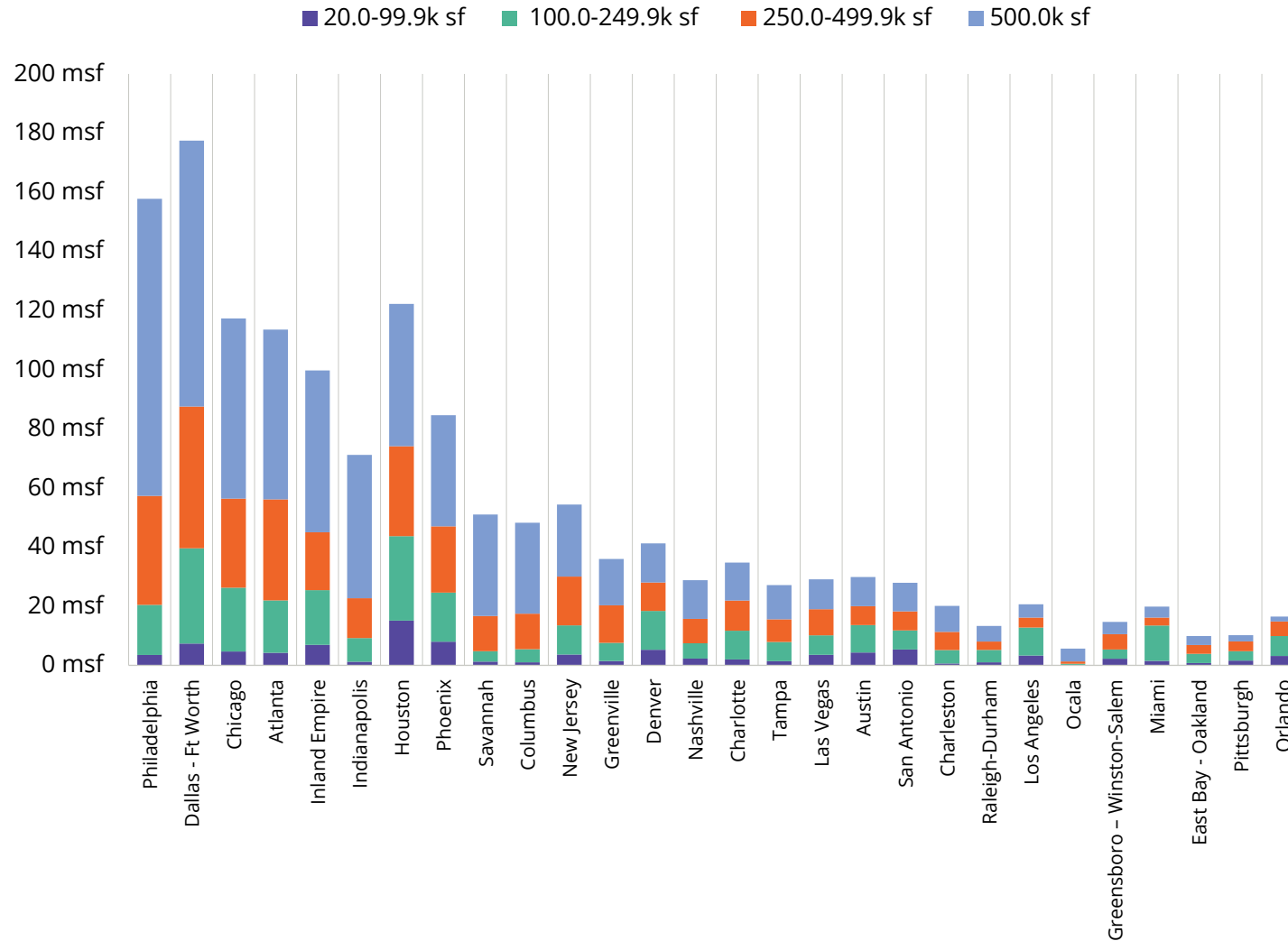
**Due to the challenging financial environment and the lack of new groundbreakings, a large delivery gap can be expected in 12-18 months.**

# Inventory growth since 2019



**Several markets have increased their inventories by over 20% since 2019, largely centered around the accelerated demand experienced during the initial years of COVID.**

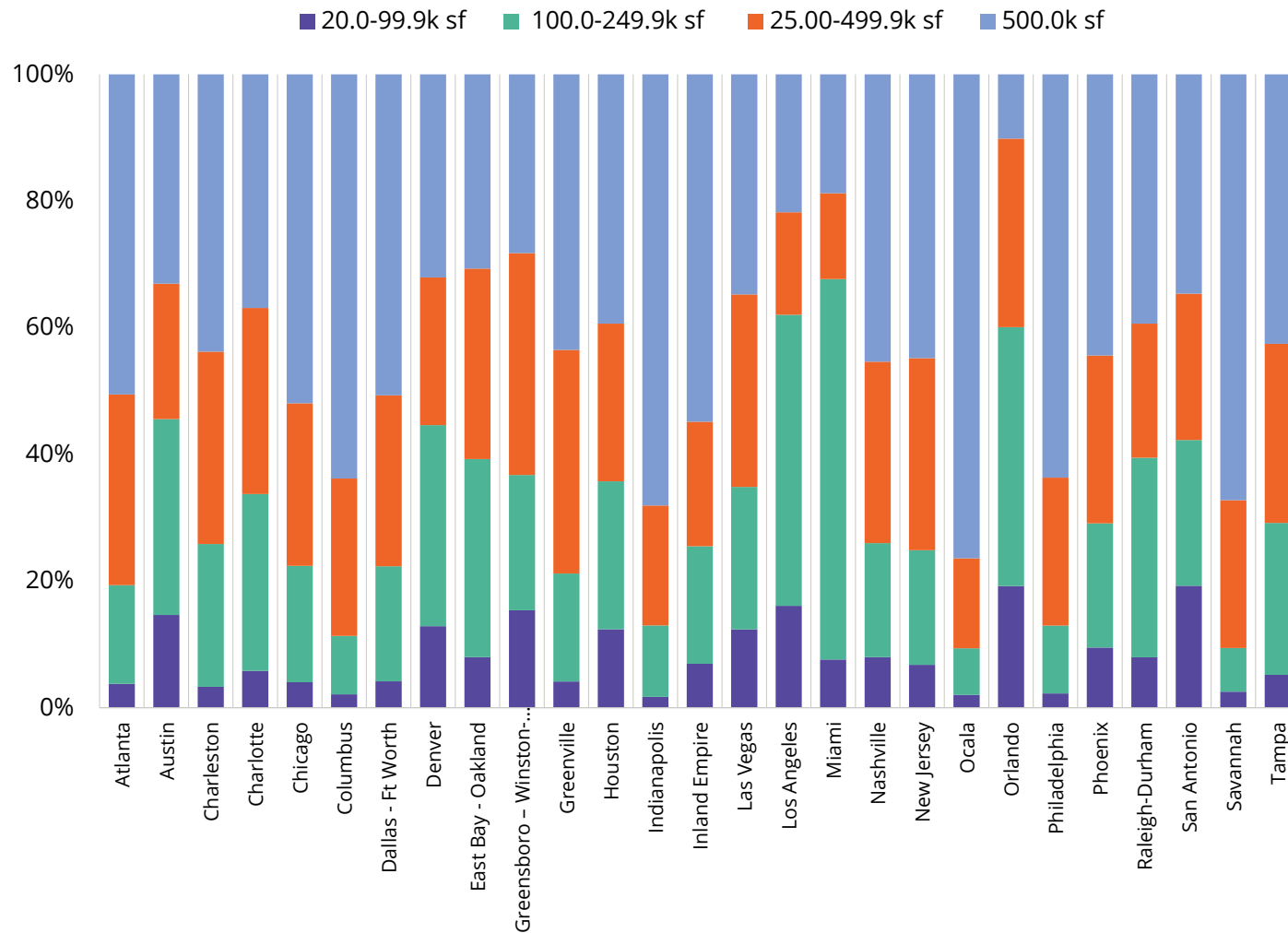
# Inventory growth since 2019 by building size



**Many traditionally easy-to-build markets greatly expanded their Big Box inventory since 2019, as industrial expansions required larger space that was almost never available.**

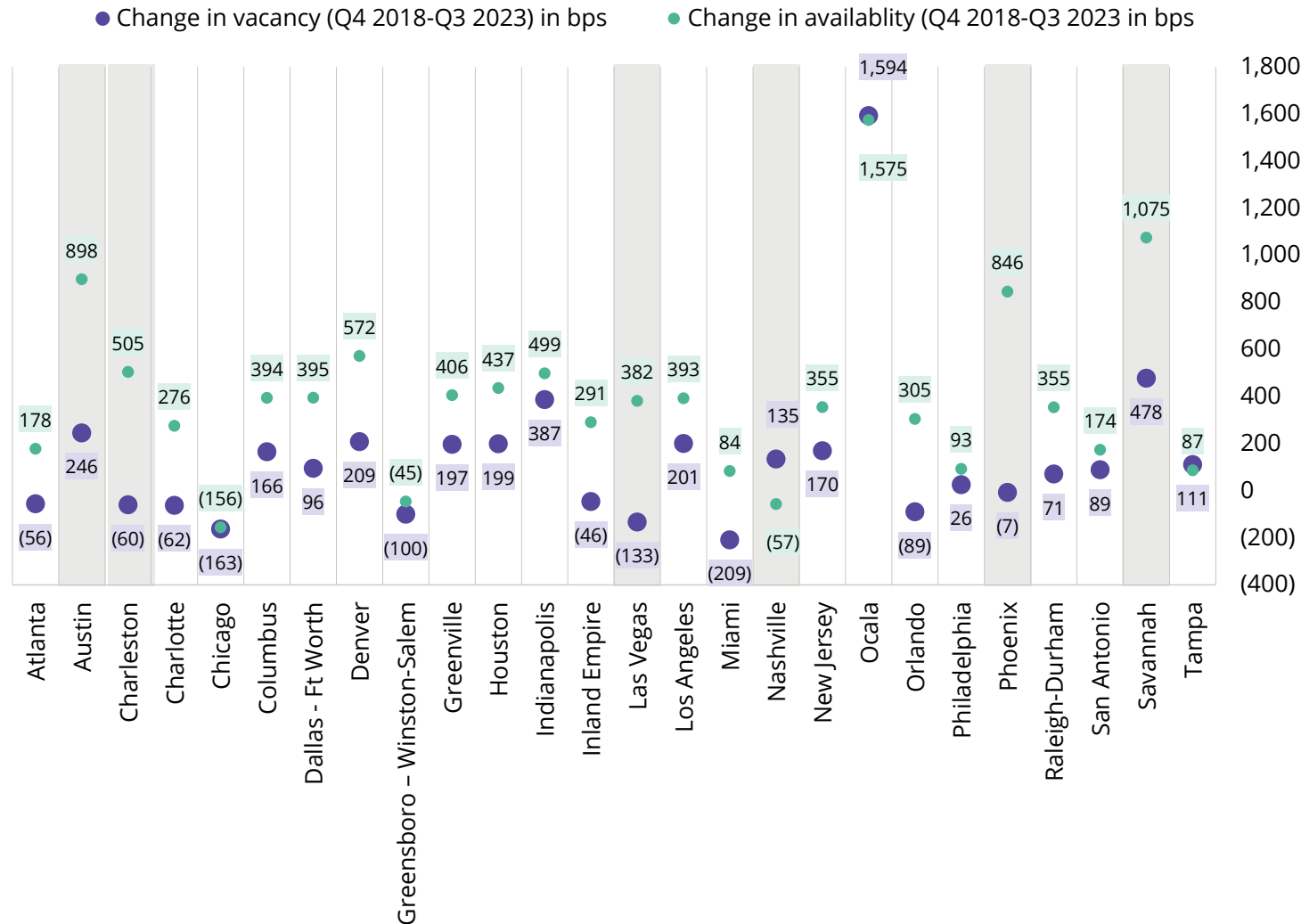


# Building size as percent of all deliveries



**Markets like Ocala, Indianapolis, Savannah, Philadelphia, and Columbus had +60.0% of their total inventory delivered since 2019 fall within the +500.0k sf range, leading to large vacancy jumps.**

# Delta between vacancy and availability change



**Austin, Charleston, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Savannah have all experienced large upticks in availability since Q4 2018. Nashville has gotten tighter where new product is delivering but already leased.**

# Construction costs continue to stick at historic levels, pressing developers and landlords to push rental rates

# 54.7%

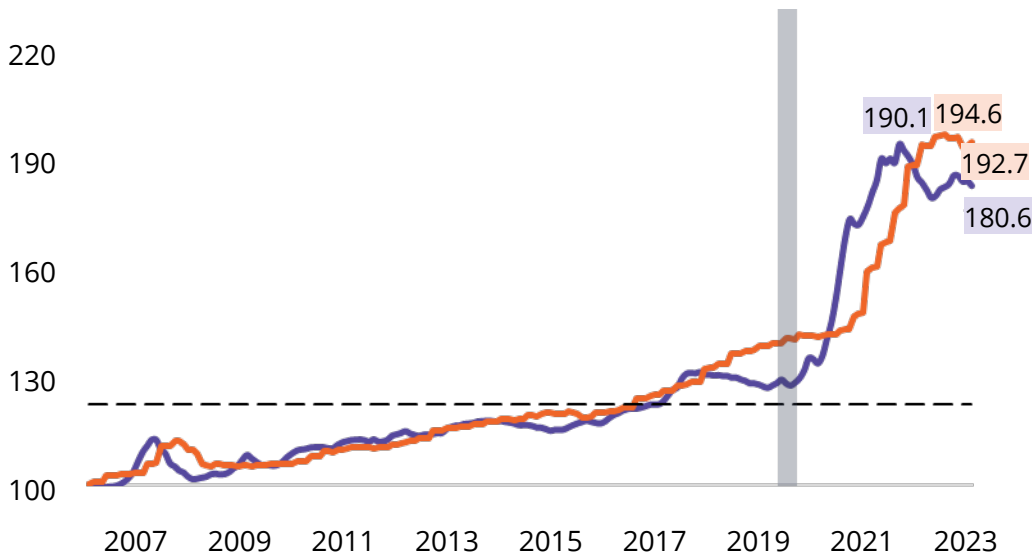
Current industrial construction cost over pre-COVID, five-year average

# 12.2%

Average five-year rental CAGR across industrial building sizes nationally

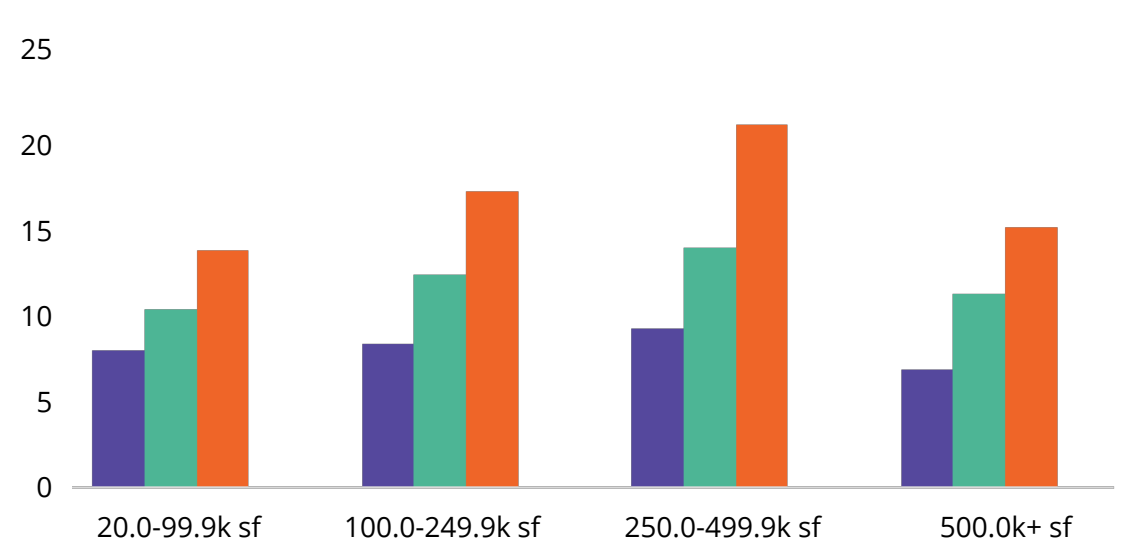
Cost of construction materials (index 100 = 07/2007)

Construction materials cost    New building construction    2015-2019 average

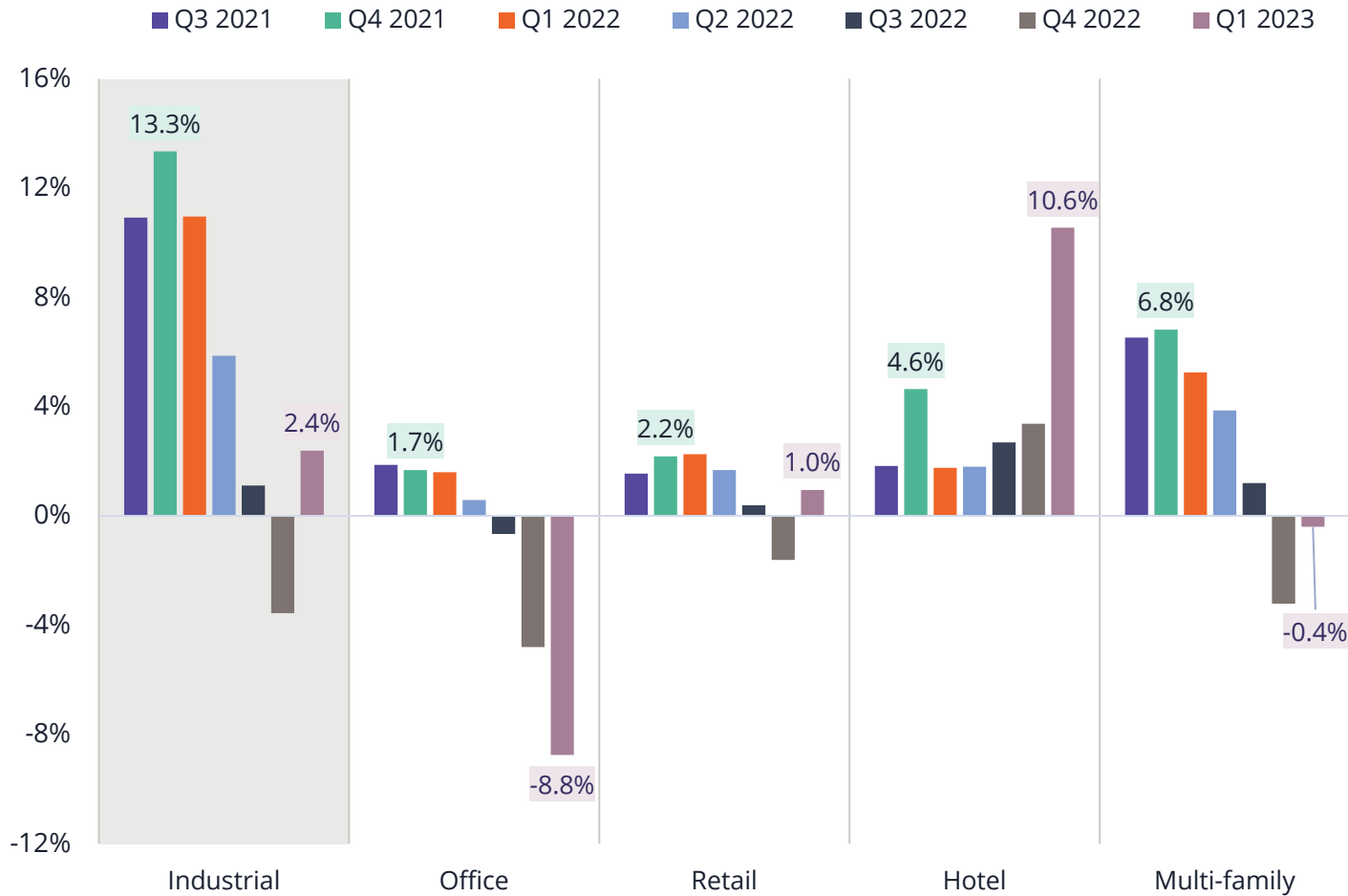


Compounded annual growth rate NNN asking rates

10-year CAGR    5-year CAGR    3-year CAGR

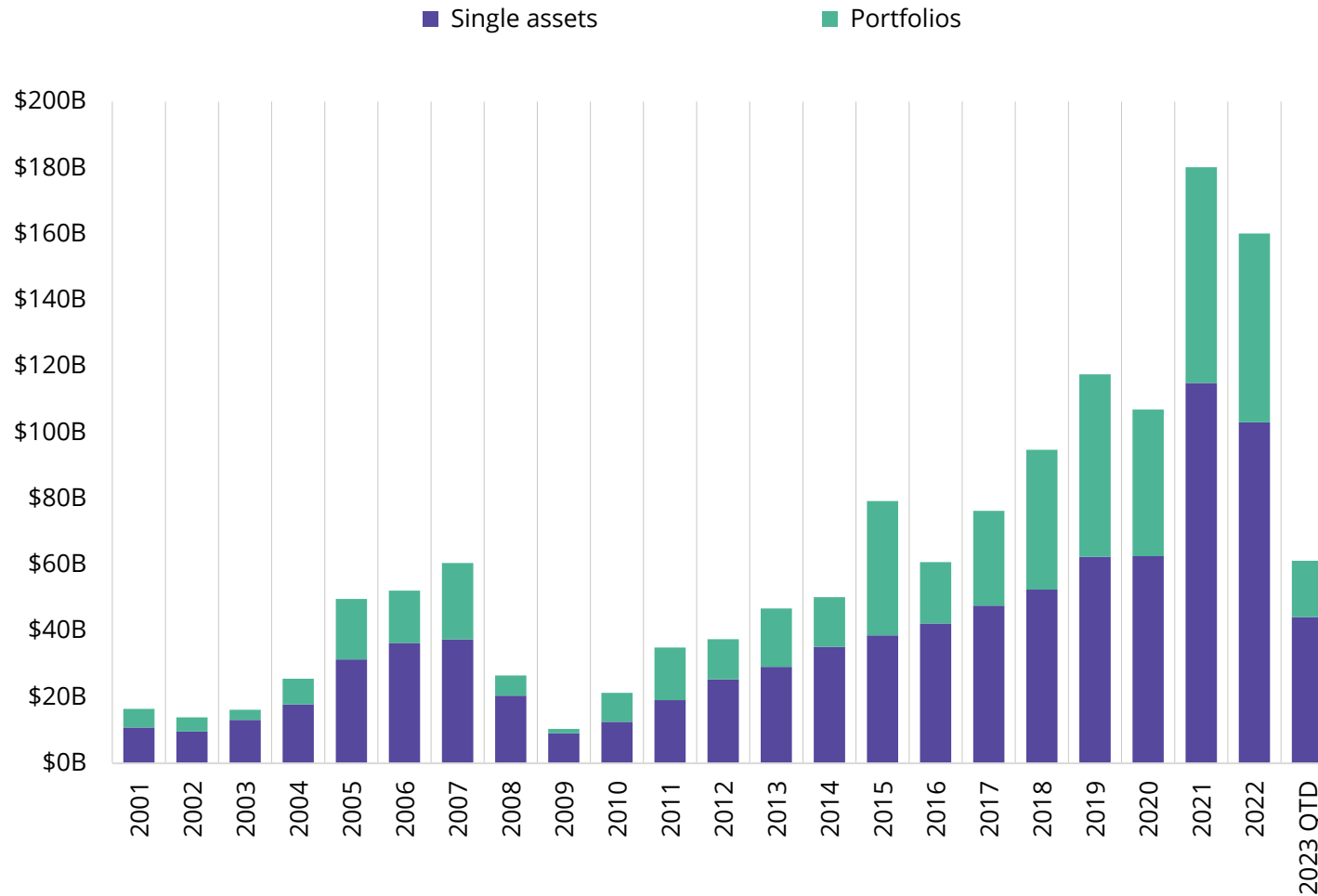


# U.S. NCREIF NPI quarterly returns



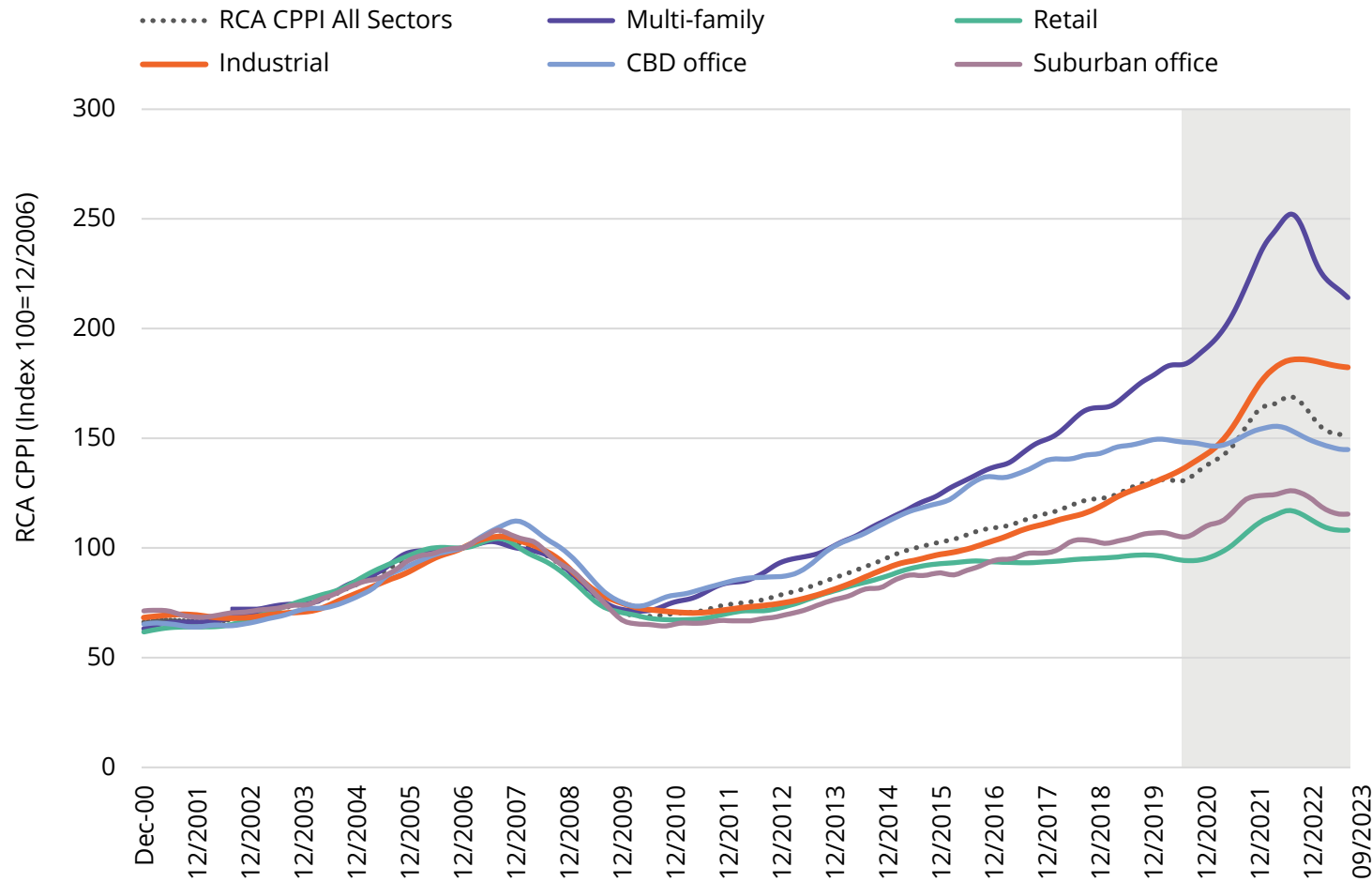
**Continued escalating cash flows are still driving investors to the industrial sector, despite the factors curtailing investor underwriting and deal velocity.**

# Industrial investment dollar volume



**Industrial portfolio and entity transactions are on pace for their smallest volume since 2016 as single asset transactions continue to disproportionately transact on the limited deals that do come to market in 2023.**

# RCA commercial property price indices

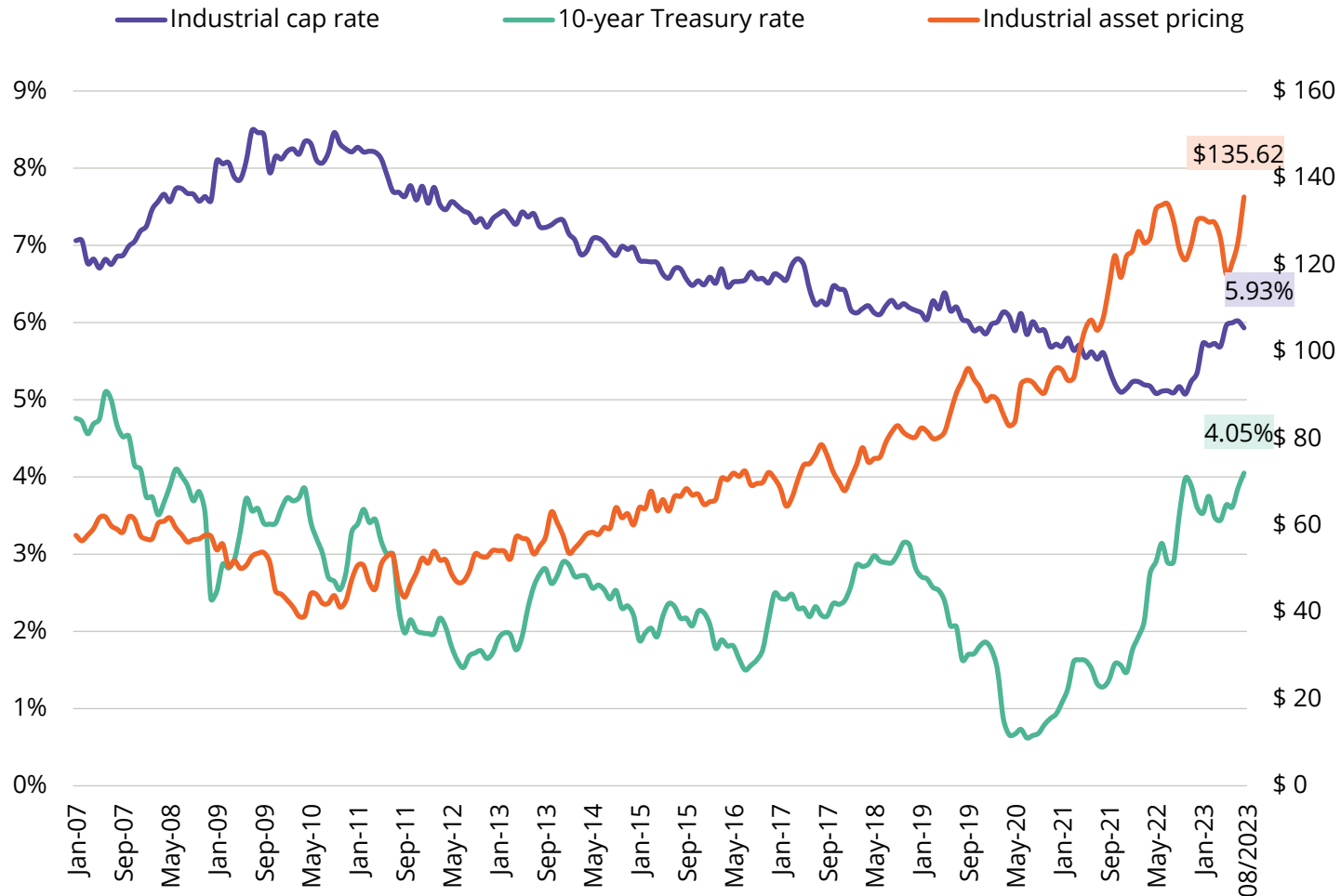


**Industrial pricing has retained the gains experienced during COVID better than any other peer sector due to the low exposure to maturing debt, and the strength of continued demand emerging from foundational shifts in the U.S. economy.**

Note: Transactions >\$2.5M. RCA CPPITM measure the actual price movements for commercial properties based on exclusive transaction data using repeat-sales regression methodology.

Source: AVANT by Avison Young, MSCI Real Capital Analytics

# U.S. industrial cap rates vs. asset pricing



**Investors continue to focus on cash-flow improvement opportunities within industrial assets that do trade, as asset appreciation has been slowed due to risk-free rates surging.**

Note: Transactions >\$2.5M  
 Source: AVANT by Avison Young, MSCI Real Capital Analytics, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis



# Industrial insights glossary of terms

## Demand

- **Leasing activity:** total square footage of relocations, renewals, expansions and subleases expressed when the leases are signed, not when tenants take physical occupancy of the space
- **Absorption:** period-over-period change in occupied square footage

## Supply

- **Direct vacancy rate:** space operated by landlords that is ready for immediate occupancy
- **Sublease vacancy rate:** space operated by sublandlords that is ready for immediate occupancy
- **Total vacancy rate:** sum of direct vacancy rate and sublease vacancy rate
- **Availability rate:** space that is vacant plus space that will become vacant over an indefinite time horizon, including spaces that are occupied by vacating tenants and under-construction properties

## Industrial rents and concessions

- **Triple net rents:** tenant is responsible for paying rent, utilities, taxes, operating expenses and common area maintenance
- **Asking rents:** pricing guidance provided by landlords to tenants for available space expressed as triple net (NNN)
- **Base rents:** fair market value of market-level lease pricing based on representative executed leases, expressed as triple net (NNN)
- **Free rent period:** months of free rent that are typically provided upfront by landlords to tenants as a concession to offset the total cost of a lease and/or the construction timeline of an industrial suite
- **Tenant improvement allowance:** an allowance expressed in dollars per square foot provided from landlords to tenants to offset build-out, engineering, space planning and related permit costs
- **Net effective rent:** base rents discounted by the dollar values of tenant improvement allowance and free rent concessions expressed as full service (FS)

## Capital markets

- **Investment volume:** industrial sales dollars expressed when the transactions close and based on inventory thresholds; partial-interest sale dollar amounts are not grossed-up to reflect the 100% value of the sale
- **Asset pricing:** unweighted average per-square-foot asset pricing of market-level closed sales
- **Cap rate:** net operating income divided by sale price; this measurement of market-level investment returns is calculated as an unweighted average based on closed investment sales

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