

Department of Real Estate



2020 MID-YEAR PERSPECTIVE ON CHICAGO REAL ESTATE MARKETS



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Mid-Year Perspective on Chicago Real Estate Markets

What's in this Report?:

- 1. How worried should we be about Chicago's real estate markets?
- 2. The recovery in Chicago: Just do it
- 3. Where should our greatest concerns lie?
- 4. What are the threats to Chicago's real estate markets in the years to come?
- 5. Office market outlook
- 6. Hints of what will likely happen in the longer run assuming the pandemic ends quickly

How Worried Should We Be About Real Estate Markets

Macro Outlook	 A year like no other In Jan., economic growth was forecasted to be slow but stable for the year. Then the bottom fell out. Today the entire world is in recession. US GDP growth is expected to be -6.5% for 2020. Unemployment rate is improving, even though the level is still above anything we have seen since the great depression.
Sentiment	 Concern over Covid-19 continues, with 40% of participants feeling concerned about Chicago's real estate markets and 26% view themselves as trending toward optimistic. Almost one-third are optimistic or trending to optimistic.
Development and Construction	 Signs of equilibrium. Almost 90 percent agreed that construction of any new retail space makes little sense right now; 73 percent agreed new construction of rental housing will fall well below normal; and 80 percent believe the pace of industrial construction will continue over the next 3 years.





The Recovery in Chicago: Just Do It

Pent-up Demand is Coming Through Now as the Economy Opens



Yet in this environment ... "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." Yogi Berra.





Where Should Our Greatest Concerns Lie?

Ranking the greatest concerns

Note: Respondents assigned a score for each concern on a scale from 1 (unconcerned) to 5 (very concerned). The values shown reflected the weighted average of each, sorted from highest to lowest.







What are the Threats to Chicago's RE Markets in the Years to Come?

Ranking the greatest threats

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Note: Respondents assigned a score for each concern on a scale from 1 (unconcerned) to 5 (very concerned). The values shown reflected the weighted average of each, sorted from highest to lowest.





Office Market Outlook







Hints of What will Likely Happen in the Longer Run Assuming the Pandemic Ends Quickly

Shift to suburban investments?







Key Takeaways

- My crystal ball (with several grains of salt)
- Everything depends on the duration of the pandemic risk.
- If the shock ends quickly and if pandemics do not reappear, then the shock is real but doesn't change urban life massively.





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