

**Looking Over the Horizon**  
by  
**Norm Miller, PhD**

**Hilton San Diego Bayfront**  
**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**  
**10:40 – 11:20 a.m.**

Slides will be available at:

**The Burnham-Moores  
Center for Real Estate**

# Summary Up Front: What do I believe?

- Housing and Commercial real estate prices will continue to see much dispersion based on quality. Averages and indices don't tell us much, but average prices will remain flat for 2011 based on a mix of trophy and trouble.
- Future commercial real estate values will be dependent on a race between higher interest rates and increasing rents.
- In about 2 to 3 years we will see rent spikes for office, industrial and retail property, even earlier for multifamily property. San Diego is a little behind average on these trends but will follow the pattern like a reluctant child.
- The best time to buy high quality commercial real estate was 2008 and 2009. But there is 2 to 3 years of distress opportunities left for those who can reposition, recapitalize or simply wait it out.

# What should you do, if you believe me?

- Tenants: Despite the accounting disclosure problems tenants should now enter into leases that are as long term as possible, 15 years with an option would not be crazy.
- Landlords: I would suggest leases no longer than 2 to 3 years, expiring before the ramp up in new supply.
- Brokers: I would try and match up tenants that are growing with investors that have empty building opportunities where they partner in a residual equity upside sharing deal and eliminate the lease up risk which is plaguing real estate pricing.
- Developers: With prices below construction costs only BTS's make sense, or upgrading existing buildings to the LEED EBOM standards or the GSA's standards.

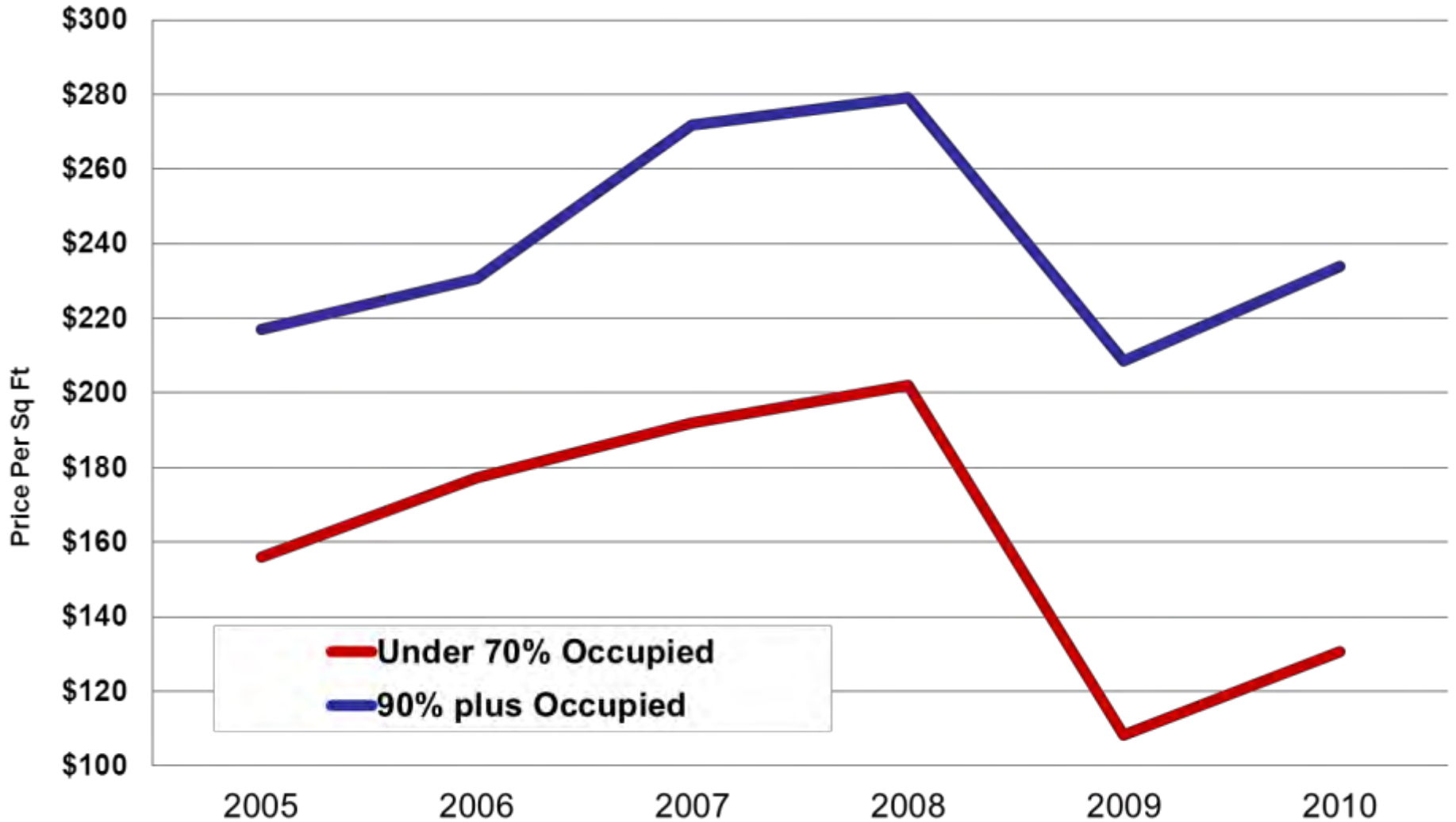
# Where are interest rates headed?

- Theory: LT Risk Free Gov't Rates should =
- Long term real growth rate,  $GR$ , plus the approximate
- Expected Inflation Rate,  $I$ , so :

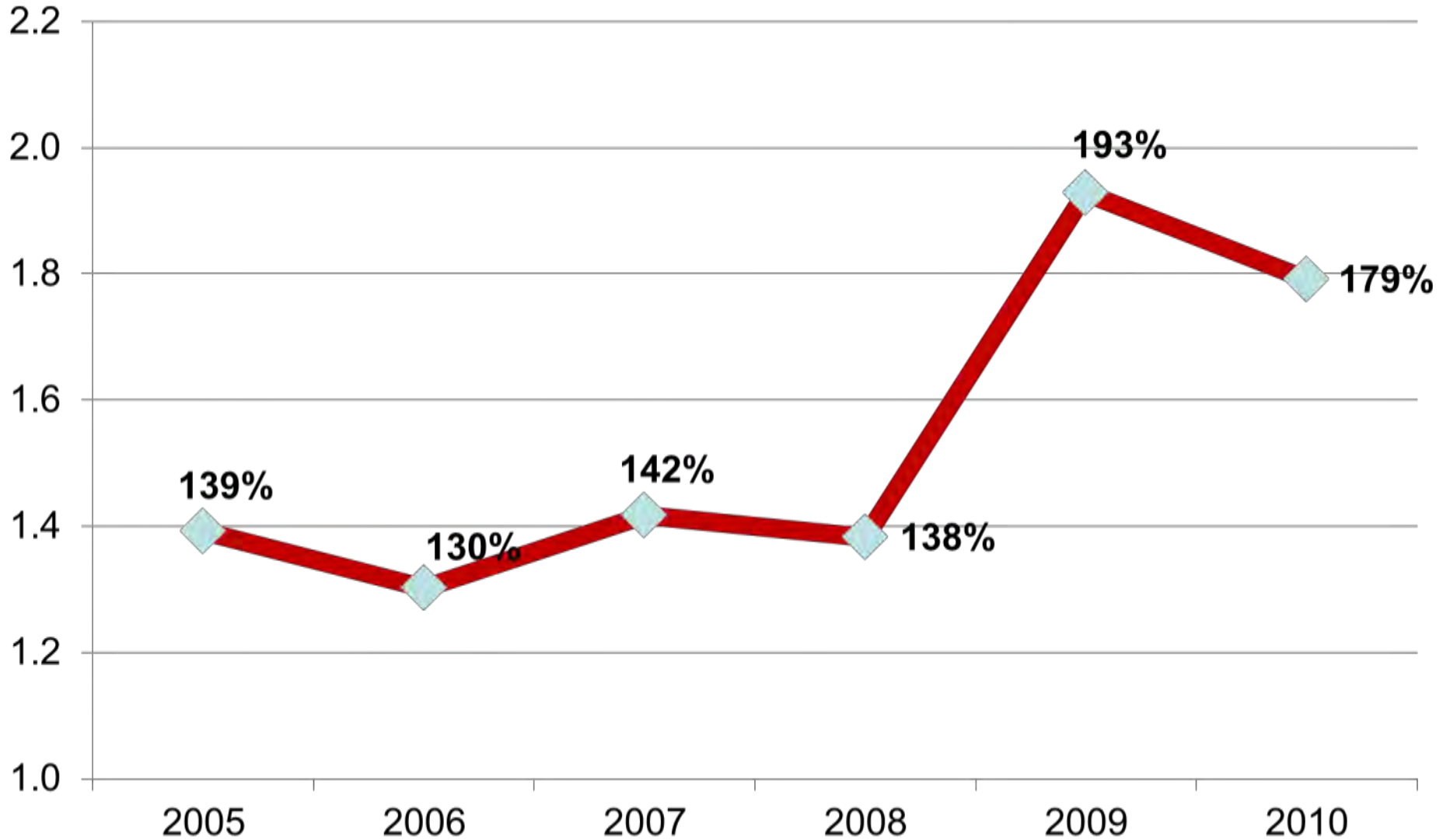
LT Growth Rate in GDP	Inflation	Nominal Rate for 10 Yr Treasury Bonds
2.5%	2.0%	4.5%
3.0%	2.0%	5.0%
3.5%	3.0%	6.5%

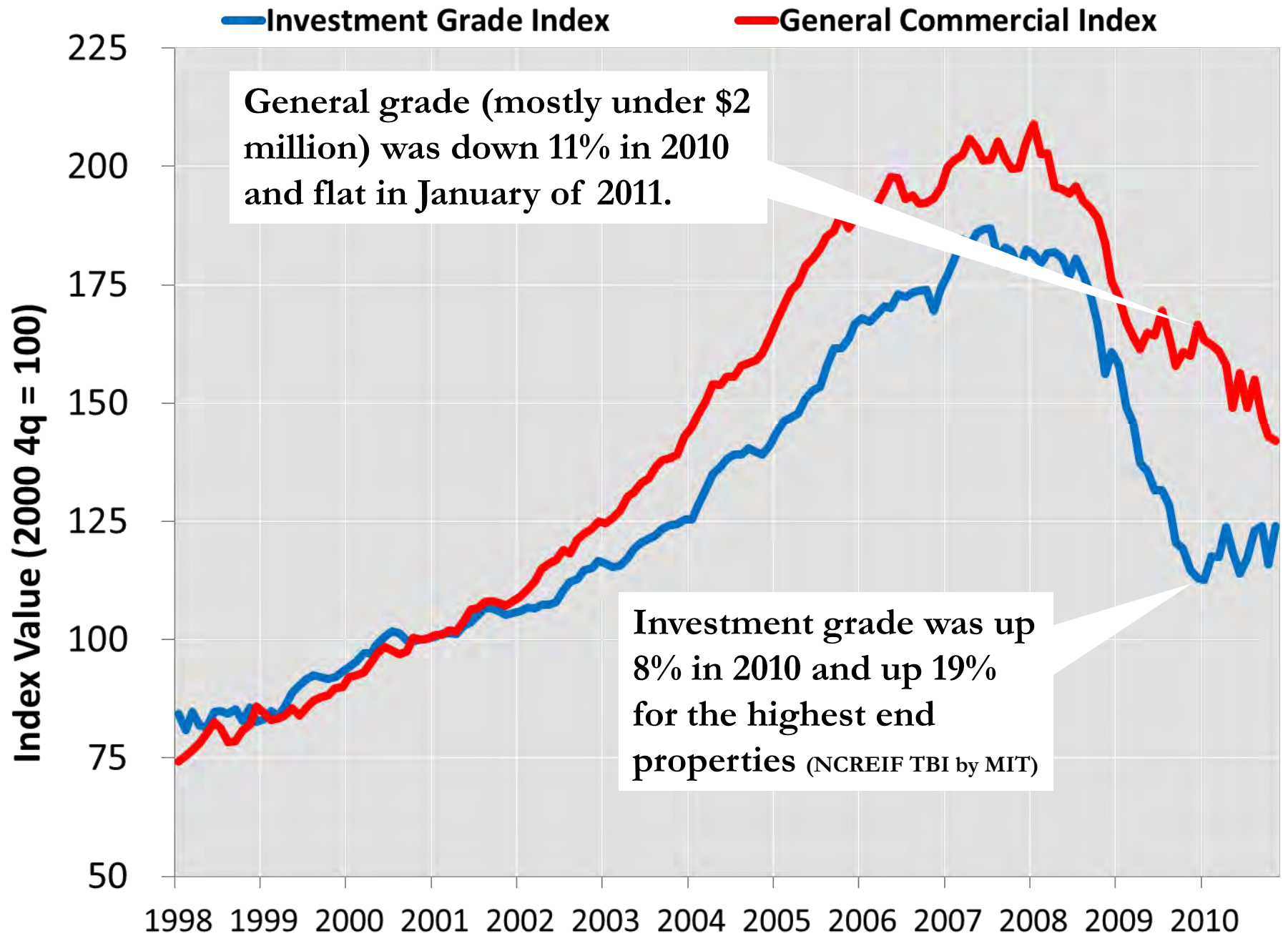
**But QE2 could keep us well below these figures for 2011 until at least June when bond buying eases off.**

# Price Per Square Foot Top Ten Office Markets Show Bias for Occupied Property



# Price PSF for Office Buildings At 90% Plus Occupancy Over Those at 70% or Less

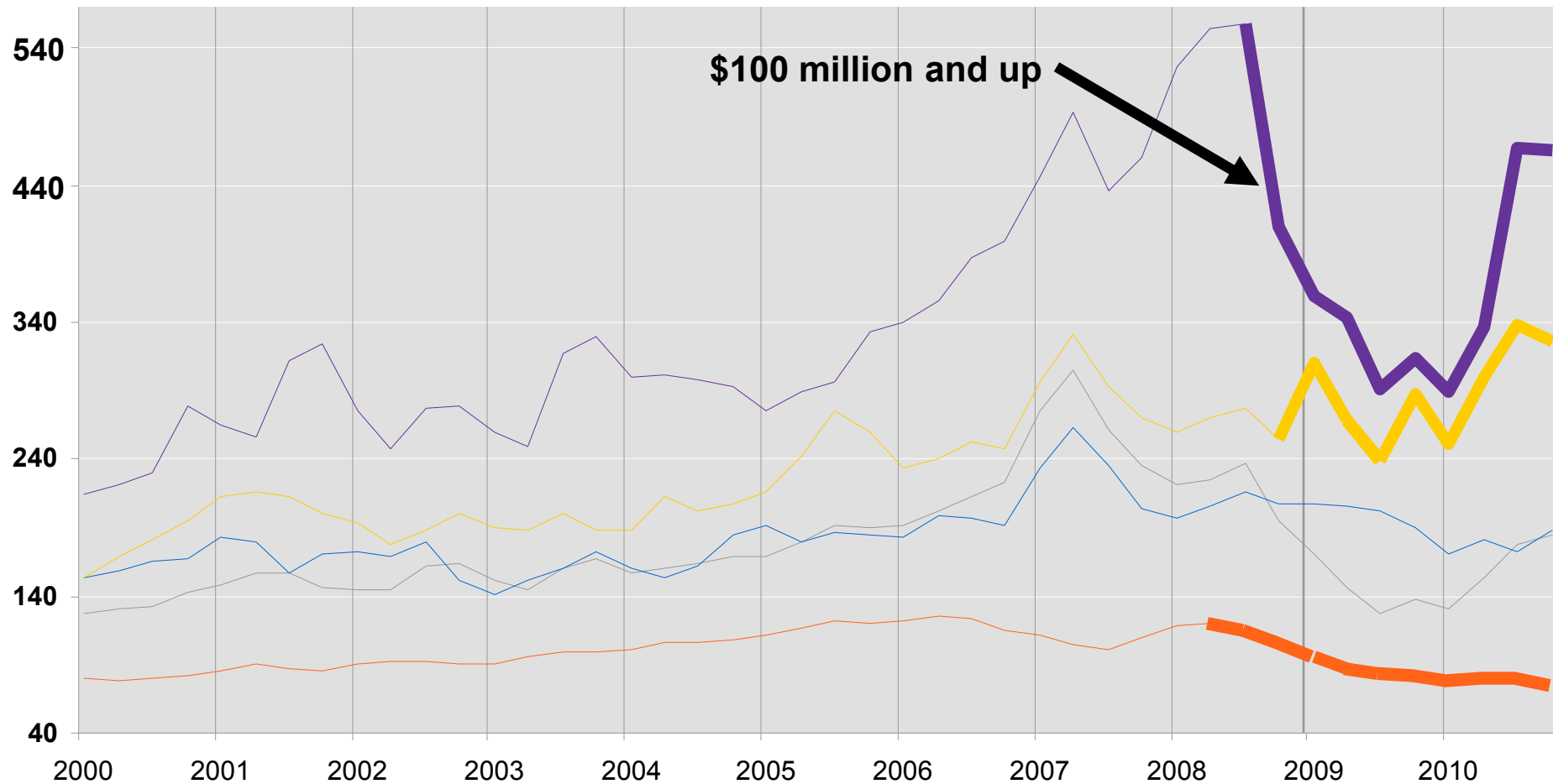




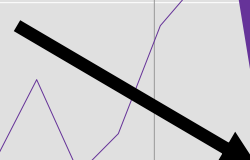


# We see huge price spreads by deal size

Weighted Average \$/SF



\$100 million and up



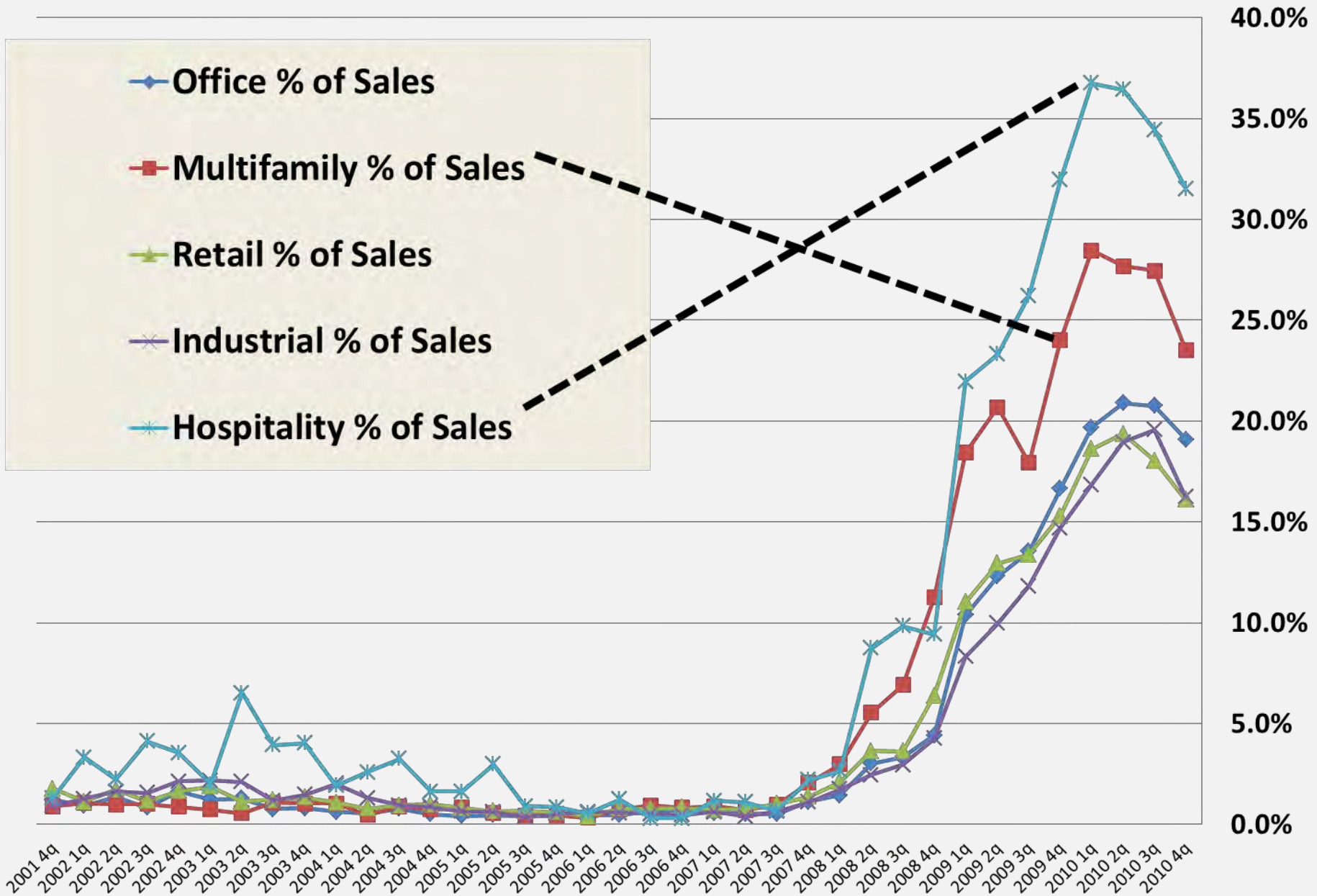
Less than \$5 million \$5-\$25 million \$25-\$50 million \$50-\$100 million

# What about distress?

- Is it heading up or down?



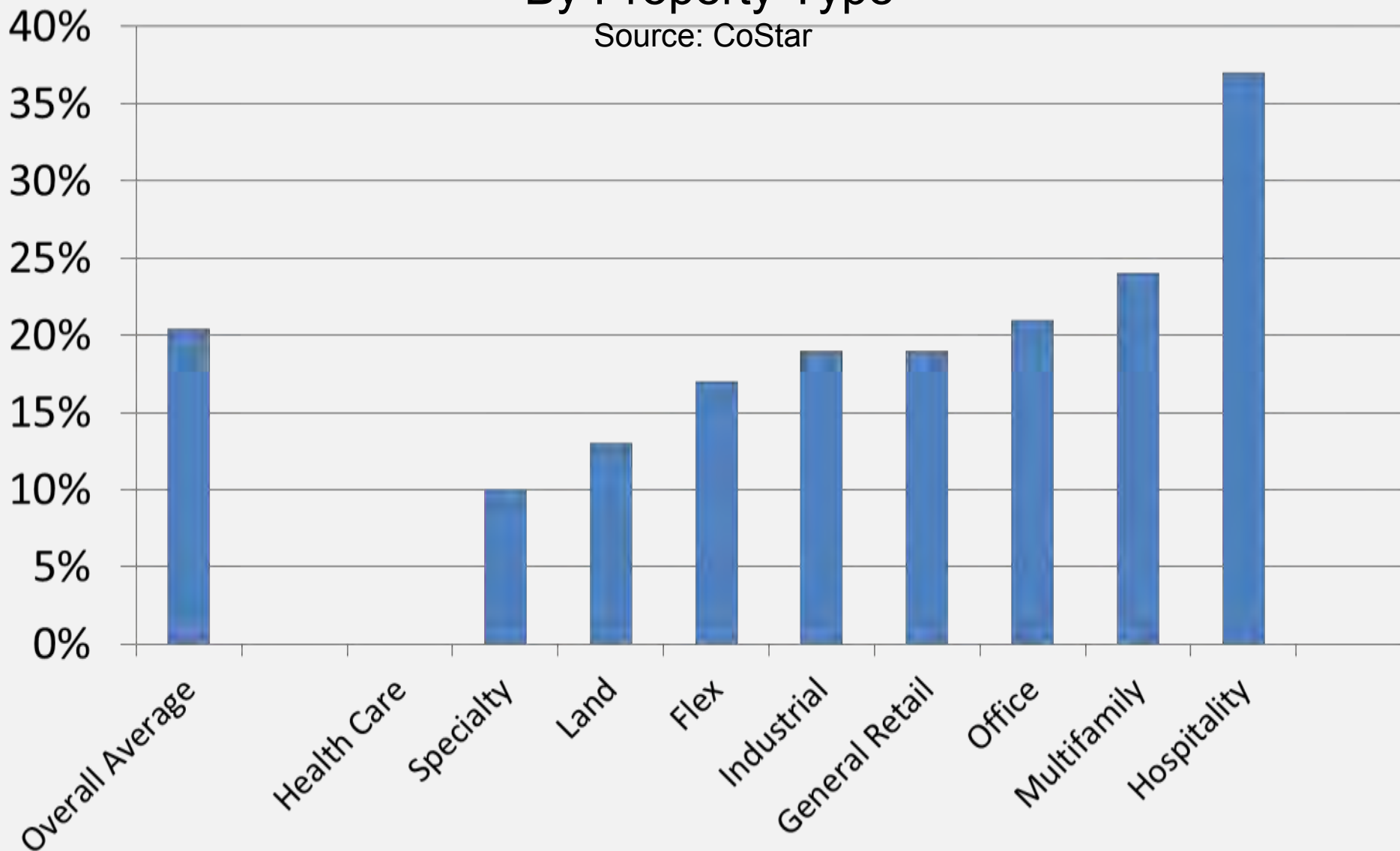
# Distress as % of Sales Count By Property Type



# Distressed Sales as a Percent of Total Sales in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2010

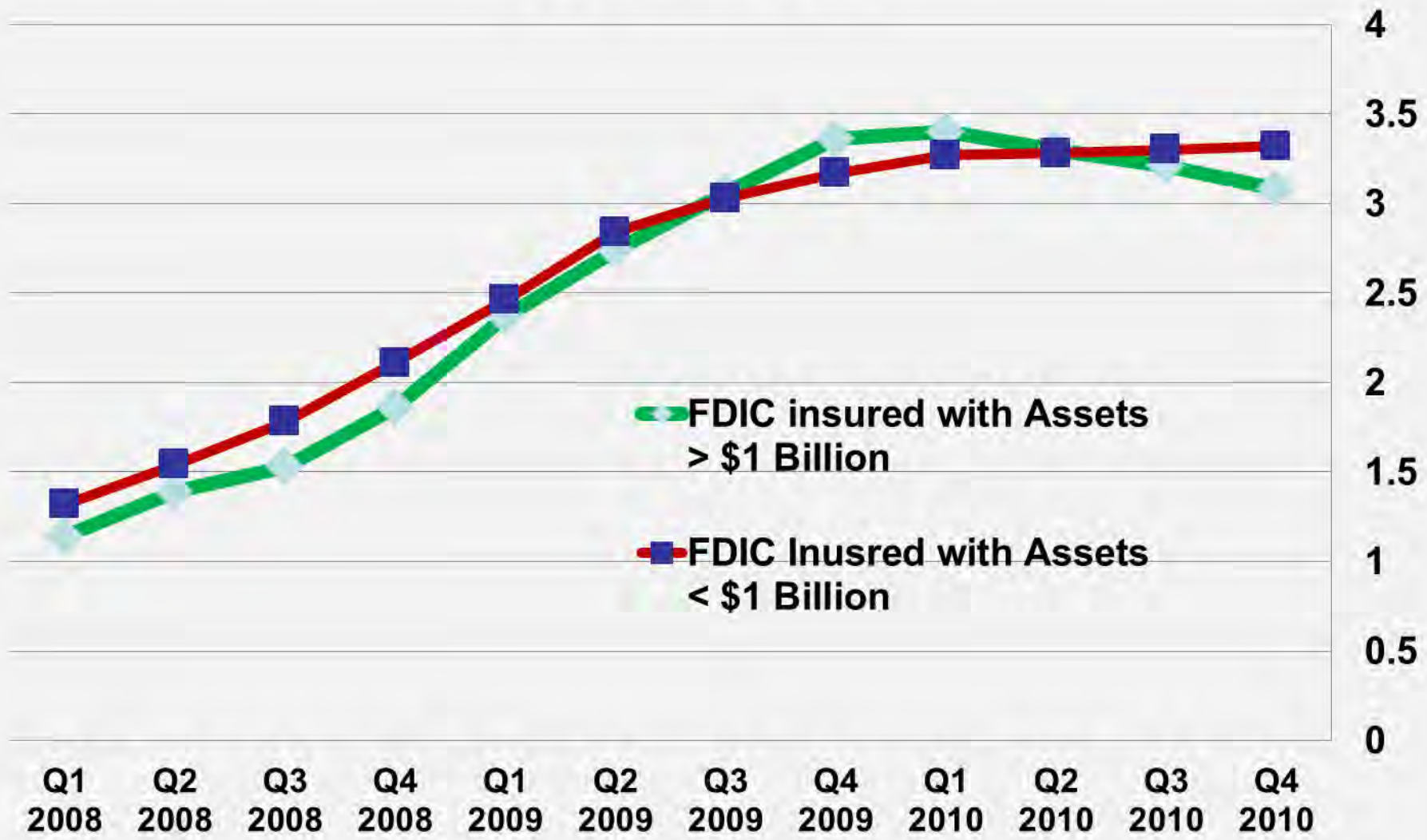
By Property Type

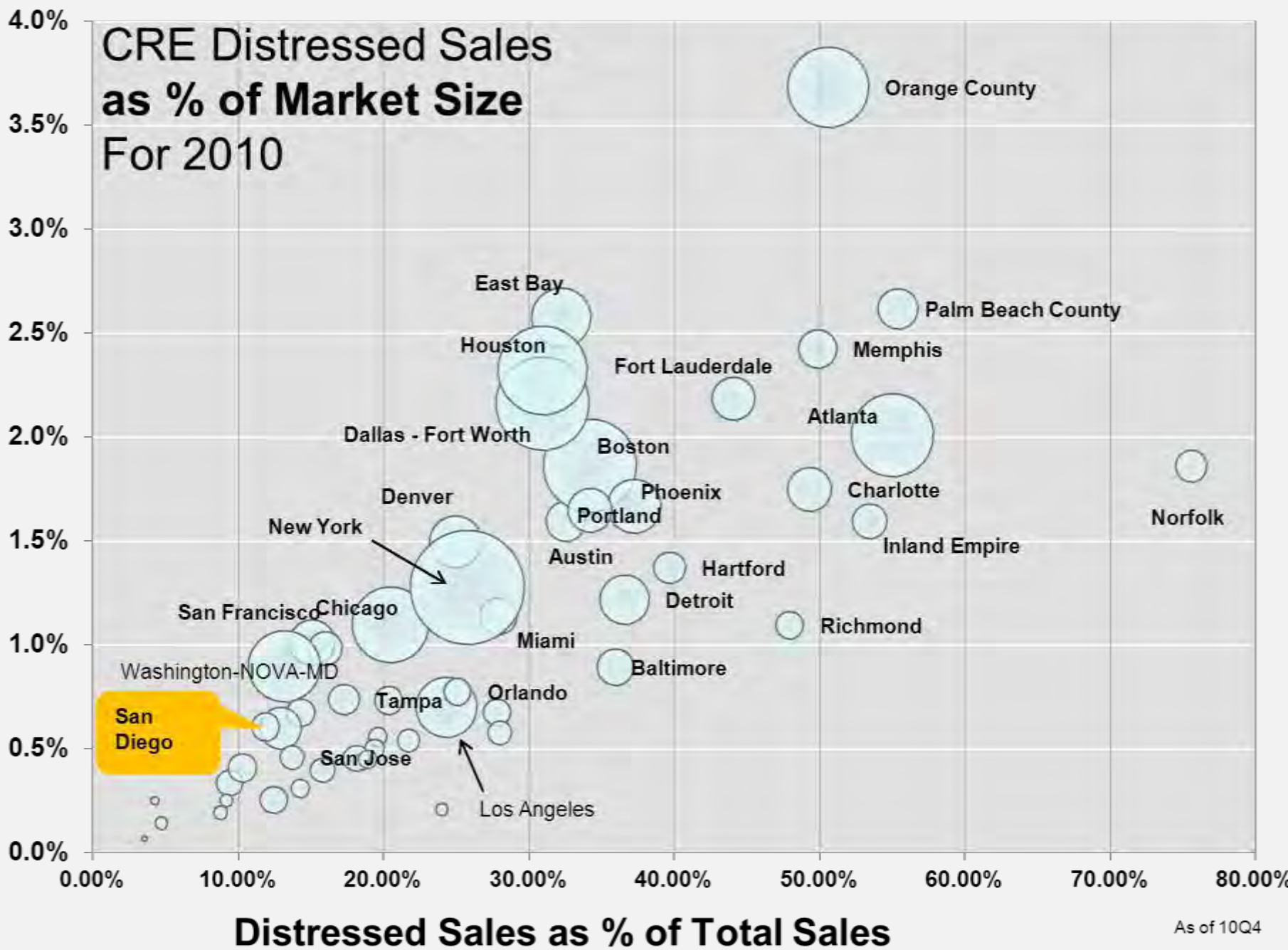
Source: CoStar



# Percent of Bank CRE Loans 90 days or more past due

Source: FDIC





**Distressed Sales as % of Total Sales**

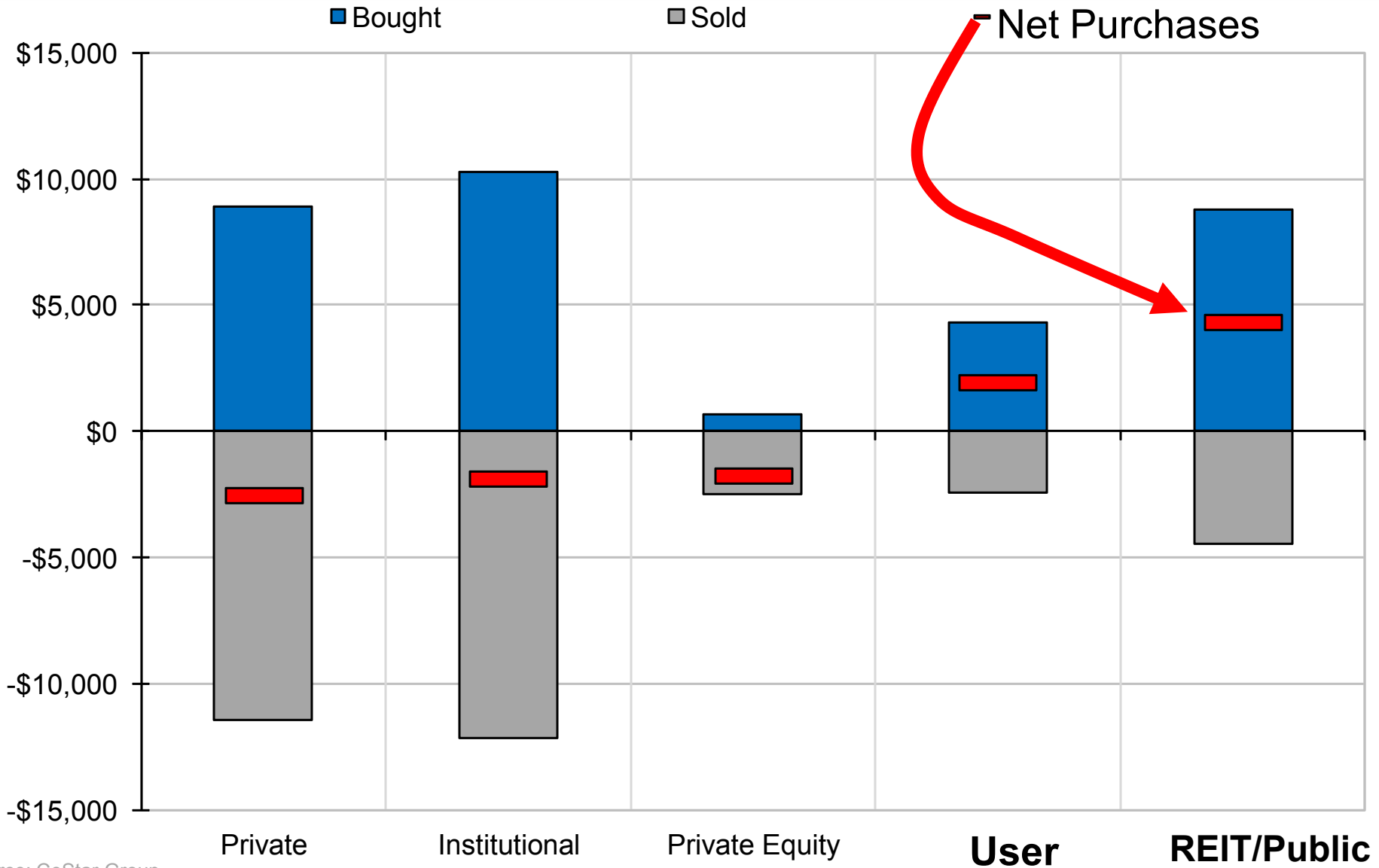
As of 10Q4

\*Size of Bubble = Distress Transaction Volume

# Office

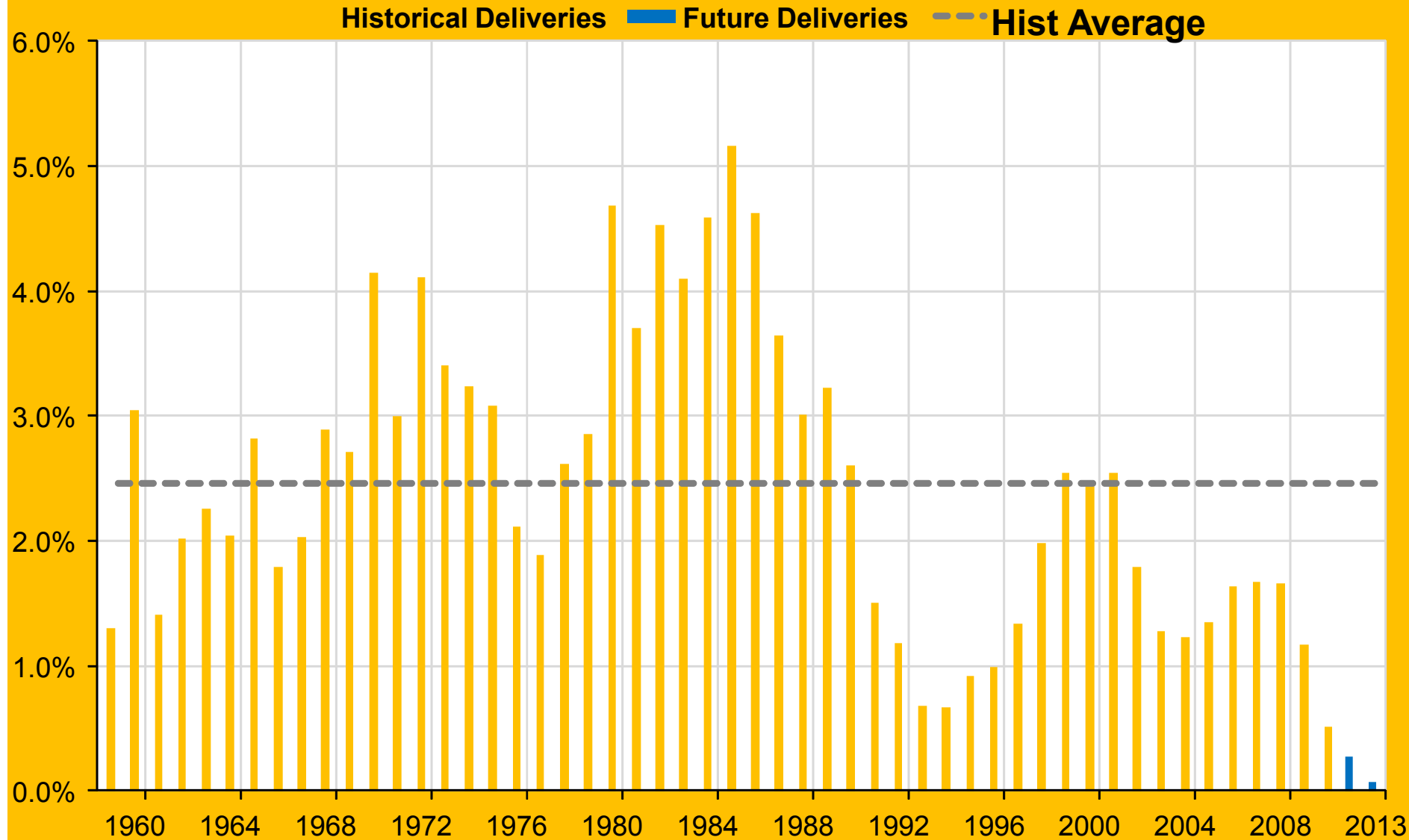
- Key indicators
  - Who is buying?
  - Starts
  - Absorption
  - Vacancy rates
  - Asking Rents

# Office 2010 Net Buying by Investor Type in Millions

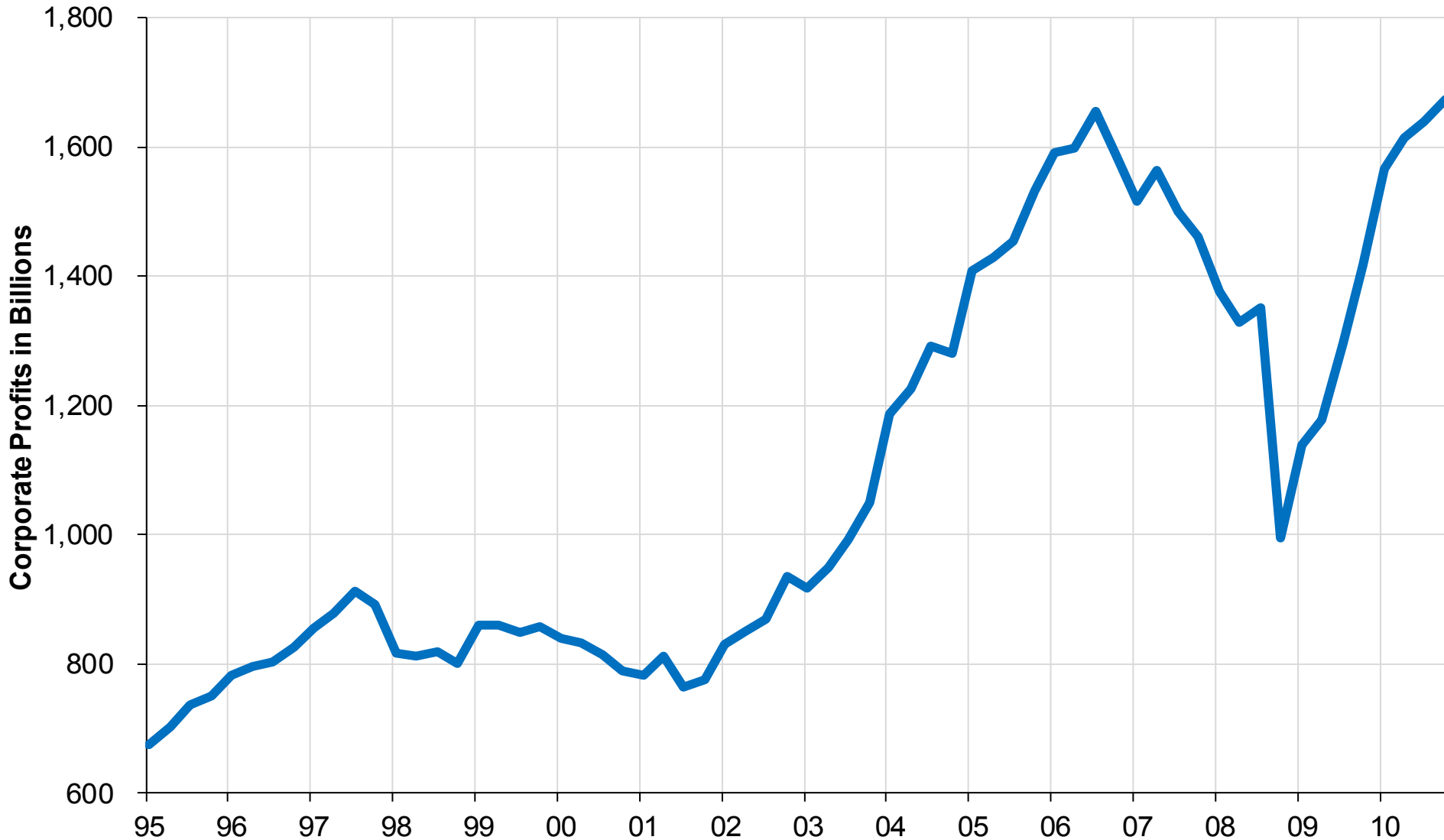




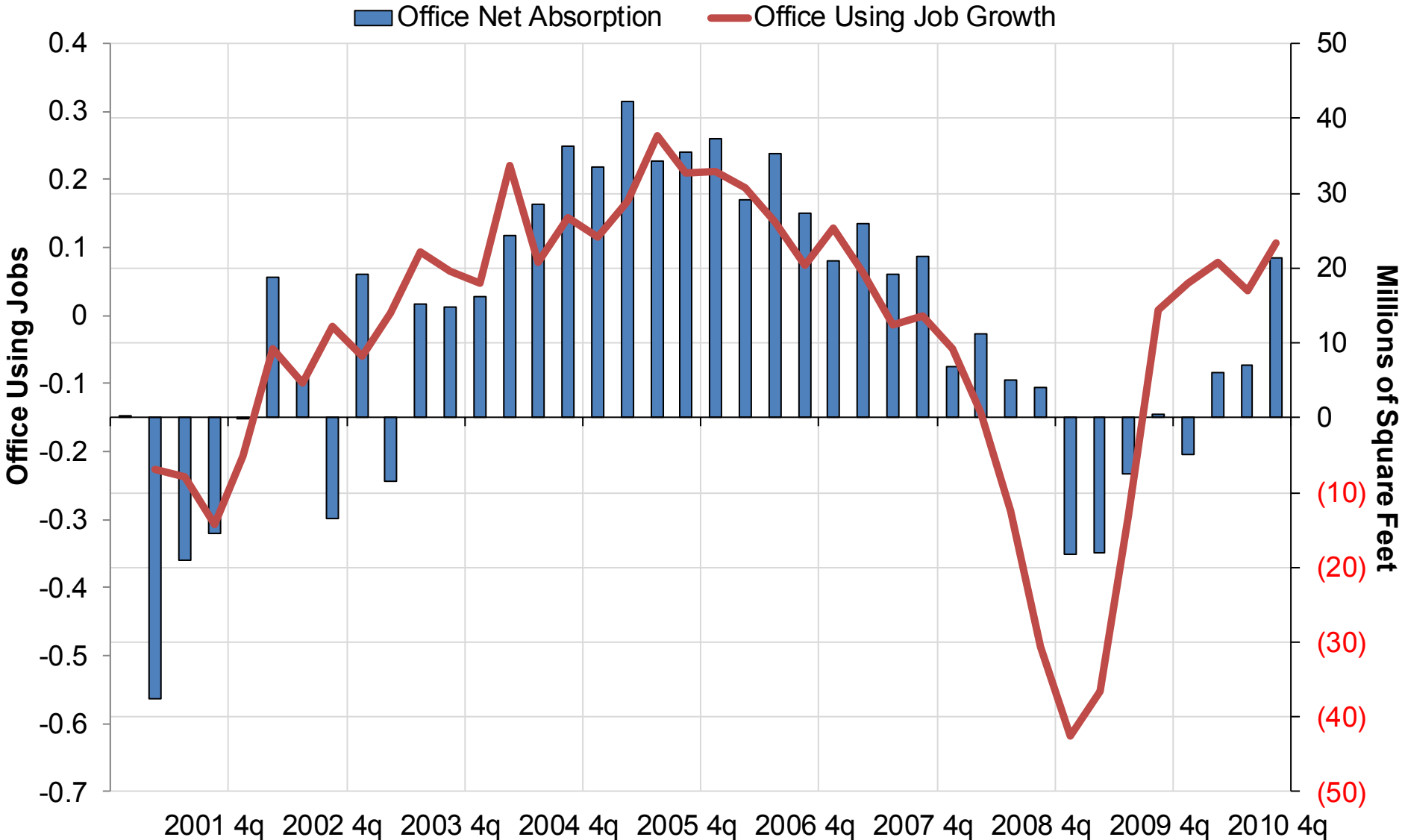
# Long Term Office Deliveries as % of Inventory



# Corporate Profits lead employment which leads absorption



# US Net Absorption and Office Using Job Growth



Source: CoStar Group

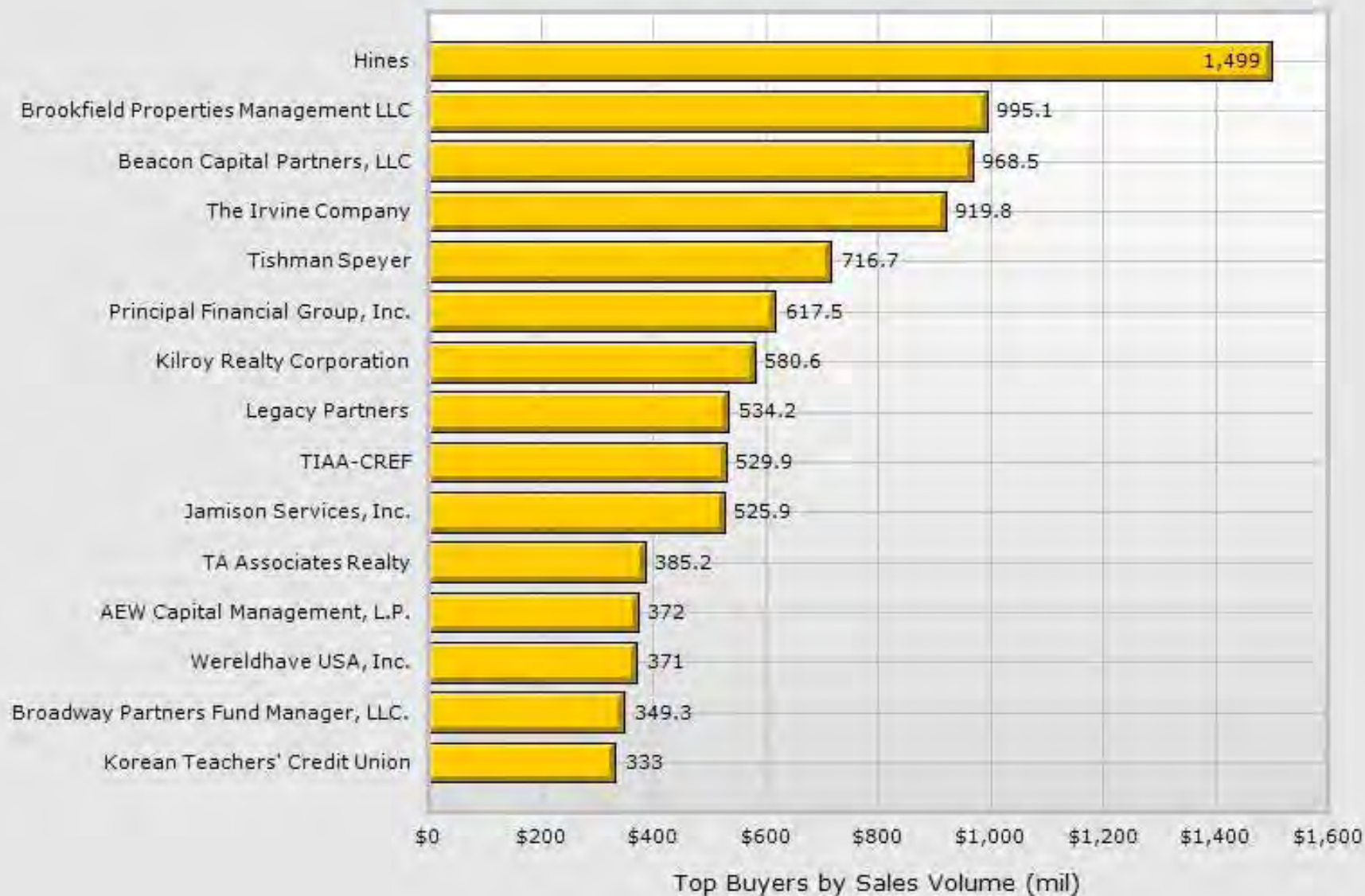
# California Office: Absorption, Deliveries and Vacancy



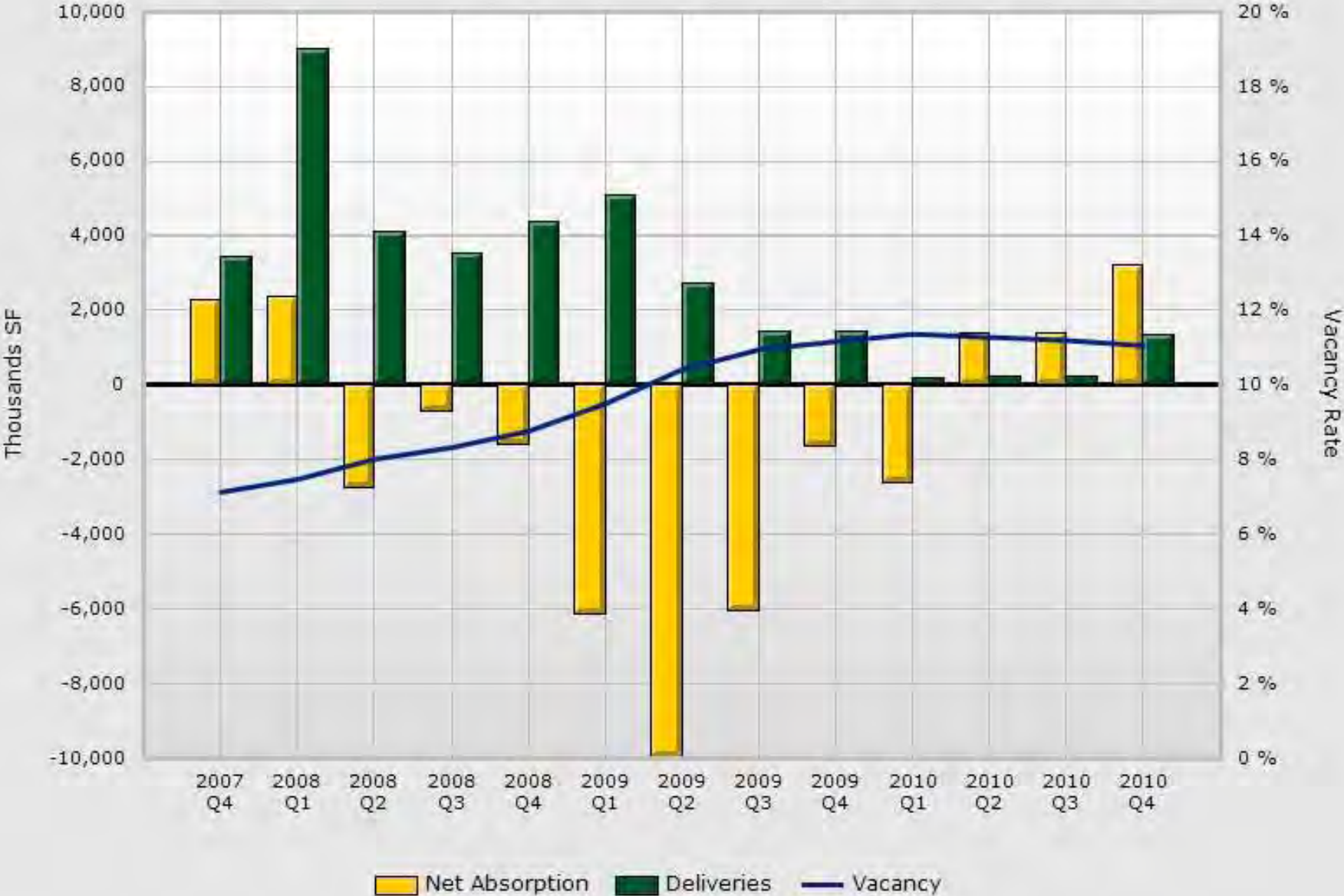
# CA Rental Rates: Office All Classes



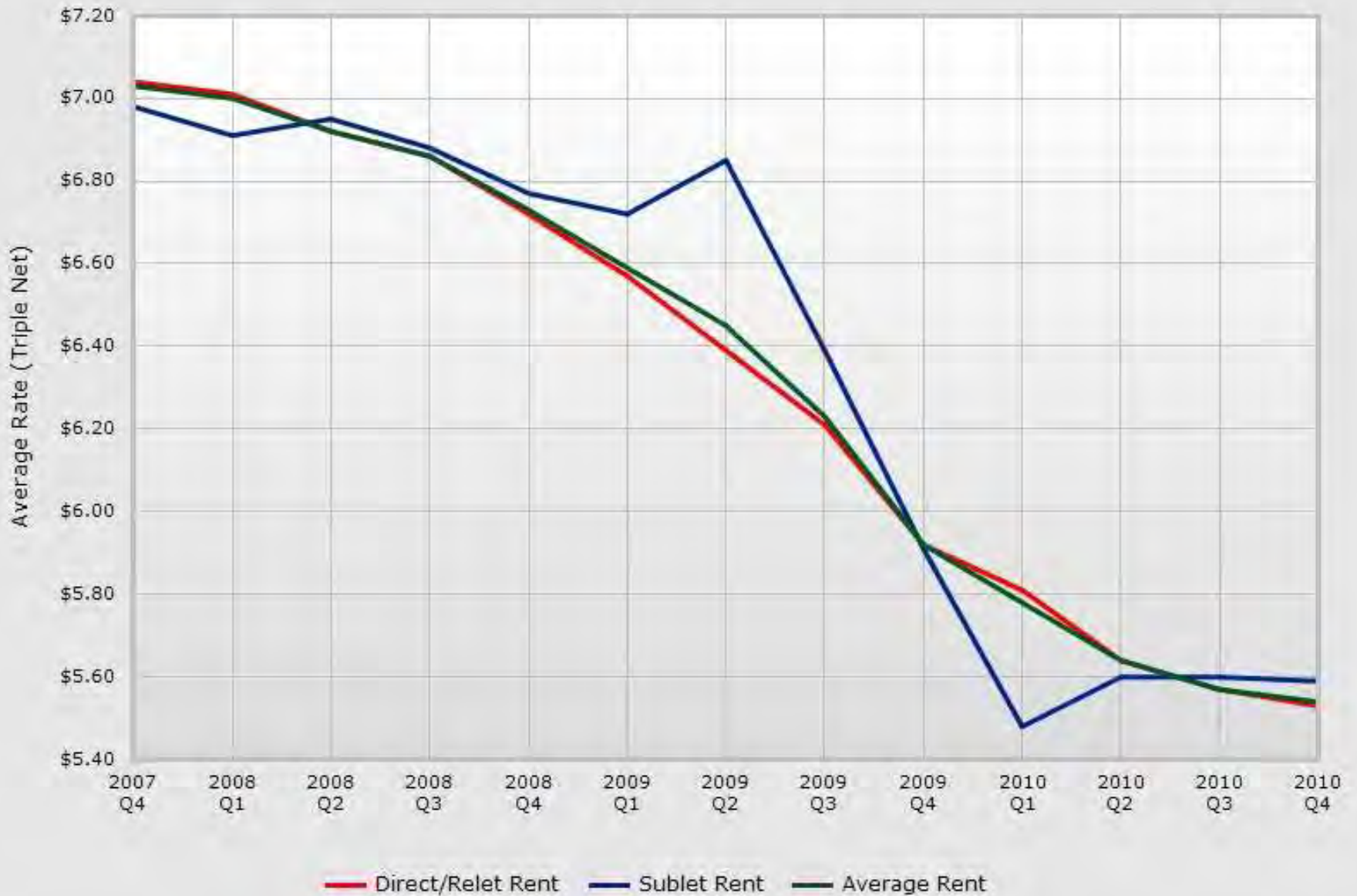
# Top Buyers of Class A by Sales Volume



# CA Industrial: Absorption, Deliveries and Vacancy



# CA Industrial Rental Rates: All Classes

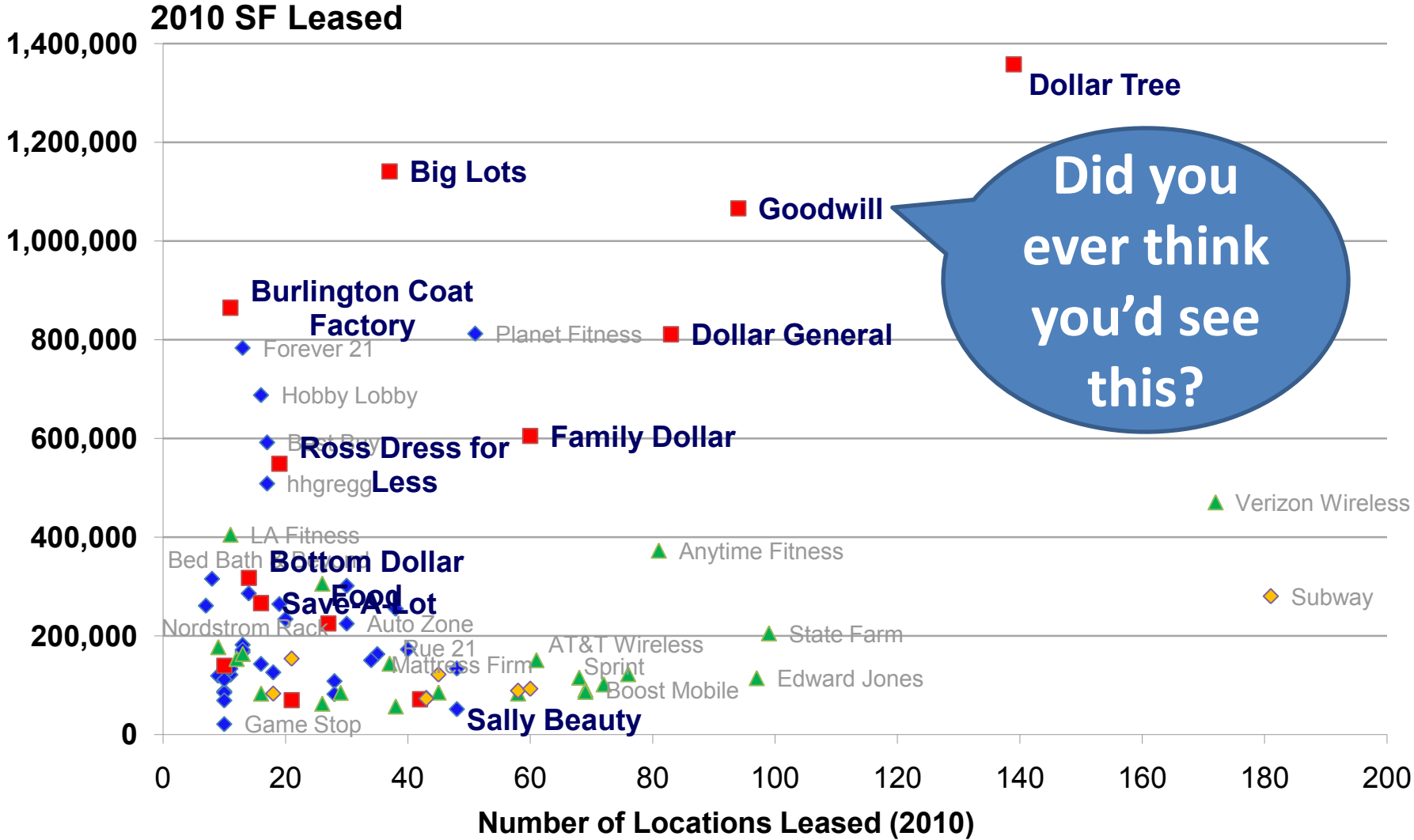




# CA Retail: Absorption, Deliveries and Vacancy



# Leasing in 2010 Has Been Dominated by Discounters

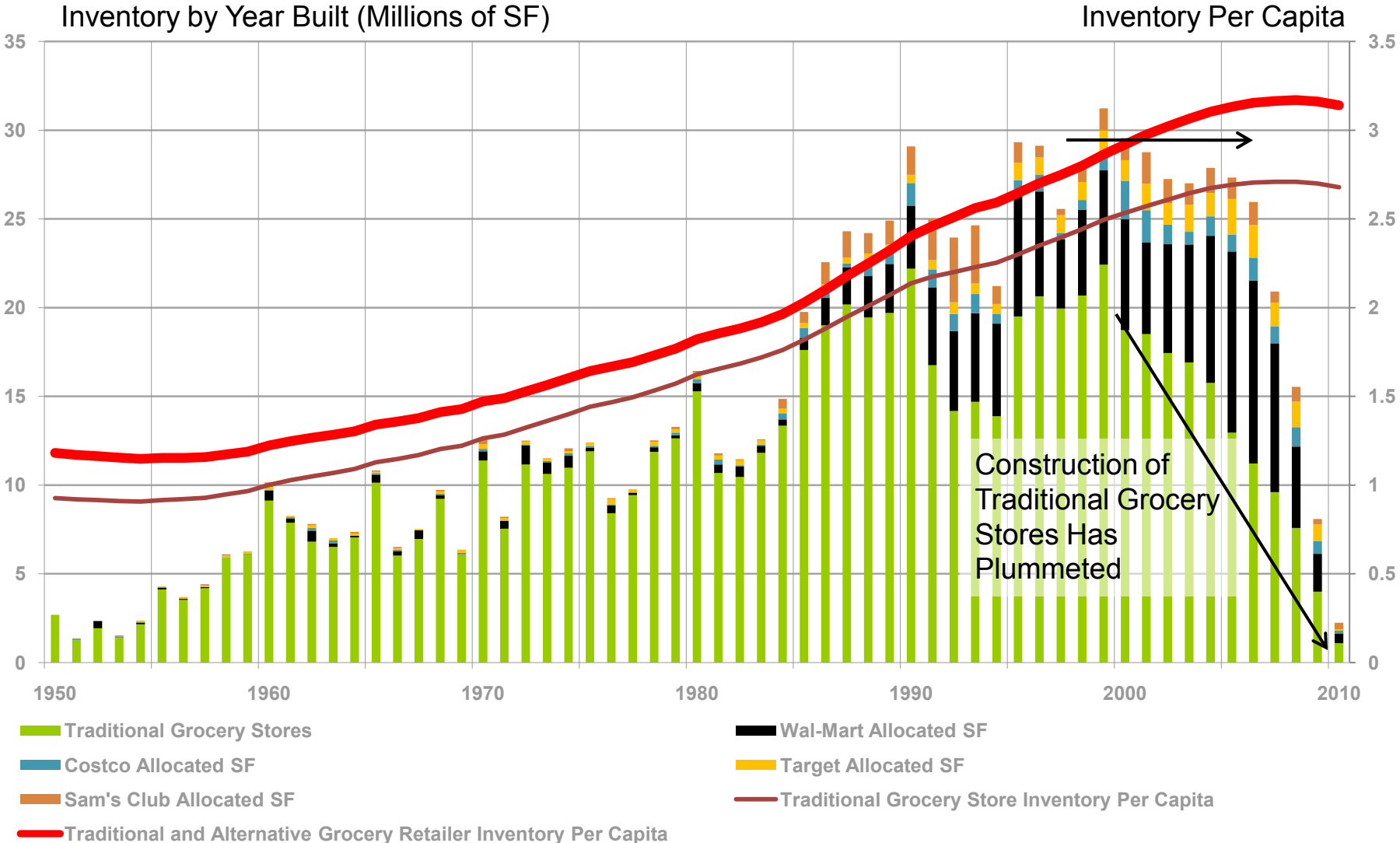


Did you ever think you'd see this?

Source: CoStar; PPR

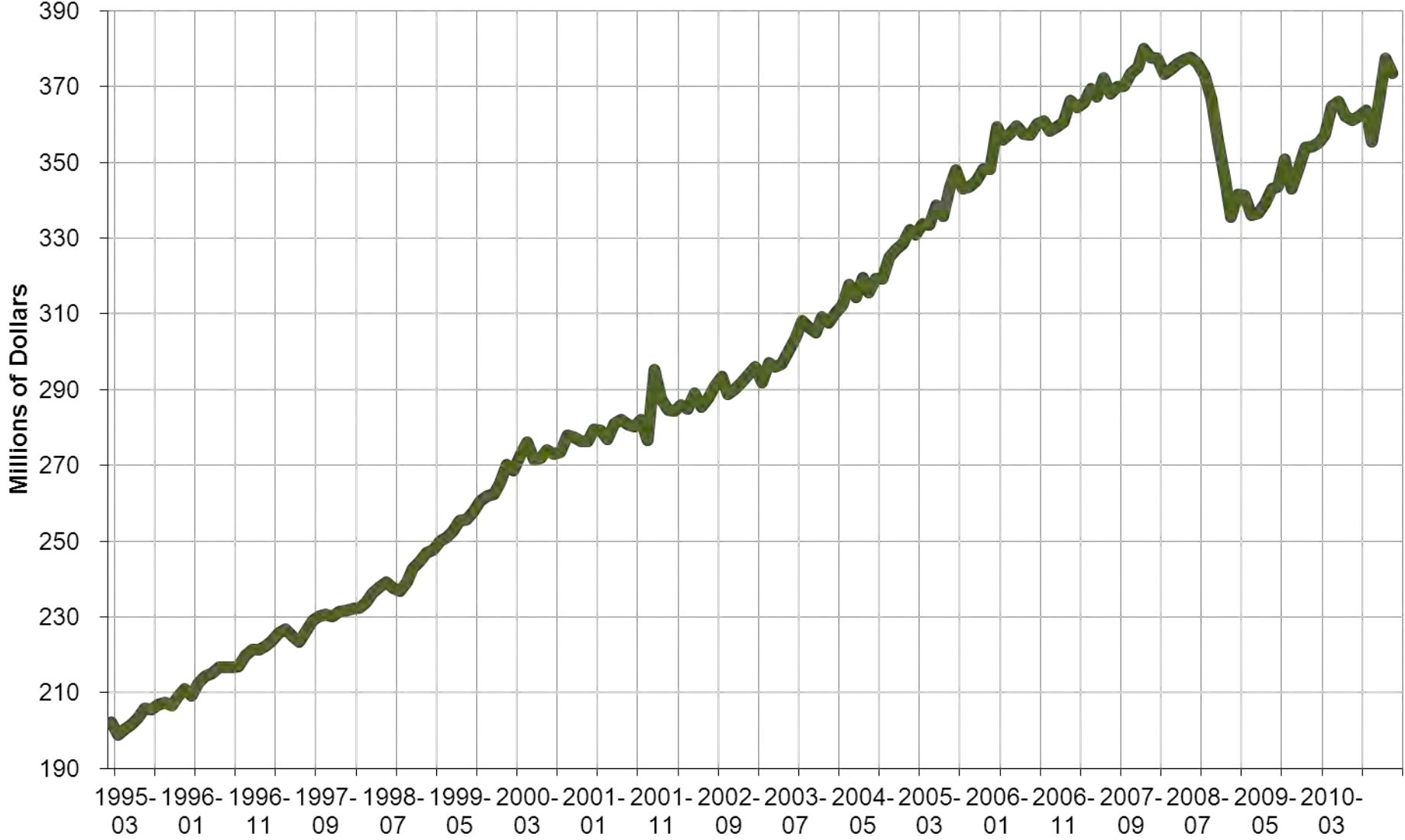
◆ Traditional Retailers    ■ Discount Retailers    ▲ Service Providers    ◆ Fast Food

# Grocery Stores Are Now Competing with Big Boxes – in most markets



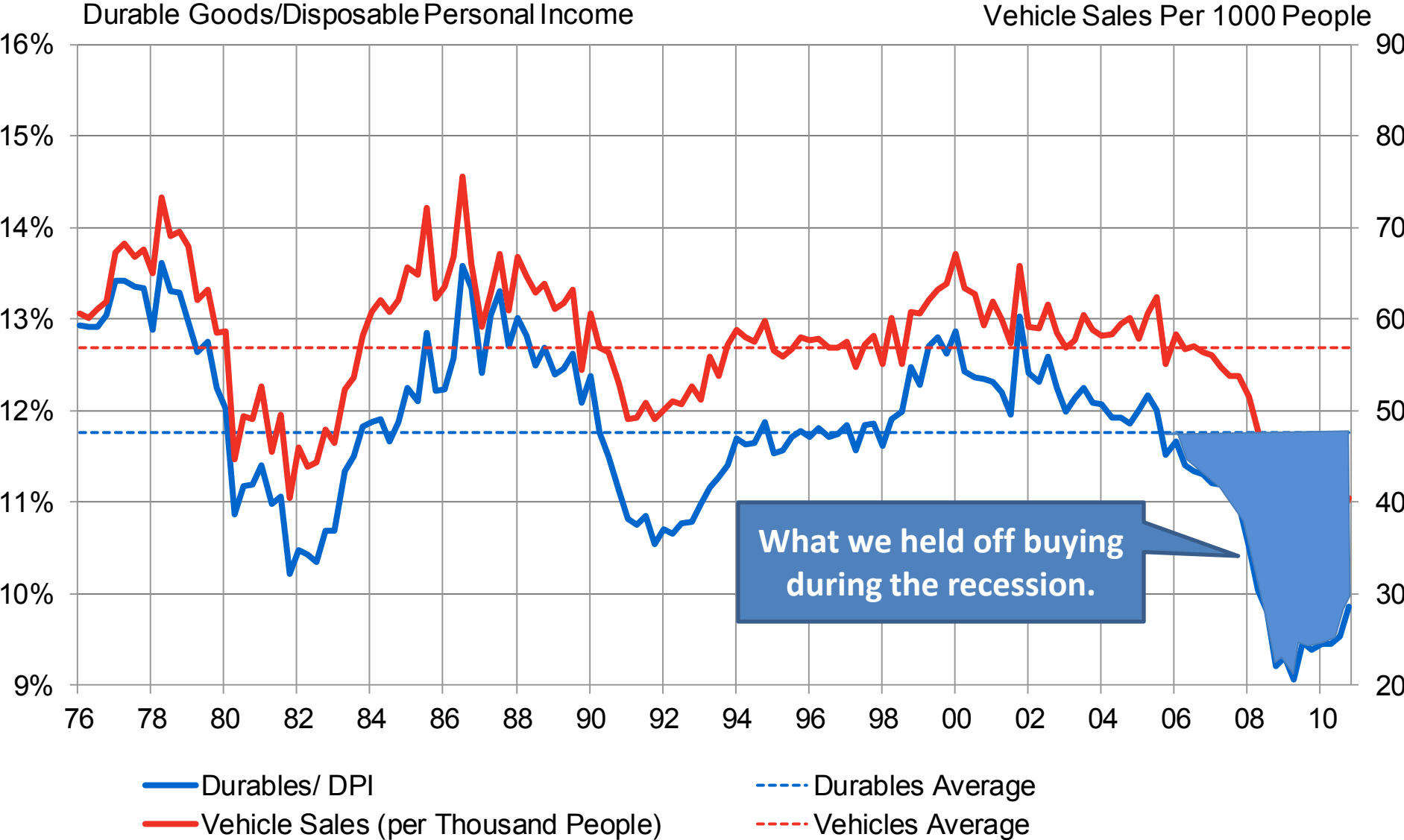
Sources: CoStar; PPR

# US Retail Sales (Through Dec 2010)



Source: Commerce Department

# Pent-Up Demand For Consumer Durables

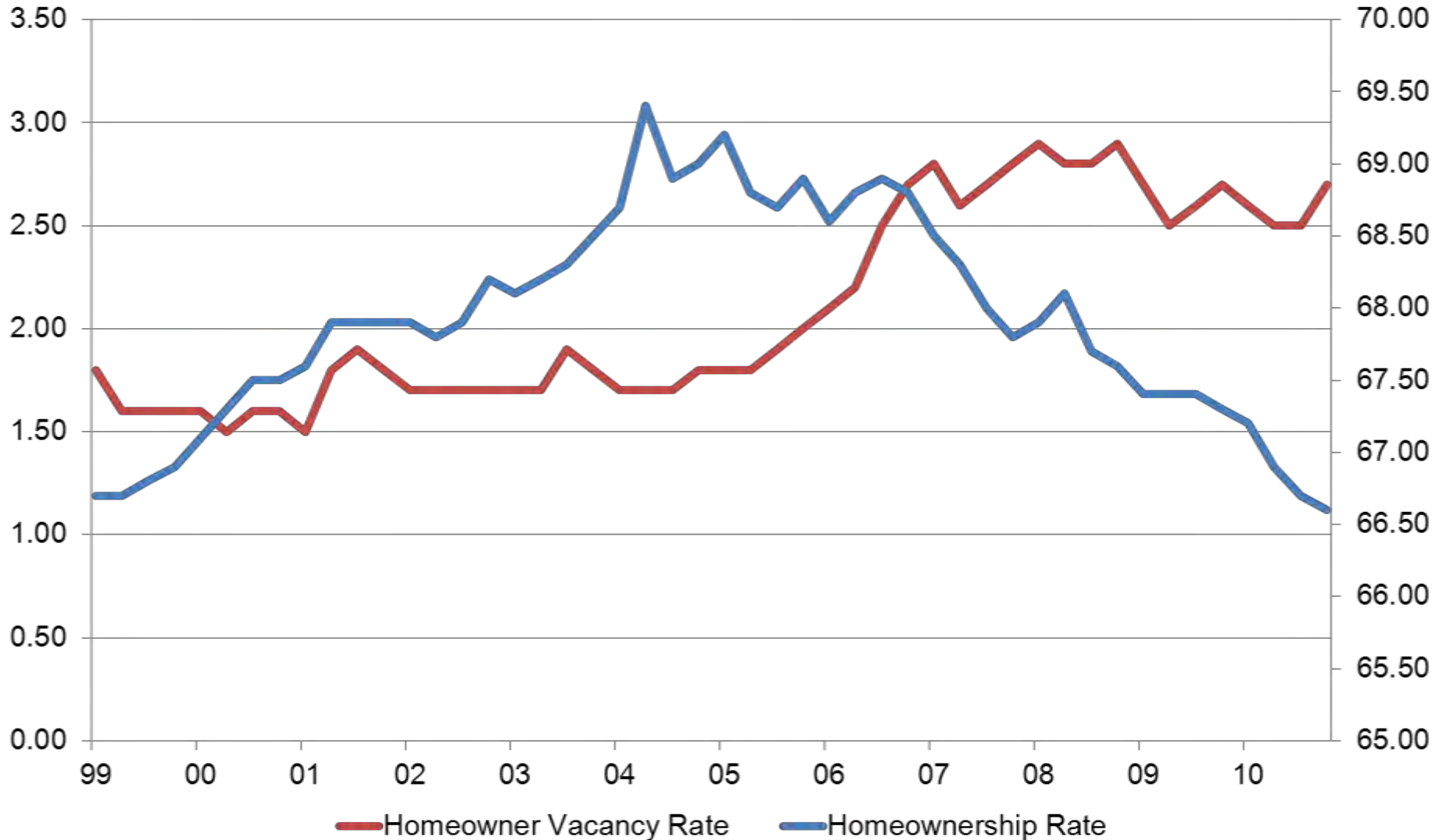


Sources: BEA; PPR

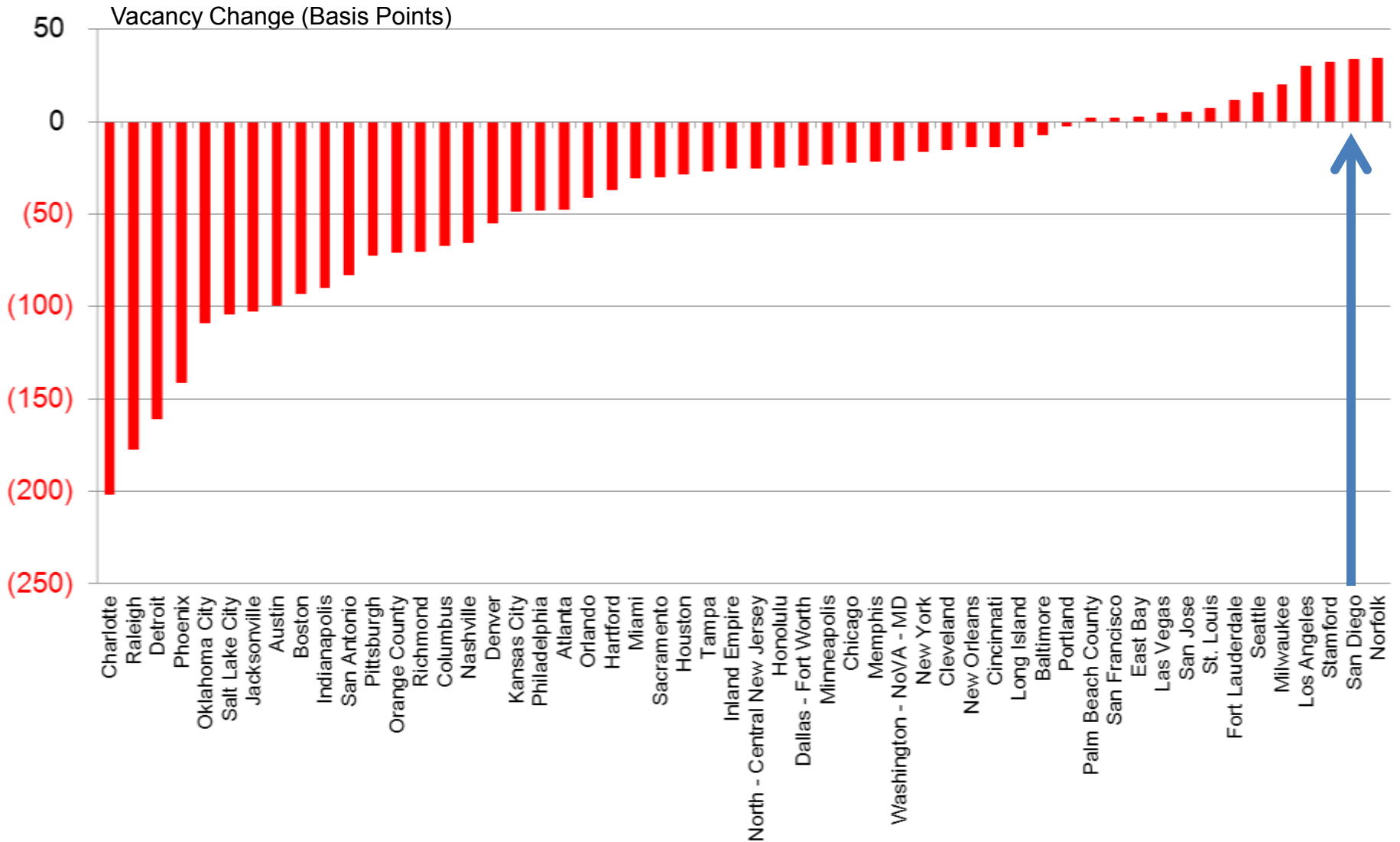
**What else is driving retail spending?  
Could it be “strategic default”?**



# Homeownership Heading Down and Mortgage rates are heading up which is great for MF owners

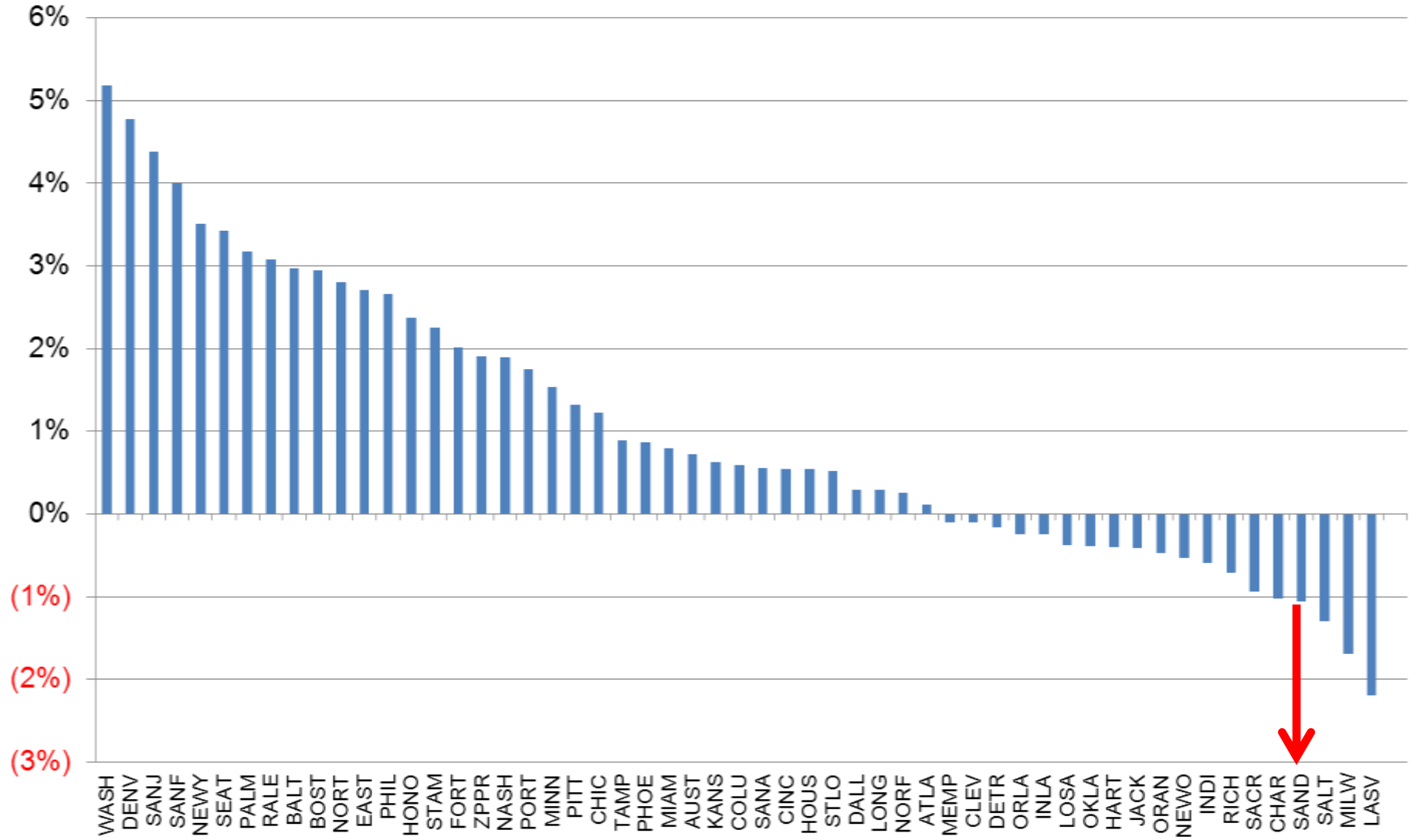


# The Demand Remains Uneven: Vacancy Change Second Half 2010

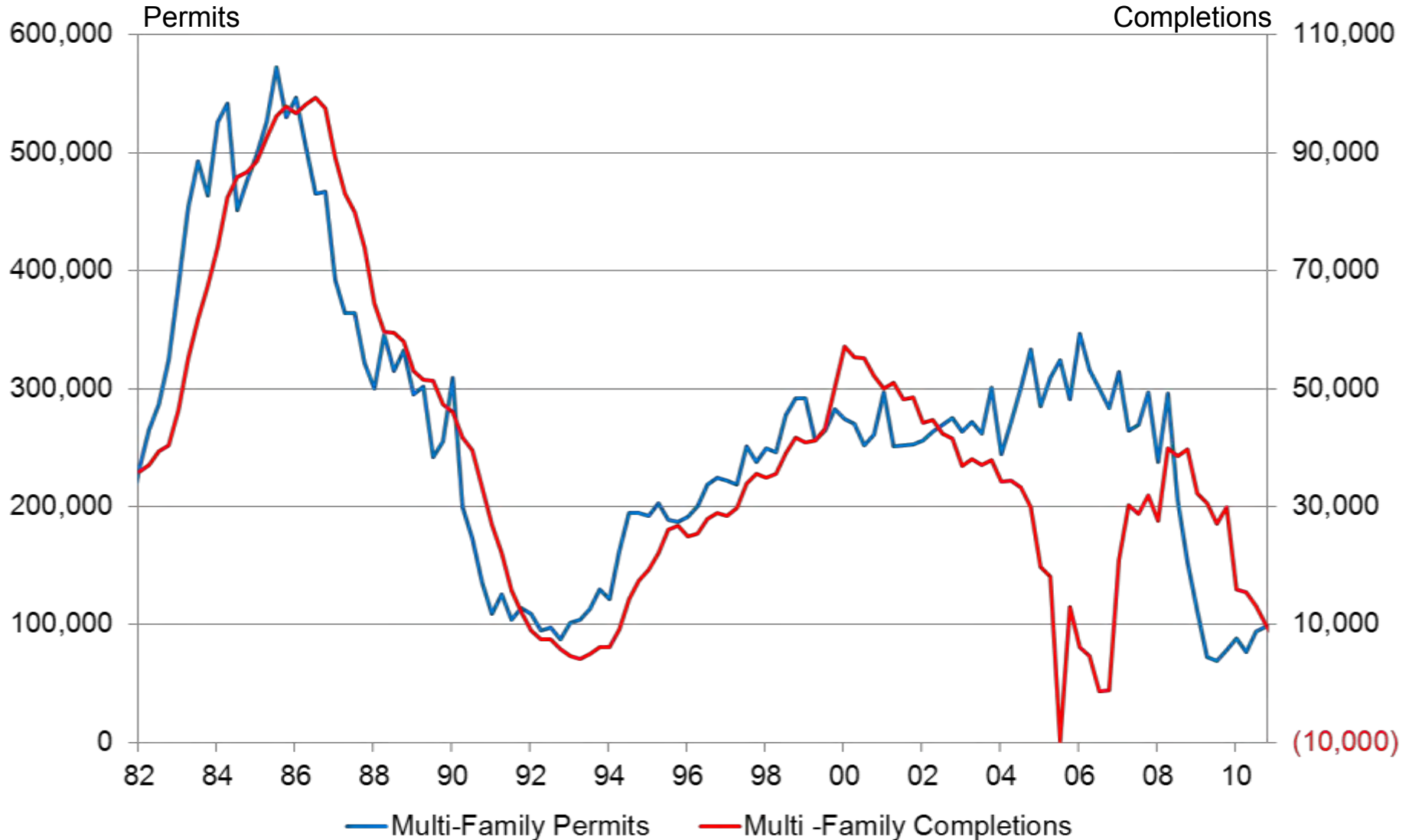




# 2010 Change In Asking Rents on Apartments



# Multifamily Permits Are Increasing But Still Very Low



# Summary and Rational Strategies

## Low Risk

- 1) Buy highly occupied properties and get low returns with low risk.
- 2) Develop or buy senior and health care housing facilities, medical office or student housing.

## Moderate to High Risk

- 1) Time to buy hotels!
- 2) Buy distressed office real estate jointly with a major tenant and share in upside.
- 3) Buy distressed multifamily property from owners and lenders using short sales, especially if condo conversion down the road is possible. Note: Avoid HOAs like a plague.
- 4) Invest in Mez Equity to compliment the lower LTVs.
- 5) Upgrade properties for the GSA or others seeking Energy Star labeled property or LEED certified where demand is increasing.
- 6) Invest in data storage facilities or biotech after learning the nuances of tenant needs.
- 7) Start a business, some wild ideas include:
  - For a fee electric plugs in parking areas.
  - Customized manufacturing with 3 D printer design technology.

Thanks

