

Commercial Sector Happy with Tax Law

Author: Steve Brown, Dallas Morning News

While housing sector proponents gave a thumbs down to the new tax law, most commercial real estate industry execs are celebrating the federal overhaul.

Housing took a hit with fewer deductions in the just-passed tax law rewrite.

But lower corporate tax rates and special treatment for many real estate companies could give the commercial property sector a boost and more profits for big builders.

"The first major tax reform in more than three decades, the act recognizes the important contribution that commercial real estate is making to the economy by supporting pro-growth initiatives and acknowledging the long-term nature of commercial real estate investment," Thomas J. Bisacquino, president of the industry trade group NAIOP, said in a statement. "This legislation represents an important victory for NAIOP members and the commercial real estate industry."

The final legislation kept tax-free exchanges of real estate and continues taxation of real estate carried interest as capital gains.

Real estate firms also continue to be able to deduct their business interest expenses.

And the taxes for the so called pass-through businesses — a common real estate vehicle — were reduced.

The popular historic preservation tax credits that have helped revitalize urban areas were reduced, but not eliminated as originally proposed.

Some analysts are predicting a surge in private capital in commercial real estate to take advantage of the new tax benefits.

The commercial property sector was already enjoying one of the best periods in decades before the new tax regulations were made law.

While the residential real estate industry is worried that the tax deduction changes could drive down home values, commercial property owners see a new spurt of investment.

"While tax reform may have a modest impact on real GDP growth, overall, commercial real estate is a winner, though some subsectors fare better than others," Revathi Greenwood, Cushman & Wakefield Head of Americas Research, said in a report. "Multifamily looks to be a winner — at the expense of single-family residential — especially in states and municipalities with high state and local taxes.

"The retail and industrial sectors should see modest benefits, while the office sector will see minimal impact."

JOB GROWTH ¹	Area New Jobs				
	Estimate	1 Mo End 12/30	6 Mo End 12/30	12 Mo End 12/30	
Dallas/Plano/Irving		(3,800)	44,500	61,800	
Fort Worth/Arlington		5,800	16,800	29,900	
		2,000	61,300	91,700	
INTEREST RATES ²	Rates		END 1/31	Yr. Ago	
	10 Year Treasury		2.70%	2.45%	
	11th District COFI		0.75%	0.60%	
	1 Mo. LIBOR		1.56%	0.77%	
SUPPLY/ DEMAND ³	Units Added/ Absorbed		6 Mo End 11/31	12 Mo End 1/31	24 Mo End 1/31
	Dallas County				
	Added		5,938	12,167	22,211
	Absorbed		2,528	6,119	14,038
	Tarrant County				
	Added		5,366	8,978	13,754
Absorbed		1,253	3,444	8,203	
OCCUPANCY RATES ³	Dallas County		12/31/2016	6 Mo Ago	12 Mo Ago
	2010's		75.1%	74.5%	75.2%
	2000's		93.3%	94.3%	94.6%
	1990's		93.2%	94.3%	94.4%
	1980's		93.5%	94.9%	94.9%
	1970's or Older		93.3%	93.7%	94.1%
	Tarrant County				
	2010's		67.7%	73.3%	78.0%
	2000's		94.7%	95.9%	95.5%
	1990's		94.4%	95.3%	94.8%
	1980's		94.4%	95.1%	95.0%
	1970's or Older		92.0%	92.6%	92.6%
RENTAL RATES ³	Dallas County		12/31/2016	6 Mo Ago	12 Mo Ago
	2010's		\$1,521	\$1,555	\$1,479
	2000's		\$1,365	\$1,369	\$1,346
	1990's		\$1,294	\$1,303	\$1,245
	1980's		\$934	\$931	\$889
	1970's or Older		\$890	\$879	\$843
	Tarrant County				
	2010's		\$1,369	\$1,420	\$1,396
	2000's		\$1,197	\$1,208	\$1,152
	1990's		\$1,168	\$1,174	\$1,133
	1980's		\$909	\$908	\$869
	1970's or Older		\$842	\$834	\$798
HISTORICAL JOB GROWTH	Average year change of the combined DFW MSA's				
	2012	79,200			
	2013	95,000			
	2014	141,300			
	2015	116,600			
	2016	120,500			

1 Texas Workforce Commission
2 Banxquote.com
3 ALNsys.com - Rental rates are after concessions.
Approximately 25% of 70's or older are all bills paid

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