# Real Estate Research

June 2023



# Flash Report: Return to European Logistics

## What is driving our return to logistics call?

Significant revaluation. An attractive (re)entry point

For several years, ultra-low yields have forced us to take a cautious view of the logistics sector. However, given a 15-20% price correction since the middle of last year, entry pricing once again looks attractive.

## Strong fundamentals continue to support the sector

European logistics supply remains exceptionally tight, with recordlow vacancy in many markets. Construction activity is moderating as more expensive financing and build costs, alongside a weaker economic outlook, deter developers.

Future demand drivers remain solid: we anticipate e-commerce growth will resume its upward trajectory, especially in those countries with a less mature e-commerce market, such as Spain and Italy. In these markets, online retailers could look to further develop their distribution networks.

## Logistics is expected to outperform other core sectors

Rent growth has been exceptional over recent years and we anticipate further healthy growth over the forecast period, underpinned by attractive demand and supply dynamics.

We believe the majority of logistics repricing has already been seen and expect yield compression for most markets will return from 2024 onwards, as interest rates stabilise and before moving lower.<sup>1</sup> This combination of robust rent growth and yield compression could result in attractive IRRs relative to core office and residential.

## Strategy: what and where?

## Repriced corridor markets with strong fundamentals

The UK looks set to be a clear outperformer, prices have corrected faster than almost any other market, while rental growth is expected to be ahead of the European average.

Barcelona is well positioned for rental growth based on geographic barriers to supply and e-commerce growth potential. The Netherlands stands out as a strong market, given tight supply and strict planning laws. Corridor locations within the Randstad region provide access to multiple metros.

## **Urban Logistics**

Rising online sales and an exceptionally tight supply picture should drive further strong rent growth in Last Mile and Last Hour locations. Target markets include London, Paris and Berlin.

## **European Transformation Markets**

Recent geopolitical events have highlighted the need for a reconfiguration of supply chains. Polish logistics – especially Wroclaw and Poznan - could be a key beneficiary of nearshoring, given more affordable land, labour and rents. Hungary, Romania and Austria could represent alternative trade routes from Asia to Europe.

## **Reset & Recovery:**



Source: MSCI, May 2023

#### Next up:

- How can the European logistics sector assist towards Net Zero goals?
- How can the logistics sector assist in achieving European transformation?

<sup>1</sup> Forecasts are based on assumptions, estimates, views and hypothetical models or analyses, which might prove inaccurate or incorrect.

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