

Wells Fargo 2012 top lender

Wells Fargo was last year's top commercial-mortgage originator, followed by Bank of America Merrill Lynch, PNC Real Estate, Prudential Mortgage Capital Co. and KeyBank Real Estate Capital, in that order, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. Among the various lending types, Wells Fargo was the No. 1 originator of CMBS loans and Bank of America Merrill Lynch topped the list of lenders to commercial banks. MetLife Real Estate Investors stood for the life insurers, TIAA-CREF for the pension funds, HFF for the credit companies, KeyBank Real Estate Capital for the REITS and investment funds, and Cohen Financial represented the specialty finance side.



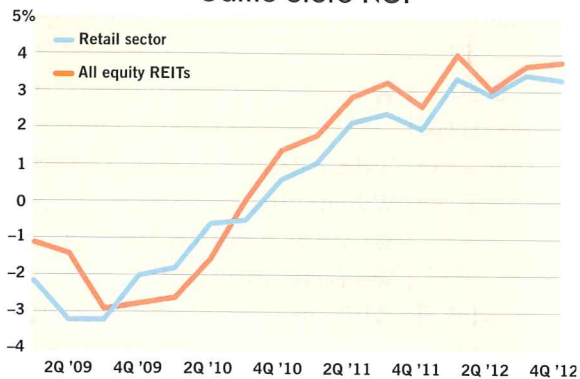
One-year total returns



*As of April 3

SOURCE: SNL FINANCIAL

Same-store NOI



SOURCE: SNL FINANCIAL

Q1 vacancy fell at U.S. centers

U.S. regional malls performed well during the first quarter, according to research firm Reis. The vacancy rate in this sector fell for the sixth straight quarter, down 0.3 percentage points to 8.3 percent, the biggest drop in a decade. Average asking rents rose 0.4 percent from the previous quarter, to \$39.46 per square foot yearly.

But U.S. neighborhood strip center performance was less robust, says Reis, even though reduced openings offset anemic tenant demand. Some 10.6 percent of U.S. neighborhood strip center space was vacant at the end of the first quarter, the firm says, off from 10.7 percent in the previous quarter. Roughly 873,000 square feet of new strip-center space opened up during the first quarter, up 0.04 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012, when 1.23 million square feet opened.

Meanwhile, retailers absorbed 2.8 million square feet of neighborhood strip-center space during the first quarter — about even with fourth-quarter 2012 but off from the year-ago first quarter. First-quarter average rent grew 0.3 percent quarter on quarter, to \$19.18 per square foot. The national vacancy rate for neighborhood strip centers is 11 percent, well above the 2005 low of 6.7 percent.

Deal Barometer WHO IS PAYING HOW MUCH FOR WHAT

\$8.8 million

Barrington, Ill.-based GK Development purchased the 559,000-square-foot Lakeview Square Mall, in Battle Creek, Mich., out of foreclosure. Anchors include JCPenney, Macy's and Sears

\$27.6 million

Sterling Organization, of Palm Beach, Fla., bought Center of Winter Park (Fla.), a nearly 260,000-square-foot power center anchored by Kmart, from Main Street, of Tequesta, Fla.

\$30.3 million

Prestige Properties & Development acquired the 139,350-square-foot Van Dyke Commons, in Lutz, Fla., from iStar Financial. Golfsmith, HomeGoods and LA Fitness are among the tenants

\$40 million

DDR bought the 400,000-square-foot Marketplace at Highland Village, in Dallas, from an undisclosed seller. Tenants include Walmart and T.J.Maxx.

\$87.3 million

Vestar and a fund advised by UBS Global Asset Management bought the 300,000-square-foot Peninsula Center, in Rolling Hills Estates, Calif., from Principal Real Estate Investors

\$256 million

Ramco-Gershenson Properties Trust bought Clarion Partners' 70 percent stake in 12 centers in Florida and Michigan, totaling 2.2 million square feet, Ramco-Gershenson already owned the other 30 percent

DEAL OF THE MONTH

\$700 million

Westfield Group will sell a 49.9 percent stake in a portfolio of six Florida malls totaling 5.9 million square feet to O'Connor Capital Partners