

# THE PAST AND FUTURE OF OFFICE DEMAND

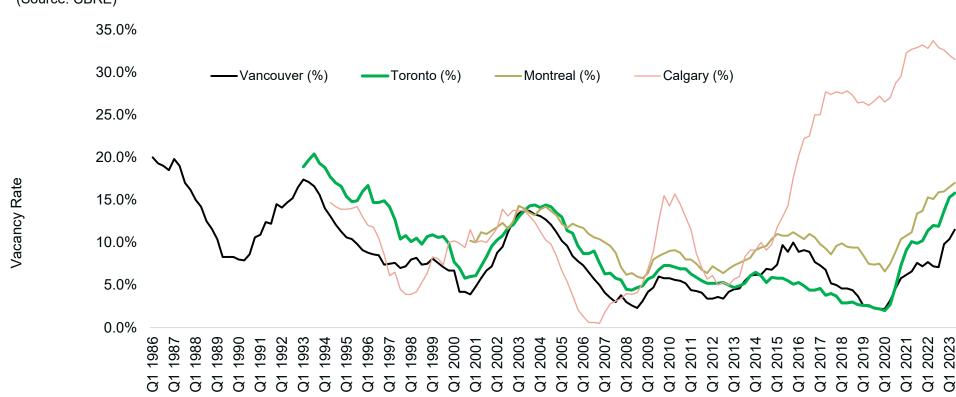
2023 REALPAC/TMU RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

**GWLRA RESEARCH SERVICES & STRATEGY** 



# OFFICE MARKETS HAVE PRONOUNCED CYCLES. BUILDINGS ARE LARGE. LEASES OFTEN LONG.





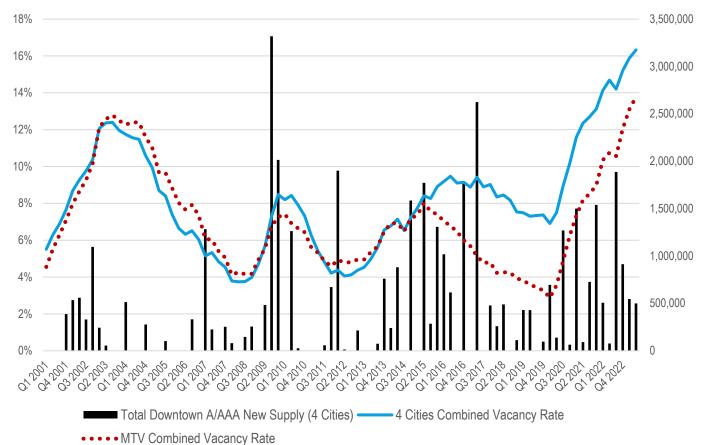


Fun fact: Each cycle corresponded with a new technology that "experts" said would mean office markets would never recover

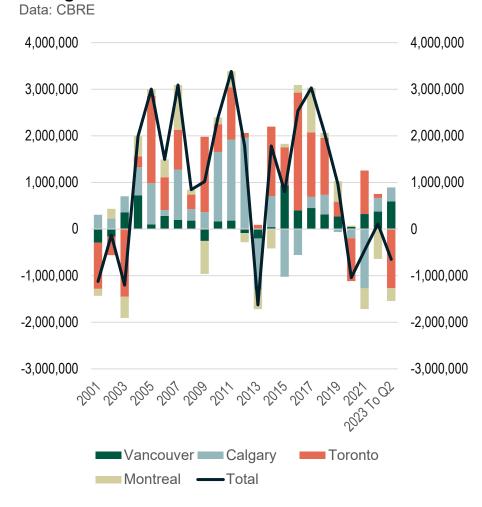
# NEW SUPPLY (RATHER THAN FALLING DEMAND) DRIVES HIGHER OFFICE VACANCY RATES

### Vacancy Rates and New Supply. Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary combined.

Data: CBRE

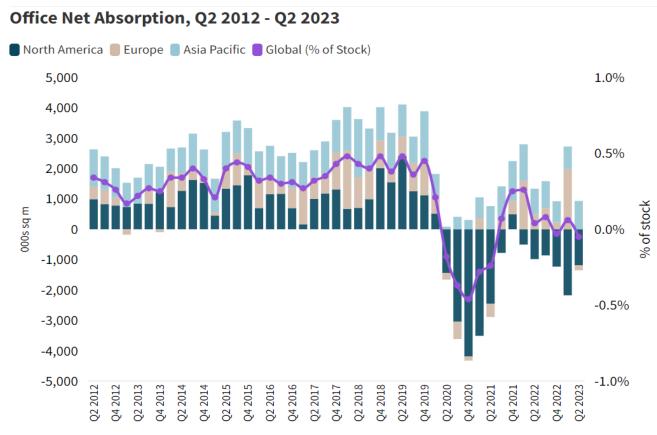


### Downtown Class A/AA Absorption 4 Largest Markets



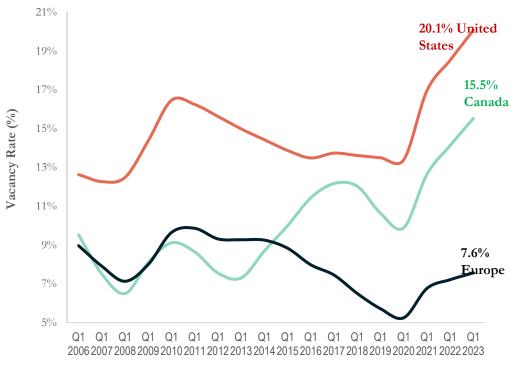


# GLOBALLY, ONLY NORTH AMERICA HAS SEEN A NET DECLINE IN LEASED OFFICE SPACE SINCE 2020.



Source: JLL Research, July 2023 65 markets in the U.S. and Canada; 23 markets in Europe; 25 markets in Asia Pacific. Grade A space vacancy only for Asian markets.

#### Overall Office Vacancy 2006-2023



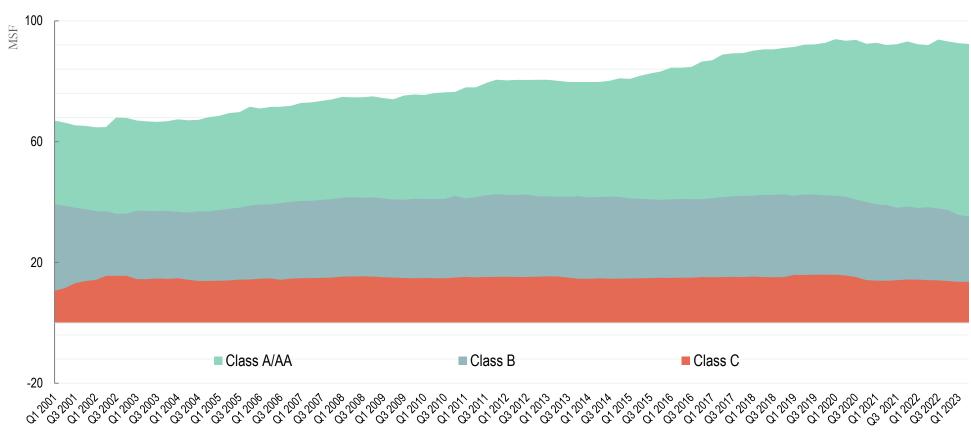
Source: JLL



JLL: In major European cities such as Paris, Madrid and Amsterdam, office attendance is close to 90% of pre-pandemic levels. Overall in Europe it's at 70% as of Q2 2023. London is a laggard at 50%.

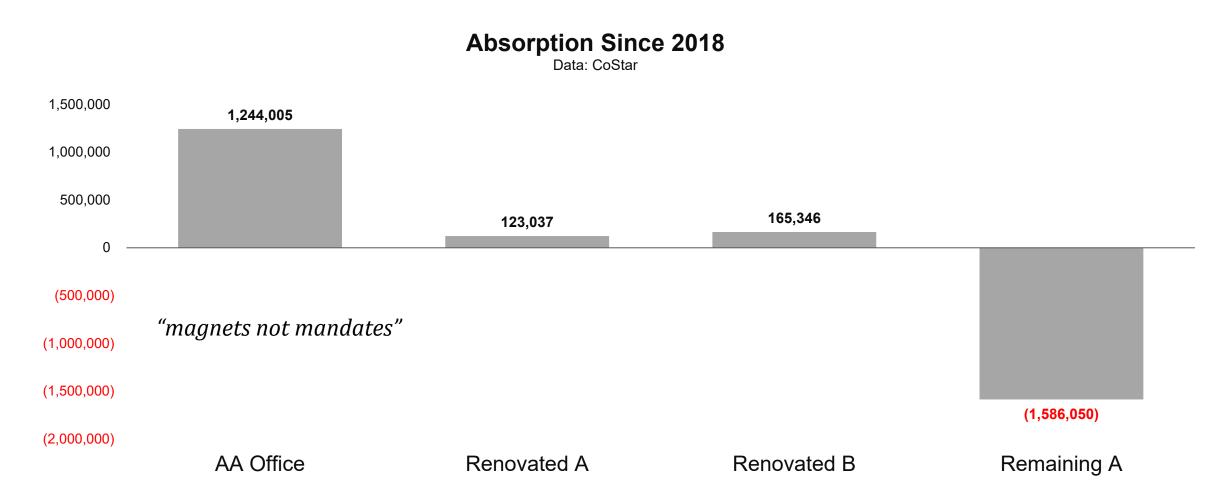
### FLIGHT TO QUALITY: REDUCED DEMAND FOR OLDER OFFERINGS

Downtown Office Occupied Space (Class A/AA, B and C): MTV (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver combined). Data: CBRE





# CALGARY OFFICE ABSORPTION SINCE 2018 ILLUSTRATES THE FLIGHT TO QUALITY THAT OCCURS WHEN NEW SUPPLY OPENS





### WHAT IS DIFFERENT VS THE SAME COMPARED TO PAST CYCLES

### Same:

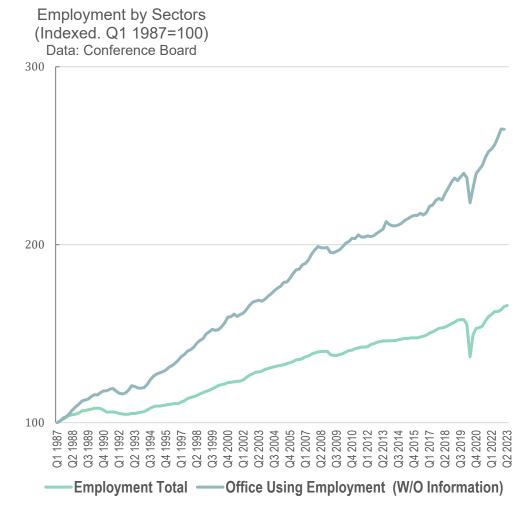
- New supply opened as uncertainty was rising
- Muted office demand growth reflecting broader economy uncertainty
- Even tenants with good balance sheets are slow to make decisions

### Different and beneficial:

- Office-oriented employment remains strong
- This downturn did not start with mass layoffs and job losses in an officeusing sector

### Different and challenging

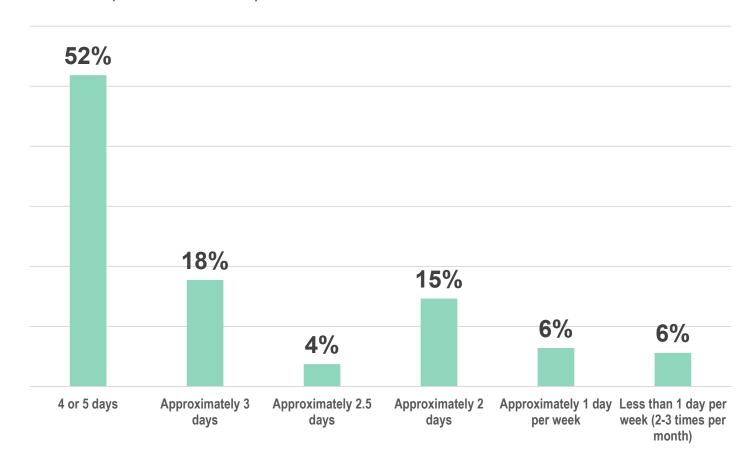
- Era of adapting to more compact, digital workplace technologies
- Growth in remote work combined with offshoring and some use of AI may result in some roles formerly done in office space permanently being gone from the office





### **MOMENTUM ON RETURN TO OFFICE**

Days per week in the office, July 2023
Data: GWLRA-Commissioned survey with Abacus Consulting. 1500 random, representative sample of Canadian office workers.



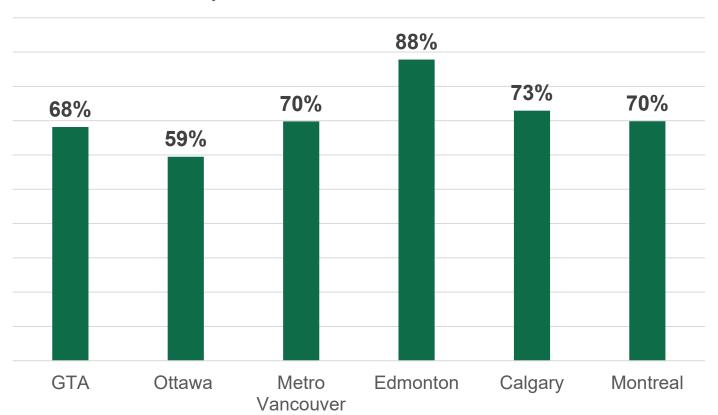
40%

Employees not in 4 or 5 days who expect their employer to increase days in the office starting Fall 2023

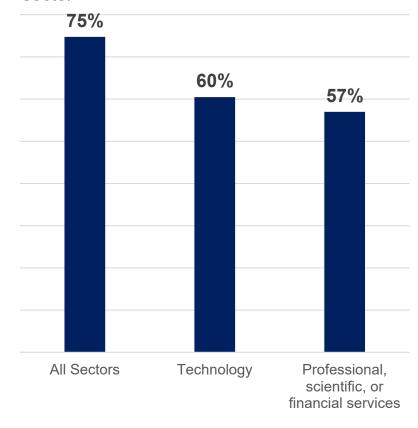


# MORE CANADIAN OFFICE WORKERS ARE BACK 3+ DAYS PER WEEK THAN IS COMMONLY REPORTED OR ASSUMED

Percentage of office workers working from the office 3+ days per week as of July 2023.



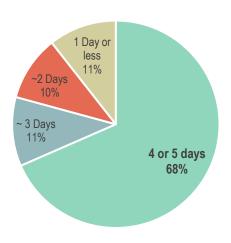
Office workers in 3+ days per week, by sector





# COMMUTES (AND COMMUTE INFRASTRUCTURE) MATTERS FOR RETURN TO THE OFFICE. GWLRA-ABACUS SURVEY OF 1500 CANADIAN OFFICE WORKERS. JULY 2023.

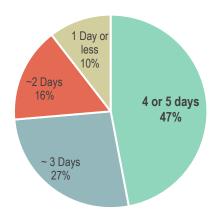




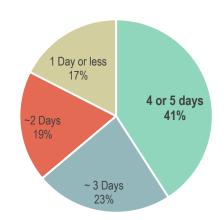
15-30 minutes



31-45 minutes



46-60 minutes



61 minutes or longer



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