

## US RETAIL RESEARCH POST COVID-19

MARTA VILLA, JLL FOR DOWNTOWN NEW JERSEY FORUM 4-16-21

## **Cyclical factors**

- Consumer spending has returned to pre- COVID levels but many retail categories have not recovered
- For full-service dining, entertainment and fitness, relief will not come until 100% capacity is allowed & patrons feel safe
- Urban retail will suffer more than suburban retail nodes until daytime office workers and tourists return.



# Retail sales are back to pre-COVID levels, but that spending is not being equally distributed



- Despite the steep decline in spending earlier in 2020, spending has eclipsed last year-levels.
- While spending is up, not all retail sectors are sharing those sales. Mass merchandisers are reporting some of the strongest sales in history, while apparel and casual dining brands struggle.

#### December 2020 sales as % of December 2019 sales



Source: JLL Research, US Census

# Value and home improvement and home décor among healthiest retailers



Mass merchandise	Grocery	Home improvement	Home décor & furnishings	Pharmacies & drugstores	Cosmetics & beauty	Consumer electronics
Positive —						

Dining	Fitness	Apparel & accessories	Entertainment & theaters	Department stores

	Nogotivo
	Negative

## Many retailers struggling with sales prior to the pandemic were unable to continue business during shutdowns



# of major retailer bankruptcies







Source: JLL Research, Creditntell, PNC





## Bankruptcies resulted in 100s of announced store closures





Select closures by retail sector

Source: JLL Research, Creditntell, PNC

### 12,200 Store Closures last year

bord-Taylor

-38



-51





### 2021 Anticipated 10,000 closures





60 of 300



-5

francesca's

-140



### Downtown/Urban vs. Suburban Shopping Environs

- Shopper comfort with more open areas has reduced demand for enclosed shopping centers and urban retail.
- Suburban shopping centers have seen the most foot traffic return since the height of stay-at-home orders but still have 38% less visitor traffic as of January 2021 compared to the same period last year.
- In urban centers, corridors located next to residential neighborhoods are faring slightly better: traffic is down 54% compared to corridors that attract more tourists or that are in office submarkets where traffic is down 63% since January 2020.
- Demand will eventually return for central business district retail, but flexible workfrom-home policies through 2021 will mean few daytime workers to spend at retailers that survive office density.





### Midtown NYC store closure







Source: JLL Strategic Consulting Group survey of Fortune 500 office users, WSJ

## Suburban and urban retail will recover at different paces





## Q4 2020 US retail market fundamentals







## Rent growth is stronger in the Sunbelt



### Macro look at overall growth



# COVID continues to push rents down and vacancy up; trends that will continue in 2021



- Vacancy continued to rise in Q4 as more retailers vacated space – up to 5% at the end of the year.
- As bankruptcies and portfolio adjustments continue, expect vacancy rates to rise.
- Rents are down 1.4% from 2019 and are expected to drop further in the first half of 2021.
- Deliveries have dropped to a new low since the last recession which has helped vacancy rates from rising sharply.

Source: JLL Research, CoStar

# Retail net absorption was negative 30 m.s.f. for the year but did improve in the fourth quarter





Source: JLL Research, CoStar

## Retail rent growth forecasted to rebound by 2022



### Landlords holding out



Source: JLL Research

## Vacancy forecasted to rise through 2021



### Not sure re-set has occurred



Source: JLL Research

#### Source: JLL Research, Real Capital Analytics (Transactions larger than \$5.0m)

## Retail investment declined 42.8% in 2020

## Lending available again, transactions happening

- Investor activity is focused on assets anchored by essential retailers like grocery stores and mass merchandisers.
- Private investors comprised nearly two-thirds of buyers and more than half of sellers in 2020.

### Historic retail transaction volume



## Transaction types 2021

*Big box re-tenanting, dividing, controlling massive amounts of SF* 

#### Trends in transactions

*Disposition of excess or underperforming real estate (banks, childcare, eateries, apparel locations)* 

*Downsizing of various stores – reducing SF footprint for better economics and store flow* 

*Restructuring – negotiating better rent structure or Tenant rights* 

Acquisition of locations for banks, medical, drive thru food, childcare



## The future of retail

- Retail will have...
  - less overall selling space
  - Fewer mic-priced retailers
  - Tech-driven convenient shopping
  - Impressive high-impact experiential retail hubs



## Key themes for the future of retail



Theme	Potential impact
A world of retailer have and have-nots	<ul> <li>Essential retailers including grocery stores, mass merchandisers, home improvement stores and quick-service-restaurants have seen significant sales increases during the pandemic and will continue to outperform other retail sectors.</li> <li>Retailers unable to operate at full capacity like dine-in restaurants, gyms and theaters will struggle to remain in business.</li> <li>Mid-priced retailers, specifically mid-priced apparel and department stores, will struggle to stay relevant as consumers emerge from the pandemic with tighter budgets looking for value.</li> </ul>
Less retail space	<ul> <li>Increased bankruptcies from COVID-19 will expedite closures and leave large vacancies across the country, particularly in B and C malls. Much of this space will not be re-tenanted and will either be demolished or repurposed for other uses.</li> </ul>
Growth of e-commerce	<ul> <li>E-commerce sales had been growing steadily over the past decade, but the pandemic will have accelerated that growth.</li> </ul>
Shoppers demand convenience and reliable omnichannel options	<ul> <li>Buy online, pick-up in store and curbside pick-up will be a requirement for many retailers as shoppers have become accustomed to convenience during the pandemic.</li> <li>Real estate with drive-thru capabilities will be in demand from quick-service restaurants.</li> <li>Retailers will incorporate more technology into the shopping experience for customers and will utilize new software for back-of-house operations to improve efficiencies.</li> </ul>
Entertainment & restaurants will make a comeback	<ul> <li>Prior to the pandemic, entertainment was one of the top uses for retail space as consumers prioritized experience over material goods, especially younger generations.</li> <li>When people feel comfortable socializing again, demand for entertainment and dining out will return. More than ever, people will value time spent with family and friends and will seek out these experiences.</li> </ul>

## **Retail bifurcation: the loss of mid-priced retailers**



- Recently, both value retailers and luxury retailers have performed well. Value provides sought-after deep discounts to consumers on a budget, while luxury offers differentiated in-store experiences that draw high-income shoppers.
- Middle-of-the-road retailers, on the other hand, who do not have a clear differentiation strategy are struggling.
- Prior to the pandemic, mid-priced retailers had only seen 2% growth over a five-year period, compared to luxury's 81% and value's 35% (Deloitte, 2018).
- Malls are especially overexposed to midpriced retailers. Apparel and accessories stores account for 57% of total mall space.

#### Bankrupt mall-based retailers closed thousands of stores in 2020



## A reduction in retail space



- In the U.S., 46% of GLA is devoted to department stores, compared to 27% in the U.K. (the region with the next largest percent).
- As of mid-2020, four department stores have announced Chapter 11 bankruptcy. While the future of the brands isn't certain, there will certainly be a reduction in the number of stores.
- Closures will be focused in B and C malls with underperforming locations.
- Many of these closures will be re-tenanted with other uses like education and medical. Underperforming malls that lose 3 or more anchors will likely not rebound and will be converted into another use completely.
- Leases will also adjust for this new normal: lengths will shorten, and specific clauses will be included that adjust rent collection based on sales in fear of future shut-downs. Rent structures will move away from percentage sales as the physical store and online platforms merge.



Image source: dcist

# COVID-19 will accelerate the growth of e-commerce for all retailers (especially grocery)



- E-commerce sales accounted for 16.1% in Q2 2020, a 31.9% quarter-over-quarter jump as lockdowns were put in place across the country.
- Online sales remain elevated over 2019 levels but have since fallen since the height of stayat-home orders.
- Prior to the pandemic, the grocery sector had been relatively untouched by e-commerce.
- Expect a rise in micro-fulfillment centers as grocers look to capitalize on their existing footprints and create a more efficient process of fulfilling orders.
- E-commerce grocery sales will slow again but will not return to pre-COVID levels.



e-commerce sales won't return to pre-pandemic levels but continue to fall

Source: JLL Research, US Census

### Creating reliable, convenient options: speedy delivery, instore pick up & drive-thru's

- The pandemic has made shoppers more people comfortable with alternative shopping options.
- As of December 2019, 6.9% of retailers offered curbside pickup. Fast forward to August 2020, 43.6% of retailers offer curbside pickup (eMarketer).
- Target's curbside pickup service grew more than 700% last quarter and acquired 10 million new digital customers in 2020.
- Mall owners developed centralized pick-up stations for customers who want to buy from multiple stores for pick-up.
- Retailers have already been thinking of how to aid in last mile urban logistics with existing real estate to expedite shipping times.
- Retailers are looking to dark stores to streamline delivery services and better serve online orders.



Shake Shack is adding its first drive-thru next year. Image source: NRN.com

Fulfillment and Return Methods Use More of After the Coronavir July 2020		
% of respondents		
Collect digital orders from curbside/outside a sto	ore	68.2%
Collect digital orders from inside a store		59.6%
Return an item bought digitally to a store	49.7%	
Source: GlobalData, "Multichannel Retail and COVID-19," 3	Sep 15, 2020	
261655	eMarketer   Insider	rintelligence.co

Source: eMarketer, Future of Retail 2020

## Retailers focusing on "last mile" home delivery and fulfillment









## Entertainment & dining out will make a comeback



- Prior to the pandemic, entertainment concepts were seen as new anchors for shopping centers.
- Almost 30% of consumers said that it was important for their shopping centers to have family-friendly entertainment (JLL Research, 2019)
- People miss dining out... a lot!
  - 57% miss their favorite neighborhood restaurant\*
  - 33% miss their favorite fine dining restaurant\*
  - 41% miss socializing with friends or family\*\*
  - 26% miss food they can't or haven't made at home \*\*
  - 19% miss the ambiance or atmosphere \*\*
  - 17% miss being served or waited on \*\*
  - 12% miss getting out of the house \*\*



### Expanding retailers, concepts and categories



Grocery – LIDL, Sprouts, Amazon, Whole Foods, ShopRite, Trader Joe's

Quick serve and fast casual drive thru concepts – Chipotle, Panera, Dunkin, McD's, Jersey Mike's, Bubbakoos, Raising Cain's, Slim Chicken

Home improvement, furnishing, mattress – Mattress Warehouse etc., Home Depot select markets, At Home, Floor & Décor – need to cannibalize existing stores

Medical – Urgent Care, Lab Corp, Quest, Testing centers, Primary Care, Vet centers, Physical Therapy - ALL

Cannibas – new, controversial, tenants circling

Self storage -continuous

Discount – seeking even better rent deals (Marshall's, TJXX, Burlington)

Dollar Stores growing (last year DG added nearly 1500 stores)

Not yet - kids entertainment, fitness, large entertainment, full-service dining, most apparel



### DOWNTOWN

Change zoning to be OPEN FOR BUSINESS, create Covid-19 Overlay Zoning recommendation

Encourage Board flexibility when hearing applications on shortfall, parking or use

Work w LL on deal structure including pricing to make a deal and get tenants in

Consider using SID money for fit up (venting, white boxing on a match basis)

One stop – organize building department intro's, line up professionals for new business owners perhaps even on retainer from SID, set in take Zoom calls



James Cook Americas Director of Research, Retail +1 317 810 7191 JamesD.Cook@am.jll.com

**Taylor Coyne** Senior Research Manager, Retail +1 213 239 6146 Taylor.Coyne@am.jll.com

Keisha Virtue Senior Research Analyst, Retail +1 954 449 3182 Keisha.Virtue@am.jll.com Marta Villa Senior Vice President, Retail +1 973-715-8385 Marta.Villa@am.jll.com

© 2021 Jones Lang LaSalle IP, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained in this document is proprietary to Jones Lang LaSalle and shall be used solely for the purposes of evaluating this proposal. All such documentation and information remains the property of Jones Lang LaSalle and shall be kept confidential. Reproduction of any part of this document is authorized only to the extent necessary for its evaluation. It is not to be shown to any third party without the prior written authorization of Jones Lang LaSalle. All information contained herein is from sources deemed reliable; however, no representation or warranty is made as to the accuracy thereof.