

## RESEARCH

# At a Glance **Q4 2021** LOGISTICS MARKET GERMANY

#### Light industrial and logistics take-up



#### (m²) (%) (m<sup>2</sup>) Important logistics markets Berlin 432.000 609.000 41,0% Cologne 216.000 334 000 54,6% 145.000 303.000 Düsseldorf 109.0% Frankfurt 421.000 875.000 107.8% 488.000 641.000 31,4% Hamburg Leipzig 337.000 505 000 49,9% Munich 238 000 347 000 45.8% Stuttgart 139.000 248.000 78,4% Subtotal 2.416.000 3.862.000 59.9% Other locations\* 669 000 683 000 Ruhr region 2 1% Other logistics regions 1 617 000 1.323.000 22.2% (see map) 2.424.000 2.998.000 23,7% Rest of Germany

4.416.000

6.832.000

5.298.000

9.160.000

20,0%

34,1%

### Light industrial and logistics take-up by region

\* Deals ≥5,000 m²

Total Germany

Subtotal

#### RECORD TAKE-UP IN PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN DIMENSIONS

The fact that the logistics markets have developed very strongly despite the Corona pandemic and tend to be among the winners has not been a secret for some time. However, with the record take-up of 9.1 million m<sup>2</sup> (incl. owner-occupiers) achieved in 2021, they are advancing into a new, previously unknown dimension. This exceeds the previous year's result by 34 % and the tenyear average by a impressive 42 %. However, the exceptional nature of the result is particularly evident in the fact that even the previous record from 2018 was topped by a further 24 %. To achieve such a result, many things have to come together to create demand. These include the continuing boom in e-commerce, as well as the reorganisation of supply chains due to bottlenecks with primary products or restructuring processes in the industrial sector, such as e-mobility. A significant expansion of new construction activities has also helped, which has eased the supply bottleneck somewhat, even if there is still too little space available in most regions.

### INCREASE IN TAKE-UP IN ALL IMPORTANT MARKETS

The fact that all the major logistics hubs were able to increase their take-up shows how broadly positioned the increase in demand is. The take-up of 3.86 million m<sup>2</sup> corresponds to an increase of 60 %. This also represents a new all-time high; never before has the 3 million m<sup>2</sup> mark been surpassed. In total, four markets (Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne, Leipzig) set new records. Frankfurt has taken the lead, more than doubling the previous year's figure (875,000 m<sup>2</sup>; +108 %). The other places are taken by Hamburg (641,000 m<sup>2</sup>; +31 %), Berlin (609,000 m<sup>2</sup>; +41 %) and Leipzig (505,000 m<sup>2</sup>; +50 %). Düsseldorf (303,000 m<sup>2</sup>; +109 %) shows the strongest increase. But take-up also increased noticeably in Stuttgart (248,000 m<sup>2</sup>; +55 %).

#### REMARKABLE TAKE-UP ALSO IN OTHER REGIONS

Very high take-up can also be observed outside the major logistics hubs. In total, just under 5.3 million m<sup>2</sup> of take-up was generated here, which corresponds to a plus of 20 % and, as expected, represents a new record. The 2 % increase in take-up in the Ruhr region seems relatively modest. This is due to the excellent result of the previous year. Nevertheless, the second-best result of all time was achieved. The 12 logistics regions that BNPPRE regularly analyses in addition to the conurbations also increased their take-up by a good 22 % to over 1.6 million m<sup>2</sup>.

#### Key figures logistics market Germany

	2020	2021	Trend 2022
Take-up	6.832.000 m²	9.160.000 m²	→
- Share of owner-occupiers	36,0%	25,9%	7
- Share of new buildings	67,7%	64,9%	<b>→</b>

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#### Take-up by sector

in %



#### Top rents in important logistics markets



#### Major contracts

Quarter	Company	Location	Area (m²)
Q4	E-Commerce Company	Großenkneten	189.000
Q3	Edeka	Marktredwitz	100.000
Q4	Zalando	Gießen	100.000
Q1	BLG Logistik	Bremen	95.000
Q3	Rhenus	Wesel	100.000 95.000 81.000 80.000
Q2	Edeka	Neumünster	80.000

#### SLIGHTLY HIGHER SUPPLY ABSORBED VERY QUICKLY

The supply situation remains tight in many logistics regions. Although the supply was expanded somewhat in the short term due to the stronger new construction activity in the course of the year, the high demand has not changed the basic supply-and-demand relationship. However, at least enough new product was created so that the share of new construction in the overall result is at the long-term level of just under 65 %, and this despite a significant increase in take-up. The situation is different for owner -occupiers. At around 26 %, their share is the lowest in the last ten years. Rising construction costs and land prices combined with a very low supply of land in commercial areas often make it difficult for them to implement their plans. At the same time, brownfield sites, which are tending to increase, are often both too expensive and too complex to prepare for owner-occupiers.

#### LOGISTICS FIRMS AND RETAIL SECTOR VERY STRONG

It is pleasing that all important industry groups contributed extensively to the excellent result. The largest contribution to takeup, 39 %, was made by logistics firms, who set a new record in absolute terms with 3.5 million m<sup>2</sup> and exceeded the 3 million m<sup>2</sup> threshold for the first time. The situation is comparable for the wholesale/retail sector, who finish second, narrowly beaten (36 %). With 3.3 million m<sup>2</sup>, they also absorb more space than ever before within a year and also break the 3 million m<sup>2</sup> mark for the first time. The leading trio is completed by manufacturing companies, which account for almost 20 % and thus remain below their ten-year average in relative terms. Nevertheless, just under 1.8 million m<sup>2</sup> is a very good result.

#### RENTS UP ACROSS THE BOARD

The strong demand combined with the increased construction costs has caused rents to rise noticeably year-on-year in almost all markets. On average, the top rent of the major logistics markets increased by a good 3 %. The strongest increases were recorded in Munich (7.50  $\notin$ /m<sup>2</sup>; +7 %) as well as Berlin (7.50  $\notin$ /m<sup>2</sup>) and Hamburg (6.55  $\notin$ /m<sup>2</sup>), where they each rose by around 4 %. The increase in average rents was even higher, averaging just under 4 %. Here, Cologne with around 8 % and Leipzig and Berlin with over 5 % each show the most dynamic development.

### OUTLOOK

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Very high demand and well above-average take-up are also expected for 2022. This is supported on the one hand by the industry trends outlined above, which will continue for some time and provide additional demand impulses, and on the other hand by the economic recovery, which is very likely to accelerate in the course of the year. The limiting factor will remain the supply, which could only compensate for the growth in demand, at least partially or in the short term, if more brownfield developments are included. Against this backdrop, from today's perspective everything speaks for a further increase in rental prices.





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