

Slowing of global growth



First and foremost, the health of all is the primary concern. Navigating through the COVID-19 issue will leave a deep scar. We are far from out of the woods, and there will be many twists and turns that will be unexpected; hopefully some of these might even be positive or helpful in nature.

Looking at what lies before us – including a recession, response and recovery – there is light at the end of the tunnel. Policy responses across the globe have been aggressive. These policy responses are aimed at providing a broad safety net to help businesses and workers, to maintain liquidity in markets and to launch quantitative easing – stimulus to set a stable ground for a vigorous and healthy recovery from the current shock.

Chief U.S. Economist Ellen Zentner has said that a contraction of the U.S. economy by 3.0%, rather than the previous 0.6% growth forecast for full-year 2020, is now more a more likely scenario. The predicted contraction would drop global economic growth to an estimated 0.3% for 2020 from the 3.4% forecast before the outbreak. This would be very close to the low experienced during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis (GFC), when the global economy contracted by 0.5%. Many forecasts anticipate that the bulk of the economic pain will be concentrated in the first half of 2020.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the post-GFC economy had been facing a triple challenge of demographics, debt and disinflation – which were last faced in the 1930s. The good news is that, unlike in 1929 – 1933, we are already seeing an aggressive policy response. With the GFC experience still fresh in the rear-view mirror, worldwide policy makers have mounted a vigorous defense.

For more on the virus' potential #CRE impacts, read the latest briefings on the [Avison Young Resource Centre](#).

Fiscal Snapshot

Bank of Canada

	Bank Rate	Bank Prime Lending Rate
March 2020	0.50	2.45
February 2020	2.00	3.95
March 2019	2.00	3.95

Government of Canada Benchmark Bond Yields

	5-Year	10-Year	Long
March 2020	0.60	0.71	1.32
February 2020	1.07	1.12	1.30
March 2019	1.32	1.62	1.90

Indicative Commercial Mortgage Spreads* Over Government of Canada Bond Yields

	Conventional	5-Year	10-Year
March 2020		2.00 - 3.00	2.25 - 3.50
March 2019		1.70 - 2.10	1.80 - 2.35
	Insured	5-Year	10-Year
March 2020		1.00 - 1.20	1.00 - 1.20
March 2019		0.90 - 1.10	0.90 - 1.10

*Spreads are indicative of high quality real estate in major Canadian markets.

Source(s): Bank of Canada

Highlighted Transaction

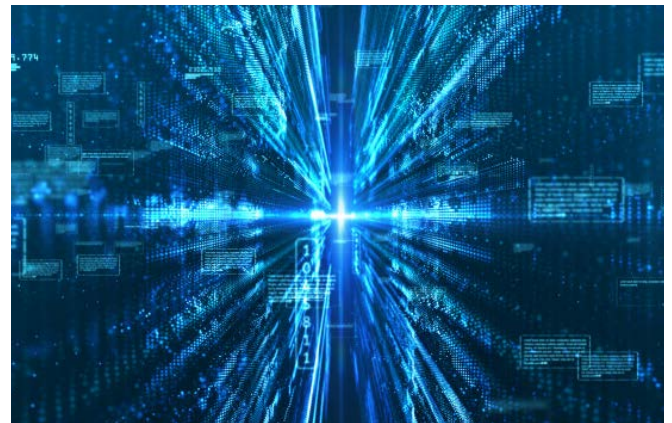
Asset Type	Multi tenanted industrial complex
Location	Major Canadian city
Facility Details	A \$16,500,000 senior loan was arranged for refinancing purposes. The structure included a term of 5 years, amortized for 25 years at a competitive rate of interest and on a non-recourse basis.

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Please contact our Debt Capital Markets team for more details related to debt financings or real estate transactions.



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