

**Multifamily Apartment Markets  
in the West:  
Metro Area Apartment Cycles  
and Their Trends**

Presented by

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# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Outline

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This study:

- Introduction
- Macro and Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles
- Apartment Market Assumptions
- Apartment Market Characteristics
- Total Historical Return Comparisons
- Market Risk Comparisons
- Vacancy Rate Comparisons
- Effective Rent Comparisons
- Cycle Comparisons
- Conclusions

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Introduction

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Over the past 19 years, Western region apartment markets have gone through many different types of cycles.

### Severe Conditions of Over and Undersupply:

- Albuquerque
- Las Vegas
- Phoenix
- Tucson

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Introduction

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### States of Balance for Long Periods:

- Los Angeles
- Bay Area
- Seattle
- San Diego

### Modest Conditions of Over/Under Supply:

- Denver
- Salt Lake City
- Sacramento

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Introduction

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This analysis looks at historical apartment market cycles and current and future market conditions in the West, focusing on the top 14 metro areas in regards to population.

Albuquerque

Riverside

Denver

Sacramento

Las Vegas

Salt Lake City

Los Angeles

San Diego

Orange County

Seattle

Phoenix

San Francisco Bay Area

Portland

Tucson

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Macro Sources of Apartment Cycles

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- Excessive Land Speculation
- Overbuilding
- Hyper-Inflation
- Depressions
- Recessions
- Banking Crises
- Wars
- Etc.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles

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Fundamental sources of apartment market cycles:

- Employment Demand Shocks
- Employment Supply Shocks

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles

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- Employment Demand Shocks: Bay Area, Orange Co., LA, and San Diego
  - High Job Growth
  - High In-Migration
  - High Housing Demand
  - High/Positive Net Absorption
  - Dropping Vacancy Rates
  - Rising Effective Rent Growth
  - Sales Prices Above Replacement
  - New Construction

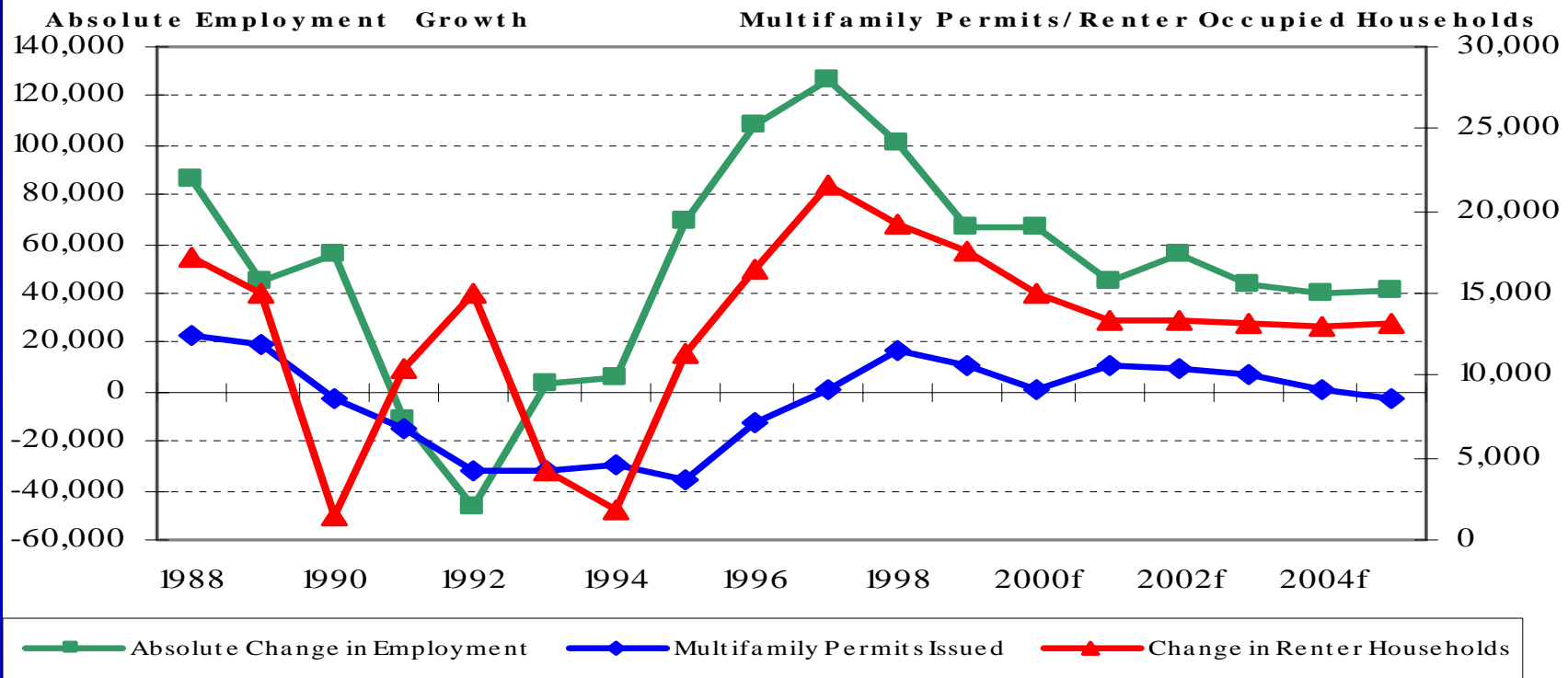


# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles

- Employment Demand Shocks

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MULTIFAMILY PERMITS ISSUED AND ABSOLUTE GROWTH IN RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS AND EMPLOYMENT 1988 - 2005**



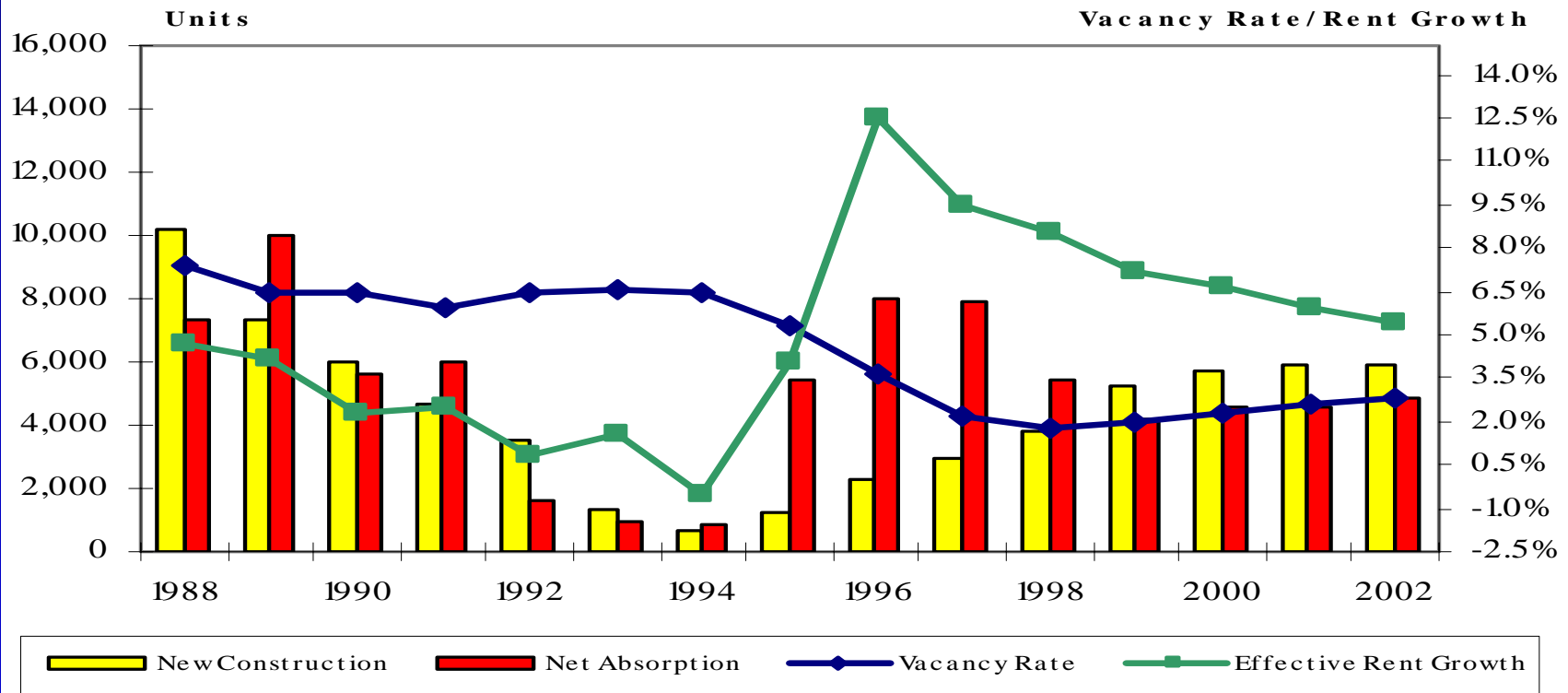
Source: Regional Financial Associates and BRE Properties Research Department.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles

- Employment Demand Shocks

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA NEW CONSTRUCTION, NET ABSORPTION, VACANCY RATES AND RENT GROWTH 1988 - 2002**



Source: RealData, RealFacts, REIS Reports, MP/F Research, and BRE Properties Research.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles

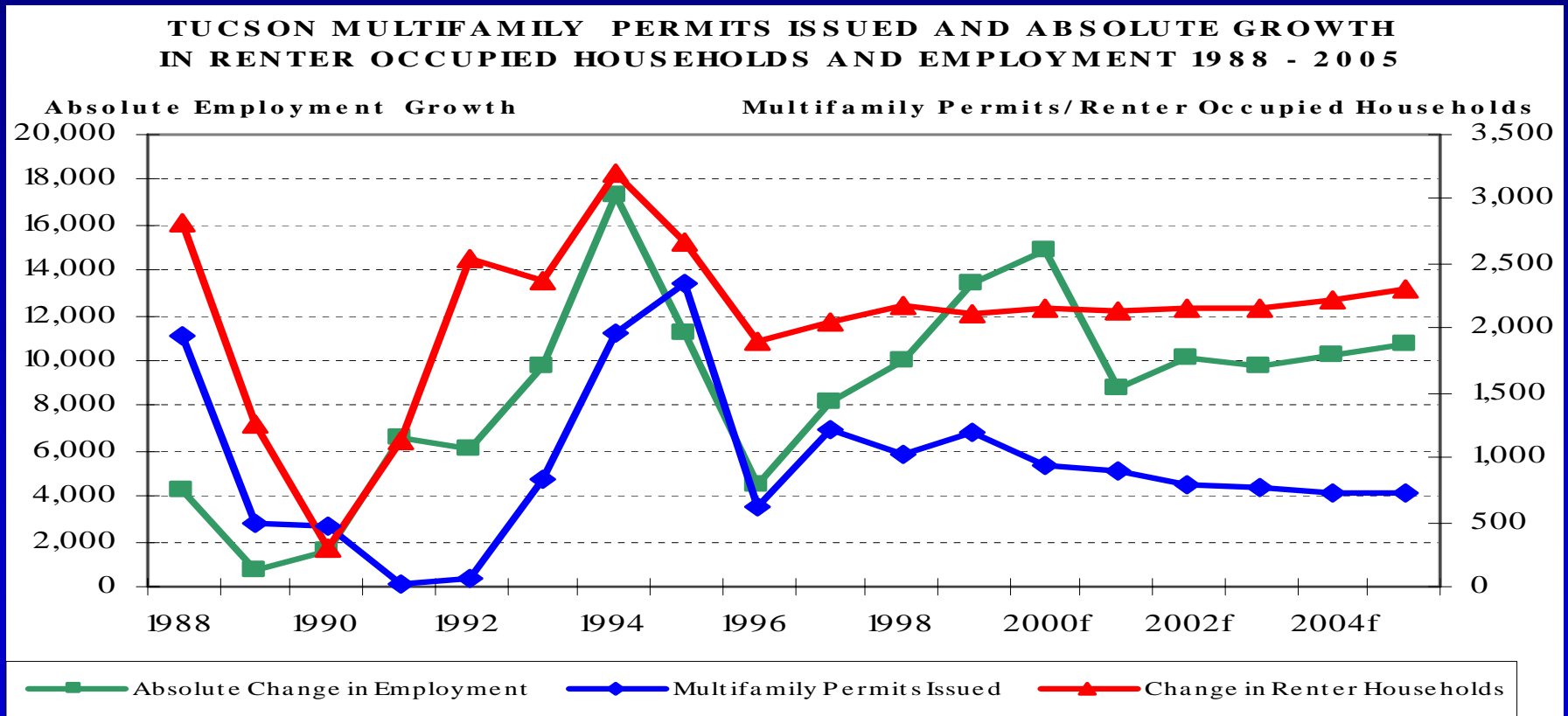
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- Employment Supply Shocks: Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Tucson
  - Low Job Growth
  - Low In-Migration
  - Low Housing Demand
  - Low/Negative Net Absorption
  - Rising Vacancy Rates
  - Falling Effective Rent Growth
  - Sales Prices Below Replacement
  - No New Construction

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles

- Employment Supply Shocks

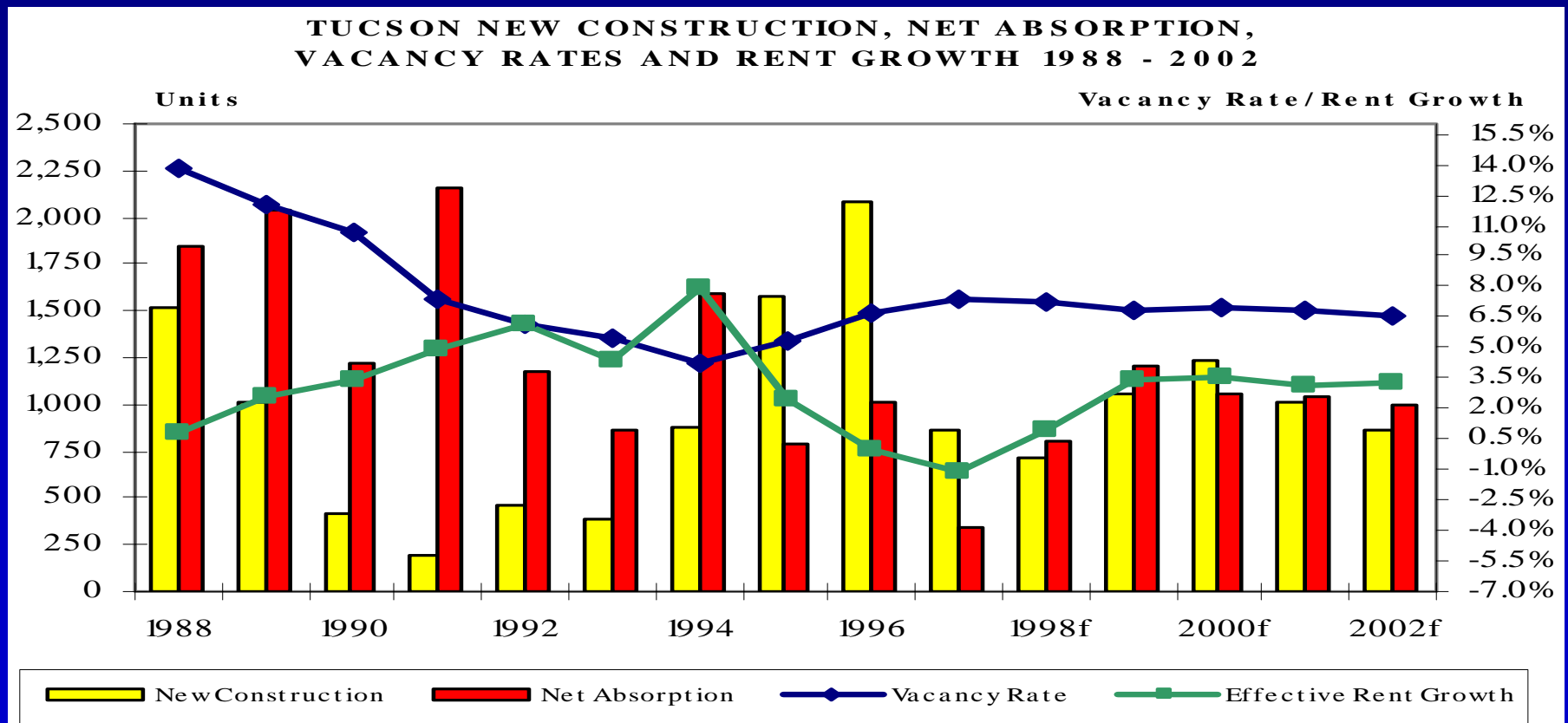


Source: Regional Financial Associates and BRE Properties Research Department.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Micro Sources of Apartment Cycles

- Employment Supply Shocks



Source: Grubb & Ellis, Metro Tucson Land Study, REIS Reports, MP/F Research, and BRE.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Apartment Cycle Assumptions

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- Markets are self correcting
- Capital flows and construction continue (contract) to the point where sales prices drop (rise) below (above) cost of construction.
- Apartment markets run risk of oversupply in short run, but in long run reach equilibrium.
- Markets remain in balance until next employment shock.
- On average, markets are in balance at a 5% stabilized vacancy rate.
- In equilibrium, effective rents grow at local inflation rate.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Apartment Market Characteristics

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Metro areas in the West can be put into two groupings:

- Supply-Constrained
- Supply-Unconstrained

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Apartment Market Characteristics

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### Supply-Constrained:

- Urban
- High barriers to development
- Lack of developable Land
- Complex/Difficult Entitlement Processes
- Strict Environmental Regulations



# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Apartment Market Characteristics

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### Supply-Unconstrained:

- Suburban
- Low barriers to development
- Abundance of developable Land
- Easy Entitlement Processes
- Lack of Environmental Regulations

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Apartment Market Characteristics

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### Supply Constrained

Los Angeles

Orange Co.

San Francisco Bay Area

Seattle

San Diego

Portland

Salt Lake City

### Supply Unconstrained

Albuquerque

Las Vegas

Phoenix

Tucson

Riverside

Sacramento

Denver

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Apartment Market Characteristics

Market	Zining/ Council Approval	Building Permit	Months																															
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Seattle	20 to 24	6 to 10	[Red bar from month 1 to 24]																								[Blue bar from month 25 to 32]							
San Diego	24	4 to 6	[Red bar from month 1 to 24]																								[Blue bar from month 25 to 29]							
San Francisco	12 to 18	4 to 6	[Red bar from month 1 to 18]																		[Blue bar from month 19 to 32]													
Los Angeles	18	4 to 6	[Red bar from month 1 to 18]																		[Blue bar from month 19 to 32]													
Portland	12 to 18	4 to 6	[Red bar from month 1 to 15]															[Blue bar from month 16 to 32]																
Salt Lake City	8 to 14	3 to 4	[Red bar from month 1 to 12]												[Blue bar from month 13 to 32]																			
Denver	10	3 to 4	[Red bar from month 1 to 10]										[Blue bar from month 11 to 32]																					
Phoenix	3 to 4	4 to 5	[Red bar from month 1 to 4]				[Blue bar from month 5 to 32]																											

Notes: These are for sites requiring zoning changes.

Sources: BRE Properties Development and Research Departments, 1999.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Total Historical Return Comparison

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**Supply-constrained markets** are less likely to become oversupplied in the short-term, are less volatile, and provide higher real rates of return over the long run.

**Supply-unconstrained markets** are more likely to become oversupplied in the short-term, are more volatile, and provide high nominal returns in the short run, but lower real rates of return in the long run.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Total Historical Return Comparison

<b>Long-Run Total Apartment Returns</b>			
<b>Metro</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Average Return *</b>	<b>Market Type</b>
<b>San Francisco Bay</b>	<b>1</b>	14.7%	Constrained
<b>Salt Lake City</b>	<b>2</b>	14.4%	Constrained
<b>Denver</b>	<b>3</b>	13.7%	Un-Constrained
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>4</b>	13.1%	Constrained
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>5</b>	12.9%	Constrained
<b>Pheonix</b>	<b>6</b>	12.7%	Un-Constrained
<b>Tucson</b>	<b>7</b>	12.7%	Un-Constrained
<b>San Diego</b>	<b>8</b>	12.4%	Constrained
<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>9</b>	12.0%	Un-Constrained
<b>Orange County</b>	<b>10</b>	11.5%	Constrained
<b>Riverside</b>	<b>11</b>	10.9%	Un-Constrained
<b>Portland</b>	<b>12</b>	10.8%	Constrained
<b>Albuquerque</b>	<b>13</b>	9.0%	Un-Constrained
<b>Las Vegas</b>	<b>14</b>	8.0%	Un-Constrained

Source: Real rates of return were calculated by BRE Properties Research Department using data provided by the National Real Estate Index.

\*Average annualized returns were calculated on a quarterly basis for years 1986-1998, except (Albuquerque 1996-1998), (Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, San Francisco 1990-1998), (Portland 1989-1998).

Note: Total real rates return were calculated using the year over year change in price per square foot plus the annualized income returns represented by the current cap rate, minus an average inflation rate of 3.0% per year.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Risk Comparisons

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**Supply-constrained markets** tend to be less volatile or less risky than unconstrained markets in the long run.

**Supply-unconstrained markets** tend to experience more volatility in vacancy rates and are more likely to experience extreme over and under supply conditions.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Risk Comparisons

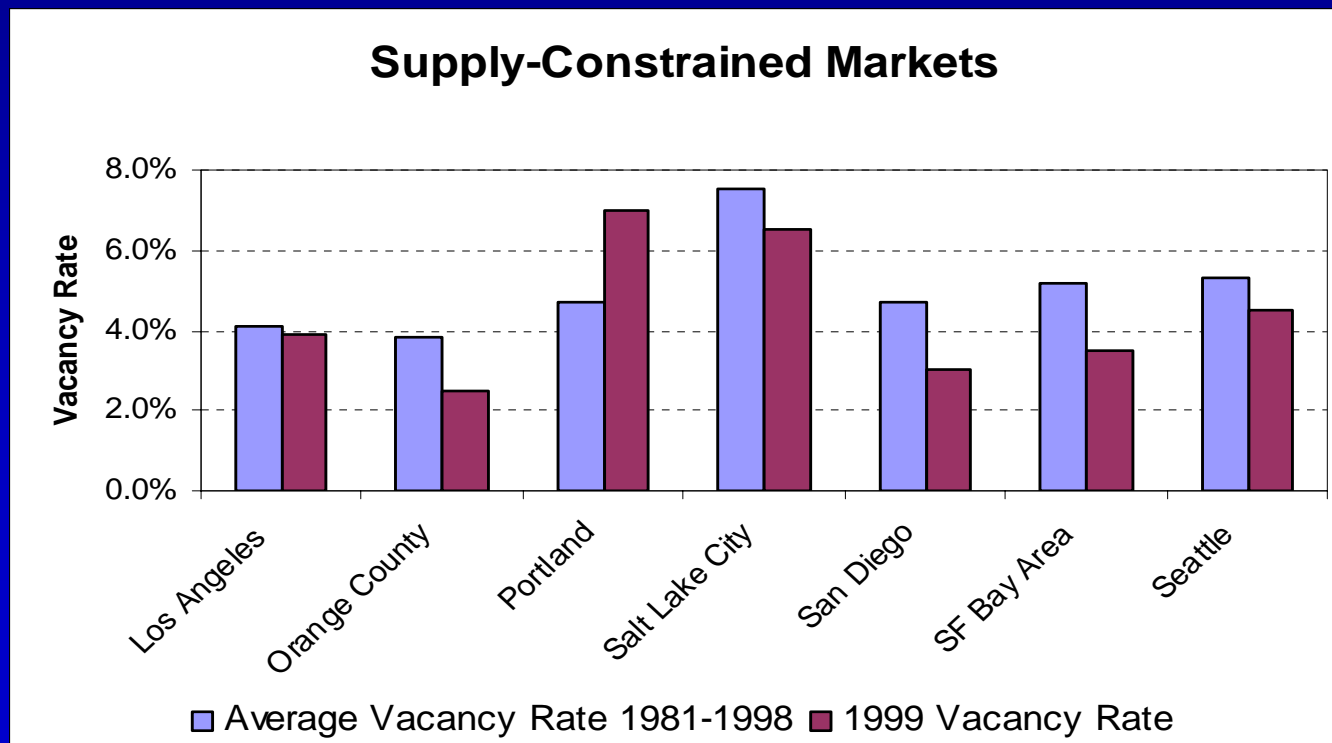
<b>MAGNITUDE OF APARTMENT CYCLES IN THE WEST</b>			
<b>MEASURED BY VACANCY RATES SPREADS</b>			
	<b>1981 - 1998</b>	<b>1981 - 1998</b>	<b>1981 - 1998</b>
<b>Metro Area</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>High-Low Spread</b>
<b>Supply Constrained Markets</b>			
Orange County	5.5%	2.0%	<b>3.5%</b>
Seattle	7.0%	3.0%	<b>4.0%</b>
Los Angeles	6.5%	2.0%	<b>4.5%</b>
San Francisco Bay Area	7.0%	2.5%	<b>4.5%</b>
San Diego	7.5%	2.0%	<b>5.5%</b>
Portland	8.5%	2.0%	<b>6.5%</b>
Salt Lake City	16.0%	3.0%	<b>13.0%</b>
<b>Average for Supply-Constrained</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
<b>Supply-Unconstrained Markets</b>			
Denver	13.9%	2.8%	<b>11.1%</b>
Tucson	15.0%	4.0%	<b>11.0%</b>
Phoenix	15.7%	5.5%	<b>10.2%</b>
Albuquerque	11.7%	3.2%	<b>8.5%</b>
Las Vegas	8.5%	2.7%	<b>5.8%</b>
Riverside	10.0%	5.5%	<b>4.5%</b>
Sacramento	7.0%	2.5%	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Average for Supply-Unconstrained</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
Sources: MP/F Research, RealFacts, RealSource, REIS Reports, Marcus & Millichap, Clayton-Fillmore, ULI, and BRE Properties Research Department.			

**Cycle Risk** is measured by the spread between the metro area's highest and lowest vacancy rate over time.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Vacancy Rate Comparisons

Most **Supply-constrained markets** currently have significantly lower vacancy rates than their long-term average, indicating above inflation rent growth.

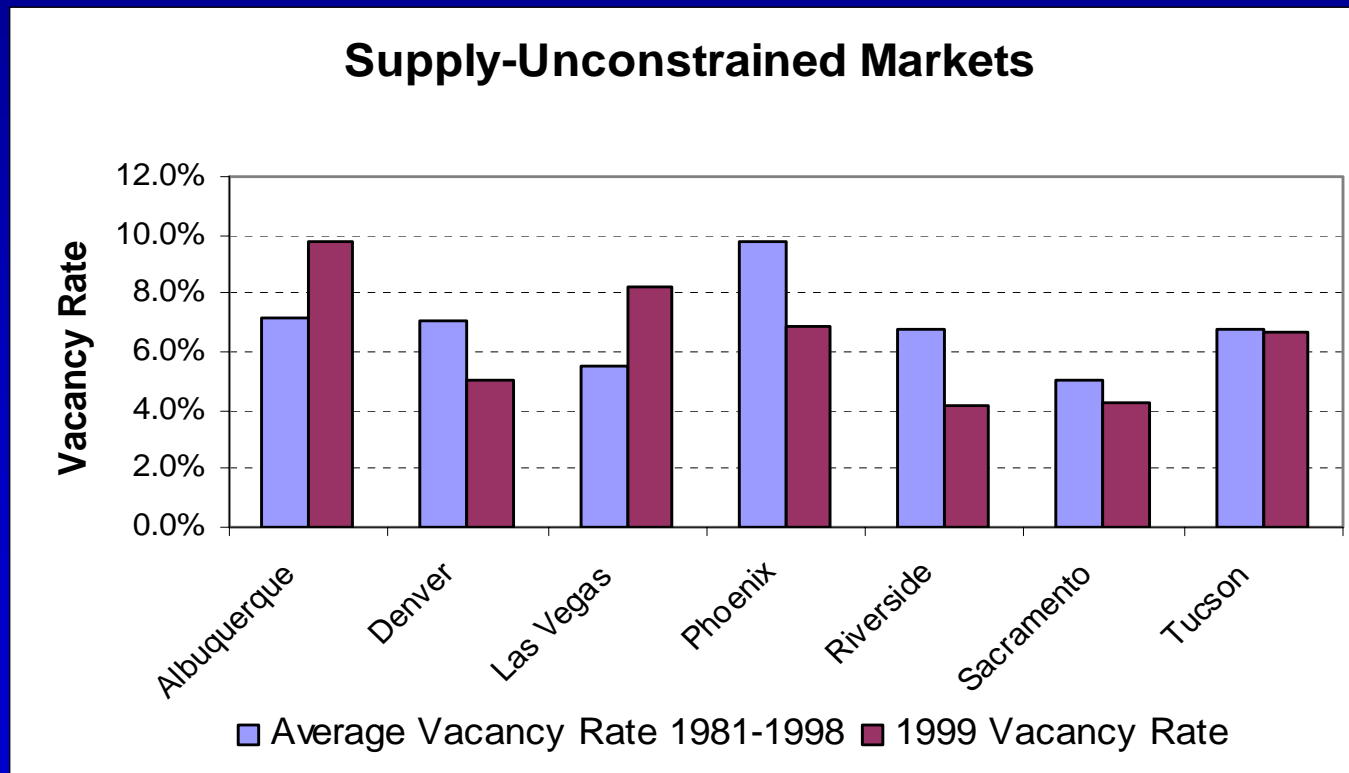




# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Vacancy Rate Comparisons

Most **Supply-unconstrained markets** currently have lower vacancy rates than their long-term average, indicating above inflation rent growth in the short run.



# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Effective Rent Comparisons

**Supply-constrained markets** are projected to have higher effective rent growth and lower vacancy rates than unconstrained markets over the next three years.

Effective Rent Growth Rankings					
Rank	Metro	Effective Rent Growth		Average Vacancy Rate	
		1999-2001		1999-2001	Market Type*
1	Los Angeles	6.0%		3.6%	SC
2	Orange County	5.7%		2.8%	SC
3	San Diego	5.2%		3.4%	SC
4	San Francisco Bay	4.3%		4.3%	SC
5	Denver	4.2%		5.2%	SU
6	Sacramento	4.0%		4.8%	SU
7	Riverside	3.8%		4.3%	SU
8	Seattle	3.8%		5.5%	SC
9	Tucson	2.7%		6.6%	SU
10	Salt Lake City	2.5%		6.0%	SC
11	Phoenix	2.3%		7.0%	SU
12	Portland	-0.5%		6.5%	SC
13	Las Vegas	-0.8%		7.4%	SU
14	Albuquerque	-2.2%		9.3%	SU

\* Market Types: SC - Supply Constrained Markets, SU - Supply-Unconstrained Markets.

Source: MP/F Research, RealFacts, RealSource, REIS Reports, Marcus & Millichap, Clayton-Fillmore, ULI, and BRE Properties Research Department.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Cycle Comparisons

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**Apartment vacancy rate cycles** are measured by their peaks (high vacancy rates) and troughs (low vacancy rates) over time.

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Cycle Comparisons

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	<u>Supply Constrained</u>	<u>Supply Unconstrained</u>
Peak-to-Peak	12 years	11 years
Trough-to-Trough	13 years	11 years
Peak-to-Trough	7 years	4 years
Trough-to-Peak	7 years	7 years

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Cycle Comparisons

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	<u>Los Angeles</u>	<u>Las Vegas</u>
Peak-to-Peak	(1993-2008) 15 years	(1991-1999) 8 years
Trough-to-Trough	(2000-2017) 17 years	(1994-2003) 9 years
Peak-to-Trough	(1993-2000) 7 years	(1999-2003) 4 years
Trough-to-Peak	(2000-2008) 8 years	(1994-1999) 5 years

# Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

## Cycle Comparisons

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### **Supply-constrained markets:**

- Experience longer periods of time between cycles, limiting the risk of becoming oversupplied, thus adding to their stability.
- Takes longer to go from a high vacancy rate phase to a low vacancy rate phase of the cycle, thus mitigating boom-bust periods and volatility in effective rent growth.

## Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

# CONCLUSION

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- In 1970 and 1980s, Western markets went through cycles together, in 1990s and 2000s, will go through cycles independently with less risk of overbuilding.
- Supply-constrained markets tend to be more stable over the long run and experience longer and shallower cycles.
- Supply-constrained markets to outperform unconstrained markets, most supply-unconstrained markets to see above inflation rent growth.
- Vacancy rate spreads narrowed in majority of unconstrained markets due to higher levels of bank regulation (CAMEL) and larger role of public markets (REITs/CMBS) in allocating development capital.

## Metro Area Apartment Cycles and their Trends

# CONCLUSION

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- Building a Western focused portfolio of constrained and unconstrained markets provide geographical and economic diversification, and high total returns over the long run with out having to go national.
- As apartment sector moves from private to public ownership, as capital markets play a larger role in allocating development capital, unconstrained markets will take on supply-constrained market characteristics.
- This, in the long run, should smooth out cycles of severe over and undersupply, extending cycles, and provide higher risk-adjusted rates of return.