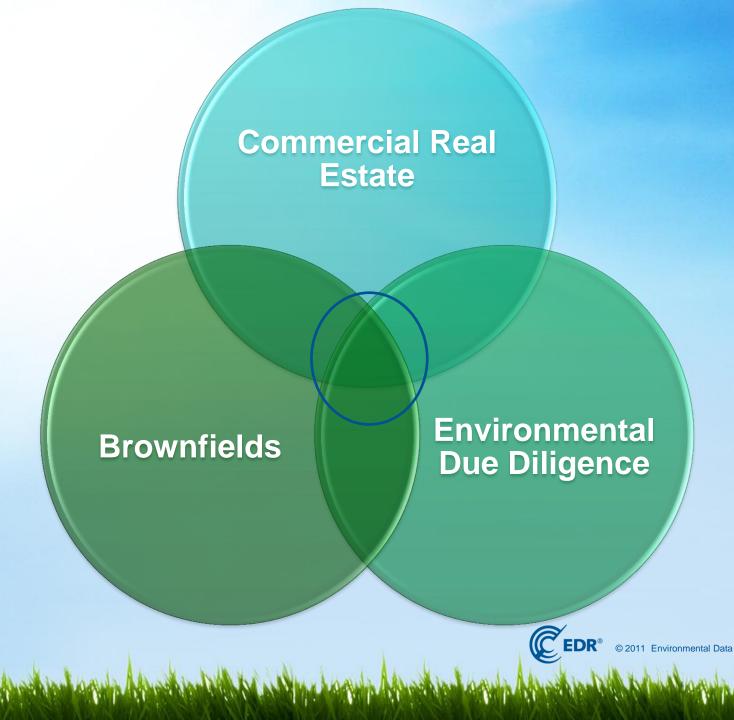


# State of Commercial Real Estate Industry, Capital Markets and Due Diligence Trends



Cambridge, MA May 1, 2012

# Dianne P. Crocker, Principal Analyst EDR Insight







"After the market gave us a rocky ride in 2011, commercial real estate is back in the saddle for 2012."

~John Levy, founder of John B. Levy & Company

## Property Transactions on Upward Trajectory

- 1Q12 volume increased 40% over a year ago.
- Portfolio activity, particularly in the retail sector, drove much of the gains.





**Source: Real Capital Analytics** 

## Multifamily Attracting the Most Demand...

- Fundamental shift away from home ownership.
- Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, lenders showing more willingness underwriting apartment buildings than any other property type.





#### ...Retail in Flux

- Major retail chains are downsizing.
- 6,000-9,000 store closings expected in 2012.
- More strategic acquisitions by retailers.
- More expansion by dollar stores, pharmacies.

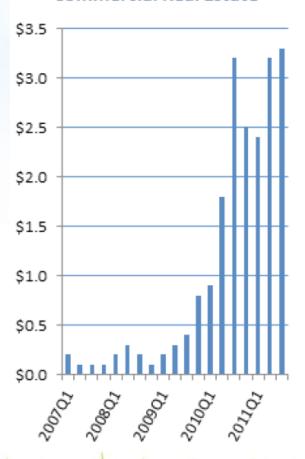






## **Loan Dispositions Are Up**

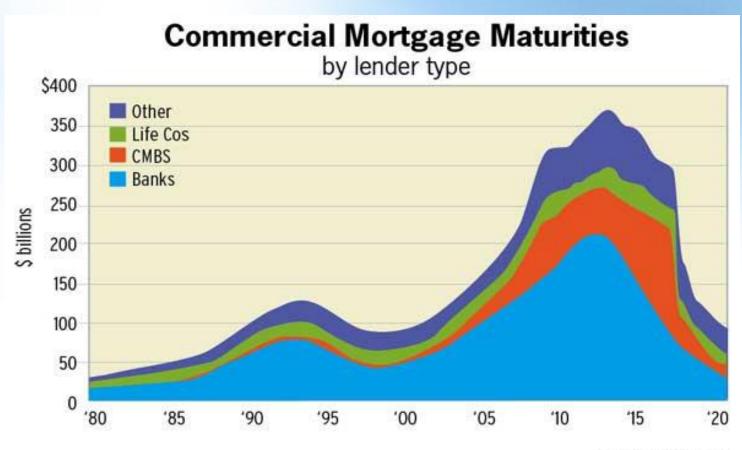
Loan and Property Sales by Special Servicers on US Commercial Real Estate



- Banks' asset disposition plans picked up momentum in 2011.
- Unlike 2010 when FDIC was the only seller in town:
  - Sell-off of distressed loans, properties involves broader base of lenders
  - Can involve large portfolios in multiple states
  - Good news for investors



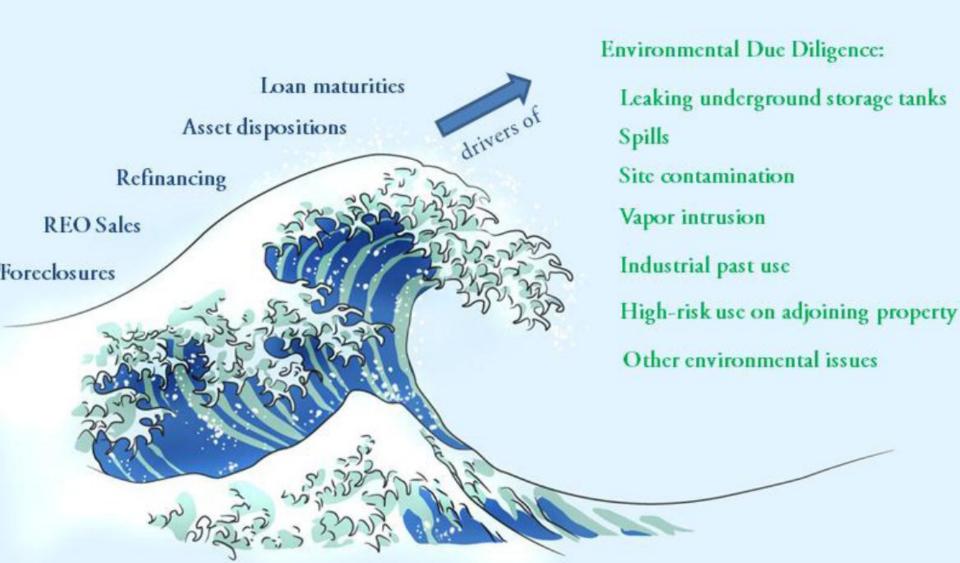
#### The Refi Heartache



Source: Trepp LLC



## Maturities Bring Environmental Issues to Surface



#### Refi Heartache

- Prospects for refinancing all of these loans are pretty grim.
- Good news for distressed asset investors, bringing life to "zombie properties."
- Major re-evaluation of properties ahead.
- Driver for services that will inform the process of estimating property value.

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## **Lending Thaw Underway**

Status of CRE Lending by Source:						
Commercial banks	Improving slowly					
Government (Fannie/Freddie)	Active					
Credit Unions	Active					
CMBS	Improving					
Life Insurance companies	Robust					

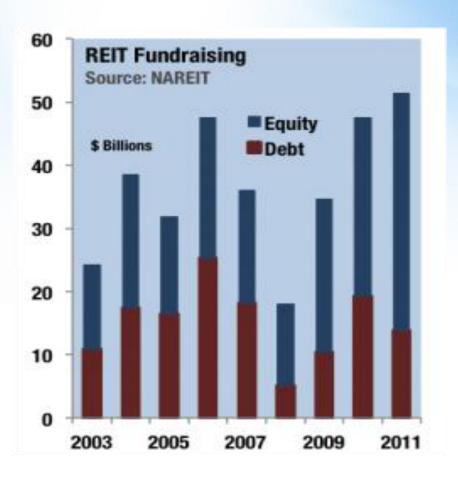


## Who's Lending?

- Originations expected to increase in 2012
- Stiff competition for underwriting small volume of viable, lowrisk loans
- Expect more underwriting on construction loans in 2012, particularly resuscitated multifamily projects



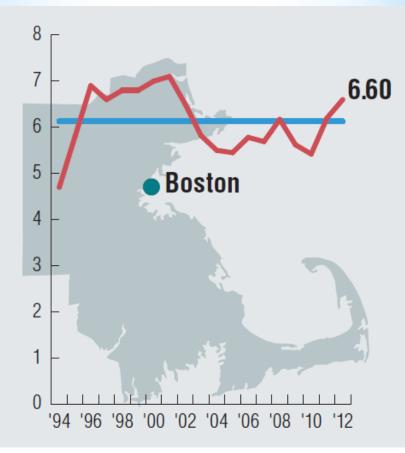
#### The War Chests of REITs



- Fundraising up 32% in 2011
- Very strong market position
- \$51B to place in CRE
- Skittishness giving way to confidence



### **Boston's Real Estate Climate**



PwC Investment Prospect graph

- 6<sup>th</sup> highest CRE transaction volume in U.S. in 2011
- 5<sup>th</sup> on PwC's list of metros to watch for CRE investment
- Phase I environmental site assessment activity:
  - 8<sup>th</sup> highest in U.S.
  - 1Q on 1Q Growth: 33%



#### **Boston's Real Estate Climate**

- Growth markets here in Boston for redevelopment are:
  - Cambridge
  - South Boston Waterfront
  - Developments in suburbs like Salem w/ an industrial past
  - Major multi-use development projects
- Maryland-based REIT heading up a major multi-use development project in Somerville

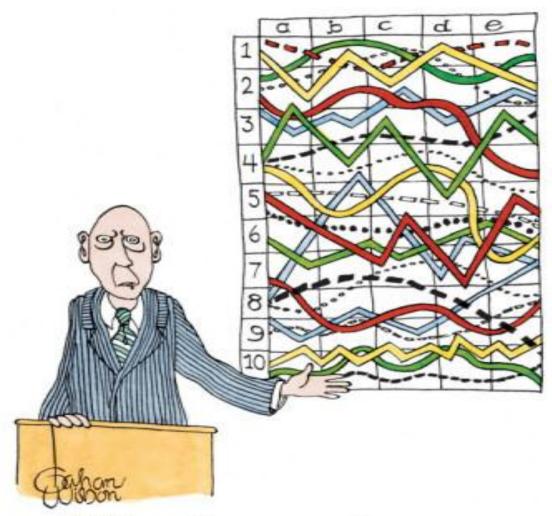
### **Boston and Distressed Real Estate**

#### Northeast Market Stats - Current Known Distress

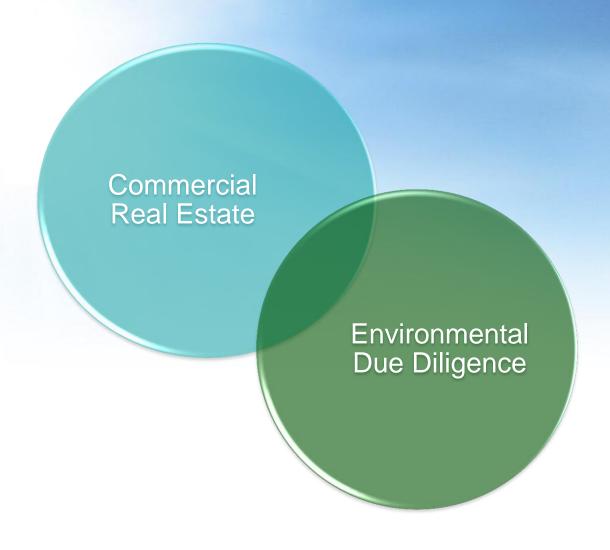
Current Kno through 3/2	own Distress 1/2012	Office # Prop	Industrial # Prop	Retail # Prop	Multifam # Prop	Hotel # Prop	Other # Prop	TOTAL \$ Mil.	# Prop
Northeast	Boston	39	28	22	12	9	14	\$2,569.8	124
	Hartford	7	4	5	26	5	0	457.0	47
	Long Island	36	69	11		7	1	1,524.1	124
	Manhattan	32		7	134	15	23	11,965.7	211
	No NJ	48	37	29	24	14	12	3,016.5	164
	NYC Boroughs	6	41	10	90	3	22	1,830.9	172
	Stamford	17	5	3	15	1	5	561.6	46
	Westchester	12	2	16	2	1	3	464.7	36
	All Others	25	16	40	25	27	19	\$1,519.9	152
	Northeast	222	202	143	328	82	99	\$23,910.3	1,076





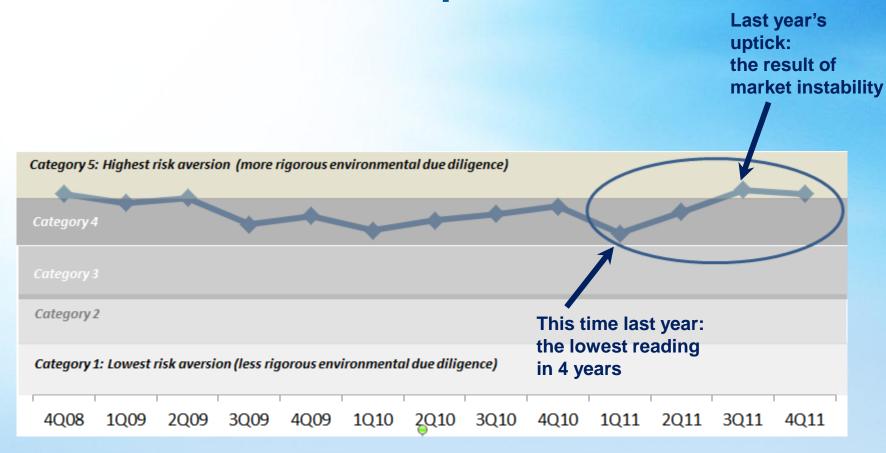


"Ill pause for a moment so you can let this information sink in."





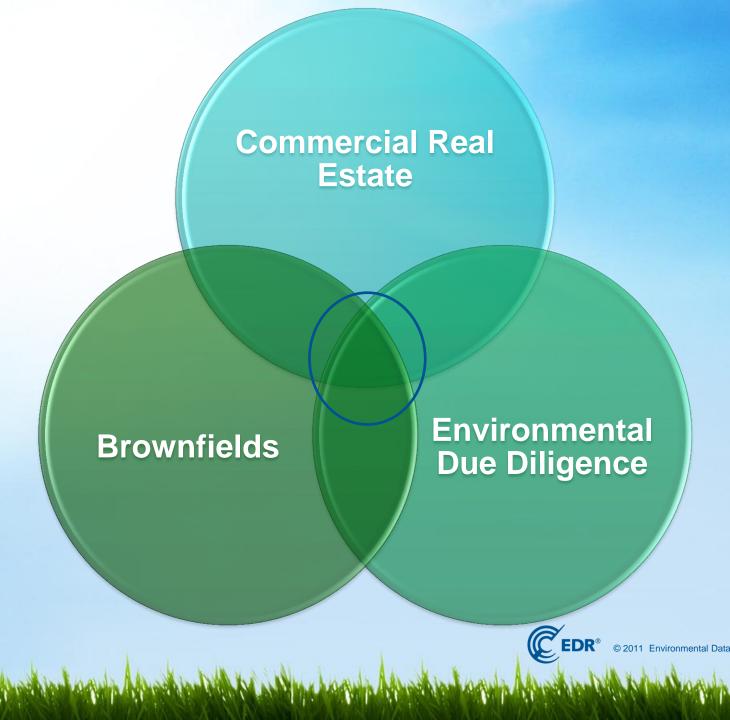
## Risk Aversion Index Up in '11



## **Due Diligence and CRE**

- Investors can no longer assume price appreciation.
- Every dollar counts.
- Risk aversion high, relic of '11 roller coaster
- "There are no dumb investors out there."

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#### **Trends in Brownfields**

- 1. Tight local funding constraints, dissolution of local agencies.
- 2. Not many, if any, private deals happening yet, but early planning acquisition up.
- 3. Forces are mobilizing to move forward on brownfield projects when the market's ready:
  - alternative energy projects
  - non-financial incentives
  - local economic redevelopment councils



### Trends in Brownfields (cont'd)

- 4. Emphasis on job creation.
- 5. Resolution of debt crisis moves brownfields back into play.
- 6. Developers, municipalities gravitating toward adaptive reuse.
- 7. Companies relocating headquarters in urban areas:
  - Biogen Inc. left Weston, CT to return to Cambridge



### Year of 'Brake and Throttle'

- Ingredients for a busy year.
  - Property transactions forecast to increase by 50 percent "with a good chance for a surprise to the upside."
  - Maturing loans will drive deal volume.
  - Equity capital, led by REITs, will be more plentiful and more motivated this year.
  - Originations by lending institutions should increase gradually.
- Market fragility will magnify setbacks.
- Environmental due diligence has important role to play.

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**Brownfields** 

**Environmental Due Diligence** 





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