

## **Retail: It's Not All Doom and Gloom**

Commercial Observer — Lea Overby and Edward Dittmer

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Several factors suggest that the retail industry on a national level is likely to see continued slow but steady growth—even as some investors and lenders shy away from the sector amid bankruptcy filings, store closures, and stiff rivalry from online competitors. Retail property prices have underperformed and lending activity is tepid, although rental rates and occupancy levels have rebounded to pre-crisis highs. However, as the retail landscape shifts, the property sector should remain stable nationally, buoyed by a lack of new construction and brick-and-mortar retailers' abilities to innovate in response to increased competition.

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[Retail: It's Not All Doom and Gloom](#)