

Office REITs Plan to Focus on Development in 2018, and Stay Away from Acquisitions

National Real Estate Investor — John Egan

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No one has a crystal ball that can offer a precise forecast for the office REIT market in 2018. But the sector's insiders foresee a year ruled by property development and redevelopment rather than asset purchases.

Rising interest rates are to blame for an anticipated decrease in acquisitions by office REITs in 2018 and a greater focus on development/redevelopment projects, according to Chris Wimmer, vice president of REITs at Chicago-based Morningstar Credit Ratings LLC. Even then, Wimmer envisions a "moderation" in development and redevelopment activity by office REITs, especially in certain central business district (CBD) markets where supply is eclipsing demand.

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