## SHOULD YOU OWN YOUR OWN BUILDING?

From 2000- 2007 there seemed to be an abundance of owner user buyers; an owner user being a company that would otherwise lease space. With our extended recession, the number of owner user buyers has diminished significantly. Prices peaked in 2006 and have steadily fallen since. Combine the favorable prices with historically low interest rates and you get an unprecedented time to buy your own facility.

Here's a simple look at some of the economic factors involved with ownership that clearly illustrate the long term benefits:

- **1. Appreciation and Leverage:** If you buy it right, real estate is a great hedge against inflation. You can hold your occupancy costs down with long term low interest rate financing. Assume you buy a \$500,000 building with 20% down (\$100,000). If the building increases value by 10%, in this case \$50,000, you have just realized a 50% return on your original down payment.
- **2. Annual Return on Investment:** Your annual occupancy costs (mortgage + building expenses) will be less than what it would cost to lease. To illustrate, assume that the building in the previous example

would lease for \$10,000 a month, and to own the building your cost would be only \$7,500 a month. The difference is \$2,500 a month or \$30,000 a year. Your annual return on the \$100,000 down payment is 30% (\$30,000 ÷ \$100,000 = 30%.) So while it might be a challenge to come up w/ the down payment, it is well worth the return.

- **3. Tax Advantages:** Interest on a loan for an owner/ user is fully tax deductible. Depreciation is an additional tax break for commercial property; the owner user can deduct 1/31 of the property's improvement value (you can't depreciate land). For example, if the value of a property is \$500,000 the annual deduction would be \$16,129.
- **4. Identity:** An often over looked benefit of ownership is building identity. This identity can be in the form of the company's name on the building.
- **5. Control:** As the owner, you are in control. You control your costs, your growth and who your neighbors are. You also control your exit strategy.

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## **BACON COMMERCIAL**

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