

Development and a K-Shaped Economy: A Growing Challenge for Self-Storage

by Cole Carosella

As the end of 2025 approaches, the self-storage industry finds itself navigating two converging headwinds: an increasingly active development pipeline, and the growing signs of a K-shaped economy. While each challenge is significant on its own, the combination presents a more structural issue for operators, owners, and investors. Development activity remains elevated across many U.S. markets, and despite widespread acknowledgment of “overbuilding,” new supply continues to be delivered. Many people are still underestimating the pace and scale of ongoing development. This point resonates with what we are seeing on the ground, projects that broke ground during the low-rate era of 2021–2022 are now opening into a very different operating environment.

At the same time, broader economic trends suggest that households are not experiencing recovery or income growth equally. In discussing a K-shaped economy, it is important to highlight that the upper leg of the “K” represents households whose financial position has strengthened, buoyed by stable employment, strong asset appreciation, and stock market participation. The lower leg, however, reflects the reality facing many low-to middle-income Americans: persistent inflation, stagnating wage growth, rising consumer debt, and declining savings rates. Unfortunately for our sector, the self-storage core customer overwhelmingly sits on this lower leg of the “K.” High-income households are not the primary drivers of storage demand, they tend to have larger homes, more discretionary space, and a greater ability to buy new items rather than store existing ones. The industry’s demand profile relies heavily on life transitions, mobility, and space constraints, all of which are disproportionately felt by the middle-income consumer.

When the forces of more supply and a potentially weakening customer base intersect, several challenges form. Occupancy risk increases as new facilities open into markets that are no longer absorbing at historical rates. Stabilization periods lengthen, and existing operators must compete harder for the same pool of renters. Rate growth, which used to be a dependable lever once a property reached stabilization, has become more difficult to achieve in an environment where the consumer is under stress. The days of aggressive in-place

rent increases are giving way to more cautious pricing strategies because customers simply have less ability to absorb higher monthly payments. New development, too, becomes riskier. Underwriting assumptions made during the boom years like strong absorption, healthy rate growth, and manageable operating expenses, now require recalibration. Developers facing extended lease-up timelines or more constrained revenue curves may experience erosion in their projected returns.

These dynamics create a widening performance gap between markets. Areas with strong income growth, job stability, and housing activity (the upward side of the K-curve), may still demonstrate resilient storage demand. But markets where incomes are flat, consumer stress is rising, or household budgets are strained will likely see greater volatility and more pronounced impacts from new supply. In this environment, operator excellence becomes even more critical. Efficient expense management, strong digital marketing, strategic pricing discipline, and a deep understanding of local demand trends will determine who gains market share and who struggles to keep pace.

As we look toward 2026, the message is clear: the fundamentals of the business are changing. Development momentum is not slowing fast enough, and the economic pressures on the core storage customer are intensifying. For owners and investors, it is essential to treat supply as a real and immediate risk factor and to consider how the lower leg of the K-shaped economy affects tenant behavior, churn, and pricing power. At Argus, these realities inform how we underwrite deals, advise clients, and assess long-term value. Our Argus Broker Affiliates have recently compiled a detailed report of development projects nationwide and would be happy to share the details of these projects for the market areas you are interested in. Just reach out to your Argus Broker Affiliate listed on the back page of the Market Monitor to request a development report. The path forward remains attractive, but it will require sharper analysis, more conservative assumptions, and a more strategic approach than the self-storage industry has needed in the last decade. **MM**

Cole Carosella, Vice President, of Argus Self Storage Advisors can be reached at 800-55-STORE or cole@argus-realestate.com.

NEW

Benson, AZ

\$1,570,000

- 39,670 RSF
- 238 Units
- 4.9 Acres
- Expansion potential
- Prime I-10 location with high visibility and growing Southern Arizona market

Darsh Desai
701-405-3665
darsh@gorden-group.com



NEW

Sarasota, FL

Call for Offers

- Offers Due 11/19/25
- 46,688 RSF
- 130 Units
- 3.25 Acres
- 93% Occupancy
- Fully Stabilized Remotely-Managed
- Fully fenced, lit, and secure

Josh Koerner
904-591-0140
josh@coastalstorage.com



NEW

Boynton Beach, FL

Call for Offers

- Offers Due 12/4/25
- Development Site
- Proposed 4-story 139,000 GSF Class A climate-controlled self-storage building
- Strategically located with frontage on Boynton Beach Blvd with 43,500 cars per day

Josh Koerner
904-591-0140
josh@coastalstorage.com



NEW

Alma, GA

\$350,000

- 5,600 RSF
- 59 Units
- 0.73 Acre
- Great visibility on major thoroughfare GA Highway 32 with 8,180 AADT
- Easy to run remotely

Ryan Haney & Josh Koerner
904-591-1556
ryan@coastalstorage.com



NEW

Bradenton, FL

\$3,250,000

- 36,000 GSF
- 119 Units
- 4.51 +/- Acres
- Consistently stays full with a waiting list
- Unfinished office space can be converted into 4 additional 12x25 units
- 590' of frontage along 15th St E

Josh Koerner
904-591-0140
josh@coastalstorage.com



NEW

West Burlington, IA

\$925,000

- 16,912 RSF
- 124 Units
- 2.03 Acres
- Secure & Well-Lit Property
- Strong, Stabilized Performance: The facility maintains a solid 84% occupancy

Alex Ihrke & Tom Flannigan
612-394-7553
alex@selfstorage.com



NEW

Miami, FL

Call for Offers

- Offers Due 12/10/25
- Development Site
- 122,944 GSF
- 0.71 +/- Acre
- Fully Site plan approved 6-story, 122,994 GSF Class A climate-controlled self-storage facility
- Excellent visibility

Josh Koerner
904-591-0140
josh@coastalstorage.com



NEW

McCall/New Meadows, ID

Call for Offers

- Offers Due 12/4/25
- Two-Property Portfolio
- 90,468 Total RSF
- 461 Total Units
- 34,332 Parking RSF
- Institutional-quality
- Stable demographics and growth tailwinds

Ben Vestal & Ryan Layton
303-317-6469 | bvestal@argus-realestate.com
509-435-2424 | rlayton@areanw.com



Our complete list of available properties is detailed below. For additional information, visit www.argus-selfstorage.com or contact your local Argus Broker Affiliate.

Alabama

Loxley \$3,800,000 Bill Barnhill/Sharon Wright 251-432-1287

Arizona

Benson \$1,570,000 Jeff Gorden 480-331-8880
Surprise \$17,999,999 Jeff Gorden 480-331-8880
Tucson \$2,400,000 Jeff Gorden 480-331-8880
Vail Call Broker Darsh Desai 701-405-3665

Arkansas

Highland \$1,300,000 Larry Goldman/Derek Arnold 913-707-9030
Little Rock \$1,200,000 Larry Goldman/Derek Arnold 913-707-9030
Pine Bluff \$600,000 Larry Goldman/Derek Arnold 913-707-9030

Colorado

CO & TX Portfolio Call Broker Cole Carosella/Faith Pate 720-909-8602
Colorado Spgs \$3,500,000 Cole Carosella/Matthew Cox 720-909-8602
Golden Call Broker Cole Carosella/Matthew Cox 720-909-8602

Connecticut

Brookfield \$995,000 Guy Blake 845-522-5900

Florida

Arcadia \$1,950,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Bellevue Call Broker Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Boynton Beach Call Broker Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Bradenton \$3,250,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Cocoa \$1,800,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Deltona \$1,550,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Fort Pierce Call Broker Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Holly Hill \$2,400,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Miami Call Broker Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Mims \$1,500,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Ocala \$1,380,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Palm Coast Call Broker Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Port Charlotte \$1,500,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Saint Johns \$2,800,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Sarasota Call Broker Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Titusville \$3,300,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140
Williston \$1,450,000 Josh Koerner 904-594-0140

Georgia

Alma \$350,000 Ryan Haney/Josh Koerner 904-591-1556
Cataula Call Broker Brooks Dove 678-439-8441
Douglas \$2,200,000 Ryan Haney/Josh Koerner 904-591-1556
Douglasville Call Broker Ryan Haney/Josh Koerner 904-591-1556
Dublin \$2,400,000 Ryan Haney/Josh Koerner 904-591-1556
Kingsland **SOLD** Ryan Haney/Josh Koerner 904-591-1556
Macon \$289,000 Ryan Haney/Josh Koerner 904-591-1556

Idaho

McCall Call Broker Ben Vestal/Ryan Layton 509-435-2424

Illinois

Rantoul \$2,500,000 Bruce Bahrmassel 312-518-3550
Springfield \$1,400,000 Larry Goldman/Derek Arnold 913-707-9030

Iowa

Newton \$2,500,000 Nathan Gottlieb/Alex Ihrke 612-790-3747
W. Burlington \$925,000 Alex Ihrke/Tom Flannigan 612-790-3747

Kansas

Gardner \$1,600,000 Larry Goldman/Derek Arnold 913-707-9030
Sterling \$750,000 Larry Goldman/Derek Arnold 913-707-9030

Louisiana

Hammond \$1,950,000 Stuart LaGroue/Bill Barnhill 251-432-1287

Massachusetts

Eastham \$2,550,000 Joe Robinson/Jessie Gilton 603-714-4019

Michigan

Allen Park \$975,000 Kevin Friedman 847-436-5483
Lansing \$1,200,000 Kevin Friedman 847-436-5483

Minnesota

Bemidji \$950,000 Nathan Gottlieb/Tom Flannigan 612-790-3747
Elgin \$1,100,000 Alex Ihrke/Tom Flannigan 612-790-3747
Rochester Call Broker Tom Flannigan 612-790-3747
Willmar \$1,800,000 Matt Haugen/Tom Flannigan 612-790-3747

Mississippi

Madison \$2,600,000 Bill Barnhill/Stuart LaGroue 251-432-1287
Radiant Portfolio \$3,566,000 Bill Barnhill/Stuart LaGroue 251-432-1287

Missouri

Harrisonville Call Broker Larry Goldman 913-707-9030
Moberly \$1,350,000 Larry Goldman 913-707-9030
Peculiar \$7,500,000 Larry Goldman 913-707-9030
Pleasant Hill \$6,500,000 Larry Goldman 913-707-9030

Montana

Billings \$1,750,000 Kim Van Delinder 406-698-6850

New Hampshire

Henniker \$3,335,000 Joe Robinson/Jessie Gilton 603-714-4019

New Jersey

Egg Harbor Call Broker Linda Cinelli 908-722-5661
Waretown \$1,650,000 Jim Remler 973-936-8250

Nebraska

S. Sioux City \$495,000 Cole Carosella 720-909-8602

North Carolina

Burlington \$395,000 Jamey Cox 704-995-9168

Oklahoma

Moore \$600,000 Jared Jones 918-948-3941
Muskogee \$675,000 Jared Jones 918-948-3941
Oklahoma City \$8,000,000 Jared Jones 918-948-3941
Stillwater \$3,200,000 Jared Jones 918-948-3941

Oregon

Grants Pass \$600,000 Scott King 541-890-6708
Medford \$375,000 Scott King 541-890-6708

Pennsylvania

Bechtelsville \$1,350,000 Chuck Shields 610-828-0100
Reading Portfolio Call Broker Cole Carosella/Chuck Shields 720-909-8602

Texas

Atlanta Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Bay City \$4,500,000 Faith Pate/Bill Brownfield 713-805-2907
Brownsville Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Burleson Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Conroe \$1,450,000 Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Crandall Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Dallas Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Odessa Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Weatherford Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642
Yantis Call Broker Chad Snyder/Tyler Trahant 817-813-5642

Wisconsin

Ashland \$1,600,000 Alex Ihrke/Tom Flannigan 612-790-3747

Wyoming

Cheyenne Call Broker Cole Carosella/Matthew Cox 720-909-8602
Cheyenne \$3,950,000 Cole Carosella/Matthew Cox 720-909-8602

RECENT SALES



Congratulations to **Ben Vestal and Cole Carosella of Argus Self Storage Advisors** who sold Parkside Self Storage in Colorado Springs, CO! Contact the team at 720-909-8602 for details.



Congratulations to **Chad Snyder and Tyler Trahant of Dominus Commercial** who sold KO Storage in Cleburne, TX! Contact the team at 817-242-2361 for details.



Congratulations to **Ryan Haney and Josh Koerner of Coastal Storage Group** who sold Kingsland Self Storage in Kingsland, GA! Contact Ryan at 904-591-1556 for details.



As we look ahead to 2026, many markets are experiencing a growing self-storage development pipeline. It's important to look "around the corner" and stay informed about new self-storage developments planned or under construction in your area. New supply can significantly impact both the valuation and performance of your property. By understanding upcoming developments, you can make more informed investment decisions and position your asset to outperform the market.

Please contact your local Argus Broker Affiliate to request your development report.

CONTACT AN ARGUS BROKER AFFILIATE

NORTHEAST

Guy Blake, CCIM
Jim Remler
Joseph Mendola
Chuck Shields

Company

Pyramid Brokerage Company
Coldwell Banker Commercial
NAI Norwood Group
Beacon Commercial Real Estate

Phone

845-522-5900
973-936-8250
603-668-7000
610-862-1645

Territory

Upstate NY, Western CT
Northern NJ, NY (NYC, Long Island)
MA, ME, NH, VT, Eastern CT
Eastern PA, Southern NJ, DE

SOUTHEAST

Bill Barnhill, CCIM
Jamey Cox
Ed Nicholson
Josh Koerner & Frost Weaver
Josh Koerner & Ryan Haney

Omega Properties, Inc.
Percival Partners
The Nicholson Companies
Coastal Storage Group
Coastal Storage Group

251-432-1287
704-995-9168
757-474-5364
904-591-0140
904-591-1556

FL Panhandle
NC, SC
MD, VA
FL (except Panhandle)
GA

NORTH CENTRAL

Bruce Bahrmassel
Tom Flannigan
Kevin Friedman
Alec Pacella, CCIM
Larry Goldman, CCIM
Rob Schick

Area CRE Services / KW Integrity Lakes
Hayes Ventures
NAI Pleasant Valley
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312-518-3550
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216-831-3310
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317-403-1205

Northern IL, WI
MN, ND, IA
MI, OH
OH
KS, MO, Southern IL
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Larry Goldman, CCIM
Mike Helline & Aaron Willis
Jared Jones, CCIM
Samuel Livingston & Jacob Livingston
Faith Pate
Chad Snyder & Tyler Trahant

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Goldman Investment Advisors
Column Realty
Jones Investment Properties
Livingston Brokerage LLC
MLB Commercial Real Estate
Dominus Commercial

251-432-1287
913-707-9030
502-296-4586
918-948-3941
915-581-8754
713-805-2907
817-980-7276

AL, MS, LA
AR
TN, KY
OK
West TX & NM
Central & South TX
North TX

WEST

Cole Carosella & Matthew Cox
Jeff Gorden, CCIM
Jeff Gorden, CCIM
Kim Van Delinder
Scott King
Ryan Layton
Ken Miller

Argus Self Storage Advisors
KW Commercial
The Gorden Company
Van Delinder Realty LLC
Merit Commercial Real Estate
American Real Estate Associates
Northstate Commercial Partners

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702-643-1000
406-698-6850
541-890-6708
509-435-2424
530-768-1650

CO
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Northern CA