

Fin 5413

Commercial Mortgage Types and Decisions

REAL ESTATE PRINCIPLES
A VALUE APPROACH

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"Commercial" Loans vs Home Loans

- Commercial mortgages and notes are not as standardized as home loans
 - Although this is changing with growth in commercial mortgage-backed securities market
- Documents are longer and more complex.
- Often no personal liability:
 - Legal borrower often is a single asset corporation.
 - Actual persons are shielded from liability.
 - Credit enhancement sometimes is required.

Commercial Mortgage Loans

- Usually a partially amortized "balloon" mortgage.
 - 25 to 30 year amortization of principle.
 - 5 to 10 year maturity
 - Balance of loan at maturity must be refinanced or paid off with a "balloon" payment
- Bullet loans** are non amortizing for with a fixed term at which point the principal is repaid

Attractions of Balloon Mortgage to Lender

- Reduces interest rate risk.
- Reduces default risk.
 - Default risk is much greater for commercial mortgage loans than for home loans.
 - As with residential lending, default risk varies over time
 - 7% delinquent in late 1992
 - 0.1% delinquent in 2004
 - 1.05% in 3rd quarter of 2005
 - Actual yield to lender will generally be lower than scheduled yield due to defaults

Commercial Mortgage "Spread" over "Treasuries"

Exhibit 17-2

Mortgage rates highly correlated with 10-Year Treasury Securities

Restrictions on Prepayment

- Lock-out.** Prohibition against prepayment for up to 5 years.
- Prepayment penalties:
 - Percentage of loan:** Say, 2-4% of loan balance.
 - Yield maintenance penalty.** Borrower must pay lender PV of losses due to prepayment.
 - Defeasance penalty.** Borrower must replace mortgage loan with a set of U.S. Treasury securities producing equivalent cash flows
 - Recently has become most common form of prepayment penalty
 - This replaces a risky promised set of CF's with a risk free set of CF's so its good for a lender

Other Forms of Commercial Mortgage Financing

- Floating (i.e., adjustable) rate mortgage
 - Index rate most commonly is LIBOR
- Installment sale financing
 - Buyer makes installment payments.
 - Seller only pays capital gain taxes over time in proportion to amount of the price received.

17-7

Other Forms of Commercial Mortgage Financing - continued

- Joint Venture
 - Lender:
 - Provides a mortgage loan
 - Provides additional equity investment.
 - Receives mortgage interest plus equity cash flows.
 - Borrower:
 - Provides the project.
 - Provides expertise and management effort.
 - Provides some of the equity

17-8

Joint Venture - continued

- Usually between a developer of a large project and a:
 - Pension fund.
 - Life Insurance company.
 - REIT
- Institution provides construction financing and/or long-term mortgage, in addition to some of required equity capital
- Institution's share of operating & sale cash flows are negotiated

17-9

Other Forms of Commercial Mortgage Financing - continued

- Land Sale-leaseback:
 - Investor owns land and mortgage on building. User owns building subject to mortgage and pays a land lease (both deductible for taxes)
- Sale-leaseback
 - User sells property to a long-term investor.
 - Pension fund.
 - Trust.
 - Life insurance company.
 - User leases property back from the investor and occupies it under long-term net lease.

17-10

Sale-Leaseback - continued

- User benefits:
 - Lease payment is deductible for income taxes.
 - Equity capital is freed up to invest in core business of company.
- Investor benefits:
 - Can be safe investment (depending on credit worthiness of tenant).
 - Inflation hedged (especially if lease payments increase with inflation).

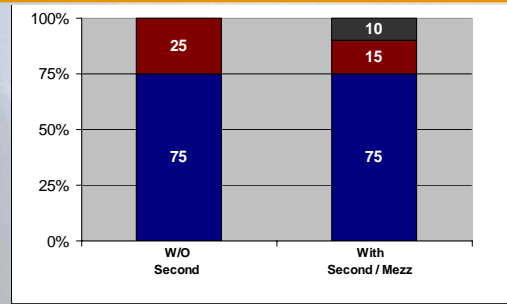
17-11

Other Forms of Commercial Mortgage Financing - continued

- Mezzanine Debt (growing in popularity):
 - Supplements underlying first mortgage debt.
 - Sometimes is a second mortgage loan (i.e., secured by the property)
 - More often is a non-mortgage loan secured by a pledge of ownership shares
 - If borrower defaults lender takes over the borrower's ownership position rather than having a lien on the real estate (which the first mortgage holder has)

17-12

Adding Mezzanine to the Capital Stack



Implications: Equity capital decreases from 25% to 10% of total required

17-13

Other Forms of Commercial Mortgage Financing - continued

- Participation loan:
 - Lender receives interest payments on loan plus:
 - Share of the cash flow from operations and/or
 - Share of the proceeds from sale.
 - Lender gets equity-like interest in property
 - Borrower gets higher loan-to-value ratio and/or lower interest rate in exchange for giving lender a percentage of the cash flows

17-14

Other Forms of Commercial Mortgage Financing - continued

- FHA insured loans for low and moderate income multifamily housing.
- Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae multifamily lending programs
 - Many targeted to low and moderate income housing.
 - See Fannie and Freddie websites (www.fanniemae.com and www.freddiemac.com)

17-15

Important "Underwriting" Ratios

- Debt coverage ratio: indicator of "cash flow cushion" from lender's perspective

$$DCR = \frac{NOI}{DS}$$
 where:
 - NOI is first year NOI
 - DS is annual debt service (12 monthly payments)
- Lender's want DCR to be as high as possible, but certainly greater than 1.20

17-16

Important "Underwriting" Ratios

- Loan-to-value ratio: indicator of equity incentive to maintain the loan.

$$LTV = \frac{\text{Loan}}{\text{Value}}$$
- The higher the LTV, the greater the probability of default, all else equal

17-17

Average Terms on Commercial Mortgages—RealtyRates.com

Permanent, Fixed-rate Financing: 4th Qtr 2005

	Apartments	Industrial	Office	Retail
Spread over 10-year Treasury	2.29%	2.40%	3.01%	2.56%
Debt coverage ratio	1.51	1.47	1.55	1.43
Loan-to-value ratio	74%	71%	70%	73%
Amortization term	26	25	25	25
Maturity term	21	12	8	6
Lender reserve requirement	\$300/yr.	\$0.20/SF	\$0.25/SF	\$0.25/SF

17-18

The Leveraging Question (How much debt?)

- Reasons for use of debt by investors:
 - “Magnify” equity returns.
 - Diversify the use of one’s equity.
- Financial risk: Risk of default on mortgage loan.
 - Risk of negative cash flow.
 - Increases with greater leverage.
- Leverage increases variability of equity returns.

When Will Leverage Increase NPV and Going-in IRR?

- Increased leverage will increase the estimated NPV when....
 - opportunity cost of equity capital (discount rate) exceeds the effective borrowing cost
- Increased leverage will increase the going-in IRR when....
 - unlevered going-in IRR exceeds the effective borrowing cost

Leverage “Bottom Line”

- In a typical cash flow forecast, increased leverage will increase the estimated NPV and going-in IRR
 - Why must this be true?
- However, this increased NPV/IRR comes at a price.....increased riskiness of the equity investment
 - The more leverage used, the more the equity resembles an option

Refinancing and Default with Commercial Mortgage Loans

- Refinancing involves a NPV decision.
 - Even more focused on NPV than home mortgage refinancing.
 - Bigger finance issues.
 - Fewer non-financial considerations.
 - $NPV = PV_{OLD} - PV_{NEW} - \text{Refi Cost} - \text{Prepay Penalty}$
 - PV_{New} is presumably smaller due to lower pmts.
 - The prepay penalty is often so large that it negates any advantage to refinancing.

Refinancing and Default with Commercial Mortgage Loans

- Default is the signature risk of commercial mortgages.
 - Borrower seldom can cover the loan payment for a crippled commercial property.
 - Borrower often is in a non-recourse position (good for the borrower, bad for the lender).

Financing Income-Producing Property: Borrower Perspective

	Straight Debt	Joint Venture	Land Sale- Leaseback	Complete Sale- Leaseback
Property Asset Price Risk	High	←————→	Moderate	Low
Influence on Management of Property	Strong	←————→		None
Depreciation Deductions	Full	Share	Full	None
Priority of Claims to Cash Flow	Second to Lender’s	Partners with Lender	Claim Junior to Lender’s and Landowner’s	No Ownership Interest
Maximum Leverage	75-80% of Value	←————→		100% of Value

Obtaining a Commercial Mortgage Loan

- The Loan Submission Package
 - Loan application with the exact terms proposed.
 - Financial statement
 - Credit report
 - Borrower experience resume
 - Property description
 - Legal description
 - Easements and encroachments
 - Environmental concerns
 - Detailed physical description
 - Photos and aerial photos
 - Survey
 - Site plan
 - Structure drawings and specifications

17-25

The Loan Submission Package - continued

- Cash flow pro forma
 - Existing cash flows and rent rolls (leases) if available
 - DCF analysis
- Appraisal – independent and state certified

17-26

Obtaining a Commercial Mortgage Loan

- Sources of loans (direct submission)
 - Larger commercial bank
 - Large thrift institution
 - Other direct sources including pension funds and life insurance companies

17-27

Sources of Commercial Loans- continued

- “Correspondent” lender
 - Mortgage banker
 - Mortgage broker
 - Presents loan “package” to:
 - Life insurance companies
 - Pension funds
 - Trusts
 - Large banks
 - Credit companies (GE Capital, Ford, other)
 - Receives fee of one-half to one percent of loan.

17-28

The Lender’s Decision: Loan Underwriting

- “Qualitative” considerations
 - Property type
 - Location
 - Tenant quality
 - Lease terms
 - Property management
 - Building quality (Age, class, deferred maintenance?)
 - Environmental issues
 - Borrower quality

17-29

Loan Underwriting: Crunching the Numbers

Exhibit 17-6	
Assumptions for a Loan on Gatorwood Apartment Complex	
Input	Assumption
Number of units	296 units with average monthly rent of \$534.91
Purchase price	\$13,375,000
Vacancy and collection losses	10% per year
Operating expenses	\$400,000 in year 1
Capital Expenditures	\$37,500 in year 1. Expenditures are reserved for in calculation of NOI (i.e. an above line treatment)
Financing:	
Loan amount	\$10,000,000 (equals 74.7664% of price)
Interest rate	7.625%
Amortization schedule	30 years, <i>annual</i> payments
Loan term	10 years
Annual Payment	\$857,037.69*

* The calculator keystrokes for finding the annual payment are: N=30; I/YR= 7.625, PV=10,000,000; PMT=?; and FV=0. Loan payment calculations are discussed in detail in Chapter 15.

17-30

Construction and Development Financing

- Land acquisition financing
 - Finance the purchase of raw land
- Land development loan
 - Finance the installation of improvements to the land (sewers, utilities, etc.)
- Construction loan
 - Finance the vertical construction
- Mini-perm loan
 - A permanent loan with a short term

17-37

Summary

- For commercial lending, the building produces the income that is used to pay off the lien
- The ability of the building to produce cash flows is what the lender evaluates
- Priced off the 10 year Treasury Securities (2-3% average spread)
- Loans typically are balloon loans with a 5-7 year term and 25-30 year amortization
- Prepayment penalties common
- Underwriting focuses on DCR and LTV
- CMBS is a growing source for placement of commercial mortgages

17-38