

## Report sees Tulsa as haven for commercial real estate

BY ROBERT EVATT Tulsa World robert.evatt@tulsaworld.com

TULSA — For commercial real estate, Tulsa might be the best port in the economic storm.

A recent story in U.S. News & World Report singled out Tulsa as the metro area that will fare the best in the nation over the next year in terms of office and retail vacancies.

The report, based on data gathered by research firm REIS Inc. of New York City, indicated that commercial vacancies in Tulsa will increase 2.2 points to 19.2 percent by 2010, the lowest increase in the 79 biggest metro areas studied.

It went on to report that Tulsa will begin to recover by 2011.

U.S. News & World Report's article didn't rank the areas by total vacancies, only the projected increase over the next year. In fact, Tulsa's projected vacancy rate was the highest of the top 10.

The article predicted a commercial real estate meltdown nationwide, as risky construction borrowing is leading to record vacancy rates nationwide.

Oklahoma City was not included in U.S. News & World Report's top 10 ranking.