

The Boston Globe

Talking Points PM

Executive Summary

Score it a win: Globe tech correspondent Scott Kirsner, who has been talking to a lot of people in commercial real estate about the pros and cons of landing Amazon's second headquarters. As you probably know by now, it looks like Amazon will be splitting H2Q between the suburbs of Virginia and New York City.

- Venture capitalist Russ Wilcox noted that during the course of the search, Amazon said it would lease an additional 400,000 square feet in the Seaport District, picked Boston for a new health care joint venture, and paid about \$1 billion to acquire an online pharmacy based in Somerville.
- Ross calls that a double win because Boston gets “a big slice of Amazon's innovation and development budget, and we do not have to absorb the thousands of lower-paying administrative jobs that would have clogged up our infrastructure and housing.” ([Boston Globe](#))

Rx for success: CVS Health's stock took a healthy leap of more than 5 percent after the company reported third-quarter earnings that topped Wall Street estimates. The Woonsocket-based company's formula: pumping up gains in sales of prescription drugs and health and beauty products. ([Reuters](#))

Deteriorating conditions: Associated Industries of Massachusetts' monthly survey of its members shows that executives are losing confidence in the state's business conditions. The AIM Business Confidence Index came in at 61.0 for October (above 50 is positive), a 1.6-point drop from the previous month and a 5.6-point fall from its high this year in May. ([BBJ](#))

Cashing out of Cambridge: Hunter Lewis, who cofounded investment consultant Cambridge Associates in 1973, is selling his stake to fund his philanthropy. Dawn Lim of The Wall Street Journal reports that Lewis's cofounder, James Bailey, has also reduced his stake but remains the firm's biggest individual shareholder. Neither have been involved in day-to-day operations since the early 2000s. Cambridge was a trailblazer in the business of advising foundations, endowments, and one percenters but is increasingly focusing on managing money. ([WSJ](#))

Cashing out in Cambridge: NCR Corp. [has acquired](#) StopLift Checkout Vision Systems, a company that uses artificial intelligence to help retailers detect fraud at self-checkout counters, for an undisclosed amount. NCR has more than 250,000 self-checkout stations worldwide, making it the global leader in the space. StopLift, which employs about 170 people in the US and India, has its roots in a project that founder Malay Kundu conducted while at Harvard Business School. (Jon Chesto)

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