

COMPARING VACANCY RATES AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: RECOVERING LABOR MARKET

During the recession, the relationship between post-secondary educational attainment and vacancies weakened somewhat statewide and remained nonexistent in Berkshire. In Massachusetts, the relationship weakened as vacancy rates for occupations with large shares of post-secondary-educated workers bounced back modestly in the early stages of the recovery. However, a number of the occupations that employ a lower share of post-secondary-educated labor have continued to see vacancy rates at about 2.0 percent pre- and post-recession, indicating that the statewide labor market is continuing to demand more post-secondary educated labor in the recovery. In Berkshire, with the recovery yet to take hold, some occupations that employ the largest shares of post-secondary educated labor (e.g., Business & Financial Operations, Architecture & Engineering, and Education, Training, & Library occupations) had vacancy rates below 2 percent at the end of the first year of the recovery. At the same time, vacancy rates have remained elevated in some of the occupations that employ lower shares of post-secondary-educated labor (e.g., Building, Grounds Cleaning, & Maintenance and Transportation & Material Moving). Even as the region continued to lose jobs, occupations across the educational attainment spectrum had persistent vacancies.

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Job Vacancy Survey and US Census Bureau 2008-2010 American Community Survey.

Note: Occupational vacancy rates for Berkshire in Q4 2010 proxy vacancy rates in a recovering labor market and educational attainment data by occupation in Berkshire from the 2008-2010 American Community Survey proxy share of employees with a post-secondary education in a recovering labor market.

