

COMPARING VACANCY RATES AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: RECOVERING LABOR MARKET

In both Greater Boston and Massachusetts, occupations with higher educational attainment have long had higher job vacancy rates. As the Great Recession hit, this relationship became weaker in both the regional and state labor markets than it had been at peak employment. However, in both peak and recovering labor markets, there has been a slightly stronger relationship between vacancies and educational attainment in Greater Boston than in Massachusetts. This slightly stronger relationship may be driven by three factors: (1) the higher educational attainment of employees in nearly all occupations in Greater Boston, (2) the higher regional vacancy rates in occupations with predominantly higher levels of education, such as Management, and lower vacancy rates in occupations that require less education, such as Production, and (3) the stronger labor market recovery in Greater Boston, driven largely by the growth of the Metro South/West region, resulting in more vacancies in occupations with higher educational attainment among employees.

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

