

COMPARING VACANCY RATES AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: RECOVERING LABOR MARKET

In the Great Recession, the relationship between vacancy rates and educational attainment weakened statewide, and it almost disappeared in Central Mass by the end of 2010. This change in Central Mass was likely driven by three factors: (1) the lower levels of educational attainment of employees in nearly all occupations in Central Mass; (2) the region's lower vacancy rates in occupations with predominantly higher levels of education, such as Computer & Mathematical and Management, and higher vacancy rates in occupations that typically require less education, such as Transportation & Material Moving and Food Preparation & Serving; and (3) the region's strongest employment gains being concentrated in industries with larger shares of employees that have lower levels of educational attainment, such as Transportation & Warehousing and Other Services—resulting in increased demand for, and vacancies in, in such occupations.

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

