

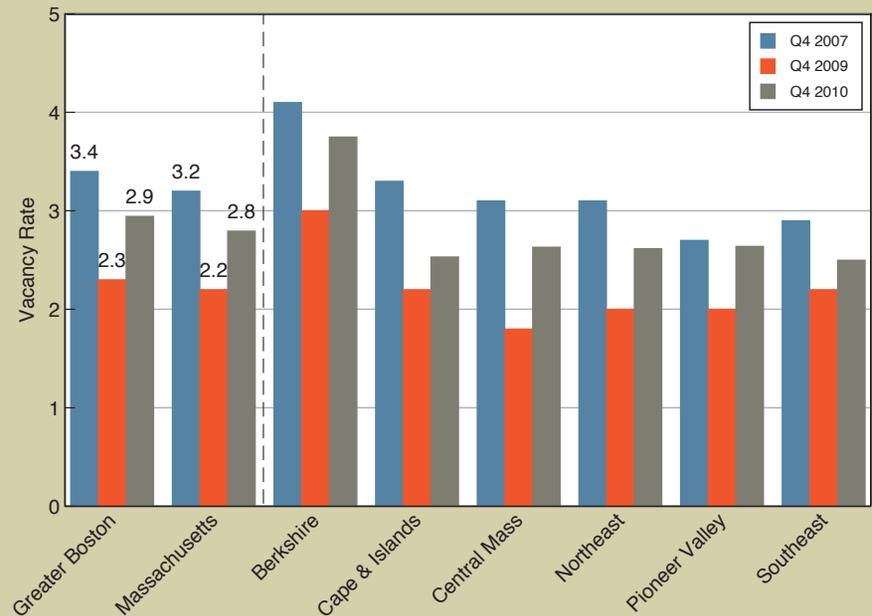
JOB VACANCIES IN THE GREAT RECESSION AND RECOVERY

Job vacancies exist even in a healthy labor market due to turnover and constant flux in the labor market. As businesses expand, they need to hire individuals who meet specific skill requirements, and employees with skills that are in demand leave jobs for better positions. As the economy enters a downturn, job vacancies decline due to an overall decline in labor demand, an increase in the number of applicants available to fill positions, and lower turnover as employees stay longer in jobs. Preceding the Great Recession, the job vacancy rate in Greater Boston was 3.4 percent at the end of 2007. During the Great Recession, the vacancy rate declined by more than a full percentage point by the end of 2009, and as the economy has recovered, it has since risen to near 3.0 percent. As the largest labor market in the state, Greater Boston accounts for more than 45 percent of employment. However, nearly 55 percent of the job vacancies in Massachusetts are in Greater Boston.

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development Job Vacancy Survey.

Note: The Massachusetts Job Vacancy Survey is collected for seven regions in the state. The Greater Boston Region covers portions of the Boston/Metro North, Metro South/West, Central Mass, and Southeastern regions of the regional labor market profiles. The vacancy information for the Greater Boston region is used as an approximation of the vacancies trends experienced in the Metro South/West and Boston/Metro North regions. Vacancy rates are calculated by taking the total number of job vacancies and dividing by the total number employed in the region.

Job Vacancy Rates



Distribution of Job Vacancies Across Regional Labor Markets, Q4 2010

