

COMPARING VACANCY RATES AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: RECOVERING LABOR MARKET

During the Great Recession, the relationship between post-secondary educational attainment and vacancies weakened somewhat statewide, and it was nonexistent in the Southeast region by the end of 2010. This disappearance in the Southeast region (compared with the relationship only weakening statewide) was likely driven by three factors: (1) the higher educational attainment of employees in all occupations in Massachusetts relative to the region, (2) the region's lower vacancy rates in occupations with predominantly higher levels of education, such as Management and Computer & Mathematical occupations, and higher vacancy rates in occupations that typically require less education, such as Building, Grounds Cleaning, & Maintenance and Installation, Maintenance, & Repair, and (3) the Southeast region's weaker employment growth, relative to Massachusetts, in more educated industries, such as Health Care & Social Assistance and Professional & Technical Services (resulting in stronger demand for such employees statewide), and the region's stronger employment growth in industries with lower levels of educational attainment, such as Retail Trade and Manufacturing (which increased demand for those employees in the Southeast region).

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

