

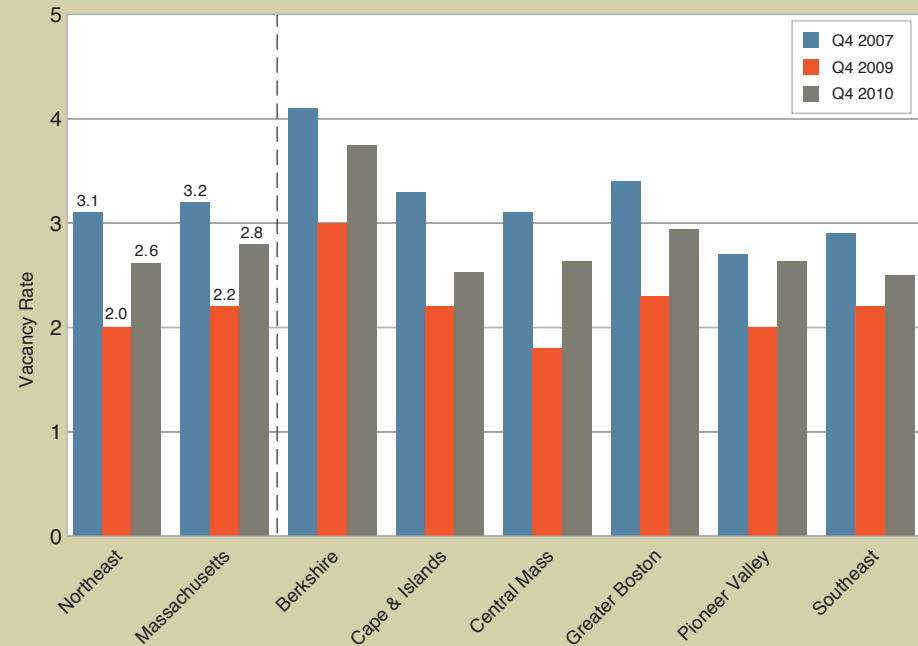
JOB VACANCIES IN THE GREAT RECESSION AND RECOVERY

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. At the end of 2007, preceding the Great Recession, the job vacancy rate in the Northeast region was 3.1 percent. By the end of 2009, during the Great Recession, the vacancy rate had declined by more than a full percentage point, but as the economy started to recover, the vacancy rate rose slightly (by more than half a percentage point) to reach 2.6 percent at end of 2010. As the fourth largest labor market in the state, the Northeast region accounts for more than 13.1 percent of employment. However, the region accounts for 12.6 percent of the job vacancies in Massachusetts, second only to the sizeable Greater Boston labor market.

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. Vacancy rates are calculated by taking the total number of job vacancies and dividing by the total number employed in the region. The Greater Boston region covers portions of the Northeast, Metro South/West, Central Mass, and Southeast 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.

Job Vacancy Rates



Distribution of Job Vacancies Across Regional Labor Markets, Q4 2010

