

## COMPARING VACANCY RATES AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: RECOVERING LABOR MARKET

In the Northeast region and Massachusetts, occupations with higher educational attainment typically had higher job vacancy rates. In the Great Recession, this relationship weakened somewhat state-wide and was almost non-existent in the Northeast region at the end of 2010. This disappearance of this relationship in the Northeast region (while only weakening statewide) is likely driven by three factors: (1) the higher educational attainment of employees in nearly 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 Life, Physical & Social Sciences and Computer & Mathematical occupations, and higher vacancy rates in occupations that typically require less education, such as Building, Grounds, & Cleaning Maintenance and Sales, and (3) the Northeast region's stronger growth, relative to Massachusetts, increasing demand for employees in nearly all industries, including those with lower shares of post-secondary education.

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

