

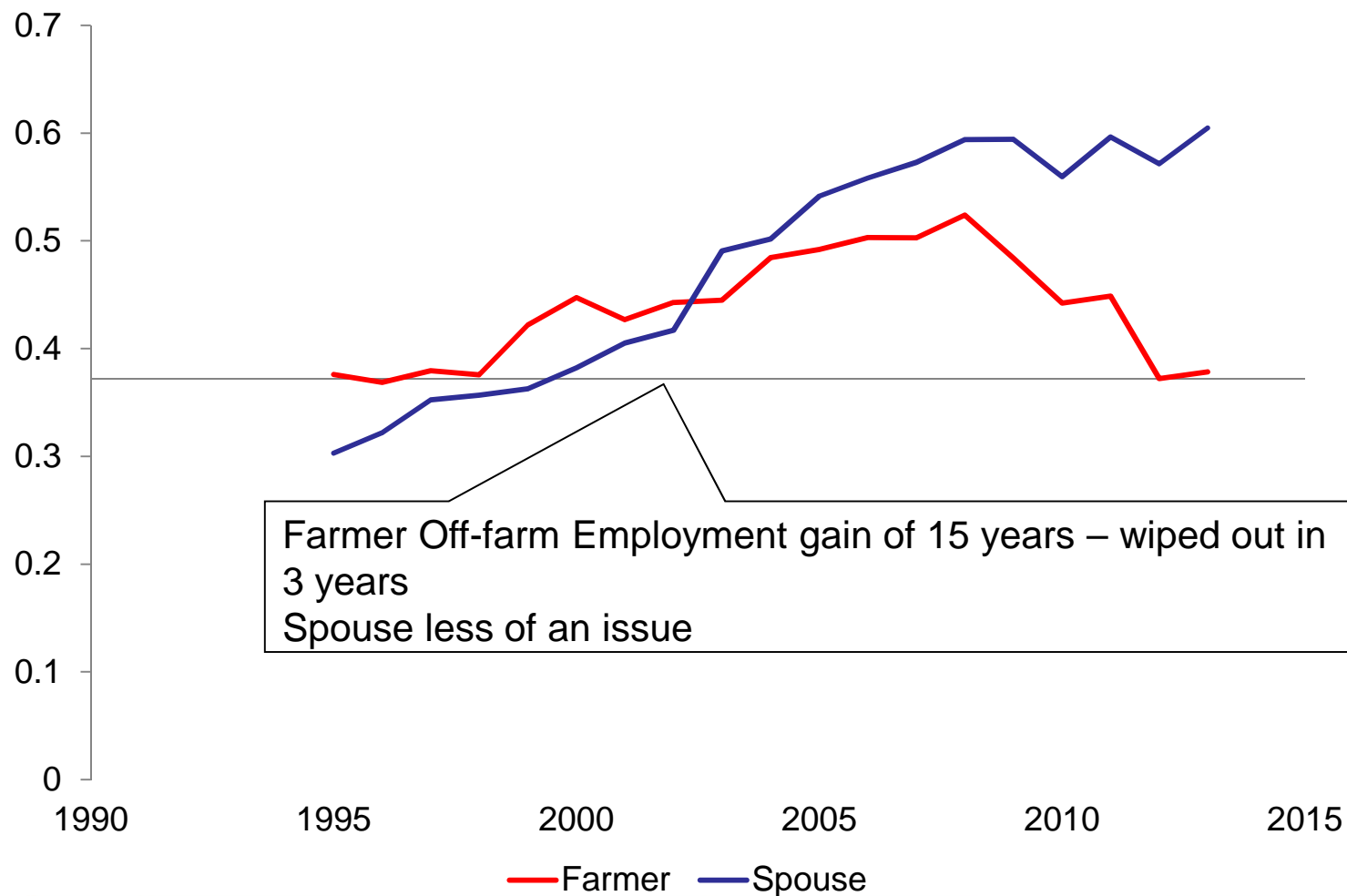
# Off-Farm Employment Challenges for Irish Farm Households

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Teagasc Rural Economy and Development Programme (REDP)

## Paper Structure

- Trend in Off-Farm Employment
- Age Group Variability
- Education
- Sectoral Issues
- Regional Issues

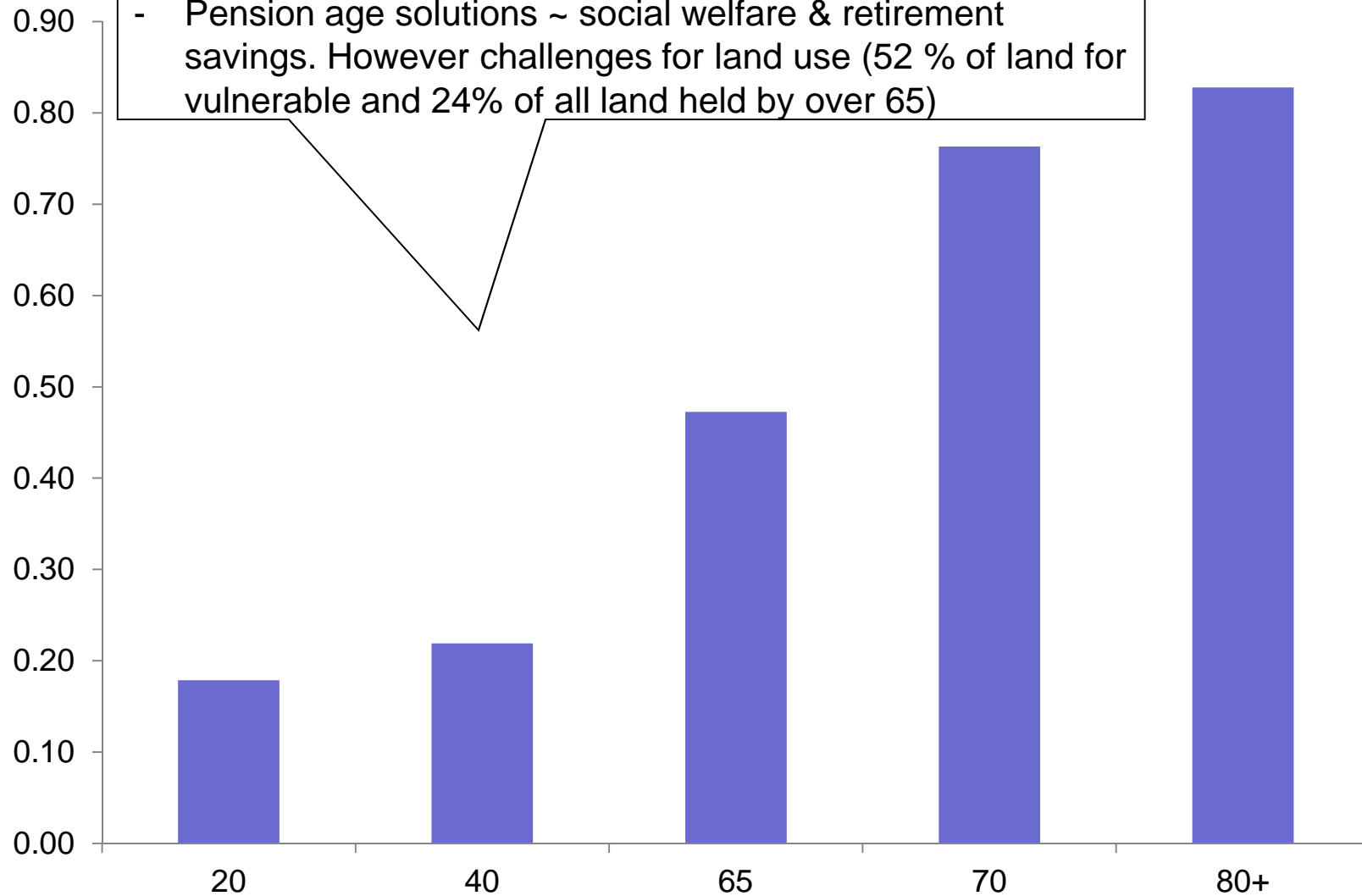
## Off-Farm Employment Rate (Working Age Couple)



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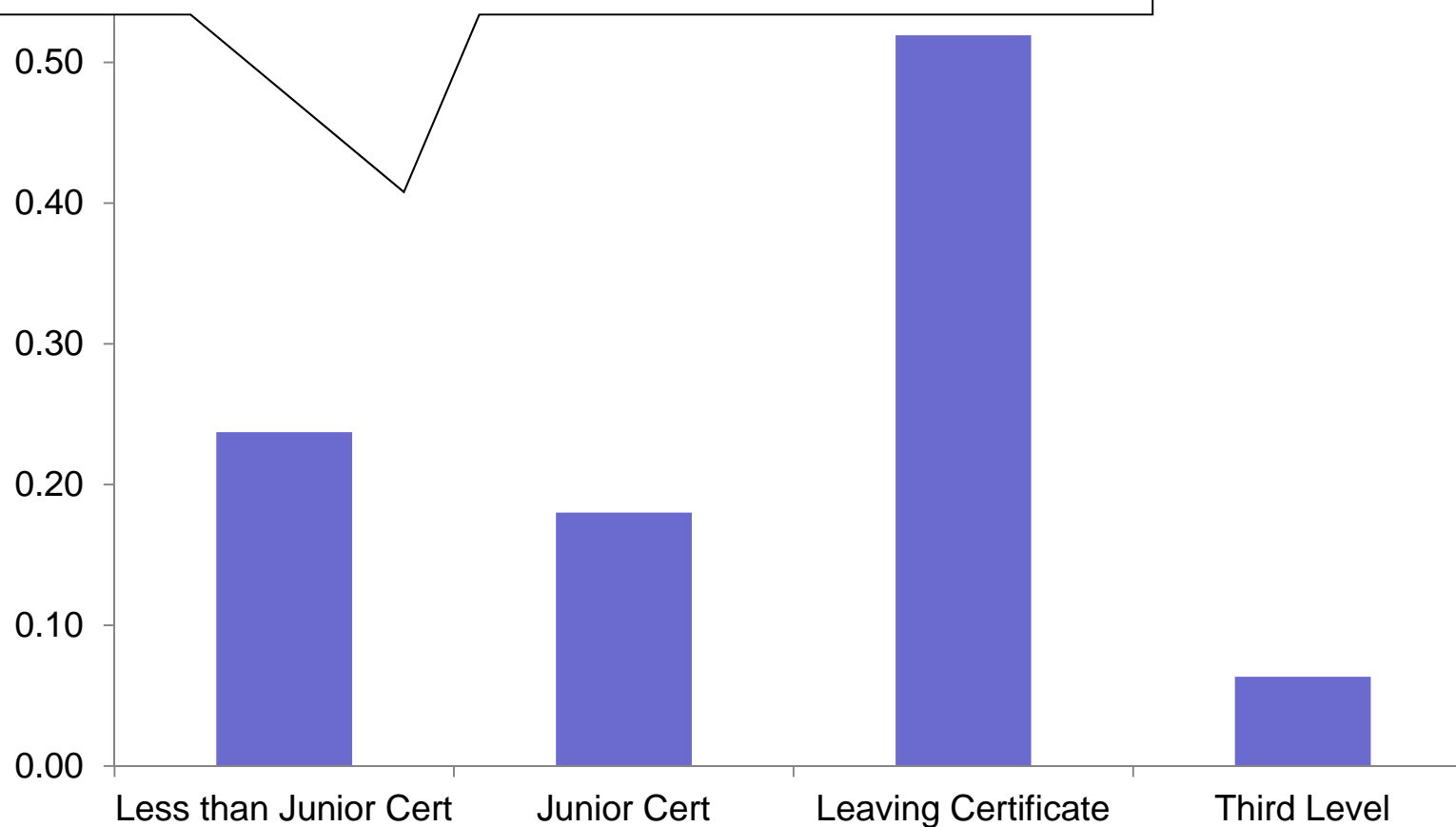
Vulnerability → strongly age related

- Focus today on working age alternative opportunities
- Pension age solutions ~ social welfare & retirement savings. However challenges for land use (52 % of land for vulnerable and 24% of all land held by over 65)



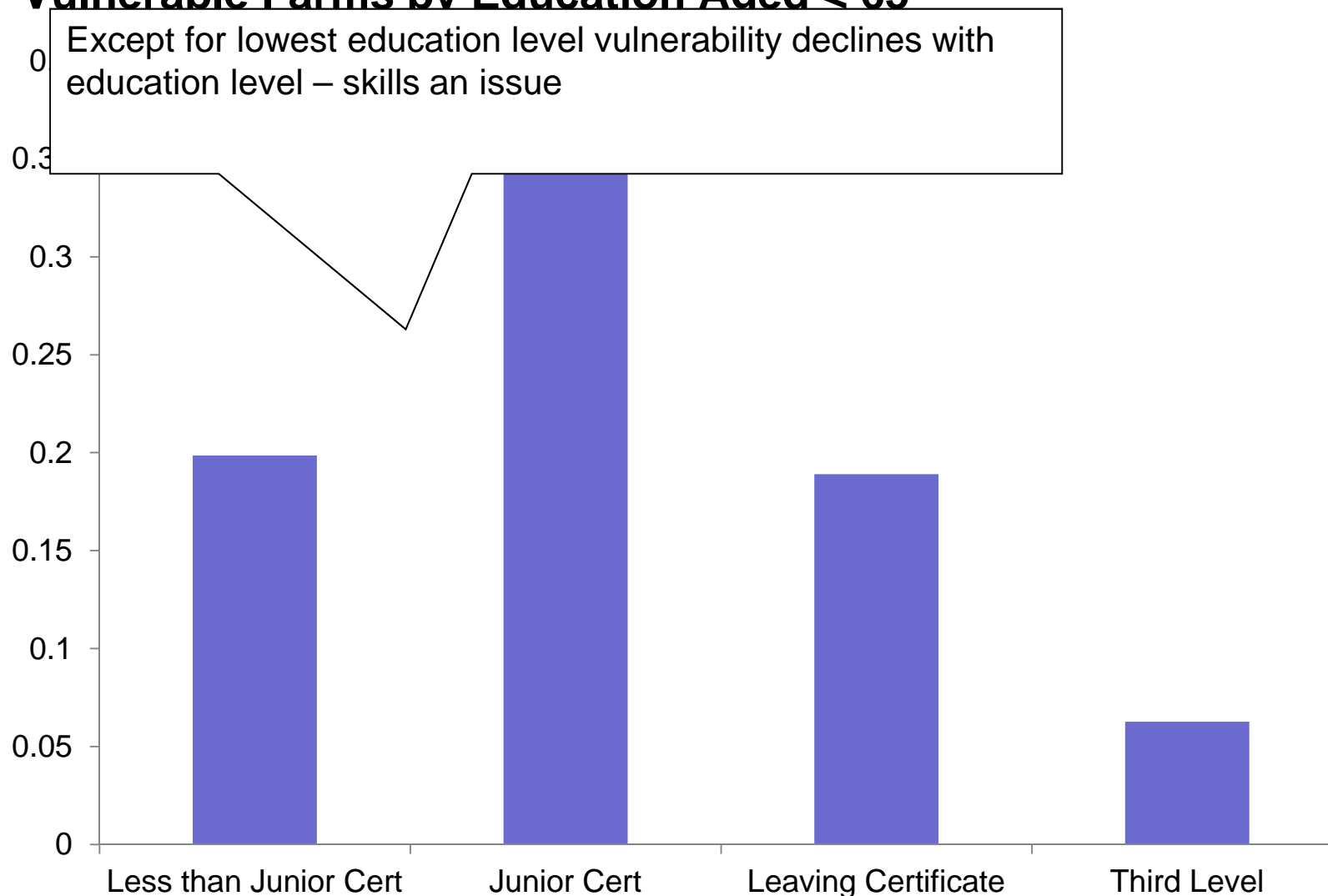
## Highest Level of Education of Farmers Aged < 65

Leaving Certificate Modal Highest Education Level of Working Age  
Low Education Level issue

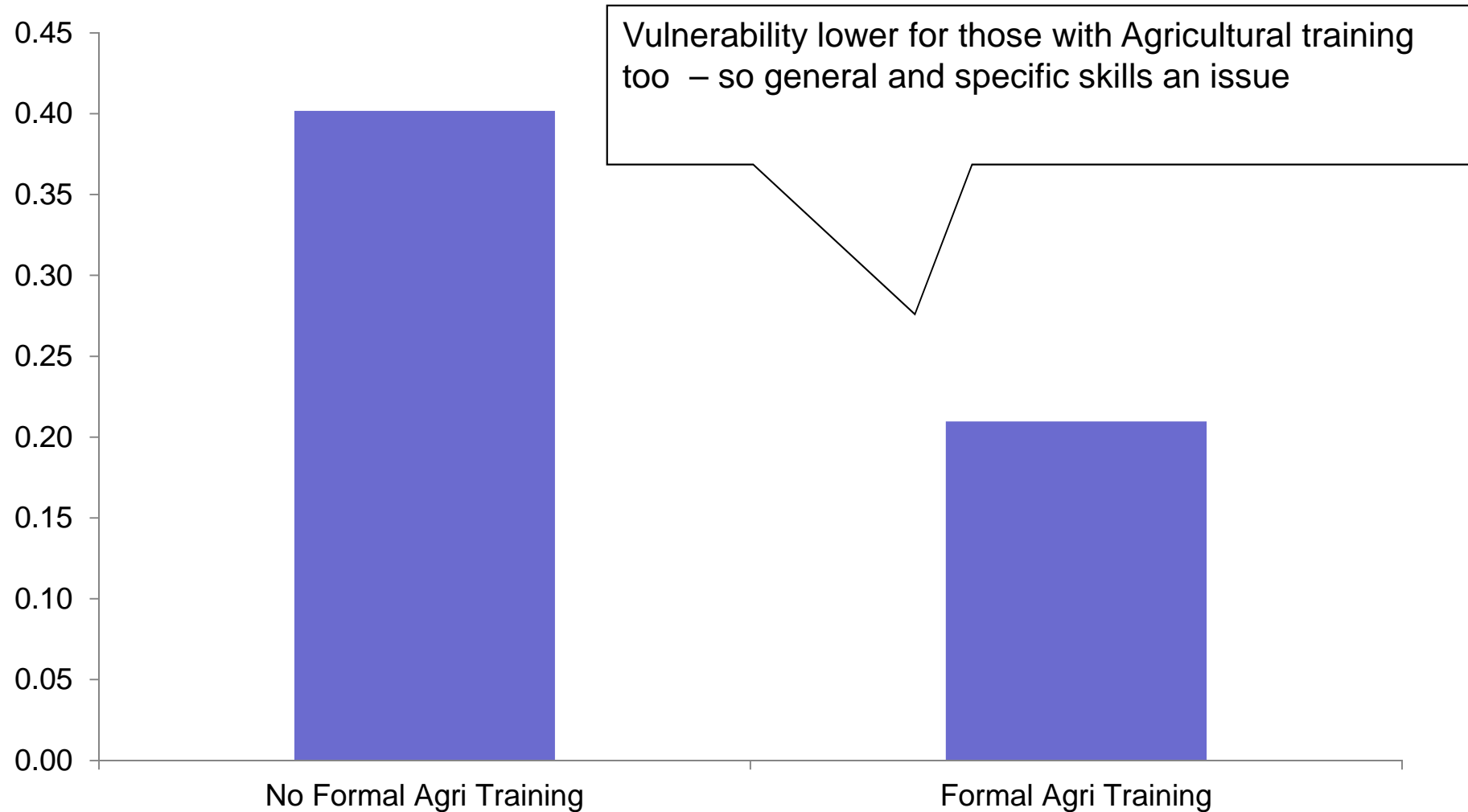


## Vulnerable Farms by Education Aged < 65

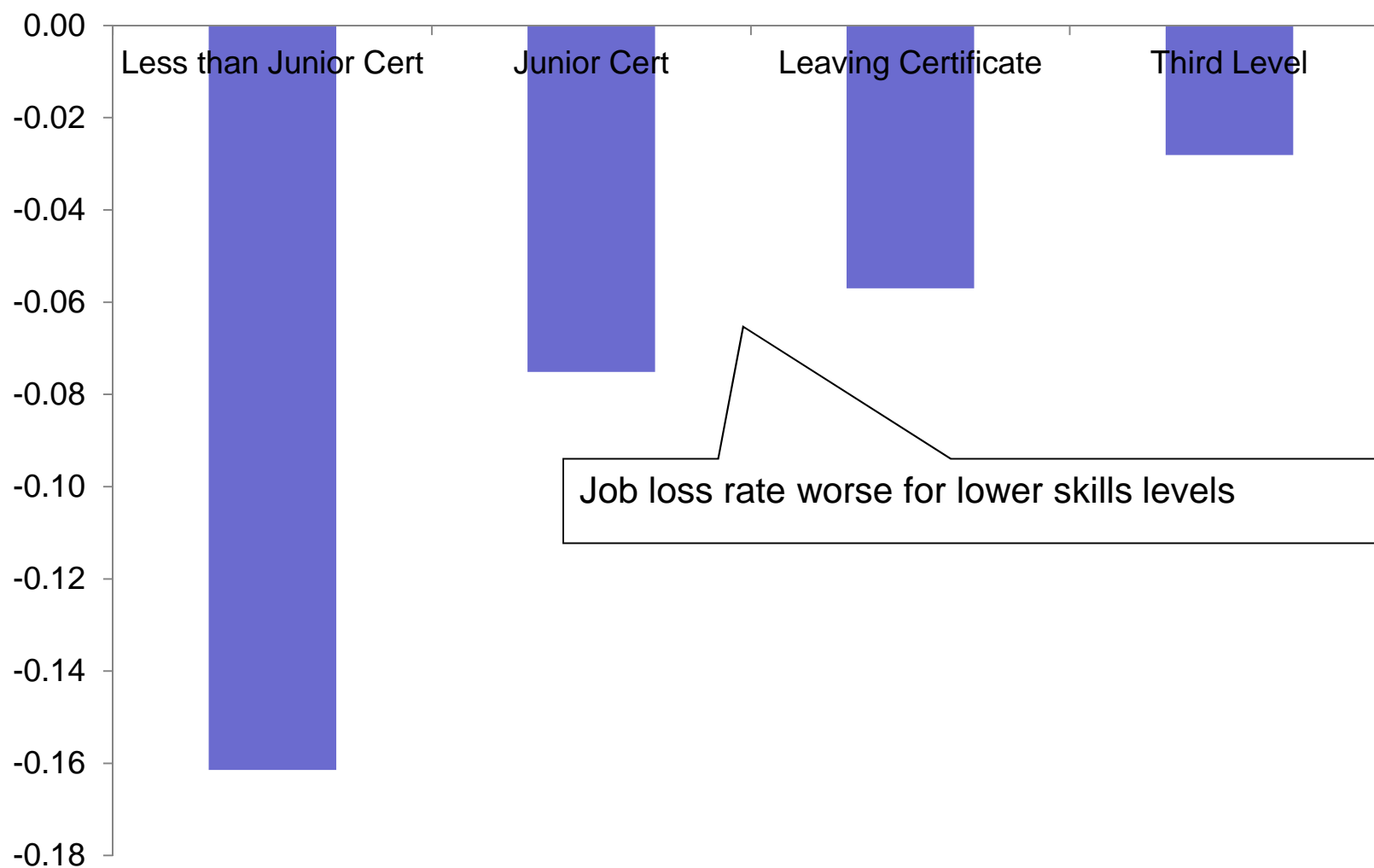
Except for lowest education level vulnerability declines with education level – skills an issue



## Vulnerable Farms by Ag Training Aged < 65

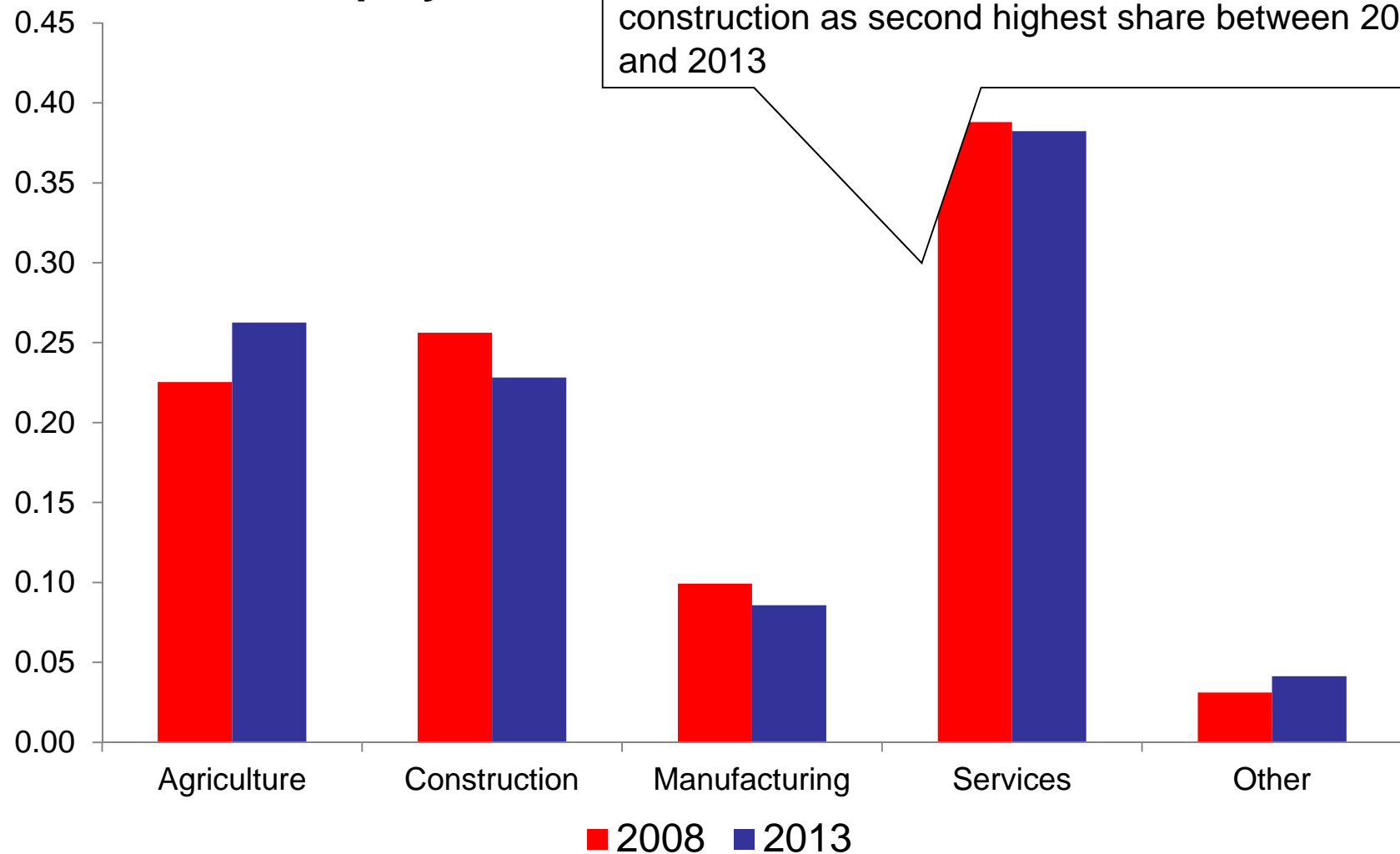


## Job Loss Rate by Education Aged < 65

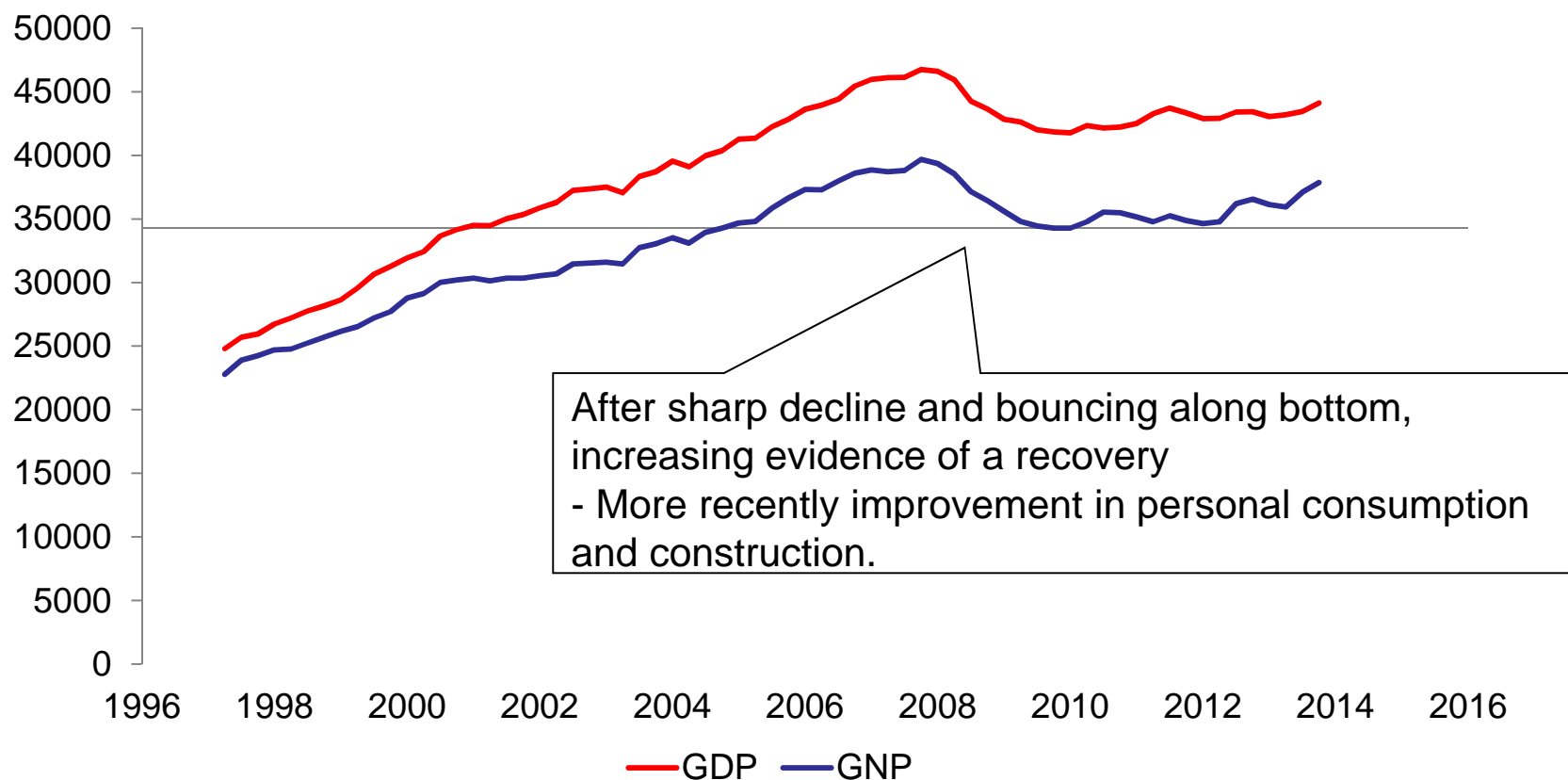




## Sector of Employment



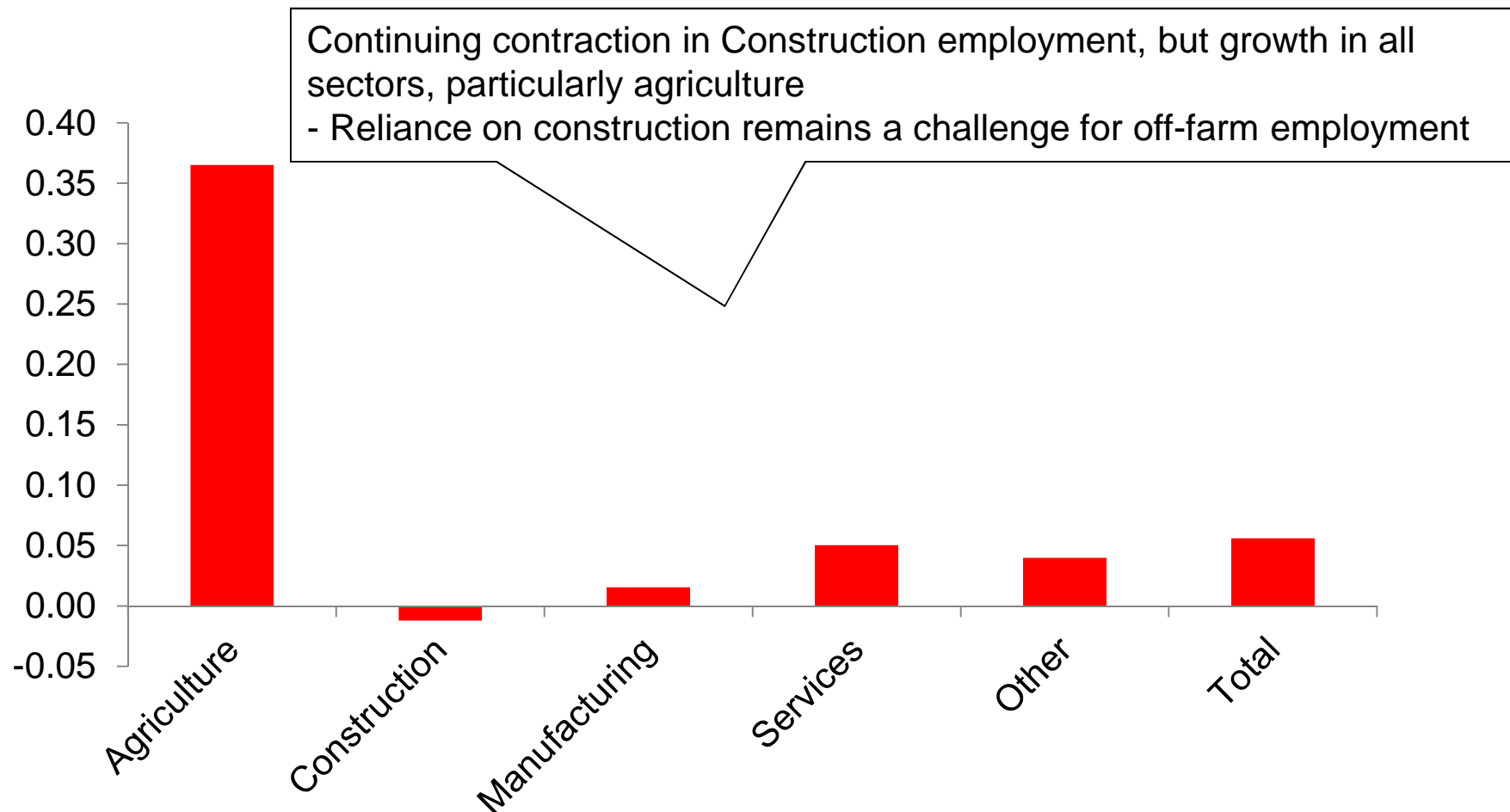
## Economics Growth (Moving Average, Constant Prices)



## Employment Growth

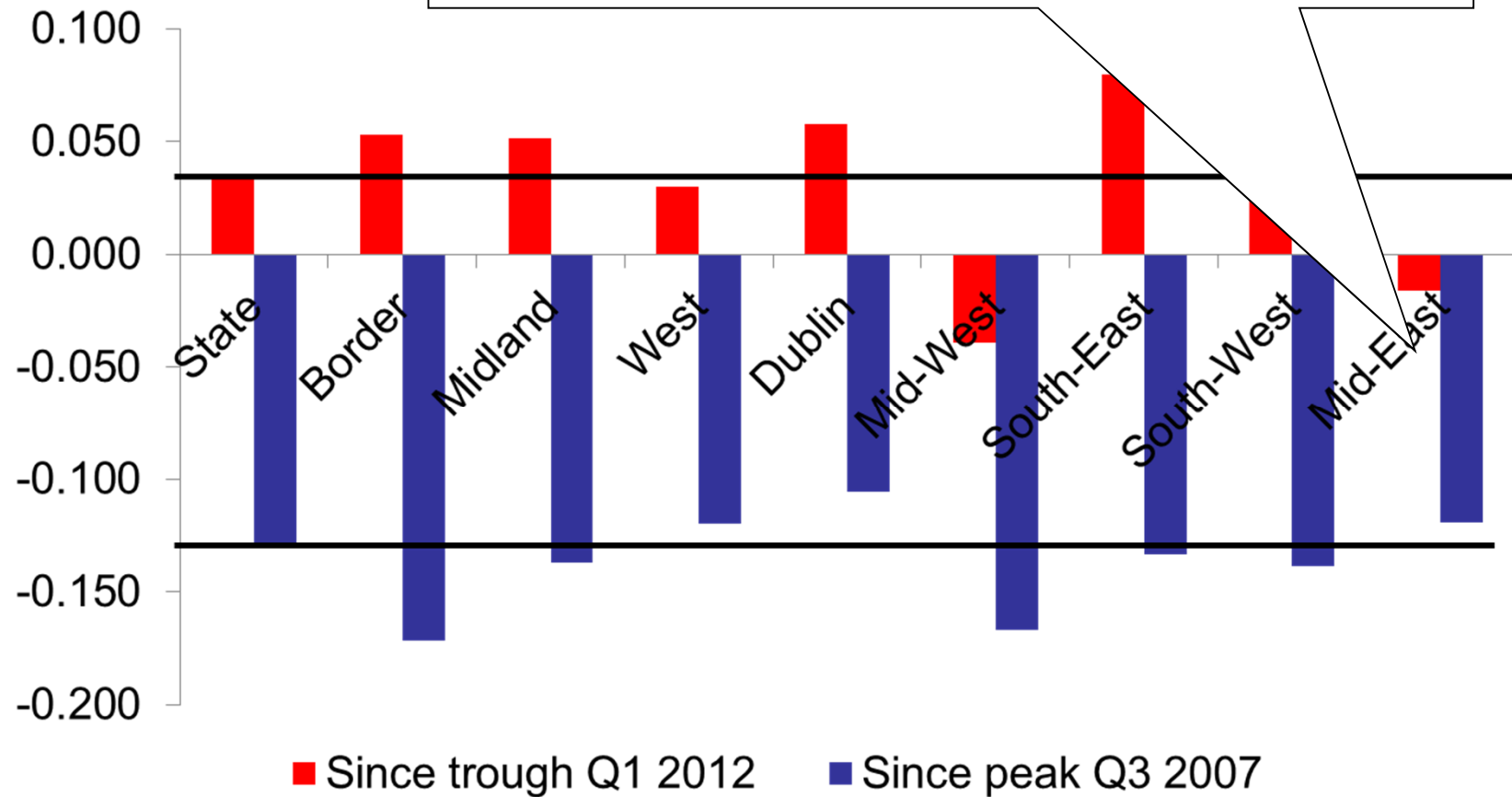


## Employment Growth by Sector since 2012 Q1

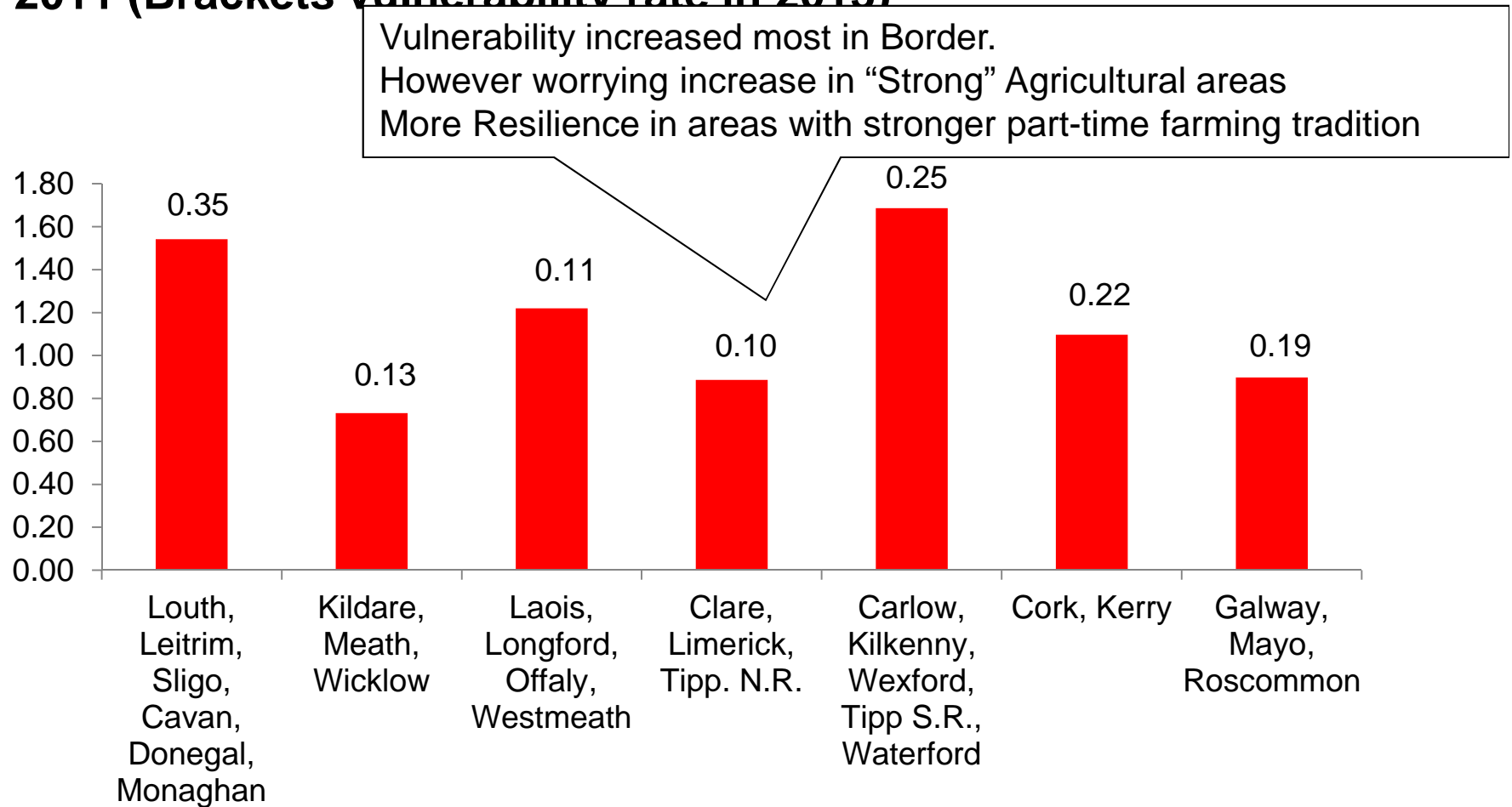


## Employment Growth

Employment down 13% since peak in Q3 2007  
 - Border and MW Worst, Dublin Best  
 Employment up 3.5% since trough in Q1 2012  
 - SE and Dublin best, MW worst



## Change in Vulnerability of Working Age by Region since 2008-2011 (Brackets vulnerability rate in 2013)



## Take-Home Message

- 15 Years of growth in Off-Farm Employment of Farmers wiped out in 3 years post crisis
- While vulnerability was more pronounced for pension age, an important issue for working age
- Education and skill levels are an important driver of employment and vulnerability
- Reliance on construction remains a challenge for off-farm employment
- Border most challenged region
- However worrying increase in “Strong” Agricultural areas
- More Resilience in areas with stronger part-time farming tradition

**Thank You**  
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