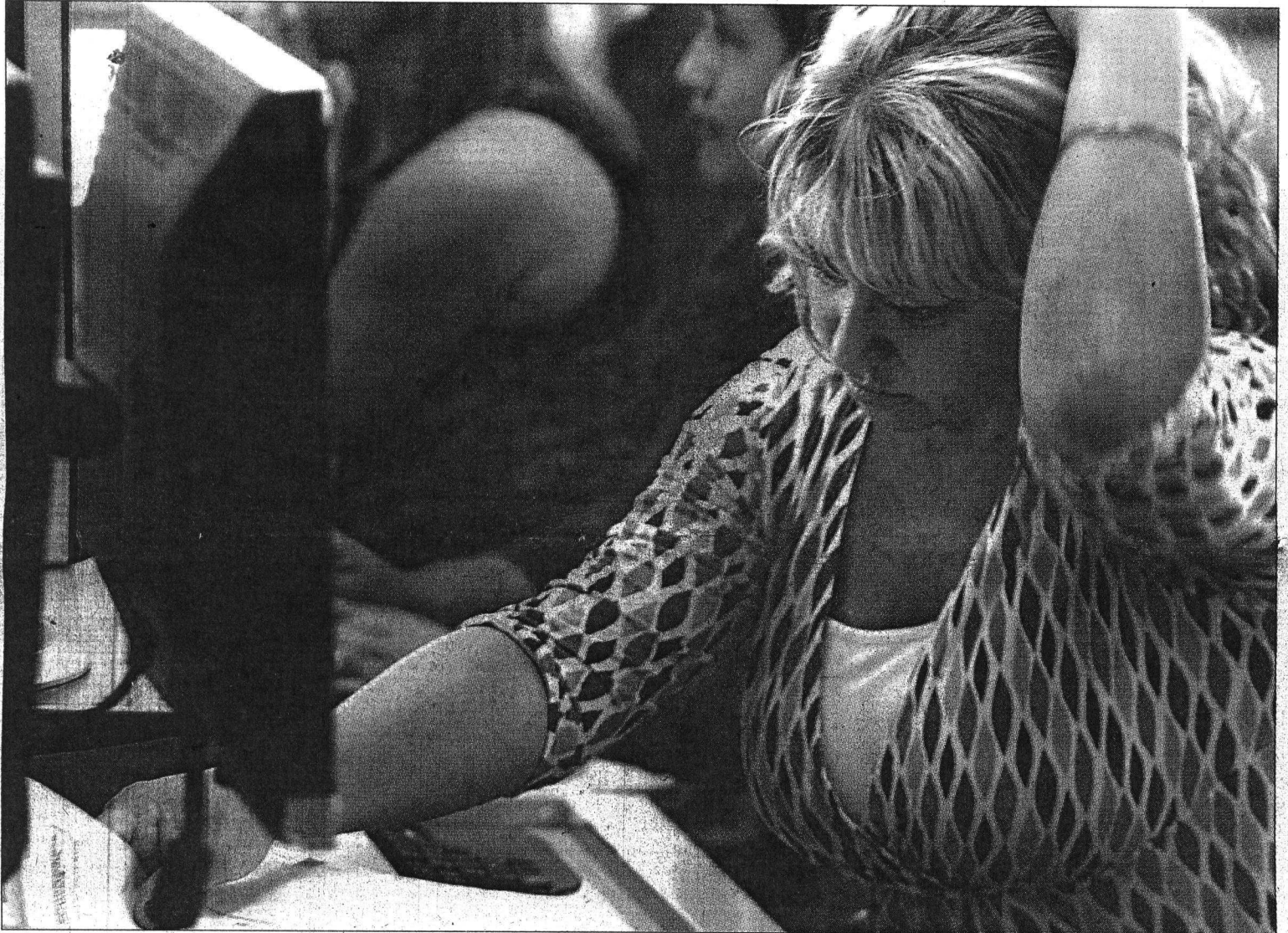


# June's jobless rate way up



Santa Cruz's Shelley Muncy searches for job leads at the Workforce Santa Cruz County Career Center on Monday.

SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL PHOTOS

## Highest level for June in decade as retail, tourism jobs disappear

*Unemployment*  
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SANTA CRUZ — June's jobless rate of 10.6 percent was the highest in Santa Cruz County in a decade for the month of June, a sign that the recession is not yet receding.

"Santa Cruz is doing better than Santa Clara County if that's a consolation," said Janice Shriver of the state Employment Develop-

ment Department.

Unemployment is 9.7 percent nationwide, but is 11.8 percent over the hill and 11.6 percent statewide.

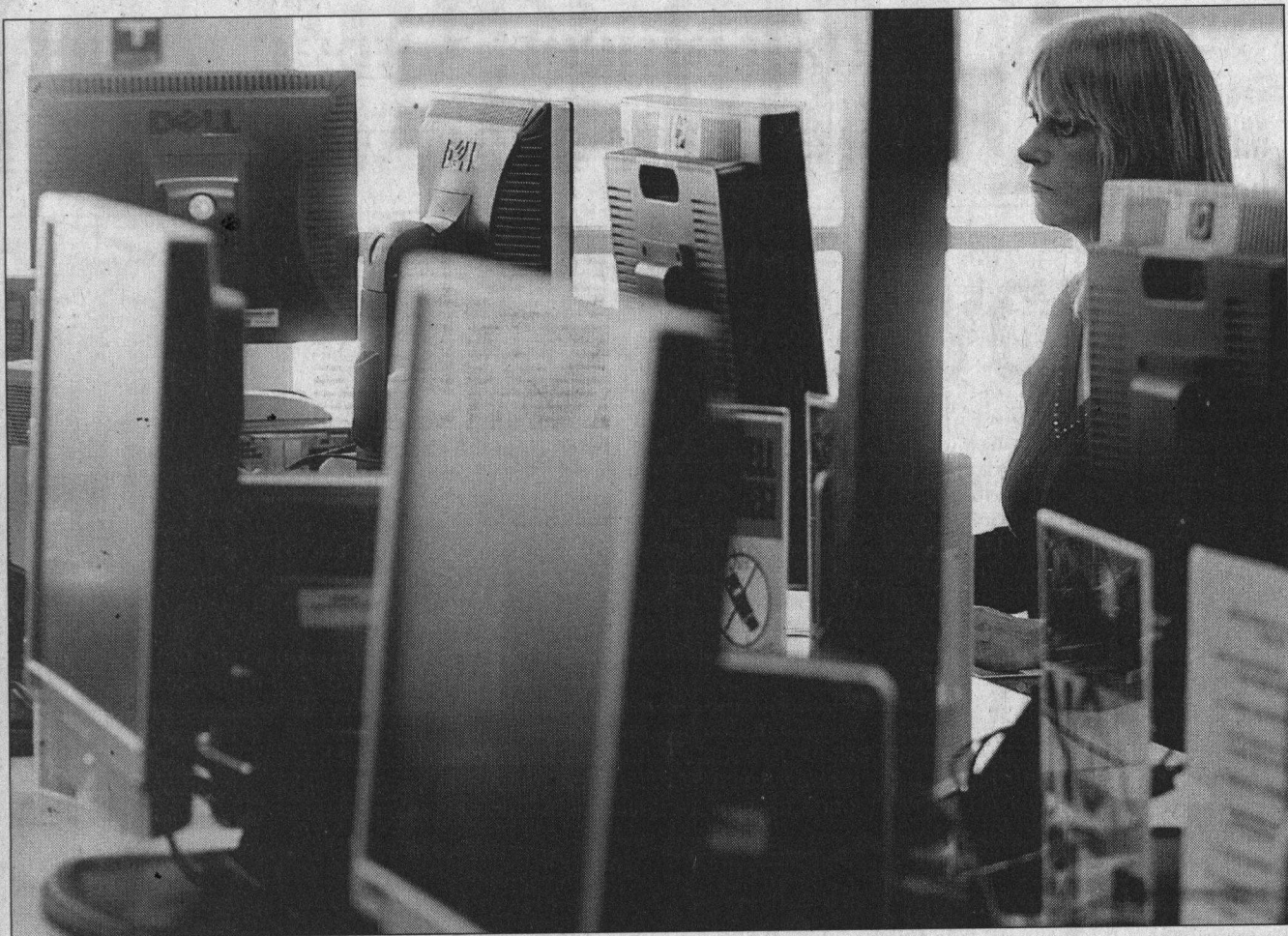
About 16,200 people in Santa Cruz County were unemployed in June, according to state figures released recently. The June figure was essentially the same as in May, when the unemployment

SEE JOBS ON A2



It's a full house at the Workforce Santa Cruz County Career Center on Monday as Thomas Pullman, Daisy Williams and Tammy Culver look for job leads.





SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Unemployed bookkeeper Tammy Culver looks for work at the Workforce Santa Cruz County Career Center on Monday.

## JOBS

Continued from A1

rate was 10.8 percent.

Santa Cruz resident Shelly Muncy lost both of her jobs in mid-April due to cutbacks. A former winery employee with bartending experience and a cosmetology degree, Muncy said she spends five days a week at the Workforce Santa Cruz County Career Center in Capitola scrolling through pages of Craigslist postings.

"I've looked all the way from downtown to Aptos and there is nothing," said Muncy, adding that she has inquired at nearly every restaurant in town. "Every morning I say to myself, 'Wow, is this really happening?'"

Tammy Culver, a bookkeeper laid off two years ago by Santa Cruz Electronics, said she hasn't found work despite her experience and a long list of references.

"You can have all the skills you need, but there are so many applicants, and you don't know if they will even get to your resume," she said.

The local jobless rate is down from the March peak of 13.5 percent, but three key sectors — leisure, construction and the retail and wholesale trade sectors — all are down by 1,000 jobs compared to June a year ago.

The trickle-down effect of joblessness is being felt at preschools and child-care programs.

Sita Moon, coordinator of the county's Child Development Resource Center, reported a 25 percent drop in parent inquiries for early education and after-school programs for the fiscal year that ended June 30,

## JUNE'S JOBLESS NUMBERS

June's jobless rate of 10.6 percent in Santa Cruz County was the highest for that month in 10 years.

YEAR	JOBLESS RATE
2000	4.2 percent
2001	4.3 percent
2002	6.3 percent
2003	7 percent
2004	6 percent
2005	5.3 percent
2006	4.8 percent
2007	5 percent
2008	6.1 percent
2009	10.6 percent

SOURCE: California Employment Development Department

compared to the previous year.

"So many families are not able to afford it," Moon said, attributing the drop to parents losing jobs or having their work hours reduced.

One bright spot for the county is agriculture jobs, which are up 500 compared to a year ago. Between May and June, the county added 2,200 farm jobs, when the bump at this time of year is typically about 2,000 jobs.

"Ag is picking up the slack for jobs that were lost," said Shriver, suggesting that people who switched from farm labor into construction went back to jobs in agriculture.

That helped in Watsonville, where agriculture drives the economy. Unemployment there stands at 22.2 percent, having topped 26 percent in February. Jobless rates are lower in the

## IF YOUR PAY IS CUT ...

Here are seven recommendations from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants:

- Adjust your spending: If your employer enacts a furlough policy or requires employees to take a pay cut, review your spending.
- Look at fixed expenses such as loan payments, insurance, transportation and discretionary expenses such as entertainment, hobbies and vacation. If you are making extra payments on your loans or mortgage, make the required amount only. Consider increasing your deductible on car or health insurance policies to lower your premiums.
- Consider ways to reduce discretionary spending, such as cable TV or dining out.
- Be realistic with major purchases. This may mean driving an older car for another year or taking a less expensive vacation.
- Saving for retirement: This should be one of the last places to consider cutting funds.
- If your employer reduces or eliminates a 401(k) match, consider increasing the percentage of income you contribute to maintain growth in your retirement plan. If your company eliminates 401(k) plans, you can open up a tax-deductible individual retirement account.
- Consult your human resources department: If your company cuts health benefits, the alternative plans are often difficult to comprehend. Companies have to include an assessment of available options.

For more information, go to [www.360financialliteracy.org](http://www.360financialliteracy.org)

rest of the county: Boulder Creek, 11.1 percent; Santa Cruz, 8.8 percent; Capitola, 5.2 percent; and Scotts Valley, 4.7 percent.

Between May and June, government jobs in the county grew to 23,600, a gain of 400, which is more than typical. Leisure jobs grew to 11,400, also a gain of 400, but the number is off 8 percent from a year ago.

"Leisure usually gains 500 jobs between May and June," Shriver said. "Maybe that will pick up in July."

Construction and logging remain the biggest sectors for job losses, with 3,700, a number down 25 percent from a year ago. Jobs in trade, transportation and utilities stand at 17,000, down 6 percent from 2008.

Retail jobs are likely to

get a boost from the opening of Whole Foods Market in Capitola on Wednesday morning and Safeway's new larger Mission Street in Santa Cruz on Thursday.

Charlie Miksicek of the state Employment Development Department in Capitola was happy to report one job-hunter's success.

A woman who had come in to apply for unemployment found out she hadn't earned enough in a quarter to qualify. Miksicek told her about Safeway's June hiring event and suggested she apply.

"She applied online, went to the Watsonville orientation and interviewed and was hired," Miksicek said. "She starts at the end of the month and is really happy and relieved."