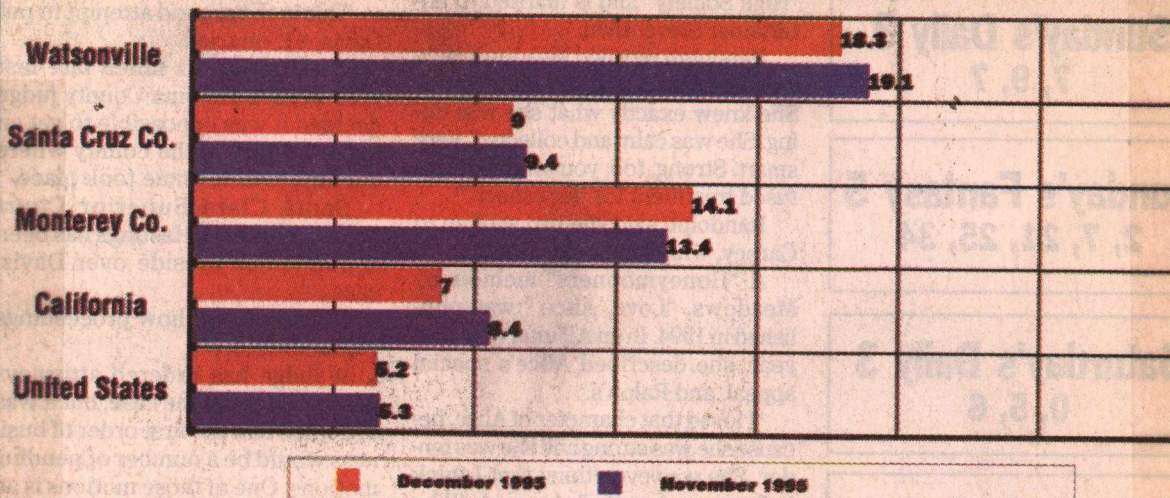


## Unemployment rates on the Central Coast



# Unemployment down

## Watsonville still leads in jobless rate in county

December saw a slight improvement in the unemployment picture in Santa Cruz and San Benito counties but conditions worsened in Monterey County, the state Employment Development Department reported last week.

Santa Cruz County's jobless rate fell from 13.8 percent in November to 12.9 percent in December. The December 1994 rate stood at 13.2 percent.

In the city of Watsonville, the unemployment rate was estimated to be 18.3 percent, with 3,260 people registered for unemployment benefits. Aptos reported a 4.4 percent unemployment rate; Rio del Mar, 4.8 percent; and Soquel, 6.3 percent.

In the city of Santa Cruz, the jobless rate was reported to be 7.9 percent; Scotts Valley, 5.0 percent.

Monterey County's jobless rate rose from 23.5 percent in November to 24.7 percent in December. The December 1994 rate was 22.4 percent.

San Benito County reported a 18.20 percent rate in December 1995, down from 18.90 percent in November. The December 1994 rate stood at 18.51 percent.

Farm employment in Santa

In Watsonville, the unemployment rate was estimated to be 18.3 percent.

Cruz County, which is seasonal, dropped from 13,400 in November to 10,300 in December, a decrease of 23.1 percent. There were 8,300 people working in agriculture in December, 1994, the state said.

Non-farm employment remained almost static from November to December, with the number of employed dropping

from 88,700 to 88,000.

In Monterey County, those on the farm payroll dropped from 32,700 in November to 26,700 in December, a drop of 18.3 percent. The non-farm payroll decreased from 107,500 in November to 107,100 in December, a 0.4 percent decrease.

San Benito County's farm workforce declined from 2,710 in November to 1,730 in December, a 36.2 percent drop. The farm employment roll stood at 2,270 in December 1994. Its non-farm workforce dropped from 8,820 to 8,780 between the two months. There were 8,590 people working in the non-farm sectors in December 1994.

A [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

REFERENCE  
WATSONVILLE  
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN  
February 5, 1996