

County unemployment figures drop

unemployment 7-13-02

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The unemployment rate continues to drop in Santa Cruz County, hitting 5.9 percent in June, according to the state's Employment Development Department. That's down from 6.2 percent in May.

Biggest job gains were in agriculture, which added 2,400 jobs. Services added 600 jobs and retail 300. In total, 141,400 people are employed in Santa Cruz, while 8,800 are unemployed.*

The unemployment rate was 9.6 percent in

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JANICE SHRIVER, LABOR MARKET CONSULTANT

FOR THE EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

March and 8.6 percent in April.

"It's looking good for the Santa Cruz and Watsonville area," said Janice Shriver, labor market consultant for the Employment Development Department. "There were no decreases in any area."

In June 2001, the Santa Cruz unemployment

rate was 4.3 percent.

California's economy produced an extra 4,400 jobs in June, but the slim gain was not enough to push down the unemployment rate, which remained unchanged from May's revised figure of 6.4 percent.

In June 2001, California's jobless rate was 5.2

percent.

This year there are an additional 214,000 unemployed.

In Santa Clara County, the unemployment rate increased to 7.6 percent, up from 7.1 percent as the labor pool swelled by 14,300.

In San Francisco, which still is feeling the effects of the technology meltdown, the unemployment rate rose to 6.9 percent from 6.3 percent. Nearly 30,000 people are looking for work in the area.

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