

# Economy on the upswing

The Pajaro Valley economy took a decided turn upward in the third quarter, with real estate sales up and unemployment down, compared to statistics for the third quarter a year ago.

After a disastrous year in 1982, the home sales market has been steadily improving this year.

In the third quarter last year, local members of the Board of Realtors sold 52 homes. This year they sold

108, and there's an indication the fourth quarter will be good — there were 63 pending sales in October.

Board president Ed Choate attributes the increase to "consumer confidence" and a more stable economy.

The Credit Bureau of Watsonville increased its collections 17.7 percent from the third quarter a year ago. Manager Dave Hemrick said the improved employment sit-

uation in town is one reason for the increase.

Thanks in part to increased work at the frozen food plants, the county's unemployment rate dropped from 9.98 per cent in the third quarter last year to 7.66 per cent this year. There were also fewer new unemployment claims at the Watsonville office of the state Employment Development Department.

## Pajaro Valley economic survey

	3rd Qtr. '83	3rd Qtr. '82
<b>Home sales/avg. price.</b> Homes sold by Watsonville Board of Realtors members. Does not include mobile homes.	108/\$91,418	52/\$93,210
<b>Unemployment rate</b> Santa Cruz County Residents, includes self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on strike.	7.66%	9.98%
<b>Agricultural work force</b> Average number employed for Santa Cruz County, based on place of work, not including self-employed. Category includes fishing and forestry industries, but most are farm workers.	7,166	6,933
<b>Food product workers</b> Average number employed in Santa Cruz County in the state's "Food and kindred products" category, of which about 70 percent is food processing. Not including self-employed.	4,800	4,433
<b>Unemployment claims</b> New claims, Watsonville office, State Employment Development Department (includes Freedom, La Selva Beach, Watsonville, Corralitos and part of North Monterey County).	3,757	4,144
<b>Unemployment payments (in weeks)</b> Watsonville office.	16,563	18,407
<b>Debts</b> Volume of new assignments, Collection Bureau of Watsonville.	Up 3% from third quarter '82	
<b>Debt collection</b> Percentage of debts collected by Collection Bureau of Watsonville.	Up 18% from third quarter '82	