

Watsonville unemployment still in double digits

Unemployment rates on the Central Coast

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Unemployment in Watsonville continued at its double-digit level in September, the state Employment Development Department reported this week.

The city's unemployment rate of 17 percent is the second highest in the four-county area of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey and San Benito counties.

Only Soledad with a rate of 19 percent is higher, the state reported.

The city of Santa Cruz and Capitola both reported rates of 6 percent in September, while Salinas had a 10 percent rate; Seaside, 7 percent; Pacific Grove, 3 percent; city of Monterey, 2 percent; Marina, 5 percent; and the Monterey Peninsula, 4 percent.

Santa Cruz County, including Watsonville and the other cities, had a 7 percent unemployment rate; Monterey County had an 8 percent unemployment rate.

The highest rate in Santa Clara County was in Gilroy with 10 percent.

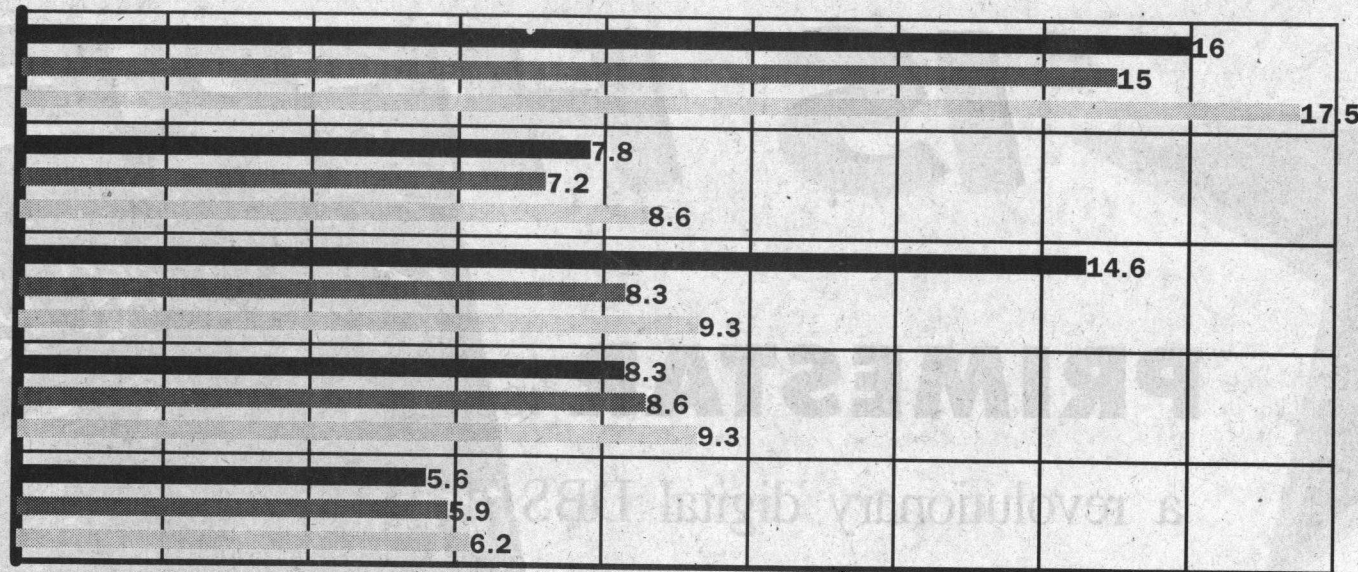
Hollister reported a 12 percent rate.

In Santa Cruz County, major gains were reported in the government sector where reopening schools accounted for an increase in jobs.

Modest gains (see chart) were reported in agriculture, but there were slight losses in the services, retail and manufacturing sectors.

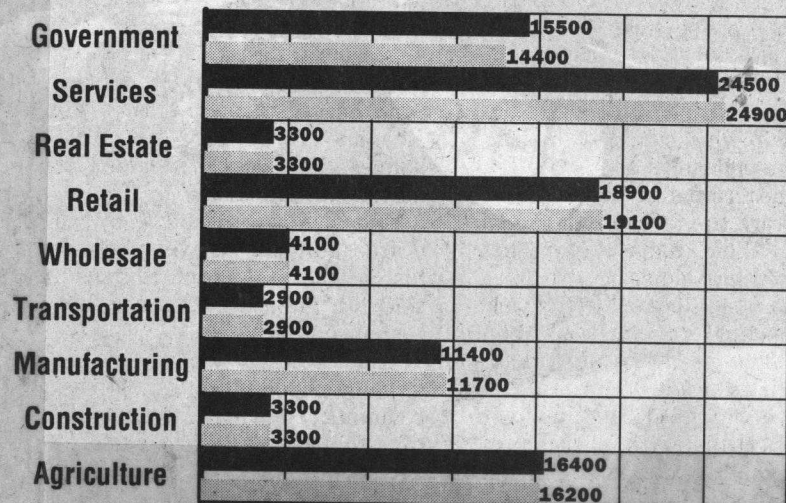
Government employment in Monterey County continued to decline, and there were slight losses in the services, retail and wholesale sectors.

There were 2,400 new jobs in the agricultural sector.



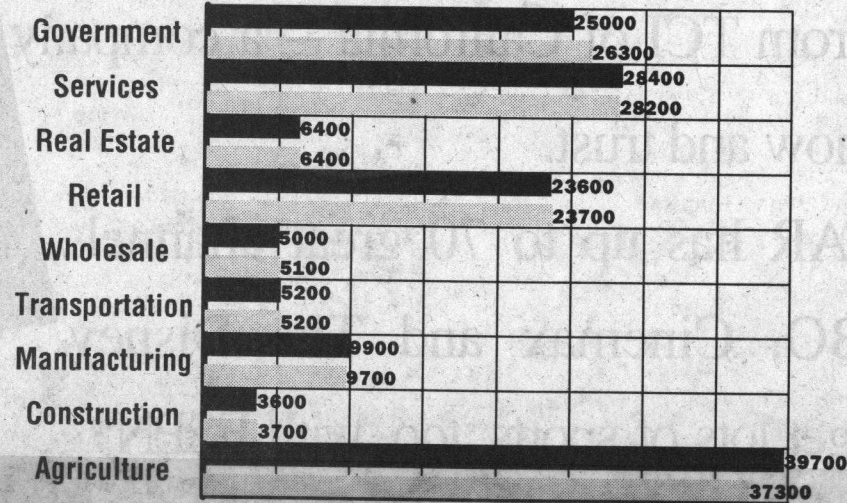
Employment

Santa Cruz County



Employment

Monterey County



REFERENCE

Economics
1990-2000