

Economics
1990-2000

Watsonville unemployment rate jumps 2.5%

Unemployment jumped by 2,500 last month in Santa Cruz County, the state Employment Development Department said yesterday.

Unemployment throughout Santa Cruz County increased to 8.9 percent last month, up from 7.5 percent in October. The state rate jumped only slightly, up from 7.4 percent in October to 7.5 percent in November. By comparison, the national unemployment rate dropped from 5.4 percent in October to 5.3 percent last month.

The farm sector accounted for 1,800 — or 72 percent — of the lost jobs in the county.

The unemployment rate in Watsonville jumped from 15.6 percent in October to 18.1 percent last month, the state said. There were 14,470 Watsonville residents working in November, compared to 14,740 in October. The jobless level of 2,720 in October increased to 3,200 last month.

Although the unemployment rate in Santa Cruz is the same as a year ago, there are 1,700 more people working now than last year at this time, and only

100 more unemployed, the EDD said.

In Monterey County, the jobless rate last month was 10.7 percent, up 2.7 percent from October's 8 percent level.

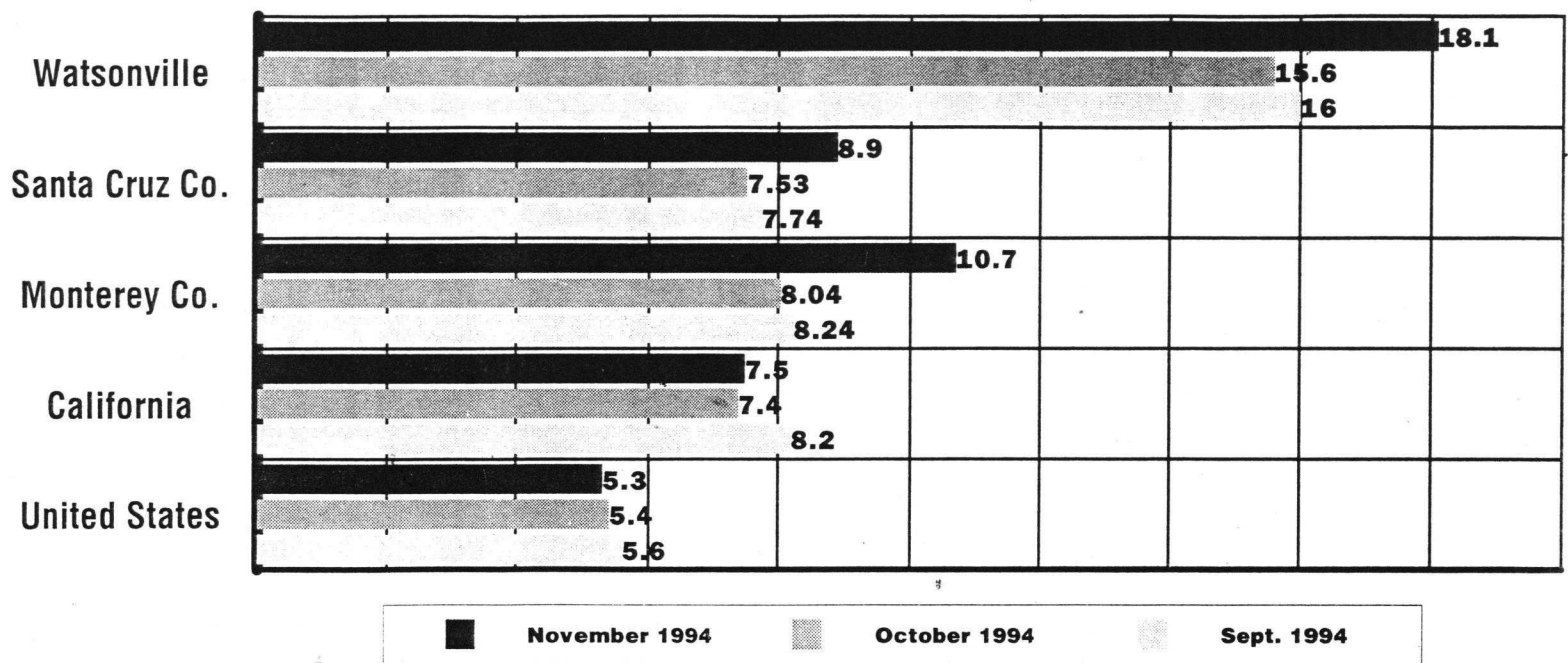
The county has had a net gain of 600 jobs in the last year, the state reported. The increase is due mainly to growth in farm payrolls, with 2,500 additional jobs, while nonfarm payrolls de-

clined by 1,900. Most of the decline came from a Department of Defense cut of 1,600 workers in the last year.

On the other hand, local government and health services

each added 200 jobs, while hotel and other lodging places added 300 jobs. Manufacturing and whole trade offset these gains, posting net losses of 200 jobs each.

Unemployment rates on the Central Coast



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