

# Local Job Picture Brightens Again

Employment in Santa Cruz County in October reached the second highest mark in history, according to the Labor Force Summary of the California Department of Employment.

The report showed 39,600 persons at work last month while 1900 persons, or 4.6 per cent of the labor force were unemployed.

The all-time employment high came in September of 1966 when 40,000 persons were at work and 2000 were unemployed.

One of the more encouraging facets of the current report is that, during the past year, the labor force gained 900 persons, 800 of them being able to find jobs.

Thus, the 2.2 per cent gain in the labor force was accompanied by a 2.1 per cent gain in employment, a highly satisfactory ratio compared to the off-seasons in Santa Cruz.

October, however, is normally one of the high working months in the county. The 4.6 per cent unemployment factor is one of the few times in the year when the local job picture has been below 5 per cent. It was, for example, 7.4 per cent in August.

The employment picture was improved with a gain of 300 workers in durable goods manufacturing. Manufacturing employment reached the 7000 mark with 3900 employed in nondurable work, including 3200 in the food industries and

1700 in ordnance and electrical machinery manufacturing.

Work in the construction trades was still down, with a decline from 1700 last year to 1600 this year, while public utilities showed an increase of 200 to a total of 1400 this October.

Employment in wholesale and retail trade held steady at 6600, as did finance, insurance and real estate at 900. The service trades showed a gain of 100 to a total of 4800, while government work climbed from 5500 to 5900 in the county.

There was a decline of 100 in agricultural jobs, from 5800 a year ago to 5700 this year.

When you look at the changes in recent years, it is rather remarkable that the local employment picture has remained so good.

For example, we have 1600 persons employed in the construction industry, compared to a high of 2800 in August of 1964. We have 900 employed in finance, insurance and real estate, an allied field to the construction industry in the sense that real estate, title work and home financing are a close and vital part of the building industry, compared to 1300 during most of 1965.

Segments of both retail and wholesale trade also has been hit by the slack in construction work which shows up in the fact that employment in retail and whole-

sale trade has been standing still the last 18 months or so.

In checking back further, comparing this October with the same month in 1960, we find that wholesale and retail trades employ 6600 today, compared to 6700 then, but manufacturing employment has increased from 5400 to 7000.

Agricultural employment is down from 6700 to 5700, while government employment jumped from 3200 to 5900.

In the overall picture, in October, 1960, there were 32,000 jobs in the county and 1700 unemployed with a total labor force of 33,700.

Today we have 39,600 at work, 1900 unemployed with a total labor force of 41,500.

When you look back at the past seven years, there are some startling changes.

If we assume that we have a population of 115,000 today, we have gained about 31,000 persons; 7600 of them are at work and another 12,000 are enrolled in public schools, 5580 are 65 or older.

The big switch comes when you compare school pupils to total population. The percentage of school enrollment to population was 20.8 per cent in 1960 and is about 25.8 per cent today, not including UCSC. The working force constitutes 34.4 per cent of the population today against 38 per cent in 1960. Those 65 or over were 19 per cent in 1960, 18 per cent today.