

## Employment Analysis

Santa Cruz County experienced the greatest 10-year gain in employment in its history during the past decade, according to data released recently by the State Department of Human Resources Development.

Between the end of 1959 and 1969, the county gained 12,700 jobs on a year-around average.

During the same period, however, the labor force increased by 13,800 so despite an extraordinary increase in jobs, we didn't quite keep pace with the labor force growth.

But of the 1,100 difference between labor force growth and new jobs, 700 came during the past year when the labor force increased by 2,000 persons compared to a 1,300 gain in employment.

The gain in the labor force in the county appears to be running well ahead of the general population growth and probably is accounted for by an increase in the number of wage-earners per family.

For example, in 1967 the labor force increased by 1,500 persons or 3.7 per cent. In 1968 the gain in the number of persons at work or seeking employment was 1,900 or 4.6 per cent and the percentage figure for 1969 was the same, 4.6 per cent or 2,000 persons.

If the labor force continues to gain at the rate of the past couple of years, we

may face a dire challenge in finding jobs at the same pace, considering the average of the past three years was less than 1,600 a year, despite being well ahead of all previous years.

The change in employment in the area is actually less than one might expect in the past decade from the point of view of the type of work being available.

Five major categories accounted for nearly 86 per cent of all jobs in 1959 and the same five classifications provided 85.5 per cent of all jobs last year.

The major difference occurred in two fields, government employment soared by 3,700 jobs during the past decade, most of them in the field of education while agriculture lost 1,500 jobs the past decade.

Trade employment accounted for 6,600 jobs or 22.9 per cent of all employment in 1959 while in 1969 it accounted for 22.1 per cent of all work or 9,200 jobs, 7,900 in retail trade and 1,300 in wholesale trade.

The services had 17.7 per cent of all jobs in 1959 with 5,100 workers compared to 20 per cent or 8,300 workers last year, a gain of 3,200 workers.

Manufacturing provided 4,200 jobs in 1959 or 14.5 per cent of all work while last year it averaged 7,000 workers or 16.8 per cent.

Employment in government totalled

2,800 in 1959 or 9.7 per cent of the work force while in 1969 there were 6,500 persons at work or 15.6 per cent.

Agriculture had 6,100 jobs in 1959 or 21.1 per cent of the total work force while last year there were 4,600 workers or 11 per cent.

All other job categories increased from 4,000 in 1959 to 5,900 last year, an increase of 1,900 workers while the percentage climbed slightly from 14.1 to 14.5 per cent.

Santa Cruz County is an unusual area in that the work force is extremely well divided but the difference between the low employment month, February, and the high employment month, October, is fantastic.

For example, in 1967 there were 34,400 employed in February from a labor force of 39,000 while in October there were 40,600 employed out of a labor force of 42,500.

In 1968, February employment was 36,200 of a labor force of 40,400 while October employment was 43,000 from a labor force of 45,000. Last year February employment totalled 37,300 from a labor force of 43,200 while in October an all time high of 44,500 persons were at work from a record labor force of 47,000.

As you can see, the difference between February and October amounts to more than 7,000 jobs.