

# State of Real Estate

## Property values rise 10 percent locally

*Housing - 1960*  
PROPERTY values in Santa Cruz County continued their upward spiral last year, rising more than 10 percent, according to figures released this week by the county assessor's office.

Leading the pace were the cities of Watsonville and Scotts Valley with increases of 11.5 percent and 27.7 percent, respectively. The large gain in those two cities was due mainly to the effect of the increasing presence of the electronics industry, said Orville Orton, administrative officer for the Assessor's Office.

Santa Cruz, Capitola and the unincorporated areas of the county,

which together account for about 70 percent of all property in the county, saw values climb about nine percent.

The property increase figure includes both real property and business property, such as machinery and parts. Overall, real property showed a 9.51 percent increase over last year and business property increased 24.69 percent for a combined increase of 10.19 percent.

The increase is not as high as the 20 and 30 percent yearly jumps seen in the late '70s, but is consistent with the 7.8 percent increase seen in 1982-'83 and the 11.1 percent increase in 1981-'82. •