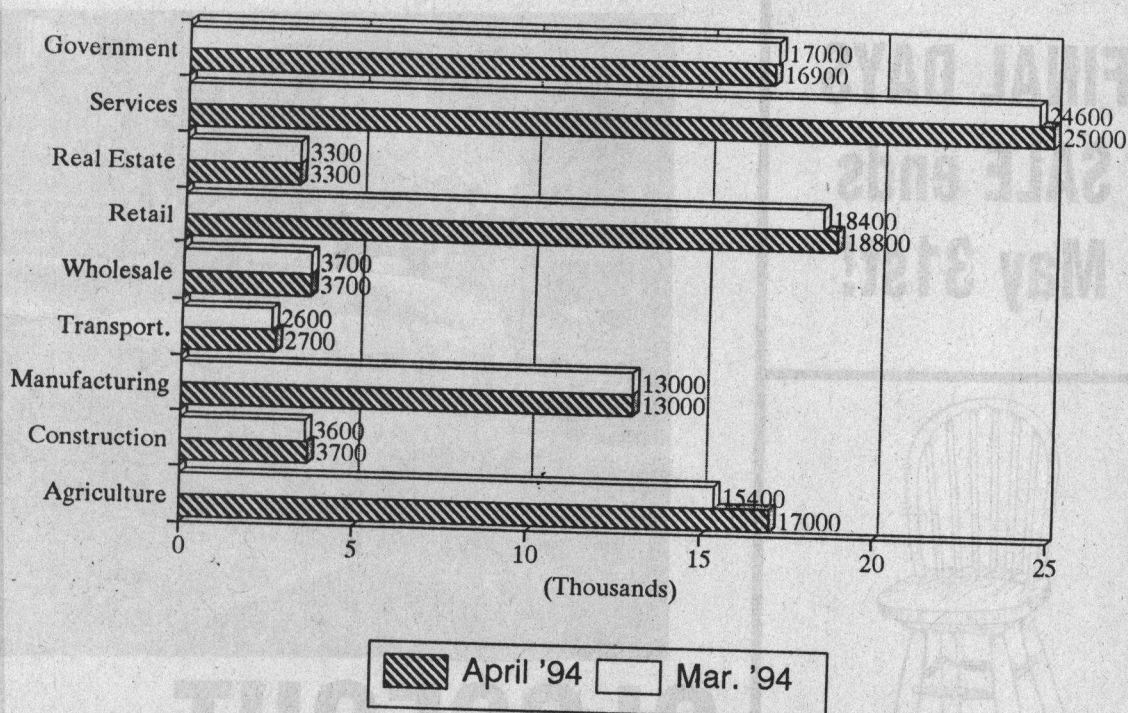


Business

Employment Santa Cruz County



April unemployment drops a bit in Santa Cruz County

Unemployment dropped slightly in Santa Cruz County for April, but percentages were still hovering in the double-digit range.

The state Employment Development Department said this week that Santa Cruz County's unemployment rate was 10.9 percent, compared to 12.2 percent in March and 9.6 percent in April 1993.

The state computes the unemployment rate on the number

of employed and unemployed people living in the county.

In April, the county's civilian labor force was 141,900, compared to 139,900 in March, and 137,000 in April 1993.

There were 15,500 unemployed in April, compared to 17,100 in March and 13,200 in April 1993.

The number of jobs available in Santa Cruz County rose from 82,200 in March 1994 to 94,800 last month. There were 94,700

jobs in April 1993.

Major employment gains last month (see chart) were 4,500 jobs in agriculture; 300 jobs in construction; 400 jobs in manufacturing; 100 jobs in wholesale trade; and 300 jobs in retail trade.

The state's unemployment rate in April was 9.6 percent, compared to 8.6 percent in March. The national rate was 6.4 percent in April, and 6.5 percent in March.