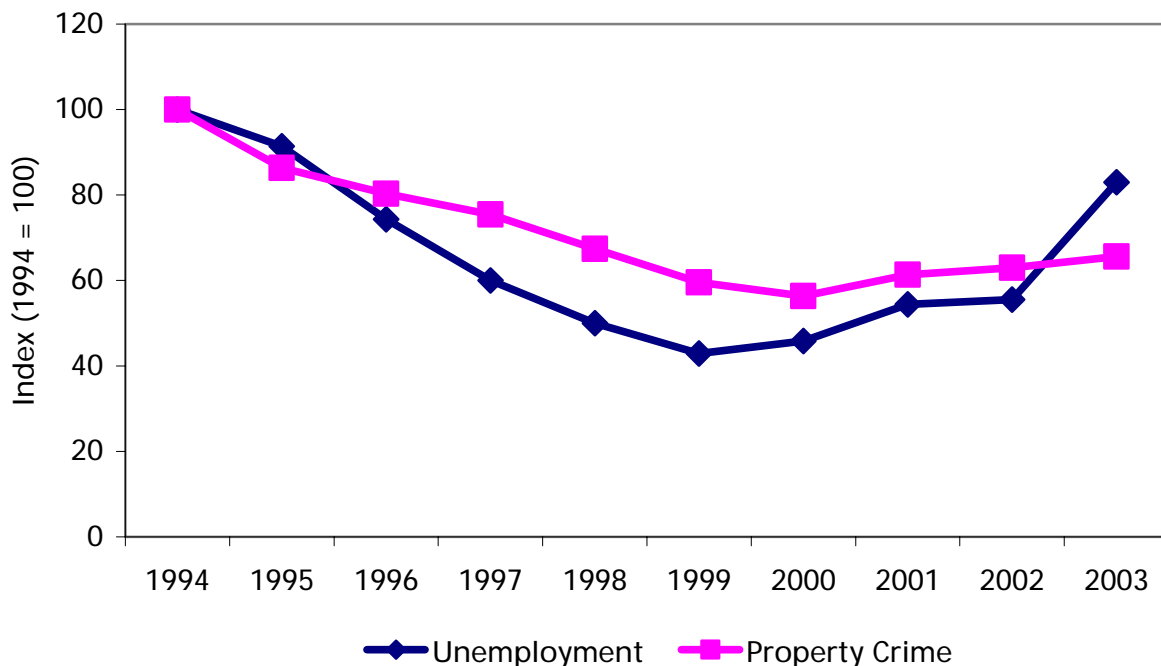


UNEMPLOYMENT AND PROPERTY CRIME TRENDS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Unemployment rates have traditionally been associated with crime, such that as unemployment rates rise, so does crime. One theory for this is that people divide their time between illegal and legal activities in such a way that when legal activities (i.e., jobs) are scarce, they are more likely to engage in illegal activities to earn an income.

In the San Diego region during the past ten years, this trend was evident such that changes in the property crime rate roughly paralleled the rate of unemployment from 1994 to 2002. In general, there was a less substantial downward trend in property crime as unemployment rates dropped in this time period. In 2003, when the unemployment rate began to increase (to 5.8 per 100,000 in 2003, from 3.9 in 2002), the property crime rate also increased (to 32.6 per 1,000 from 31.4 in 2002), but to a lesser extent (see figure below). With the unemployment rate expected to stay above 5.5 in 2004, it will be interesting to see whether the property crime rate begins to rise to a greater extent.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND PROPERTY CRIME RATES
San Diego Region, 1994 to 2003



NOTE: Unemployment and crime rates are indexed and based upon a starting point of 100 in 1994.
SOURCES: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; SANDAG