UNEMPLOYMENT JUMPS TO 10.2 PERCENT WITH LOSS OF 190,000 JOBS

The nation’s unemployment rate reached double digits in October 2009 for only the second time since World War II, jumping to 10.2 percent from 9.8 percent in September, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The increase reflects a loss of 190,000 nonfarm payroll jobs in October, although that was fewer than the 219,000 jobs eliminated the prior month.

The last and only other period in postwar history that the nation experienced double-digit unemployment was during the 1981-1982 recession and its aftermath, when the jobless rate peaked at 10.8 percent. The industry sectors with the heaviest job losses in October were construction (62,000), manufacturing (61,000), retail trade (39,800), leisure and hospitality (37,000), and transportation and warehousing (18,400).
