

## **NEW YORK, DETROIT WITH GREATEST JOB LOSSES AMONG LARGE CITIES**

In 2008, the first full year of the recession, New York lost 120,000 jobs, the most among 38 large cities, while Detroit had the biggest decrease as a share of total employment, at 4.6 percent, according to figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Detroit also lost the most jobs next to New York (89,700), followed closely by Phoenix (82,900), which had the second-highest percentage decrease in employment (4.5 percent). Other major cities with heavy job losses were Los Angeles (86,800, or 1.5 percent) and Atlanta (82,000, or 3.3 percent).

By contrast, seven of the 38 largest cities in terms of employment added jobs in 2008, four of them in Texas--Houston (57,300), Dallas-Fort Worth (43,300), and San Antonio (14,900).

Nationwide, employers shed 2.6 million payroll jobs, the most since 1945, or 1.9 percent of nonfarm employment. The nation's unemployment rate of 7.2 percent in December was the highest in 16 years and rose by 2.3 percentage points from 4.9 percent a year earlier. The jobless rate increased in 2008 in all large cities, including those that added jobs, and in 363 of 369 metropolitan areas. Among the major cities, Detroit had the highest jobless rate in December (10.6 percent), followed by Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif. (10.1 percent). The lowest unemployment rates were in Oklahoma City (4.6 percent), and Washington, D.C., area (4.7 percent).

The biggest increase in the jobless rate occurred in Charlotte, N.C. (4.1 percentage points from 4.8 percent to 8.9 percent), followed by Los Angeles (3.8 points from 5.0 percent to 8.8 percent) and Tampa, Fla. (3.6 points from 4.7 percent to 8.3 percent).

The report is available at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/metro.pdf>.

(Source: BNA, *Daily Labor Report*, No. 22, February 5, 2009, p. A2.)