

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unemployment jumped to its highest level in 11 months in November, rising from 7.9 to 8.1 per cent, while wholesale prices posted their third big consecutive monthly increase, the government said today.

The double-dose of economic news from the Labor Department provided fresh evidence of a sluggish economy and strong inflationary pressures

The rise in unemployment heightened the likelihood that President-elect Jimmy Carter will push for tax cuts and other measures to boost the economy early in the new administration.

Carter has said he will consider recommending a tax cut or increased government spending aimed at creating jobs to get the economy moving if the slowdown continues much longer. In the three weeks since he said that, there has been little evidence that the slowdown is over.

The Labor Department said 200,000 more Americans joined the jobless rolls in November, raising the total to 7.8 million. The unemployment rate, at 8.1 per cent, was the highest level this year and the peak since last December when it stood at 8.3 per cent.

Since last spring the economy has been growing barely fast enough to provide jobs for new entrants in the labor force, and the unemployment rate gradually has increased from last May when it reached a post-recession low of 7.3 per cent.

The continued softness in the economy along with rising prices could complicate things for Carter as he tries to devise ways of stimulating the growth without further kindling inflation.

Not all the news in the job report was bad. The Labor Department said employment rose last month as the labor force expanded sharply following several

months of stability.

Total employment increased by more than 350,000 in November to a new high of 88.1 million. Since the March, 1975, recession low, the total number of Americans at work has risen by four million.

Most of the 200,000-increase in the number of unemployed workers last

month occurred among adult men, whose jobless rate edged up from 6.5 to 6.5 per cent, its highest point of the year.

The increases in both employment and unemployment resulted from a sharp growth in the labor force, which increased in November by 560,000 to 95.9 million.

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the labor force that is out of work. The labor force is the total of those with jobs and those actively seeking jobs.