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State jobless rate sticks at 7.1%; job losses up

BY DAVID SMITH

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Arkansas lost more jobs in the 12 months ending in September than in any one-year period in nearly 20 years.

That analysis of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics on Wednesday might deflate any optimism from the accompanying news that the state's unemployment rate held steady at its August rate of 7.1 percent.

It's still well above the 5.2 percent rate of September 2008.

And Arkansas had 33,200 fewer non-farm jobs last month than it did a year earlier, a 2.7 percent decline, said Kathy Deck, director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, who did the analysis.

Forty-three states reported job losses in September ...

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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