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Arkansas sees slight uptick in jobless rate

July's 7.4% figure is highest since '92; work force shrinks

By David Smith
Posted on August 22, 2009 at 4:26 a.m.
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LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas' unemployment rate changed little in July, rising to 7.4 percent from 7.2 percent in June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said Friday.

The national unemployment rate, reported earlier this month, was 9.4 percent in July.

Arkansas' jobless rate was the 15th-lowest in the country in July but the highest the state has seen in more than 17 years, since February 1992 when it also was at 7.4 percent.

Unemployment in Arkansas has leveled off in the past few months, said Michael Pakko, state economic forecaster and chief economist for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Institute for Economic Advancement. Considering seasonally adjusted figures, Arkansas ...

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