

South Dakota Department of Labor
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S.D. unemployment rate continues to follow national trend

PIERRE, S.D. – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.9 percent in March 2009 compared to the revised February 2009 rate of 4.6 percent.

South Dakota has one of the lowest jobless rates in the nation, although it has been increasing since October 2008.

“South Dakota continues to feel the effects of the national economic trends,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “However, South Dakota has shown more resistance than other states.”

The national unemployment rate rose from 8.1 percent in February to 8.5 percent in March 2009.

The preliminary, not-seasonally adjusted level of nonfarm wage and salaried jobs in South Dakota held relatively stable at 398,800 workers in March, an increase of 200 jobs from February.

“I am confident the employment services and workforce training programs the Department of Labor offers will help dislocated workers get back to work,” said Secretary Roberts. “We are here to help.”

The Department of Labor has 18 local offices statewide. Staff can help locate employment opportunities, identify training options, write resumes and cover letters, and practice interview techniques.

An overview of the sub-state labor market, latest data releases and snapshot of South Dakota’s economy are available through the Department of Labor’s e-*Labor Bulletin*. The next release date is April 24. This publication and information on workforce services is available at www.sdjobs.org.