

**For Immediate Release:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009  
**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605.773.3094

## **South Dakota unemployment rate shows little change**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2009 is 4.9 percent.

Over the past quarter, there has been little change in the unemployment rate. The rates have been relatively constant, showing: revised June 2009, 5.0 percent; May 2009, 5.0 percent; and April 2009, 4.8 percent.

Over-the-month changes can be variable and are subject to revision. Analysis of changes over longer time periods provides a more stable portrayal of labor force dynamics.

“South Dakota still suffers from the effects of the national recession,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “In July 2008, South Dakota’s unemployment rate was only 3.0 percent.”

BLS seasonally adjusted labor force statistics show there were approximately 8,800 more unemployed persons in South Dakota in July 2009 than in July 2008.

Nationally, there were 5.5 million more unemployed persons in July 2009 compared to July 2008. The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2009 was 9.4 percent.

“The number of layoffs and closures has definitely slowed down over the past three months, but they are still happening,” said Secretary Roberts. “Department of Labor staff across the state continue to assist laid off workers in locating training opportunities and finding suitable employment.”

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 August 28. This publication and information on workforce services is available at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)