

South Dakota Department of Labor
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
www.sdjobs.org

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Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605.773.3094

September unemployment rate remains higher than last year

PIERRE, S.D. – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2009 is 4.8 percent. The national rate is 9.8 percent.

There were approximately 7,300 more unemployed people in South Dakota in September 2009 than one year ago. The unemployment rate for September 2008 was 3.2 percent.

The over-the-year decrease in workers indicates the recession continues to impact South Dakota’s workforce. Industry sectors most impacted include manufacturing; mining, logging and construction; and professional and business services.

“The Department of Labor continues to help laid off workers get back to work through special re-employment services,” said State Secretary of Labor Pam Roberts. “We have profiled almost 3,200 unemployment insurance claimants to offer one-on-one assistance in their job search.”

Since April, these efforts have helped 30 percent of the total participants find jobs. The participants receive assistance in locating job openings, identifying training opportunities, writing resumes and cover letters, and practicing interview techniques.

“There are currently 6,824 jobs listed on the Department of Labor’s Web site,” said Secretary Roberts. “Last year at this time, there were 14,079 jobs listed. The job market has gotten a lot tighter.”

The Department of Labor (DOL) has partnered with the state’s four technical institutes and the Regional Technical Education Center to provide training choices ranging from short-term training such as truck driving and welding up to 24-month training to become a LPN or energy technician.

“With help of the federal stimulus funds, the Department of Labor has paid for 870 unemployment claimants to receive training,” said Secretary Roberts. “Plus, 789 more have received funding to help pay for tuition and other costs. These unemployed workers will learn skills and get better jobs at higher wages when the economy recovers.”

More information on the September 2009 labor force statistics for South Dakota and the nation are available on the DOL Web site at <http://dol.sd.gov/lmic/overview.aspx>

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 Oct. 23. This publication and information on workforce services is available at www.sdjobs.org