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South Dakota jobless rate up from September

PIERRE, S.D. – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 2009 is 5.0 percent, up from the September 2009 rate of 4.8 percent. The national rate is 10.2 percent.

“The unemployment rate has remained relatively stable in South Dakota for the past several months, fluctuating between 4.8 to 5.0 percent,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “We continue to see small layoffs, but there are some employers cautiously hiring again.”

The level of unemployed was up by approximately 7,700 people in South Dakota according to the October 2009 data compared to one year ago. The unemployment rate for October 2008 was 3.2 percent.

“The over-the-year increase in unemployment indicates the recession continues to impact South Dakota’s workforce,” said Secretary Roberts. “The number of people claiming unemployment benefits is about three times higher than last year, which is also an indicator of the recession.”

More information on the October 2009 labor force statistics for South Dakota and the nation is available on the South Dakota Department of Labor’s Web site at www.sdjobs.org. An overview of the sub-state labor market will be released Nov. 25 in the *e-Labor Bulletin*.