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March Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged

PIERRE, S.D. – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2010 was 4.8 percent, unchanged from February 2010.

“Layoffs have leveled off this year, but there are still lingering effects of the national recession,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “However, there have been new job listings as employers begin to slowly and cautiously hire more workers.”

There are currently about 7,500 jobs listed statewide through the South Dakota Department of Labor. That is an increase of 2,000 job listings from the beginning of the year.

“The Department of Labor is here to help job seekers with training options and employment searches,” Secretary Roberts said. “Assistance is available from any of our 19 field offices, and our Web site also contains many self-service features.”

The state unemployment rate has been steady during the first quarter of the year. The national rate of 9.7 percent was also steady in the first three months.

The South Dakota unemployment rate in March 2009 was 4.8 percent, reflecting the impact of the recession and increased levels of unemployed at that time. The unemployment rate in March 2008 was just 2.7 percent, reflective of a healthier state economy at the time.

An overview of the sub-state labor market and snapshot of South Dakota’s economy will be released April 23 in the DOL e-Labor Bulletin. The publication and information on workforce services are available at www.sdjobs.org