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Unemployment Rate Holds Steady

PIERRE, S.D. – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July 2010 was 4.4 percent, remaining stable compared with the revised June 2010 rate of 4.4 percent.

Preliminary estimates of seasonally adjusted nonfarm workers show an over-the-year increase of 1,600 workers from July 2009 to July 2010.

“Since February, South Dakota’s employers have added 6,200 workers,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts.

Over the year, private sector industries adding the most workers included professional and business services; manufacturing; healthcare and social assistance; and wholesale trade.

“There are currently more than 8,500 job openings,” said Secretary Roberts. “The Department of Labor is focused on re-training dislocated workers and recruiting a quality workforce to fill those positions.”

In July 2009, the South Dakota unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, reflective of the higher level of people without jobs last year. The unemployment rate for July 2008 was 3.1 percent, reflective of a healthier economy.

Nationally, the unemployment rate also remained stable in July 2010 at 9.5 percent.

An overview of the sub-state labor market and snapshot of South Dakota’s economy will be released August 27 in the *e-Labor Bulletin*. This publication and information on workforce services is available at www.sdjobs.org