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Unemployment Rate Decreases Slightly

PIERRE, S.D. – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September 2010 was 4.4 percent, a slight decrease from the August 2010 rate of 4.5 percent.

“The South Dakota seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been trending downward for several months, varying between 4.8 percent and 4.4 percent since January 2010,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts.

Preliminary estimates of seasonally adjusted nonfarm workers show an over-the-year increase of 2,900 workers in South Dakota from September 2009 to September 2010. Private sector industries adding the most workers included professional and business services, manufacturing and wholesale trade.

“There are over 9,500 job openings listed,” said Secretary Roberts. “The Department of Labor continues to recruit workers for these positions, specifically through the Dakota Roots program.”

Dakota Roots helps find jobs for former South Dakotans wishing to return to the state – matching them with career openings.

In September 2009, the South Dakota unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, reflective of the higher level of people looking for jobs. In September 2008, a time just prior to South Dakota being impacted by the national recession, the unemployment rate was 3.3 percent.

Nationally, the unemployment rate held steady at 9.6 percent from August 2010 to September 2010. The national unemployment rate was slightly higher in September 2009 at 9.8 percent and significantly lower in September 2008 at 6.2 percent.

An overview of the sub-state labor market and snapshot of South Dakota’s economy will be released October 25 in the *e-Labor Bulletin*. This publication and information on workforce services is available at www.sdjobs.org