

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010
Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

Unemployment rate slightly increases to 4.5 percent

PIERRE, S.D. – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2010 was 4.5 percent, up slightly from the revised October rate of 4.4 percent. The preliminary rate for October 2010 was 4.5 percent.

“Throughout 2010, the unemployment rate has held steady between 4.4 percent and 4.8 percent. Since June, the rate has only fluctuated between 4.4 and 4.5 percent,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “South Dakota’s unemployment rate is less than half the national average, but we are not yet recovered from this recession.”

In November 2009, the South Dakota unemployment rate was 4.7 percent. The unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in November 2008, a point in time when South Dakota first began to notice the negative effects of the national recession. The rate in November 2007 was only 2.8 percent.

“South Dakota continues to gain workers and experience fewer layoffs,” said Secretary Roberts. “Workforce development remains a top priority for the Department of Labor.”

Preliminary estimates of seasonally adjusted nonfarm workers show an over-the-year increase of 3,800 workers in South Dakota from November 2009 to November 2010. Private sector industries adding the most workers included professional and business services, manufacturing and wholesale trade.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 9.8 percent compared to the October rate of 9.6 percent. One year ago, the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent. In the midst of its recessionary climb in November 2008, the national unemployment rate was 6.9 percent compared to the November 2007 rate of 4.7 percent.

An overview of the sub-state labor market and more detailed information about South Dakota’s economy will be released December 23 in the e-Labor Bulletin. This publication and information on workforce services is available at www.sdjobs.org