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Media Contact: Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3094

Unemployment Rate Remains Stable

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota’s March 2012 preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 percent, almost half the national unemployment rate of 8.2 percent.

The South Dakota seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has remained relatively stable during the first quarter of 2012. However, over-the-year labor force employment levels continue to increase.

“The number of employed in the seasonally adjusted labor force increased by 5,200 people over the year,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. “This over-the-year growth trend has continued since June 2010, reflecting continued job recovery for South Dakota.”

Over the year, the total South Dakota seasonally adjusted nonfarm worker level increased by 1,300 workers. The largest number of jobs were added within the trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; and educational and health services industry sectors.

More detail about the statewide March labor force and nonfarm data is available on the Labor Market Information Center’s “What’s New” webpage at http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/whats_new.aspx. An overview of the sub-state labor market will be released April 27 in the e-Labor Bulletin at <http://www.sdjobs.org/>