

South Dakota Department of Labor  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501  
[www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)  
[www.Workforce2025.com](http://www.Workforce2025.com)

**For Immediate Release:** September 2, 2008  
**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605.773.3094

## **Labor Department surveying workforce challenges of South Dakota businesses**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor (SDDOL) has taken the lead in assessing workforce challenges and identifying strategies to address them through the Workforce 2025 initiative. The Build Dakota program is providing industry leaders across the state an opportunity to participate in an online survey to share information on their current and future workforce needs.

“In order to provide a quality workforce in the future, we need to understand the anticipated needs of South Dakota’s employers,” said Governor Mike Rounds. “This assessment tool will provide valuable information, and I strongly encourage employers to take the time to complete the survey.”

The SDDOL’s Labor Market Information Center will be conducting the survey and have mailed letters with instructions to 5,000 businesses. Economic analysts will then tabulate the data to determine employers’ concerns including:

- Immediate workforce concerns such as availability of workers, replacement of retiring workers, worker turnover, housing and daycare services;
- Immediate workforce practices such as succession plans, company outreach and flexible work schedules;
- Anticipated occupational needs during the next three years;
- Anticipated growth rates of business through 2025; and
- Future workforce concerns such as intergenerational differences, increased ethnic diversity and competition for workers.

The Workforce 2025 initiative is a joint partnership between the SDDOL, Department of Tourism and State Development, Department of Education and the Board of Regents. For more information on programs aimed at worker recruitment, retention and development, visit [www.Workforce2025.com](http://www.Workforce2025.com)