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S.D. April unemployment rate drops slightly

PIERRE, S.D. – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in April 2009, compared to the revised March 2009 rate of 4.9 percent.

The national unemployment rate continued to rise, increasing over the month from 8.5 percent in March to 8.9 percent in April.

“South Dakota’s slight drop is related to a slight decrease in the number of unemployed,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts.

The preliminary, not-seasonally adjusted level of nonfarm wage and salaried jobs in South Dakota increased to a level of 401,800 workers in April, an increase of 3,200 jobs compared to the revised March estimate of 398,600.

“This increase is related to the seasonal hiring of workers, including construction jobs and temporary help hired for the summer months,” said Secretary Roberts. “The Department of Labor continues to match dislocated workers to employment opportunities.”

The Department of Labor has 19 field offices statewide. Staff can help locate employment opportunities, identify training options, write resumes and cover letters, and practice interview techniques.

An overview of the sub-state labor market, latest data releases and snapshot of South Dakota’s economy are available through the Department of Labor’s *e-Labor Bulletin*. The next release date is May 22. This publication and information on workforce services is available at www.sdjobs.org.