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## **South Dakota Unemployment Rate Up Slightly**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2010 was 4.6 percent, up slightly from the revised November 2010 rate of 4.5 percent.

“There has been little variability in the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate over the past 18 months,” said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts. “This long-term analysis means our workforce has held stable.”

In December 2009, the South Dakota unemployment rate was just slightly higher at 4.7 percent. The unemployment rate was 3.9 percent in December 2008, when South Dakota first began to notice the negative effects of the national recession. The rate in December 2007 was only 2.8 percent.

Preliminary estimates of seasonally adjusted nonfarm workers show an over-the-year increase of 4,800 workers in South Dakota from December 2009 to December 2010.

“Private sector industries adding the most workers included professional and business services, manufacturing, leisure and hospitality, and wholesale trade,” said Secretary Roberts. “The Department of Labor continues to connect job seekers to jobs.”

Nationally, the December unemployment rate decreased to 9.4 percent compared to the revised November 2010 rate of 9.8 percent. The national unemployment rate was a bit higher in December 2009 at 9.9 percent. Well into the national recessionary climb in December 2008, the unemployment rate was 7.3 percent, compared to the December 2007 rate of 5.0 percent.

An overview of the sub-state labor market and a more detailed overview of South Dakota’s economy will be released Jan. 28 in the e-Labor Bulletin. This publication and information on workforce services is available at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)