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## **Unemployment Rate Down Slightly**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2011 was 4.8 percent, down slightly compared to the revised April 2011 rate of 4.9 percent. The May 2010 rate was also 4.8 percent.

“The number of employed workers in the seasonally adjusted labor force increased by 5,200 people over the year,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts. “This indicates continued economic recovery.”

From May 2010 to May 2011, industries adding the most seasonally adjusted nonfarm workers included manufacturing, educational and health services, and professional and business services. Job openings increased from about 8,000 to 8,572 over the same time period.

Nationally, the May 2011 unemployment rate increased to 9.1 percent compared to the revised April 2011 rate of 9.0 percent. The national unemployment rate in May 2010 was 9.6 percent.

The South Dakota unemployment rate has shown little fluctuation over the past year, varying between 4.6 percent and 4.9 percent since May 2010.

An overview of the state labor market will be released June 24 in the e-Labor Bulletin. This publication and information on workforce services is available at [www.sdjobs.org](http://www.sdjobs.org)