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Unemployment Rate Declines

PIERRE, S.D. – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports South Dakota’s preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2012 was 4.2 percent, down from the December 2011 rate of 4.3 percent.

“The number of employed in the seasonally adjusted labor force increased by 6,900 people over the year, continuing an established trend as we recover from the recession,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts.

From January 2011 to January 2012, preliminary estimates of South Dakota seasonally adjusted nonfarm workers show the level of workers increased by 1,700 for a total nonfarm level of 406,700.

“Industries adding the most nonfarm workers included manufacturing, retail trade, professional and business services, and education and health services,” said Secretary Roberts.

Nationally, the January 2012 unemployment rate was 8.3 percent, decreasing compared to the revised December 2011 rate of 8.5 percent. The national unemployment rate was 9.1 percent in January 2011; in South Dakota, it was 5.0 percent.

More detail about the statewide January 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 March 9 in the e-Labor Bulletin at www.sdjobs.org