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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Polk Unemployment Rate Declines for the Third Month in a Row**

**Bartow, Florida, May 20, 2011-** The State of Florida has released preliminary unemployment figures for April. The unemployment rate in Polk County dropped to 10.8 percent from 11.3 percent the previous month. This was a decrease of 0.8 percentage point from the rate the region posted in the same month last year. In April 2011, Polk County's unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than the state rate of 10.4 percent and 2.1 percentage points above the national rate of 8.7 percent. Out of a labor force of 272,907, there were 29,495 unemployed Polk county residents.

Polk Works strives to match local employers with qualified job candidates in an effort to help reduce the unemployment rate in Polk County. Polk Works is partnering with Congressman Dennis Ross as well as the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce and the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a Job Fair on June 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bartow Civic Center. There are approximately 40 employers pre-registered for this event. For more information, please call (863) 508-1100 ext. 1102 or visit [www.polkworks.org](http://www.polkworks.org).

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*Polk Works* is a private, non-profit administrator of workforce funds. Our mission is to be the innovative leader to ensure and sustain a quality workforce for today and the future. For more information, go to [www.polkworks.org](http://www.polkworks.org). *Polk Works* offers equal opportunity programs, auxiliary aids and services that are available upon request to individuals with disabilities Member: Employ Florida.