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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Polk Unemployment Rate Holds Steady at 10.8 Percent

Bartow, Florida, June 17, 2011- The State of Florida has released preliminary unemployment figures. The unemployment rate in Polk County for the month of May was at 10.8 percent, the same as the previous month. This was a decrease of 0.9 percentage point from the rate the region posted in the same month last year. In May 2011, Polk County's unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than the state rate of 10.5 percent and 2.1 percentage points above the national rate of 8.7 percent. Out of a labor force of 274,493, there were 29,674 unemployed Polk county residents.

Polk Works, the local workforce board, is dedicated to building a sustainable workforce in Polk County, offering numerous programs and assistance for job seekers at the Lakeland and Winter Haven One-Stop Centers. The One-Stop Centers provide a wide range of services including access to the career resource room for job searches, free job readiness workshops, career development and training, GED classes and much more. The Polk Works One-Stop Centers are located in Winter Haven (500 E. Lake Howard Drive) and Lakeland (309 N. Ingraham Ave.). For more information, please call (863) 508-1100 ext. 1102 or visit www.polkworks.org.

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. *Polk Works* offers equal opportunity programs, auxiliary aids and services that are available upon request to individuals with disabilities Member: Employ Florida.