

**Overview of the Polk Works Region
October 21, 2011**

- The unemployment rate in Polk County was 12.0 percent in September 2011. This was a decrease of 1.1 percentage points from the rate the county posted in the same month last year. In September 2011, Polk County's unemployment rate was 1.4 percentage points higher than the state rate of 10.6 percent and 3.2 percentage points above the national rate of 8.8 percent. Out of a labor force of 272,748, there were 32,621 unemployed Polk County residents.
- In September 2011, total nonagricultural employment in the Lakeland-Winter Haven metro area was 190,800. Total nonagricultural employment decreased by 1.1 percent over the year, compared to a statewide increase of 1.1 percent.
- Only two of the ten major industry groups gained employment over the year. These were trade, transportation, and utilities (+800 jobs); and education and health services (+300 jobs).
- Over-the-year job declines in the Lakeland-Winter Haven metro area easily offset the job gains, as eight of the ten major industry sectors posted lower employment levels. The industries losing jobs were professional and business services (-700 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-600 jobs); government (-600 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (-500 jobs); other services (-300 jobs); manufacturing (-200 jobs); financial activities (-200 jobs); and information (-100 jobs).
- Government employment showed a decline of 600 jobs over the year, as local government agencies had the bulk of the public employment reductions.
- Employment growth was strongest in trade, transportation, and utilities; which increased by 1.8 percent over the year. This increase was a result of strong growth in retail trade (4.6 percent).

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Sep-11	Aug-11	Sep-10
Polk Works Region (Polk County)	12.0	12.2	13.1
Florida	10.6	11.0	11.8
United States	8.8	9.1	9.2

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	Lakeland-Winter Haven Metropolitan Statistical Area				Florida			
	Sep-11	Sep-10	change	percent change	Sep-11	Sep-10	change	percent change
Total Employment	190,800	192,900	-2,100	-1.1	7,213,000	7,135,800	77,200	1.1
Mining, Logging, and Construction	10,100	10,600	-500	-4.7	339,200	353,700	-14,500	-4.1
Manufacturing	13,800	14,000	-200	-1.4	306,300	306,100	200	0.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	44,700	43,900	800	1.8	1,457,600	1,442,000	15,600	1.1
Wholesale Trade	8,300	8,600	-300	-3.5	297,800	304,600	-6,800	-2.2
Retail Trade	24,900	23,800	1,100	4.6	931,800	915,900	15,900	1.7
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	11,500	11,500	0	0.0	228,000	221,500	6,500	2.9
Information	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.6	128,800	134,200	-5,400	-4.0
Financial Activities	11,100	11,300	-200	-1.8	469,300	466,800	2,500	0.5
Professional and Business Services	28,100	28,800	-700	-2.4	1,046,600	1,035,200	11,400	1.1
Education and Health Services	28,900	28,600	300	1.0	1,106,200	1,074,500	31,700	3.0
Leisure and Hospitality	15,200	15,800	-600	-3.8	948,500	895,800	52,700	5.9
Other Services	8,000	8,300	-300	-3.6	309,300	308,500	800	0.3
Government	29,200	29,800	-600	-2.0	1,101,200	1,119,000	-17,800	-1.6

Population	2010	2009	change	percent change
Polk Works Region	584,329	584,343	-14	0.0
Florida	18,772,352	18,750,483	21,869	0.1

Average Annual Wage	2010	2009	change	percent change
Polk Works Region	\$35,658	\$35,476	\$182	0.5
Florida	\$41,570	\$40,991	\$579	1.4

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center