The Amarillo Economy

October 2026



Amarillo National Bank

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Amarillo Economic Analysis

Amarillo's economy leveled out in October with flattening retail sales and construction brought down by less jobs and lower commodity prices.

Delivery costs due to higher diesel prices adds about ½% to most retail item prices. The higher inflation is slowing all spending – retail, commercial and construction.

Retail Sales were up 14% from both a year ago and YTD. Both New and Used Car Sales are even with 12 months ago. Our bank is noticing that mid-tier credit scores have been staying out of car buying since the beginning of Summer. We will watch how this important and majority spending group spends over the rest of the year.

Amarillo Airport September

	PASSENGERS		FLIGHTS
Southwest	15,800	+ 2%	156
American	14,652	+13%	241
United	5,319	-7%	131

American added one flight per day over last year's schedule.

The Household Survey shows a decrease of 1,139 jobs since last October. The Employers Survey shows a decrease of 392 jobs over the same period. Wages are up 12% from a year ago.

Mortgage Rates are moving in every direction with the 10 Year Treasury changes. Rates remain higher than 7% compared to 6% last October. Housing Starts are twice as much as 12 months ago and Year to Date Starts are up 67% from 2025. Commercial Construction is half of last year when all the Data Center projects began. Of the 5 major announced data center sites in our surrounding counties, 4 of them are off to amazing starts with startling progress. The Data Center Economic phenomenon is changing our local economy at an amazing clip.

We have 4 drilling rigs in the Panhandle, up from 2 last year. Oil Prices are below $100 and up 63% from last year. Natural Gas Prices are up 7% from 12 months ago and over $3, a good level for Panhandle producers.

The rains over the last month will help next year's wheat crop. Wheat prices are up 35%. Corn had a decent year and prices are at $4.81, up 20% from a year ago. Milk prices are at $15, down 11% from a year ago. Dairies however remain profitable for now due to lower input costs. Milk Prices at the grocery store will go up because of the already mentioned Diesel problems. Cattle remain highly priced but are down 8% from last year. Feedyards should make around $60 per head, down from $200 last year.

Amarillo Economic Pulse

Economic Components	Current Month	Last Month	One Year Ago
Index (Base Jan. 88 @ 100)	240.02	240.02	224.00
Sales Tax Collection	$ 10,273,088	$ 10,638,741	$ 9,014,275
Sales Tax Collections (Year to Date)	$ 101,241,547	$ 90,968,459	$ 89,140,801
New Vehicle Sales	796	795	791
Used Vehicle Sales	1,512	1,553	1,529
Airline Boardings	36,606	36,352	35,031
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax	$ 1,012,775	$ 1,320,800	$ 901,303
Population	201,106	201,106	201,106
Employment – CLF*	140,465	139,770	141,327
Unemployment Rate*	% 3.50	% 3.70	% 3.30
Total Worker Employed* (Household Survey)	135,565	134,564	136,704
Total Worker Employed* (Employer Survey)	130,700	130,438	131,092
Average Weekly Wages	$ 1,203.00	$ 1,203.00	$ 1,071.00
Gas Meters	69,732	69,815	69,339
Interest Rates (30 year mortgage rates)	% 7.250	% 7.125	% 6.000
Building Permits (Dollar Amount)	$ 24,278,533	$ 28,319,244	$ 48,222,561
Year to Date Permits (Dollar Amount)	$ 394,356,508	$ 370,077,975	$ 626,026,553
Residential Starts	78	69	32
Year to Date Starts	554	497	332
Median House Sold Price	$ 265,000	$ 270,000	$ 260,000
Drilling Rigs in Panhandle	4	5	2
Oil Per Barrel	$ 94.86	$ 104.71	$ 58.41
Natural Gas	$ 3.20	$ 2.93	$ 2.99
Wheat Per Bushel	$ 6.49	$ 6.62	$ 4.81
Fed Cattle Per CWT	$ 220.50	$ 223.45	$ 241.00
Corn	$ 4.81	$ 5.41	$ 4.01
Cotton (Cents Per Pound)	$ 78.00	$ 88.00	$ 54.15
Milk	$ 15.05	$ 16.25	$ 17.00

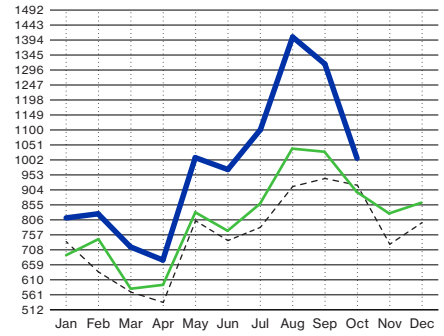
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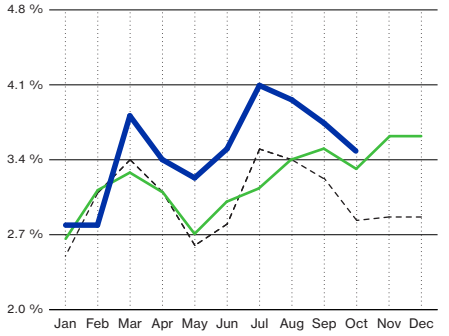
Economic Pulse Charts

2026 2025 2024

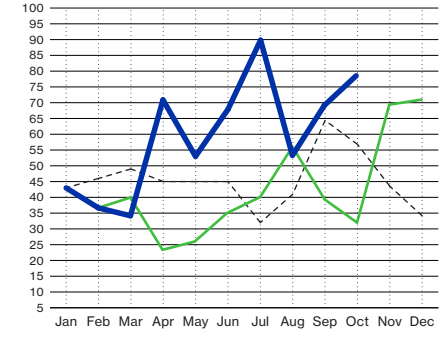
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax (In Thousands)



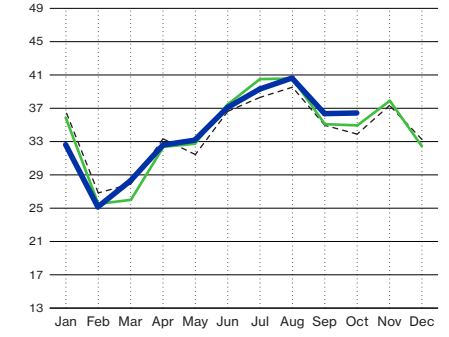
Percent Unemployment (State Adjusted Numbers)



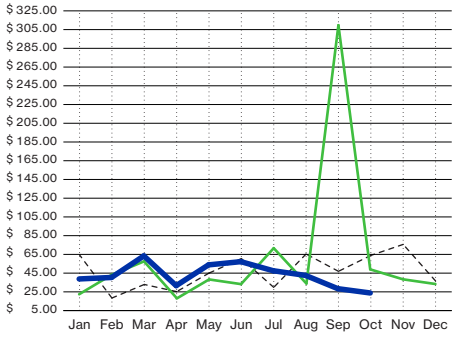
Residential Housing Starts



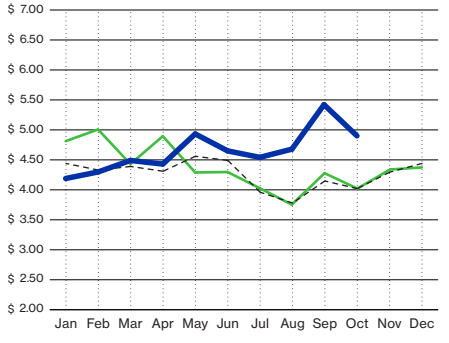
Airline Boardings (In Thousands)



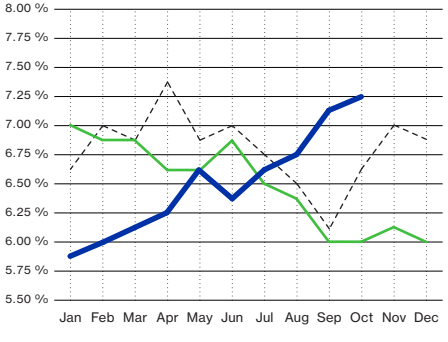
Building Permits
(Residential/Commercial - Millions of Dollars)



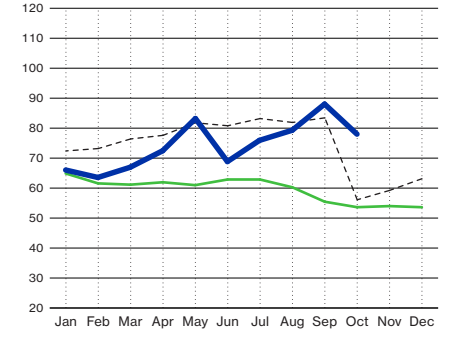
Corn (Price Per Bushel)



Interest Rates (30 Year Mortgage Rates)

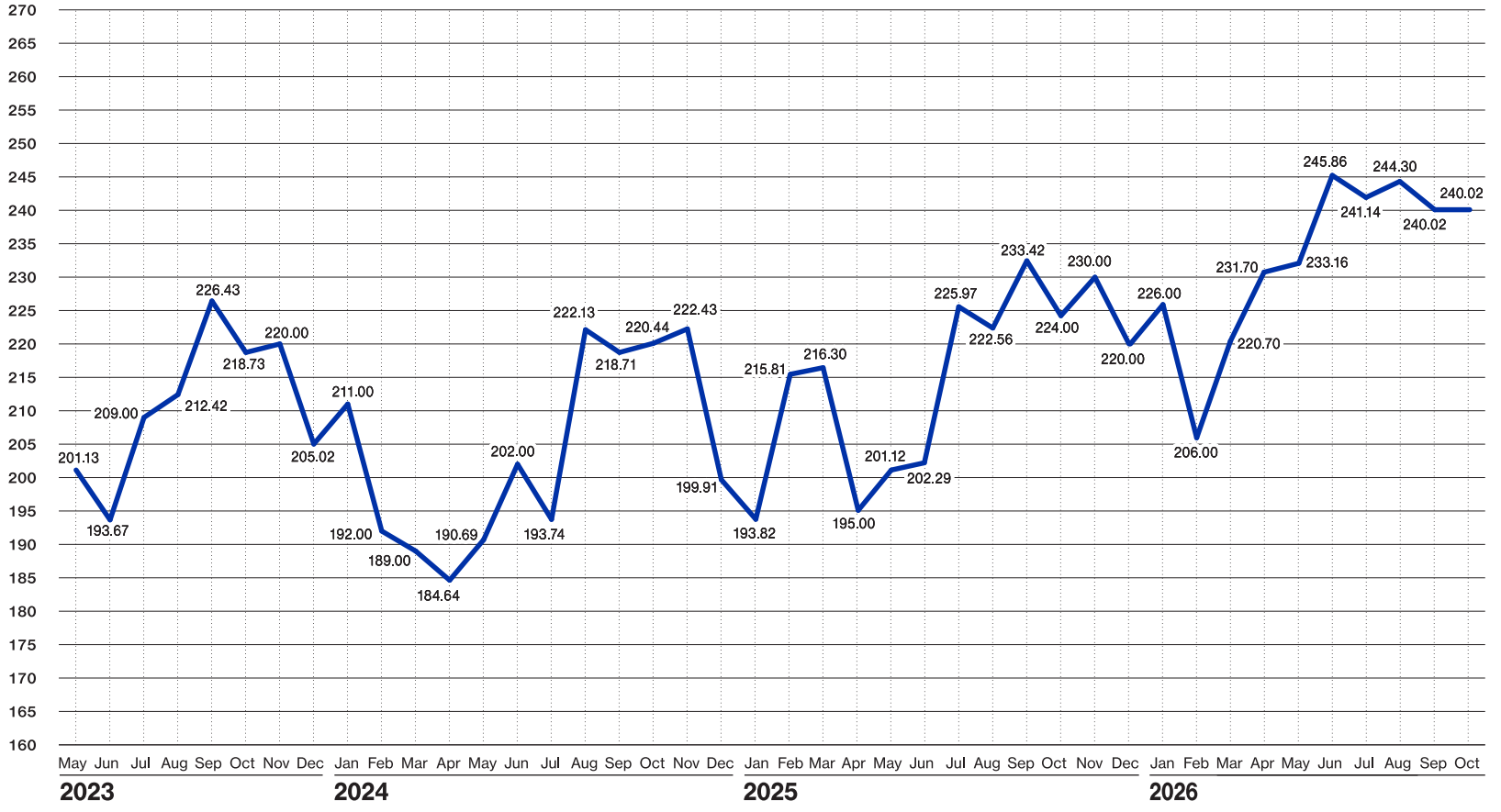


Cotton (Cents Per Pound)



Amarillo Economic Pulse | October 2026

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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of October 1, 2026. Rates are updated every Friday and are subject to change daily. $1,000 minimum deposit required to open all Certificates of Deposit. Fees may reduce earnings. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. For Certificates of Deposit with a stated maturity greater than one year, interest cannot remain on deposit and payout of interest is required annually.

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