

The Amarillo Economy

February 2026



**Amarillo
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Bank**

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Amarillo Economic Analysis

Amarillo's economy remains steady this winter, with stronger commodities and stronger consumer spending even as construction slows and drought threatens all agriculture.

Retail Sales are up 2% from 12 months ago. Year to Date Retail Sales are up 5% from 2025. New Car Sales are up 2% from last February and Used Car Sales are up 10% over the same period.

Hotel/Motel Tax Collections are up 9% and Airline Boardings are down 10% from 12 months ago.

Mortgage Rates have dropped below 6% and our bank is noticing an uptick in applications. Over the last few years, we saw more interest in home equity loans than new purchases or refinancings. Home prices are up 13%. Building Permits are flat with a year ago and so are Residential Starts.

There are 2 drilling rigs operating in the Panhandle, as oil stays above \$60 and Natural Gas is over \$3.

The Wheat crop is under severe pressure. Area Farmers tell us if we don't get moisture soon, the crop will be very limited. Prices are down 23%. Cotton prices are up 7%, and we hear that there was still some cutting in the South Plains in February.

Cattle prices are back up to \$2.43- 16% higher than last year. The closing of a Lubbock Feedyard will mean better placements for area yards. Some packing plants have stopped Friday operations, which will create a backlog of cattle for them. This could lower prices some. Milk prices are seasonally up over \$15, but down from last year's \$20.



Amarillo Economic Pulse

Economic Components	Current Month	Last Month	One Year Ago
Index (Base Jan. 88 @ 100)	206.00	226.00	216.28
Sales Tax Collection	\$ 12,113,063	\$ 8,763,473	\$ 11,878,544
Sales Tax Collections (Year to Date)	\$ 20,876,536	\$ 117,406,759	\$ 19,791,845
New Vehicle Sales	765	751	733
Used Vehicle Sales	1,455	1,305	1,317
Airline Boardings	25,539	32,856	26,381
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax	\$ 826,585	\$ 817,209	\$ 752,597
Population	201,106	201,106	201,106
Employment – CLF*	141,183	141,183	139,612
Unemployment Rate*	% 2.80	% 2.80	% 3.10
Total Worker Employed* (Household Survey)	137,228	137,228	135,245
Total Worker Employed* (Employer Survey)	132,700	132,700	129,800
Average Weekly Wages	\$ 1,071.00	\$ 1,071.00	\$ 1,071.00
Gas Meters	70,087	70,003	70,108
Interest Rates (30 year mortgage rates)	% 6.000	% 5.880	% 6.875
Building Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 38,803,260	\$ 37,658,444	\$ 39,223,576
Year to Date Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 95,365,180	\$ 735,906,397	\$ 39,895,315
Residential Starts	37	43	37
Year to Date Starts	52	512	38
Median House Sold Price	\$ 268,000	\$ 267,000	\$ 235,000
Drilling Rigs in Panhandle	2	2	2
Oil Per Barrel	\$ 62.32	\$ 61.66	\$ 72.53
Natural Gas	\$ 3.03	\$ 3.09	\$ 4.20
Wheat Per Bushel	\$ 5.42	\$ 5.03	\$ 6.52
Fed Cattle Per CWT	\$ 243.00	\$ 235.50	\$ 203.00
Corn	\$ 4.30	\$ 4.20	\$ 5.02
Cotton (Cents Per Pound)	\$ 63.03	\$ 66.82	\$ 62.40
Milk	\$ 15.06	\$ 14.92	\$ 20.31

Hold Your Horses – Legal Stuff Below.

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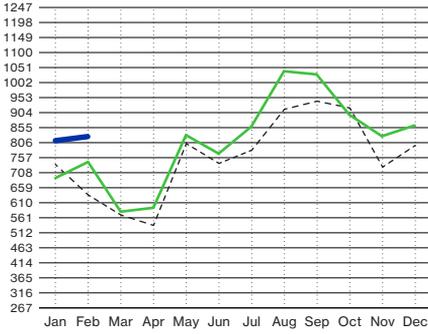
Economic Pulse Charts

2026

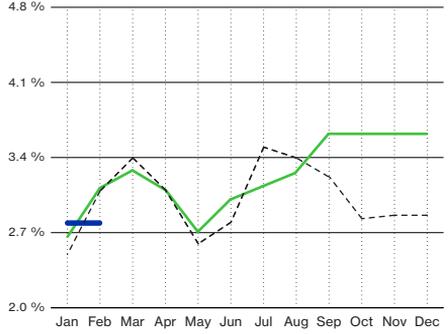
2025

2024

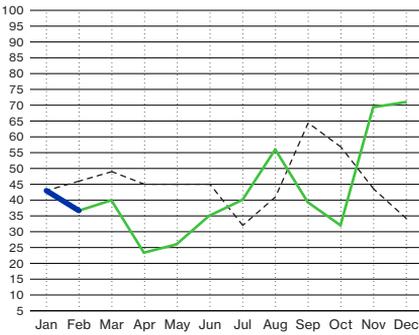
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax (In Thousands)



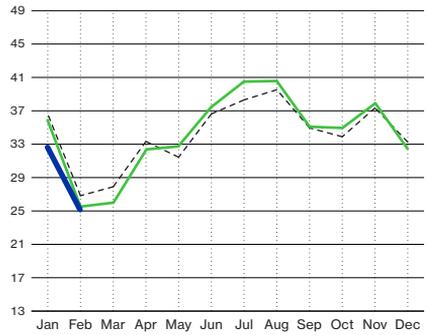
Percent Unemployment (State Adjusted Numbers)



Residential Housing Starts

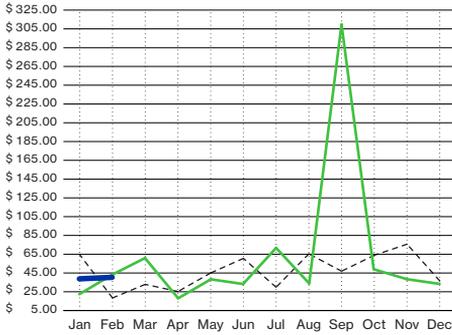


Airline Boardings (In Thousands)

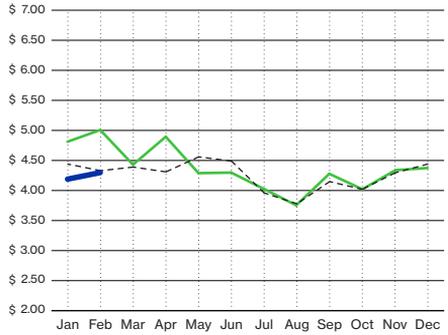


Building Permits

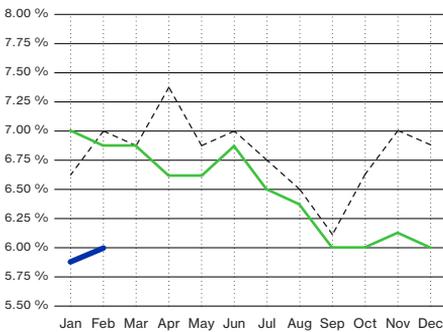
(Residential/Commercial - Millions of Dollars)



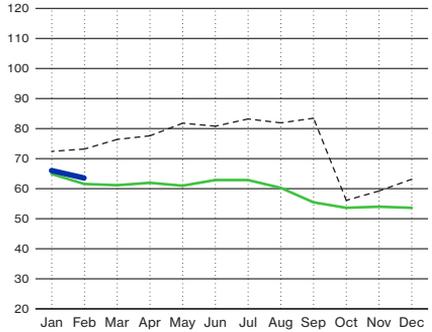
Corn (Price Per Bushel)

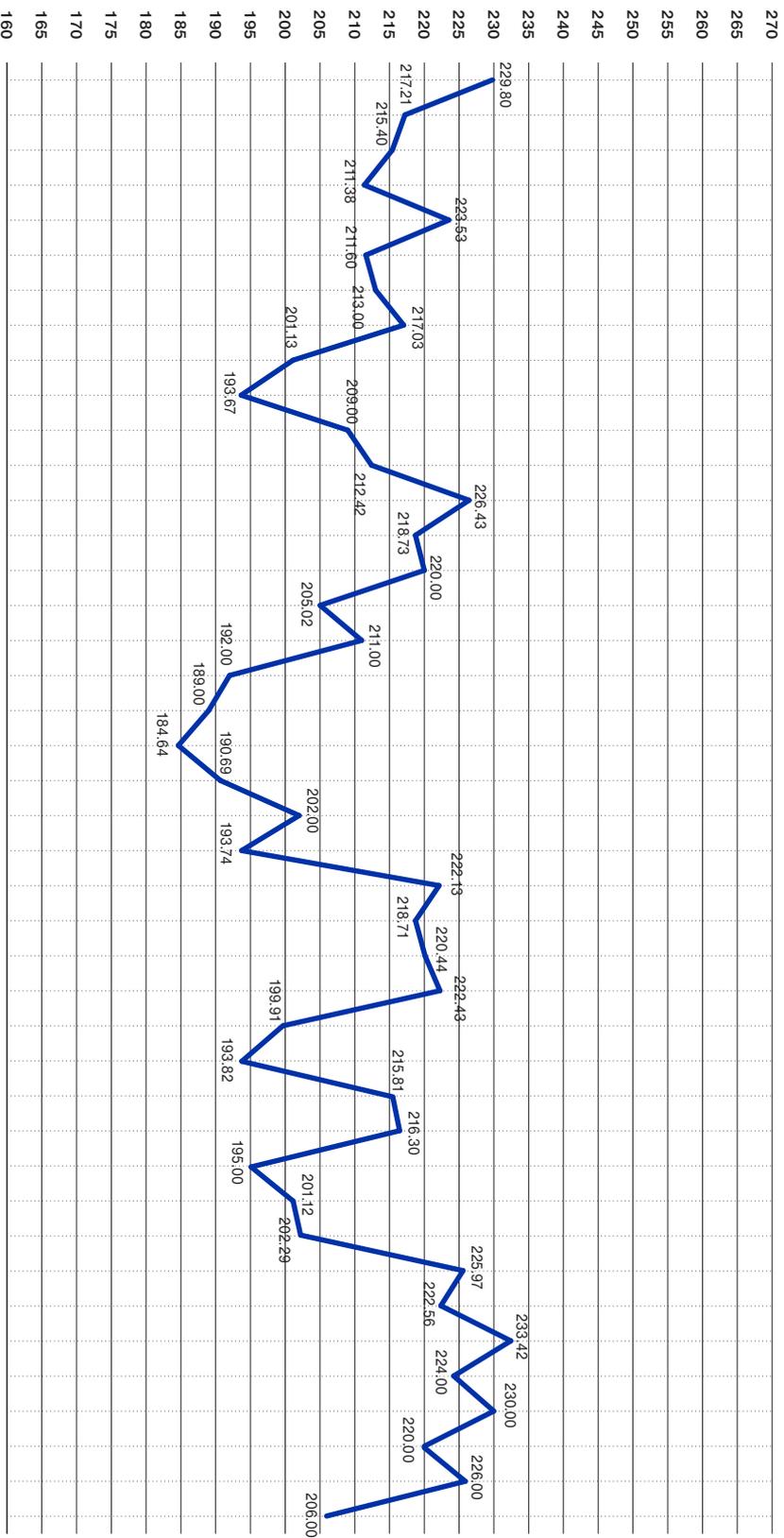


Interest Rates (30 Year Mortgage Rates)



Cotton (Cents Per Pound)





Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

2022 **2023** **2024** **2025** **2026**

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