

# The Amarillo Economy

March 2026



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## The overall economy in the Panhandle has some bright spots.

High commodity prices and higher prices should hurt individuals, but data center activity building and home building are boosting activity.

Retail Sales are up 12% from 12 months ago. Year to Date Sales are up 7%. Airline Boardings are up 5% and the Hotel/Motel Tax Collections are up 24% due to data center rentals and higher auto travel. We feel that the larger tax refunds will go towards debt and help out individuals over the next 6 months.

We have to wait until April to get updated job reports. Last Fall's Government Shutdown still gets the blame for the interruption in data.

Building permits are up 16%, driven by commercial building. Mortgage Rates are lower than a year ago at 6.13%. There are fewer residential starts than 12 months ago, and Year to Date Starts are also slightly 5% lower. Home prices are up 8% from last March.

Grain and Cotton prices are similar to last year- wheat is at \$5.98 and corn is at \$4.50. The lack of moisture might mean no wheat crop this year.

The Cattle Market stays high with Fat Cattle at \$235, up 18% from 12 months ago. The worker strike at a Colorado packing plant will cause a backlog of cattle coming out the Feedyards. This could hurt Fat Cattle prices in the short term. Area Dairies are profitable with milk prices up 7% from the beginning of the year.

The Middle East fighting has pushed Oil over \$100 for a few days over the last 3 weeks. This is good for Producers, who will take their profits to pay down debt or expand drilling. Any long-term price shock will hit consumers at the gas pump and across many other products. We will watch the impact on prices through the Summer. Natural Gas prices are over \$3 which is very good for the Panhandle economy.



# Amarillo Economic Pulse

Economic Components	Current Month	Last Month	One Year Ago
Index (Base Jan. 88 @ 100)	220.70	206.00	216.30
Sales Tax Collection	\$ 8,359,548	\$ 12,113,063	\$ 7,435,512
Sales Tax Collections (Year to Date)	\$ 29,236,084	\$ 20,876,536	\$ 27,227,358
New Vehicle Sales	642	765	656
Used Vehicle Sales	1,443	1,455	1,511
Airline Boardings	27,935	25,539	26,522
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax	\$ 714,495	\$ 826,585	\$ 578,127
Population	201,106	201,106	201,106
Employment – CLF*	–	141,183	140,643
Unemployment Rate*	% –	% 2.80	% 3.30
Total Worker Employed* (Household Survey)	–	137,228	135,973
Total Worker Employed* (Employer Survey)	–	132,700	130,400
Average Weekly Wages	\$ 1,071.00	\$ 1,071.00	\$ 1,071.00
Gas Meters	70,012	70,087	70,210
Interest Rates (30 year mortgage rates)	% 6.125	% 6.000	% 6.875
Building Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 64,395,791	\$ 38,803,260	\$ 55,151,370
Year to Date Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 106,395,491	\$ 95,365,180	\$ 95,161,031
Residential Starts	34	37	40
Year to Date Starts	73	52	77
Median House Sold Price	\$ 261,440	\$ 268,000	\$ 242,120
Drilling Rigs in Panhandle	3	2	1
Oil Per Barrel	\$ 94.00	\$ 62.32	\$ 67.61
Natural Gas	\$ 3.07	\$ 3.03	\$ 3.99
Wheat Per Bushel	\$ 5.98	\$ 5.42	\$ 6.61
Fed Cattle Per CWT	\$ 235.00	\$ 243.00	\$ 199.00
Corn	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.30	\$ 4.43
Cotton (Cents Per Pound)	\$ 66.82	\$ 63.03	\$ 61.90
Milk	\$ 16.18	\$ 15.06	\$ 18.45

## Hold Your Horses – Legal Stuff Below.

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# Economic Pulse Charts

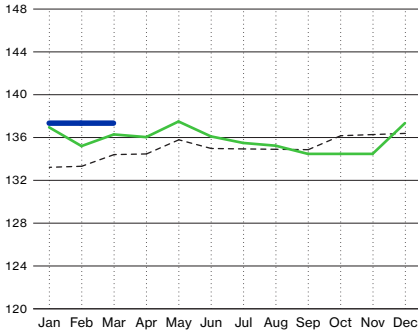
2026

2025

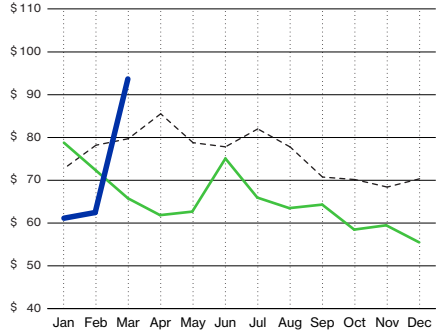
2024

## Workers Employed

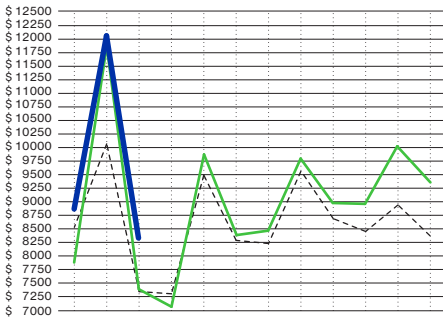
(In Thousands - Household Survey)



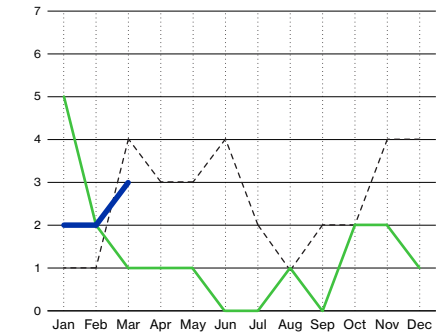
## Oil (Price Per Barrel - In Dollars)



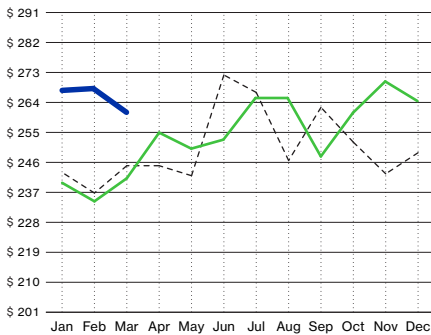
## Sales Tax Receipts (In Thousands)



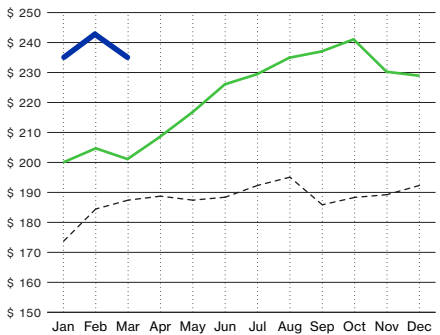
## Active Drilling Rigs in Panhandle



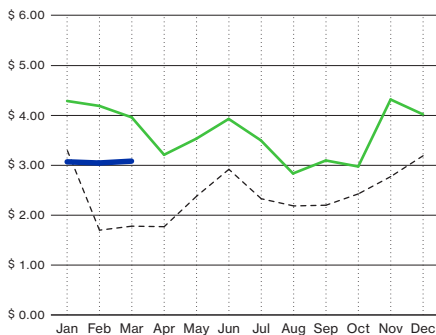
## Median House Sold Price (In Thousands)



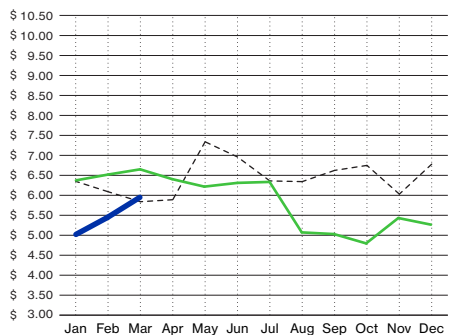
## Fed Cattle Per Hundred Weight (In Dollars)

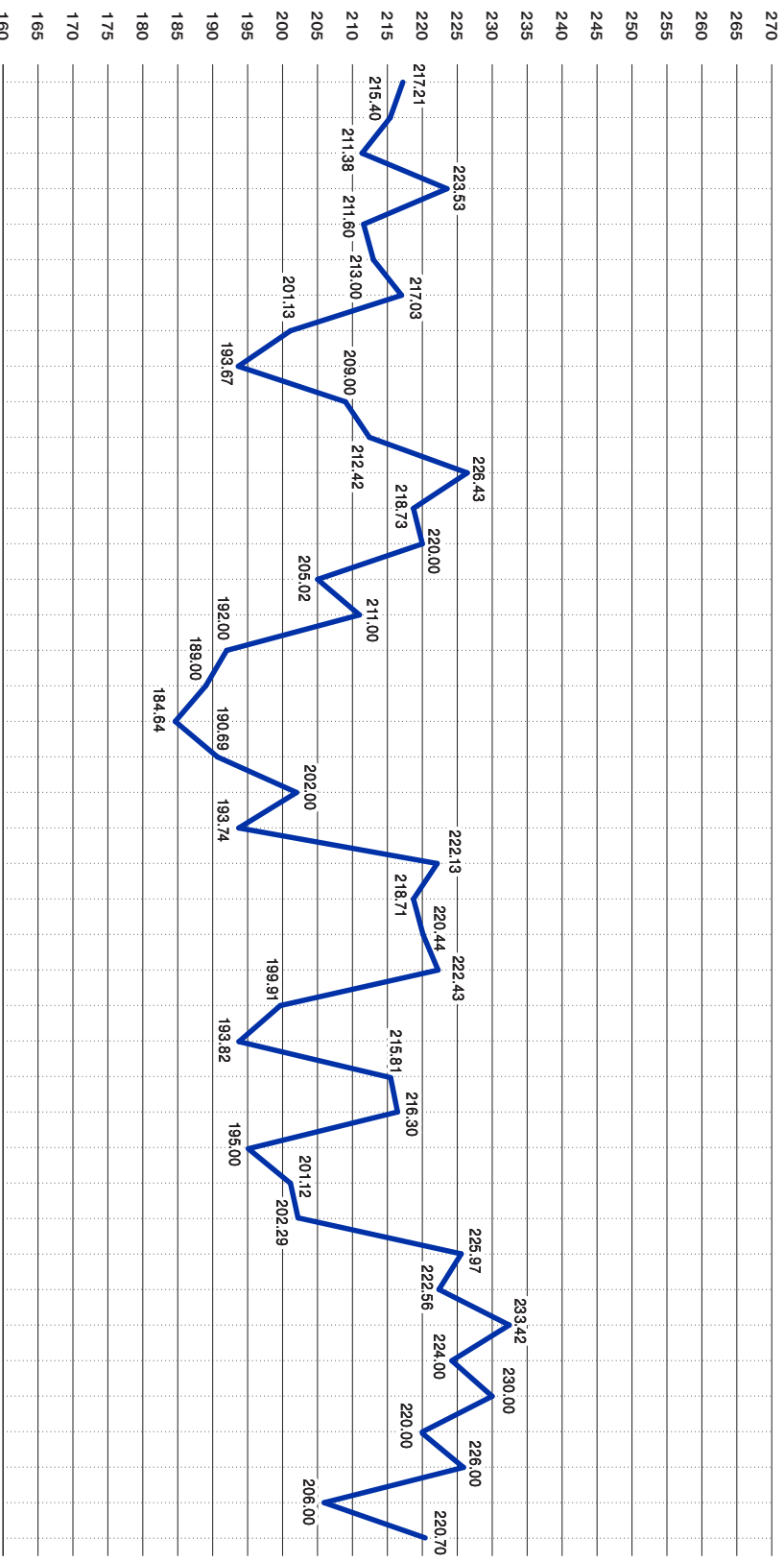


## Natural Gas (Price Per Mmbtu - In Thousands)



## Wheat (Price Per Bushel)





2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

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

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