

The Amarillo Economy

April 2026



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The Data Center economy is here.

Over the years, the Panhandle's diverse economy has allowed us to weather the commodity, employment and construction cycles.

Over the last 6 months, data centers have begun to have a giant impact on Amarillo's economy.

Strong employment, more construction and rising retail sales can be traced back to the data centers that are being built in the Texas Panhandle. The Employers Survey from February-our newest numbers-shows we have 131,700 people working in Amarillo, up 2,200 from last February. The Household Survey shows 136,512 people working which is 2,230 more than February 2025. Amarillo's unemployment rate is 3.7%, compared to Texas's 4.4%.

Construction for April is up 160% from 12 months ago. Year to Date Construction is up 36%, Residential Starts are up 208% from 12 months ago.

Data center activity conversations have filled our bank-increased traffic in rural counties, demand for electricians, shortages in housing and hotels/motels. We will follow all of this closely.

Airline Boardings are flat with a year ago. The Hotel/Motel Tax Collections are up 12%. New Car Sales are up 3% and Used Car Sales are flat compared to last April.

There are 4 drilling rigs in the Panhandle, up from just 1 a year ago. Oil prices are up 49% due to the Iran War. Natural Gas prices are down 20% from a year ago.

The drought is severe and there is very little, if any wheat crop this year. Wheat prices are down 9% at \$5.84. Corn prices are \$4.44 and down 7% from 12 months ago.

Milk prices are down 4% from a year ago, but Dairies remain profitable. Cattle Prices remain high- up 20% since last April. Lower inventory going to feed and higher demand by consumers strengthen area cattle producers.



Amarillo Economic Pulse

Economic Components	Current Month	Last Month	One Year Ago
Index (Base Jan. 88 @ 100)	231.70	220.70	195.00
Sales Tax Collection	\$ 8,351,586	\$ 8,359,548	\$ 7,161,594
Sales Tax Collections (Year to Date)	\$ 37,388,953	\$ 29,236,084	\$ 34,388,953
New Vehicle Sales	654	642	636
Used Vehicle Sales	1,691	1,443	1,683
Airline Boardings	32,132	27,935	31,720
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax	\$ 674,413	\$ 714,495	\$ 602,238
Population	201,106	201,106	201,106
Employment – CLF*	–	141,776	140,247
Unemployment Rate*	% –	% 3.70	% 3.10
Total Worker Employed* (Household Survey)	–	136,512	135,928
Total Worker Employed* (Employer Survey)	–	131,700	130,600
Average Weekly Wages	\$ 1,102.00	\$ 1,102.00	\$ 1,071.00
Gas Meters	70,387	70,012	70,200
Interest Rates (30 year mortgage rates)	% 6.250	% 6.125	% 6.625
Building Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 33,155,996	\$ 64,395,791	\$ 12,751,988
Year to Date Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 146,494,847	\$ 106,395,491	\$ 108,061,608
Residential Starts	71	34	23
Year to Date Starts	146	73	100
Median House Sold Price	\$ 255,000	\$ 265,000	\$ 255,000
Drilling Rigs in Panhandle	4	3	1
Oil Per Barrel	\$ 93.60	\$ 94.00	\$ 62.79
Natural Gas	\$ 2.61	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.25
Wheat Per Bushel	\$ 5.84	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.46
Fed Cattle Per CWT	\$ 248.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 206.40
Corn	\$ 4.44	\$ 4.50	\$ 4.81
Cotton (Cents Per Pound)	\$ 72.34	\$ 66.82	\$ 62.70
Milk	\$ 16.98	\$ 16.18	\$ 17.75

T-Minus 10... 9... All Legal Systems Go for Takeoff.

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