

Amarillo Economic Analysis

It appears that Amarillo has fared better than other parts of the country during the virus shutdowns, although we are still feeling some pain.

Retail sales for April were down 9% from a year ago (Lubbock down 11.5%; Midland down 20% and Odessa down 30%). This is a lagging number and could have some boost in there from the \$1,200 government checks. Year to date retail sales are flat with a year ago.

Employment is bad, but not near as bad as other parts of the country. The Employers' Survey shows a loss of 9,000 jobs from a year ago. The Household Survey shows a drop of 18,000 over the same time. Amarillo's unemployment rate is 8.5%, down from 8.8% a month ago. Some states are reporting unemployment rates over 15%. Texas is 13%. We think the Paycheck Protection Program did a good job keeping many people working.

New and Used car sales are down 22% from a year ago, but area dealerships are saying buying has picked up over the last month. New units are in short supply due to factory closings. Used are selling well, some at price over retail book.

Airline boardings are down 95% and Hotel/Motel tax collections (used to pay the ballpark debt) are down 77% from a year ago.

Housing has stayed strong, with rates down to 3.13%. Our bank has seen a surge in applications, both for purchases and refinancing.

Construction is stable in Amarillo with schools, fire stations, restaurants and convenience stores being built. Permits are up 26% for the month and up 12% YTD.

Dairies seem to be the only ag related business that is doing very well, with milk prices at \$19 (some Dairies seeing \$21 milk), up from \$16 last year.

Feedyards are doing better than they were earlier in the year, even though prices are down 2% from a year ago. Fat cattle are breaking even vs losses of \$300/head several months ago.

The drought has hurt area farmers. Some have pulled their cotton and planted corn, hoping for mid-summer moisture. The wheat harvest didn't go well and prices are flat.

Oil and Gas activity has stopped in the Panhandle. There are no drilling rigs operating with natural gas prices at \$1.74 (down 34% from a year ago) and Oil at \$36 (down 40% from last year). Royalty income is down sharply.

Amarillo Economic Pulse

Economic Components	Current Month	Last Month	One Year Ago
Index (Base Jan. 88 @ 100)	161.37	149.00	178.59
Sales Tax Collections	\$ 5,726,982	\$ 7,054,758	\$ 6,290,097
Sales Tax Collections – Year to Date	\$ 39,077,041	\$ 33,350,058	\$ 38,791,247
New Vehicle Sales	585	450	750
Used Vehicle Sales	1,590	1,022	2,036
Airline Boardings	1,512	14,603	28,565
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax	\$ 143,158	\$ 402,823	\$ 622,159
Population	191,514	191,514	191,514
Employment – CLF*	122,277	118,942	132,061
Unemployment Rate*	% 8.50	% 8.80	% 2.20
Total Workers Employed* (Household Survey)	111,857	108,424	129,133
Total Workers Employed* (Employer Survey)	112,400	110,938	121,672
Average Weekly Wages	\$ 955.84	\$ 955.84	\$ 924.45
Gas	68,832	66,963	63,301
Interest Rates (30 year mortgage rates)	% 3.125	% 3.375	% 4.13
Building Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 50,043,199	\$ 62,698,906	\$ 39,650,671
Year to Date Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 191,530,629	\$ 141,816,849	\$ 171,456,308
Residential Starts	32	44	32
Year to Date Starts	192	160	176
Median House Sold Price	\$ 193,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 172,500
Drilling Rigs in Panhandle	0	0	8
Oil Per Barrel	\$ 36.56	\$ 32.55	\$ 61.16
Natural Gas	\$ 1.74	\$ 1.72	\$ 2.65
Wheat Per Bushel	\$ 4.43	\$ 4.59	\$ 4.14
Fed Cattle Per CWT	\$ 110.10	\$ 108.05	\$ 112.70
Corn	\$ 3.33	\$ 3.41	\$ 4.07
Cotton (Cents Per Pound)	\$ 54.90	\$ 57.60	\$ 70.30
Milk	\$ 19.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 16.50

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JUNE 2020

