

Amarillo Economic Analysis

The economy ended the year a little worse than a year ago as wages, construction and commodities ended at lower levels.

Retail sales are up 1% from 12 months ago and year to date are up 2%. New car sales are up 20% and used car sales are up 13% from this time last year.

The two employment surveys tell us that job growth has come to a halt. There are about 700 more people working in the Household Survey, but the Employers' Survey shows a decrease of 600 jobs. The unemployment rate is at 2.5%. These numbers indicate what full employment levels are for the Panhandle. Wages are down 4% from a year ago, even with the low unemployment levels, as we have lost some high paying jobs.

Commercial and Residential Construction are both down from last year. Residential starts for the month are flat with a year ago, but year to date numbers are down 20%. Construction in Progress is down 30% from a year ago.

Housing is resilient, with home prices up 16% and 30-year mortgage rates low at 4.13%.

Commodity news is mixed. The late rains mean there was not much wheat planted. Wheat prices are flat with a year ago. Cotton was profitable even though there was less crop and lower prices (down 18%). Corn was hit by last Summer's volatile weather and farmers planted less in 2019. Prices are up 2%

Dairies turned things around this year. With \$19 milk (up from \$14.50 a year ago), dairies have been profitable for most of 2019. Feedyards are seeing profits of between \$60 - \$100 per head and prices are flat with a year ago.

Oil and Gas had a rough year. There are only 6 drilling rigs currently operating (down from 19 last year) in the Panhandle since natural gas prices are so low (\$2.34 / down 34%). Oil prices are still at \$60.

Amarillo Economic Pulse

Economic Components	Current Month	Last Month	One Year Ago
Index (Base Jan. 88 @ 100)	167.00	170.19	197.00
Sales Tax Collections	\$ 6,059,692	\$ 7,018,879	\$ 5,961,916
Sales Tax Collections – Year to Date	\$ 78,934,689	\$ 72,874,996	\$ 77,261,171
New Vehicle Sales	634	613	528
Used Vehicle Sales	1,659	1,611	1,468
Airline Boardings	31,616	29,314	31,914
Hotel/Motel Receipt Tax	\$ 523,960	\$ 681,862	\$ 563,794
Population	191,514	191,514	191,514
Employment – CLF*	133,364	133,028	132,672
Unemployment Rate*	% 2.50	% 2.40	% 2.60
Total Workers Employed* (Household Survey)	130,081	129,787	129,282
Total Workers Employed* (Employer Survey)	122,000	121,300	122,610
Average Weekly Wages	\$ 865.22	\$ 878.86	\$ 898.78
Gas	62,639	68,747	63,144
Interest Rates (30 year mortgage rates)	% 4.125	% 4.250	% 5.00
Building Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 9,652,851	\$ 16,579,406	\$ 31,588,354
Year to Date Permits (Dollar Amount)	\$ 317,251,231	\$ 307,598,380	\$ 454,260,915
Residential Starts	22	64	23
Year to Date Starts	403	381	505
Median House Sold Price	\$ 145,807	\$ 175,805	\$ 218,735
Drilling Rigs in Panhandle	6	10	19
Oil Per Barrel	\$ 60.24	\$ 56.88	\$ 60.77
Natural Gas	\$ 2.34	\$ 2.64	\$ 3.55
Wheat Per Bushel	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.03	\$ 4.88
Fed Cattle Per CWT	\$ 119.01	\$ 114.18	\$ 118.73
Corn	\$ 3.97	\$ 4.12	\$ 3.88
Cotton (Cents Per Pound)	\$ 59.10	\$ 61.50	\$ 72.30
Milk	\$ 19.00	\$ 18.50	\$ 14.50

