



2026 January
**Midland &
Permian Basin
Economic
Indices**



The

Perryman Group

Effective economics, accessible analysis

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OVERVIEW

The Perryman Midland and Permian Basin Indices fell slightly in January, continuing a generally downward trend.

The conflict in the Middle East has escalated notably over the past month. Iran has effectively shut down the Strait of Hormuz, allowing few ships through the narrow shipping lane which 20% of the world's oil supply traverses. Crude prices have surged, and fears of shortages in some areas are rising. (Note that this month's indices for January reflect conditions before the recent escalation. In addition, due to delays in data releases of metropolitan area and regional data by the federal government, a number of measures had to be estimated from the best data available.)

Although the official stance is that the Federal Reserve will likely cut interest rates later this year, that prospect is becoming less probable as the higher oil prices persist. Given the Fed's dual mandate of stable prices and maximum employment, the current environment presents particular challenges. Inflation pressure is rising due to tariffs and high oil prices, which would tend to cause a rate increase. At the same time, the job market is soft, with few opportunities in some occupations and geographic areas, and a weak job market would increase the likelihood of a rate decrease. Rates could thus go either way depending on how the situation changes.

Texas has been outpacing the national rate of growth, though the pace of expansion has slowed markedly since mid-2025. The state continues to attract corporations and residents from other parts of the United States.

Some balance is returning to the Texas housing market, although notable issues remain (particularly affordability and supply). Prices are flattening and even dropping in some areas, and houses are staying on the market considerably longer than a few years ago. However, the current situation is more a resetting after the historic bubble caused by the pandemic and responses to it such as ultra-low interest rates than it is a massive correction. Some buyers are benefiting, and as long as the slide does not become excessive or lengthy, it is a necessary adjustment.

Manufacturing activity is still rising, though at a slower pace. However, once the current major sources of uncertainty subside, the state can expect a return to more robust expansion.

If high oil prices persist and expectations are that they will remain elevated for a significant period of time, energy companies will begin to consider additional capital investments. An increase in the level of drilling activity in the Permian Basin could then occur. In the meantime, many producers are seeing higher profits and working to enhance production and efficiency.

Selected economic indicators and January results for the Midland and Permian Basin indices are summarized in the following pages, with additional detail in the accompanying workbook.



SELECTED MIDLAND ECONOMIC INDICATORS: JANUARY 2026

Indicator	2024	2025	2026	2025-26 % Change
Permian Basin Rig Count				
January	309	303	244	-19.30%
Average Year to Date	309	303	244	-19.30%
WTI Oil Price				
January	\$74.15	\$75.74	\$60.04	-20.73%
Average Year to Date	\$74.15	\$75.74	\$60.04	-20.73%
Henry Hub Natural Gas Price				
January	\$3.18	\$4.13	\$7.72	+86.92%
Average Year to Date	\$3.18	\$4.13	\$7.72	+86.92%
Housing Permits				
January	50	121	62	N/A
Total Year to Date	50	121	62	N/A
Average Housing Permit Value				
January	\$312,141	\$230,945	\$302,981	+31.19%
Average Year to Date	\$312,141	\$230,945	\$302,981	+31.19%
Airline Boardings				
December	66,397	61,511	N/A	N/A
Total Year to Date	110,363	117,601	N/A	N/A
Hotel Receipts				
January	\$11,024,665	\$11,703,231	\$12,175,565	+4.04%
Total Year to Date	\$11,024,665	\$11,703,231	\$12,175,565	+4.04%
Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)				
December	125,100	127,000	N/A	N/A
Average Year to Date	123,250	125,500	N/A	N/A
Unemployment Rate				
January	2.74%	2.96%	N/A	N/A
Average Year to Date	2.74%	2.96%	N/A	N/A
Midland Index (2021=100)				
January	122.4	123.5	119.8	N/A
Average Year to Date	122.4	123.5	119.8	N/A

Note: Some data points are missing due to the late release of data from federal agencies; these series will be completed as necessary information becomes available.

Sources: Baker-Hughes, Energy Information Agency, US Census Bureau, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Bureau of Labor Statistics, The Perryman Group



MIDLAND MSA

The Midland Economic Index measured 119.8 in January, a decrease of -0.2.

A small increase occurred in Energy (+0.3) and other sectors also saw gains including Professional and Business Services (+3.3), Retail (+1.5), Health Care (+0.4), and Financial Services (+0.4). However, the overall index was down due primarily to a drop in Construction (-28.9) as well as declines in other industries including Manufacturing (-0.2).

MIDLAND MSA ECONOMIC INDEX

RECENT RESULTS (2012=100)

Current Index Reading	119.8
Change from Previous Month	Down -0.2

MIDLAND MSA ECONOMIC INDEX

RESULTS BY INDUSTRY (2012=100)

Industry	December	January	Change
Energy	110.0	110.3	+0.3
Construction	167.9	139.0	-28.9
Manufacturing	135.6	135.4	-0.2
Retail	127.7	129.2	+1.5
Financial Services	227.8	228.2	+0.4
Real Estate	143.6	142.6	-1.0
Professional & Business Services	131.1	134.4	+3.3
Health Care	134.2	134.6	+0.4
Hospitality & Tourism	159.4	159.5	+0.1
Other Activity	141.7	141.4	-0.3
Midland Composite	120.0	119.8	-0.2

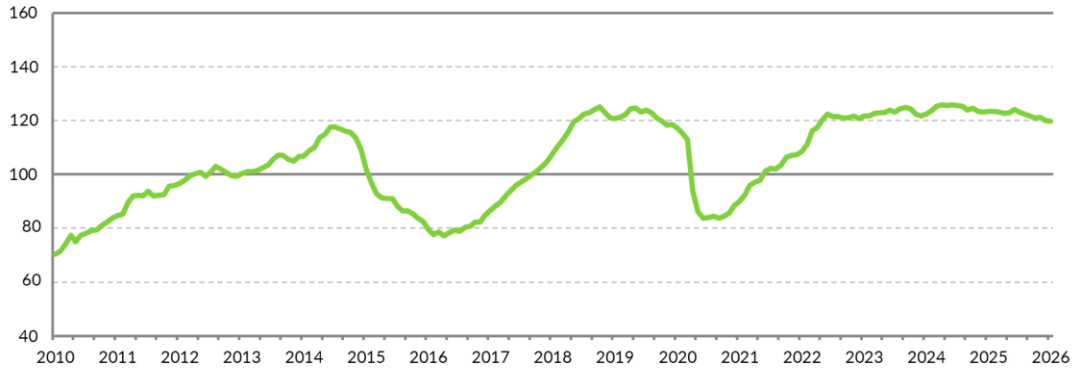
Note: Industries are not weighted equally in calculating the Industry Composite; see the Appendix for further explanation. The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Midland and Martin counties.

Source: The Perryman Group



Midland Economic Index

(Index adjusted such that 100 represents economic status in 2012)

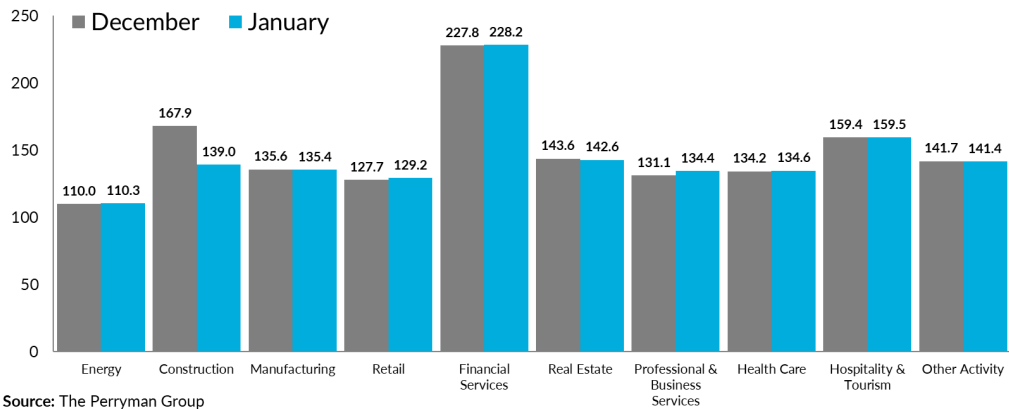


Source: The Perryman Group

Midland Economic Index

Recent values by sector

(Index adjusted such that 100 represents economic status in 2012)



Source: The Perryman Group

Midland Economic Index

Change from previous month by sector



Source: The Perryman Group



PERMIAN BASIN REGION

The Permian Basin Economic Index for January measured 103.7, indicating a decrease from the prior month of -0.3.

Performance across industry groups was mixed, with losses in Construction (-30.2) as well as Real Estate (-0.3) and Manufacturing (-0.2) leading to a reduction in the overall index. However, there were increases in Professional & Business Services (+2.2), Retail (+1.0), Energy (+0.4), and several other sectors.

Current Index Reading	103.7
Change from Previous Month	Down -0.3

PERMIAN BASIN ECONOMIC INDEX

RESULTS BY INDUSTRY (2012=100)

Industry	December	January	Change
Energy	95.4	95.8	+0.4
Construction	157.2	127.0	-30.2
Manufacturing	92.4	92.2	-0.2
Retail	125.8	126.8	+1.0
Financial Services	137.1	137.5	+0.4
Real Estate	143.7	143.4	-0.3
Professional & Business Services	124.9	127.1	+2.2
Health Care	117.7	117.6	-0.1
Hospitality & Tourism	146.9	146.8	-0.1
Other Activity	129.3	129.3	+0.0
Permian Basin Composite	104.0	103.7	-0.3

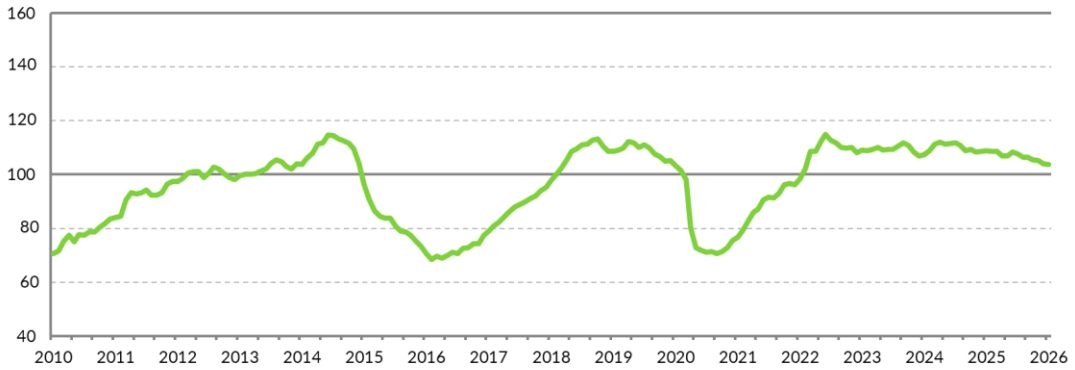
Note: Industries are not weighted equally in calculating the Industry Composite; see the Appendix for further explanation. The Permian Basin Region includes Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, and Winkler counties.

Source: The Perryman Group



Permian Basin Economic Index

(Index adjusted such that 100 represents economic status in 2012)

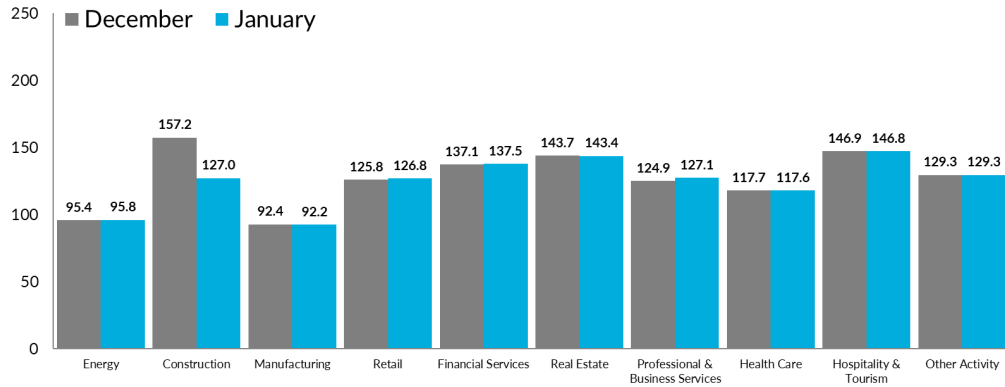


Source: The Perryman Group

Permian Basin Economic Index

Recent values by sector

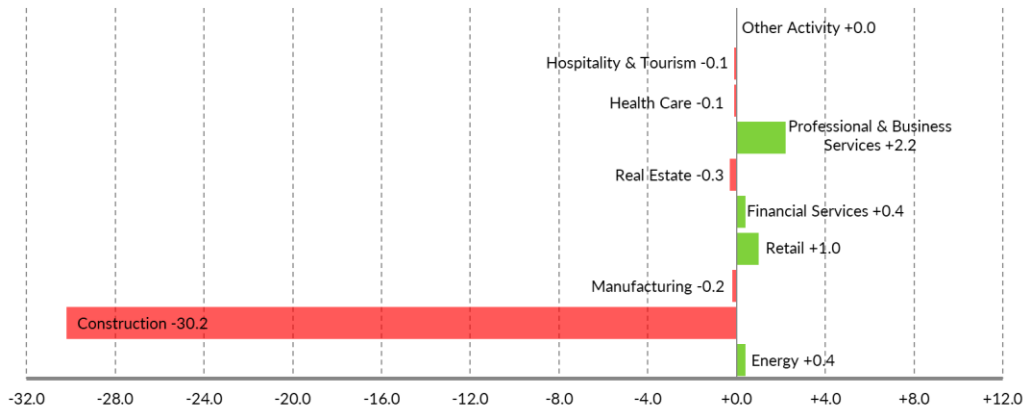
(Index adjusted such that 100 represents economic status in 2012)



Source: The Perryman Group

Permian Basin Economic Index

Change from previous month by sector



Source: The Perryman Group



METHODOLOGY

The goal of the Midland and Permian Basin indices is to encapsulate, in a single measure, the current status of the local and regional economy, how it is changing, and what is driving the change. The indices include measures of industrial performance, with sub-indices for the various components to indicate the role they play in overall performance. The indices are based on complex economic modeling processes, but it provides a simple measure of the health of the local and regional economy and how and why it is changing.

The indices reflect shifts in key industries and performance. The relative weights of each component were determined based on typical patterns in the relationships of variables to overall economic performance. The indices include variables ranging from oil prices to construction which describe the evolving status of key industries. These measures reflect analysis of numerous indicators of the level of activity and how it is changing. Beginning with the May 2025 report, an extensive revision of historical employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics is reflected in the Index values.

The Midland and Permian Basin indices were developed and are maintained by The Perryman Group, an economic and financial analysis firm based in Waco, Texas with decades of experience in analyzing the local and regional economies. Dr. M. Ray Perryman, President and CEO of The Perryman Group, has more than 40 years of experience in index construction and regional economic modeling. In particular, Dr. Perryman derived the indices of monetary policy that are used by the Federal Reserve System and

more than 60 other central banks around the world. He also developed regional and small-area indices of Industrial Production and Unit Labor Costs that are widely used on a global basis, as well as measures of systematic risk for non-homogenous assets and the degree of trade integration among nations. Dr. Perryman has been an advisor to the US Department of Labor on the Consumer Price Index as well as numerous other governmental entities on index-related issues. He has also developed the world's largest regional econometric modeling system and has been analyzing the economy of Midland and the Permian Basin on an ongoing basis since the mid-1970s.

Index Construction

Economic indices are typically constructed in one of two ways, both of which are widely used and have been successfully employed by Dr. Perryman over the course of his career. One common method is to identify a set of relevant variables and then use principal component analysis (PCA) or a variation (such as a factor rotation) to assign weights to the individual components on an empirical basis. In essence, this process converts a set of variables into an equal number of new measures such that each of the new variables is (1) a linear combination of the original ones and (2) orthogonal to each of the others. The new measures also have the property of collectively containing all of the information in the original variables. When this approach is used, the first principal component (the one which explains the largest percentage of the variation) is typically used to determine the weights in the indices. This approach has advantages in that (1) weights are

empirically generated based on their explanatory power and (2) it is relatively simple to implement. Its major disadvantages are (1) in many instances, particularly where a large number of variables are being examined (as in the current analysis), spurious correlations with relatively minor factors that are unlikely to be sustained over time can occur; (2) the first principle component, despite exhibiting the largest explanatory power, often accounts for only a small amount of the total variation, thus failing to incorporate a substantial portion of the available information.

The second approach is to rely on economic data, theory, and models to develop an index of the desired phenomena. The primary difficulty with this method is the fact that it can become complex in its execution. The advantages are the ability to (1) systematically incorporate very large sets of variables without loss of underlying information, (2) develop sub-indices to provide a focus on specific index elements, and (3) incorporate specific economic content in a detailed and systematic manner.

In the present instance, the second option appeared to be more appropriate in that the process included the incorporation of a complex multi-dimensional framework which allows both individual and integrated consideration of a variety of segments that span multiple sectoral components. Nonetheless, a principal components model was originally attempted for purposes of completeness and to meet the conditions for statistical efficiency. As anticipated, the resulting assessment across a broad spectrum of variables across industries resulted in both weighting on relatively minor variables which were not stable across sub-periods and relatively



little (less than 10 percent) information capture by the primary principal components. Consequently, the Midland and Permian Basin indices were developed using a more formal and comprehensive data and modeling effort. This process is described below.

Industrial Variations

As noted, the indices seek to encapsulate, in a single measure, the many facets of the local and regional economy. Sub-indices are also generated for key industries in order to examine the various components and the role that they play in overall performance. Aggregates available on a monthly basis are incorporated into the indices in order to permit regular monitoring of changes in business activity. Broader measures (such as total expenditures and gross product by industry) which have greater information content but less frequent periodicity are used in defining the relative weights. In this manner, it is possible to enhance the comprehensiveness of the indices.

The segments of the economy that are included in the indices are:

- Energy,
- Construction (residential and non-residential),
- Manufacturing,
- Retail,
- Financial Services,
- Real Estate,
- Professional & Business Services,
- Health Care,
- Hospitality & Tourism, and
- Other Activity

The relative weights to be applied to each segment were derived based on the stabilized percentage of each sector of a relevant overall aggregate (gross area product).

The next phase of the analysis is the construction of the various sectoral indices. Measures that were available on a monthly basis were employed and were selected based on their role in being reflective of aspects of the relevant segment. They were then tested relative to one another to assure that they were not subject to excessive multicollinearity. Once the final set was determined, each quarterly series was transformed into a common format in which 2012 was defined as equal to 100. The base year is consistent with most official economic series that are presented either as indices or on a constant-dollar basis. All monetary values were similarly expressed in constant 2012 dollars to avoid artificial growth generated by inflation. In a few instances, quarterly series were converted to monthly aggregates using a regression approach developed by Dr. Perryman that is widely utilized throughout the world.

The variables utilized in the indices include items such as oil and gas prices, rig counts, retail sales, single and multi-family housing permits and values, housing sales and values, bank loans and deposits, employment by detailed industrial category, and numerous other factors. Where appropriate, inputs were adjusted to eliminate seasonal patterns that are not reflective of underlying economic conditions.

In each of the indices, the weights assigned to the individual components are determined based on the relative standard errors of the normalized values. This approach allows greater weight to be assigned to those measures

which exhibit more pronounced fluctuations to influence industry performance. These individual sectoral indices were aggregated into an overall Composite Index using the weighting described above. Separate individual sectoral measures and Composite Index values were generated for the Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Permian Basin Region. It should be noted that the monthly indices always use the latest available economic data. Because much of the information normally is subject to both short-term revisions and periodic benchmarking, historical values will often change from month to month. These variations are typically minor.

Historical Performance

Historical performance of components of the Midland and Permian Basin indices are provided in the accompanying workbook.

Conclusion

The Midland and Permian Basin indices provide a measure of changes in the economy that is easy to grasp and compare over time. Although the modeling process that went into the indices was complex, the result is a simple and straightforward assessment of the direction of patterns in business activity and the reasons for changes in overall performance.



THE PERRYMAN GROUP



The Perryman Group is a focused team of analysts who know how to address complex economic information tasks and present our findings effectively.

Our in-house professionals bring expertise in economics, finance, statistics, mathematics, real estate, valuation, systems analysis, engineering, technical communications, and marketing. Dr. Ray Perryman, President and CEO, has almost 50 years of experience in developing systems, analyzing complex problems, and communicating effectively. We have considerable pride in what we do. Our enthusiasm is both unbridled and contagious; every day brings a new opportunity for us to tackle a different problem or create a product or service specifically tailored to our clients.

OUR SERVICES

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We have developed and continually maintain an extensive set of economic impact evaluation models that can be applied in a variety of contexts.

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We help clients analyze and communicate complex information in common-sense terms through comprehensive, objective analyses and clear, concise expert reports and presentations.

FORECASTING

We are at the cutting edge of econometrics and other advanced statistical methods and have provided innovative approaches for many complex applications.

SPEECHES

Dr. Perryman addresses dozens of audiences throughout the world every year, catering to a wide variety of events.

M. RAY PERRYMAN, PH.D.

Dr. Ray Perryman is President and CEO of The Perryman Group, an economic research and analysis firm based in Waco, Texas. His firm has served the needs of more than 3,000 clients, including two-thirds of the Global 25, over half of the Fortune 100, the 12 largest technology firms in the world, 12 US Cabinet Departments, the 9 largest firms in the US, the 6 largest energy companies operating in the US, and the 5 largest US banking institutions.

Dr. Perryman was named Outstanding Young Person of the World for Business and Economic Innovation in 1987 and was designated Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference in 2012. He received the Baylor University Distinguished Service Medal in 2013, was inducted into the Texas Leadership Hall of Fame in 2014, received the LULAC Conscience Builders Award in 2016 for his humanitarian efforts, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award for philanthropy from the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2023.



He dedicates a significant portion of his time to pro bono work aimed at helping to solve pressing social problems such as hunger, indigent healthcare, poverty, and child maltreatment.