

South Carolina Fact Sheet: Data Centers & The Road Ahead

As the Data Center Revolt Bus Tour pulls into South Carolina, it's worth asking what pumping the brakes on data center development could mean for communities. Jobs, local investment, tax revenue, infrastructure improvements and new economic opportunities could all be left behind. Communities do not have to choose between new investment and strong local protections — responsible data center development can deliver both.



South Carolina Data Centers Are An Economic Engine

MORE THAN
\$4.9 Billion
IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT

At \$4.9 billion, nearly half of South Carolina's capital investment in 2025 came from commitments by two data centers that do not receive any state discretionary incentives.

\$7.9 Billion
GENERATED FOR
SOUTH CAROLINA'S
ECONOMY

South Carolina's data center industry contributed roughly \$7.9 billion to the state's economy in 2024, including direct, indirect, induced and cross-state spillover effects — a 21 percent increase from \$6.5 billion in 2023.

63,960
DATA CENTER JOBS
SUPPORTED

In 2024, South Carolina's data center industry supported 63,960 jobs. Around 10,780 of these jobs were through direct employment, while the broader economic activity of the sector at large supported hundreds of thousands more.

\$694 Million
IN TAX REVENUE

South Carolina data centers brought in roughly \$694 million in state and local tax revenue in 2024, providing resources for local infrastructure, schools and public services.



Data Centers Are Investing Millions In Jobs, Grid Updates, Workforce And Local Priorities

Thousands of Skilled-Trade Jobs

Two new Google data centers in Dorchester County are projected to bring 1,200 skilled-trade jobs to construct the facilities and eventually create 200 full-time operational jobs. In total, Google data centers supported roughly 6,430 jobs in South Carolina between 2021 and 2023.

Supporting Local Priorities

Meta partnered with local nonprofits on initiatives, including the Aiken Land Conservancy's conservation efforts at Boyd Pond Park, the North Augusta Family YMCA's build-out of a learning lab and the Aiken Chamber Foundation, to support the creation of the Aiken Innovation Corridor.

Workforce Apprenticeships

Google provided a grant to the Electrical Training Alliance (etA) to help integrate AI tools into training, preparing more than 160 apprentices for careers in the state's growing tech and energy sector. Additionally, Google's Skilled Trades and Readiness (STAR) Program works alongside local South Carolina organizations to prepare workers for entry-level careers in construction and skilled trades.

Environmental Stewardship

Quality Technology Services (QTS) has proposed a data center in York County that would leverage its innovative closed-loop cooling system to save more than 48 million gallons of water annually. QTS also supports communities by replanting trees and sourcing carbon-free energy.



Data Centers Offer New Hope For Hard-Hit South Carolina Communities

- **Spartanburg County**

- A former Kohler manufacturing plant in Spartanburg County is being transformed into a \$2.8 billion high-performance computing and data center campus. Rather than abandoning the existing industrial property, [NorthMark Strategies](#) plans to reuse approximately 850,000 square feet of former manufacturing space and undertake environmental remediation across the site. The project is expected to support 400 to 600 construction, engineering and related jobs. The developer has also committed to using regional contractors and suppliers for ongoing maintenance and operations, bringing new economic activity to a legacy manufacturing site.

- **Dorchester County**

- Located in southeastern South Carolina, Dorchester County is home to two Google data centers, with \$3.3 billion in investment. The county currently reports that [11.4 percent of residents live in poverty](#) and 14.8 percent live with severe housing problems, a figure that has grown from 2014 to 2025. Meanwhile, in 2025 alone, Google's data center investment provided \$7.2 billion of economic activity for South Carolina businesses, nonprofits and developers, energizing the economy. County leaders say the investment will strengthen the local economy, support schools and improve residents' quality of life.



China Is Stepping On The Gas And America Could Be Left Behind



Energy: China generates [twice as much electricity](#) as the United States and aims to [double its data center capacity](#) by 2030.



Global Standards: Beijing is creating an [international AI body headquartered in Shanghai](#) to help shape global AI rules.



Models: Chinese AI models are rapidly catching up, with Stanford finding the performance gap between the top U.S. and Chinese models has [narrowed to just 2.7 percent](#).



Adoption: Alibaba's Qwen models have surpassed [3 billion global downloads](#), exceeding American rivals.



Responsible Development Can Deliver Both Growth & Protection

- **Protect ratepayers and taxpayers.** Data centers should cover project-related energy and infrastructure costs while expanding the local tax base to support schools, public safety and other priorities.
- **Protect local resources.** Projects should meet clear, enforceable standards for water use, land, noise, siting and other local impacts.
- **Deliver local benefits and accountability.** Developers should be transparent about project impacts and make measurable commitments to local workers, businesses and communities.

South Carolina can protect communities and keep building. Pumping the brakes on responsible projects risks leaving jobs, investment and economic opportunity behind while global competition in AI continues to accelerate. South Carolina shouldn't put its future in reverse without considering what communities stand to lose.

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