# Texas Fact Sheet: Data Centers & The Road Ahead

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**As the Data Center Revolt Bus Tour pulls into Texas, 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.

## Texas Data Centers Are An Economic Engine

| $177 Billion | $65 Billion | MORE THAN 485,000 | MORE THAN $4.5 Billion |
|---|---|---|---|
| IN DATA CENTER INVESTMENT | GENERATED FOR TEXAS' ECONOMY | DATA CENTER JOBS SUPPORTED | IN TAX REVENUE |
| Data center builders have invested $177 billion in Texas data centers. | Data centers contributed approximately $65 billion to the state GDP in 2024. | In 2023, Texas' data center industry supported more than 485,000 total jobs. | Texas data centers brought in more than $4.5 billion in 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

### Expanding Energy and Infrastructure Capacity

Google is investing $40 billion through 2027 to expand its Texas cloud and AI infrastructure and has contracted for more than 6,200 MW of new energy generation and capacity. Microsoft's multibillion-dollar Pecos campus will add approximately 2 GW of data center capacity and fund the new generation and grid upgrades required to serve the facility.

### Free Training for Skilled-Trade Workers

Meta recently announced a free job training program that promises a "fast-track to a long-term career in a skilled trade," which will include Texas as a pilot location for 2026. Graduates earn both the industry-recognized National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential and an America's Workforce Certificate, both designed to travel with the worker across employers and industry sectors.

### Thousands of Skilled-Trade Jobs

Meta's three Texas data centers support more than 6,400 skilled-trade workers at peak construction and roughly 600 permanent jobs. Microsoft's Pecos campus is expected to support more than 6,000 construction jobs at peak and hundreds of permanent jobs, while Google is helping train more than 1,700 Texas electrical apprentices by 2030.

### Millions for Local Priorities

Across its Texas data center communities, Meta has provided more than $7.7 million in direct funding to schools and nonprofits, including more than $5.2 million through grants in the Fort Worth area and more than $1.7 million through grants in the Temple area.

## Data Centers Offer New Hope For Hard-Hit Texas Communities

- **Angelina County**
  - A former paper mill site in the city of Lufkin now has plans to become a $1 billion AI data center campus. The paper mill once employed nearly 600 people in Angelina County before closing in 2004, leaving behind a large heavy-industrial site. Now, two developers are proposing to redevelop the roughly 1,000-acre property into a data center campus. City officials estimate the project could bring $1 billion in private capital investment, 500 construction jobs and 30 permanent jobs. The city also says the facility could become the largest taxpayer in Angelina County, giving new economic value to a site that has been sitting idle since the mill's closure.

- **Milam County**
  - The city of Rockdale is turning the site of a former Alcoa aluminum plant into a major data center and AI campus. The Alcoa plant closed in 2008, costing the city roughly 80 percent of its workforce. The site was subsequently redeveloped for large-scale digital infrastructure, and one company is now converting part of the property for AI and data center operations. The Texas Comptroller reported that the digital infrastructure operation at the former Alcoa site had already added 300 direct jobs and 900 to 1,200 indirect jobs, while Rockdale's sales-tax revenues were on track to exceed $1 million.

## 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.

Texas 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. Texas shouldn't put its future in reverse without considering what communities stand to lose.

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