THE STATE OF OHIO
DATA CENTERS IN 2026

Scale. Economic contribution. Community choices.

A growing statewide industry with recurring operations, a large construction pipeline, measurable local revenue and choices for the state and its communities.

2025 ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

$9.1 BILLION

Contribution to Ohio GDP

Operations and construction combined ($9,084 million). About **$4.7 billion** of it came through Ohio suppliers and household spending.

Central Ohio ranks third nationally

3rd among U.S. markets by operating data-center capacity, mid-2026

3,488 MW OPERATING

2,043 MW UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Operating Under construction

Under-construction capacity rose **78 percent** in six months, and another **11,545 MW** is listed as planned, not a forecast.

Statewide footprint

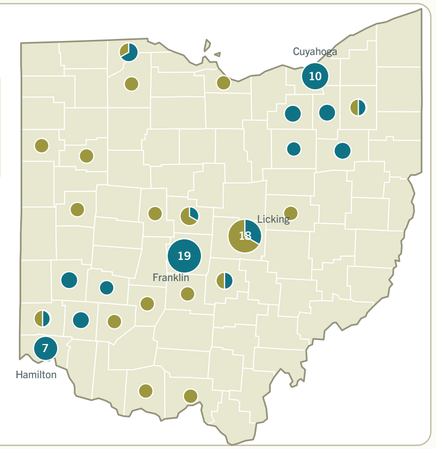
90 campuses and sites

257 Data Center Map listings

28 of Ohio's 88 counties

- **60** operating
- **30** under construction, permitted or proposed

SRC counts each campus once, however many buildings it has; Data Center Map's directory also lists planned sites. Circle size shows campuses per county.



69,600 2025 JOBS, OPERATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION TOGETHER
Ohio jobs supported in 2025

43,459 Operations | **26,145** Construction and equipment

Direct, supplier and household-spending effects. About **97,900** if servers are bought through Ohio distributors. Combined for a single year only.

Operations

RECURRING, 2025

43,459
Total Ohio jobs supported
Includes **14,257 direct payroll jobs*** plus employment supported through Ohio suppliers and household spending.

$6.2B Annual GDP contribution

$3.8B Annual labor income

$147,700 Average direct wages and benefits

3.05 Total jobs per direct job

61,486 Total operating jobs in the 2030 Base scenario

$8.73B Base-scenario GDP contribution in 2030

50,619 to 73,243 Total operating jobs in 2030, Low to High scenario

Construction

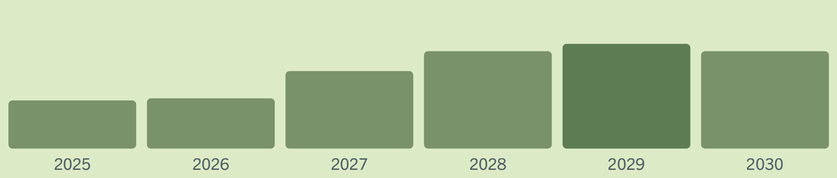
TEMPORARY, 2025 TO 2030 TOTAL, BASE

$108.9B Modeled capital spending

257,063 Total job-years

$20.1B Labor income

$28.7B Value added



About 42,800 job-years a year on average. Peak: 56,575 in 2029.

The sales tax exemption: what the investment returns

Ohio exempts qualifying data-center equipment from sales and use tax. Recipients reported **$27.2 billion** of capital investment in 2025. That investment generates tax of its own.

$400M
State and local tax from building and equipping the 2025 investment (paid once)

$80M a year
State and local tax from operations, through Ohio utilities and suppliers ($975M present value over 15 years)

23 jobs
at the facility for every $1 billion invested, plus about $39 million a year of electricity and other purchases

$1.37B
Building plus 15 years of operations, in present value: about two-thirds of the $2.04B state and local exemption cost

30% On today's **50 percent agreements**, the exemption pays for itself in state and local tax if it decided more than about 30 percent of the investment, a level most data-center estimates reach or come close to. The move to 50 percent terms halved the cost per dollar of new investment and lowered the threshold from about 60 percent.

Scale of the program: about $1.57 billion of state sales tax exempted in 2025, mostly under older 100 percent agreements. Section 6 of the report gives the full analysis.

Local property tax

HYPOTHETICAL $10B CAMPUS

$34.7M
Median 2026 bill on $731.5M of taxable land and buildings

$96.50 of every $100 stays with local governments as new revenue



~$53 of every $100 goes to school districts

$3.50 returns to existing taxpayers through lower bills

Median bill across Ohio's 4,479 taxing districts; the $100 split pools all districts. Assumes no abatement, Community Reinvestment Area exemption or tax increment financing arrangement.

Three pillars for community benefits

1 Engage stakeholders early
- Representative advisory board
- Early project and incentive disclosure
- Regular public reporting
- Clear, measurable commitments

2 Identify and mitigate concerns
- Power and ratepayer protection
- Water and cooling
- Roads, noise and emergency response
- Siting and decommissioning

3 Optimize local benefits
- Construction careers and apprenticeships
- First-source local hiring
- Ohio suppliers and contractors
- School and community funding

Put measurable commitments into an enforceable development, infrastructure, tax-abatement or community benefit agreement. Priorities differ between an established host such as New Albany and a rural county receiving its first campus.

Source: SRC EvalMetrics, *The State of Ohio Data Centers in 2026: Economic Contribution, Tax Policy and Community Benefits*, prepared for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation, 2026. Economic estimates use the IMPLAN model, 2024 Data for Ohio; property-tax results by Justin M. Ross; community-benefit framework by Amanda Woodrum. Capacity figures: Cushman & Wakefield (C&W 2026c), mid-2026; directory count: Data Center Map (2026).

*Direct jobs are industrywide payroll jobs, not an onsite facility headcount. Contribution is gross economic activity, not net benefit. Construction is measured in job-years. Results for 2026 to 2030 are scenarios, not forecasts. Tax generated by the 2025 investment is in present value over 15 years and excludes the facilities' own sales, property and business taxes; whether the exemption pays for itself depends on the share of investment it attracted.

SRC EVALMETRICS

OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESEARCH FOUNDATION