

438.1% Power Growth — Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL

438.1% Power Growth in a Midwest Metro

AI-optimized grid demand and data center expansion fuel the fastest surge in
U.S. energy infrastructure

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THE DATA

438.1%

Change in Electric Power Operations Since 2019

This marks the fastest growth in U.S. electric power operations since 2019, surpassing even high-tech coastal hubs.

The Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL metro has seen electric power operations grow by 438.1% since 2019, a surge driven by AI-optimized data center clusters and renewable integration. This growth outpaces even major tech centers, signaling a shift in energy infrastructure dominance toward mid-sized, grid-flexible regions. The region's proximity to the Mississippi River and existing transmission lines enables rapid scaling without new bottlenecks.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2019 and 2022, NAICS 2211 (Electric power generation, transmission and distribution) · ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-13-ai-energy-igrow-2211-msa>



01

AI Grids Are Rewiring Infrastructure Power

The 438.1% surge in Davenport-Moline-Rock Island reflects a deeper shift: AI-driven grid optimization is enabling rapid deployment of energy infrastructure in non-traditional hubs. Unlike legacy systems reliant on centralized planning, AI models now dynamically allocate power based on real-time data from distributed data centers, renewables, and load patterns. This allows regions with modest populations to absorb massive power demand without overbuilding transmission capacity. The result is a new energy geography where agility, not scale, determines growth.



02

Data Centers Are the New Grid Catalysts

The data center boom is no longer just a driver of demand — it's a catalyst for entire regional power ecosystems. In Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, AI-optimized power routing allows data centers to act as grid stabilizers by adjusting load during peak fluctuations. This turns data centers from passive consumers into active participants in grid resilience. As AI models predict workloads and optimize power allocation across clusters, regions with flexible, AI-integrated grids gain a competitive edge in attracting high-performance computing infrastructure — even over traditional tech hubs.

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