#1 of 10: Share of Texas Data Processing and Hosting Sites in the Top Three Texa

86.4% of Texas data centers are in just three metros

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 29, 2026

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THE DATA

86.4%

Share of Texas Data Processing and Hosting Sites in the Top Three Texas Metros (2022)

The concentration of data infrastructure in Texas is unprecedented, with over four-fifths of all data centers located in just three metropolitan areas.

This level of clustering is not random—it reflects a strategic alignment of energy availability, grid stability, and fiber-optic connectivity. The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, and Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos metros have become the de facto power hubs for AI-driven data processing in the U.S. This concentration enables economies of scale in power procurement, cooling, and network latency, making Texas the epicenter of AI infrastructure deployment.



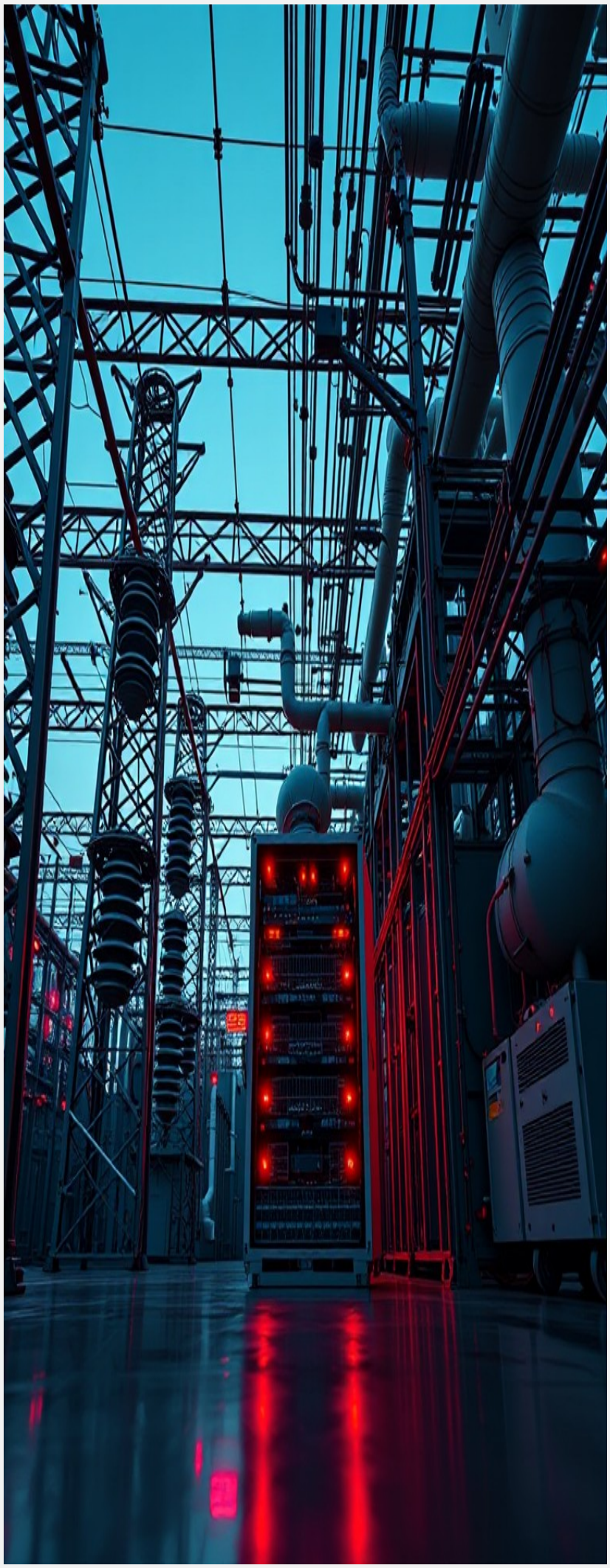
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 518210 (Data processing, hosting, and related services) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-29-ai-energy-conc-518210-msa

01



AI energy demand is now a spatial constraint

The extreme concentration of data centers in Texas means that AI's energy appetite is no longer a distributed load—it’s a localized, high-density pressure point. This forces grid operators to treat AI infrastructure not as a passive consumer, but as a dynamic, real-time load requiring adaptive management. The success of AI in energy systems will depend less on algorithmic innovation and more on the physical capacity of the grid to absorb and route power where it's needed most.



02

Grids must evolve to host AI, not just serve it

The current model—where grids adapt to data centers—is reversing. Now, data centers must adapt to grid constraints, as seen in the rise of AI platforms like Gridwise that optimize real-time power use. This shift means that future AI energy systems won't just predict demand—they'll co-design the grid itself. The most valuable AI in energy won't be in the code, but in the ability to orchestrate infrastructure in real time across a finite, spatially concentrated network.

George Arnold Alexander III, MPA

Partner, ALEX Companies
Associate Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC
Licensed Broker in TX, CO, NC, AL

george@alex-companies.com · +1 713.918.9951

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