

Data Centres & Technology

As the digital landscape continues to evolve, data has become the cornerstone of innovation and progress. Alberta, with its dynamic tech ecosystem and strategic location, offers an ideal destination for data centres seeking a competitive edge.

With the province's environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, and favorable tax rates, Alberta has the value companies can take advantage of. Many of which already are, with data centres generating \$1.3B in revenue in 2023, and experiencing 7.7% annualized growth between 2018-2023 in Alberta.

The Numbers



\$1.3B

Data centre revenue in Alberta



5th

Canada is fifth-most represented globally in terms of developer talent



\$1.3B

Invested in data centres and manufacturing since 2013



322

Data processing and hosting establishments

The Opportunity



109K+

Tech talent pool in Alberta



23%

Alberta's combined federal-provincial business tax rate is lower than that of 44 U.S. states



40 & 23%

Purchase prices of industrial assets in Alberta are 23-40% lower than the national average

Areas of Focus

Energy Capacity & PPAs

Alberta's competitive and deregulated energy market, make it ideal for corporate power purchase agreements (PPAs). As a result, the PPA market in Alberta is thriving with 2.57 gigawatts of known cumulative capacity procured as of mid-2023.

Excess Power Supply & Grid Modernization

According to AESO (Alberta Electric System Operator), over 5,000 megawatts of electricity will be going online in 2024. In addition to an excess power supply, the grid is going through significant modernization to ensure the system continues to adapt to new technologies, ensuring its stability and sustainability.

Environmental Stability & Disaster Preparedness

There is a 0% probability of a structurally damaging earthquake in the next 50 years of the province. Alberta's environmental stability is also reflected in the recording of 3 storm events between 2016-2020. This is a striking comparison to the US, where they have recorded an average of 8.5 weather and climate disasters exceeding \$1B in damages, per year, since 1980. In the rare event of a weather emergency, the Disaster Recovery Program provides financial assistance for those facing uninsurable loss.

Company Highlight



AWS announced a data centre in Alberta opening in 2024. This capital investment will total **\$4.3 billion** and create 950 jobs by 2037.



EQUINIX

A publicly traded company worth \$73B. They have over 250 data centres, three of which are located in Alberta.



A US-based global security leader investing **\$30 million** to build a new cybersecurity technology hub in Alberta.



A leading data centre platform with 15 locations, 2 are based in Alberta. Named an Enterprise-Industry leader by Deloitte's Technology Fast 50 Program, they received \$170M in financing from a major bank.



Headquartered in Edmonton, AB, and owned by Johnson Controls, Silent-Aire specializes in modular data centres for cloud providers.

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The Data Centre Risk Index ranked Canada second out of 20 countries as a favourable jurisdiction for data centre operations. The ranking considered factors such as low energy costs, labour costs, political stability, bandwidth, ease of doing business, and inflation risks. These advantages are reflected in Alberta, along with its strategic geographic location, commitment to environmental sustainability, and renewable energy sources.

The province is home to global leaders such as AWS and Equinix, who have both established data centre operations in Alberta. AWS chose Alberta as the second location of its data centre hub because of its national and international infrastructure connectivity, and availability of renewable energy. With these strengths, the future of data centres in the province is positioned for continued growth and success for global data infrastructure.

Why Alberta?

Young & Educated Talent



Computer Science Talent

The University of Alberta is ranked fifth in the world for AI research.



Young Workforce

Alberta has one of the highest proportions of workers under the age of 45.



Talent Pipeline

The Targeted Enrolment Expansion program supported by the provincial government is targeting 1,945 additional post-secondary spaces in tech.



Fast Growth

A 2022 LinkedIn Talent Insight found Calgary as the city with the fastest growth in tech talent in North America.

Sustainability



Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

PPAs allow companies to secure long-term, stable electricity pricing directly from electricity generators, reducing exposure to fluctuations in hourly electricity rates. PPAs can also be purchased electricity from renewable energy producers to help companies meet their ESG goals.

Connectivity



Globally Connected

Alberta's world-class infrastructure supports business development and growth. The province's internationally integrated airports, market access, and telecommunication network make it a hub for companies looking to do business worldwide.



Supernet and Broadband Strategy

Alberta's primarily fibre optic network, Supernet, offers access to 429 communities, and connects 4,700 government offices, libraries, schools, post-secondary institutions, and healthcare facilities. The province's Broadband Strategy is targeting 100% rural connectivity by 2026/27 with 1Gbps+ speeds available. Investment towards this strategy will total \$390 million from the Government of Alberta to achieve 100% coverage of high-speed internet.

Low Cost of Doing Business



Alberta's Tax Advantage

Businesses and residents in Alberta pay the lowest overall taxes in the country and amongst the lowest in North America.



Accessible Industrial Real Estate

Alberta has the highest availability rates of industrial real estate for lease in Canada and one of the highest in North America.



Environmental Cost Savings

Alberta's naturally cool climate offers data centres significant savings on cooling, which can amount to 30% of operational costs.