

The largest colocation, hyperscale, government, and artificial intelligence data center campuses proposed or under construction include multiple buildings totaling 2 million to 12 million square feet in single or multi-story buildings. Global data companies—including Amazon, DC BLOX, Meta, Microsoft, Prologis, QTS, T5, Switch, and speculators—are locating even further from the City of Atlanta in Appling, Bartow, Coweta, Crisp, Early, Fayette, Henry, Irwin, Jones, Monroe, Muscogee, Newton, Rockdale, Richmond, Troup, and Walton counties where land is more readily available and affordable. Meta’s Stanton Springs campus, pictured below, includes 2.5 million square feet and is currently the largest in Georgia.



One last data center class emerged around 2020: cryptocurrency facilities. There are more than a dozen bitcoin mining operations in Dalton (Whitfield County), Sandersville (Washington), West Point (Harris and Troup), and Adel (Cook). More have been proposed. Georgia reportedly hosts the second greatest number of crypto mines, trailing only behind Texas.<sup>3</sup>

### **3. Why are there so many data centers in metro Atlanta and Georgia?**

**Infrastructure:** Beginning in the 1990s, metropolitan Atlanta emerged as a national telecommunication and fiberoptic cable hub. Today, “two of the country’s largest fiber routes...intersect in metro Atlanta,” giving the region a global reach.<sup>4</sup>

**Environment:** Georgia’s Department of Economic Development and data center real estate marketing materials once portrayed the metropolitan Atlanta region as “less vulnerable to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters that cause business disruption and interrupt productivity.”<sup>5</sup>

**Resources:** The costs for electrical service are low when compared to some other regions that have also witnessed growth in the data center market.<sup>6</sup> And electricity is reportedly reliable and uninterrupted in some locations. One downtown Atlanta data center served by Georgia Power is advertised as having “no power outage recorded since 2007.”<sup>7</sup> Perhaps more important: the municipal water supplies necessary for cooling purposes are inexpensive. To date, no data center

<sup>3</sup> Block Green, “The State of Bitcoin Mining – Georgia,” *Medium* (July 14, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> For quote, see: Georgia Department of Economic Development, “Data Centers,” <https://georgia.org/industries/technology/data-centers>

<sup>5</sup> Georgia Department of Economic Development, “Data Centers,” <https://georgia.org/industries/technology/data-centers>

<sup>6</sup> CBRE, “North American Data Center Trends H1 2024” (August 19, 2024), <https://www.cbre.com/insights/reports/north-america-data-center-trends-h1-2024>

<sup>7</sup> *Data Center Map*, “Digital Realty: 250 Williams St NW (ATL14).”