DATA SERVICES & CYBERSECURITY

Texas is a leader in data centers, holding the #1 spot in the nation for data center growth and the #2 spot for data infrastructure, according to Business Facilities Magazine.

As a global force in advanced technologies, Texas is a popular destination for the world's most innovative companies and a magnet for attracting large-scale data center operations and the brightest minds in cybersecurity.

Data services and cybersecurity account for more than 35,900 Texas jobs, with workers employed by nearly 1,500 firms. In fact, some of the world's largest companies with hosting and data center operations are headquartered in Texas, including AT&T, CyrusOne and Rackspace. Additionally, dozens of companies across various industries have selected Texas as the location for enterprise data centers.

In 2019, Google announced they would spend $600 million on a new data center in Midlothian, creating 50 new jobs in the state. That same year, Aligned Energy announced the expansion of their Dallas-area data center. More recently, Microsoft announced plans for a $28 million expansion to an existing data center, along with two additional new data centers in the city of San Antonio. Other companies that have recently announced data center expansions or renovations in the state include Infomart, Compass Datacenters and CyrusOne.

Texas has made national and global rankings for its growth in data centers. Dallas-Fort Worth is one of the nation's top data center growth markets, ranking fourth in the country for total capacity of data center absorption in 2019. In addition, Cushman & Wakefield's Global Data Center Market Comparison ranked Dallas-Fort Worth as the #3 data center market in the world due to access to long-haul fiber, government incentives and low land costs.

Cushman & Wakefield's Global Data Center Market Comparison ranked Dallas-Fort Worth the #3 data center market in the world.

San Antonio has the highest concentration of cyber and intelligence employees outside of the national capital region.

The state is a top location for data centers for a number of reasons, including a central location in North America, abundant network bandwidth, a reliable energy grid and available and affordable space. Among the contiguous U.S. states, Texas is the only one with a stand-alone electricity grid, managed by the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). These factors lead to reliable, efficient and cost effective operations.

The Lone Star State is also a top contender in cybersecurity, holding the #2 spot on Business Facilities' list of cyber states. Home to the Air Force's information warfare base and one of the NSA's four Cryptologic Centers, San Antonio has the highest concentration of cyber and intelligence employees outside of D.C. Additionally, Texas is leading the way in cybersecurity research. Texas A&M University has been dedicated to the advancement of cyber defense since the early 1990's. The Texas A&M Cybersecurity Center works with researchers, internationally renowned faculty and commercial partnerships to advance the collective cyber knowledge, capabilities and practices. In June 2017, Texas A&M was designated by the National Security Agency as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations. Other Texas institutions with this distinction include University of Texas at Dallas, University of Texas at El Paso and University of Texas at San Antonio.

A testament to Texas' leadership in this arena, the state is home to two of the top 10 data center metros and cybersecurity metros in the nation, according to Business Facilities. With a strong emphasis on innovation and technology, Texas will continue to dominate in data services and related fields for years to come.