



Appendix B

Data sources and methodology for economic contribution

This appendix describes the methodology used to derive the economic contribution estimates presented in this study. It first outlines the data sources used to estimate the data center industry's direct employment, labor income, and value added under the expanded industry definition. It then describes how indirect and induced contributions are estimated using an input–output modeling framework.

Direct jobs, labor income, and value added

PwC's estimates of direct employment, labor income, and value added encompass full-time and part-time workers as well as self-employed individuals engaged in the delivery of data center services. Employment and income estimates are derived primarily from government statistical sources, supplemented by modeling techniques where recent data are not yet available.

The State Annual Personal Income and Employment dataset published by the BEA is the only government source that provides historical total employment figures (including self-employed individuals) by industry. However, this series is available only through 2022, as BEA discontinued it for subsequent years. To estimate

employment and labor income for 2023 and 2024, PwC relied on a combination of more recent government datasets (including BLS and Census Bureau sources) and modeling techniques to extend the historical series.

Expanded industry definition

Rather than defining the data center industry solely by a single industry classification, this study adopts an expanded, function-based definition that captures data center services wherever they are produced. Under this approach, the data center industry is defined by the delivery of core data center infrastructure services, including compute, storage, networking, hosting, and continuous operational control.

NAICS code 518210 (Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services) remains the core anchor of the industry definition and is included in full, reflecting its close alignment with data center service delivery. However, the expanded definition recognizes that a growing share of data center services is produced outside establishments classified under NAICS code 518210, particularly within adjacent IT services and infrastructure-management industries.