

Data Center Capacity Growth Trends: Findings from the 2026 Global Data Center Survey



AUGUST 2026

SUMMARY

One-in-two respondents to Uptime Institute's 2026 Global Data Center Survey (52%) say their facility has built or upgraded data hall space dedicated to high-density IT in the past 12 months.

Looking at the next 12 months, 70% say their data center is planning high-density builds or upgrades - with *Enterprise Apps* (59%) the top application driving high density deployments.

The percentage of facilities with a total provisioned IT capacity of 30 MW or greater has doubled just in the past three years - from 12% in 2023 to 24% in our latest Global Data Center survey.

One in three respondents report their organization typically refreshes their servers every three years or less. However, 18% say they refresh their servers every six years or more.

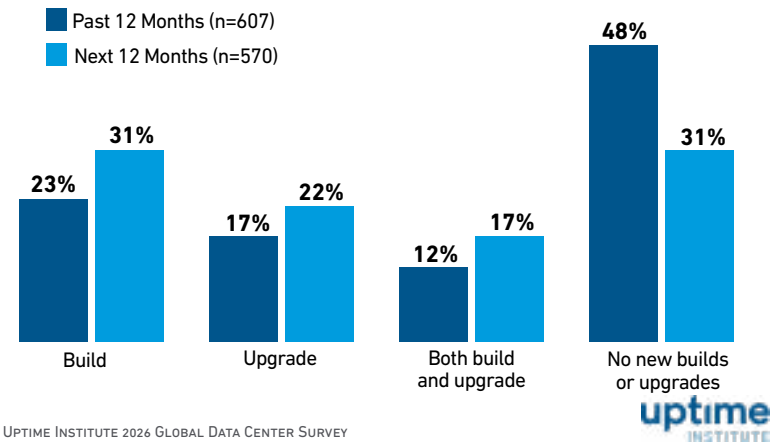
ABOUT THIS REPORT

Uptime Institute's 2026 Global Data Center Survey was conducted between March 17, 2026 and May 1, 2026 and has a total of 1,635 data center industry respondents.

This report is based on the results from 801 data center owner/operator respondents.

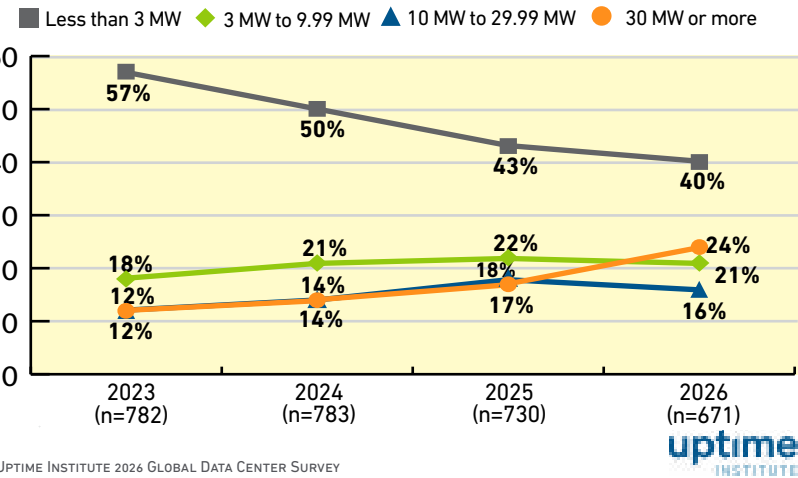
High-density IT: Builds and upgrades

I. In the past 12 months, has your data center built or upgraded data hall space dedicated to high density IT? What about in the next 12 months - does your organization plan to build or upgrade data hall space for high-density IT?



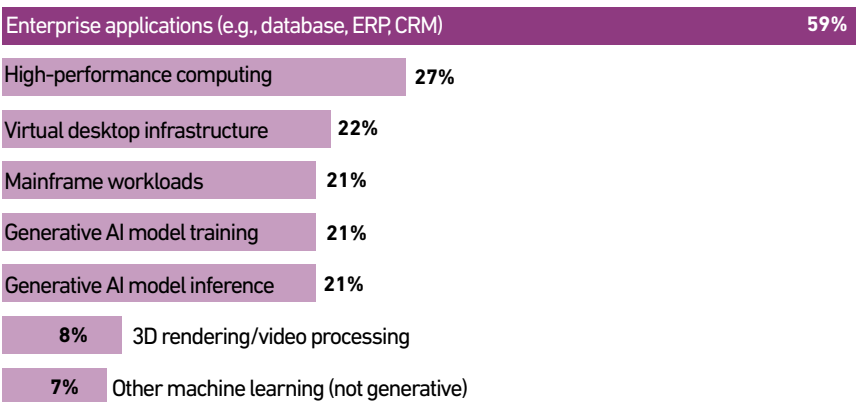
Total provisioned IT capacity

III. Regarding the data center you work in or are most familiar with, what is the total provisioned IT capacity (that is, Uninterruptible Power Supply capacity) in this data center?



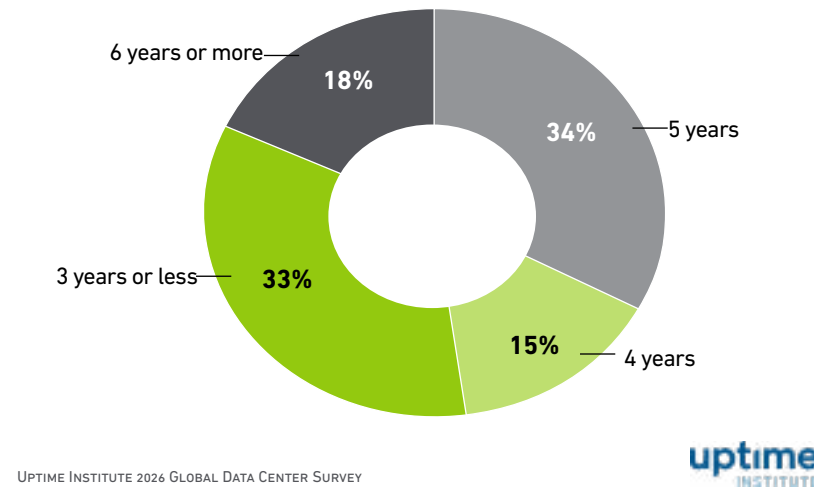
Applications driving highest-density deployments

II. Which of the following types of applications are driving the highest density deployments in your data center? Choose all that apply. (n=648)



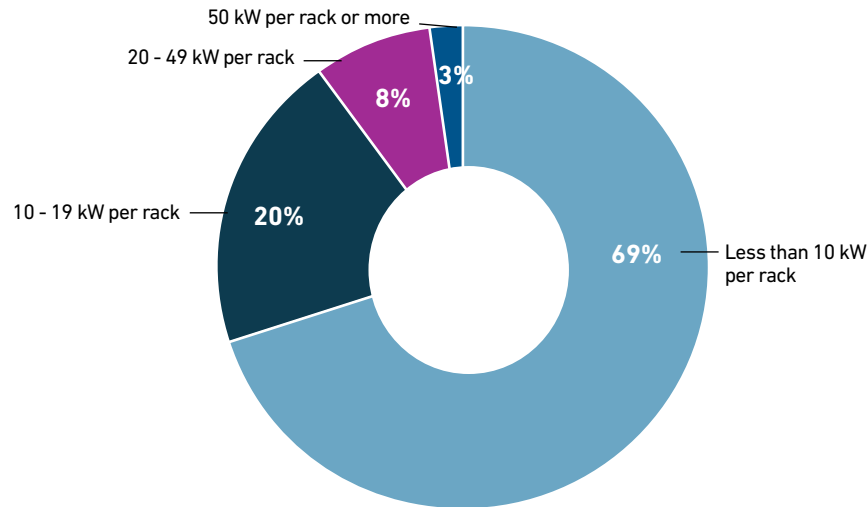
Server refresh timelines

IV. How often do you typically refresh servers in your data center? (n=659)



Most common server rack density deployed

V. What is the most common (modal average) server rack density deployed in your data center? (n=679)

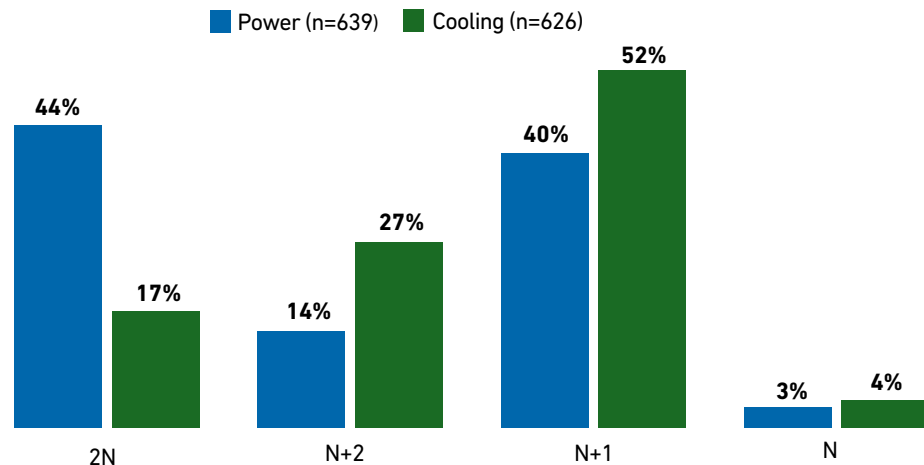


UPTIME INSTITUTE 2026 GLOBAL DATA CENTER SURVEY

uptime
INSTITUTE

Power and cooling equipment redundancy

VII. For your primary data center, which of the following best describes the most common level of redundant power and/or cooling equipment?

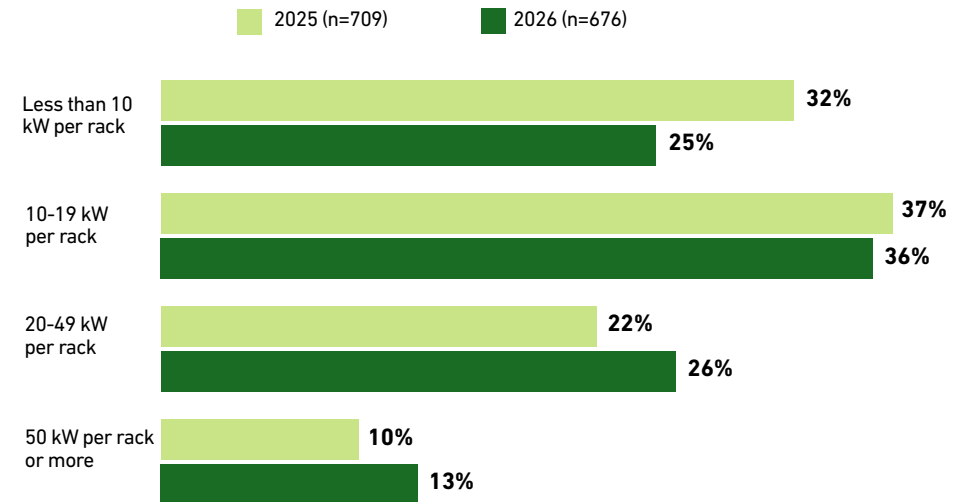


UPTIME INSTITUTE 2026 GLOBAL DATA CENTER SURVEY

uptime
INSTITUTE

Highest server rack density deployed

VI. What is the highest server rack density deployed in your data center?

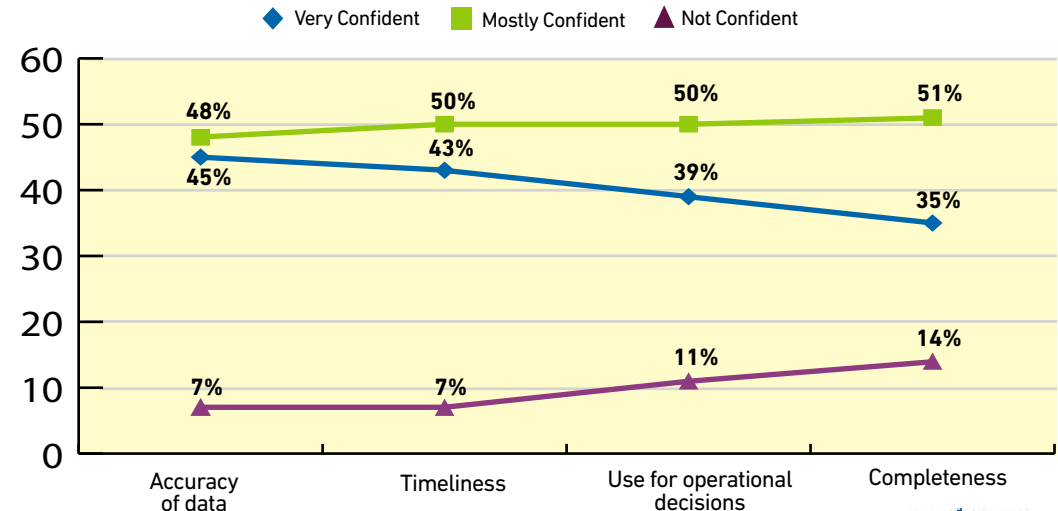


UPTIME INSTITUTE 2026 GLOBAL DATA CENTER SURVEY

uptime
INSTITUTE

Confidence in operational data quality

VIII. How confident are you in the quality of your data center's operational data collected from sensors, software, and/or equipment? (n=610)

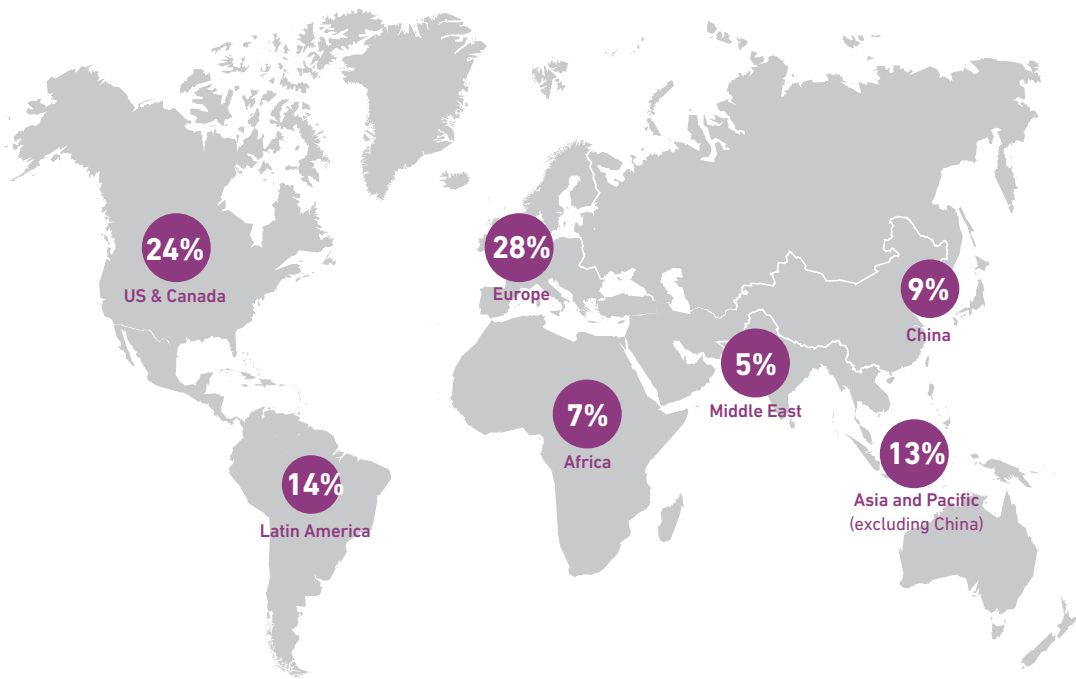


UPTIME INSTITUTE 2026 GLOBAL DATA CENTER SURVEY

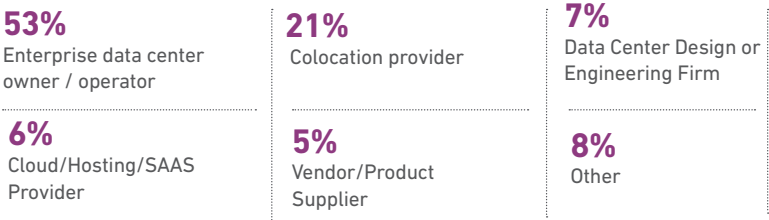
uptime
INSTITUTE

Owner/Operator Respondent Demographics

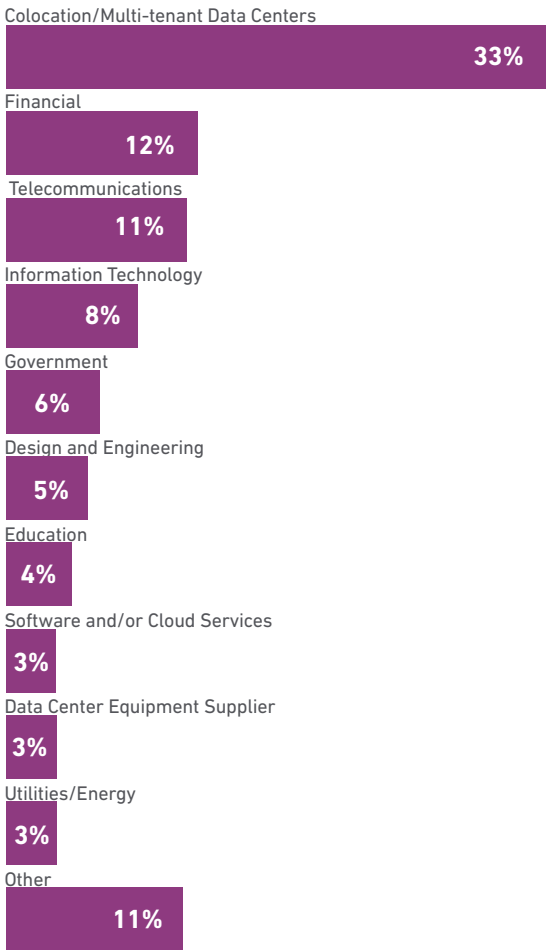
Respondents' location (n=801)



Digital infrastructure environment (n=801)



Verticals (n=541)



Authors

Laurie Williams,
Survey Manager

Anthony Sbarra,
Assistant Survey Director

Tarsila Machado,
Survey Associate

Paul Carton Ph.D.,
Research Vice President

About Uptime Institute

Uptime Institute is the Global Digital Infrastructure Authority. With over 4,000 awards issued in over 122 countries around the globe, and over 1,100 currently active projects in 80+ countries, Uptime has helped tens of thousands of companies optimize critical IT assets while managing costs, resources, and efficiency.

For over 30 years, the company has established industry-leading benchmarks for data center performance, resilience, sustainability, and efficiency, which provide customers assurance that their digital infrastructure can perform across a wide array of operating conditions at a level consistent with their individual business needs.

Uptime's Tier Standard is the IT industry's most trusted and adopted global standard for the design, construction, and operation of data centers. Offerings include the organization's Tier Standard and Certifications, Management & Operations reviews and assessments including SCIRA-FSI financial sector risk assessment, the Sustainability Assessment, and a broad range of additional risk management, performance, availability, and related offerings.

Uptime Education training programs have been successfully completed by over 90,000 data center professionals, such as the much-valued ATD (Accredited Tier Designer) and AOS (Accredited Operations Specialist). The Uptime Education curriculum has been expanded by the acquisition of CNet Training Ltd. in 2023.

Uptime Institute is headquartered in New York, NY, with offices in London, São Paulo, Dubai, Riyadh, and Singapore, and full-time Uptime professionals based in over thirty-four countries around the world. For more information, visit uptimeinstitute.com.

Uptime Institute
405 Lexington Avenue,
9th Floor, New York,
NY 10174, USA
+1 212 505 3030

info@uptimeinstitute.com