# Global AI infrastructure spending to hit $500bn in 2026 as investment boom reshapes economy



Artificial intelligence is triggering one of the largest waves of capital investment in modern economic history. Companies worldwide are set to spend about $375 billion on AI infrastructure in 2025, with investment climbing to $500 billion in 2026, according to *The New York Times*.

The money is being poured into data centres, semiconductor fabrication plants and energy systems, fuelling growth across the global economy. Government data suggests software and computing hardware already account for a quarter of domestic economic growth, underscoring how central AI has become to economic momentum.

Industry experts forecast global investment in AI infrastructure could reach $7 trillion over the next decade. Data centre construction is now outpacing office building projects, reflecting the strategic priority companies and governments place on enabling AI at scale.

Jensen Huang, chief executive of Nvidia, predicts the AI chip market alone will be worth trillions within five years. He expects $3 to $4 trillion in AI infrastructure spending by 2030, supported by demand from technology giants and data centre operators. Nvidia’s outlook is reinforced by record global sales of its high-end GPUs.

Tech majors are backing those projections with landmark commitments. Google has pledged $9 billion for new cloud and AI infrastructure in Virginia and secured a $10 billion cloud services contract with Meta, its biggest ever, to support Meta’s AI ambitions. Meta, in turn, is pursuing what could become the world’s largest AI data centre in Louisiana, with an estimated $50 billion price tag. It is also planning a 2,000-MW data campus and investing up to $65 billion in AI infrastructure by the end of 2025, including the purchase of more than 1.3 million GPUs.

Brookfield Asset Management forecasts $4 trillion of the next decade’s AI investment will go into chips, $2 trillion into data centres and around $500 billion each into power and supporting technologies. AI-focused data centre capacity is expected to almost double to 15 GW by the end of 2025, then expand more than fivefold to 82 GW by 2034.

The financial intensity of model development is another driver. Training frontier systems such as OpenAI’s GPT-4 and Google’s Gemini Ultra can cost tens to hundreds of millions of dollars, making access to advanced infrastructure a prerequisite for competition.

For the UK, the boom presents both opportunity and challenge. By encouraging responsible innovation, aligning investment with clean energy and embedding strong regulatory frameworks, Britain could turn the surge into a competitive advantage and bolster its ambition to be a global AI leader.

The AI infrastructure race is more than an economic trend—it represents a foundational shift in technology and industrial strategy. Nations and firms that can combine capital with foresight stand to shape the digital economy for decades to come.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.inbenta.com/ai-this-week/ai-spending-boom-powers-economic-growth/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/nvidia-ceo-says-ai-boom-far-over-2025-08-28/> - Nvidia's CEO, Jensen Huang, projects a multi-trillion-dollar opportunity in the AI chip market over the next five years, dismissing concerns about a slowdown. He anticipates $3 to $4 trillion in AI infrastructure spending by 2030, driven by major tech firms and data centre operators. Despite some industry skepticism, Nvidia remains confident, citing strong demand for its high-end chips and a significant purchase by a non-Chinese customer as evidence of robust sales. The company also highlights potential gains from data centre build-outs.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/google-invest-another-9-billion-ai-infra-virginia-2025-08-27/> - Google has announced an additional $9 billion investment in cloud and AI infrastructure in Virginia through 2026. This substantial commitment underscores the tech giant's dedication to technological development in the region, aiming to bolster its capabilities in cloud computing and AI to meet growing demand and maintain its position at the forefront of innovation in these sectors.
4. <https://www.itpro.com/cloud/cloud-computing/google-strikes-major-win-with-usd10-billion-meta-cloud-deal> - Google has secured a significant $10 billion, six-year cloud services contract with Meta to support Meta's ambitious AI expansion plans. The deal includes providing data centre infrastructure, storage, networking, and various services to Meta, marking Google's largest cloud contract to date. This collaboration aligns with Meta's vision of building advanced AI infrastructure and represents a strategic effort by both tech giants to strengthen their positions in the rapidly evolving AI and cloud computing markets.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/business/metas-planned-louisiana-ai-data-center-cost-50-billion-trump-says-2025-08-26/> - Meta plans to build its largest AI data centre in Richland Parish, Louisiana, with an estimated cost of $50 billion, according to President Donald Trump. This data centre aims to support major digital infrastructure and AI processes. Meta has partnered with PIMCO and Blue Owl Capital to lead $29 billion in financing for the project. Originally, Meta had announced it would invest over $10 billion, but costs appear to have significantly escalated.
6. <https://www.rcrwireless.com/20250811/ai-infrastructure/brookfield-ai-2> - Brookfield Asset Management projects a $7 trillion investment in AI infrastructure over the next decade, with $4 trillion allocated for chips, $2 trillion for AI data centres, and $500 billion each for power/transmission and supporting technologies. The firm anticipates AI-oriented data centres will reach approximately 15 GW of capacity by the end of 2025, up from about 7 GW at the end of 2024, with total capacity expected to reach around 82 GW by 2034.
7. <https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IF/HTML/IF12899.web.html> - The Congressional Research Service report highlights significant capital investments required for AI development and operation. It notes that training large foundation models can cost millions of dollars, with estimates of $78 million for OpenAI's GPT-4 and $191 million for Google's Gemini Ultra in 2023. Meta's CEO revealed plans to build a 2,000-MW data centre and invest $60-$65 billion in AI capital expenditures by the end of 2025, acquiring over 1.3 million GPUs.