DATA CENTER insights council

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DATA CENTER PREFABRICATION & MODULAR CONSTRUCTION

May 2026

OVERVIEW & METHODOLOGY

OVERVIEW

- This survey was conducted among members of the Data Center Insights Council.
- Over a quarter (26%) weighed in on this two-minute survey.

METHODOLOGY

- The study was conducted April 23 to May 5, 2026.
- In total, 37 members shared their feedback for this online survey.

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SUMMARY

As Data Center Insights Council members look at the challenges of bringing new data center capacity online quickly, prefabrication and modular construction options offer a solution.

- At 59%, **power availability and interconnection delays** are the overwhelming deterrent companies face when it comes to bringing new data center capacity online quickly.
- The top two strategies members say their organizations are using to reduce data center deployment timelines are **increasing the use of prefabricated or modular components** (38%) and **partnering more closely with utilities and energy providers** (38%).
- Nearly **a third of the responding members** (32%) say their organization uses prefabrication and modular construction **selectively for specific systems**. More than **one in five** (22%) say the options are **used widely, but there is an opportunity to expand usage**.
- Nearly **seven in ten responding members** (68%) say **power infrastructure** is the most likely use for modular prefabricated approaches at their company. More than **three in five** (62%) say **cooling systems** are likely to be deployed using prefabricated solutions.
- More than **two in five responding members** (41%) say the primary benefit they expect from modular deployment strategies is **faster time to revenue**.
- More than **four in five responding members** (84%) expect **moderate to significant increases** in modular and prefabricated deployment models at their company over the next two to three years, with nearly **two in five** (38%) expecting prefabricated solutions to be the **significant or dominant approach**.

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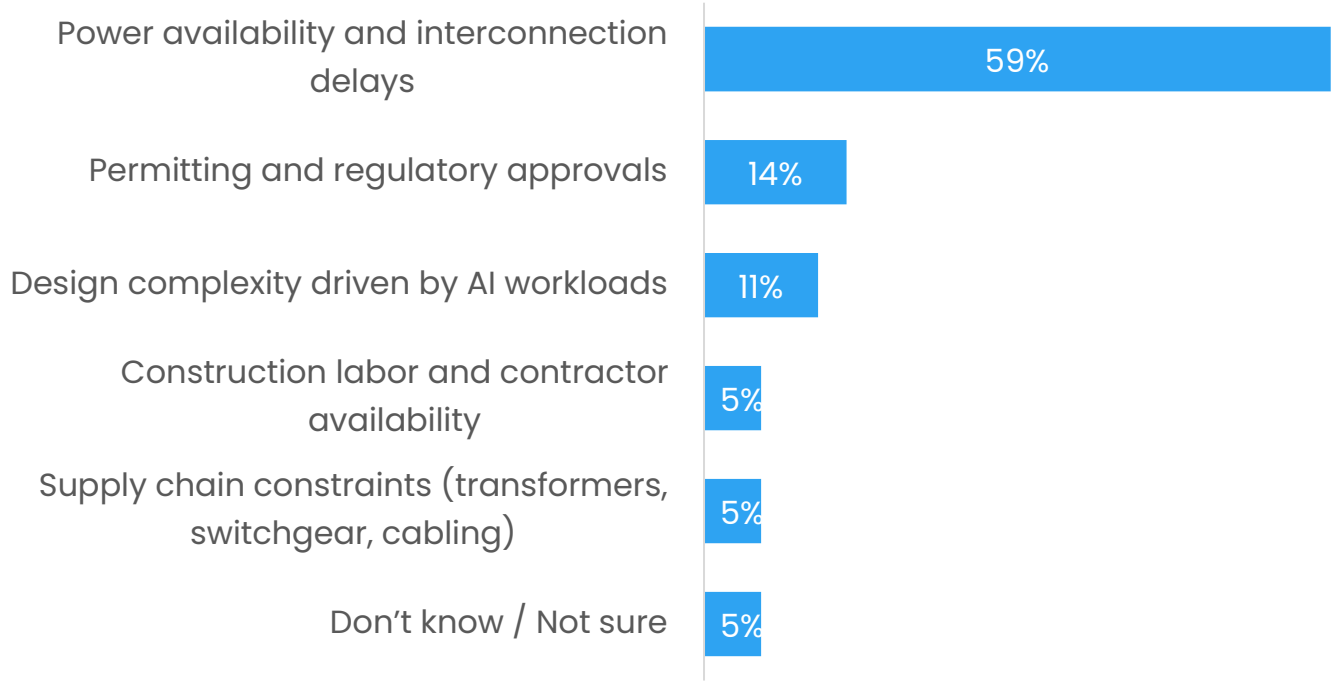
STUDY RESULTS



DETERRENTS TO NEW DATA CENTER BUILDS

At 59%, **power availability and interconnection delays** is the overwhelmingly deterrent companies face when it comes to bringing new data center capacity online quickly. The next most frequently chosen issues are **permitting and regulatory approvals** (14%) and **design complexity driven by AI workloads** (11%).

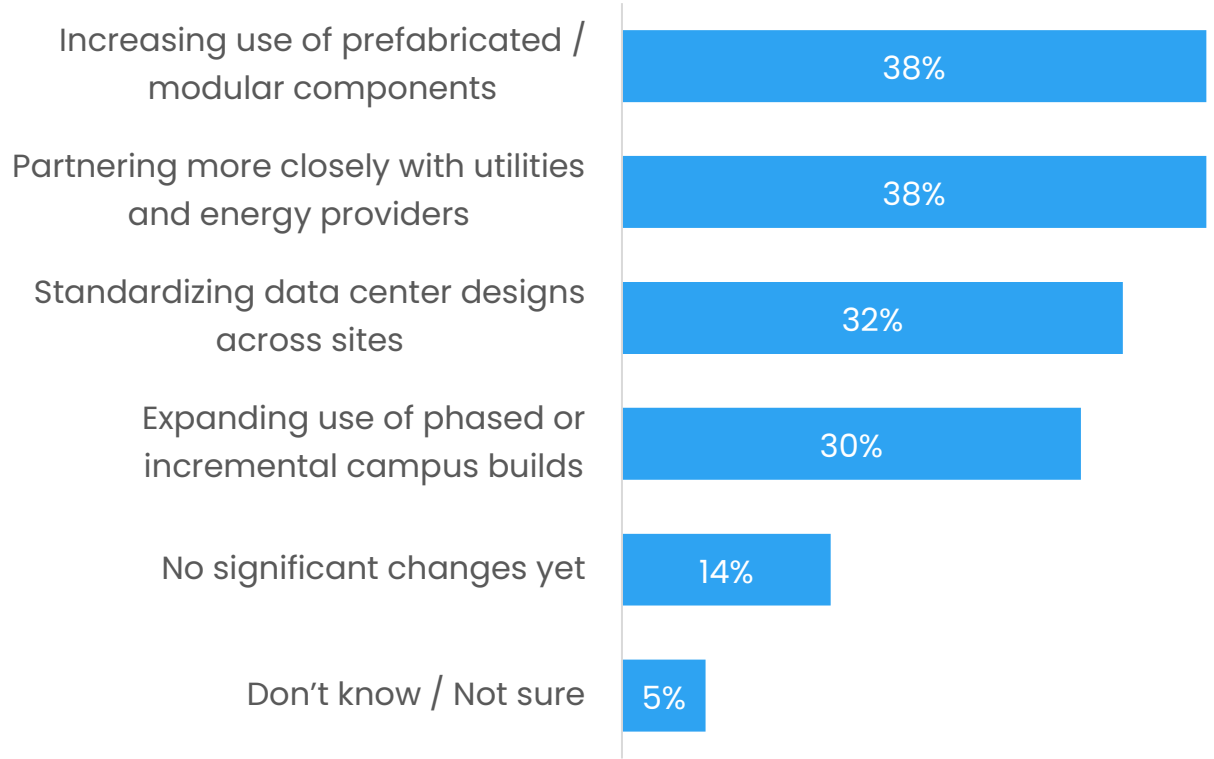
What is the biggest factor currently impacting your ability to bring new data center capacity online quickly?



CHANGES TO REDUCE DATA CENTER DEPLOYMENT TIMELINES

The top two strategies members say their organizations are using to reduce data center deployment timelines are **increasing the use of prefabricated or modular components** (38%) and **partnering more closely with utilities and energy providers** (38%). Many members say their organization is using multiple strategies.

How is your organization adapting to reduce data center deployment timelines?

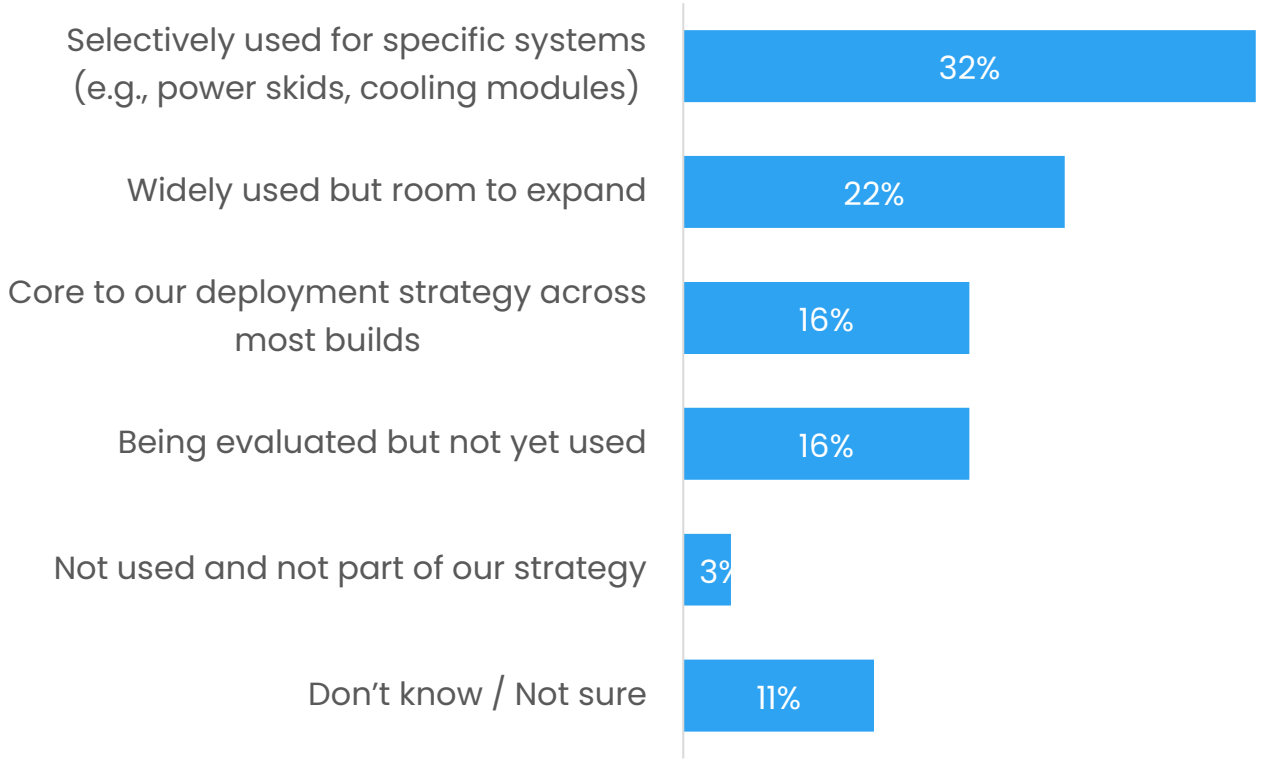


Average number of responses = 1.6

ROLE OF PREFABRICATION & MODULAR CONSTRUCTION

Nearly **a third of the responding members** (32%) say their organization uses prefabrication and modular construction **selectively for specific systems**. More than **one in five** (22%) say the options are **used widely but there is an opportunity to expand usage**.

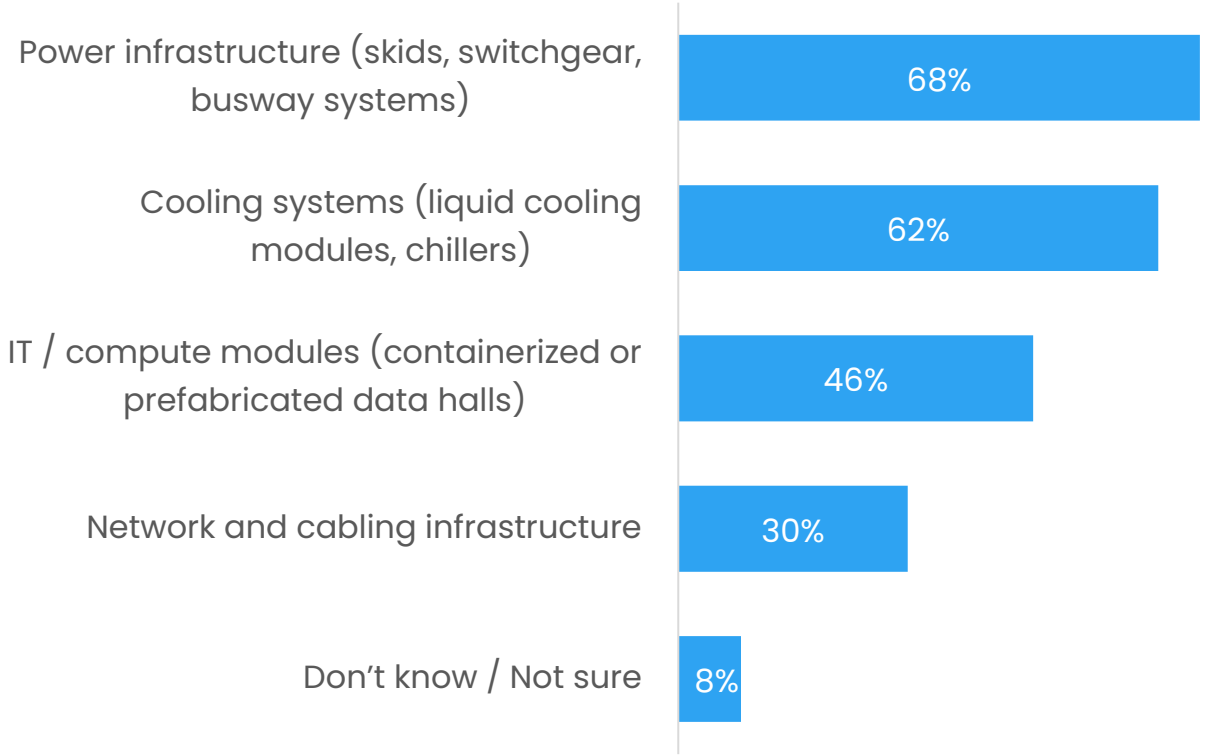
What role do prefabrication and modular construction currently play in your data center strategy?



COMPONENTS LIKELY DEPLOYED WITH MODULAR APPROACHES

Nearly **seven in ten responding members** (68%) say **power infrastructure** is the most likely use for modular prefabricated approaches at their company. More than **three in five** (62%) say **cooling systems** are likely to be deployed using prefabricated solutions.

Which infrastructure components are you most likely to deploy using modular or prefabricated approaches?

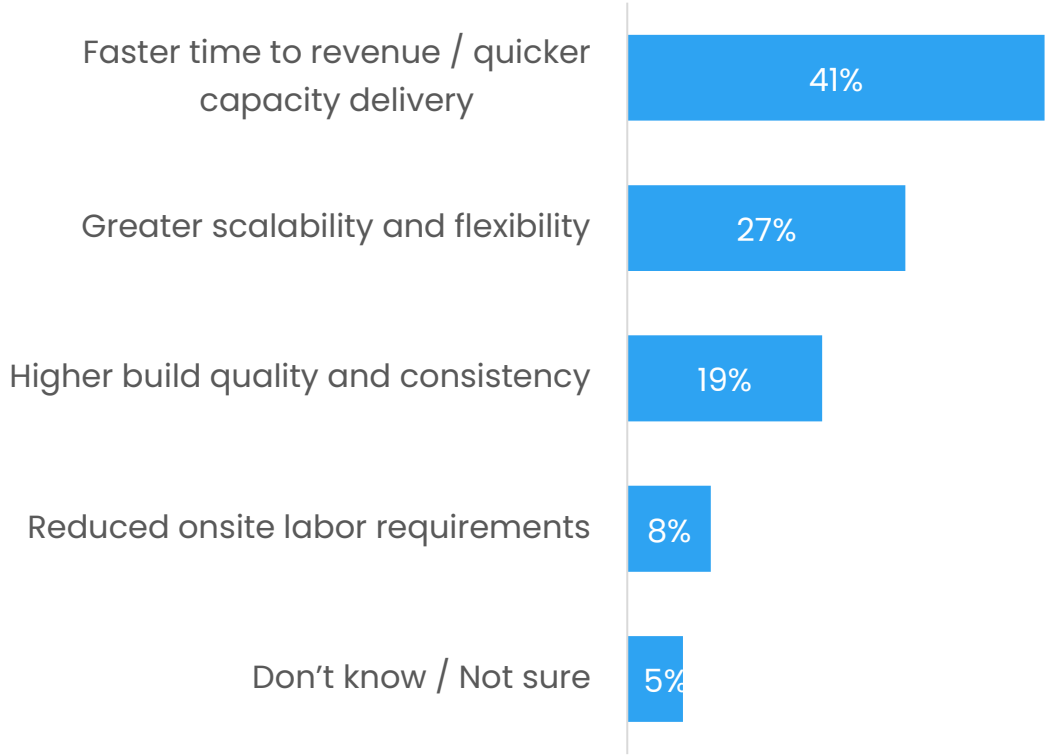


Average number of responses = 2.1

PRIMARY BENEFIT OF MODULAR DEPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

More than **two in five responding members** (41%) say the primary benefit they expect from modular deployment strategies is **faster time to revenue**. Over **a quarter** (27%) say **greater scalability and flexibility** is the top benefit they expect.

What is the primary benefit you expect from modular deployment strategies?



EXPECTATIONS FOR MODULAR & PREFABRICATION GROWTH

More than **four in five responding members** (84%) expect **moderate to significant increases** in modular and prefabricated deployment models at their company over the next two to three years, with nearly **two in five** (38%) expecting prefabricated solutions to be **the dominant approach**.

Looking ahead, how much do you expect modular and prefabricated deployment models to grow in your data center projects over the next 2–3 years?

