US data processing and hosting revenue in Q3 2026: what Census data shows

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Short answer: US data processing and hosting revenue reached about $138.2 billion in the third quarter of 2026, up 22.2% from a year earlier, according to the Census Bureau's advance Quarterly Services Survey released on 19 November 2026. Software publishers grew 19.3% over the same year, while computer systems design services grew 2.7%. It matters because official revenue data gives a check on claims about technology demand.

TL;DR The short version

- US data processing and hosting revenue reached about $138.2 billion in Q3 2026, up 22.2% year on year, in the Census Bureau's advance survey of 19 November 2026.
- Software publishers grew 19.3% while computer systems design services grew 2.7%.
- Official revenue data is a useful check on claims about technology demand, but advance figures can be revised.

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What is the Quarterly Services Survey?

It is a Census Bureau survey that estimates revenue for selected service industries, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis uses it in gross domestic product estimates. Industries are classified by NAICS code. Data processing, hosting and related services is code 518.

How to read the figures

- Industry figures quoted here are not adjusted for seasonal patterns or price changes.
- The advance report is revised in later releases.
- Survey estimates carry sampling error, which the report tabulates.
- This release also revised earlier estimates to reflect historical corrections and newer annual survey results, so older downloads may not match.

Results reported by the Census Bureau

- Selected services total, seasonally adjusted: $6,531.3 billion, up 1.0% from the second quarter and 6.5% on the year.
- Information sector: $733.2 billion, up 4.0% on the quarter and 13.8% on the year.

- Data processing, hosting and related services: $138.2 billion, up 5.8% on the quarter and 22.2% on the year, compared with 20.4% annual growth in the second quarter.
- Year to date for that industry: $390.8 billion, up 20.1%.
- Software publishers: $194.5 billion, up 5.0% on the quarter and 19.3% on the year.
- Computer systems design and related services: $183.9 billion, up 1.0% on the quarter and 2.7% on the year.

What is notable compared with earlier quarters

Annual growth in data processing and hosting was faster in the third quarter than in the second. The spread between that industry and computer systems design is wide in this release. The data does not say why, so treat explanations such as AI demand as hypotheses to test against company filings.

Limitations and open questions

- NAICS 518 is not a measure of cloud or AI revenue alone.
- Nominal revenue mixes price and volume.
- Company classification places each firm’s activity in an industry that may not match its product lines.
- Only the United States is covered.

Sources were read on 27 November 2026. Products, rules and data change, so check the linked originals before you rely on any detail.

How to use it in market planning

1. Download the current tables and note the release number, CB26-190 for this advance report.
2. Compare annual growth, not single quarter changes, for unadjusted series.
3. Check the sampling error before reading small differences.
4. Set your own revenue growth beside the closest industry code.
5. Cross-check with filings of large providers.
6. Revisit after the revised release, which the report schedules for 10 December 2026.

What it means for technology buyers and sellers

Hosting providers can use the figure as a benchmark, with care about definitions. IT services firms may want to examine why their category grew more slowly. Finance teams should state that the data is nominal when using it in forecasts. Vendor results such as Dell’s AI server quarter show the hardware side.

Frequently asked questions

- **What was US data processing and hosting revenue in Q3 2026?** About $138.2 billion in the advance estimate.
- **How fast did it grow?** 22.2% year over year, not adjusted for price changes.
- **Is that the cloud market?** No. It is an industry classification that includes related services.
- **Will the numbers change?** Advance estimates are revised.

Related reading

- Dell quarterly results and AI backlog
- NVIDIA quarterly data center results
- US semiconductor production revision
- Cloud Architecture Practitioner certification

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Sources and further reading

1. US Census Bureau. Quarterly Selected Services Estimates, Third Quarter 2026, Advance Report. Release CB26-190. 19 November 2026. census.gov/services/qss/qss-current.pdf

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