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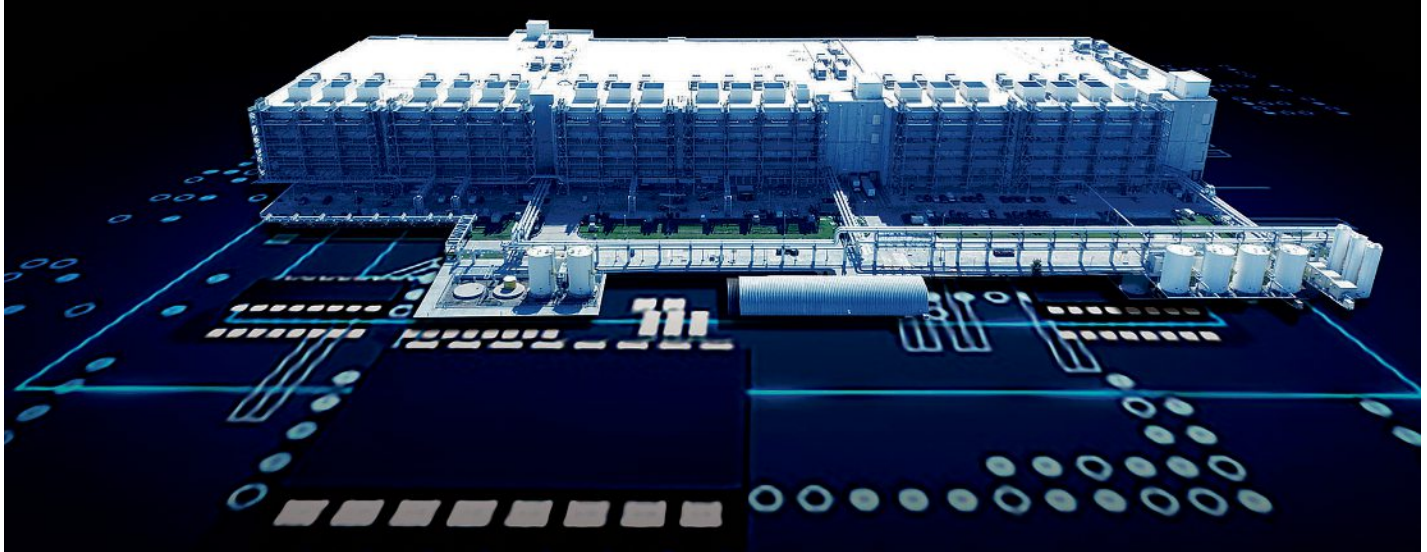
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WEEKEND

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DATA CENTERS: BENEFITS & BURDENS

PROCESSING THE IMPACT



20 years in, how data centers changed one town's economy



Byron McCauley
Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa –

When the folks from Big Data eye your town for a hyperscale data center, read their lips when they start talking impact, numbers and benefits.

• Nearly two decades ago, Council Bluffs made a starter deal with Google: tax advantages in exchange for economic investment in the form of 200 permanent, good-paying jobs and millions in tax revenue. In 2007, Google announced an initial $600 million hyperscale data center on the site of the city's only remaining drive-in movie theater that had operated since 1950. The original building was 100,000 square feet when it opened. **See DATA CENTERS, Page 4A**

More online

Scan the QR code for the full three-part series, videos, photos, polls, previous coverage and more about the impact of data centers on local communities.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY REESE STRICKLAND, GRAPHIC BY GETTYIMAGES AND ROBIN FERGUSON

Job market remains resilient as claims rise

Lucia Mutikani
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits increased slightly last week, suggesting that labor market conditions remained stable, though some laid-off workers are struggling to find new opportunities.

Labor market resilience gives the Federal Reserve greater scope to focus on stamping out inflation, which is being fueled by the ongoing war with Iran.

"It's a 'medium-hire, low-fire' job market right now," said Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union. "It's still tough for young Americans trying to get onto the career ladder, but it's easier than it was a year ago."

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose 1,000 to a seasonally adjusted 203,000 for the week ended Nov. 14, the Labor Department said. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 197,000 claims for the latest week. Claims had hovered at or below 200,000 since mid-September.

Four states, including Texas and California, reported declines in unadjusted applications of more than 1,000 last week. But filings in Michigan surged by 6,095, more than reversing the prior week's decline. Economists said Michigan's launch last week of a new platform for filing unemployment claims could account for the increase.

The four-week moving average of claims, which irons out week-to-week volatility, increased 2,000 to 197,750.

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