

CITY OF DURHAM

Leading the AI Economy

*We are not preparing for an AI economy—
we are already in it.*

AI Industry Conference | Durham, NC

AI'S IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

**\$2.6–
\$4.4T**

Annual value across industries

Projected economic contribution

\$6.1–\$7.9T

Global GDP contribution at full
scale

Total annual economic uplift

60–70%

Work activities automatable by
AI

At the task level across occupations

AI-related investment has contributed up to one-third of recent U.S. GDP growth in some quarters – and adoption is accelerating.

DURHAM'S STRATEGIC POSITION

AI aligns directly with the strengths of Durham's economy.

Healthcare & Life Sciences

Education & Research

Advanced Industries

Knowledge Work

Why Durham?

World-Class Research Triangle

Proximity to Duke, UNC, and NC State fuels AI talent and R&D pipelines.

Innovation-Driven Economy

Knowledge work is precisely the sector AI is accelerating fastest.

Cross-Sector Opportunity

AI is a driver across health, biotech, education, and advanced manufacturing.

City Commitment

Durham actively recognizes AI as a strategic economic priority.

SUPPORTING AI STARTUPS & ENTREPRENEURS

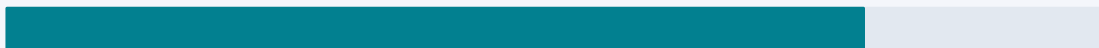
"We are building an ecosystem where AI startups don't just emerge—they scale."

WHERE AI VALUE IS CONCENTRATED GLOBALLY

Software Engineering



R&D



Sales & Customer Ops



DURHAM'S FOCUS



Lower Barriers to Entry

Remove friction for founding teams



Scaling & Commercialization

Support from MVP to market



Capital & Partners

Connect founders to institutional networks

AI ADOPTION IN EXISTING BUSINESS

**The biggest
opportunity isn't
new companies—
it's existing ones.**

19%

of companies currently
report significant
revenue gains from AI

Durham's Approach

Massive untapped potential for cities that help businesses transition:

01 Digital Transformation Support

Help businesses modernize their operations and processes with AI tools.

02 AI Integration Assistance

Practical guidance for embedding AI into existing workflows and products.

03 Competitive Readiness

Ensure Durham businesses stay ahead in a rapidly shifting landscape.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TALENT PIPELINE

"The future of work is not human versus AI— it is human with AI."

15%–60%

Productivity gains in AI-enabled roles



Upskilling & Reskilling

Equip workers for augmented, not replaced, roles across every sector.



Talent Pipeline

Connect educational institutions with employers demanding AI-capable workers.



Inclusive Transition

Ensure workforce gains extend to all communities — not just tech workers.

The cities that win in the AI economy will be the ones that collaborate best.



Universities

Duke, UNC, NC State: talent, R&D, and cutting-edge AI research



Private Sector

Enterprise leaders, deep-tech firms, and scaling AI companies



Startups

Emerging AI ventures building the next generation of products



Ecosystem Connectors

Investors, accelerators, and global networks

AI investment is driving hundreds of billions in global infrastructure — data centers, compute, connectivity.

RESPONSIBLE & ETHICAL AI

Trust
Gap
31%

of workers in some sectors
fully trust AI to be developed
responsibly

Durham's Commitment

"Adoption without trust is not sustainable."



Responsible Deployment

AI systems are deployed with clear accountability and oversight.



Equity & Inclusion

AI benefits extend to all Durham residents, not just a few.



Transparency

Open communication about how AI is used in public services.



Accountability

Governance frameworks that hold AI applications to high standards.

CITY OF DURHAM

Durham is ready to build the future with you.

Support Startups

Empower Businesses

Prepare the Workforce

Lead Responsibly

AI is transforming the economy – and Durham is positioning itself to lead that transformation.