

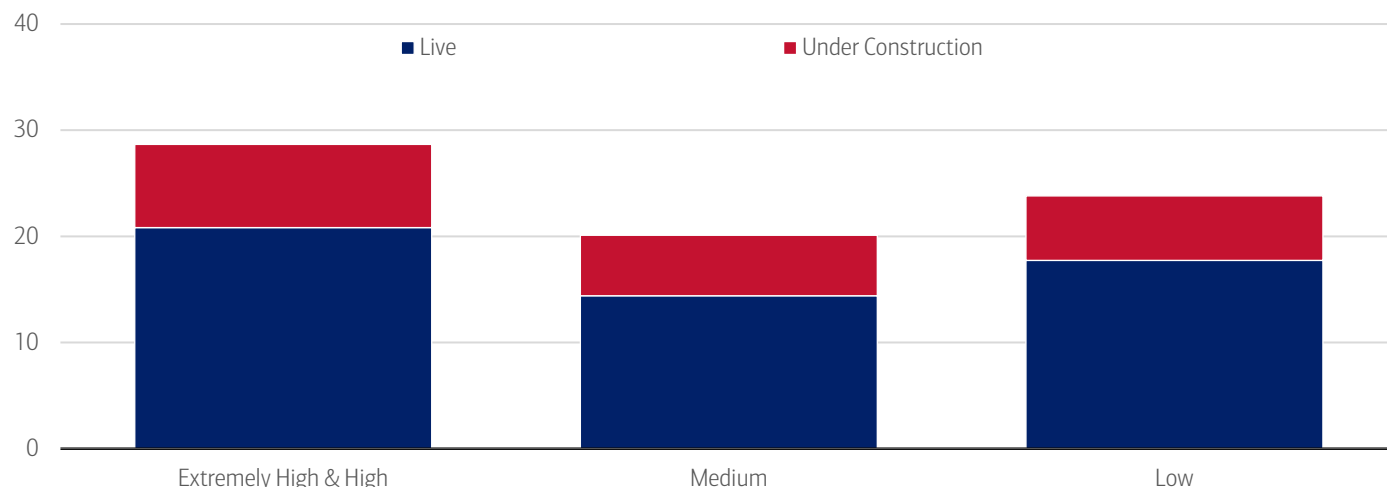
## Daily Insights

# Data centers are being built where the water isn't

02 June 2026

### Over 20 gigawatts of live global data center capacity is in extremely high or high water-stress regions

Total capacity by water stress level (megawatts), Medium = 10-20%, Low < 10%



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Global Research

Note: Bloomberg's Data Centers and Water Stress Exposure Dataset maps global information technology (IT) capacity to baseline and projected water stress levels.

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AI's water footprint is a substantial resource drain. Most of it happens off-site, and is tied to power generation, not cooling. At scale, even everyday AI queries add up to millions of liters of water per day.

The bigger issue? Most US water utility companies have yet to fully account for the water implications of AI-driven infrastructure growth. And while water access is becoming a factor in determining where data centers go, it's not the deciding one. In practice, they're still popping up in water-stressed areas, where power, land and regulation matter more.

Read more on breaking down a data center's value chain in our publication: [Data center construction creates a resource shock.](#)

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