

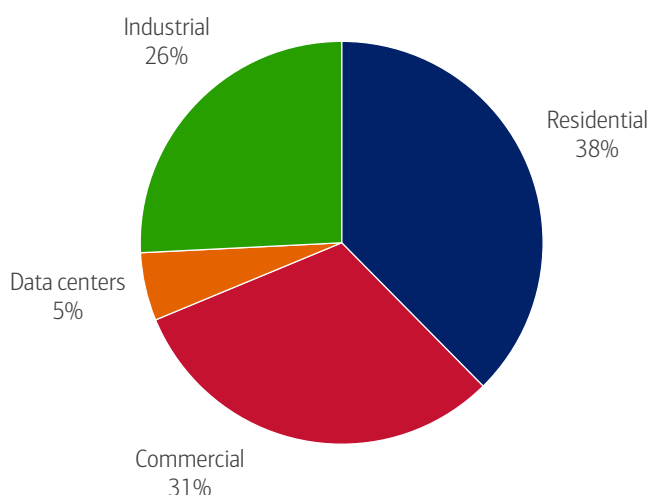
Daily Insights

Watt's really driving US power demand?

03 December 2025

Data centers contributed just 5% to US electrical load in 2025E

US electrical load in 2025E by category (%)



Source: BofA Global Research

Note: Building electrification contributes to residential and commercial categories. Electric vehicle adoption contributes to industrial (EV battery production), residential and commercial (EV charging at home and at work).

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There's been plenty of buzz about data center growth lately, but BofA Global Research projects they'll account for only 5% of total US electricity use in 2025. So, what's really driving the country's power demand? The biggest contributor is building electrification, driving both residential demand through uses such as heating water and cooking with electrical appliances, and commercial demand through factors like reshoring and increased semiconductor production. Electric vehicle adoption is also adding to this demand, albeit at a smaller scale.

Looking ahead, from 2024 through 2035, BofA Global Research anticipates data centers will account for 35% of incremental power demand. However, building electrification will still maintain a sizeable portion of the incremental growth – at 45%.

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