

New York added 119 data centers before Hochul’s moratorium

BY CATHERINE ALLEN AND ROSMERY IZAGUIRRE | 07/22/2026

New York Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul issued the country’s first statewide ban on data centers in a July 14 executive order, pausing environmental permit approvals for new large data centers for one year. The state has 118 operational data centers and one under construction, according to industry data firm Data Center Map.

New York ranks fifth in the nation for the most operational data centers, with nearly half of all residents in the state living within 5 miles of one. Data centers applying to connect to New York’s grid totaled nearly 12 gigawatts of power, according to the executive order, representing 70 percent of the state’s total peak load in the queue.

In New York, postings for data center jobs roughly tripled from 2018 to 2025, according to data from the University of Maryland and job market data firm LinkUp. There have been nearly 900 job postings in New York so far this year, and more than half of them are located in Manhattan.

New York pauses new data centers, calls for more reviews

Key points from Hochul’s executive order



Places a one-year moratorium on new data centers with peak power capacity of 50 megawatts or more



Halts Department of Environmental Conservation permit reviews for data center construction and expansion for one year



Establishes a community investment fund for energy affordability projects and public services



Calls for investments in infrastructure, clean energy and data center interconnection



Encourages organized labor and local hiring, and requires data center developers to report economic metrics to the state



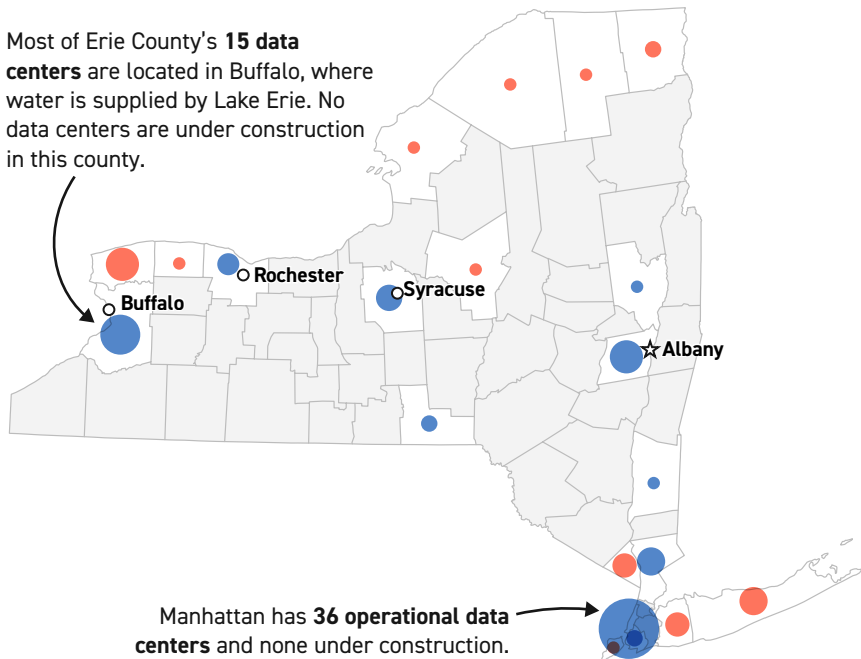
Requires a state review of water withdrawal program requirements and water demands from data centers

Manhattan, Erie County lead in data center development

Number of data centers operating or under construction, by county



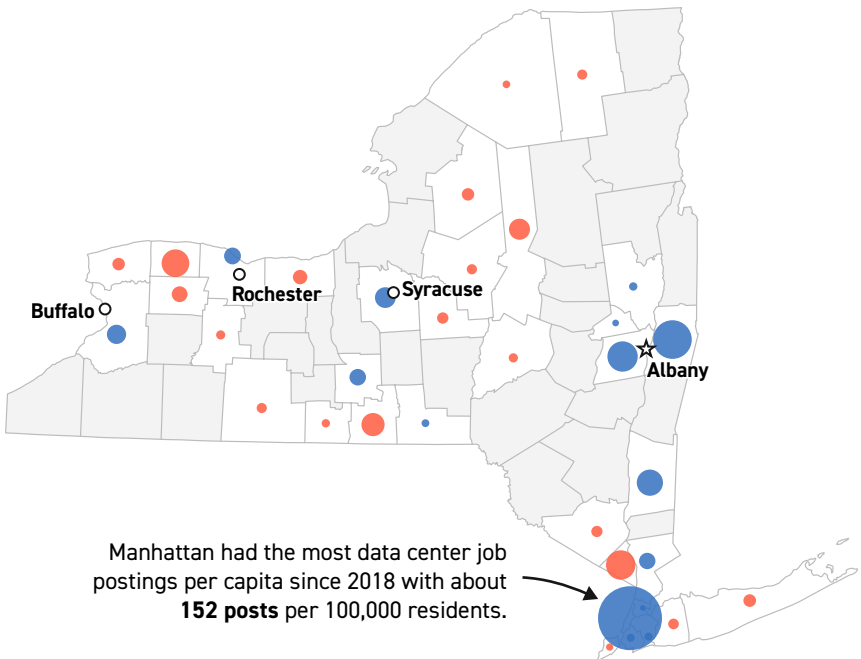
Most of Erie County’s **15 data centers** are located in Buffalo, where water is supplied by Lake Erie. No data centers are under construction in this county.



Note: Data centers as of July 13, 2026.

Manhattan leads New York for most data center jobs per capita

Number of data center job postings per 100,000 residents since 2018, by county



Note: The University of Maryland’s job postings data is collected using search terms related to data centers, followed by an AI-assisted review.

9 bills regulating AI and data centers in New York are awaiting governor’s signature

Hochul’s data center executive order isn’t her first step to regulate the state’s AI industry. She signed the RAISE Act in December last year, which will require large AI companies to register with the state and publish safety plans for their most powerful models starting Jan. 1, 2027.

New York has enacted 12 laws related to AI since 2023, with bills spanning public safety, government use, disclosure, labor and security. Hochul signed eight bills focused on AI this session. The state legislature passed nine other bills that are now waiting to be delivered to the governor to sign, veto or negotiate an amended version of the bill with the legislature. Once delivered to the governor, Hochul will have 30 days to sign or veto the bills.

The state legislature passed its own moratorium, known as the Responsible Data Center Development Act, which would have stopped new permits for data centers with a peak demand of 20 megawatts or more. Hochul’s order applies only to data centers with peak demand of at least 50 megawatts.

New York has enacted 12 laws related to AI and data centers since 2023

Number of enacted laws and pending bills in New York since 2023

■ Enacted ■ Passed, awaiting delivery to governor

PUBLIC SAFETY

■ ■ ■ ■

4 enacted laws address AI-related public safety risks, including surveillance, automation and sexual content.

■ ■

2 bills would restrict unsafe AI companions for minors and nonconsensual sexual content.

AI USE DISCLOSURE

■ ■

2 enacted laws require disclosure of AI-generated content and add penalties for violations.

■ ■ ■ ■

4 bills would expand transparency rules for AI-generated news, training data, and content labeled as AI-made or AI-altered.

EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY IMPACTS

■ ■

2 enacted laws strengthen worker protections against exploitation and unauthorized digital use.

■ ■

2 bills would increase transparency around AI’s effects on jobs and online content.

GOVERNMENT AI USE

■ ■ ■

3 enacted laws regulate government AI use through disclosure requirements and limits on automated decision-making by public agencies.

SECURITY

■

1 enacted law imposes transparency, testing and incident-reporting requirements on frontier AI developers to reduce security risks.

DATA CENTER UTILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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1 bill would impose a one-year data center moratorium, mandate an environmental impact report and requirements for large data centers such as meeting energy procurement standards.

Note: Legislation includes bills that mention data centers, hyperscale, large loads, artificial intelligence, deepfakes, chatbots, machine learning or automated decision-making.

Source: Data Center Map, U.S. Census Bureau, University of Maryland

Data Analysis

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