Fiber Optic Cable Industry Slump



Overview

The Fiber Optic Cable Market is projected to reach USD 11.11 billion by 2035, up from USD 5.54 billion in 2026, growing at CAGR 7.21%.

Key Takeaways

The fiber optic cable industry is experiencing a temporary slump driven by supply chain bottlenecks, rising costs, and market saturation, despite strong long-term demand from AI, 5G, and broadband expansion.

Supply-

Side Constraints

The U. S. fiber optic industry faces significant supply shortages. Domestic production meets only about half of demand, with companies like Corning and Incab America struggling to keep up due to surging AI data center requirements, limited glass and germanium supplies, and U.

S. protectionist policies such as tariffs and the Build America, Buy America Act. Lead times for fiber have extended from the typical 8–12 weeks to nearly a year, creating bottlenecks for broadband deployment and enterprise networks. These constraints are compounded by global material restrictions, particularly on germanium, a key component in fiber production.

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

Demand-

Side Dynamics

Despite supply issues, demand remains robust. Data centers alone accounted for 35% of fiber demand in 2023, while 5G, IoT, and enterprise networks are driving additional growth. U.

S. broadband programs like BEAD are expanding fiber access to underserved areas, but slower adoption rates and overlapping network proposals have created underutilized assets and financial pressure on smaller providers.

A

I infrastructure is particularly demanding, requiring multi-fold increases in fiber route miles and high-capacity interconnects between data centers.

Market Saturation and Financial Pressures

The U. S. fiber market is entering a mature phase. Over 99 million homes are passed with fiber, but only about 46–50% of eligible households subscribe, leaving expensive infrastructure underutilized.

Investors are increasingly scrutinizing returns, favoring large-scale operators with clean balance sheets, while smaller AltNets face consolidation or recapitalization pressures. Legacy cable networks (HFC) continue to compete effectively, often upgraded with DOCSIS 4. 0, blurring the distinction between fiber and coax in urban and suburban areas.

Global Market Outlook

Globally, the fiber optic cable market is projected to reach $32. 5 billion by 2030, growing at an 8. 9% CAGR from 2023, driven by data centers, 5G, and IoT adoption.

APA

C leads with a 58% market share, while North America holds 22%. Despite short-term slumps, technological advancements such as coherent optics, hollow-core fiber, and multi-core fiber are enhancing capacity and efficiency, supporting long-term growth.

Conclusion

The current slump in the fiber optic cable industry is largely temporary and structural, caused by supply chain bottlenecks, rising costs, and market saturation in mature regions. However, long-term demand remains strong, fueled by AI, 5G, IoT, and government broadband initiatives. Companies with scale, diversified supply chains, and technological innovation are best positioned to navigate this challenging period and capitalize on future growth.

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

Article Content

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size, Forecast Report [2026-2035]

The Fiber Optic Cable Market is projected to reach USD 11.11 billion by 2035, up from USD 5.54 billion in 2026, growing at CAGR 7.21%.

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size, Forecasts Report 2026-2035

The fiber optic cable market was estimated at USD 14.6 billion in 2025 and is expected to grow at a CAGR of 9.5% between 2026 and 2035, driven by expansion of 5g network infrastructure.

2026 Fiber Optic Market Crisis: G657A2 Supply Shortage and Soaring ...

The fiber optic industry is experiencing an unprecedented supply crunch. If you have sourced optical fiber g657 cables in the past month, you have likely encountered extended lead

Here''s how big the fiber shortage really is

Lead times for ribbon fiber are in the “60-plus weeks range” as vendors struggle to make enough cable | Fiber cables and glass are in short supply. FBA and Superior Essex spoke with

Why Fiber Bare cable prices surged by 650%?

Bare Fiber Market Analysis: Current State, Price Surge Drivers, and Future Outlook The optical fiber industry is experiencing unprecedented turbulence. Bare fiber — the uncoated glass

Fiber Optic Cable Industry Statistics | Fact-Checked 2026

The fiber optic cable industry is moving fast, with worldwide submarine networks reaching 1.4 million km that carry 99% of international data. At the same time, deployment patterns are shifting

Optical fibre and cable: Top ten industry shifts in 2025

Discover how AI growth, supply and demand shifts, and more are influencing the optical fibre and cable industry with CRU Group.

Fiber Optic Cables Industry Research Report 2024

Abstracts Summary Fiber optic cable is a cable containing one or more optical fibers that are used to carry light. The optical fiber elements are typically individually coated with plastic layers and

Fiber Optics Industry worth $6.8 billion by 2029

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

The fiber optics market value is projected to be USD 6.8 billion by 2029, growing from USD 3.2 billion in 2024, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 16.4% during the forecast period.

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size, Trends & Forecast I BIS Research

The fiber optic cable market was valued at $14.61 billion in 2022, and it is expected to grow at a CAGR of 10.70% and reach $43.02 billion by 2032.

Wires and Cables Market Size, Segmentation & Forecast 2031

Wire and Cable Market size was USD 245.44 billion in 2026 and is projected to reach USD 315.78 billion by 2031, driven by fiber optics, EVs, and grid expansion.

Charting the Fiber Frontier: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities for ...

This Industry Viewpoint was authored by J. Drew Mullin, Partner, ATLANTIC-ACM Despite a 2023 slow-down in the expectation of fiber route mile builds, fiber deployment remains

Global Fiber Optic Cable Growth Analysis

High cost of fiber optic cable is a key challenge affecting the industry growth. The market is experiencing significant growth due to the advantages it offers, such as enormous data transfer capacity and high

2025 Fiber Optic Cable Market Outlook Report: Industry Size, Market ...

2025 Fiber Optic Cable Market Outlook Report: Industry Size, Market Shares Data, Insights, Growth Trends, Opportunities, Competition 2024 to 2032

Insights and Strategies for 2025 and Beyond

We manufacture optical fiber in Georgia and Massachusetts, and Fiber Optic cable in Georgia and Connecticut, and have invested $139M to expand production in recent years.

Producer Price Index by Industry: Fiber Optic Cable Manufacturing

Graph and download economic data for Producer Price Index by Industry: Fiber Optic Cable Manufacturing (PCU335921335921) from Dec 2003 to Jun 2025 about optical, fiber,

Fiber Optical Cable Market Size, Forecast Report to 2035

Fiber Optical Cable Market Overview • Fiber Optical Cable market size has reached to $84.15 billion in 2025 • Expected to grow to $115.79 billion in 2030 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of

2026 Fiber Optic Market Crisis: G657A2 Supply

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

2026 Fiber Optic Market Crisis: G657A2 Supply Shortage and Soaring Prices Reshape Global Procurement Strategies The fiber optic industry is experiencing

Related Video Reference

This video was associated with the source search result. Verify technical details against current product documentation and project requirements.

Contact Us

Continue your research online:

Website: https://qualitykitchens.co.za
Technical inquiry: https://qualitykitchens.co.za/project-desk.html
African project coordination: Umhlanga Ridge, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

This document is for preliminary research. Verify specifications against current standards, product documentation and project requirements.

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved