Rising Optical Cable



Overview

Input costs for fiber optic cable are adding upward pressure on fiber optic cable prices at a time when demand for fiber technology is high and expected to continue growing.

Key Takeaways

Rising optical cables, or fiber optic riser cables, are specialized vertical cables designed for safe indoor data transmission, and their prices have surged sharply in 2026 due to supply constraints and increased demand. What Are Riser Cables? A fiber optic riser cable (OFNR – Optical Fiber Nonconductive Riser) is designed for vertical installations in multi-story buildings, connecting floors through riser shafts or conduits.

These cables are engineered for fire safety, complying with NEC 770 and UL 1666 standards, meaning they are self-extinguishing and emit minimal smoke and toxic gases if ignited. There are two main types of riser cables: OFNR (Nonconductive Riser): Non-metallic, immune to electromagnetic interference (EMI), suitable for office buildings and data centers.

OFC

R (Conductive Riser): Includes metallic elements for enhanced mechanical durability and EMI protection, ideal for industrial environments. Riser cables are less fire-resistant than plenum-rated cables (OFNP), which are used in air-handling spaces, but they are cost-effective and compliant for vertical backbone installations. Why Fiber Optic Cable Prices Are RisingFiber optic cable prices have increased dramatically in 2026 due to a combination of supply constraints, rising input costs, and surging demand.

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

Key factors include: Raw material costs: Prices of silicon tetrachloride, helium, and energy used in fiber production have risen, increasing manufacturing costs. Global supply-demand imbalance: The market shifted from oversupply to tight supply, with some suppliers issuing same-day quotations due to material scarcity. Specialized demand: Military and commercial use of fiber-guided drones and high-bandwidth applications has created competition for high-performance fibers like G.

657A1 and G. 657A2, driving prices up 80–90% in six months. Extended lead times: Popular fiber grades now face 12–20 week delivery times, with some specialty fibers backlogged for up to six months.

For example, as of March 2026, G. 657A1 fiber traded at approximately $22 per kilometer, and G. 657A2 reached $35 per kilometer, reflecting unprecedented market pressure.

Implications for Building and Data Center Projects

Budget adjustments: Rising fiber costs may require revising project budgets or delaying deployments. Cable selection: Choosing between OFNR and OFCR depends on EMI exposure, grounding requirements, and installation environment. Safety compliance: Ensuring riser cables meet UL 1666 fire standards is critical for vertical installations.

Summary

Rising optical cables serve a dual role: they provide safe, vertical data transmission in buildings and are currently subject to significant price increases due to raw material inflation, supply bottlenecks, and specialized demand. Selecting the appropriate riser cable type (OFNR or OFCR) and planning for higher costs are essential for successful ICT infrastructure projects in 2026.

Article Content

Sky-High Prices Contribute to Rising Fiber Optic Cable Costs

Input costs for fiber optic cable are adding upward pressure on fiber optic cable prices at a time when demand for fiber technology is high and expected to continue growing. High fiber optic cable prices

Climbing the Light Ladder: Why Fiber Optic Riser

A fiber optic riser cable—designated as OFNR, shorthand for Optical Fiber, Nonconductive, Riser—is a type of indoor fiber optic cable specifically

Indoor Riser Cable 12F/24F

Building an indoor optical distribution using the riser technology consists in the installation of one or more Indoor Riser Cables 12F or 24F

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

Optical fibre and cable: Top ten industry shifts in 2025

The optical fibre and cable market is shifting in several directions at once. In 2025, AI-driven data centre investment rapidly emerged as the strongest driver of

A-Series

Compatible with all standard fiber optic connectors designed for small form-factor simplex and duplex connectors such as MT-RJ and LC connectors High

fiber Optic riser cable

High-performance fiber optic riser cable designed for vertical building installations, ensuring reliable data transmission, low signal loss, and fire-resistant safety.

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size, Forecasts Report 2026

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size The fiber optic cable market was valued at USD 14.6 billion in 2025. The market is expected to grow from USD 15.7 billion in 2026 to

Ribbon Cable, Riser | Corning

Corning ribbon riser cables are all-dielectric and designed for indoor use. The optical fibers are organized into easily identifiable 12-fiber ribbons inside a central tube.

Submarine Cable Map

TeleGeography''s comprehensive and regularly updated interactive map of the world''s major submarine cable systems and landing stations.

Fiber Optical Cable Market Report 2026

The fiber optical cable market size has grown strongly in recent years. It will grow from $84.15 billion in 2025 to $89.16 billion in 2026 at a compound annual growth

Why Fiber Optic Prices Exploded from Early 2026

Conclusion: Navigating the 2025–2026 Fiber Price Crisis The dramatic surge in fiber optic cable prices from late 2025 into early 2026 is primarily driven by the explosive and sustained

Optical Cable Q2 Earnings Call Highlights

Optical Cable (NASDAQ:OCC) reported sharply higher fiscal second-quarter sales and profit, with management citing strength in enterprise, data center and severe-duty markets, as well

The 6 best optical audio cables for soundbars and more

HDMI is the new standard for audio/video connections, but a great optical audio cable is just as important. Here are several of the best optical

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

Indoor and Outdoor Fiber Optic Cable Installation: Key Considerations ...

Explore best practices for installing indoor and outdoor fiber optic cables, including conduit, direct burial, riser, and aerial applications. Build stable, long-lasting networks.

Optical Cable Corporation (OCC) Stock Price, News, Quote & History ...

Find the latest Optical Cable Corporation (OCC) stock quote, history, news and other vital information to help you with your stock trading and investing.

Fiber Optic Market Outlook 2026: Why Prices Are

Fiber Optic Market Outlook 2026: Why Prices Are Surging and When to Buy The fiber optic market is experiencing unprecedented volatility. As an

Rising 8

The Rising 8 submarine cable project — officially named SKKL (Jakarta–Batam–Singapore Subsea Cable Communication System) Rising 8 — is a high-capacity subsea fibre-optic system connecting

Optical Cable Posts Q2 Earnings on 27% Sales Growth, Rising Backlog

OCC returns to profitability in Q2''26 as sales jump 26.6% y/y, margins expand and backlog surges, driven by strong data center demand.

Related Video Reference

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

© 2026 QK FIBER SYSTEMS - All rights reserved

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