International Optical Cable Usage



Overview

Undersea fiber-optic cables form the foundations of global internet connectivity, transmitting over 99% of international data traffic. These cables, composed of optical fibers encased in protective layers, stretch across oceanic floors, linking major economic centers worldwide. Refers to average usage of all international links including fiber-optic cables, radio links and traffic processed by satellite ground stations and teleports to orbital satellites (expressed in Mbit/s) Dem. Use the controls at the top to play the animation or step through year by year. For more details and insights, please read this. Projects such as SEA-ME-WE (Southeast Asia - Middle East - Western Europe) and FLAG (Fiber-Optic Link Around the Globe) established intercontinental fiber-optic routes, bridging entire regions with high-speed data links. As digital economies expand and geopolitical tensions shape technological dependencies, undersea cables emerge not. Broadband connectivity is an essential tool for accessing communication, information, public services, remote work, online health services and cultural resources. As discussed in our Optical Fibre and Cable Market Outlook service, CRU forecasts that optical cable demand from data centre applications will account for roughly 5% of total global optical cable demand in 2025. This share is higher in key regions such as North America, where optical cable demand.

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Article Content

Internet Infrastructure Map (2026)

Explore the physical backbone of the internet with our interactive map of undersea fiber optic cables, peering exchange points, and more. Visualize the growth of

Fiber Map of the World 2026

Fiber maps visualize the global network of fiber optic cables, showcasing how data moves across continents and under oceans. Telecommunications providers rely on these maps to optimize routing,

Global Undersea Internet Cables: Economic Leverage

Undersea fiber-optic cables form the foundations of global internet connectivity, transmitting over 99% of international data traffic. These cables,

Broadband statistics | OECD

Broadband connectivity is an essential tool for accessing communication, information, public services, remote work, online health services and cultural resources. The OECD provides key

CRU''s data centre forecasting for optical fibre and cable

Following an extensive consultation period with the industry and senior leaders across CRU, we have published the results of a global data centre

Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe

Cable burial was performed by either a submersible plough as the cable was laid, or jetting the laid cable into the sea bed via remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

Investment and Usage of the Subsea Internet Cable Network

The main data we use in this paper are from TeleGeography, a telecommunications market research company that provides detailed information on subsea cables and international used bandwidth.

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size, Share & Trends Report,

Fiber optic cable market was valued at USD 13 billion in 2024 and is estimated to grow at a CAGR of over 10.4% from 2025 to 2034 driven by growing demand for

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size, Demand, Growth By 2035

High internet usage today, growth in broadband connection and increased need of high-speed connection in both the rural and urban regions have highly led to the popularization of fiber

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IEC homepage

IEC everywhere for a safer and more efficient world. The IEC is a global, not-for-profit membership organization that brings together more than 170 countries and

Fiber Optical Cable Market Size, Forecast Report to 2035

Global Fiber Optical Cable market size is expected to reach $115.6.89 billion by 2030 at 6.8%, segmented as by type, glass optical fiber, plastic optical fiber

Fiber optic cable Market Size, Share & Trends, 2033

Based on cable type, the non-armored fiber optic cables segment dominated the market with 45.1% share in 2024, supported by their cost-effectiveness and wide usage in telecom

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size, Share & Trends Report,

Fiber Optic Cable Market Size & Share 2025 - 2034 Market Size by Fiber Type, by Deployment, by Cable Type, by End Use Industry – Global Forecast.

Submarine Cables: Critical Infrastructure for Global Communications

Submarine cables play a critical role in global interconnected networks, carrying about 99 percent of international communications traffic.1 Sharp growth in demand for data, fueled by bandwidth

This map shows how undersea cables move internet

Have you ever wondered how internet traffic flies around the world? 99% of it travels through cables under the sea.

Fiber Map of the World 2026

Submarine and terrestrial fiber optic cables form the backbone of modern global communication, carrying data across continents at incredible speeds. These networks enable internet access,

Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe

Fibre-optic Link Around the Globe (FLAG) is a 28,000-kilometre-long (17,398 mi; 15,119 nmi) fibre optic mostly- submarine communications cable that connects

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