Price list of optical fiber cables in the 1990s



Overview

Learn about the 1990s telecom bubble, when rapid innovation, cheap capital, and overconfidence led to one of history''s biggest tech busts.

Key Takeaways

During the 1990s, optical fiber cable prices declined significantly, with singlemode fiber dropping from around 5. 3 cents per fiber-meter in 1997 to 3–3. 5 cents per fiber-meter by 1999.

Price Trends by YearEarly 1990s (1990–1994): Fiber optic cables were still relatively expensive due to limited production and high manufacturing costs. Prices were influenced by the introduction of photonic switching systems and early fiber amplifiers, which increased network stability and data rates but required costly infrastructure investments. Exact per-meter prices are less documented, but the PPI index for fiber optic cables in the U.

S. started at 100 (Dec 1988=100) and gradually increased through the early 1990s. Mid-1990s (1995–1997): The deployment of fiber in the loop (FITL) and erbium-doped fiber amplifiers enabled higher-speed networks, which increased demand. Singlemode fiber prices in 1997 averaged 5.

3 cents per fiber-meter, reflecting both technological improvements and growing market adoption. The U. S.

PP

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I for fiber optic cables rose steadily during this period, reflecting higher production costs and investment in advanced fiber systems. Late 1990s (1998–1999): Prices declined sharply due to oversupply and increased competition. In 1998, singlemode fiber prices fell 35–40%, averaging 3.

5–4 cents per fiber-meter, and by 1999, prices were projected to drop below 3–3. 5 cents per fiber-meter. This decline coincided with a global increase in fiber deployment, particularly in the U.

S., Japan, and China, which together accounted for over 50% of installations.

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I index reflects this downward trend, showing a gradual decrease in fiber optic cable costs toward the end of the decade.

Market Context

Deployment Growth: Worldwide fiber-optic cable installation increased from 31. 5 million fiber-km in 1996 to 44. 1 million fiber-km in 1998, driven by both terrestrial and submarine networks.

Technological Impact: Dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) and mode-locked fiber lasers improved data transfer speeds from 2. 5 Gbps to 100 Gbps, which initially increased costs but eventually contributed to economies of scale. Regional Differences: The U.

S. led in long-haul installations, Japan focused on high-density urban networks, and China experienced rapid growth in emerging markets. Summary Table of Approximate PricesYearSinglemode Fiber Price (cents/fiber-meter)Notes1995~5. 5–6.

0Early adoption, high demand, limited production1996~5. 5Market growth, PPI rising19975. 3Peak before major price decline19983.

5–4. 035–40% price drop due to oversupply19993. 0–3.

5Continued decline, global deployment expansionThis overview captures the major price trends and market dynamics for optical fiber cables in the 1990s, highlighting the rapid decline in costs as technology matured and production scaled up.

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Article Content

The 1990s: A Decade of Breakthroughs in Fiber Optic

In keeping with the 50th anniversary of Photonics Spectra and this month''s “Connected World” theme, the editors culled the archives for key advances in

The Late 1990s Telecom Bubble

Learn about the 1990s telecom bubble, when rapid innovation, cheap capital, and overconfidence led to one of history''s biggest tech busts.

Dark Fiber—an Archaeology of the Dot-Com Bubble

Universities and state networks, suddenly able to acquire dark fiber at fire-sale prices, built research backbones that would have been unimaginable during the bubble years.

Telecommunications Bubble Pumps Up the Optical Fiber

Optics and telecommunication stocks soared during the late 1990s. The stock of JDS-Fitel, formed in 1981, doubled after it went public in 1996, then doubled again in 1997 and in 1998.

Handbook Optical fibres, cables and systems

ITU-T has been active in the standardization of optical communications technology and the techniques for its optimal application within networks from the infancy of this industry. However, it is not always

Wire & Cable Prices

CRU provides comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date price assessments and research reports for bare optical fibre across various key regional markets, combined with insights into the

U.S. Bandwidth Price Trends in the 1990s

Indices representative of nominal local bandwidth prices have not fallen in the second half of the 1990s. Such indices declined about 20% in the first half of the 1990s.

Lessons from History: The Rise and Fall of the Telecom Bubble

Between the new fiber being laid, the denser strands, DWDM, and new IP standards, there was a 100,000x increase in supply. One of my favorite examples of this impact is ethernet

Producer Price Index by Industry: Fiber Optic Cable ...

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U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Producer Price Index by Industry: Fiber Optic Cable Manufacturing: Fiber Optic Cable, Made from Purchased Fiber Optic Strand ,

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Contribute to siufuguv-hub/Officetel-watcher development by creating an account on GitHub.

10 Best Fiber Optic Media Converters (May 2026) Expert Reviews

Discover the best fiber optic media converters in 2026. Our experts tested 10 top models for reliability, performance, and value. Complete buying guide included.

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Dot-com Bubble Explained | Story of 1995-2000 Stock

Similar to dot-coms, telecommunications companies, too, experienced a bubble that concluded in a tragic crash. But before the bubble

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Stocking distributor of fiber optic installation tools, bulk fiber cables, fiber patch cables, test equipment, cable management, fiber optic training and more.

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