

How many China Unicom optical cables are there nationwide



Article Overview

China Unicom's nationwide optical cable network spans tens of thousands of kilometers, with recent procurement totaling 65.7859 million core kilometers.

Network Scale and Procurement

China Unicom maintains a core fiber-optic network that serves as the backbone for voice, data, mobile, and Internet services across China, connecting over 300 cities and covering 19 of 31 provinces . The backbone includes DWDM and 10Gbit/s SDH solutions spanning up to 40,000 km, with over 200 network stations and multiple long-haul point-to-point links such as Beijing-Shanghai-Guangzhou . These links are integrated into regional SDH rings, forming a highly resilient optical network. In 2024, China Unicom conducted a centralized procurement project for optical fiber and cable, awarding contracts to 15 companies for a total of 65.7859 million core kilometers of optical cable . This procurement reflects ongoing network expansion and modernization to support high-speed broadband, 5G, and AI-driven services.

Network Architecture

The optical network is structured with long-haul DWDM links and provincial SDH rings, allowing flexible traffic routing and high-capacity data transmission . Key nodes are equipped with optical add-drop modules (OADM) and optical cross-connects (OXC), enabling efficient management of local and long-distance traffic. The network supports up to 20 million simultaneous ISDN-quality calls over a single fiber pair, de...

Article Content

May 17, 2026

Optical network technologies converge on broadband China

The largest optical network contract from China Unicom ever, with a total length of over 15,000km, and over 200 stations, the

Dec 04, 2025

What China's Major Submarine Cable Means for U.S. Network Architects

Will there be competing Chinese and U.S. internets? With China's new submarine internet cable, we break down how

Jun 03, 2026

China Unicom 2023 Annual Report

In 2023, China Unicom adhered to the principle of serving the people, focused on the primary task of high-quality development. It

May 10, 2026

China's Optical Fibers, Bundles and Cables Market Report 2026

The Chinese market for optical fibers, bundles, and cables represents the single largest national arena for

Apr 26, 2026

China plans \$500 million subsea internet cable to rival US-backed ...

Reuters reports that China state-owned telecom firms are developing a \$500 million undersea fiber-optic internet cable

Apr 24, 2026

China Unicom Global Map

Tata TGN-Intra Asia (TGN-IA) Tata TGN-Pacific Thailand-Indonesia-Singapore (TIS) The East African Marine System (TEAMS)

Jan 02, 2026

Telecommunications industry in China

These resources consisted of a 2,200,000 km long nationwide optical network, based on Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM),

Jun 13, 2026

Annual Report 2023

China Unicom establishes branches in 31 provinces in China (including autonomous regions and municipalities) and multiple

Jan 30, 2026

National Policies and Projects Driving Fiber Expansion in APAC

Fiber expansion in APAC is gaining momentum, with national policies boosting broadband infrastructure to enhance

Aug 27, 2025

Fiber optic cable Market Size, Share & Trends, 2034

Based on cable type, the non-armored fiber optic cables segment dominated the market with 45.1% share in 2025,

Jun 02, 2026

China expands optical fiber network in 2023

BEIJING, Feb. 12 -- China continued to expand its optical fiber network in 2023, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information

Aug 14, 2025

Global Fiber Development Index: 2020

High reliability. As well as needing less physical maintenance, fiber-optic cables are also more reliable than copper: because they

Mar 20, 2026

The 55th Statistical Report on China's Internet Development

Since 1997, China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) has carried out the Statistical Survey on Internet Development in

Jun 13, 2026

China Unicom 2023 Annual Report

In 2023, the Company fully implemented the new development philosophies, fully assumed the two main responsibilities of building a

Feb 22, 2026

China Unicom - IEEE ComSoc Technology Blog

The construction of gigabit fiber optic broadband networks continues to advance. As of the end of November, the

Sep 18, 2025

Optical fiber and cable market: This year is a "big year"

Larger-scale procurement is on the way. Recently, the results of China Unicom's 2024 optical cable centralized procurement project

Apr 15, 2026

Advance network innovation and strengthen the construction of new ...

The Company will continuously strengthen the construction of new infrastructure, accelerate the reshaping and renewal of the

Feb 24, 2026

Optical fiber and cable market: This year is a "big year"

Recently, the results of China Unicom's 2024 optical cable centralized procurement project were announced. 15 optical fiber and

Sep 02, 2025

China Optical Fiber Cable Length Data (2015-2025, Latest 2025)

Explore china optical fiber cable length data from 2015 to 2025. Includes innovation metrics, growth with latest 2025

Sep 01, 2025

China United Network Communications Group Co.,Ltd

With a modern communications network characterized by nationwide coverage and global reach, China Unicom

Mar 10, 2026

Submarine Cable Map

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

Feb 08, 2026

How many fiber optic cables are there in China Unicom

Overview China Unicom boasts a network comprising over 20 terrestrial optical fiber cable border stations that link China with more

Feb 27, 2026

Collection: All-optical infrastructure innovation and application of ...

Introduction China Unicom proposed the all-optical infrastructure system architecture, cooperated with Huawei to carry out all-optical

Dec 26, 2025

A provincial company of a certain operator temporarily stopped ...

On December 16, China Unicom issued the "2024 Optical Cable Centralized Procurement Project Tender

Mar 04, 2026

China Unicom Global Map

China Unicom Global Resources Submarine Cables APCN-2 Apollo Asia Africa Europe-1 (AAE-1) Asia Direct Cable (ADC) Asia Link

Mar 27, 2026

Telecommunications industry in China

The telecommunications industry in China [note 1] is dominated by three state-run businesses: China Telecom, China Unicom and

Feb 12, 2026

White Paper on China International Optical Cable Interconnection

China's international interactions, requirements on its networks" ability to provide global services, and both opportunities and

Jun 25, 2026

What You Need to Know About China Unicom and Its Fiber Optic

In addition to the fusion splicer pack, AliExpress offers a wide range of other fiber optic tools that are compatible with China Unicom's

Sep 18, 2025

China Unicom

China United Network Communications Group Co., Ltd., doing business as China Unicom, is a Chinese state-owned

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