Scale of Mobile Fiber Optic Network in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Overview

Fiber Optic Coverage and Internet Usage Statistics in Democratic. Overview of fiber optic infrastructure and internet usage statistics in the Democratic.

Key Takeaways

The Democratic Republic of Congo's mobile fiber optic network is rapidly expanding, with coverage reaching approximately 45% of the population in 2026 and major projects underway to extend high-speed connectivity across urban and rural areas.

Current Coverage and Usage

As of 2026, fiber optic infrastructure in the DRC covers around 45% of the population, significantly improving internet access in both urban and rural regions. Internet penetration has grown to 36%, with 22 million mobile internet users, reflecting the increasing reliance on digital services for communication, commerce, and education. Average broadband speeds have improved to 18 Mbps, supporting more data-intensive applications and contributing to the digital economy, which now accounts for 3.

2% of GDP.

Key Expansion Projects

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Several large-scale projects are driving the expansion of fiber optic networks: Bandwidth and Cloud Services (BCS), supported by the European Investment Bank (EIB), is constructing a 1,200 km fiber optic backbone in the eastern DRC. This network will connect 319 schools and 70 hospitals, providing broadband access to 2. 5 million people.

BC

S plans to build over 20,000 km of digital infrastructure, with 12,000 km in the DRC, aiming to enhance mobile broadband and digital services across underserved regions. Liquid Telecom, Africa's largest independent fiber and cloud provider, has invested $180 million to expand internet access, particularly in urban centers like Kinshasa, where mobile connectivity remains limited for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Regional Disparities

Despite these efforts, connectivity remains uneven. Urban areas, especially Kinshasa, have higher access rates, with medium and large firms showing 91% internet access, while micro and small firms lag behind. Mobile phones are the primary means of internet access, with 90% of connected firms relying on mobile devices.

Rural regions face challenges due to difficult terrain, limited infrastructure, and high deployment costs.

Challenges and Opportunities

The main obstacles to expanding fiber optic networks include high costs, political instability, and regulatory hurdles, such as licensing fees and rights-of-way. However, ongoing investments and partnerships with international organizations are helping to overcome these barriers. Expansion of fiber infrastructure is expected to boost education, healthcare, commerce, and digital inclusion, fostering economic growth and social development.

Outlook

With continued investment and strategic deployment, the DRC's fiber optic network is poised to significantly reduce the digital divide, enhance mobile broadband coverage, and support the country's digital transformation, particularly in underserved eastern and rural regions.

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Article Content

Fiber Optic Coverage and Internet Usage Statistics in Democratic ...

Overview of fiber optic infrastructure and internet usage statistics in the Democratic Republic of Congo for 2026, highlighting digital growth and connectivity.

Telecommunications in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, broadband is primarily delivered through mobile cellular networks utilizing 3G and 4G technologies, which account for the vast majority of internet connections.

DRC connectivity improves but usage, power supply gaps linger

Increased investment inflows into the IT and telecom sectors in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are helping to close connectivity deficits, although the populous African country still

Democratic Republic of the Congo

According to a World Bank assessment, overall internet penetration is below 10 percent, unique mobile broadband subscriptions are around 20 percent, and only 40 percent of people have a

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Mobile internet penetration was estimated at 30.4%, while overall internet penetration stood at 43%. The figures illustrate the scale of the challenge in connecting the country''s 145 territories.

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The PNN2 initiative is set to position DR Congo as a regional tech powerhouse by rolling out fiber-optic networks, telecom towers, and broadband connectivity to reach 30 million people

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As of the third quarter of 2023, the DRC had 28.9 million mobile internet subscribers, with a penetration rate of 30.4%. The number of mobile phone subscribers stood at 56.1 million.

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Massive BCS fiber route & Orange digital center coming to DRC

Telecoms company Bandwidth and Cloud Services (BCS) has signed an agreement with the European Investment Bank to build a 1,200km fiber network in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Democratic Republic of Congo: EIB Global proceeds with support for

Today at the Kinshasa Economic Forum, the EIB and BCS signed a warrants agreement that will allow BCS to move forward with their plans to install a new fibre-optic backbone in the

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Airtel Nigeria Commits to Upgrade of its Network Infrastructure for ...

Network capacity upgrades have also reached significant scale. In 2025, Airtel completed capacity enhancements on 30% of its sites, covering over 5032 sites nationwide. Today, 99% of

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Opportunities for U.S. companies include: Connectivity infrastructure. Fiber-optic backbone networks, towers, satellite and microwave links, last-mile connectivity, and network

Democratic Republic of Congo: EIB Global proceeds with support for

More than 2.5 million people living in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will benefit from faster, cheaper and more reliable digital connectivity thanks to new

DRC Plans 2,100 km Fiber-Optic Corridor Along the Congo River

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The proposed project covers about 2,100 kilometers of infrastructure, including 1,700 kilometers of fiber-optic cable along the Congo River from Muanda to Kisangani and nearly 400

DR Congo €8B Digital Plan: What It Includes (Telecom, Infrastructure ...

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is investing €8 billion ($8.8 billion) in a digital transformation plan (2026–2030) to improve internet access, modernize infrastructure, and create

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