

Gigabit, managed units edging out Fast Ethernet

Typical features

- **Ports:** Ethernet switches have five, eight, 16, 24 or 48 auto-negotiation RJ-45 ports, with auto-MDI/MDIX. Some support two or four Gigabit SFP. Models usually have one console port, including RJ-45 or RS-232.

- **ICs:** Makers source the component for high-end units from Broadcom and Marvel. Entry-level and midrange versions adopt IC Plus, Vitesse or Realtek chips.



- **Housing:** Desktop variants use ABS or steel, while rack-mount units come in standard 1U 19in steel casing. Metal models have thermal holes to enhance heat dissipation. Some integrate hot-swappable cooling fans.

- **Status indicator:** LEDs alert the user regarding device and network status in terms of power, speed and activity.

Price range (per unit)	Basic features
\$4 to \$80	Fast Ethernet type; managed or unmanaged; 802.3, 802.3u; eight, 16, 24, 48 10/100Mbps auto-negotiation RJ-45 ports, auto-MDI/MDIX; 802.3x flow control for full-duplex, backpressure for half-duplex modes; LED indicators
\$81 to \$1,000	Gigabit Ethernet type; managed; one console, eight, 16, 24, 48 10/100/1,000Mbps auto-negotiation RJ-45 ports, auto-MDI/MDIX; VLAN, command-line interface, Telnet, QoS; LED indicators
Above \$3,000	10 Gigabit Ethernet type; L3 switching; 240Gbps switch fabric, hardware routing; up to 80km transfer; direct connection to MAN backbone networks; quota system for connected hosts per port, 802.1x port-based user authentication; ACL for L2-L4 data filtering

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Top trends

- **Going for faster speed:** Gigabit Ethernet switches are expected to displace mainstream Fast Ethernet by year-end. A few companies are also developing more 10 Gigabit versions in anticipation of growing demand. Key players Cisco, HP and Juniper currently dominate this high-end segment. Local companies also offer 40 and 100 Gigabit kinds.
- **Intelligent management:** Suppliers are boosting their production of managed variants to suit complex network setups. They are also releasing more models with router and power-over-Ethernet capability.
- **Target applications:** Manufacturers will continue to cater to the home and SOHO markets while expanding reach to the medium- and large-enterprise segment. A rising number of major players are also aiming for data center and campus core deployment via 10 Gigabit Ethernet switches.
- **Output forecast:** Yield is projected to increase by more than 10 percent. Makers anticipate sustained growth in coming years as migration to Gigabit and later to 10 Gigabit accelerates.

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[Full River \(Hong Kong\) Ltd](#)

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Model: FR-S2050W

Description: Gigabit type; 48 Fast Ethernet, two Gigabit uplink ports; 19in steel rack-mount casing

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[MTN Electronic \(Shenzhen\) Co. Ltd](#)

★★★★☆

Model: MT-ES3228F-POE

Description: Fast Ethernet type; 802.3, 802.3u, 802.3x; 24 10/100Mbps, four combination ports, auto-MDI/MDIX

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[Netis Systems Co. Ltd](#)

★★★★☆

Model: PE-6202

Description: Fast Ethernet type; 802.3, 802.3u; eight 10/100Mbps auto-negotiation RJ-45 ports, PoE

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[Shanghai Feixun Communication Co. Ltd](#)

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Model: FSG-108D

Description: Gigabit type; eight auto-negotiation RJ-45 ports

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[Shenzhen Kingnet Technology Co. Ltd](#)

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Model: KN-S1026PoV

Description: Fast Ethernet type; 802.3, 802.3u; 24 10/100Mbps auto-negotiation RJ-45, two Gigabit ports

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[Shenzhen Longway Technologies Co. Ltd](#)

Model: S2524GF

Description: Gigabit type; 24 auto-negotiation RJ-45, two Gigabit SFP ports