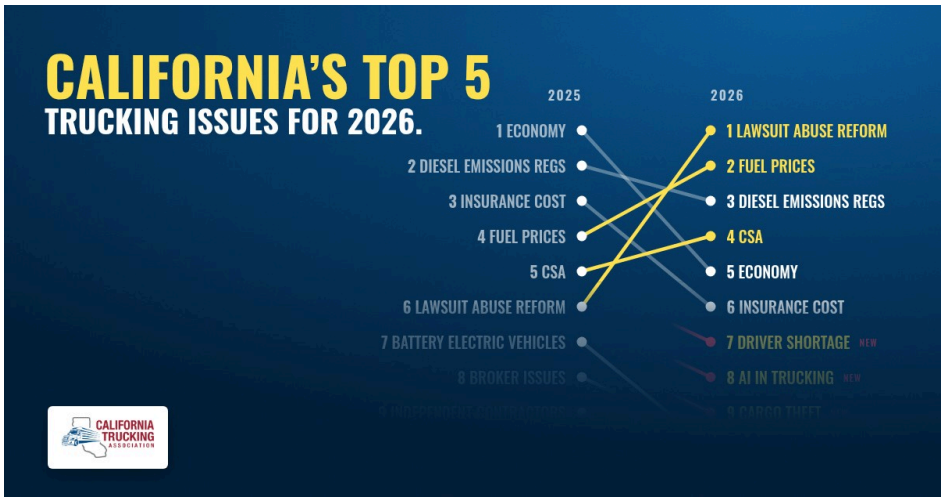
10/30/2026



ATRI Releases 2026 California Top Industry Issues
Lawsuit Abuse Reform Ranks No. 1 for California Respondents

California-based respondents to the American Transportation Research Institute's (ATRI) 2026 Top Industry Issues survey ranked lawsuit abuse reform as their top concern, up five spots from last year. The state rankings come from the same survey behind ATRI's national list, released earlier this month.

California's 2026 Top 10

1. Lawsuit Abuse Reform (up from No. 6)
2. Fuel Prices (up from No. 4)
3. Diesel Emissions Regulations (down from No. 2)
4. Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) (up from No. 5)
5. Economy (down from No. 1)
6. Insurance Cost / Availability (down from No. 3)
7. Driver Shortage (new to the top 10)
8. Artificial Intelligence in Trucking (new to the top 10)
9. Cargo Theft (new to the top 10)
10. Battery Electric Vehicles (down from No. 7)

What Changed

Lawsuit Reform and Fuel Costs - Both moved ahead of the economy, which fell from No. 1 to No. 5.

Diesel Emissions - The issue slipped one spot but remains in the top three. This year's strategies focus on regulatory flexibility for the 2027 low-NOx truck standards and on the availability, performance and durability of new emission systems.

Workforce - Driver shortage entered the list at No. 7 as driver retention dropped off. The strategies emphasize pathways for younger drivers, industry outreach and expanded interstate CDL eligibility for drivers ages 18 to 20.

AI and Cargo Theft - Both are new to California's top 10. Cargo theft strategies call for prioritizing investigations and prosecutions, and for closer collaboration among carriers, shippers, insurers and law enforcement.

Broker issues, independent contractor status and driver retention dropped out of the top 10.

Read ATRI's national report **here**.

Questions can be directed to Nick Chiappe, Vice President of Government Affairs, at **nchiappe@caltrux.org**.

Read the California Report