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ATRI Releases 2026 Top Industry Issues
Fuel Prices Rank No. 1

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) has released its annual list of the top issues facing the trucking industry. More than 3,000 industry stakeholders responded to the 2026 survey, which was open from August 24 to October 2.

The 2026 Top 10

1. Fuel Prices
2. Lawsuit Abuse Reform
3. Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA)
4. Insurance Cost / Availability
5. Driver Shortage
6. Economy
7. Artificial Intelligence in Trucking
8. Diesel Emissions Regulations
9. Driver Compensation
10. Driver Retention

What Changed

Fuel Prices - Fuel prices moved up 17 spots to No. 1. It is the fourth time in the survey's 22-year history that fuel has ranked first, after 2005, 2008 and 2022, and the first time truck drivers have ranked it as their top concern.

Lawsuit Abuse Reform - Lawsuit abuse reform held at No. 2 for the second year in a row and is now the top concern among motor carrier respondents.

The Economy - After three straight years as the industry's top concern, the economy dropped five spots to No. 6.

Other Movers - CSA rose three spots to No. 3, the driver shortage returned to the top 10 for the first time since 2024, and AI in trucking rose three spots to No. 7. Diesel emissions regulations held at No. 8.

About the Survey

Respondents ranked their top three issues from a list of 27, along with preferred strategies for each. Motor carrier executives and staff made up 48.5 percent of respondents, professional truck drivers 25.8 percent, and suppliers, driver trainers, law enforcement and other

stakeholders 25.7 percent. The full report includes separate rankings for carriers, drivers and law enforcement. **Read the Report Here**

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

Read the Report