



State Top Industry Issues Report 2026 Louisiana

1. Lawsuit Abuse Reform

- Advocate for elimination of “phantom” medical damages.
- Promote state-level reform to cap non-economic and/or punitive damages paid to plaintiffs in truck-involved crashes.
- Advocate for the disclosure and discoverability of third-party litigation funding agreements in lawsuits.

2. Insurance Cost / Availability

- Educate the public on the role of lawsuit abuse in increasing consumer prices and insurance costs.
- Develop a framework for potential upfront insurance premium reductions when drivers and carriers adopt proven safety technologies.
- Research changes in coverage levels and associated cost impacts resulting from the Supreme Court's ruling in *Montgomery v. Caribe*.

3. Fuel Prices

- Advocate for federal policies and actions that help stabilize the supply of fuel and minimize price increases.
- Quantify the impact of alternative and renewable fuel sources on motor carrier operational costs.
- Research potential factors, like the wars in Ukraine and Iran, that may be affecting fuel availability and pricing volatility.

4. Driver Shortage

- Examine potential new ways for motor carriers to bring 18-year-olds into the industry in positions where they can gain experience and then transition into truck driving positions when they turn 21.
- Support an industry-funded outreach program to improve the trucking industry's image.
- Advocate for expanding interstate CDL eligibility to 18-20-year old drivers.

5. Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA)

- Encourage FMCSA to review and address enforcement disparities / geographic variations in enforcement between states and local jurisdictions that impact CSA scores, which may unfairly penalize carriers and drivers based solely on where they operate.
- Work with FMCSA to ensure that its carrier prioritization methodology, peer group assignments, and data accuracy provide the clearest documentation of carrier safety performance.

Issues and strategies are listed in order as ranked by Louisiana-based respondents.

- Advocate for additional and dedicated resources for FMCSA to ensure adequate staffing levels, system modernization and increased deployment of core safety functions.

6. Driver Compensation

- Research and prioritize the effectiveness of carrier programs that financially incentivize drivers for retention, safety performance and fuel economy.
- Compare and contrast driver compensation models between trucking and other leading labor sectors.
- Analyze truck driver compensation models and their relationship to driver satisfaction, retention and productivity.

7. Driver Distraction

- Research and quantify the role of car driver distraction in car-truck crashes.
- Encourage harsher penalties and more aggressive enforcement of distracted driving laws for all motorists.
- Explore the potential for roadway cameras to detect and reduce distracted driving by all motorists.

8. Driver Retention

- Evaluate the impact of truck driver benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits, on driver retention.
- Research the primary factors behind drivers leaving trucking careers.
- Quantify and promote the retention strategies of carriers that continuously experience low driver turnover.

9. Economy

- Research the impact that increased trucking operational costs have on supply chains and the nation's economy, including the impact of new tariffs on equipment prices.
- Examine the ways in which higher tariffs on imported goods have impacted the freight economy.

10. Hours-of-Service (HOS)

- Support research examining additional split sleeper berth flexibility and split-duty periods.
- Quantify personal conveyance use in HOS compliance.
- Examine the relationship between current HOS rules and the fatigue management program strategies advocated by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).