

2023 UPDATE


Cost of Congestion to the Trucking Industry


New research from the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) found that annual truck congestion costs in 2021 hit a peak of **\$94.6 billion**, resulting from the dramatic post-COVID economic recovery. These costs generated from **1.27 billion hours** of delay – the equivalent of more than **460,000 truck drivers** sitting idle for one year. Additionally, this delay resulted in an estimated **6.793 billion gallons** of wasted fuel.


WHY STUDY CONGESTION?

Traffic congestion increases directly impact industry costs such as driver compensation, fuel, and repair and maintenance. It also generates indirect and/or societal costs such as supply chain disruptions, inefficient use of fuel and diminished air quality. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 includes \$350 billion for highway investments that could alleviate congestion; this research provides a blueprint for how and where those dollars can be invested.

POST-PANDEMIC CONGESTION INCREASED DUE TO:

- 
HIGH GDP GROWTH

2021 saw the highest growth (5.7%) since 1984.
- 
FREIGHT DEMAND

Consumer spending increases have increased trucking volumes.
- 
RETURN TO OFFICE

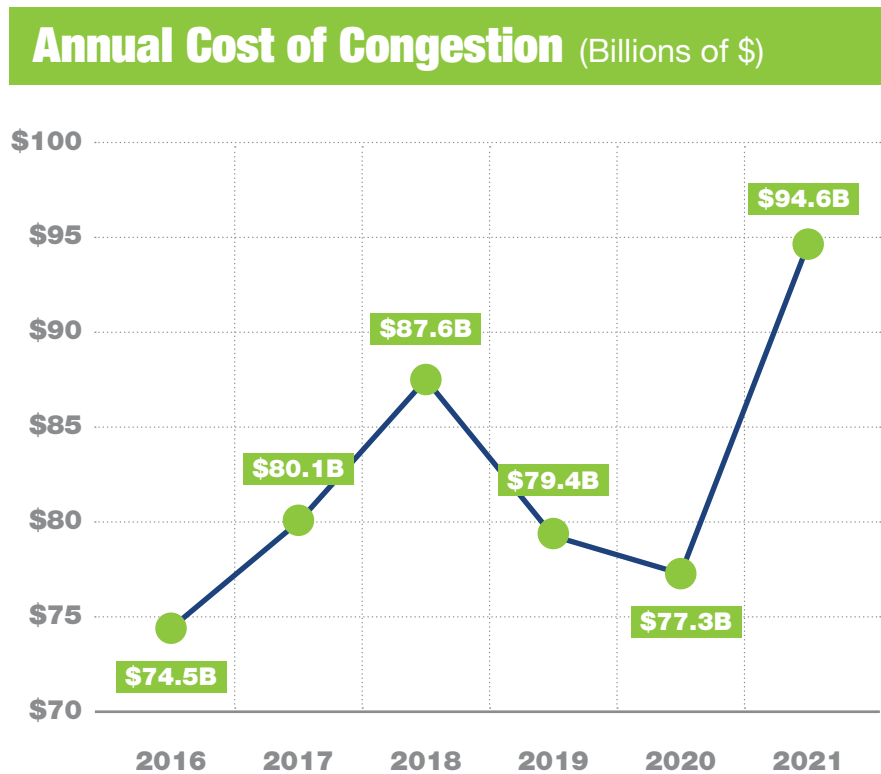
Congestion worsened as commuters returned to work.

NATIONAL FINDINGS

ATRI’s research utilized its extensive database of truck GPS data representing hundreds of thousands of freight trucks, its industry-derived *Operational Costs of Trucking* data, and several federal sources to update earlier research quantifying the costs of congestion.

ATRI found that from 2016 to 2021 the annual cost of congestion for the trucking industry increased from \$74.5 to \$94.6 billion – a 27.0 percent increase across six years of analysis.

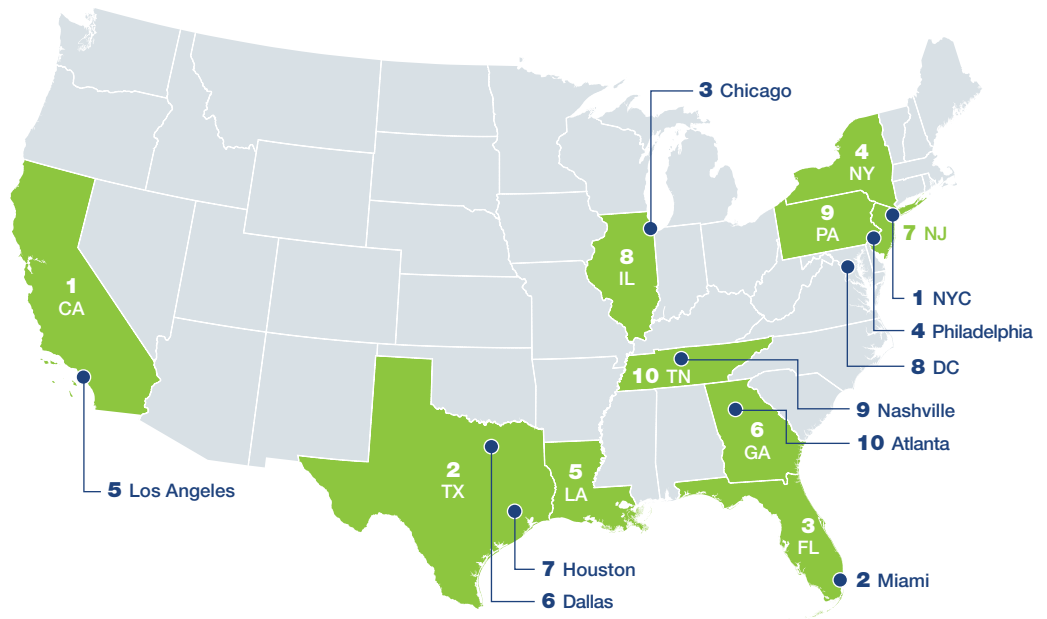
During this same time period the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of inflation, increased only 12.9 percent. Thus, trucking’s congestion costs rose at more than twice the rate of the CPI as a result of increased industry costs, congested roadways and a record-high truck vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in 2021.



TOP 10

Cost of Congestion Hotspots

ATRI's research also quantified the industry's congestion costs at the state and metropolitan levels, with California leading the states with over \$9 billion in industry congestion costs. Among major metropolitan areas, New York City generated over \$5 billion in trucking industry congestion costs in 2021.



Rank 2021	State	Costs
1	California	\$9,000,397,702
2	Texas	\$7,256,430,452
3	Florida	\$7,157,229,169
4	New York	\$4,917,126,628
5	Louisiana	\$4,217,050,404
6	Georgia	\$4,021,578,225
7	New Jersey	\$3,838,944,444
8	Illinois	\$3,379,889,793
9	Pennsylvania	\$3,268,381,038
10	Tennessee	\$3,154,354,178

Rank 2021	Metro Area	Costs
1	New York City Metro	\$5,491,372,273
2	Miami Metro	\$2,618,229,310
3	Chicago Metro	\$2,570,539,181
4	Philadelphia Metro	\$2,101,897,497
5	Los Angeles Metro	\$1,804,864,142
6	Dallas Metro	\$1,795,595,925
7	Houston Metro	\$1,633,751,272
8	Washington DC Metro	\$1,613,805,707
9	Nashville Metro	\$1,440,765,701
10	Atlanta Metro	\$1,393,415,723

CONGESTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ATRI's analysis found that the trucking industry wasted over **6.7 billion gallons** of diesel fuel in 2021 as a result of congestion, costing the industry more than **\$22.3 billion**. CO₂ production associated with this wasted fuel is substantial at 69 million metric tons (MMT).

For a copy of the full report, visit [TruckingResearch.org](https://www.TruckingResearch.org). ATRI is the trucking industry's 501c3 not-for-profit research organization whose mission is research to improve the industry's safety and productivity.

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