

NEW REPORT!

THE FIGHT AGAINST CARGO THEFT

INSIGHTS FROM THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

The Increasing Risk of Cargo Theft for Trucking and Logistics Service Providers (LSPs) in the Digital Age. Cargo theft has always been a problem – in recent years, however, the crime has been exacerbated with rapidly expanding visibility into supply chains, goods movement and an increasing reliance on information systems. While supply chain visibility and automation have dramatically improved operational efficiency over the last two decades, that same digital environment has given cargo thieves opportunities to redirect and ultimately steal cargo, costing the industry billions.



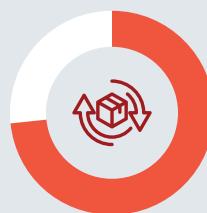
65%

of motor carriers experienced cargo theft in 2023 or prior years



100%

of LSPs reported theft in 2023



73.5%

of stolen cargo is never recovered

Every company that experienced theft in 2023 reported an increase over the previous year.

AVERAGE ANNUAL LOSS

 **\$521,135**

per motor carrier

 **\$1,800,000**

per LSP

TOTAL INDUSTRY LOSSES

 **\$1.8B – \$6.5B**

Annually, including indirect assets

ATRI RESEARCHERS SURVEYED TRUCKING COMPANIES AND LSPs TO IDENTIFY THE IMPACT OF CARGO THEFT ON THE INDUSTRY

HOW THIEVES STEAL CARGO

Pilferage – Still the most common crime impacting motor carriers, pilferage typically involves stealing partial loads from inside trailers or pallets at warehouses.

Straight Theft – The second most common cargo theft crime, straight theft is when an entire load of cargo is stolen, often with a carrier's equipment.

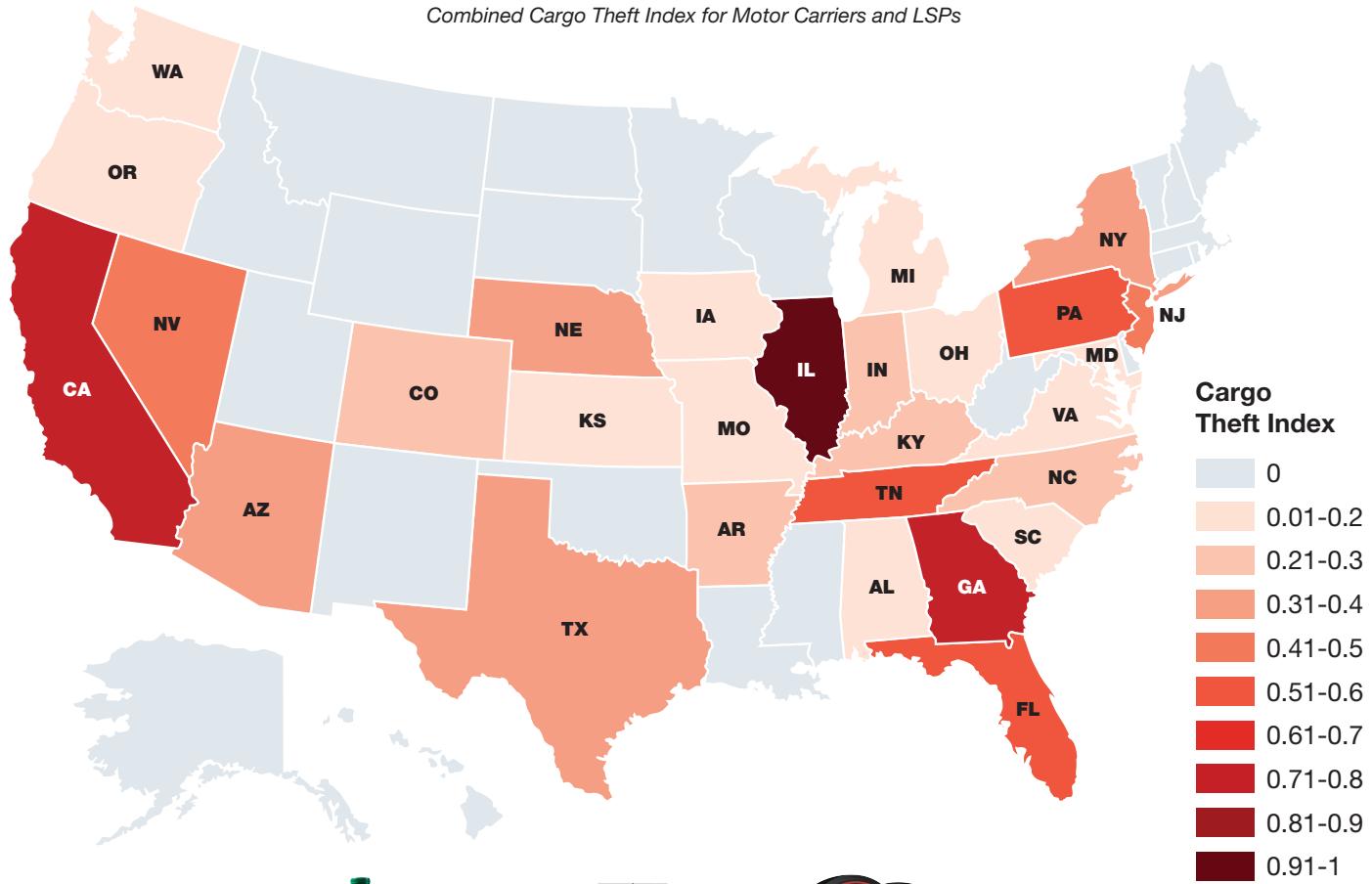
Strategic Theft – The most quickly growing form of cargo theft is strategic theft, planned and targeted theft of specific cargo, sometimes involving load boards, fleet/identity impersonation, and/or double-brokering. For LSPs, the majority of thefts were strategic.

Theft Type	Percent of Motor Carrier Thefts	Percent of LSP Thefts
Straight	31.5%	25.7%
Strategic	20.3%	62.5%
Pilferage	39.9%	11.8%
Other	8.3%	0.0%

WHERE DO THEFTS OCCUR IN THE U.S.?

Motor carriers and LSPs were asked where thefts commonly occur:

Combined Cargo Theft Index for Motor Carriers and LSPs



WHAT IS STOLEN?



1 FOOD



2 ELECTRONICS



3 AUTO PARTS

The Fight Against Cargo Theft: Insights from the Trucking Industry

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Prepared by the American Transportation Research Institute



WAYS TO PROTECT AGAINST CARGO THEFT

DRIVERS

- ✓ Park in well-lit/ designated overnight locations
- ✓ Only drop trailers in a secure, fenced yard
- ✓ Do not unhook the trailer from a truck if it is not necessary
- ✓ Back trailers against walls/other trailers to limit trailer door access

MOTOR CARRIER COMPANY POLICY

- Establish internal processes:
 - ✓ Routine security audits
 - ✓ Regular password changes
 - ✓ Vet drivers, customers and brokers
 - ✓ Watch for changes in bills of lading

EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Use physical deterrents – trailer door seal covers, padlocks, disk detainer locks.
- ✓ Facility deterrents: motion-sensitive CCTV
- ✓ Gate alert systems and updated gate codes
- ✓ Regular perimeter patrols

For a copy of the full report,
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