

Fleet resilience planning checklist for uncertain times for commercial fleets



A proactive checklist for trucking executives navigating tariffs, inflation, and economic volatility.



Assess your current risk exposure

- ☐ Review the impact of recent tariffs on parts, equipment, and imported goods
- ☐ Map out dependencies on specific trade routes, manufacturers, or border-crossing lanes
- ☐ Analyze year-over-year changes in insurance, fuel, and maintenance costs
- ☐ Identify operational areas most vulnerable to price swings or delays



Improve cost visibility and control

- ☐ Use fleet fuel card data to track fuel type, quantity, and location of purchases
- ☐ Set gallon and dollar limits, time-of-day usage windows, and merchant restrictions
- ☐ Audit transactions regularly for patterns of waste or fraud
- ☐ Consolidate reporting across maintenance, dispatch, and fuel for a clearer cost



Optimize fleet operations

- ☐ Prioritize tracking to monitor idling, route inefficiencies, and unauthorized vehicle use
- ☐ Create standard operating procedures for fuel and maintenance approvals
- ☐ Reassess vehicle upkeep schedules to avoid reactive maintenance
- ☐ Adjust routing and delivery strategies to bypass tariff-affected regions or bottlenecks



Strengthen financial flexibility

- ☐ Build emergency reserves or explore financing to cover short-term cash flow gaps
- ☐ Take advantage of fleet fuel card rebates or loyalty programs
- ☐ Evaluate fuel hedging strategies if available through your provider
- ☐ Review your credit lines to ensure headroom for unexpected spikes in cost





Invest in people and processes

- ☐ Implement regular driver fraud prevention training (fuel card misuse, phishing awareness)
- ☐ Offer driver incentives tied to efficiency metrics (fuel usage, idle time, on-time delivery)
- ☐ Improve transparency in scheduling, pay, and communication to reduce turnover
- ☐ Identify a designated economic response lead or task force for your fleet



Strengthen system-level security

- ☐ Activate controls on fuel card purchases that make the most sense for your business
- ☐ Restrict card use to approved locations and business hours



Final tip

Resilient fleets don't just react to change — they prepare for it. Use this checklist quarterly to align your operations, finances, and team with an evolving economic landscape.



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