

**CEO/** The  
CEO  
Institute

# TOP 5 CEO ISSUES

MARCH 2026

[www.ceoinstitute.com](http://www.ceoinstitute.com)

# 01

# Economic Uncertainty & Geopolitical Instability

Global conflict and political uncertainty—particularly in the Middle East—are creating widespread concern for business stability. CEOs are anticipating prolonged disruption, especially linked to energy supply and macroeconomic conditions. This is driving more cautious, scenario-based planning across organisations.



# Rising Costs & Margin Pressure

Fuel prices, import costs, labour, and compliance expenses are all increasing simultaneously. These pressures are forcing leaders to actively manage margins through pricing adjustments, cost control, and efficiency improvements. Many are also preparing for further cost escalation in the near term.

# Regulatory Complexity & Compliance Burden

Increasing regulation across payroll tax, WorkCover, employment law, and governance is adding pressure on businesses. Compliance is becoming more resource-intensive, particularly for SMEs. CEOs are seeking ways to manage risk without overloading internal capacity.



# Supply Chain Disruption & Operational Risk

Ongoing global instability is impacting supply chains, availability of goods, and delivery timelines. Businesses are needing to reassess suppliers, logistics strategies, and risk exposure. Resilience and contingency planning are now critical operational priorities.

# 05

## Growth Strategy, Investment & Execution

CEOs are rethinking how aggressively to pursue growth in uncertain conditions. This includes reassessing expansion plans, funding requirements, and project prioritisation. There is a stronger focus on disciplined execution and ensuring resources are aligned to the highest-value opportunities.



# Join our Community of Leaders

Unlock new opportunities, gain invaluable insights, and connect with a powerful network of CEOs and business leaders.

## **Why The CEO Institute?**

- Exclusive access to peer learning and leadership development
- Tailored programs that enhance your leadership journey
- Networking opportunities with senior leaders across industries
- Thought leadership on today's most pressing business challenges

## **Ready to Elevate Your Leadership?**

Contact us today to learn more about membership opportunities and how The CEO Institute can support your growth.

[www.ceoinstitute.com](http://www.ceoinstitute.com)