Equipment Lease Finance Digital Transformation Index Q1 2026

Wolters Kluwer

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Wolters Kluwer, a global leader in professional information, software solutions, and services, announced the latest analysis from its Equipment Lease Finance (ELF) Digital Transformation Index. The key resource tracks the rate at which equipment lessors and service providers are progressing in the evolution of paper-based finance back-office processes to digital. Results from the first-quarter index revealed a slight downtick in eContracting adoption since last quarter, though the four-year trend remained robust.

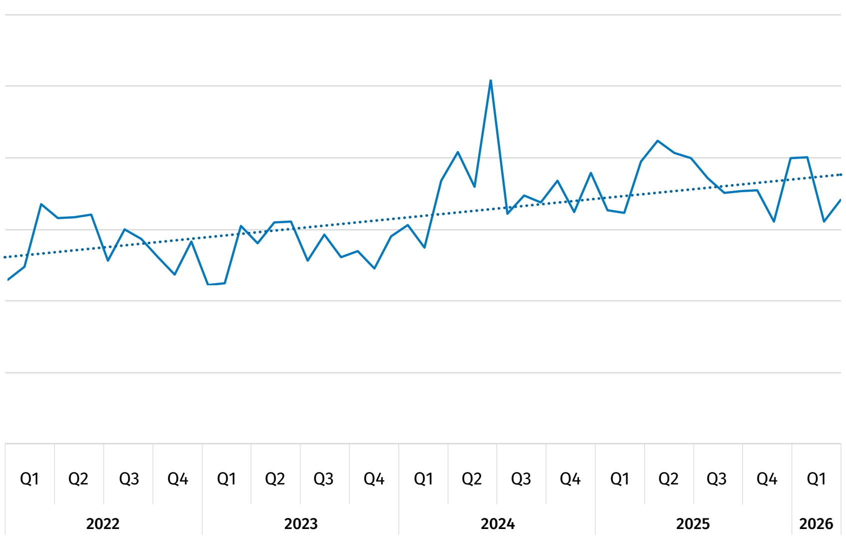
Digital contracting adoption rate sees shift in market segment

Although eContracting adoption in the first quarter experienced a one percent dip from last quarter, the adoption rate increased almost one percent when compared to the same period in 2025. Meanwhile, the four-year trend dating back to the first quarter of 2022 showed growth of nearly 47 percent, reinforcing the industry's long-term shift toward digital origination.

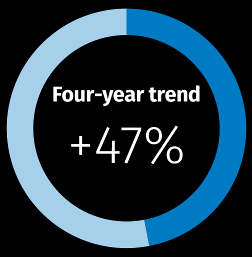
The near-negligible quarterly decline aligns with data recently published by the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association (ELFA), which reinforced that Q1 2026 was shaped by front-loading, segment-level divergence, and an underlying resilience that suggests digital adoption will continue as market conditions evolve. Noting that the strongest growth originated from lender segments that typically operate at lower digital rates, ELFA's findings suggest that the more significant volume decreases were concentrated among digitally mature lender types. This market shift reduced the overall digital adoption rate, with the lower percentage reflecting which segment is driving the most volume, rather than a change in digital behavior within any individual segment.

The growth among smaller-ticket, fast-funding lenders highlights a quickly expanding segment that hasn't yet fully realized the speed and efficiency benefits that eContracting delivers.

Digitization adoption growth Q1 2022 – Q1 2026



eContracting digital adoption rate

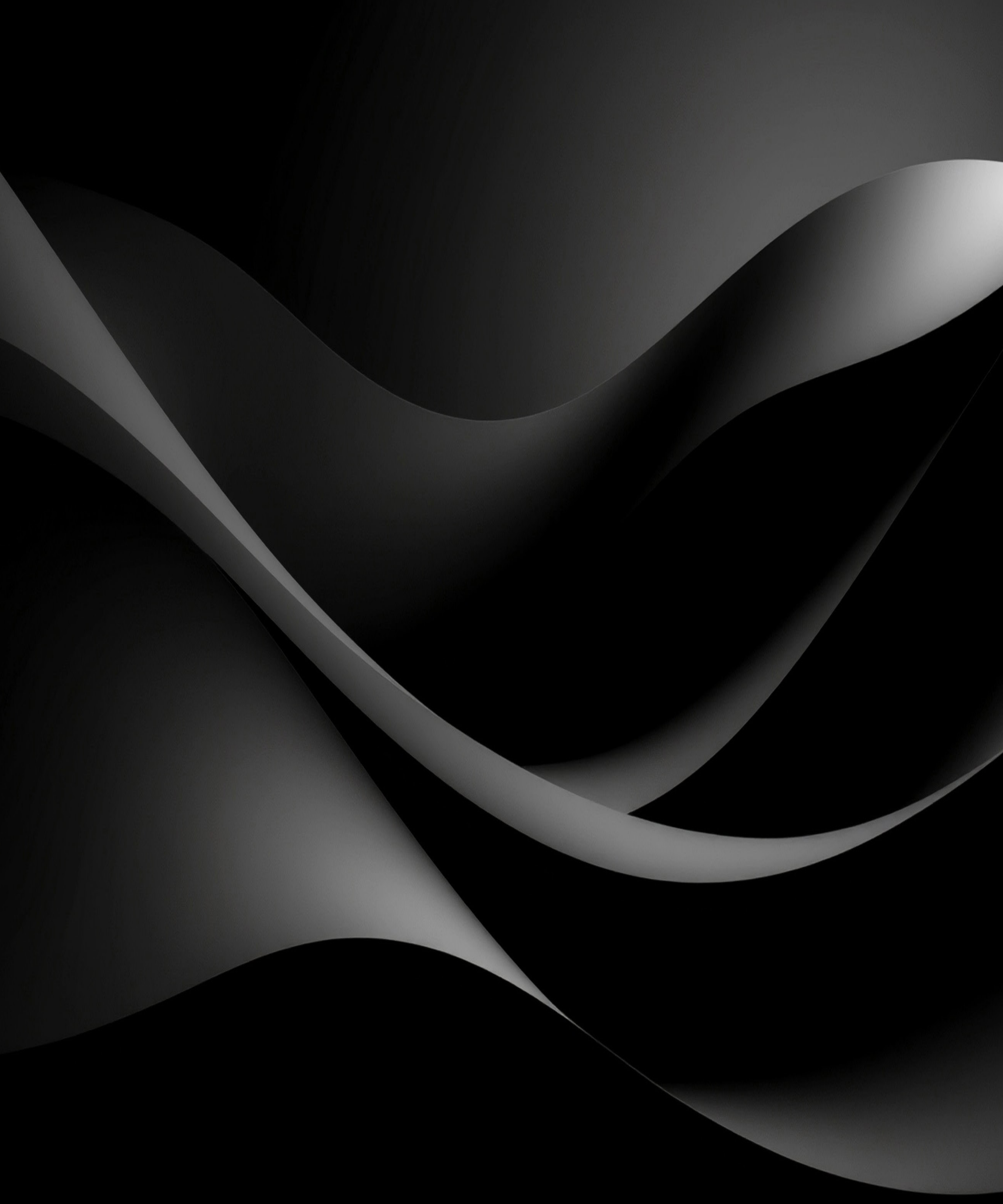


Matt Babcock
Digital Lending Product Strategist for Wolters Kluwer

"The Q1 trendline in our digital adoption rate reflects a market composition shift more than any change in digital behavior. As lenders in the faster-growing, smaller-ticket segments drove disproportionate NBV growth, and captives pulled back, the blended eContracting rate adjusted accordingly. What makes this quarter notable is that our platform data mirrors ELFA's own segment-level findings."

Summary

The Wolters Kluwer Equipment Lease Finance Digital Transformation Index helps identify and track adoption drivers, while providing insights into market shifts that may impact the digitization of the equipment lessors and servicers. Results of the Q1 Index show that despite a slight QoQ decline, digital adoption remained steady YoY, and demonstrated strong growth in the four-year adoption rate.



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