

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

April 29, 2024

The *Illinois International Business Calendar* is published by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC). The *Calendar* is also available on our website: www.itagc.org. It is published every Friday, and available at no charge.

Inclusion Policy: As a public service to the international business community, we publish a listing of **international business events** for which we receive **written** notification, preferably by e-mail (info@itagc.org). Any organization may submit events that would be of interest to **and are open to** the Illinois international business community. There is no charge. All calendar listings are subject to the editor's discretion. Inclusion of an event does not imply endorsement by any of the sponsoring organizations.

Founded in 1978, the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)6 voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms. The ITA/GC provides a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. Members share interests in import and export matters, in international investment, alliance, and licensing opportunities, and – in the broader sense – doing business across the world.

The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

New events, and events with additional/revised information, are indicated in Green.

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAM

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

May 29 **KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER: PROTECTION FROM SCAMS & FRAUD.** Luncheon program sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago with the Illinois District Export Council and the U.S. Commercial Service Chicago. Presentations by **Louise M. Kern**, President, GloBIS and **Monica Toporkiewicz**, Senior International Trade Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service Chicago. This program will arm you against fraudsters' attacks by highlighting their vulnerabilities, teaching you to recognize telltale signs of a scam and introducing you to U.S. Commercial Service programs to help you find the right international business partners and succeed in winning new markets for your goods or services. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. Sponsors & their guests – \$55; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-customer-protection-from-scams-fraud-tickets-888374982487>.

Of Note:

USTR Releases 2024 Special 301 Report on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) today released its [2024 Special 301 Report](#) April 25 on the adequacy and effectiveness of U.S. trading partners' protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. This annual report details USTR's findings in a review of more than 100 trading partners after significant research and enhanced engagement with stakeholders

USCBC Releases Annual Report on US Exports to China: The US-China Business Council (USCBC), a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of 270 American companies that do business in China, released its annual [US Exports to China](#) report, which provides an overview of the most recent data available on US goods (2023) and services exports (2022) to China and the American jobs supported by those exports (2022). The US-China trade relationship has grown steadily for decades, but those ties weakened for US goods exports in 2023. US goods exports to China dropped by 4.3 percent in 2023 after reaching a record high the year before. On the services front, US exports to China increased in 2022 but had not recovered from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Incentives for Entering the German Market – A Global Automation Executive Breakfast: Hosted by Saxony Trade and Invest with Germany Trade and Invest. Discover Saxony's high-tech potential, network with potential partners, and learn about incentives for entering the German market. Saxony is a leader in robotics, microelectronics, engineering, and software, supported by a vibrant network of companies, startups, and research institutes. Tuesday, **May 7, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**, FatPour Restaurant, Hilton Garden Inn, 2206 South Indiana Avenue (Adjacent to McCormick Place| AUTOMATE show). No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please click [here](#).

Trade Growth Likely to Pick up in 2024 in Spite of Challenging Environment: Ralph Ossa, WTO Chief Economist, [foresees](#) a gradual recovery in world merchandise trade volume in 2024 and 2025. This follows a contraction in 2023 driven by the lingering effects of high energy prices and inflation in advanced economies, particularly Europe. Specifically, we expect merchandise trade to grow by 2.6% in 2024 and 3.3% in 2025 after falling by 1.2% in 2023. However, there is a downside risk due to regional conflicts, geopolitical tensions and economic policy uncertainty.

US Trade Deficit Widens in Feb. Despite All-Time High Exports: Exports rose by the most in a year in February, while imports saw their second fastest gain in two. The solid outturn caused a modest widening in the U.S. trade deficit and suggests net exports will be a drag on U.S. real GDP growth in the first quarter, [reports](#) FXStreet. International trade flows ripped higher in February with exports registering the largest gain in a year and imports seeing the second largest pickup in two years. U.S. exports advanced \$5.8 billion in February, while imports shot \$7.1 billion higher.

New Global Services Trade Data Hub Offers Extensive, Tailored Access to WTO Data: The new Global Services Trade Data Hub now available on the [WTO website](#) provides access to comprehensive data on services trade. It provides visualizations and customizable features for download – catering to the diverse needs of trade negotiators, analysts, researchers and decision-makers – to deliver insights into global services trade. Four separate WTO datasets are available, covering digitally delivered services, trade in services by mode of supply, trade in commercial services, and the WTO-OECD Balanced Trade in Services dataset.

Introduction to Doing Business in Asia 2024 Guides: The Introduction to Doing Business guides by Asia Briefing, a publishing subsidiary of Dezan Shira & Associates, have been updated for the latest regulatory changes in 2024 for [China](#), [Vietnam](#), [India](#), and [ASEAN](#) (Southeast Asia). Each guide covers the main compliance requirements your business will need to fulfil, as well as a corporate establishment walk-through for each country or region. The guides are free to download.

USTR Releases 2024 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers: United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai released the [2024 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers](#) (NTE Report), which provides a comprehensive review of significant foreign barriers to U.S. exports of goods and services, U.S. foreign direct investment, and U.S. electronic commerce in key export markets for the United States.

U.S. Remains World's Top Destination for Foreign Direct Investment for 12th Consecutive Year: The United States has been ranked as the top destination for foreign direct investment for the 12th consecutive year according to Kearney's Global Business Policy Council's [2024 Foreign Direct Investment \(FDI\) Confidence Index](#). The strength of the US economy – the fastest growing in the G7 – and rebounding consumer sentiment likely supported this score. Canada also makes a strong showing, maintaining its second-place rank and forming part of the top five markets for the 12th consecutive year. China jumps from 7th position to 3rd, which could be explained in part by its loosening of capital controls for foreign investors in Shanghai and Beijing in September 2023.

U.S. – Cuba Agriculture Business Conference: The United States Agriculture Coalition for Cuba's annual high-level [business conference](#) is set for May 12-16 in Havana, Cuba. If you want to find new trade opportunities, this is your chance. Trade is increasing as Cuba's private sector expands. Meet the policy makers from the ministries that impact agriculture production and trade. Exchange business contacts with the private sector, producers, buyers, and processors. Learn about recent policy changes affecting agriculture trade, investment, and production. For details, contact Paul Johnson at: johnson@focus-cuba.com.

New Chamber Report Reaffirms Digital Trade's Enormous Benefits: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce on March 19 released a [report](#) showing digital trade – from telemedicine to GPS-enabled cars to streaming movies – supports more than 3 million American jobs. The digital economy fuels growth, prosperity, and dynamism across the U.S., accounting for \$2.6 trillion in GDP in 2022, a sum equivalent to 10% of all U.S. economic output. The report shows the vast increase in digital trade across the U.S. and breaks down on a state-by-state basis how many jobs are supported by digital trade, as well as revenue earned through digital exports.

USTR Releases President Biden’s 2024 Trade Policy Agenda and 2023 Annual Report: The Office of the United States Trade Representative has released President Biden’s [2024 Trade Policy Agenda and 2023 Annual Report](#) to Congress, which details USTR’s work to advance President Biden’s trade agenda. The President’s 2024 Trade Policy Agenda stands up for workers’ rights and sustainable trade practices, supports U.S. farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food manufacturers, bolsters supply chain resilience, addresses unfair policies and practices, and advances inclusive, durable trade policy through expanded engagement.

USTR Releases Annual Report on China’s WTO Compliance: Just released, “this [report](#) details the breadth and scale of China’s non-market policies and practices and the serious harm that they cause to workers, businesses, and industries in the United States and around the world. It is a stark reminder that the members of the international trading system must continue to work together to defend our shared interests against these many harmful policies and practices, particularly in sectors targeted by China’s industrial plans,” said USTR Katherine Tai.

Annual Report on the U.S. Manufacturing Economy: 2023: Recently released by the National Institute on Standards & Technology (NIST), this [report](#) provides an overview of the U.S. manufacturing industry with three aspects of U.S. manufacturing considered: (1) how the U.S. industry compares to other countries; (2) the trends in the domestic industry; and (3) the industry trends compared to those in other countries. The study provides aggregate manufacturing industry data and industry subsector data to develop a quantitative depiction of the U.S. manufacturing industry.

Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade: In response to growing demand for coherent and comparable data on digital trade, the OECD, WTO and IMF produced the first edition of the Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade in 2019. The Handbook formalized for the first time a statistical definition of digital trade which focuses on the nature of the transaction: “digital trade is all international trade that is digitally ordered and/or digitally delivered.” Building on the first edition, the IMF, OECD, UNCTAD and WTO have produced a second edition of the [Handbook on Measuring Digital Trade](#), published in 2023 which provides clarifications on the concepts and definitions related to digital trade, and to the guidelines on how to operationalize them.

Better Trade Tool: Launched recently by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), the [Better Trade Tool](#) empowers users to advance efforts in supply chain transparency as well as strategic sourcing priorities. This innovative tool integrates existing reporting developed by the ILAB with U.S. import trade data, including Harmonized Tariff Schedule codes. The Better Trade Tool is intended to serve as a resource for users interested in learning about labor exploitation risks in global supply chains. Consider adding the Better Trade Tool to your compliance, sourcing, trade, and supply chain toolbox. The Better Trade Tool search feature enables users to select a specific country, good, type of labor exploitation, and year from the respective dropdown lists. The default view presents data for all countries, goods, and labor exploitations.

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Apr. 29 ***EXPORT TO SINGAPORE DUTY-FREE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will describe how Singapore offers excellent opportunities for U.S. firms to sell duty-free using the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ysekzcb>.

Apr. 30 ***HOW BRAZIL’S ADOPTION OF OECD TRANSFER PRICING RULES WILL IMPACT INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Plante Moran, will discuss: An overview of Brazil’s new transfer pricing regulations; The impact of these new rules for Brazilian companies with related entities in the United States (which doesn’t have a treaty with Brazil) and Mexico (which does have a treaty with Brazil); Considerations on transitioning to Brazil’s new transfer pricing regime; Expected regulatory issues and open questions. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4543760/4AA2433F64E39D1178389C3B3FFB12CB?partnerref=EMAIL%20&mkt_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGSRDLwF8E6DZ2uijjuBfPuZetAZXJzOWnYqDjYekaRX-XsuBgHJMwlZifD-Jr4QvYuCx4_H43v2ICMXbbnAMTnU_FJTcoFP2R2q0BLgt7NmGI.

Apr. 30 ***DHS DAY IN CHICAGO.*** Community Outreach Event sponsored by DHS. 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), 101 West Ida B. Wells Drive, 3rd Floor Auditorium, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A9AA2AA4F9C61-48404736-dhsday#.

- Apr. 30 ***NISPOM: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE ON COMPLIANCE FOR CLEARED CONTRACTORS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Content Enablers, is for contractors with a facility clearance who must continuously ensure their compliance with the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) and the specific requirements in the NISP Operating Manual (NISPOM). Presentation by **Karen Harbaugh**, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs, who will review the requirements for safeguarding classified information and maintaining a compliant facility clearance through the full lifecycle of a facility clearance. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5440418057387968854?source=HS1>.
- Apr. 30 ***AN OVERVIEW OF THE USDA'S AGRICULTURAL IMPORT PROCESS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will introduce U.S. importers to the USDA's regulatory framework to better navigate the import process. 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/an-overview-of-the-usda-s-agricultural-import-process>.
- May 1 ***MIDDLE EASTERN TECH MARKET PROSPECTS IN THE AGE OF A.I.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the tech industry, opportunities, and the landscape in the Middle East. This webinar will help firms and organizations gain market insights and solidify business strategies with the goal of increasing U.S. exports. Topics will include industry drivers, trends, and key players. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/8cd6727c-4810-4cee-b706-aed91f6382f@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 1 ***BANGLADESH HEALTHCARE MARKET UPDATE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide insight into: Bangladesh's healthcare system; Regulations for getting medical devices and pharmaceuticals approved; Best prospects for medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and e-health solutions; Strategies for sales. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/EW24BangladeshHealthcareMarketUpdate/?_gl=1%2A11hf9lv%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMzIyMDcyOS4zMjI4LjE3MTMyMjIyNDEuNjAuMC4w.
- May 1 ***TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF PARTS AND ACCESSORIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, provides practical insights on what constitutes a part and an accessory for tariff purposes, and how to classify them successfully. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/tariff-classification-of-parts-and-accessories>.
- May 1 ***CYBERSECURITY MATURITY MODEL CERTIFICATE (CMMC).*** Second in a series of four hybrid Cybersecurity programs (Mar. 7; Sept. 9; Dec. 11) sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service Taiwan. The goal of this program is to introduce U.S. firms offering CMMC solutions and consulting services to senior officials from the Taiwan authorities and private sector representatives. The audience will include officials from Taiwan's Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Digital Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, as well as representatives from local defense equipment and component manufacturers. 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/CybersecurityMarketonTaiwan-9884-1700492165/hotsite.php#agenda>.
- May 2 ***OECD, USAID AND CLDP ON TRADE FACILITATION IN CENTRAL ASIA AND REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR.*** Webinar sponsored by the American Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and others. Speakers include: **Grégory Lecomte**, Head, Central Asia Unit, OECD Eurasia; **Amélie Schurich-Rey**, Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD Eurasia; **Tamar Jejeia Satterwhite**, Senior Attorney, Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce; **Anjali Kaur**, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia, USAID. 7:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WOYirYUiTDyXN3SrgWAoIQ#/registration.

- May 2 ***CZECH-AMERICAN INNOVATION BUSINESS FORUM: SPOTLIGHT ON CZECH STARTUPS.*** Luncheon networking event organized by CzechTrade USA (Chicago) and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago. Connect with an entrepreneurial delegation of over 60 startups, companies, researchers and investors led by the Czech Minister of Industry and Trade. 8:45 – 11:45 a.m., 205 North Michigan Avenue Conference Center, Floor 3, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/czech-american-innovation-business-forum-spotlight-on-czech-startups-tickets-881036874007?aff=oddtcreator>.
- May 2 ***CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED MANUFACTURERS: A FIRESIDE CHAT WITH THE NIST MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (MEP).*** Webinar, sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will highlight the cybersecurity resources available to the nation's small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs). Topics include: *An introduction to the MEP National Network; An overview of the MEP cybersecurity services and resources; Basic steps an SMM can take to manage their cybersecurity risks; Information about how to locate an MEP Center in your area.* 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.nist.gov/itl/smallbusinesscyber/events>.
- May 2 ***UNDERSTANDING THE BROKER-IMPORTER RELATIONSHIP.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will provide an overview of the important relationship between these two parties for purposes of Customs compliance. Learn the responsibilities of both importers and brokers regarding entry, classification of merchandise, valuation of merchandise, complying with other government agency requirements, and recordkeeping. We will also discuss potential pitfalls including penalties for noncompliance for both brokers and importers and how changes to 19 CFR 111 have affected and complicated this relationship. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/understanding-the-broker-importer-relationship-\(2\)](https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/understanding-the-broker-importer-relationship-(2)).
- May 6 ***EXPORT BUSINESS PLANNING & INTERNATIONAL MARKET IDENTIFICATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will describe what you need to know about formulating a solid export plan to support your global expansion. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/c979b098-d9ea-48d9-9737-567b60b4f703@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 6 ***EXPORT DOCUMENTATION AWARENESS TRAINING.*** First of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 7 ***THE FUTURE OF INNOVATION & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN SAXONY GERMANY.*** Global Robotics Executive Breakfast sponsored by Germany Trade and Invest and Saxony Trade and Invest. Discover the potential of Saxony's high-tech hubs and the support available from local EDAs. Learn about success stories, connect with potential partners, and explore the range of incentives available to help companies expand into the German market. U.S.-based companies and networks are invited to an info event with and about Saxony – a German region with more than 200-year tradition as a mechanical engineering location, where digitalization and automation are more than just production processes. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m., FatPour Restaurant, Hilton Garden Inn, 2206 South Indiana Avenue (adjacent to McCormick Place | Automate!). No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://share.hsforms.com/1pwUSuQr0TL-6GP2L6ZXnUQ14lr8>.

- May 7 ***EXPORT COMPLIANCE & TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.*** Training program, sponsored by the Iowa Economic Development Authority, will cover: Comprehensive training covering all areas of Export Compliance; What an exporter needs to know to be compliant; Controls under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR); Tariff Classification under the US Harmonized System; Proper filing of an EEI (Electronic Export Information); Responsibilities of Exporter under the concept of Due Diligence; Lists to check, red flags, control agencies; Important Definitions; Changes under Export Control Reform. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA. Fee: \$125. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/c04438e1-9b73-4e9a-b7ac-a13b5de84edb/summary>.
- May 7 ***GRANT FUNDING FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will describe the SBA's State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) which supports small businesses with reimbursable grant funding for eligible export-related costs. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/f3c0563a-8b0c-402c-b8ab-95b43f7f9df8@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 7 ***LOGISTICS BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO SALES & MARKETING.*** Second of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA.%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 7 ***NEW COSMETIC FACILITY REGISTRATION AND PRODUCT LISTING REQUIREMENTS:*** What You Need to Know. Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will help importers, exporters, distributors, and manufacturers of cosmetic products better understand the major requirements of the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act, effective July 1. 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/cosmetic-facility-registration-what-you-need-to-know>.
- May 7 ***BRAZIL HEALTHCARE MARKET UPDATE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide details on: Brazil's healthcare system; The latest updates on regulations for medical devices and software; Best prospects for medical devices and IT; Strategies for sales. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/EW24BrazilHealthcareMarketUpdate/?_gl=1%2A1kqq6oa%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMzIyMDcyOS4zMjI4LjE3MTMyMjIyNDEuNjAuMC4w.
- May 7 ***VETSGLOBAL.*** Virtual Veteran Business Information session sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, SBA, EXIM, and National Veteran Business Development Council. Webinar will discuss the various export resources provided by the U.S. Commercial Service and federal partners on how they can help your business access foreign markets. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/0925cf34-c18f-4662-8cd7-a21f68044064@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 8 - 15 ***U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO IFAT AND EUROPE.*** The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration is organizing this Mission to Munich, Germany. The Mission will promote U.S. exports in a range of environmental technology industries, including water and wastewater management, solid waste management and recycling, and air pollution monitoring and control. The Mission will introduce participants to commercial opportunities in the region and connect them with prospective partners, distributors, service providers, end-users, and foreign government decision makers who are seeking U.S. environmental solutions. For details & an application (**due December 15**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/EnviroTechIFAT2024/>.

- May 8 ***EXPORT DOCUMENTATION & PROCEDURES.*** Training program, sponsored by the Iowa Economic Development Authority, will cover: Comprehensive training covering all areas of Export Compliance; What an exporter needs to know to be compliant; Controls under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR); Tariff Classification under the US Harmonized System; Proper filing of an EEI (Electronic Export Information); Responsibilities of Exporter under the concept of Due Diligence; Lists to check, red flags, control agencies; Important Definitions; Changes under Export Control Reform. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA. Fee: \$125. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/c04438e1-9b73-4e9a-b7ac-a13b5de84edb/summary>.
- May 8 ***FINANCING TOOLS FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTERS (PART 1) – TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES - WHAT SMALL BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING PAID AND MITIGATING FOREIGN BUYER REPAYMENT RISK.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will detail how to successfully grow while getting paid on your international orders and how to reduce the risk of non-payment from foreign buyers. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/6078d753-c742-4786-bf0a-f0a610f90360@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 8 ***HOW VAT CAN AFFECT YOUR INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS.*** Third of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 8 ***INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT & TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION: NEW STRATEGIES, SUCCESS STORIES, AND CHALLENGES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will describe TNE's significance, trends, and how it enables U.S. universities to grow enrollment unconventionally. Discover successful partnership models through case studies and delve into challenges like regulations and revenue generation. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/InternationalStudentRecruitmentTransnationalEd/hotsite.php>.
- May 8 ***CBP RISK ANALYSIS AND SURVEY ASSESSMENT – THE CBP AUDIT TRANSFORMATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the RASA process, the primary risk areas currently being targeted for RASA consideration, and how importers can better prepare to undergo a RASA or audit. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/cbp-risk-analysis-and-survey-assessment-the-cbp-audit-transformation>.
- May 9 ***EXPANSION OF THE LACEY ACT FOR WOOD AND ARTICLES CONTAINING WOOD AND PLANT PRODUCTS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Braumiller Law Group, will cover the expansion and enforcement of the Lacey Act and what will be required. 11:30 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bigmarker.com/braumiller-law-group-pllc/Lacey-Act-Expansion?show_live_page=true.
- May 9 ***INCOTERMS FOR U.S. EXPORTERS.*** Fourth of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.

- May 13 - ***ACCESS EUROPE AND EURASIA: EXPLORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TÜRKIYE AND BEYOND!*** Organized by the U.S. Commercial Service, this program will feature meetings with U.S. commercial diplomats from over 25 countries in Europe and Eurasia, exciting conference programming, and plenty of networking. Qualified U.S. businesses may customize their experience with optional business-to-business matchmaking meetings with pre-screened buyers, agents, distributors, or joint-venture partners in Türkiye (May 15) as well as Denmark or Romania, (May 9-10) and Poland or Italy (May 16-17). Fees vary. For information & registration, please see <https://www.trade.gov/trade-winds>.
- May 14 ***SOCIAL SECTOR FRANCHISING'S IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will highlight commercial franchise practices that can be adapted to scale enterprises with a social mission. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/TheImpactofSocialSectorFranchisingAcrossAfrica-AnE/?_gl=1%2A1bqguws%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMzlyMDcyOS4zMj4xLjE3MTMyMjlyNDEuNjAuMC4w.
- May 14 ***MASTERING THE MARKET – INDIA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service's Global Advanced Manufacturing Team, will feature country and industry experts, success stories, and key events. Seasoned trade professionals will equip you with strategies to grow sales, mitigate risks, and lower costs in these top markets. U.S. Manufacturers will learn how to continue to position their firms in an ever-changing international environment, the importance of supply chains, and how to stay savvy in established markets. 10:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/MasteringtheMarket-Germany/>.
- May 14 ***OPPORTUNITY FOR LITHIUM EXTRACTION AND VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT IN CHILE.*** Direct Line webinar sponsored by the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State. U.S. Ambassador to Chile **Bernadette M. Meehan** hosts Minister of Economy, **Nicolas Grau** to learn more about new opportunities in lithium extraction and value chain development in Chile. Experts from the Chilean government will explain the new National Lithium Strategy, Request for Information (RFI), and tendering process for companies interested in investing in Chile's lithium industry – from brine extraction to mining technology to value chain development. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required by May 10. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.state.gov/direct-line-for-american-business/opportunity-for-lithium-extraction-and-value-chain-development-in-chile/>.
- May 14 ***BUY AMERICA: DEMYSTIFYING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE BUY AMERICAN, MADE IN USA, AND BUILD BACK BETTER LEGISLATION.*** Fifth of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA.%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 15 ***GLOBAL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS.*** Conference sponsored by the North Dakota Trade Office. Join industry leaders, engage in insightful discussions, and explore emerging markets. The agenda includes compelling speakers, dynamic panel discussions, breakout sessions, and the prestigious 2023 Global Business Awards ceremony, recognizing excellence in global business. Topics throughout the day include navigating international business in areas of conflict, protecting intellectual property, cybersecurity, government contracting, and market briefings from the Nordic regions and Taiwan. 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., DoubleTree By Hilton, 825 East Beaton Drive, West Fargo, ND. NDTO Members – No fee; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://ndto.com/events/global-business-connections-conference/>.

- May 15 ***SHINTA KAMDANI: INDONESIA'S CURRENT AND FUTURE ECONOMIC POLICIES.*** Hybrid program sponsored by the American Indonesian Chamber of Commerce with the US-ASEAN Business Council. Presentation by **Shinta Widjaya Kamdani**, CEO, The Sintesa Group and Chairman, Employer's Association of Indonesia (APINDO). 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://app.associationsphere.com/Event/EventInfo?prm=fNMmmWacv05sbM4j0450bbXNowdZhW0WUV80dbVOyW e5kr5WEDc4vStsmkwicdMacjVQFgAGOVCKLsvyRZ9w1QrDAZLKWDdOWG3y15fRKxER3dtUYNPo-qnfLq-bNaHSLj2mSQkJARkYdwfFjMXcHz67wwJcsmDvwT9yLpeYalNxXaLeuxIe2OZeifZtkgc4S3sVX0Uf9OFHxPy6YX N_VhTQ2DLSiMdcMAYLguBt_3lr3eYTKDTFbz09JAd1ON70.
- May 15 ***CYBER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will present cybersecurity experts discussing everything from regional trends to country specific regulations to market entry strategies in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/CyberOpportunitiesintheMiddleEast-9884-1711648972/?_gl=1%2A1rrbj1f%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMzlyMDcyOS4zMj4xLjE3MTMyMjlyNDEuNjAuMC4w.
- May 15 ***FTA'S QUALIFYING YOUR PRODUCT AND DOCUMENTING ORIGIN.*** Sixth of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 15 ***SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES: WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE FOR A SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN.*** World Trade Day 2024 program sponsored by Kansas City's International Steering Committee. Speakers include: **Deepa Poduval**, Senior Vice President, Global Advisory Practice and Sustainability Leader, Black & Veatch; **Nathan Berg**, Co-owner, Berg Reinvigorations; **Richard Rocha**, Principal Environmental Engineer, Bayer CropScience. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Black and Veatch Auditorium and Co-Lab, 11404 Lamar Avenue, Overland Park, KS. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-5696667>.
- May 16 ***SHAPING THE FUTURE: TRENDS AND INSIGHTS FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS GROWTH.*** 2024 World Trade Conference sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. Speakers include: **David L. Roth**, P.E., Chief Executive Officer, Omaha Airport Authority; **Brooke Wehrenberg**, Outreach Chief, Visa Office, U.S. Department of State; **Todd D. Vettel**, President, International Workforce Services; **Paul Lesnefsky**, Senior Key Account Executive, Ocean Network Express (North America) Inc. (ONE); **John Crain**, Special Agent and **Brandon Stigge**, Task Force Officer, FBI Omaha Cyber Task Force; Dr. **Chris Decker**, Economist, University of Nebraska at Omaha. 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Tiburon Golf Club & Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. MITA Members - \$50; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/2024-world-trade-conference/>.
- May 16 ***SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: FUNDING, FINANCING, AND GEO-POLITICAL STRATEGY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will describe market entry strategies and resources to support Africa business development for your company. Experts from the U.S. Commercial Service, United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), Export-Import Bank of the United States (ExIm), African Development Bank (AfDB), and United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will discuss: Financing tools and resources through the U.S. Government; An assessment of geo-political activities on the continent to date; Current and Future opportunities for U.S. businesses on the continent. 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://app.inevent.com/en/TradeGov/Sub-SaharanAfricaBDFinancingGeoPolitical/>.

- May 16 ***FINANCING TOOLS FOR SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTERS (PART 2) – TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES - WHAT SMALL BUSINESSES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRADE FINANCING AND HOW IT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL GROWTH.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will describe tips and financing tools that you can take advantage to help make your business more competitive in global markets. Learn what you need to know about Ex-Im Bank and SBA's respective export loan programs and which program is appropriate for your company's specific financing needs. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/9c2305f7-5690-48e6-978a-6d2efee324fd@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 21 ***USMCA & NAFTA - ORIGIN VERIFICATION AUDITS IMPLEMENTED BY MX CUSTOMS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association and Braumiller Law Group, will provide guidance on how to prepare your company for a NAFTA or USMCA origin audit from MX Customs; it will also review MX proceedings and legal remedies available to challenge an unfavorable NAFTA or USMCA origin denial determination. 10:30 a.m. CDT. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/50018041-56fd-449e-8bee-e4362cc871be/summary?locale=en>.
- May 21 ***CANADA DOCUMENTATION AND LOGISTICS OVERVIEW.*** Seventh of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 22 ***MARITIME DAY CRUISE.*** The Chicago Propeller Club is inviting maritime professionals to attend a special networking event and cruise to celebrate Maritime Day. The event will form part of Chicago's annual 'Blessing of the fleet' ceremony which marks the beginning of Chicago's boating season. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Navy Pier, 600 East Grand Avenue, Chicago. Members - \$50; Non-members - \$85. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-propeller-club-boat-event-tickets-879600598067?aff=oddtcreator>.
- May 22 ***PRODUCT VALUATION CONSIDERATIONS.*** Eighth of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 23 ***GROW YOUR EXPORTS FOR CLEANTECH COMPANIES - ONLINE GLOBAL.*** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and IBT Online. Learn about insights and digital strategies to succeed in your target international markets; Best-practices and insights for optimizing your digital presence around the world, including website localization, digital marketing strategies, and leveraging digital platforms to stand out against the competition; Case studies - how Cleantech companies are using digital solutions to sell online and globally today. 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://info.ibt.onl/uscommercialservice-grow-your-exports-for-cleantech-companies>.
- May 23 ***MEXICO DOCUMENTATION AND LOGISTICS OVERVIEW.*** Ninth of 10 webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.

- May 27 - ***ICT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO SINGAPORE***. Led by the U.S. Department of
30 Commerce, this mission will be run in conjunction with the Asia Tech x Singapore 2024 (ATxSG 2024) trade show and forum. The purpose of the mission is to expand opportunities for U.S. companies in Singapore and the Southeast Asian region at the intersection of telecommunications services, 5G, SaaS applications, cybersecurity and the digital economy. This mission will also be part of delivering and advancing U.S. technology, standards and commercial interests in this vital region of the world. The objective is to identify, where appropriate and in line with U.S. policy objectives, trade promotion opportunities that will help cement U.S. technology organizations as global leaders in this rapid-growth industry, while also creating new commercial opportunities and encouraging strong regulation and supervision worldwide. For information & an application, Please see: <https://trade.gov/ict-business-development-mission-singapore>.
- May 28 ***EXPORT COMPLIANCE CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR SHIPPING DEPARTMENT***. Last of 10
webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/ExportDocumentationandLogisticsWebinarSeries-9884-/?_gl=1%2A1j52cdf%2A_ga%2AOTQ3ODA4MzcuMTcwODk3NjM4MA..%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AMTcxMjg0ODM5Ny44LjEuMTcxMjg0ODY4My40NS4wLjA.#agenda.
- May 29 ***KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER: PROTECTION FROM SCAMS & FRAUD***. Luncheon program sponsored
by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago with the Illinois District Export Council and the U.S. Commercial Service Chicago. Presentations by **Louise M. Kern**, President, GloBIS and **Monica Toporkiewicz**, Senior International Trade Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service Chicago. This program will arm you against fraudsters' attacks by highlighting their vulnerabilities, teaching you to recognize telltale signs of a scam and introducing you to U.S. Commercial Service programs to help you find the right international business partners and succeed in winning new markets for your goods or services. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. Sponsors & their guests – \$55; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/know-your-customer-protection-from-scams-fraud-tickets-888374982487>.
- Jun. 3 - ***AG & FOOD BUSINESS MISSION TO CHINA***. The United States Heartland China Association is
12 leading this mission to Shanghai, Shandong and Beijing. Delegation participation fee: \$5,000 per delegate. Includes pre-trip briefing and materials, transportation and hotels in China, participation in meetings and events, and most meals. Travel to/from China not included. For more information, contact Katherine Newton at katherine.newton@usheartlandchina.org.
- Jun. 4 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT EXPO PACK 2024, MEXICO CITY***. The Illinois
7 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at Expo Pack 2024 in Mexico City. Illinois companies who qualify for the mission will receive the following: Exhibit space within the Illinois pavilion; 25% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics; Interpreter services during the show. For information & registration (deadline: **March 8**), please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.
- Jun. 6 ***GROWING YOUR AEROSPACE & DEFENSE BUSINESS COLLABORATIVELY WITHOUT FRICTION: LEGAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PURSUING LONG-TERM COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS, GOVERNMENT TENDERS, AND THE EXPORTING OF GOODS AND SERVICES***. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the law firm Robinson & Cole, will assist companies that wish to position themselves for these opportunities, including by securing and defending their intellectual property in an increasingly collaborative environment. The seminar will cover the legal and intellectual property considerations for: Teaming and Joint Development Agreements; Strategic Use of NDAs; Cross-border Collaborations that are becoming more prevalent such as through trade agreements like AUKUS; Government Bids and Subcontracting. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/GrowingYourAerospaceDefenseBusinessCollaboratively/>.

- Jun. 8 - **BRAZIL AND CHILE TRADE MISSION.** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers is leading this multi-sector trade mission to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings to meet with prospective customers and business partners. Mission participants will also benefit from networking events and logistical support provided by the GSGP Brazil and Chile Trade Offices. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/brazil-and-chile-trade-mission-2024/>.
- Jun. 9 - **ILLINOIS MULTI-SECTOR TRADE MISSION TO CANADA (TORONTO & MONTREAL).** The Illinois Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to join them on a multi-sector trade mission. Participants will receive a customized itinerary which will include networking events and one-on-one pre-vetted meetings with potential distributors and business partners. Companies selected to participate in the mission will receive the following, in accordance with eligibility guidelines: Pre-scheduled B2B matchmaking; 50% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; In-country briefing materials; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$750. For information & an application, please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.
- Jun. 11 - **FORGING PARTNERSHIPS. EMPOWERING COMMERCE.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection 2024 Trade Day sponsored by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Chicago Field Office. Connect with CBP personnel, Chicago Field Office Trade Staff, and representatives from partnered government agencies to discuss today's most relevant topics in importing and exporting. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Four Point by Sheraton, 10249 West Irving Park Road, Schiller Park, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TradeDay2024>.
- Jun. 13 - **MEXICO EXPANSION SUMMIT.** Program sponsored by Nepanoa. Meet with Mexican Government representatives from Nuevo Leon, Jalisco, Baja California, and Chihuahua; Learn about the different industries driving the Mexican economy such as Logistics, Manufacturing, Real Estate, Financial Services, Technology; Forge connections with fellow executives dedicated to nearshoring initiatives; Lay the groundwork for your expansion into Mexico. 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Convene, 311 West Monroe Street, Chicago. Fee: \$215. For information & registration, please see: https://www.nepanoa.com/mexico-expansion-summit?cid=48d0f3b0-f1c2-4acb-a19a-c24e5a521157&utm_campaign=583c8fa5-139c-4543-826c-64f68da3fd7c&utm_medium=mail&utm_source=so.
- Jun. 25 - **COMPLYING WITH U.S. EXPORT CONTROLS.** Event sponsored by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and the East Michigan District Export Council, with the support of the U.S. Commercial Service. The program will cover U.S. Government export controls (Export Administration Regulations), including types of controls; classifying your product; licensing requirements; record keeping requirements; export clearance; enforcement; developing an export management compliance program; and laws and policies on U.S. economic and trade sanctions worldwide. Speakers will provide opportunities for Q&A during sessions and will also be available during networking breaks. The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago-Detroit Branch - 1600 East Warren Avenue, Detroit, MI. Fee: \$575. For information & registration, please see: <https://emdec.regfox.com/2024-complying-seminar#register>.
- Jul. 14 - **ILLINOIS MULTI-SECTOR TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO.** The Illinois Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to join them on a multi-sector trade mission. Participants will receive a customized itinerary which will include networking events and one-on-one pre-vetted meetings with potential distributors and business partners. Companies selected to participate in the mission will receive the following, in accordance with eligibility guidelines: Pre-scheduled B2B matchmaking; 50% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; In-country briefing materials; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$750. For information & an application, please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.

- Jul. 15 ***INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS***. Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. Managing Forwarders, Brokers & Carriers is the theme of this course. Learn to control your international shipments by directly coordinating your documents with transportation rules and procedures. Review the air and ocean transportation & documentation process. A comprehensive review of the roles of the forwarder and the customs broker. Learn the evaluation and selection process of the international forwarder, customs broker, and carrier. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago-Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-july-15-2024/>.
- Jul. 16 ***TARIFF CLASSIFICATION***. Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. Classification for import, export, FTA determination & clarification on Section 301 and Section 232. The classification & valuation of goods are major decisions! Critical information not only for duty purposes but also to determine whether goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes, or other restrictions. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/tariff-classification-chicago-july-16-2024/>.
- Jul. 17 ***USMCA THE MODERNIZED NAFTA***. Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. This course is for those new to USMCA and for those already familiar with NAFTA. Learn what the new changes mean for you and how it will affect your current NAFTA process in this USMCA webinar. Special sectors will be discussed and covered. You may need to change your supply chain to continue to benefit under the new agreement. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/usmca-the-modernized-nafta-chicago-july-17-2024/>.
- Jul. 18 ***EXPORTING PROCEDURES***. Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. This course will provide an in-depth understanding of export regulations and procedures combined with a study of the appropriate documentation that will give you a valuable advantage in making your international trade business a success. Learn to comply with regulations to avoid violations, fines, fees, and delayed shipments. 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/exporting-procedures-chicago-july-18-2024/>.
- Jul. 19 ***INCOTERMS® 2020***. Course sponsored by the Global Training Center. Take this class to understand when the transfer of risk moves from the Seller to the Buyer and who is responsible for insurance. It's important that you understand which Incoterm is best for your company. 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., DoubleTree Chicago- Arlington Heights. Fee: \$445. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/incoterms-2020-chicago-july-19-2024/>.
- Jul. 22 - 26 ***ILLINOIS GROUP TRADE MISSION TO FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW***. The Illinois Office of Trade & Investment invites Illinois small businesses to join them in a group trade mission to the world's largest airshow held in Farnborough, UK. Six key themes are at the heart of the show: Space, Defense, Sustainability, Innovation, Future Flight, and Workforce. Qualifying Illinois companies will receive: Co-exhibitor space within the Illinois booth; Business and government matchmaking; In-country briefings and networking; Personalized hands-on assistance from recruitment to final exhibition; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of travel costs for hotel and airfare in accordance with guidelines; Organized group hotel accommodation and transportation to and from the fairgrounds. Fee: \$750. For information & an application (deadline: **April 12**), please contact: zdenka.samson@illinois.gov.

- Aug. 19 - ***SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA RAIL AND PORT TRADE MISSION (SOUTH AFRICA & ANGOLA)***
 24 Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, Global Automotive and Smart Mobility Team, the mission will include participation at the South African Railway Association's SARA Conference from August 20- 23 in Johannesburg South Africa. Participation in the trade mission will include tickets to attend the SARA Conference for each registered U.S. company participant as well as tailored assistance to help connect company delegates with sub-Saharan Government Transportation officials, private-sector railway and port companies and prospective business partners. U.S. companies mission participants will have several opportunities to network with prospective partners and sub-Saharan government officials, U.S. interagency project financing agency representatives from the Development Finance Corporation, U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.S. Trade and Development Agency and Prosper Africa, and rail and port equipment, technology, and management companies at both the South Africa and Angola stops. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/Sub-SaharanAfricaRailandPortTradeMission/>.
- Sep. 22 - ***TAIWAN UNCREWED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) AND COUNTER-UAS (C-UAS) BUSINESS***
 25 ***DEVELOPMENT MISSION***. Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the objective of this mission is to advance U.S. national interests and focus on meeting Taiwan market demand for U.S. UAS and C-UAS commercial and defense solutions. Participating U.S. firms will explore market development opportunities, gain market insights, make industry contacts, solidify business strategies, and advance specific projects with the goal of increasing U.S. exports and services in the aerospace and defense sectors. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/aerospace-defense-trade-mission-taiwan>.
- Nov. 17 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE (GDEI) TRADE MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN***
 22 ***REGION***. Organized by the U.S. Commercial Service, the mission will include the “Opportunities for Minority-Led Businesses in the Caribbean Region Conference” in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on November 17-18. Selected participants will either engage in business-to-business (B2B) meetings in Santo Domingo if approved for the Dominican Republic Trade Mission, or travel to other markets in the region to engage in B2B appointments in those markets. B2B meetings will be conducted with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors or joint-venture partners, in the selected city/market in the Dominican Republic, and/or Barbados/Eastern Caribbean, and/or Guyana, and/or Jamaica, and/or Suriname, and/or The Bahamas and/or Trinidad and Tobago. The mission is horizontal, with various sectors represented, based on best prospects for U.S. companies in the Caribbean region, such as automotive parts and services, consumer goods, construction equipment/road building machinery/building products/infrastructure projects, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, ICT, energy equipment and services, safety and security equipment, hotel and restaurant equipment, franchising, manufacturing equipment, yachting/maritime services/sailing equipment, marine ports, aviation/airports, tourism and related construction, waste management, and water treatment and supply. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/GDEITradeMissionCaribbeanRegion/>.
- Dec. 8 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE TRADE MISSION TO SAUDI ARABIA***. Led by the U.S.
 9 Department of Commerce, the mission will offer women-owned, -led, and -operated businesses important market insights and meetings with pre-screened foreign business partners and key decision-makers. Included: B2B matchmaking meetings with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors, or joint-venture partners will provide participants with substantive information on strategies for entering or expanding their business in Saudi Arabia, key contacts with Commercial Service officers and local staff, and networking opportunities to build vital business relationships. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/GlobalDiversityExportInitiativeGDEITradeMissiontoS/hotsite.php>.

About the ITA/GC

Founded in December 1977, **The International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)** was incorporated in January 1979 as an Illinois not-for-profit, voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms by

providing a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

Annual membership dues are: Individual - \$150; Consular/Diplomatic - \$75 (up to 3 members); Academic/Faculty - \$200 (up to 8 designated faculty members); Student from a participating academic institution - \$25; Regular student - \$50; Associate/Non-resident (more than 150 miles from O'Hare International Airport) - \$50; Retired/Job Transition - \$50; Corporate (up to 8 designated members) - \$300. For a Membership Application, please call 773/725-1106; e-mail: info@itagc.org; or visit: www.itagc.org.

About Barnes Richardson

Barnes Richardson (<http://www.barnesrichardson.com>) has been focused on international trade regulation and customs law since 1919. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both within and outside of the United States. We are a proud member of Meritas, an international group of law firms providing local, reliable, and efficient legal representation all over the world. We have provided customs or trade advice to over one-third of the manufacturers in the Fortune 100.

About MichaelSilver

MichaelSilver (www.michaelsilver.com) provides a full scope of accounting and assurance, tax consulting and compliance, and consulting services to a broad range of clients in a wide variety of industries in the U.S. and internationally. Global clients are served through the Firm's membership in GMN International, an association of legally independent accounting firms. MichaelSilver is committed to exceptional service and provides creative solutions to address the needs and goals of our clients. We continually operate in a manner that reflects our pillars: innovative, trusted, consultative, and energizing.