

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

July 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 PROGRAMS

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

- Aug. 21 **UPDATE ON THE EXPORT IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.** Special Luncheon and Executive Briefing sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Presentation by **Judith Pryor**, First Vice President and Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Export Import Bank of the United States who will provide a briefing on EXIM, its service offerings and how it accomplishes its mission of job growth through exports. She will also discuss EXIM's newer initiatives including its new domestic finance initiative which now enables EXIM to support the full life cycle of an export by financing build out here in the U.S. for manufacturers as long as a portion of what's produced is for export (25% and only 15% to be exported if you're a small business). 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/update-on-the-export-import-bank-of-the-united-states-tickets-957694428817>.
- Sep. 25 - **PRACTICAL FORUM ON ADVANCED EAR COMPLIANCE.** Conference sponsored by the American
26 Conference Institute (ACI) in partnership with the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** (ITA/GC). The program will delve into the "how to" aspects of strengthening your program and mitigation intensifying enforcement risks amid the Russia/Ukraine war, China trade and technology tensions, increased cyber risk, and general geopolitical unsteadiness. Confirmed speakers from BIS, Dept. of Treasury, Dept. of Commerce and more. 9:00 a.m., Hilton Chicago Magnificent Mile Suites, 198 East Delaware Place, Chicago. Fee: \$2,195 - \$2,495. Contact the ITA/GC to save 10% on registration. For information and registration, please see: <https://bit.ly/3yUI6J2>.

Of Note:

State of Illinois 2024 Governor's Export Awards: The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity's Office of Trade and Investment is accepting applications for the Governor's 2024 Export Awards through August 31. Illinois companies that achieved excellence in exporting and organizations that provided outstanding export assistance to Illinois businesses are encouraged to [apply](#).

Trade Fact of the Week: The Paris Olympics Has 329 Medal Events: The Progressive Policy Institute's Ed. Gresser [reports](#) Paris/2024 has 329 medal events, from Friday's first archery shots to the women's marathon tape on the 11th. So expect a lot of antheming: an Olympic anthem arrangement has to be 80 seconds or less. Even if there are no ties, expect six and a half hours of music, nearly as much as all the track races combined.

WTO Issues New Edition of World Tariff Profiles: The WTO has issued the 2024 edition of [World Tariff Profiles](#), a joint publication of the WTO, International Trade Centre (ITC) and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The publication provides comprehensive information on the tariffs and non-tariff measures imposed by over 170 countries and customs territories. Summary tables, providing data by country/territory, list the average "bound" or maximum tariffs each economy can apply to its imports from other WTO members as well as the average tariffs actually applied. Tariffs are listed for both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.

Selecting Master's Program in International Business and Trade: The Hinrich Foundation has launched the [Hinrich Foundation Guide to Master's in International Business and Trade](#). Backed by insights from senior academics and trade professionals, the guide aims to help prospective students in selecting the ideal master's program to achieve their career aspirations in trade. It highlights the benefits of master's studies and a career in trade, criteria for high-quality programs, key questions for program selection, marquee master's programs, and career options in global trade.

ITA Launches New Supply Chain Tool to Track Global Steel and Aluminum Scrap Metal Trade: The International Trade Administration released its newest supply chain monitor, the [Global Scrap Monitor](#), an online dashboard for tracking steel and aluminum scrap trade flows around the world. Recycled steel and aluminum scraps are increasingly used in new metal production as countries promote decarbonization. The Monitor provides data on global aluminum and steel scrap trade flows from the top importing/exporting markets, allowing domestic industry stakeholders and consumers to better understand patterns in their supply chain.

EXIM Bank Resource: North America Exporting Guide: Exporting opportunities with neighboring countries to the north and south, Canada and Mexico, present promising avenues for U.S. companies to expand their market reach. Leveraging these exporting opportunities with neighboring countries can lead to increased revenue, market diversification, and long-term business growth. This [Guide](#) provides market research, industry opportunities and sales strategies for exporter to Canada & Mexico.

U.S. Department of State and Inter-American Development Bank Collaborate on Semiconductor Initiative in the Western Hemisphere: To bolster semiconductor production capabilities across the Western Hemisphere, the U.S. Department of State, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), has unveiled the [CHIPS ITSI Western Hemisphere Semiconductor Initiative](#). This groundbreaking initiative, supported through the CHIPS Act International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund, enhances semiconductor assembly, testing, and packaging (ATP) capabilities in key partner countries, beginning with Mexico, Panama, and Costa Rica.

WTO Monitoring Shows Members Acting to Facilitate Trade Despite Protectionist Pressures: WTO members continue to introduce more trade-facilitating measures than trade-restricting measures on goods, an important signal of members' commitment to keep trade flowing despite the current geopolitical uncertainty, according to the latest Trade Monitoring [Update](#) issued on 8 July. The Update, covering the period between mid-October 2023 and mid-May 2024, also notes a rapid increase in industrial policy subsidies, particularly in areas related to climate change and national security.

Retail Imports Continue to Rise, Despite Supply Chain Challenges: Monthly inbound cargo volume at the nation's major container ports is continuing to rise despite a variety of supply chain challenges, according to the Global Port Tracker [report](#) from the National Retail Federation and Hackett Associates. U.S. ports covered by Global Port Tracker handled 2.08 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units in May, the latest month for which final numbers are available. That was up 3% from April and up 7.5% year over year, and was the highest number since 2.26 million TEU in August 2022.

USTR Releases Second Biennial Report on the Operation of the USMCA with Respect to Trade in Automotive Goods: This biennial [report](#), prepared by USTR in consultation with the Interagency Committee on Trade in Automotive Goods, examines the actions taken by auto producers to demonstrate compliance with the USMCA and whether the USMCA's automotive rules of origin are effective and relevant in light of changing vehicle and production technologies. The report finds that in the four years since the USMCA's entry into force, the Agreement has had significantly positive economic impact on the U.S. and North American auto industry, benefitting producers, suppliers, and workers.

Export-Import Bank of the United States Releases 2023 Competitiveness Report: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) released the annual [Report to the U.S. Congress on Global Export Credit Competition](#) for calendar year 2023, also known as the EXIM Competitiveness Report. This year’s report focuses on the increased support of export credit agency (ECA) activity globally and their expanded roles in global finance.

USTR Releases 2024 Biennial Report on Implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act: The [2024 AGOA Report](#) provides a description of the status of trade and investment between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa, changes in country eligibility for AGOA benefits, an analysis of country compliance with the AGOA eligibility criteria, an overview of regional integration efforts in sub-Saharan Africa, and a summary of U.S. trade capacity building efforts.

State of Illinois Celebrates Record-Breaking Export Sales for 2023 and Launches Governor’s Export Awards Application: Illinois continues to lead the Midwest as the top exporting state and fifth in the nation, Governor Pritzker’s office [announced](#) on June 18. Since 2019, Illinois exports have increased by 32%. Mexico, Illinois’ second top export market, was the single greatest contributor to growth, with export sales exceeding 12% growth since 2022 and 39% since 2019. To honor Illinois businesses that contributed to this success, DCEO’s Office of Trade and Investment (OTI) is accepting applications for the Governor’s 2024 Export Awards from June 1 through August 31. Illinois companies that achieved excellence in exporting and organizations that provided outstanding export assistance to Illinois businesses are encouraged to [apply](#).

Global Economic Prospects 2024: The latest World Bank Group [report](#) forecasts the global economy is expected to stabilize for the first time in three years in 2024, but at a level that is weak by recent historical standards. In 2024-25, growth is set to underperform its 2010s average in nearly 60 percent of economies, comprising over 80 percent of the global population. Downside risks predominate, including geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, higher-for-longer interest rates, and climate-related disasters.

New Export Solutions Roadmap on Trade.gov: The U.S. Commercial Service has developed a web-based [Aspiring Exporter Roadmap](#) resource. It provides a straightforward, step-by-step guide for new and growing exporters. Plus the user-friendly roadmap helps businesses to navigate U.S. government resources, including where to find funding for international expansion. Experienced exporters can quickly find the information and tools they need too.

Now Accepting Nominations: Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee: The Secretary of Commerce [invites](#) interested organizations to submit membership nominations to the 2024-2026 charter of the Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC). The ETTAC advises on the development and administration of U.S. government programs to enhance U.S. exports of environmental technologies, goods, and services and strengthen U.S. industry competitiveness. Senior representatives of U.S. environmental technologies manufacturing and services companies, U.S. trade associations, U.S. private sector organizations, States or associations representing the States, and other appropriate civil society groups should apply by **August 9th**, 2024. Prospective applicants are welcome to attend and observe the final meeting of the 2022-2024 charter on July 16th.

Global Manufacturing Could See Strong 2025 – 2028: Although the global manufacturing economy is on track for “sluggish” growth of just an 0.6% annual expansion in 2024, that picture is forecast to brighten considerably in 2025, according to a [report](#) from the industrial automation research firm Interact Analysis. Manufacturing output is expected to recover in 2025 and maintain a steady rate through to 2028, despite seeing a slight dip in the growth rate in 2026, the firm said in its latest Manufacturing Industry Output Tracker (MIO). While most territories see optimistic signs of future growth, the global measure of manufacturing production could be hindered by a stuttering economy in China. The report includes a slight downward revision for China compared with the previous edition; from 2.8% to 2.4%.

Hearing on USMCA Automotive Rules of Origin: The U.S. International Trade Commission has scheduled an **October 8th** public hearing for [USMCA Automotive Rules of Origin: Economic Impact and Operations, 2025 Report](#). The deadline for filing requests to appear at the public hearing is **September 24th**.

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.

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- Jul. 30 ***1ST U.S. - ECUADOR SME DIALOGUE.*** Webinar, hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Quito, with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the Ecuador Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Investment, and Fisheries. This event provides an opportunity for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and stakeholders from the United States and Ecuador, including women-led and minority- and Indigenous led businesses and those owned and led by traditionally underrepresented groups, to discuss bilateral trade and investment under the United States-Ecuador Protocol and learn about resources for SMEs to take advantage of U.S. Ecuador trade and investment. Business development representatives from U.S. companies that offer Oil, gas, electricity, and mining technologies, services, and equipment; Water and waste management, carbon emissions mitigation; Design and construction services and equipment; Hotel and restaurant equipment; Telecommunications, AI, IoT, big data and cybersecurity; Packaging, processing and labeling materials and supplies; and Security-related equipment and services, would benefit from this event. 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. No fee. RSVP by **July 25** at international@sba.gov with your name, title, organization and city/state to receive the Webex webinar link.
- Jul. 31 ***MAKING SENSE OF TREASURY'S PROPOSED INVESTMENT SECURITY PROGRAM.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the framework of the outbound investment rules as currently proposed, when the rules may become final, how these rules will impact companies (including those involved in private equity transactions), and more. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/making-sense-of-treasury-s-proposed-investment-security-program>.
- Aug. 1 ***AI AND ECOMMERCE FOR AMERICA'S EXPORTERS.*** Webinar sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils and IBT Online. Topics include: Effective digital strategies for your global brand; Creating a Global Digital Footprint that drives your future success; Ecommerce Trends and Insights; Building High-Converting, Best-Practice Localized Websites adapted to your International Prospects. 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.linkedin.com/events/7186722721496539137/about/>.
- Aug. 1 ***INCOTERMS® BASICS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will examine when and how to use Incoterms® effectively. 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/incoterms-basics>.
- Aug. 1 ***ACCESSING SOUTH KOREA'S CONSUMER GOODS MARKET: HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, introduces representatives from Coupang, South Korea's e-Commerce marketplace, alongside CS export experts and other private sector experts, who will offer real-time insights on the South Korean market. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AsiaTeamCOUPANGWebinar-HealthSupplements-9884-1717/>.
- Aug. 5 ***INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will teach you how to learn about foreign government opportunities and the assistance available for winning bids. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/bgzyqsw>.
- Aug. 6 ***BASIC EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss the wide array of documents and certifications that may be required for your international shipment depending on the product and its destination. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ttryk29>.

- Aug. 7 ***EU PRODUCT STANDARDS: HOW TO GET A CE MARK.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will explain, in simple steps, how to obtain and apply a CE Mark to your product. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$125. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/jx72hxr>.
- Aug. 7 ***DISCOVER BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA.*** First in a series of webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service in preparation for the GDEI Trade Mission to India, Singapore, and Hong Kong March 2-8, 2025. USG and private sector experts will present on business opportunities in India. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/188cff51-4ca3-48c1-ae5f-294c9a73539e@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Aug. 7 ***PEARLS OF WISDOM: NAVIGATING THE BOBA BEVERAGE MARKETPLACE.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Allison Sodha**, Co-founder, Better Boba, who will explain how to: Embrace your authentic path; Navigate cultural roadblocks; Plant locally, grow globally; Appreciate the power of relationships: People first; Learn: Yes, Say No! 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2024/07/10/pearls-of-wisdom-navigating-the-boba-beverage-marketplace-with-allison-sodha/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=pearls-of-wisdom-navigating-the-boba-beverage-marketplace-with-allison-sodha&mc_cid=750f305b1c&mc_cid=6499c7d108.
- Aug. 7 ***PARDON MY FRENCH: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT USING AI FOR TRANSLATION.*** Webinar. Sponsored by Multilingual Connections will explore how to harness AI's power while preserving the cultural authenticity only humans can provide. Topics include: The promises and pitfalls of AI in translation; Our Human-AI Collaboration Framework; Real-world case studies showcasing when to use AI and when human expertise is crucial. 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2817188248587/WN_m5TeZ2a8T2-0iyVgYFyEFA?utm_source=nutshell&utm_campaign=R1W3_Email_2_72424&utm_medium=email&utm_content=TEST#/registration.
- Aug. 7 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN SURINAME.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features U.S. Government and private sector experts addressing topics of interest to both new and seasoned export professionals. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/CaribbeanRegionWebinarSeries/>.
- Aug. 8 ***USMCA.*** Webinar, sponsored by Braumiller Law Group, will discuss: *What qualifies for USMCA; What doesn't qualify; Rules of origin; Automotive rules of origin; Documentation; Customs review.* 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bigmarker.com/braumiller-law-group-pllc/USMCA?show_live_page=true.
- Aug. 8 ***FIRST SALE VALUATION AND REDUCING SECTION 301 TARIFFS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will help importers determine whether the use of first sale is worth pursuing and explain how importers can exercise reasonable care in using this valuation methodology. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/first-sale-valuation-and-reducing-section-301-tariffs>.
- Aug. 9 ***EXPORTING TO AUSTRALIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover advantages and opportunities for exporting to Australia and how to sell duty-free through the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/yayx82c>.
- Aug. 13 ***ACCESSING RENEWABLE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES IN PANAMA AND COSTA RICA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features **Jan Borchgrevink**, President, Distributed Energy Association/Chamber, Costa Rica and **Jeane Zuniga**, Senior Commercial Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service-Panama City. 10:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/REWebinarSeries-9884-1720556677/front.php>.

- Aug. 13 ***USING FTZs TO MITIGATE ANTICIPATED DUTY INCREASES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will discuss what FTZs are, how they work, and how they can help your domestic operations reduce their exposure to these and other customs duties. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/using-ftzs-to-mitigate-anticipated-duty-increases>.
- Aug. 14 ***GLOBALIZE YOUR WEBSITE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide you with many tools and resources for updating your website and increasing your international sales. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/frjf37t>.
- Aug. 15 ***ACCESSING RENEWABLE ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES IN EGYPT, LIBYA, AND ALGERIA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features **Dina Bissada**, Commercial Specialist, CS-Cairo and **Kamal Achab**, Senior Commercial Specialist, CS-Algiers. 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/REWebinarSeries-9884-1720556677/front.php>.
- Aug. 15 ***ADVANCED EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover less common export documents so that you're not surprised by unusual requests. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/qvqybct>.
- Aug. 16 ***INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE: GETTING PAID.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss the range of payment methods used in international transactions to reduce risk to help you evaluate which is best for your business. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/k3w693b>.
- 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/>.
- Aug. 20 ***FINDING OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPLIANCE!*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will discuss navigating the intricacies of qualifying your products under the USMCA and how to make the most of its opportunities while avoiding common mistakes. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/usmca/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=USCS%20Collab%20-%20July%202024&utm_content=USCS%20Collab%20-%20July%202024+CID_dd7dbe418357c341b50a1d84d1bb2913&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20more%20%20register,

- Aug. 21 ***UPDATE ON THE EXPORT IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.*** Special Luncheon and Executive Briefing sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Presentation by **Judith Pryor**, First Vice President and Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Export Import Bank of the United States who will provide a briefing on EXIM, its service offerings and how it accomplishes its mission of job growth through exports. She will also discuss EXIM's newer initiatives including its new domestic finance initiative which now enables EXIM to support the full life cycle of an export by financing build out here in the U.S. for manufacturers as long as a portion of what's produced is for export (25% and only 15% to be exported if you're a small business). 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/update-on-the-export-import-bank-of-the-united-states-tickets-957694428817>.
- Aug. 21 ***BENEFITS BEYOND BORDERS: MANAGING EMPLOYEE BENEFITS IN SMALL AND MIDSIZE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by HUB International, delves into the complexities of designing and implementing effective benefits programs that cater to diverse workforces across countries. Attendees will gain insights into the latest trends and best practices in global benefits management, with a focus on enhancing employee satisfaction and retention. From navigating different regulatory landscapes to ensuring cultural relevance in your benefit offerings, this session offers practical strategies to ensure your programs are compliant, competitive and responsive to the realities of the new normal. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4755759865255273305?source=HUBEMAIL1>.
- Aug. 22 ***ACCESSING SOUTH KOREA'S CONSUMER GOODS MARKET: PERSONAL CARE/COSMETICS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, introduces representatives from Coupang, South Korea's e-Commerce marketplace, alongside CS export experts and other private sector experts, who will offer real-time insights on the South Korean market. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AsiaTeamCOUPANGWebinar-CosmeticsandPersonalCare-98/>.
- Aug. 28 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BAHAMAS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features U.S. Government and private sector experts addressing topics of interest to both new and seasoned export professionals. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/CaribbeanRegionWebinarSeries/>.
- Aug. 29 ***AS THE SHIP SAILS: FREIGHT TRENDS OF SHIPMENT PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.*** Hybrid event sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Presentation by Kris Abrahamson, International Logistics, Inc. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-5809725>.
- Sep. 9 - 11 ***U.S. CHAMBER GREENTECH 3.0 BUSINESS DELEGATION TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.*** U.S. Department of Commerce Certified Trade Mission organized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will leverage the Chamber's strong track record of convening U.S. business leaders with top Emirati and U.S. government officials to organize conversations focused on project and investment opportunities for clean energy and sustainable technologies in the UAE. The Business Delegation will have one day of programming and meetings in Abu Dhabi and another day of programming and meetings in Dubai with business networking and optional cultural engagements in each city. For information & registration, please see: https://events.uschamber.com/GreenTechDelegation3_UAE_September2024.

- Sep. 10 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Webinar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, will address: *Japanese communication style; Why Japanese tend to be vague/indirect – how to interpret what they mean; Why Japanese don't give a lot of feedback; Overcoming the language barrier; How to confirm whether you've been understood correctly; How decisions are made in Japanese organizations; Why Japanese avoid risk; How to get your ideas accepted by a Japanese organization; How to make meetings with Japanese more effective; How to build strong working relationships with Japanese; How to behave appropriately at meals and other social situations; What to keep in mind if you travel to Japan for business; What most bothers Japanese about the Americans they work with.* 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.eventzilla.net/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-2138634025?resp=on&err=e803>.
- Sep. 10 **VALUE.** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will discuss different value calculation methods, related-party transactions, and how to document your work so that you're prepared for any questions that might arise. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/value/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=USCS%20Collab%20-%20July%202024&utm_content=USCS%20Collab%20-%20July%202024+CID_dd7dbe418357c341b50a1d84d1bb2913&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20more%20%20register,
- Sep. 10 **10TH ANNUAL CANADA-CHICAGO MENTORING PROGRAM (C2MP) FINAL PITCH DAY.** Event sponsored by PointB, MATTER, and the Consulate General of Canada in Chicago. Over the past six months, four strategically selected Canadian startups were matched with a cohort of PointB mentors to help them refine their business development strategy for the U.S. market. During this in-person closing event, four featured startups – FemTherapeutics, Neuraura, PragmaClin and Strata Health – will present their final pitches and share what they've learned over the past six months. After each pitch, audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions. 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., 222 West Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 6-180, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-annual-canada-chicago-mentoring-program-c2mp-final-pitch-day-registration-952853669977>.
- Sep. 12 - 13 **TRADE IN THE LANDSCAPE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND VOLATILE GEOPOLITICS.** 23rd Annual U.S.-China Trade Conference sponsored by the U.S.-China Chamber of Commerce. The event will feature over 20 executives from both the U.S. and Asia, who will discuss various issues in managing their businesses to stay competitive globally. Topics include: *U.S.-China Relations Outlook and Its Impacts on Business; How U.S. Companies Manage Global Operations in the New Era of Technologies and Uncertain U.S.-China Relations; Outsourcing, Resourcing, or Insourcing: Where to Find the Next Low-Cost Producers Close to the Markets; Sustainability and Environment without Compromising Growth and Profitability; Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Global Trade and Logistics; Navigating the Change in Import Tariffs and Compliance; U.S.-China Relations and Its Impacts on Talent Development; Managing Foreign Exchange in the Era of a Stringent Legal Environment; Why and How to Protect Intellectual Property in U.S.-China Trade.* 8:00 a.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. USCCC Members - \$445; Non-members - \$545; Discounts available. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.usccc.org/>.
- Sep. 18 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features U.S. Government and private sector experts addressing topics of interest to both new and seasoned export professionals. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/CaribbeanRegionWebinarSeries/>.

- 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>.
- Sep. 25 - ***AEROMEDICAL TRADE MISSION TO BRAZIL***. Organized and led by the U.S. Department of
27 Commerce, the goal of the Mission is to introduce U.S. suppliers to the growing aeromedical sector in Brazil, strengthen existing connections between aeromedical suppliers and their Brazilian clients, develop new connections for U.S. companies in the sector, and increase the capacity of Brazilian aeromedical operators, which will lead to additional opportunities for U.S. companies' exports. The trade mission will connect U.S. companies directly with the public sector (federal police, fire departments, and the defense secretariat) and private sector (aeromedical operators/outfitters, maintenance repair and overhaul companies and local business representatives) to sell goods and services in the identified subsectors of aircraft and helicopter sales, medical equipment needed for conversions of existing aircraft, flight simulators, and training for pilots, doctors, and nurse crews in aircraft. For information and an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/aeromedical-trade-mission-brazil-2024>.
- Sep. 25 - ***PRACTICAL FORUM ON ADVANCED EAR COMPLIANCE***. Conference sponsored by the American
26 Conference Institute (ACI) in partnership with the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)**. The program will delve into the "how to" aspects of strengthening your program and mitigation intensifying enforcement risks amid the Russia/Ukraine war, China trade and technology tensions, increased cyber risk, and general geopolitical unsteadiness. Confirmed speakers from BIS, Dept. of Treasury, Dept. of Commerce and more. 9:00 a.m., Hilton Chicago Magnificent Mile Suites, 198 East Delaware Place, Chicago. Fee: \$2,195 - \$2,495. Contact the ITA/GC to save 10% on registration. For information and registration, please see: <https://bit.ly/3yUI6J2>.
- Oct. 21 - ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION (DENMARK & SWEDEN)***.
24 Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the objective for this mission is to give U.S. companies an opportunity to provide aerospace and defense equipment, technology, and services to Denmark and Sweden. Participating U.S. firms will 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. The mission will introduce U.S. firms to aerospace and defense stakeholders in the region and assist U.S. companies in developing business in Denmark and Sweden. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/nordic-trade-mission-denmark-sweden>.
- Oct. 28 - ***DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION (D&C) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO SE ASIA***
Nov. 1 ***(HONG KONG, TAIPEI, HO CHI MINH)***. Trade Mission, led by the U.S. Commercial Service, will look into D&C subsectors such as safety, sustainable materials, retrofitting and refurbishment, construction robotics, automation, digitalization, Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), recycling, sustainable design and materials, and environmental tech. The mission may include group interactions with government agencies and leading trade associations, and potentially customized one-on-one business appointments with pre-screened potential agents, distributors, partners, and buyers. Networking events may provide introductions to government officials, industry leaders, and senior officials from the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), and the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/DesignConstructionMissiontoSEAsia/>.

- Oct. 28 - ***ACE EXPORTS COMPLIANCE***. Webinar sponsored by the South Florida District Export Council with the U.S. Commercial Service. This virtual program brings together experts from the U.S. Census Bureau, The Bureau of Industry & Security, OFAC and U.S. Customs & Border Protection to provide training on export filing requirements. 11:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$125; discounts available for multiple registrations. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ace-exports-compliance-webinar-tickets-919005298587?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl>.
- Nov. 12 - ***INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA***. Executive-led mission organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Mission aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between mission delegates and local stakeholders in smart city development, digital ecosystems, and sustainable urban infrastructure. The mission will provide delegates with a comprehensive understanding of the urban infrastructure landscape in the Philippines and Indonesia, fostering collaboration, innovation, and sustainable development opportunities. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/InnovativeTechnologiesforUrbanInfrastructureDevelo/hotsite.php>.
- Nov. 17 - ***GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXPORT INITIATIVE (GDEI) TRADE MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN 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/>.
- Nov. 30 - ***THE ILLINOIS DISTRICT EXPORT COUNCIL (IL DEC) DELEGATE TRIP TO THE MENA REGION***.
Dec. 18 The Executive Committee of the IL DEC has been putting together a delegation to go to Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, with an add on to go to Israel and back to Qatar. We are looking for 30 participants to go with the Delegation. The trip will be focused on building business, match making and building long-lasting relationships for future cooperation. Key objectives: Mega Infrastructure Projects in Transportation (Rail, Airports, etc.); Construction Alliances / Joint Ventures with Illinois Companies/Organizations; Consumer Goods Opportunities in Beverages, Spirits, and Other Products; The Jordan Valley Gateway Project Opportunities with U.S. Support and Companies for Value Creation; Attending the Department of Commerce, ITA, Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) Trade Mission to Saudi Arabia; Match-Making and business development collaboration in each focus country. For information & registration, please see: <https://illinoisdec.com/event/the-il-dec-delegate-trip-to-the-mena-region/>.

- Dec. 2 - **2024 U.S. TRADE MISSION TO HONG KONG.** Mission organized by IBS Global Consulting and the
6 Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is being held in conjunction with the 25th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. With a curated series of sessions throughout the week, participating in the Trade Mission allows U.S. companies to connect with potential business partners and customers in Hong Kong and Mainland China. It is an opportunity to learn first-hand about the business landscape, business practices, and opportunities in Hong Kong through briefings and roundtable discussions with industry and government leaders to gain invaluable market and industry insights to help propel your global expansion. Delegates will also attend a VIP welcome reception and participate in prearranged B2B meetings. For information, please see: <https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-26197955/documents/cd9ee7c482f742fda24c62bb7c698b7d/2024%20U.S.%20Trade%20Mission%20to%20Hong%20Kong%20Delegate%20Information%20Packet.pdf>.
- 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>.
- Mar. 2 - **GDEI TRADE MISSION TO INDIA, SINGAPORE, AND HONG KONG.** Organized by the U.S.
8 Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, this Global Diversity Export Initiative (GDEI) is focused on expanding export opportunities for U.S. businesses that are founded, led, operated, or owned by members of underserved communities from industries with growing potential in India, Singapore, and Hong Kong, but is open to all export-ready U.S. companies. The mission is horizontal, with various sectors represented, based on best prospects for U.S. companies in the region, such as: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector and subsectors; Cybersecurity; Smart City Infrastructure and Technology Solutions; Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing; Finance and FinTech; Healthcare & Biotechnology; Clean Energy; Environmental Technology; and Critical and Emerging Technologies. For information & an application (deadline: **December 4**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GDEITradeMissiontoIndiaSingaporeandHongKong/>.
- May 19 - **GENOMIC AND GENETIC TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO GREECE, TÜRKIYE AND ITALY.**
23 Mission, organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, is open to eligible U.S. firms working on genomic and genetic technologies. Best prospects include companies engaged in: Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) R&D and test kit development; Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS); Whole Exome Sequencing (WES); Bioinformatics; Proteomics; RNA Therapeutics; Molecular Cytogenetics; Molecular Genetics; Cancer Genetics; Pharmacogenetics; Rare Diseases; Pre-natal Genetic Disorders; and Preimplantation Genetic Testing (PGT) for In-Vitro Fertilization. Mission participants will have the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the three markets for their products, through hosted networking events and roundtable discussions with key government and industry leaders. Participants will also develop business prospects through vetted business-to-business matchmaking meetings and visits to leading research institutes and genetics labs. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GenomicandGeneticTechnologiesTradeMissiontoGreeceT/>.

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.