

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

## April 14, 2025

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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](http://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](mailto: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.**

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**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*

- Apr. 16 **TARIFF MITIGATION: KNOW THE LAW, KNOW YOUR OPTIONS.** Webinar sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Thomas Cook**, Managing Director, Blue Tiger International, who will share his deep experience with the programs and supply chain strategies proven to control costs and minimize disruption. From strategic sourcing to CTPAT certification, Foreign Trade Zones, tariff engineering, and more, participants will come away with renewed confidence that viable options exist to build robust, compliant, supply chains in 2025 and beyond. 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. CDT. ITA/GC Members - \$25; Non-members - \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tariff-mitigation-know-the-law-know-your-options-tickets-1309160577529>.
- Apr. 23 **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING INTERNATIONAL TRADE ENVIRONMENT.** 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 share practical tips and strategies for conducting comprehensive due diligence, helping businesses quickly and efficiently screen prospective partners worldwide and focus on the most promising opportunities. It will also provide an overview of U.S. Commercial Service programs and services, offering valuable insights into the support and resources available to businesses looking to expand globally. Discover how the right tools, resources, and partnerships can empower you to confidently navigate the complexities of international trade, enabling you to close winning deals with greater speed and success. 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/success-strategies-in-a-rapidly-changing-international-trade-environment-tickets-1312186849189>.

May 8 **CLEARING THE AIR: THE REALITY OF STEEL TARIFFS.** Special Luncheon and Executive Briefing sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Philip K. Bell**, President, Steel Manufacturers Association. With the sheer volume of changes coming from Washington, combined with the 24-hour news cycle frenzy, there has been relatively little time for qualified, nuanced discussion about topics such as the Steel Tariffs. Today's program aims to bring an informed perspective to the table in order to help better understand the reality of the tariffs for our country and the industry. Today's program is being held under the [Chatham House Rule](#) in order to encourage a robust discussion. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$60; Non-members - \$85. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clearing-the-air-the-reality-of-steel-tariffs-tickets-1316486710189>.

### Of Note:

**Reciprocal Tariff Calculations:** According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, [reciprocal tariffs](#) are calculated as the tariff rate necessary to balance bilateral trade deficits between the U.S. and each of our trading partners. To conceptualize reciprocal tariffs, the tariff rates that would drive bilateral trade deficits to zero were computed. *While individually computing the trade deficit effects of tens of thousands of tariff, regulatory, tax and other policies in each country is complex, if not impossible, their combined effects can be proxied by computing the tariff level consistent with driving bilateral trade deficits to zero.*

**Official CBP Statement- Liberation Day:** CBP is working closely with other government agencies to implement “Liberation Day” announcements and will continue to provide [detailed guidance](#) to promote compliance and uniform enforcement across the nation. CBP has successfully implemented 13 tariff-related presidential actions during this Administration and each day collects over \$200 million in additional associated revenue.

**China Initiates WTO Dispute Regarding US “Reciprocal Tariffs”:** China has requested WTO dispute consultations with the United States concerning US measures which it says impose a 10% additional duty on imports from all trading partners effective 5 April, and a 34% additional duty on imports from China that will become effective on 9 April. The [request](#) was circulated to WTO members on 8 April. China claims the measures are inconsistent with the United States' obligations under various provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, the Agreement on Customs Valuation, and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

**Visualizing the Rise of China in Global Trade (2000–2024):** In 2000, U.S. trade totaled \$2 trillion – more than four times China's \$474 billion. At the time, China was the primary trade partner for only a handful of countries, including Cuba, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Mongolia, North Korea, Oman, Sudan, Tanzania, and Vietnam. From 2000 to 2024, U.S. trade grew by 167% (a 4.2% compound annual growth rate), while China's trade surged by 1,200% (an 11.3% CAGR), overtaking the U.S. in 2012. By 2024, total trade reached \$5.3 trillion for the U.S. and \$6.2 trillion for China. [Visual Capitalist](#) data is sourced from the United States Census Bureau and the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China.

**Restricted: How Export Controls Are Reshaping Markets:** As geopolitical tensions continue to mount, governments around the world are expanding restrictions on what domestic companies can sell abroad. The growing number of export controls poses significant challenges for companies' global strategies. Even trace amounts of restricted materials can cause products to face export restrictions. [McKinsey & Company](#) breaks down how CEOs can navigate the shifting landscape of global trade.

**Duty vs. Tariff — What's the Difference?:** The terms “duty” and “tariff” are often used interchangeably, but there are subtle differences. Both are a form of tax that is imposed by the government and payable on imports and exports. ThomasNet's *Industry Insights* provides a useful [compendium](#) of definitions.

**Export Tools and Opportunities in Your State:** Free [guide](#) sponsored by the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Discover how businesses can leverage international markets for growth. These state guides break down the top export markets, leading industries, and most in-demand products for all 50 states, five U.S. territories, Washington, D.C., and a Spanish-language version for Puerto Rico.

**USTR Releases 2025 National Trade Estimate Report:** The NTE is an annual report due to the President and Congress by March 31 of each year. USTR works closely with other government agencies and U.S. embassies and solicits comments from the public through a Federal Register Notice to prepare the NTE. The 2025 NTE is [here](#).

**U.S. Import Dependence on China by State:** The *Visual Capitalist* has published a [graphic](#) showing the U.S. states with the highest share of imports from China, based on data from the U.S. International Trade Administration. Nevada ranks first at 26%; Illinois is fifth at 19%; Montana last at 1%.

**UNCTAD Global Trade Update March 2025:** The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) publishes a [quarterly report](#) providing fundamental data and analysis of global trade flows for goods and services. This report, in addition to providing trade trends and the outlook for 2025, also includes a comprehensive discussion on the role of tariffs in international trade.

**US-UK SME Dialogue:** The SME Dialogue brings small U.S. and UK businesses together with senior trade officials to discuss trade opportunities and challenges and ways to foster increased bilateral trade among small and medium-size businesses. It will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 30. Event attendees will be able to network and engage with the officials and other businesses and gain insights on: Opportunities and challenges for small businesses in both countries; SME commercialization of innovative technologies; SME disaster mitigation and recovery; Financing SME exports and start-ups. To request a complimentary invitation, please provide your name, title, organization and city/state to: [international@sba.gov](mailto:international@sba.gov).

**China – Compendium of Tariffs on United States Agricultural and Related Products:** This [report](#), compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Global Agricultural Information Network, consolidates China’s announcements of retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural, fishery, and forestry products as of March 10, 2025, and provides updates on the Chinese Government tariff exclusion processes for imports of U.S. products affected by the latest round of retaliatory tariffs announced on March 4, 2025.

**USTR Proposes Actions, Requests Comments on China’s Maritime, Logistics, and Shipbuilding Sectors:** On February 21, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced its proposed actions following the Section 301 investigation of China’s targeting of the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors for dominance. Following the investigation, USTR determined that China’s targeting of the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors for dominance is unreasonable and burdens U.S. commerce, in part because it displaces foreign firms and restricts business opportunities in the U.S. Crowell & Moring outlines [key aspects](#) of USTR’s proposed actions.

**Foreign National Travel Is Riskier Due to Maximum Visa and Admission Vetting and Restrictive Visa Interview Waiver Criteria:** ArentFox Schiff [advises](#) that foreign nationals and employers should plan all international travel more carefully and further in advance. President Trump issued an executive order directing various federal agencies to coordinate their efforts to “identify all resources that may be used to ensure that all aliens seeking admission to the United States, or who are already in the United States, are vetted and screened to the maximum degree possible.” This is not a travel ban but has opened the path to creating a travel ban in the future, as he did in his earlier Administration.

**Geopolitics and the Geometry of Global Trade: 2025 Update:** In view of widespread talk about friendshoring, nearshoring, decoupling, and derisking, the McKinsey Global Institute has been monitoring [shifting trade patterns](#) closely. This update examines 2024 data for the economies represented by ASEAN, Brazil, China, Germany, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The pattern of reconfiguration has continued, but its character and pace differ among major economies.

**Illinois Declares Soybean as Official State Bean:** On January 6, 2025, the Illinois Legislature passed [HB 4439](#) which designates the soybean as Illinois’ official state bean. Illinois is the No. 1 soybean-producing state in the nation with over 10 million acres of soybeans planted each year, accounting for 16 percent of the total U.S. soy production. HB 4439 acknowledges the contribution of the 43,000 hardworking soybean farmers across the state who feed and fuel the world.

**Silicon Island: Assessing Taiwan’s Importance to U.S. Economic Growth and Security:** This [brief](#) from the Center for Strategic & International Studies Economics Program and Scholl Chair in International Business analyzes Taiwan’s role in U.S. economic security and provides a policy roadmap to approach geopolitical and economic challenges facing the island. It argues that policymakers must walk the line between propping up Taiwan’s production and defensive capabilities, encouraging its growing participation in the U.S. tech ecosystem, and supporting its investments into third nations given current gaps in the U.S. economy.

- Apr. 14 - **HEALTHCARE & LIFE SCIENCES CERTIFIED TRADE MISSION TO THE U.A.E.** Join the U.S.-  
17 U.A.E. Business Council's U.S. Department of Commerce-certified trade mission. Participate in exclusive programming alongside Abu Dhabi Global Health Week, including a kickoff reception (April 14) and two industry seminars (April 15-16). Receive market insights through a U.S. Embassy briefing and a private session with the Department of Health - Abu Dhabi. Explore partnership opportunities in Ras Al Khaimah (April 17) with top healthcare institutions, including RAK Hospital, RAK Medical & Health Sciences University, Julphar Pharmaceuticals, and Planet Pharmacies. For information & an application, please contact: [akaradsheh@usuaebusiness.org](mailto:akaradsheh@usuaebusiness.org).
- Apr. 14 **INCOTERMS 2020.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics of Incoterms including the most recent updates from 2020. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/y5g4pmp>.
- Apr. 15 **GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS: SPRING 2025.** Webinar sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Presentations include: **Karen Dynan**, nonresident senior fellow, will present her forecast for the US and global economies, focusing on the risks and consequences of the new US administration's rapidly evolving policies; **Chad P. Bown**, Reginald Jones senior fellow, will provide an update on US trade policy and the international response; **Jacob Funk Kirkegaard**, nonresident senior fellow, will present on "Guns and/or butter: How should an aging Europe rearm?" 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2025/global-economic-prospects-spring-2025>.
- Apr. 15 **TARIFFS AND TRADE IN TURMOIL [MONTHLY UPDATE].** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the latest trade policy developments and offer predictions on what may happen in the near future. Presentation by **J. Nicole Bivens Collinson**, Managing Principal, Operating Committee; International Trade & Government Relations Practice Leader. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$150. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/tariffs-trade-in-turmoil-monthly-update>.
- Apr. 15 **BRAZIL: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RAIL AND PORT SECTORS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, includes: *Overview of Brazilian Market*: **Nicole DeSilvis**, Senior Commercial Officer, U.S. Embassy Brasilia (TBC); *Port & Waterway Opportunities*: **Dino Antunes Batista**, Secretary of Waterways and Navigation, Brazilian Ministry of Ports and Airports; *Rail Opportunities*: **Davi Barreto**, Director President of ANTF, National Association for Freight Rail Transportation; *IDB Opportunities*: **Belen Gallegos**, Senior Commercial Liaison, Office of the U.S. Executive Director, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). 1:00 – 2:15 CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/Brazil-WhistleStopTour-9884-1738272975/hotsite.php>.
- Apr. 16 **RECIPROCAL TRADE & TARIFFS.** WITA Academy Mini Intensive Trade [Virtual] Seminar sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association. Topics include: *Unpacking the April 2 Announcements*; *Legal Framework: How Reciprocal Tariffs Fit into U.S. Trade Law*; *The Case for Reciprocity: Economic and Policy Considerations*; *Global Trade Reactions: Retaliation, Negotiations, and Trade War Risks*. Speakers include: **Ryan Majerus**, Partner, King & Spalding; former Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce – International Trade Administration; **Kathleen Claussen**, Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center; former Associate General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; **Chad Bown**, Reginald Jones Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics; former Chief Economist, U.S. Department of State; **Kelly Ann Shaw**, Partner, Hogan Lovells; former Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director, National Economic Council; **Jennifer Hillman**, Co-Director, Institute of International Economic Law, Georgetown University Law Center; former Member, WTO Appellate Body; former Chair, U.S. International Trade Commission; **Cecilia Malmström**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics; former European Commissioner for Trade. 8:00 – 11:15 a.m. CDT. WITA Members - \$100; Non-members - \$200; No fee for Embassy, Ministry, and Government Officials from All Countries. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/its-reciprocal-tariffs/>.



- Apr. 16 **TARIFFS – RESOURCES & RESILIENCY.** Business Roundtable sponsored by the Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce. Experts and business leaders will discuss the challenges and opportunities tariffs provide as well as outline potential resources for resilience during uncertain times. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m., Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, 308 West State Street, Suite 190, Rockford, IL. Fee: \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://business.rockfordchamber.com/event-calendar/Details/business-roundtable-tariffs-resources-resiliency-1367040?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Apr. 16 **SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN ENERGY CORRIDOR SERIES: BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN GUYANA.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will uncover key business opportunities in this thriving hub of energy expansion and economic growth. Key sectors include: hospitality (restaurants, hotels); law and financial services; healthcare; infrastructure; housing; construction; logistics; aviation; safety & security; maritime services; franchise; consumer goods; agribusiness; equipment and supplies required for manufacturing; energy production; and more. 12:00 – 1:20 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/SouthernCaribbeanEnergyCorridorWebinarSeries/>.
- Apr. 16 **SAMPLES, PROTOTYPES, AND REPAIRS - TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR SHIPMENTS THROUGH CUSTOMS.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide tips for getting your shipments through Customs in the U.S. and other countries. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/yj966x4>.
- Apr. 16 **TARIFF MITIGATION: KNOW THE LAW, KNOW YOUR OPTIONS.** Webinar sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Thomas Cook**, Managing Director, Blue Tiger International, who will share his deep experience with the programs and supply chain strategies proven to control costs and minimize disruption. From strategic sourcing to CTPAT certification, Foreign Trade Zones, tariff engineering, and more, participants will come away with renewed confidence that viable options exist to build robust, compliant, supply chains in 2025 and beyond. 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. CDT. ITA/GC Members - \$25; Non-members - \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tariff-mitigation-know-the-law-know-your-options-tickets-1309160577529>.
- Apr. 17 **IMPORT COMPLIANCE: NAVIGATING AN EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE.** Hybrid program sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Presentation by **Caleb Hall**, MCI Customs Brokerage Manager, Scarbrough International who will address: *Documentation; Classification and Valuation; Knowing Your Product; Finding Good Partners*. 10:00 a.m. CDT. Virtual or in-person at Scarbrough Global, 7280 NW 87th Terrace, Suite 300, Kansas City, MO. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6111807>.
- Apr. 17 **EXPORT TO SINGAPORE DUTY-FREE.** Webinar, sponsored by the Global Trade Research Institute, will describe opportunities for doing business in Singapore and how to use the U.S. – Singapore Free Trade Agreement. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/vadhj68>.
- Apr. 17 **ENERGY AND GLOBAL TRADE.** Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils, will explore groundbreaking advancements in renewable technologies, AI's impact on energy, and green hydrogen's potential. Topics include: *state-of-the-art solar, wind, hydrogen, and nuclear technologies; innovation-fostering policies; and solutions to intermittency issues*. 3:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IxmvWbgdRqyosNcf\\_sX8EA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IxmvWbgdRqyosNcf_sX8EA#/registration).

- Apr. 22 ***PHASE 2: THE ART OF THE DEAL WITH CHINA.*** Webinar sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association and the Asia Society Policy Institute. Speakers include: **Christopher Adams**, Senior Advisor, Covington & Burling LLP; **Craig Allen**, Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group; former President, US-China Business Council; **Jeff Gerrish**, Partner, Schagrin Associates; former Deputy U.S. Trade Representative for Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; *Lingling Wei*, Reporter, *The Wall Street Journal*; **Wendy Cutler** (Moderator), Vice President, Asia Society Policy Institute. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ykJtXSAQQmiv8J9Ma-bEMO#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ykJtXSAQQmiv8J9Ma-bEMO#/registration).
- Apr. 22 ***INTERNATIONAL VALUE ADDED TAX - UNDERSTANDING VAT IN GLOBAL TRADE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Global Trade Research Institute, will explore VAT trends in markets around the world, equipping you with practical knowledge to effectively plan for these taxes. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/jw4pkjt>.
- Apr. 23 ***STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING INTERNATIONAL TRADE ENVIRONMENT.*** 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 share practical tips and strategies for conducting comprehensive due diligence, helping businesses quickly and efficiently screen prospective partners worldwide and focus on the most promising opportunities. It will also provide an overview of U.S. Commercial Service programs and services, offering valuable insights into the support and resources available to businesses looking to expand globally. Discover how the right tools, resources, and partnerships can empower you to confidently navigate the complexities of international trade, enabling you to close winning deals with greater speed and success. 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/success-strategies-in-a-rapidly-changing-international-trade-environment-tickets-1312186849189>.
- Apr. 23 ***APPAREL CLASSIFICATION SERIES: ADVANCED TOPICS.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review a variety of apparel samples and discuss the specific features that U.S. Customs and Border Protection focuses on when determining the correct classification and duty rate. This program has updated content to take into consideration the HS2022 changes and will examine some of the more advanced topics in classification. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/apparel-classification-series-advanced-topics>.
- Apr. 24 ***NEW TARIFFS, OLD LAWS, AND TRADE COMPLIANCE.*** 2025 DiCarlo-UIC Court of International Trade [Virtual] Lecture sponsored by the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. Panel topics include: *Primer on Tariffs and Compliance*; *Determining Country of Origin for Trade Remedies*; *Presidential Power to Impose Tariffs under IEEPA*. Keynote: The Honorable **Joseph Laroski**, U.S. Court of International Trade. Other speakers include: **Emily Simon**, Deputy Executive Director, Regulations & Rulings, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Washington DC; **David Forgeue**, Barnes, Richardson & Colburn, Chicago; **Matthew Seymour**, Grunfeld, Desiderio, Lebowitz, Silverman & Klestadt, New York; Honorable **Leo M. Gordon** (Moderator), U.S. Court of International Trade; **Jonathon Gold**, National Retail Federation, Washington, DC; **Jason Oxman**, Information Technology Industry Counsel, Washington, DC; **Jaime Shookman**, TE Connectivity, Milwaukee; **Mike O'Rourke**, Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, New York; **Everett Eissenstat**, Squire, Patton, Boggs, Washington, DC; **Bill Reinsch** (Moderator), Center for Strategic & International Studies, Washington DC. 9:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://law.uic.edu/events/2025-dicarlo-uic-court-of-international-trade-lecture-new-tariffs-old-laws-and-trade-compliance/>.

- Apr. 24 **GLOBAL MARKET ENTRY STRATEGIES.** Webinar, sponsored by the Global Trade Research Institute, will detail the different strategies companies can use in foreign markets to help you decide on the best one for your company. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/4hvrkfv>.
- Apr. 24 **DOES CHANGING THE TRADE REGIME CHANGE THE DOLLAR REGIME?** Webinar sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. The Trump administration is undertaking major changes to the geopolitical and trade arrangements that have been the foundation of the world economy for over 70 years. How will these changes impact the role of the US dollar and the international financial system? Do these changes portend, if not necessitate, some kind of second Plaza Accord, or do they make such an accord difficult to reach? What will the impact be on currencies and government debt in the US and around the world? 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://petersoninstituteforinternationaleconomics.formtitan.com/ftproject/Event-Registration-Form-Virtual?campaignid=701PH00000l6m7mYAA&contact\\_id=003PH00000nb25FYAQ](https://petersoninstituteforinternationaleconomics.formtitan.com/ftproject/Event-Registration-Form-Virtual?campaignid=701PH00000l6m7mYAA&contact_id=003PH00000nb25FYAQ).
- Apr. 25 **EUROPE'S FUTURE IN 3D: FISCAL, TRADE, AND DEFENSE CHALLENGES.** Webinar, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, will examine the European Union's economic policy trajectory, and the political and economic dynamics driving European integration. Panelists include: **Olivier Blanchard**, Senior Fellow, PIIE; **Cecilia Malmström**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, PIIE; former European Commissioner for Trade; former European Commissioner for Home Affairs; **Constanze Stelzenmüller**, Director and Senior Fellow for Foreign Policy, Center on the United States and Europe, and Fritz Stern Chair on Germany and Trans-Atlantic Relations, Brookings Institution. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://petersoninstituteforinternationaleconomics.formtitan.com/ftproject/Event-Registration-Form-Virtual?campaignid=701PH00000kzBp5YAE&contact\\_id=003PH00000nb25FYAQ](https://petersoninstituteforinternationaleconomics.formtitan.com/ftproject/Event-Registration-Form-Virtual?campaignid=701PH00000kzBp5YAE&contact_id=003PH00000nb25FYAQ).
- Apr. 25 **ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SUMMIT 2025.** Program sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. Topics include: *Political-Economic Analysis – Detangling Tariff and Trade Policy Threads*; *Political-Economic Analysis – From Open Door to Spheres of Influences: US and the New Global Order*; *US Logistics and Distribution Trends, and Impact on Business Growth*; *Manufacturing Trends Unpacked: Opportunities & Challenges Ahead*; *Tariffs, Trade Wars, and Compliance: Navigating the New Era of Global Trade*; *Challenge and Opportunity: Africa Trade Zoom-In*. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Servcorp - Chicago, 155 North Wacker Drive, Chicago. ITCC Members - \$40; Non-members - \$80. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6103375>.
- Apr. 28 - **5-DAY SUPPLY CHAIN 'MBA'.** Sponsored by the National Institute for World Trade, seasoned  
 May 2 experts in global supply chain will develop your skills in key areas of expertise: risk mitigation, landed cost management, trade compliance, logistics and logistics technology, tariffs and tariff mitigation, and much more. Instructors include: **Thomas Cook**, Managing Director, Blue Tiger International; **Kelly Raia**, Vice President, Blue Tiger International; **Jason Manganaro**, Vice President Commercial Technology (Americas), SPARX logistics. Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. Fee: \$869. Earn 26 Credits for CES/MES, LCB. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.niwt.org/5-day-supply-chain/>.
- Apr. 28 **BASIC EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.** Webinar, sponsored by the Global Trade Research Institute, will provide a comprehensive review of the most commonly used documents and terms in international trade. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/sfgmavq>.

- Apr. 29 - **SIAL CANADA 2025**. Qualified Illinois small businesses are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at the SIAL Canada 2025 trade show in Toronto, Canada. Companies selected to participate in the mission will receive the following, in accordance with ISTEP program eligibility guidelines: Exhibit space; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; Briefing material; Pre-show promotion; Matchmaking assistance; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$750. For information and an application, please contact: [chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov](mailto:chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov).
- May 1
- Apr. 29 **ACCESS AFRICA NOW: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FINANCIAL FUTURE-EXPLORING FINTECH'S ROLE IN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY – ETHIOPIA**. First in a webinar series, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, that delves into the rapidly evolving fintech landscape across Africa. The series will provide deep insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa's fintech sector, offering a roadmap for entrepreneurs, investors, and fintech professionals eager to be part of the continent's digital financial revolution. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AccessAfricaFinTechWebinarSeries-9884-1730833296/>.
- Apr. 29 **WATER SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES IN PERU**. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss Peru's water infrastructure goals, ExpoAgua 2025, and how the U.S. Commercial Service can assist your company in Peru. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/5708b38a-e957-43ee-83bd-ea1aef528c9e@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Apr. 29 **FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE, AND SEAFOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN PERU**. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide an overview of the Peruvian fishing sector in Peru and share how U.S. companies can leverage the U.S. Commercial Service to introduce your solutions and products into the Peruvian market using our traditional services and our presence at Expo Pesca. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/e025f63e-35e2-45b1-97ef-38c3964a4851@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Apr. 29 **COLOMBIA: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RAIL AND PORT SECTORS**. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed to assist U.S. companies in finding opportunities abroad and providing resources to be successful in securing deals. 1:00 – 2:15 CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Colombia-WhistleStopTour-9884-1740426332/>.
- Apr. 30 **BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HONDURAS**. Third in a series of six webinars, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, on *Business Opportunities in Central America*. This series offers a valuable platform for U.S. companies to explore best-prospect sectors, gain insights from industry experts, and develop market entry strategies. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/BusinessOpportunitiesinCentralAmericaWebinarSeries/>.
- Apr. 30 **EXPORTING TO BRAZIL**. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the opportunities and challenges that companies may face in Brazil and will include strategies for entering the market. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$79. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/5nwy36n>.
- May 1 **INCOTERMS® BASICS**. Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will examine when and how to use these terms 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>.



- May 5 ***RISKS AND REWARDS: WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.*** Program sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Presentations by: **Joyce Chang**, Chair of Global Research, J.P. Morgan; **Phil Levy**, Lead Trade Economist, World Bank; **Diane Swonk**, Chief Economist, KPMG US. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Chicago Council Conference Center, 130 East Randolph Street, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://globalaffairs.org/events/risks-and-rewards-what-expect-global-economy?utm\\_source=gi&utm\\_campaign=events&utm\\_medium=email](https://globalaffairs.org/events/risks-and-rewards-what-expect-global-economy?utm_source=gi&utm_campaign=events&utm_medium=email).
- May 6 ***ACCESS AFRICA NOW: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FINANCIAL FUTURE-EXPLORING FINTECH'S ROLE IN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY – NIGERIA.*** Second in a webinar series, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, that delves into the rapidly evolving fintech landscape across Africa. The series will provide deep insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa's fintech sector, offering a roadmap for entrepreneurs, investors, and fintech professionals eager to be part of the continent's digital financial revolution. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AccessAfricaFinTechWebinarSeries-9884-1730833296/>.
- May 6 ***NATURAL PRODUCTS MARKET IN BRAZIL.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide valuable insights into consumer trends, consumer preferences and growth opportunities in this expanding sector, including information about the two regulatory milestones regarding the regulation of dietary supplements, including the acceptance of the FDA as an equivalent reference agency in the approval of new ingredients and innovative foods. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AgribusinessTeamNaturalProductsMarketinBrazil-Webi/>.
- May 6 ***MANAGING INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will address how to build and manage a successful international distributor network, and handle international contracting, from the perspective of a successful exporter and an international business lawyer. Topics include: *How to Identify a Partner; How to Build a Global Infrastructure; Sales Method Comparison: Direct Sale vs. Agent vs. Distributor; Keys to a Successful Partnership; Payment Methods; Legal Aspects of Doing Business Overseas; Key Elements to Include in a Distribution Agreement; Corporate Social Responsibility Issues.* 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/831d673e-4865-4300-bd4a-02dc052f7948@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 7 ***LIVE SHOPPING DEMYSTIFIED: UNLOCK THE HIDDEN POWER OF TODAY'S FASTEST GROWING ECOM MARKETING STRATEGY.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Marcy McKenna**, Founder and CEO, The Live Shopping Academy. 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2025/04/02/live-shopping-demytified-unlock-the-hidden-power-of-todays-fastest-growing-ecom-marketing-strategy/?mc\\_cid=49ad079583&mc\\_eid=6499c7d108](https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2025/04/02/live-shopping-demytified-unlock-the-hidden-power-of-todays-fastest-growing-ecom-marketing-strategy/?mc_cid=49ad079583&mc_eid=6499c7d108).
- May 7 ***SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN ENERGY CORRIDOR SERIES: BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will uncover key business opportunities in this thriving hub of energy expansion and economic growth. Key sectors include: hospitality (restaurants, hotels); law and financial services; healthcare; infrastructure; housing; construction; logistics; aviation; safety & security; maritime services; franchise; consumer goods; agribusiness; equipment and supplies required for manufacturing; energy production; and more. 12:00 – 1:20 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/SouthernCaribbeanEnergyCorridorWebinarSeries/>.
- May 7 ***FIND YOUR TOP EXPORT MARKETS WITH THE MARKET DIVERSIFICATION TOOL.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide an in depth look at how to use the tool and get a chance to ask the experts questions. 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/9a641485-e63c-4f6f-8b44-48aee1b3333@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

- May 7 **NAVIGATING INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.** World Trade Day 2025 event sponsored by Kansas City International Steering Committee. Panelists will address: *Strategies for weathering retaliatory trade measures; Tools for managing market volatility; Practical approaches to maintaining stability amid uncertainty; Current tariff landscapes and emerging patterns.* 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., JCCC’s Hudson Auditorium, 2nd floor (217), Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, 12345 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS; Reception follows at Talk of the Town, 11922 West 119th Street, Overland Park, KS. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6113291>.
- May 8 **ACCESS AFRICA NOW: EMPOWERING AFRICA’S FINANCIAL FUTURE-EXPLORING FINTECH’S ROLE IN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY – KENYA & MOZAMBIQUE.** Third in a webinar series, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, that delves into the rapidly evolving fintech landscape across Africa. The series will provide deep insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa’s fintech sector, offering a roadmap for entrepreneurs, investors, and fintech professionals eager to be part of the continent's digital financial revolution. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AccessAfricaFinTechWebinarSeries-9884-1730833296/>.
- May 8 **DOING BUSINESS WITH NORTH AMERICA (CANADA & MEXICO).** Conference sponsored by the Indiana District Export Council. Topics include: *Market Overview; Canada & Mexico – Navigating the Changing Trade Dynamic; Building Relations & Trade; Tales from the Trenches – Tips for Success in North America.* 11:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Reception follows), Newfields Art Museum, Randolph Deer Pavilion, Indianapolis, IN. Fee: \$55 (by April 18; \$75 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-with-north-america-conference-on-canada-mexico-tickets-1299902967769?aff=oddtcreator>.
- May 8 **CLEARING THE AIR: THE REALITY OF STEEL TARIFFS.** Special Luncheon and Executive Briefing sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Philip K. Bell**, President, Steel Manufacturers Association. With the sheer volume of changes coming from Washington, combined with the 24-hour news cycle frenzy, there has been relatively little time for qualified, nuanced discussion about topics such as the Steel Tariffs. Today’s program aims to bring an informed perspective to the table in order to help better understand the reality of the tariffs for our country and the industry. Today’s program is being held under the [Chatham House Rule](#) in order to encourage a robust discussion. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$60; Non-members - \$85. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/clearing-the-air-the-reality-of-steel-tariffs-tickets-1316486710189>.
- May 8 **FOREIGN PROCUREMENT ASSISTANCE WITH THE ADVOCACY CENTER.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss how the Advocacy Center assists companies with bidding on foreign government procurements. 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/e7468752-8cd6-463d-8b68-3a1bca46f945@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 13 **CUSTOMS BROKER CONTINUING EDUCATION.** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, features expert representatives from CBP, CBP’s partner accreditors, and Star USA who will answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the new continuing education requirements for customs brokers. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://starusa.org/events/customs-broker-ce/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=March%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=March%20Newsletter+CID\\_c431a33bd4bc2372fe937b5c988a843f&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Learn%20More%20%20Register](https://starusa.org/events/customs-broker-ce/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=March%20Newsletter&utm_content=March%20Newsletter+CID_c431a33bd4bc2372fe937b5c988a843f&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20More%20%20Register).

- May 13 ***ACCESS AFRICA NOW: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FINANCIAL FUTURE-EXPLORING FINTECH'S ROLE IN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY – GHANA.*** Fourth in a webinar series, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, that delves into the rapidly evolving fintech landscape across Africa. The series will provide deep insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa's fintech sector, offering a roadmap for entrepreneurs, investors, and fintech professionals eager to be part of the continent's digital financial revolution. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AccessAfricaFinTechWebinarSeries-9884-1730833296/>.
- May 14 - ***117TH ANNUAL DINNER & GOLF OUTING.*** Events sponsored by The Traffic Club of Chicago.  
 15 May 14: Golf Outing. Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, 12294 Archer Avenue, Lemont, IL. Fees vary. May 15: Annual Dinner. Aon Grand Ballroom, Navy Pier, 840 East Grand Avenue, Chicago. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.traffic-club.org/event/meeting/1218/117th-annual-dinner-golf-outing>.
- May 14 ***GLOBAL BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON.*** Event hosted by the North Dakota Trade Office to recognize and present the North Dakota Service to Exporters Award, the North Dakota Global Ambassador Award, and the North Dakota Exporter of the Year Award to businesses or individuals that have made significant advancements in the international marketplace. Luncheon features a fireside chat with former EXIM Bank Chairman and President **Fred P. Hochberg**. 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Jasper Hotel, 215 Broadway N, Fargo, ND. NDTO Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://ndto.com/events/global-business-awards-luncheon-2/>.
- May 15 ***TRANSITIONS: REDEFINING SUCCESS IN A CHANGING WORLD.*** Gala event, sponsored by the French-American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago, is the largest annual celebration of the French-American business community in the Chicagoland area, honoring outstanding organizations with the Business Awards and fostering new connections. 6:00 p.m., Ivy Room, 12 East Ohio Street, Chicago. FACC Members - \$350 (by April 15; \$450 thereafter); Non-members - \$380 by April 15; \$480 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://cbo.io/bidapp/index.php?slug=faccgala2025>.
- 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 (deadline: **January 31**), please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/GenomicandGeneticTechnologiesTradeMissiontoGreeceT/>.
- May 20 ***BECOMING A LICENSED CUSTOMS BROKER.*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will guide you through the process of obtaining your LCB license, covering the key requirements, preparation strategies, and best practices for passing the customs broker examination. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://starusa.org/events/becoming-an-lcb-2025/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=March%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=March%20Newsletter+CID\\_c431a33bd4bc2372fe937b5c988a843f&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Learn%20More%20%20Register](https://starusa.org/events/becoming-an-lcb-2025/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=March%20Newsletter&utm_content=March%20Newsletter+CID_c431a33bd4bc2372fe937b5c988a843f&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20More%20%20Register).

- May 21 - ***ACCESS KOREA'S CONSUMER GOODS MARKET WITH THE "ROCKET PITCH" PROGRAM.***  
22 Virtual program sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Companies with U.S. made products can apply for the chance to pitch their offerings to Coupang and selected businesses will pitch live at a Rocket Pitch virtual event. Each company will have the chance to secure a minimum \$10,000 purchase order to introduce their products to Coupang's 22 million customers in South Korea. Participants will receive expert market guidance from U.S. Commercial Service trade specialists, engage with Coupang's retail teams, and obtain the tools and resources needed for global brand expansion. Participating companies will gain invaluable insights into cross-border ecommerce and be able to tap into the dynamic South Korean market. Don't miss this opportunity to grow your business in South Korea. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ITACoupangStrategicPartnershipRocketPitch/>.
- May 21 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN EL SALVADOR.*** Fourth in a series of six webinars, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, on *Business Opportunities in Central America*. This series offers a valuable platform for U.S. companies to explore best-prospect sectors, gain insights from industry experts, and develop market entry strategies. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/BusinessOpportunitiesinCentralAmericaWebinarSeries/>.
- May 21 ***APPAREL CLASSIFICATION SERIES: RECREATIONAL PERFORMANCE OUTERWEAR.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, has updated content to take into consideration the HS2022 changes and will examine these classifications, which ones importers should never use (and why), and the new recordkeeping requirements for importers of these goods. The program will also review the new terminology introduced by the TFTEA that companies importing woven jackets, pants, and other garments must understand to classify their products accurately. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/apparel-classification-series-recreational-performance-outerwear>.
- May 22 ***ACCESS AFRICA NOW: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FINANCIAL FUTURE-EXPLORING FINTECH'S ROLE IN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY – TANZANIA.*** Fifth in a webinar series, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, that delves into the rapidly evolving fintech landscape across Africa. The series will provide deep insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa's fintech sector, offering a roadmap for entrepreneurs, investors, and fintech professionals eager to be part of the continent's digital financial revolution. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AccessAfricaFinTechWebinarSeries-9884-1730833296/>.
- May 22 ***MARITIME DAY LUNCHTIME CRUISE FOLLOWING BLESSING OF FLEET CEREMONY.*** Event sponsored by the Propeller Club of Chicago to celebrate US National Maritime Day. 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Navy Pier, 600 East Grand Avenue, Chicago. Members - \$80; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maritime-day-lunchtime-cruise-following-blessing-of-fleet-ceremony-tickets-1303997966019?aff=erelexpmlt>.
- Jun. 2 - ***PASSPORT TO U.S. CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar series (4 weeks, 8 modules) sponsored by  
18 the American Conference Institute. Topics (Modules): *Level-Setting: Where Things Stand with U.S. Customs Policy and Enforcement – and Key Risks to Flag Now; How to Master the Essentials and Grey Areas of Classification: In-Depth Review of HTS, Substantial Transformation and Country of Origin Determinations; Getting Classification Right: Putting Theory Into Practice; How to Classify a "Set" and How to Handle "Parts of a Product"; Getting Valuation Right: New and Core Components to Refine Your Analysis; Valuation Strategies Amid the New, Evolving Landscape of Tariffs; Tariff Mitigation in Practice: Strategies, Exemptions, FTZs and More; A Practical Roadmap to Supply Chain Mapping, Diversification, Traceability and UFLPA; Strengthening and "Future Proofing" Your Customs Compliance Program and CBP Audit Readiness; Masterclass Assignment and Q&A: A Complete Review of an Import Transaction From A-Z.* Fee: \$1,395. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.americanconference.com/us-customs-compliance-proficiency/agenda/>.



- Jun. 3 ***ACCESS AFRICA NOW: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FINANCIAL FUTURE-EXPLORING FINTECH'S ROLE IN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY – SOUTH AFRICA.*** Sixth in a webinar series, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, that delves into the rapidly evolving fintech landscape across Africa. The series will provide deep insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa's fintech sector, offering a roadmap for entrepreneurs, investors, and fintech professionals eager to be part of the continent's digital financial revolution. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AccessAfricaFinTechWebinarSeries-9884-1730833296/>.
- Jun. 3 ***HARNESSING AI FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS: SMARTER WEBSITES, STRONGER ENGAGEMENT, AND MORE SALES.*** Webinar sponsored by IBT Online and the National Association of District Export Councils. Topics include: *AI-Powered Digital Strategies: Discover how AI is transforming digital marketing, website optimization, and customer engagement*; *Smarter Websites for Higher Conversions: Learn how AI-driven tools enhance website performance, user experience, and SEO to attract and convert more visitors*; *AI & Lead Generation: Leverage AI-powered chatbots, automation, and data analytics to engage prospects and increase sales.* 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://info.ibt.onl/nadec-harnessing-ai-for-business-success-smarter-websites-stronger-engagement-and-more-sales>.
- Jun. 4 ***DIGITAL STRATEGIES FOR HEALTHCARE LEADERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by IBT Online and the U.S. Commercial Service, features a panel discussion about how to grow your exports, sales, brand, and business internationally: Learn how to leverage digital assets like landing pages, QR codes, and social media to generate leads, engage prospects, and boost your international sales; Gain strategies for nurturing leads, fostering distributor relationships, and sustaining a strong sales pipeline well beyond the event. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://info.ibt.onl/uscommercialservice-digital-strategies-for-healthcare-leaders>.
- Jun. 4 ***CZECH REPUBLIC: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RAIL AND PORT SECTORS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed to assist U.S. companies in finding opportunities abroad and providing resources to be successful in securing deals. 1:00 – 2:15 CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/WhistleStopTour/>.
- Jun. 5 ***ACCESS AFRICA NOW: EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FINANCIAL FUTURE-EXPLORING FINTECH'S ROLE IN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY – ANGOLA.*** Last in a webinar series, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, that delves into the rapidly evolving fintech landscape across Africa. The series will provide deep insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Africa's fintech sector, offering a roadmap for entrepreneurs, investors, and fintech professionals eager to be part of the continent's digital financial revolution. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AccessAfricaFinTechWebinarSeries-9884-1730833296/>.
- Jun. 11 - 13 ***WORLD HEALTH EXPO (WHX) MIAMI.*** The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Office of Trade and Investment invites Illinois small businesses to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at WHX Miami 2025. With over 1,200 exhibitors and 15,000 attendees, WHX connects the medical industry's best researchers, developers, innovators, dealers and distributors all in one place. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: Exhibit space; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics; Interpreter services during the show and meetings. Participation Fee: \$750. For information and an application, please contact: [chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov](mailto:chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov).

- Jun. 11 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN GUATEMALA***. Fifth in a series of six webinars, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, on *Business Opportunities in Central America*. This series offers a valuable platform for U.S. companies to explore best-prospect sectors, gain insights from industry experts, and develop market entry strategies. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see:  
<https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/BusinessOpportunitiesinCentralAmericaWebinarSeries/>.
- Jun. 16 - ***PARIS AIR SHOW***. Illinois small businesses are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment to co-exhibit on the Illinois stand within the USA Pavilion at the Paris Air Show. It will provide an opportunity to meet up with all the key players in the aerospace industry, seize fresh commercial opportunities, present your expertise and innovations to the world, and form technological and industrial partnerships. Illinois companies selected for the mission will receive the following, in accordance with ISTEP program eligibility guidelines: Complimentary exhibit space; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; Briefing material; Pre-show promotion; B2B matchmaking services. Participation Fee: \$1,200. Application Deadline: **March 7, 2025**. For information & application, please contact: [riccardo.navon@illinois.gov](mailto:riccardo.navon@illinois.gov).
- Jun. 16 - ***SILICON SAXONY: TRADE DELEGATION TO GERMANY FOR (MICRO) ELECTRONICS***. Sponsored by Germany Trade & Invest and Saxony Trade & Invest, high-level decision-makers from the U.S. semiconductor and factory automation sectors are invited to participate in an exclusive business delegation to Silicon Saxony, Europe's largest microelectronics cluster and a thriving hub for cutting-edge semiconductor innovation. This unique opportunity provides direct access to top industry executives from companies such as: Infineon; GlobalFoundries; Bosch; TSMC. Connect with decision-makers from over 2,500 ICT companies and 80,000 professionals in Silicon Saxony's thriving innovation ecosystem. This fully-funded program (excluding flight & hotel costs) offers unparalleled access to Silicon Saxony's innovation landscape. Take advantage of this exclusive opportunity to expand your network, explore investment opportunities, and collaborate with Europe's leading semiconductor experts. For information, Please see:  
<https://tradehorizons.com/international-trade-mission/united-states-micro-electronics-companies-in-saxony-germany/>.
- Jun. 17 - ***U.S. DELEGATION AT SURINAME'S ENERGY, OIL, AND GAS SUMMIT (SEOGS)***. The U.S. Commercial Service and the U.S. Embassy in Paramaribo, extend an invitation to U.S. companies to join the U.S. delegation to Suriname for SEOGS. The delegation will participate in the market-leading energy and offshore event, SEOGS, one of the largest energy conferences in the Caribbean. This premier event attracts thousands of businesses from around the world, spanning the oil and gas industry and numerous other sectors, providing valuable opportunities for networking and business development. U.S. companies will also engage in one-on-one business meetings with pre-screened potential buyers, agents, distributors, and joint venture partners, ensuring targeted and meaningful interactions with key stakeholders. For information & an application, please see:  
<https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/USDelegationatSurinameEnergyOilandGasSummit-SEOGS/>.
- Jun. 18 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN BELIZE***. Last in a series of six webinars, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, on *Business Opportunities in Central America*. This series offers a valuable platform for U.S. companies to explore best-prospect sectors, gain insights from industry experts, and develop market entry strategies. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$30. For information & registration, please see:  
<https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/BusinessOpportunitiesinCentralAmericaWebinarSeries/>.

- Jun. 24 ***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://www.eventzilla.net/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-2138640444>.
- July 9 - ***2025 RAIL & MARITIME SUMMIT.*** 15th Annual Summit sponsored by Mary Elisabeth Pitz & Associates. The Supply Chain's Premier Conference with 20+ presentations by C-suite executives operating in the transportation sector. Among the speakers: **Kent Britton**, CEO, Port of Corpus Christi; **Joe Hinrichs**, President & CEO, CSX; **Todd Main**, Director, Illinois Soybean Association; **Sheldon Norton**, V.P. Feed Segment Leader, Cargill; **Bethann Rooney**, Director, Port of NY/NJ; **Alberto Villareal**, Managing Director, Nepanoa; **Rodney Weinzierl**, Executive Director, Illinois Corn Growers Association; **Tracy Zea**, President & CEO, Waterways Council, Inc. Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Fee: \$895. For information & registration, please see: <https://mep-associates.com/2025-registration/>.
- July 13 - ***USDA TRADE MISSION TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.*** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service is now accepting applications for its agribusiness trade mission to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Consumer-oriented products represent the largest share of U.S. agricultural exports to the Dominican Republic, with growing demand across multiple sectors, including: Beef, pork, poultry, and related products; Dairy products; Snack, bakery and confectionery products; Fresh fruit; Wine and distilled spirits; Dog and cat food. During the trade mission, participants will join buyers from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica for targeted business-to-business meetings to explore and discuss potential business opportunities in each country. Foreign Agricultural Service staff and regional experts will also provide in-depth market briefings, lead informative site visits and host networking events. For information & an application (due by **April 2, 2025**), please see: <https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-missions/dominican-republic-july-2025>.
- July 14 - ***ILLINOIS TRADE MISSION TO INDONESIA (JAKARTA) AND MALAYSIA (KUALA LUMPUR).*** Illinois small businesses are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment on a multi-sector trade mission to Indonesia and Malaysia. Participants will receive a customized itinerary including 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 ISTEP Program eligibility guidelines: Pre-scheduled B2B Matchmaking; 50% - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs; In-country briefing materials; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$1,500. For information & an application, please contact: [kevin.kim@illinois.gov](mailto:kevin.kim@illinois.gov).
- Aug. 25 - ***SOUTHERN CONE CLEAN TECH TRADE MISSION TO CHILE, URUGUAY, AND ARGENTINA.*** Mission, organized by the United States Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA), will introduce U.S. companies to the dynamic Southern Cone region, whose governments are investing heavily in clean energy technologies to mitigate the negative effects of climate change. Targeted clean energy and environmental subsectors with substantial potential include: hydrogen and e-fuel technologies; water and sanitation (treatment & management); green transportation (hydrogen trucks, buses, shipping, rail, and passenger vehicles); and renewable/clean energy (solar, storage, and decarbonization technologies). For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/SouthernConeCleanTechTradeMission/>.

- Sep. 9 **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://www.eventzilla.net/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-2138640446>.
- Sep. 16 **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://www.eventzilla.net/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-2138640386>.
- Sep. 21 - 26 **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO TÜRKIYE AND POLAND.** Led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this business development mission is to expand opportunities for U.S. companies in advanced manufacturing markets in Türkiye and Poland, with a focus on digital technologies and services, industrial automation, and precision machinery. The mission's primary goal will be to increase U.S. exports to each market by raising brand awareness of U.S. technology solutions in advanced manufacturing and identifying opportunities for commercial collaboration. The mission will help participating firms and trade associations gain market insights, make industry contacts, solidify business strategies, and advance specific projects and initiatives in the target markets. The mission is for U.S. firms and organizations that play a part in the Advanced Manufacturing industry, especially those with products in the following categories: Digital Technologies and Services; Industrial Automation; Precision Machinery. For information & an application, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/advanced-manufacturing-business-development-mission-turkiye-and-poland>.
- Dec. 1 - 5 **SOUTHERN CONE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO CHILE, ARGENTINA, AND URUGUAY.** Organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, this trade mission will introduce U.S. companies to the dynamic Southern Cone region, whose governments are investing heavily in energy technologies to diversify and develop their economies. Participating U.S. companies will gain market insight on how to increase their exports to the region, visit project sites, and engage with pre-screened buyers, agents, distributors, project developers and potential business partners. This trade mission will include meetings and networking receptions with chambers of commerce, business groups, and national and regional government officials that can address questions on procurements, projects, policies, regulations, tariff rates, and incentives. Targeted subsectors for this energy trade mission include hydrogen and e-fuel technologies, AI & cybersecurity, energy generation (nuclear, solar, wind, and transition fuels), transportation (hydrogen trucks, buses, shipping, rail, and passenger vehicles), energy storage, water and sanitation treatment & management), strategic materials (lithium and copper), and decarbonization technologies. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/SouthernConeEnergyTechTradeMission/>.



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## 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](mailto:info@itagc.org); or visit: [www.itagc.org](http://www.itagc.org).

Follow the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago on LinkedIn:



## 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](http://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.