

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

November 17, 2025

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

- Dec. 5 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!***
Twenty-first Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with financial support from: **The Huntington National Bank**; Whiteside County Economic Development; Barnes, Richardson & Colburn; The Anderson Law Firm; Boomerang Carnets, and IDEAL Agriculture & Marine Insurance with collaborative support from: Central Asian Productivity Research Center, Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association; Organization of Women in International Trade - Chicago and U.S. – Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Mid-America Chapter. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago's international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots.** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - \$40; Non-members - \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-Put-A-Little-Fa-La-La-La-La-In-Your-Season-Tickets-1798276837429>.

Of Note:

Even as Global Uncertainty Surges, Economic Sentiment Remains Positive: In a recent *IMF Blog*, their [Chart of the Week](#) shows that a recent record monthly level for policy uncertainty was accompanied by relatively upbeat readings for their World Sentiment Index – echoing recent IMF forecasts that the global economy remains resilient and is slowing only modestly. This resilience can be attributed to improved policies, especially in emerging markets, alongside better business adaptability – but elevated uncertainty may be a new normal.

EXIM Signs “Buy American, Build the Future” Agreement with Uzbekistan: The Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan have signed a [“Buy American, Build the Future” Agreement](#), an ambitious new framework that deepens bilateral economic cooperation and advances President Trump's America First economic agenda. This strategic framework positions the United States as Uzbekistan's preferred partner across critical sectors including infrastructure, energy, aviation, minerals, and advanced technologies.

Survey: Logistics Pros Turn to Tech amid Trade Turbulence: Logistics professionals expect to see the current volatile trade environment continue for the next five years and are looking to technology for help, according to the “[Ninth Annual Forwarder/Broker Benchmark Study](#)” from the logistics technology firm Descartes. As reported in [Supply Chain Xchange](#), the report, which was released last week, is based on responses from 434 freight forwarders and custom brokers from around the world.

Mapped: The Global Cost of Living Index 2025: The [Visual Capitalist](#) graphically displays Numbeo’s Global Cost of Living Index that measures the price of goods, services, and rent relative to New York City (baseline of 100). Traditional wealth hubs like Switzerland and Singapore are the most expensive, while South Asian nations like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are the cheapest.

SPS Transparency Group Holds First Meeting: WTO members held the [first meeting](#) of the Transparency Working Group of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures on November 3. Members raised 71 specific trade concerns (STCs) at the SPS Committee meeting, a record number. Among the concerns: Viet Nam's delay in the listing of establishments for the export of fishery products; Mexico's delay in reauthorizing shrimp imports; Indonesia's pathogen-free certificate and testing requirement for frozen shrimp; and the relisting of delisted seafood processing units by the United Kingdom.

Ocean Rates Tested by Capacity Conundrum: As reported by [FreightWaves](#), major liner operators are struggling with overcapacity and weak demand on the trans-Pacific trade lane, leading to unstable freight rates despite recent General Rate Increases (GRIs) and blanked sailings. U.S. ocean imports are forecast to continue declining year-on-year through early 2026, further undermining carriers’ attempts to sustain higher freight rates amidst low demand.

The World’s \$111 Trillion in Government Debt, in One Giant Chart: Just when you thought Halloween was over, [Visual Capitalist](#) publishes [this](#).

Fact Sheet: Trump Strikes Deal on Economic and Trade Relations with China: The White House published a [fact sheet](#) last weekend outlining further details of the trade agreement President Trump announced with China’s President Xi last week. This is the first official documentation after Trump announced the deal in a press conference last week. The agreement covers a wide range of categories, including the flow of fentanyl, rare earth goods, semiconductor manufacturing, and agricultural exports such as soybeans.

Unsteady Ground: Global Economic Outlook 2025–2027: 2H 2025: Recently released by Kearney’s Global Policy Council, this [report](#) offers an overview of the refreshed global economic data through 2027 and looks at the trends underpinning changes to the foundations of the macroeconomy. This includes an assessment of significant changes to economic policy, a look at emerging complications related to geoeconomic fragmentation, an analysis of trade trends and their industry implications, and AI’s emergence as an economic wildcard.

China Buys Brazil Soy as US Crop Still Faces 13% Tariff: Citing a Reuters’ article, [Farm Policy News](#) reports the tariff cut ... leaves Chinese buyers of U.S. soybeans facing tariffs of 13%, a cost traders said makes U.S. shipments still too expensive for commercial buyers, compared to Brazilian alternatives. ‘We don’t expect any demand from China to return to the U.S. market with this change,’ said one trader at an international trading company. ‘Brazil is cheaper than the United States and even non-Chinese buyers are taking Brazilian cargoes.’

Panama Canal Fights Drought with \$8.5B Plan to Secure Future Trade: As reported in [FreightWaves](#), the Panama Canal Authority is implementing an \$8.5 billion, 10-year modernization plan to enhance its competitiveness, expand capacity, and ensure water resilience amidst evolving global trade patterns and climate pressures. This plan includes constructing two new container terminals (Corozal and Telfers) to add significant annual capacity, a \$4 billion liquefied petroleum gas pipeline to free up canal slots, and a \$1.2 billion Río Indio reservoir project to address water dependence.

Despite Tariffs, US Merchandise Imports Increased and Exports Held Steady in the First Half of 2025: Writing for the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#), Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Ye Zhang find the actual trade data through July 2025 contradict some economists’ predictions that US imports would decline significantly. But individual exporting countries that were special targets, notably China, have been hit.

Department of Commerce Announces American AI Exports Program Implementation: On October 21 the Commerce Department announced the implementation of the [American AI Exports Program](#). The program will select industry-led export packages that will include AI hardware, software, models, and applications across industry sectors for promotion to countries and regions around the world. The American AI Exports Program commences with industry engagement, including a [Request for Information](#) to invite public comments from U.S. and global technology companies.

Ranked: The World's Largest Economies in 2026: The Visual Capitalist presents this fascinating graphic on the [projected size of world economies](#) in 2026. The American economy is expected to reach \$31.8 trillion in GDP by 2026. This is roughly the size of China (2nd - \$20.6 trillion), Germany (3rd - \$5.3 trillion), and India (4th - \$4.5 trillion) combined.

Prime Time for Cargo Theft: \$18M Vanishing Every Day: As reported in [Overdrive](#) (and elsewhere), a [new report](#) from the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) reveals the true costs and impacts of cargo theft. Annualized cost to trucking ATRI pegged at a whopping \$6.6 billion – more than \$18 million per day. Motor carrier respondents to an ATRI survey that underlies data in the report showed more than \$16M of cargo losses in 555 separate incidents during 2023, with an average loss per incident of around \$29,000. For brokers and other LSPs the issue is even more stark: \$33 million reported lost by survey respondents in 2023, with an average loss of nearly \$100K per theft.

DHL: Global Trade Has Flourished even as U.S. Tariffs Rocked American Trade: A [study](#) from DHL and New York University's Stern School of Business reveals global trade grew faster in the first half of 2025 than in any half-year since 2010, excluding the pandemic rebound. Overall, the study concluded that global trade is projected to keep growing, forecasting a 2.5% annualized growth rate in global trade volumes from 2025 to 2029—roughly matching the pace of the previous decade.

Ranked: The World's Top 30 Countries by Exports: The [Visual Capitalist](#) ranks the world's biggest exporters. China accounted for 14.6% of global exports of goods in 2024, the highest share overall. Vietnam, Hong Kong SAR, and France each saw double-digit export growth, while exports contracted the sharpest in Australia. Despite being a primary target of U.S. tariffs, China has deepened trade ties across Africa, Southeast Asia, and Europe in 2025.

Global Trade Outlook and Statistics: The just released and [updated October 2025 edition](#) forecast for world merchandise trade volume growth in 2025 has risen to 2.4% (up from the estimate of 0.9% in the interim outlook in August) while the outlook for 2026 has deteriorated to 0.5% (down from the August estimate of 1.8%). The forecast for services trade has also been updated, with commercial services export volume now expected to grow 4.6% in 2025 and 4.4% in 2026, up slightly from the previous estimates last April.

The FDI Shake-up: How Foreign Direct Investment Today May Shape Industry and Trade Tomorrow: McKinsey Global Institute has published a report on what foreign direct investment (FDI) can tell us about global industry in the future. This report explores the shifts underway in FDI and offers foresight for decision-makers as they navigate a high-stakes environment of intensifying economic competition and shifting geopolitical dynamics. Free download [here](#); virtual panel discussion on Oct. 21.

USTR Seeks Public Comment on the Joint Review of USMCA: On September 16 the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative [announced](#) a public consultation process in advance of the joint review (Joint Review) of the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (USMCA) on July 1, 2026. As directed by Congress, USTR is seeking public comments on the operation of the Agreement. In addition, USTR will hold a public hearing on **November 17**. The Federal Register Notice is [here](#).

2025 Kearney Reshoring Index: After enjoying two consecutive years of continued momentum, [Kearney's Reshoring Index](#) faced its first significant drop in 2024, raising fundamental questions about the sustainability of the upward trajectory of U.S. manufacturing witnessed in recent years. Despite substantial investment in domestic production capacity, manufacturing gross output (MGO) has been virtually flat since early 2023.

China's Economic Transition: Debt, Demography, Deglobalization, and Scenarios for 2035: This new [report](#) from the Center for Strategic & International Studies aims to present a clear picture of the economy Beijing wants to build by 2035 and develop potential scenarios for how this might unfold in reality—as well as explore the implications for U.S. policymakers, the U.S. economy, and other Western countries. The report focuses, in particular, on how China's approach to managing the challenges of debt, demography, and deglobalization might shape its economic trajectory.

The Global Sourcing Risk Index 2025: Developed in collaboration with Oxford Economics, [The Global Sourcing Risk Index](#) analyzes the top 20 global economies, plus 10 fast-emerging economies, against 10 key sectors and eight risk dimensions: Geopolitical Conflict, Climate, Governance, Control, and Compliance, Human Rights, Trade Barriers, Labor Cost Volatility, Input Cost Volatility, and Supplier Concentration. The Index offers a strategic view of high-risk country-sector pairings across each of the risks, and how procurement leaders can respond with clarity and control.

Trump's Tariff Revenue Tracker: Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Ye Zhang of the Peterson Institute for International Economics have [charted tariff revenues](#) in practice over time: How much tariff revenue is the US collecting on different products?; How much tariff revenue is the US collecting on different countries' goods?; Can Trump's tariff revenues help pay for the federal budget deficit?

IMPORTANT NOTE: We are informed that all U.S. Commercial Service (CS) hosted programs have been postponed due to a lapse in government funding. Once funding is appropriated, they will make every effort to host previously scheduled CS programs. If the government reopens prior to the event date, the event should take place as scheduled. Registrations will remain open for CS programs if funding is appropriated prior to the date of scheduled programs.

- Nov. 17 ***OPERATING IN U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics including how FTZs work, and the benefits and rules for operating in an FTZ, helping your company evaluate the costs and benefits. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ggzqgru>.
- Nov. 18 ***INDONESIA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK WITH FAUZI ICHSAN.*** Virtual program, sponsored by the American Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. – ASEAN Business Council, features a conversation with economist **Fauzi Ichsan** on the trajectory of Indonesia's economy. He is Chairman of state-owned Indonesia Financial Group, Indonesia's largest non-bank financial conglomerate with 10 subsidiaries that operate in the insurance industry, capital market (investment bank, asset management and venture capitalist) and office real estate. 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://app.associationsphere.com/Event/EventInfo?prm=fNMmmWacv05sbM4j0450bbXNowdZhW0WUV80dbVOyWe5kr5WEDc4vStsmkwicdMacjVQFgAGOVCKLsvyRZ9w1QrDAZLKWDdOWG3yI5fRKxEM57-aUYong-FBBMOoInTcpxRlriF3Vlaob45DDmpsKUPwnhK34u8xYOXzLxoHZyqNF9mLaxwSmyPr-j2IED3x0LmD5caPtOCtgJAurueuLhebbWKYlaFSjTJGkpPQxTH3xaCZ2NsT9SKkmVUxvri0>.
- Nov. 18 ***YEAR-END INSIGHTS 2: WHAT'S CHANGING & WHAT TO WATCH.*** Second in a 3-part webinar series (Oct. 14, Dec. 9), sponsored by Star USA, will address: *Emerging trends in manufacturing and global sourcing; Anticipated changes to free trade agreements and customs rules; Strategic insights for 2026 trade compliance planning.* 9:00 – 10:00 am. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/webinar-2-whats-changing-what-to-watch/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=October%20Webinar%20What%20We%20Learned%20in%202025&utm_content=October%20Webinar%20What%20We%20Learned%20in%202025+CID_97b9e9b71c930bc6e0dd2c7fad212d38&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20more%20%20register.
- Nov. 18 ***NAVIGATING TARIFF, TRADE, AND CUSTOMS COMPLIANCE IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by Citrin Cooperman, will cover: Recent developments in the U.S. tariff landscape; Enforcement priorities from CBP, DOJ, and the Trade Fraud Task Force; Whistleblower programs; False Claims Act risk factors and preparation for potential qui tam actions; Practical steps to strengthen compliance programs; Tariff mitigation strategies and building operational resilience. 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://go.citrincooperman.com/251118-TariffsTradeWebinar_01.Registrationpage.html.
- Nov. 18 ***COST SAVINGS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROPER CLASSIFICATION: FOUNDATIONS, APPLICATIONS, COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, will explore the foundations, challenges, and enforcement risks of classification covering HTS codes, tariffs, special provisions, and enforcement—to equip trade professionals and their colleagues with the knowledge and tools needed for confident compliance. Topics include: *Foundations: The Role of Classification in Global Trade; Applications: Navigating Derivatives, Tariffs, and Special Provisions; Enforcement: Reasonable Care, Audits, and Compliance Risks.* 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CST. AAEI Members - \$299; Non-members - \$400. For information & registration, please see: https://americanassociationofexportersimportersaaei.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/v5FKb2kiKCyCRG06q?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=1007SA&utm_campaign=TradeFocusWebinar.

- Nov. 18 **TRADE, TARIFFS, TURMOIL AND TRANSPARENCY FIRESIDE CHAT WITH OWIT LEADERS.** Webinar sponsored by OWIT International. Speakers include: **Hulya Kurt**, OWIT President – Introductions/Scene Setter; **Cortney O’Toole Morgan**, Partner, Husch Blackwell; **Camelia Mazard**, Partner, Doyle, Barlow & Mazard; **Angela Marshall Hofmann** (Moderator), VP Corporate Affairs, Catalyst Brands. 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST. OWIT Members - \$28.52; Non-members - \$44.52. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trade-tariffs-turmoil-and-transparency-fireside-chat-with-owit-leaders-tickets-1865896870769?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Nov. 18 **ENGAGE IN TRADE: EXPORT PLANNING WITH THE SBDC.** Webinar, sponsored by World Trade Center St. Louis, will guide you through the essential components of becoming “export ready.” Our speaker will walk us through a robust export readiness assessment and sample feedback session to identify gaps, provide targeted resources, and leverage the Missouri SBDC’s powerful online tools. 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wrpNGb-aTsKUg4_PfPLK8Q?#/registration.
- Nov. 18 **CBP RISK ANALYSIS AND SURVEY ASSESSMENT – THE CBP AUDIT TRANSFORMATION.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the RASA process, the primary risk areas currently being targeted for RASA consideration, and how importers can better prepare to undergo a RASA or audit. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/cbp-risk-analysis-and-survey-assessment-the-cbp-audit-transformation>.
- Nov. 18 **CREATING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: NAVIGATING TARIFFS AND DISRUPTIONS.** Webinar sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils. Presentation by **Tom Cook**, Blue Tiger International, who will help you: *Understand the current state of global supply chains, outlining uncertainty and disruption with a special focus on tariffs and trade; Take a deep dive on the methodologies available for risk, spend and tariff mitigation; Learn how to achieve sustainability and resilience in your import and export operations, logistics, manufacturing and supply chain.* 2:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iQP4KLI5SAuzhM2Uzilw0g#/registration.
- Nov. 19 **THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC! WHAT ARE TARIFFS DOING TO THE MUSIC INDUSTRY?** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, will discuss how tariffs are affecting all aspects of the music industry. Speakers include: **Cullen S. Hendrix**, Senior Fellow, PIIE; **John Mlynczak**, President and CEO, National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM); **Julie Robbins**, CEO, EarthQuaker Devices; **Cecilia Malmström** (Moderator), Nonresident Senior Fellow, Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE). 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2025/thank-you-music-what-are-tariffs-doing-music-industry>.
- Nov. 19 **MEXICO TIMELY TOPICS: EXPECTATIONS AND CHALLENGES TODAY.** Webinar sponsored by the Illinois Manufacturers’ Association. Presentation by Dr. **Carlos Capistran**, Chief Economist for Mexico and Canada at Bank of America Securities who will provide a timely update on the latest economic data from Mexico and what it means for US manufacturers. 10:30 – 11:15 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://illinoismanufacturersassociation.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/b3Fmb24INCRCw>.
- Nov. 19 **DOING BUSINESS WITH SOUTH KOREA.** Webinar, sponsored by the Indiana District Export Council, will examine the burgeoning relationship between Indiana and South Korea, cross-cultural business communications and industry trends, and discuss best practices for Hoosier businesses wanting to grow their exports with this dynamic market. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-with-south-korea-tickets-1963461367806?aff=oddtcreator>.

- Nov. 19 ***SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ITS CONNECTIVITY WITH THE CAPRC.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center. Speakers include **Michael Krzyston**, international business executive, and **Muhammad Haikal Samsudin**, Deputy Director, Malaysia Investment Development Authority. 11:30 a.m., Wolf's Head Restaurant, 6937 Joliet Road, Indian Head Park, IL. Fee: \$35 (by November 10; \$45 thereafter). For information & registration, please contact: lepinske@sbcglobal.net.
- Nov. 19 ***CRITICAL DETAILS OF CUSTOMS VALUATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the finer details, rules, and terminology of customs valuation, which is especially important for unusual sales contracts, to help traders meet reasonable care obligations. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/72wtchs>.
- Nov. 19 ***DUTY DRAWBACK OPPORTUNITIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Thompson Hine, will provide an overview of the program, compliance requirements, practical considerations for maximizing refunds and share tips for streamlining the claims process. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=reg20.jsp&eventid=5080952&sessionid=1&key=6D73A69C97A33827F417BAA686B6C3D7&groupId=6348595&partnerref=smartradedblog&sourcepage=register>.
- Nov. 19 ***TARIFFS & 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. CST. Fee: \$150. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/tariffs-trade-in-turmoil-november-monthly-update>.
- Nov. 19 ***CUSTOMIZING ACE REPORTS: MODIFY & TAILOR YOUR DATA.*** Part 2 of a 3-part webinar series, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will focus on modifying and customizing reports to fit your specific compliance and operational needs. Learn how to adjust parameters, refine data outputs, and create reports that deliver actionable insights for your business. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://anderinger.cventevents.com/hub/events/c7f4ddfa-41ee-49e0-8b44-82db2db30a55/landing>.
- Nov. 20 ***SMART AGENTS, SMARTER DEALS: AI AND NEGOTIATION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.*** Speakers will discuss how businesses can harness both interpersonal and algorithmic intelligence to navigate complexity, build trust, and achieve win-win outcomes in a data-driven world. Speakers: **Sudhir Gajre**, Head of Gen AI, Lovelytics, Adjunct Professor, University of Nebraska at Omaha and Dr. **Phani Tej Adidam**, Chair, Department of Marketing & Entrepreneurship. University of Nebraska Omaha. 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., Tiburon Banquet Facility, 10202 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. Fee: MITA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/smart-agents-smarter-deals-ai-and-negotiation-in-international-trade/>.
- Nov. 20 ***LAUNCH OF THE EXECUTIVE REPORT OF THE USMCA DIGITAL TRADE AND AI TASK FORCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Inter-American Dialogue, will feature the authors of the report in two panels, offering perspectives on how the region can build a forward-looking digital agenda. Panel I: *Toward a Stronger Digital North America*. Panel II: *Building a Connected and Secure North America—Mexico's Digital Policy in Action*. 9:00 – 11:10 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://thedialogue.org/event/launch-of-the-executive-report-of-the-usmca-digital-trade-and-ai-task-force>.
- Nov. 20 ***THE US-CHINA AI RACE.*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, will explain what tech industries and governments are racing towards, the differences between AI models, and how AI development and deployment will affect different parts of the world. 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2025/us-china-ai-race>.

- Nov. 20 ***FCPA AND YOUR SELF-DISCLOSURE CALCULUS: SPECIAL UPDATE ON THE AFTERMATH OF DOJ'S NEW WHITE COLLAR ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the American Conference Institute, will unpack the shifting calculus behind self-disclosure decisions amid the latest DOJ White Collar Enforcement Guidance, as well as the practical impact. Gain invaluable takeaways on key issues, including: *How the DOJ's latest guidance has been affecting the self-reporting equation; Assessing the timing, scope, risk and rewards of self-disclosure; How new self-disclosure incentives and the possibility of leniency are affecting self-disclosure decision-making; Taking stock of what has (and hasn't) yielded a DPA or NPA: A closer look at the latest cases; Reading the prosecutorial tea leaves: Predictions on the continuing aftermath of the DOJ's Guidance.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.americanconference.com/fcpa-houston/webinar/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=SFMC_ACI&utm_campaign=CC+855L26-HOU+E3+Webinar+--+Webinar&utm_term=English&utm_keycode=&utm_content=https%3a%2f%2fwww.americanconference.com%2ffcpa-houston%2fwebinar%2f.
- Nov. 20 ***EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover key tips to selling into the region, avoiding pitfalls, and taking advantage of selling duty-free with U.S. Free Trade Agreements. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ha6vhgy>.
- Nov. 20 ***HAPPY HOUR: NETWORKING EVENT FOR GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK.*** Event sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., River Bluff Brewery, 201 Main Street, Suite 101, Kansas City, MO. Snacks, networking & cash bar. No fee; advance registration appreciated. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6385212>.
- Nov. 22 ***34TH ANNUAL ABPA DINNER GALA.*** Event, sponsored by the Arab American Business & Professional Association (ABPA) Foundation, brings together business leaders, community advocates, and partners from across Illinois for an evening of connection and impact to support ABPA's mission - empowering communities, strengthening businesses, and building a brighter, more compassionate future for all. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., The Westin, 70 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, IL. Fee: \$150 - \$4,999. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-34th-annual-abpa-dinner>.
- Nov. 26 ***SMART SHOPIFY STRATEGIES FOR BUSINESS GROWTH.*** Webinar, sponsored by the International Trade Administration and IBT Online, offers a step-by-step look at how to boost visibility, drive conversions, and streamline your operations - so you can scale faster with confidence. 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.trade.gov/e-commerce-grow-your-exports?anchor=content-node-tl4-field-lp-region-1-4>.
- 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/>.

- Dec. 1 - **HONG KONG TRADE MISSION 2025**. IBS Global Consulting, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is organizing a U.S. Trade Mission to Hong Kong in conjunction with the 26th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. The trade mission offers U.S. businesses firsthand insights into technology trends, market opportunities, and information on conducting business in Hong Kong, one of Asia's most vibrant business hubs. Companies in the following sectors are encouraged to apply: Emerging Technology & Innovation (e.g., MedTech, FoodTech, EdTech, and FinTech); Healthcare (e.g., Medical Devices and Pharmaceuticals); AI and Robotics; ICT and Digitalization; . and Financial Services. Fee: \$850.. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.ibsglobalconsulting.com/hong-kong-trade-mission-2025>.
- Dec. 2 **PRODUCT PASSPORTS: FROM REACTIVE COMPLIANCE TO 'GLOBAL ENTRY'**. Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, showcases the groundbreaking, new phase of Altana's partnership with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to use Product Passports for pre-clearing low-risk shipments. Presentation by **Amy Morgan**, Vice President & Head of Trade Compliance, Altana. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.zoom.us/j/AslX61uxim9qgVn7Qd1aiKinJ8_Ri-rlZmimwRyNbzg3BttbJiGV~AvNtSxbVKxq_1Ljpw3FAovonzZrEIMsLSgOUKVka4mgOvtS2pL2hB4wfaA.
- Dec. 2 **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND FUNDRAISER 2025**. Reception & Dinner Program sponsored by the Swiss American Business Council. 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago. SABC Members - \$185; Non-members - \$195. For information & registration, please see: <https://sabcnw.com/product/christmas2025/>.
- Dec. 3 **DEGLOBALIZATION & AI: THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM**. Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **John Younker**, Co-founder, Byte Level Research who will discuss how: Deglobalization is suppressing growth; AI promises a new wave of global growth; Smaller companies are best positioned to leverage AI. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2025/11/05/deglobalization-ai-the-calm-before-the-storm/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=deglobalization-ai-the-calm-before-the-storm&mc_cid=4202850f7f&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Dec. 3 **LEVERAGING CHAPTER 98 PROVISIONS**. Webinar, sponsored by Thompson Hine, will explore key sections, qualification criteria, and documentation best practices. Participants will learn how to identify opportunities and ensure compliance while reducing duty exposure. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=reg20.jsp&eventid=5080952&sessionid=1&key=6D73A69C97A33827F417BAA686B6C3D7&groupId=6348595&partnerref=smartradeblog&sourcepage=register>.
- Dec. 3 **AUTOMATING ACE REPORTING: SCHEDULING FOR EFFICIENCY**. Last of a 3-part webinar series, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will show you how to schedule ACE reports for automated delivery. Discover best practices for setting up recurring reports, ensuring timely access to critical trade data without manual effort. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://anderinger.cventevents.com/hub/events/06e644af-2625-4ee6-9cc4-d607c4f840de/landing>.
- Dec. 4 **PACC CHRISTMAS PARTY**. Event, sponsored by the Polish American Chamber of Commerce, will feature: Savory food, cocktails (open wine and beer bar), seasonal background music; Opportunity to win raffle prizes; Special guests; Ice skating possibility. 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Millennium Hall, 11 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago. PACC Members - \$65; Non-members - \$80. For information & registration, please contact: info@polishamericanchamber.org.

- Dec. 5 - ***SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers
11 is leading a multi-sector trade mission to Saudi Arabia and UAE. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. For information & registration (deadline: **September 5**), please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/saudi-arabia-and-uae-trade-mission-2025/>.
- Dec. 5 ***ANNUAL BABC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2025***. Event, sponsored by the British American Business Council, features an authentic three-course British Christmas lunch (complete with crackers!) accompanied by a selection of wine, beer, and tea/coffee. Includes a champagne toast, an open bar reception, and whiskey tasting. BABC Members - \$200; Non-members - \$249. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ty5uw7d?mode=preview&source_id=ece59abf-762d-4698-ac98-974eb74d45a1&source_type=em&c=&source_id=ece59abf-762d-4698-ac98-974eb74d45a1&source_type=em&c=XLNkZtGrwVHyhbF-FRgBJDLCKyCfybjkV5W2v8qTY9O20jmabc-17g==.
- Dec. 5 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!*** Twenty-first Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with financial support from: **The Huntington National Bank**; Whiteside County Economic Development; Barnes, Richardson & Colburn; The Anderson Law Firm; Boomerang Carnets, and IDEAL Agriculture & Marine Insurance with collaborative support from: Central Asian Productivity Research Center, Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association; Organization of Women in International Trade - Chicago and U.S. – Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Mid-America Chapter. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago's international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots.** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - \$40; Non-members - \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-Put-A-Little-Fa-La-La-La-La-In-Your-Season-Tickets-1798276837429>.
- Dec. 6 ***AGCC 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA NIGHT***. Event, sponsored by the Africa Global Chamber of Commerce, will feature distinguished speakers, live entertainment, a fashion showcase, dinner, and networking opportunities with business leaders, policymakers, and partners from across Africa and the diaspora. 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Malcolm X College, 1900 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Fee: \$50 - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://app.glueup.com/event/agcc-10th-anniversary-gala-night-159781/>.
- Dec. 7 - ***U.S. CYBERSECURITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST***. Led by the
15 U.S. Department of Commerce, the purpose of the mission is to introduce U.S. firms to Middle East's information and communication technology (ICT) security and critical infrastructure protection markets, and to assist them in finding business partners and to export their products and services to the region. This trade mission (to Saudi Arabi, Qatar, Jordan, and Kuwait) will also promote the tenets and adoption of the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework globally. The trade mission is intended to include representatives from U.S. companies and U.S. trade associations/organizations with members that provide cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection products and services. For information & an application (deadline: **August 22**), please see: <https://www.trade.gov/middle-east-cyber-mission>.

- Dec. 8 **TRADE & TECH SUMMIT.** Hybrid event, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will highlight how the conversation on trade and technology is shifting as governments engage each other on issues like non-tariff barriers, digital regulations, digital taxation, and governance over emerging technologies like AI. 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (CST), Pavilion Room, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. WITA Members - \$50 in-person; \$25 virtual; Non-members - \$100 in-person; \$50 virtual. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/trade-tech-summit/>.
- Dec. 9 **YEAR-END INSIGHTS 3: HOW TO PREPARE FOR 2026.** Last of a 3-part webinar series (Oct. 14, Nov. 18), sponsored by Star USA, will address: *Leveraging compliance to drive business impact; Strategies for finding and developing trade talent; Key tools and planning insights for success in 2026.* 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/webinar-3-how-to-prepare-for-2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=October%20Webinar%20What%20We%20Learned%20in%202025&utm_content=October%20Webinar%20What%20We%20Learned%20in%202025+CID_97b9e9b71c930bc6e0dd2c7fad212d38&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20more%20%20register.
- Dec. 10 **MIDA CHICAGO - END OF YEAR NETWORKING AND BRIEFING SESSION IN CHICAGO.** Event, sponsored by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, will provide a briefing and networking reception for the business community, industry associations, and ASEAN trade offices in Chicago and surrounding areas. The goal of this event is to facilitate networking and provide updates on Malaysia's industrial landscape. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Kapitan Malaysian Restaurant, 2142 North Clybourn Avenue, Chicago. **Space is limited.** No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdheMMU_Hgaemx1R-Ko91Mya52Ix1TWWyDIghJboBH2TrD9tw/viewform.
- Dec. 10 **EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING – CHRISTKINDLMARKET CHICAGO.** Sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce and other European chambers, features traditional German delicious eats, seasonal drinks, and a warm setting as you mingle with like-minded professionals. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Grand Timber Haus, Daley Plaza, 50 West Washington Street, Chicago. Chamber members - \$55; Non-members - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/3ynabyq>.
- Dec. 11 **MITA HOLIDAY SOCIAL AND NETWORKING MIXER.** Event, sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association, offers invaluable connections and industry insight. Enjoy sophisticated seasonal appetizers, refreshments and engaging conversation as we celebrate our shared successes and look forward to a prosperous new year. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Husch Blackwell Milwaukee, 511 North Boardway, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$20; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/mita-holiday-social-and-networking-mixer-1550164?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Dec. 14 **CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE NATIONWIDE PREPARATION WORKSHOP: APRIL 2026**
- Apr. 19 **EXAMINATION.** Remote Platform Cloud Based Virtual Online Training sponsored by The World Academy. This course will assist you in the development of test taking reference familiarization, time management, Customs Regulations reference and Harmonized Tariff Schedule determination that will result in positive results in the development of each participant test taking ability towards a passing grade. Our instruction is detailed and consists of: Live lectures- Remote platform; Five-month instruction and help desk assistance; Group format with one-on-one tutorship options and Customs Examination preparation skills for positive results. Classes held on alternate Sundays (8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CST). Fee: \$1,895. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/copy-of-2021-customs-broker-course>.
- Dec. 16 **IACAC HOLIDAY PARTY.** An afternoon of food, drinks, networking, and festive fun sponsored by the International Air Cargo Association of Chicago. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., The Foxtail on The Lake, 1177 Howard Avenue, Des Plaines, IL. IACAC Members- \$125; Non-members - \$135. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/holiday-party/>.

- Dec. 16 **NAVIGATING TRADE TARIFFS: STRATEGIES FARMERS CAN CONTROL TO MANAGE RISK AND CAPTURE NEW MARKETS.** Webinar, sponsored by Illinois Soybean Growers, will emphasize how producers can focus on controllable aspects of their operations – input efficiency, diversification, storage strategies, and marketing plans – to manage risk. Learn about new markets emerging to strengthen resilient operations amidst fluctuating global trade conditions. 2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://form.123formbuilder.com/6895340/nov-dec-2025-isg-webinar?utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9-4X99CZBeBkOFdrLpTZsHSIIX9rbnJ6PZcCOKmKb2zFCsltGFVIHSqH98W2Tzob4Vh9YTis95G2mjvCN-mr6egxxIZA&hsmi=386571037&utm_content=386571037&utm_source=hs_email.
- Jan. 13 **EXPORT COMPLIANCE ESSENTIALS 1: EXPORT COMPLIANCE 101.** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will cover the key regulations, common pitfalls (including dual-use items), and why compliance matters - because mistakes can carry serious consequences. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://starusa.org/events/export-compliance-essentials-1-export-compliance-101/>.
- Jan. 13 **THE ROAD AHEAD 2026: MONEY & MARKETS.** Luncheon program, sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association, will unpack how tariffs, advances in AI, and shifts in immigration are shaping the next phase of market growth. Speakers include: **John Min**, Chief Economist, Monex USA; **Brandon Koeser**, Financial Institutions Channel Leader, RSM US LLP; **Greg Cieply**, Foreign Exchange Director, Monex USA. 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Fluno Center, 601 University Avenue, Madison, WI. MITA Members - \$55; Non-members - \$80. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/the-road-ahead-2026-money-markets-1550451?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Feb. 3 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT EXPO MANUFACTURA, MONTERREY, MEXICO.** 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 Expo Manufactura 2026. With over 500 exhibitors and 19,000 visitors, Expo Manufactura is the most important meeting place for the manufacturing and processing industry in Mexico. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive the following: *Exhibit space; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs in accordance with ISTEP guidelines; Briefing material; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics; Optional pre-qualified and scheduled B2B matchmaking; Interpreter services during the show and meetings.* Participation Fee: \$1,000. Application Deadline: December 12, 2025. For information & application, please contact: chris.sedgwick@illinois.gov.
- Feb. 10 **EXPORT COMPLIANCE ESSENTIALS 2: EXPORT COMPLIANCE MASTERCLASS.** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will explore recent regulatory updates, risk management strategies, and how compliance can empower your business as you expand into new markets. Learn practical approaches to stay resilient and compliant while pursuing growth. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://starusa.org/events/export-compliance-essentials-2-export-compliance-masterclass/>.

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.

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 KSM

KSM (Katz, Sapper & Miller) is one of the top 50 largest independent advisory, tax, and audit firms in the United States. Through our deep experience across multiple disciplines and industries, we provide clients with the inspiration, insight, and technical expertise they need to achieve great things. KSM's international team provides tax planning and consulting services to help businesses and individuals navigate all aspects of cross-border activity. Headquartered in Indianapolis, we operate multiple offices and serve an impressive roster of clients who count on us to be their trusted advisors. Learn more at ksmcpa.com.