

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

November 24, 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:

How Much Did US Imports of Different Products Change after Trump's Tariffs?: Writing in the Peterson Institute for International Economics' *Realtime Economics*, Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Ye Zhang conclude President Trump's "cascade of new tariffs" had the opposite impact of their intention: the data show that imports surged in the first half of 2025, whereas exports declined in the same period. Real exports of most major products decreased by varying percentages between April-July 2024 and April-July 2025, an unforeseen consequence of the higher cost or lessened availability of intermediate inputs as a result of Trump's tariffs.

USMCA Chapter 19 Digital Trade: Executive Report and 2026 Review Outlook: Policy

Recommendations for North America's Digital And Ai Integration: an initiative of the Inter-American Dialogue's Mexico Program, it presents key insights for North America's digital and AI integration, building on the work of the USMCA Digital Trade and AI Task Force. The complimentary report is [here](#).

‘Ugly’ Fees on Chinese Ships Concern US Ag Exporters: The now-paused fees on Chinese ships docking at U.S. ports are a misguided attempt to revitalize U.S. maritime fortunes at the expense of American exporters, said Peter Freidmann, executive director of the Agriculture Transportation Coalition, in an interview with [FreightWaves](#). While other carriers shifted ships and tweaked services to minimize their exposure, published reports said Cosco of China and Hong Kong subsidiary OOCL paid approximately \$42 million just in the first week after the fees went into effect Oct. 14. Analysts estimated that the China lines could be liable for as much as \$1.5 billion in fees in 2026.

FDI Fuels Chip Shift: McKinsey & Company’s [The Week in Charts](#) notes, as geopolitical tensions rise, countries and companies are moving to diversify production beyond Taiwan and South Korea and bring manufacturing closer to home. In this context, foreign direct investment (FDI) is emerging as a key driver of global capacity growth. In fact, FDI could bolster the United States’ capacity, potentially making it the second-largest producer of leading-edge semiconductors by the early 2030s. A chart describes how FDI in semiconductors reconfigured sharply toward the U.S. between 2022-25.

After Months of Turmoil, China–U.S. Blank Sailings Settle Down: Citing new data from [project44](#), Supply Chain 24/7 notes that after months of spikes tied to tariff changes, carriers appear to be settling into new trade patterns as demand levels out. Blank sailings between China and the U.S. are down sharply from their peak in the spring. [project44](#) reports an 82% drop from April’s high point, a sign that carriers adjusted too far earlier in the year as importers rushed to move goods before new tariffs took effect.

Provide Input on the American AI Exports Program: The Department of Commerce recently [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. To help us shape the Program, understand industry needs, and ensure that policy outcomes are met, the Commerce Department has published a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) in the Federal Register and launched the [aiexports.gov](#) site. U.S. and global technology companies are encouraged to review the notice and consider submitting comments by the **November 28, 2025**, deadline.

Navigating Cross-border Freight in an Era of Uncertainty: As reported in *Supply Chain Dive*, this [new playbook](#) shows how the right partner helps shippers build resilient cross-border strategies, with real-world insights from industry peers and experts. This playbook examines the root causes of volatility in cross-border logistics and highlights best practices for mitigating risk through strategic carrier partnerships.

Digital Innovation Key to Expanding Trade Prospects for Small Businesses: During a meeting of the WTO's Informal Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ([MSMEs](#)), Deputy Director-General Xiangchen Zhang observed that trade digitalization and support for digital entrepreneurship represent low-hanging fruits for increasing access to international markets for small businesses. DDG Zhang cited the results of a [2023 survey](#) showing that two-thirds of businesses intend to expand internationally, and 80% of micro entrepreneurs are already selling to more than one economy.

Ranked: The 30 Largest Importers in the World: No surprises on the [Visual Capitalist graphic](#): America, China, and Germany were the world’s largest importers of goods in 2024. More than 13% of the world’s imported goods are purchased by America, equaling \$3.4 trillion of the \$20.4 trillion the top 30 countries imported in 2024. Meanwhile, China imported \$2.6 trillion in goods, ranking second globally.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

Nov. 25 ***THE STATE OF FREIGHT: NAVIGATING TRADE & IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT***

SHUTDOWN. Webinar, sponsored by *FreightWaves*, will discuss: *How the capacity crunch is impacting the market for holiday shipping; The latest tariff rulings and their effect on global trade; How the government shutdown influenced freight demand.* 11:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.freightwaves.com/freightwaves1/the-state-of-freight-navigating-trade-and-the-government-shutdown>.

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/ecommerce-grow-your-exports?anchor=content-node-t14-field-lp-region-1-4>.

Dec. 1 - ***SOUTHERN CONE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO CHILE, ARGENTINA, AND***
5 ***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
6 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/jv/AslX61uxim9qgVn7Qd1aiKinJ8_Ri-rIZmimwRyNbzg3BttbJiGV~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 ***TARIFF STRATEGIES FOR YOUR GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN***. Webinar, sponsored by World Trade Center Kentucky, will explore ways to legally eliminate, delay, or recover some of these significant duties. The program will cover: *6 strategies to legally eliminate duties; 4 strategies to lower or delay duty payments; 3 strategies to recover duties you've already paid; 4 new ways to think about and optimize your supply chain*. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://business.wtcky.org/events/details/tariff-strategies-for-your-global-supply-chain-972>.
- 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 ***MEMBER APPRECIATION 2025 HOLIDAY HAPPY HOUR***. Sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City, this is an opportunity to mix, mingle and make connections with international trade professionals from across the metro. 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Design Resources, Inc., 7007 College Boulevard, 5th floor, Overland Park, KS. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6362395>.
- 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==.
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- 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 **AZERBAIJAN: UNLOCKING MARKET POTENTIAL.** Webinar, sponsored by Schneider Group, provides a comprehensive introduction to establishing and operating a business in the country. Topics include: *Corporate laws – company registration, sale and purchase of shares; Migration issues; Taxation – tax benefits and exemptions; EPC contracts – a structure for successful investments in Azerbaijan.* 3:00 – 4:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://schneider-group.com/en/news/events/azerbaijan-unlocking-market-potential/>.
- 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 **PREPARING FOR A CUSTOMS INVESTIGATION.** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will review the different types of investigations and how to handle them. Topics include: *Civil and criminal investigations; Differences between investigations, audits, and non-investigatory inquiries; Recognizing an investigation when it is underway, notifying the appropriate officers, and designating a contact person; How to avoid turning a routine inquiry or audit into an investigation; Dealing with agents conducting an investigation; Cooperation vs non-cooperation.* 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/preparing-for-a-customs-investigation>.
- 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-Ko91Mya52IxlTWWyDIghJboBH2TrD9tw/viewform.
- Dec. 10 **EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING – CHRISTKINDMARKET 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 ***THE FDI OUTLOOK: EXPLORING THE LATEST INVESTMENT TRENDS.*** Webinar, sponsored by FT Locations, will provide an overview of key FDI trends to date in 2025, highlighting top performing sectors and key projects announced so far. We will review both inbound and outbound FDI across the globe, giving an insight into the investment landscape as we head into 2026. We will also discuss crucial strategies for adapting to the shifting investment landscape, before concluding with a Q&A with our experts. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://fdioutlook.ftlocations.com/home>.
- Dec. 11 ***INTRODUCTION TO TARIFF CLASSIFICATION: A STAPLE FOR COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will cover the basics of the classification process, including an introduction to the tariff schedule for new users. It will also cover using CBP rulings and court decisions to help you effectively evaluate tariff classification and related considerations impacting trade remedies (232, 301, AD/CVD) with fresh, updated content for novice and experienced classifiers alike. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/introduction-to-tariff-classification-a-staple-for-compliance>.
- 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 Broadway, 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. 11 ***HKBAM HONG KONG HOLIDAY RECEPTION.*** Event sponsored by the Hong Business Association of the Midwest with support from: Hong Kong Trade Development Council; Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, New York; Garrett Brands LLC. Kick-off the season at a beautiful venue and share a festive holiday spirit with Chicago's international business community. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Chicago. HKBAM Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hkbam-hong-kong-holiday-reception-tickets-1972835902291?aff=oddttdcreator>.
- Dec. 11 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING EVENT AT KROS STRAIN.*** Sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association, this networking event encourages you to bring NEW children's books & toys for donation to Open Door Mission's Educational Programs. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Kros Strain Brewing, 10411 Portal Road, #102, La Vista, NE. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/holiday-networking-event-at-kros-strain/>.
- 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-9-4X99CZBeBkOFdrLpTZsHSiIX9rbnJ6PZcCOKmKb2zFCsltGFVHsqH98W2Tzob4Vh9YTis95G2mjvCN-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>.
- Jan. 15 **TAPPING INTO TRADE – INTERNATIONAL MARKET RESEARCH.** Hybrid program, sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City, begins with an essential review of Schedule B or Harmonized Tariff System numbers, and then provides a demonstration of quantitative and qualitative research tools to help you make informed, data-driven decisions. The session will demonstrate: *International Trade Centre's Trade Map to determine demand around the world; International Trade Administration's Market Diversification Tool to discover new markets; Census' Global Market Finder to find buyers of US goods and services; Michigan State University's Global Edge for their Country Comparator, Market Potential Index and Culture Crossing; Google Trends and Analytics for demand insights.* ITC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6425194>.
- Jan. 26 - **VIRTUAL CUSTOMS BROKER EXAM PREP COURSE - APRIL 2026 EXAM.** Sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, this virtual course is designed to prepare attendees to take and pass the customs broker examination. Its extensive overview of the customs brokerage/import process makes it also a great option for those looking for training in this field. The course includes 40 hours of class instruction on topics such as broker regulations, entry, classification, valuation, free trade agreements, antidumping/countervailing duty, fines, penalties and forfeitures, bonds, country of origin marking, liquidation, search and seizure, and intellectual property. Sessions are Monday and Thursday nights from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$1,150. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/virtual-customs-broker-exam-prep-course-april-2026-exam>.
- Apr. 2
- 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.
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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.

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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 ksmpa.com.