

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

December 8, 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.

Of Note:

How Investors Allocate Their Investments, by Country: This *Visual Capitalist* [graphic](#) shows how different countries invest across equities and bonds, based on data from [Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research](#). Key Takeaways: U.S. investors allocate 78% of their equity portfolio to domestic assets, demonstrating a clear home bias; Investors in Norway and Canada hold a significant share of U.S. equities in their portfolios, at 48% and 45%, respectively.

SIDO Announces New-to-Export Training: The State International Development Organization (SIDO) has announced a practical approach to export training that will provide you with expert advice, guidance and resources to develop a strategy and plan to begin exporting. SIDO's program is flexible in addressing your needs and intentional in maximizing your time commitment. It includes 10 hours of virtual training over four weeks. Details are [here](#).

US Ag Exporters Hoping to Move on from 2025's 'Self-inflicted Wounds': *American Shipper* [reports](#): American farmers, chemical companies and other exporters of agricultural products are hoping to move on from a year that saw them put squarely in the geopolitical crosshairs. President Donald Trump's peripatetic tariffs, trade wars and maritime policies put producers not only at a competitive disadvantage in world markets, but for a time threatened to make it unprofitable to even load a ship.

Foreign Exchange Trading in rubles Is Down by 96%: Writing for the Progressive Policy Institute, Ed Gresser [reports](#) on the Bank of International Settlements' 2025 "[Triennial Central Bank Survey of Foreign Exchange](#)." The survey calculated that under the weight of international sanctions along with Russia's own currency restrictions, trading in Russian rubles has plunged by 96% since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.

Canada further Restricts Steel Imports: Pietro Bianchi, writing in [The BRC Trade Express](#), summarizes a number of measures enacted to protect the Canadian steel and lumber industries. Effective December 26, 2025, Canada will impose a 25% tariff on certain steel-derivative products from all countries. Also, effective December 26, 2025, Canada will tighten tariff rate quota levels for various steel products.

Six Months in: Are Tariffs Really Rebuilding American Manufacturing?: Writing in [Supply Chain Management Review](#), Kevin O'Marah notes the “reshoring boom” exists mostly in planning documents. Some sites are breaking ground, but construction will take years. And even when facilities open, the deeper supplier networks that make local production sustainable take far longer to mature. New U.S. plants risk becoming costly assembly hubs, still dependent on imported components and vulnerable to the same shocks tariffs were meant to guard against.

Productivity of the World's Largest 30 Economies (2005-2025): based on International Labour Organization (ILO) statistics, this [chart](#) (from *Visual Capitalist*) ranks the world's 30 largest economies by GDP per hour worked (in U.S. dollars), revealing where output has grown or stagnated over the past two decades. China's productivity has surged by about 340% since 2005, driven by rapid industrial upgrades and investment in technology.

China Expands Mexico Investment but Notably Lags U.S., Other G7 Economies: According to a [report](#) by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Chinese foreign direct investment in Mexico has grown rapidly in recent years but remains modest relative to that of the U.S. and other advanced economies. While official data likely understate China's foreign direct investment presence, higher private estimates confirm that U.S. investment continues to dominate nearshoring. Still, Chinese firms are increasingly visible in new investment and supply chain integration, which is critical for some nearshoring efforts.

Trump's Thanksgiving Tariff Relief Amounts to \$35 per US Household: According to [research](#) by Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Ye Zhang of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the annual value of Trump's November 14 tariff reductions averages to \$35 per US household—an amount more significant to low-income than high-income families. This compares, however, with the [Yale Budget Lab](#) estimate that the added costs of the full suite of Trump tariffs—after the November 14 relief—are worth an annual average of \$1,700 per household.

How Important Is the Automotive Industry in OECD Countries? Insights from Supply and Use Tables: Writing in *OECD Statistics*, Catherine La Rosa-Elkaim and Bram Edens, OECD Statistics & Data Directorate, National Accounts Division demonstrate how Supply and Use Tables (SUTs) provide valuable data and insights on the nature and structure of economies. [Here](#) they highlight the richness contained within SUTs by profiling the automotive industry, which stands out due to its reliance on extensive supply chains, looking at issues such as the relative importance of the automotive industry in countries, the extent to which the industry is driving exports and is dependent on imports, and the impacts of trade and transport margins as well as taxes and subsidies on product prices.

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.

‘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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

- 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. 8 **EU PRODUCT STANDARDS: HOW TO GET A CE MARK.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will explain, in simple steps, how to obtain and apply a CE Mark to your product. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. CST. Fee: \$135. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/8suy5gz>.
- 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 **INCOTERMS 2020.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics of Incoterms including the most recent updates from 2020. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/99pcqgc>.
- 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 **FREIGHT EXPECTATIONS: TECH IN TRADE - HYPE OR REAL?** Webinar, sponsored by Scarbrough Global, will discuss how AI and technology can be leveraged to stay on top of a constantly changing trade environment. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/00116f19-e894-44ff-874f-8eb1bb4762e5@77cb717e-ff91-4a3c-8336-dd1a7f350a55>.
- 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-Ko91Mya52lxITWWyDIghJboBH2TrD9tw/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. 10 **DOING BUSINESS IN SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA'S BLUE ECONOMY.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will focus on maritime business opportunities in Southeast Asia. Learn about Singapore Maritime Week 2026 and TMA BlueTech's new trade mission to Singapore and Indonesia. Speakers include: **Alvin Chong**, Singapore Maritime Week Partnerships Lead, Experia Singapore; **Mochammad Imron**, General Manager of Celukan Bawang Port, PELINDO; **Sherry Ng**, Commercial Assistant, U.S. Embassy Singapore; **Helda Sitorus**, Commercial Specialist, U.S. Embassy Indonesia; **Matt Classen**, Executive Director, TMA BlueTech; **Victoria Yue**, Energy Security Lead, U.S. Department of Commerce. 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/b06ece86-70ed-451f-9291-3857c61a1394@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- 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 ***WIN AT THE WORLD BANK.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will show how your company can successfully compete for World Bank–funded contracts. It will break down the updated procurement framework, walk you through real-world examples, and share actionable tips to help you navigate the process with confidence. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/db9cupj>.
- Dec. 11 ***REBUILDING AND REALIGNMENT: ECONOMIC FUTURE FOR UKRAINE AND RUSSIA.*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, examines the profound economic transformations triggered by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, focusing on both countries’ diverging paths. A panel of experts will draw on two new papers to explore strategies for rebuilding a postwar, westward-facing Ukraine through financial inflows, investment, and growth-oriented reforms. The panel will then turn to Russia, analyzing how wartime mobilization and surging military expenditures have reshaped its economy. Together, these discussions will offer a comparative perspective on resilience, recovery, and long-term economic realignment in the region. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2025/rebuilding-and-realignment-economic-future-ukraine-and-russia>.
- Dec. 11 ***TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE.*** Webinar sponsored by Baker Tilly. Presentation by Pete Mento, Director, Global Customs and Trade Advisory, Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/06404eca-4cd6-4288-9a9a-0e68402ec090@619363bf-5bd8-4047-b094-587dd7327392>.
- Dec. 11 ***THE ADAPTIVE SUPPLY CHAIN: UNLOCKING INFINITE CONTEXT WITH MCP.*** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, features a live demonstration, using Tradeverfyd’s MCP-integrated platform to build dynamic, multi-tier supplier analyses from scratch. It’s a demonstration of what becomes possible when supply chain intelligence becomes truly adaptive. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.zoom.us/jv/Ap4O7bnMxvBlc87WjMvofPiRuHLhX6h0P0iTStWWF1o639QtBJxM~AhrxgpDHB5Vn4FiuKPWNNT0cckp1ND-e9bB2DdzYSwB_YdU9EBLctkzD5w.
- 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=oddtcreator>.

- 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. 12 ***EXPLORE SALES TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss market opportunities and challenges, including details of the free trade agreement with the U.S. and how to sell duty-free to this exciting new market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/vtpkmn9>.
- 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. 15 ***INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will teach you how to learn about foreign government opportunities and the assistance available for winning bids. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ezzd8sm>.
- Dec. 15 ***PIONEERING THE FUTURE: U.S.-BRAZIL COLLABORATION ON NANOSATELLITE INNOVATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will showcase cutting-edge nanosatellite projects developed by companies, research institutions, and universities in Brazil and the United States and provide participants with up-to-date market intelligence to support the formation of strategic partnerships. Speakers include: Brazilian Space Agency (AEB); Visiona Tecnologia Especial: VCUB1, VSatVHR Project; U.S. Embassy in Brazil Market Overview; U.S. Southern Command. 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://app.inevent.com/en/TradeGov/Brazil-NanosatelliteWebinar-9884-1763484225/>.
- Dec. 16 ***EU-US TRADE DEAL UNPACKED: HOW TO PREPARE.*** Organized by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, this webinar provides an in-depth conversation with top trade experts who will provide an overview of the EU-US Trade Deal and how you should prepare. Speakers include: **Denis Choumert**, VP and Treasurer, European Shippers' Council; **Tom Cook**, Managing Director, Blue Tiger International; **Julie Ann Parks**, Global Compliance & Trade Executive; **Godfried Smit**, Secretary General of the European Shippers' Council. 10:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.zoom.us/j/AmTJIMvlp0Ue7dPWqbpHRk1ZjYifQpTmMixi81cGeNlOalhqIVl8~AprvTUVyA9L5LDMlv7gJfHdafRaEqbZgmvKoEDuXfvebg4uLVaFzeoOBtw>.
- 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-9-4X99CZBeBkOFdrLpTZsHSIIIX9rbnJ6PZcCOKmKb2zFCsltGFVHsqH98W2Tzob4Vh9YTis95G2mjvCN-mr6egxxIZA&hsmi=386571037&utm_content=386571037&utm_source=hs_email.
- Dec. 17 ***IS IT TIME FOR AFRICA? TRADE INTEGRATION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, will examine the future of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) established in 2018, among 54 out of the continent's 55 states. Speakers include: **Trudi Hartzenberg**, Executive Director of tralac; **David Luke**, Professor in Practice and Strategic Director, Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa, London School of Economics (LSE); Extraordinary Professor, North-West University, South Africa; **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/it-time-africa-trade-integration-african-continent>.
- Dec. 17 ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE SUPPLIER SUMMIT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will describe the benefits of attending the A&DSS Seattle and the OEMs and Tier 1s that are expected to attend and meet with suppliers. A&DSS is a supply chain event that brings together aerospace and defense primes, tier suppliers and contract-manufacturers. Engineering, procurement, supply chain, fabrication, commodity teams, suppliers and service providers will meet through pre-arranged one-on-one meetings. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/6e8e8b55-a003-4277-ab8e-0c70312d21db@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Dec. 17 ***INTERNATIONAL VALUE ADDED TAX - UNDERSTANDING VAT IN GLOBAL TRADE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will explore VAT trends in markets around the world, equipping you with practical knowledge to effectively plan for these taxes. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7j4nb6c>.
- Dec. 19 ***GLOBALIZE YOUR WEBSITE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide you with many tools and resources for updating your website and increasing your international sales. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/nf737ad>.
- Jan. 7 ***LAUREL DELANEY'S GLOBAL TRADE TRENDS REPORT 2026.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by Laurel Delaney, Founder and President of GlobeTrade.com and Founder and President of wegg®. She will address the continued impact of a new US Administration – tariffs, trade barriers, supply chain and logistics challenges, cash flow and currency volatility, legal complexities, AI, geopolitical risks and more. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/630116271681304411?mc_cid=aaad6940a0&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- 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, Apr. 2 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>.
- Jan. 28 ***INVESTING IN THE CARIBBEAN: A STRATEGIC DESTINATION FOR GROWTH.*** Webinar, sponsored by FT Locations in partnership with the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, speakers across both government and industry will highlight unique avenues for new investors in the region's evolving economic landscape. 8:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://investcaribbean.ftlocations.com/home?xnpe_tifc=bD1phkb8xDHJbfod4DYDx9psafeWaeiWhFWZVkeJakpWaBWEke9bZ8vVuEShfnJOk4LhFQNxfh_bD_pOnTT&utm_source=exponea&utm_campaign=FTL%20-%20Webinar%3A%20Investing%20in%20the%20Caribbean%3A%20A%20strategic%20destination%20for%20growth%20-%20Email%201%20-%20All&utm_medium=email.
- Feb. 3 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT EXPO MANUFACTURA, MONTERREY, MEXICO.*** The 5 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.

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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 ksmcpa.com.