

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

December 15, 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:

OECD Economic Outlook, Volume 2025 Issue 2: In its latest [Economic Outlook](#), the OECD reports the global economy has proved more resilient than expected this year, supported by improved financial conditions, rising AI-related investment and trade, and macroeconomic policies. However, underlying fragilities are increasing: Labor markets are showing first signs of weakening despite the OECD unemployment rate steady at 4.9%, with job vacancies falling below their 2019 average in many countries and confidence softening.

Visualizing the World's Rare Earth Reserves: Rare earth elements (REEs) are the backbone of modern technology, from EV motors and wind turbines to smartphones and precision-guided systems. This map (from [Visual Capitalist](#)) breaks down where the world's known rare earth reserves are located in 2025, highlighting how concentrated they are across a handful of countries: China accounts for nearly half of global rare earth reserves (44M of 92M metric tons); Brazil ranks second (21M tons), while the U.S. holds 1.9M tons – about 2% of the total.

FDI Data Trends of 2025: Writing in an *FT Locations* [blog](#), Glenn Barklie offers a month-by-month review of the most interesting trends discovered by *FT Locations* data tools throughout 2025 and offers expert early predictions on what could shape markets in 2026.

International Debt Report 2025: The [International Debt Report](#) (IDR) is a longstanding annual publication of the World Bank featuring external debt statistics and analysis for the low- and middle-income countries that report to the World Bank Debtor Reporting System (DRS). The newly published IDR 2025 includes an analysis of end-2024 external debt flows and debt stock positions as well as the macroeconomic and debt outlook for 2025 and beyond, and updates on the debt transparency agenda.

WTO Issues Updated Compendium of WTO Agreements: An update of the WTO's legal compendium has been published bringing together all of the WTO's agreements into one volume. The book, titled [The WTO Agreements: The Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and its Annexes](#), includes for the first time the text of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which entered into force on 15 September 2025.

International Database: World Population Estimates and Projections: Along with the [United Nations Population Division](#), the U.S. Census Bureau is one of the few organizations in the world that regularly estimates and projects the world's population. With the [International Database](#), you can view demographic measures of over 200 countries and areas with populations of 5,000 or more, and for thousands of subnational areas (equivalent to U.S. states, counties, and townships in other countries).

FDI Data Trends of 2025: Writing in an FT Locations [blog](#), Glenn Barklie offers a month-by-month review of the most interesting trends discovered by FT data tools throughout 2025 and offers expert early predictions on what could shape markets in 2026.

World Bank Group Integrity Compliance Guidelines: For the first time since it issued Guidelines in 2010, the World Bank Group has issued updated and significantly expanded [Guidelines](#). ArentFox Schiff LLP has published a [general comparison](#) of the major differences between the 2010 and 2025 versions of the Guidelines.

Port Tracker Report Points to Ongoing Import Declines as 2025 Ends and into 2026: [Logistics Management](#)'s Jeff Berman notes the ongoing stretch of annual declines in United States-bound retail container imports is expected to remain intact into 2026, according to the new edition of the Global Port Tracker report. For October, the most recent month for which data is available, U.S. imports, for the ports surveyed, came in at 2.07 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEU), excluding the Port of Charleston, which marked a 1.8% sequential decline and a 7.9% annual decline.

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](#).

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.

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.

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.

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.

- Dec. 13 **#PICTUREMEINTAIWAN.** Live event sponsored by the Taiwan Tourism Administration. Come learn about Taiwan through a fun day of themed activities, immersive presentations & fun photo booths. Plenty of snacks, gifts and prizes as well as a lucky draw to win 2 flights to Taiwan courtesy of Taiwanese carriers China Airlines and EVA Air. 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., South Great Hall at Chicago Union Station. No fee. For information, please see: <https://luma.com/jfutd6jl>.
- 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 **WTO MATTERS: THE WTO IN TODAY'S GLOBAL ECONOMY AND A PATH FORWARD.** Webinar, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will provide a high-level discussion on the state of the multilateral trading system, the role of the WTO in today's global economy, and key issues Members are considering as they look towards the future of the global trading system. Speakers include: **Angela Ellard**, former Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization; **Ignacio Garcia Bercero**, Senior Fellow, Bruegel; former Director, Directorate for Trade at the European Commission; **Jennifer Hillman**, Co-Director, Institute of International Economic Law, Georgetown University Law Center; former Member, WTO Appellate Body; former Chair, U.S. International Trade Commission; **Jonathan Fried**, Senior Advisor (non-resident), Albright Stonebridge Group; Chair, Canadian National Committee of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council; Former Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the WTO; **Dawn Shackelford** (Moderator), President at Looking Glass Trade, LLC; former Executive Director for Trade Agreements Policy & Negotiations, Department of Commerce; former Assistant USTR for WTO & Multilateral Affairs. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/wto-matters/>.

- 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/jvAmTJIMvlp0Ue7dPWqbpHRk1ZjYifQpTmMixi81cGeNloalhqIVl8~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 ***DISCOVER SELECTUSA'S INVEST IN RURAL AMERICA OPPORTUNITIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by SelectUSA, is designed to help rural and tribal EDOs build connections with vetted foreign investors and elevate their communities on a national stage. 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required by December 15. For information & registration, please see: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25f8vMbP3gKTbH2PhbkdAuLAA2q5176tUMVRNRIITTTdXSzA2SVFIQTdLRFNGTlhTRS4u&route=shorturl>.
- 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-9-4X99CZBeBkOFdrLpTZsHSIIX9rbnJ6PZcCOKmKb2zFCsItGFVlHSqH98W2Tzob4Vh9YTis95G2mjvCN-mr6egxxlZA&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. 17 **MARKET OUTLOOK: OMAN.** Webinar sponsored by the Bilateral Chamber and the Oman Trade Office. The Honorable **Ana Escrogima**, U.S. Ambassador to Oman will share timely insights on the priorities shaping the U.S.–Oman commercial relationship, including emerging areas of cooperation and strategic opportunities for American businesses. Her Excellency, **Sabra Al Hooti**, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the U.S., will also deliver remarks, offering an important perspective on Oman’s evolving economic landscape. Ms. **Emmee Haun**, Managing Director of the Oman Trade Office U.S., will offer an exclusive preview of their February 2026 trade mission to Oman, which will convene a diverse delegation of U.S. companies to explore new opportunities for market entry, sourcing, and investment across multiple high-growth sectors. 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please contact Ms. Julia Hess at Julia@bilateralchamber.org.
- Dec. 17 **CONFIDENTLY EXPORT FUEL TO MEXICO: COMPLIANCE, SECURITY & INCENTIVES PROGRAMS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the U.S Embassy in Mexico City, invites U.S. fuel producers, marketers, distributors, logistics providers, and financial institutions to join a high-impact program on navigating Mexico’s evolving fuel market. This session will focus on compliance requirements, security considerations, and new incentives programs that affect U.S. companies and financial intermediaries supporting Mexico’s energy trade. 1:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ConfidentlyExportFueltoMexicoCompliance/>.
- Dec. 17 **AFRICA DEMYSTIFIED: A PRIMER FOR ILLINOIS EXPORTERS.** Webinar, sponsored by the Illinois Office of Trade & Investment, will explore major economic and trade trends shaping the African continent and highlight key regional differences across the continent. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://tinyurl.com/y9wj5fp>.
- Dec. 18 **GLOBAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AT CES 2026.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will demonstrate how to leverage the U.S. Commercial Service to gain access to international delegations attending CES. Hear from experts on the ground as they share Germany’s position on AI, semiconductors, digital communication/networking, and cloud data. 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/cf3c1a1f-240d-49ea-90ce-93458b115f9f@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Dec. 18 **UK & EU EXPANSION: GROW YOUR EXPORTS WITH AMAZON GLOBAL SELLING.** Lunch & Learn Webinar, sponsored by the Indiana District Export Council & the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide a strategic roadmap to help you understand the opportunity as well as the process to successfully launch and scale your products on Amazon's UK and EU stores. Key topics: *Understanding the European e-commerce opportunity; Assessing the UK and EU as expansion targets; Setting up your Amazon seller presence in the UK and EU; Resources to navigate UK and EU regulatory compliance requirements; Leveraging Fulfillment by Amazon (FBA) for seamless cross-border logistics and shipping.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uk-eu-expansion-grow-your-exports-with-amazon-global-selling-tickets-1360929208899?aff=oddtcreator>.
- 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. 8 ***BEYOND THE BILL OF LADING: OPERATIONALIZING IMPORT TRANSSHIPMENT DETECTION FOR PROACTIVE COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sayari, will demonstrate how organizations can develop a robust, proactive compliance strategy to avoid unexpected regulatory and reputational harm arising from illicit transshipment. You will learn to: *Distinguish between legal and illegal inbound transshipment techniques; Improve risk scoping, scoring, and due diligence; Gain the same key insights as regulators; Achieve protective compliance.* 9:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://sayari.com/resources/wbr-operationalizing-import-transshipment-detection-for-proactive-compliance/?utm_source=aaei&utm_medium=paid-email&utm_campaign=wbnr-transshipment-detection-01-2026-4469.
- Jan. 13 - ***ACE EXPORTS COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the South Florida District Export Council and the U.S. Commercial Service, brings together experts from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), U.S. Census Bureau, OFAC, and U.S. Customs & Border Protection to provide training on export filing requirements. 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$129.89 - \$161.90. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ace-exports-compliance-webinar-new-dates-january-13-14-2026-tickets-1689487926869?aff=oddttdtcreator>.
- 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. 14 ***BROKER CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, offers a unique discussion on the Continuing Education and Accreditation process. It will address both the individual broker requirements and the requirements for accrediting educational opportunities. 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/broker-continuing-education-and-accreditation-what-you-need-to-know>.

- 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. 22 ***EBRD IN UKRAINE: UPDATES FROM THE GROUND ON THE PROJECT PIPELINE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, features a discussion with EBRD's Resident Office in Kyiv to learn more about the Banks's footprint in Ukraine and its upcoming project pipeline opportunities in energy, municipal infrastructure, agribusiness, mining, rare minerals, and more. 10:00 a.m. CST. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://app.inevent.com/en/TradeGov/EBRDinUkraine/>.
- Jan. 22 ***NAVIGATING COMPLIANCE IN TIMES OF CHANGE.*** Webinar sponsored by the Professional Association of Exporters and Importers. Presentation by **Hayley Jung**, Director, BPE Global, who will provide an overview of how to build an effective compliance program amid global uncertainty. She will cover: *Regulation recap from 2024 and where things stand today; Potential regulatory shifts on the horizon and how to prepare; Managing "rescinded" regulations; Recovery and repair – how do we put it all back together after regulations are overturned?; How to update and communicate risks to Leadership; Case studies from other importers and exporters.* 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CST. PAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.paei.org/paei-events/navigating-compliance-in-times-of-change/>.
- 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. 27 ***ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN AUSTRALIA: THE MARITIME AND DEFENSE SECTOR OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. COMPANIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, has been designed for American suppliers of advanced manufactured finished products and advanced manufacturing solutions. It will present practical steps for U.S. firms on doing business in Australia and partnering with Australian companies that are seeking to build innovation and resilience in critical industries. 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/TradeGov/AdvancedManufacturinginAustralia/hotsite.php>.
- 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.

- Jan. 28 **TEMPORARY IMPORTS TOOLS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITORS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed for both first-time and experienced exhibitors and will explain how to temporarily export samples, demos, tools, and equipment using the right export tools. Learn how to move your trade show materials across the border efficiently, avoid delays, and stay in compliance. 10:00 – 11:20 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/TemporaryImportsToolsforInternationalExhibitors/>.
- Jan. 28 **EXPORTING MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO BRAZIL.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the basics of Customs import clearance processes and tariffs in Brazil. You will: *Explore the fundamentals of Brazilian Customs; Receive guidance on export documentation; Save time and money by learning tips to avoid common and expensive mistakes; Understand how duties and taxes are calculated and get a better idea on how much your product could cost to buyers in Brazil; Learn about exceptions for certain types of machinery; Be introduced to market opportunities, resources and tools.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportingAdvancedManufacturingProductstoBrazil-988/>.
- 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/>.
- Mar. 16 - **SOUTHERN CONE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES TRADE MISSION TO CHILE, ARGENTINA, AND URUGUAY.** As part of the Initiative for Improving Advanced Competitiveness through Trade (IMPACT), the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) is organizing an Energy Technologies Trade Mission to the Southern Cone region. This 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. The 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. For information & an application, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/TradeGov/SouthernConeEnergyTechTradeMission/>.

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.