

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

April 13, 2026

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 PROGRAM

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

- Apr. 16** **TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.** First in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Instructor: **David Forgee**, LCB, Partner, Barnes, Richardson & Colburn, LLP. Session overview: In today's high-risk importing environment, getting tariff classification right is more important than ever. Incorrect classifications can increase duty costs and expose companies to compliance risk. This workshop offers a clear foundation for those new to classification—and a focused refresher for experienced professionals. Included: A certificate of attendance for each participant. This program qualifies for two CCS/MCS, LCB credits. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., 1701 Golf Road, Building 3. Suite 300, Rolling Meadows, IL. ITA/GC Members & Affiliates - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-trade-essentialstm-workshop-series-tariff-classification-tickets-1985515186371>.
- May 13** **FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY RISK MANAGEMENT.** Luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Currency volatility has reached near all-time highs amid ongoing geopolitical conflicts and uncertainty surrounding global tariffs. Associated Bank's **Angie Kappel**, CTP and **Mike Sankowski** will provide an overview of the foreign exchange market, introduce key currency risk management tools, and walk through a practical best-practices scenario. Their presentation will also touch on the evolving role of stablecoins and their potential implications for international payments and treasury management. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foreign-exchange-and-currency-risk-management-tickets-1985959511359>.

Of Note:

Economic Conditions Outlook, March 2026: Executives ended 2025 with more optimism about the economy than they had all year. Those findings changed substantially, however, amid rising geopolitical tensions, according to the first quarterly [McKinsey Global Survey](#) on economic conditions of 2026. Geopolitical instability has also become one of the top five topics that respondents say are current priorities for their companies' leaders, overtaking trade policy concerns.

National AI Center: The Department of Commerce is establishing a first-of-its-kind government [National AI Center](#) to serve as the primary national gateway for American AI companies to engage with the U.S. Government for exporting U.S. AI technologies globally. The National AI Center will give technology companies direct, real-time access to on-site experts working with Foreign Commercial Service officers around the world to facilitate connections between U.S. companies and trusted foreign buyers.

New Steel and Aluminum Tariff Rules Further Increase Costs—Whether the White House Admits It or Not: Writing in the Cato Institute's blog, Clark Packard unpacks how the [new presidential proclamation](#) restricting how Section 232 national security tariffs on steel, aluminum, and copper – and the finished goods made from them – are calculated. The rules took effect April 6. The changes are significant and not necessarily in the direction the White House is advertising.

Lithuania's Fintech Overview 2025-2026: Invest Lithuania has released a detailed report on its burgeoning [fintech ecosystem](#). Over the past decade, Lithuania has built the regulatory expertise, market credibility, and operational foundations needed to support established fintech businesses.

S. Korea Gov't Weighs \$1 bn Support for Samsung Heavy in U.S. LNG Project: [Maeil Business News](#) Korea reports the South Korean government is reviewing financial support exceeding US\$1 billion for Samsung Heavy Industries, which secured a floating liquefied natural gas project in Louisiana, in a move aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation with the United States and boosting energy security.

From the Office of the USTR:

- **Op-Ed by Ambassador Jamieson Greer: Another Fish Story from the WTO**– click [here](#).

'Definitely a Sham': As Tariffs Climb, Trade Fraud and Accounting Tricks Proliferate: The [New York Times](#) reported reviewing trade data and speaking with more than a dozen company executives, as well as government officials, lawyers and economists, about the practices they were seeing as these trade and accounting schemes proliferated. Changes in valuation may also explain some of the large and growing gap between trade data published by the U.S. and Chinese governments. Last year, China reported exporting nearly \$112 billion more to the United States than what Washington said it had received, suggesting that trading firms are misrepresenting their activity to at least one government. That gap was \$26 billion wider in 2025 than in 2024.

CBP Publishes New Applications for ACE Portal Accounts: Barnes Richardson outlines CBP's recently launched [ACE Secure Data Portal](#) application. In a March 31 update, CBP indicates that 26,664 importers have enrolled for direct deposit as of March 26, representing 78% of relevant entries and about \$120 billion in duties. More details on the developments can be found [here](#).

Ranked: GDP Per Capita Growth in Major Economies (2000–2026): From the [Visual Capitalist](#): China's GDP per capita increased more than 10x since 2000—the fastest among major economies; Russia and India also saw large gains, with GDP per capita rising 811% and 589%, respectively; Japan is the only country where GDP per capita declined over the past 25 years.

Strait of Hormuz closure pushes Asia-US ocean rates up 29%: As reported in *Freight Waves*, [the effects of the Iran war](#) are being felt across the global supply chain, as container rates rise sharply on vital headhaul trade routes including to the United States. Far East to U.S. West Coast – a trade which transits the Pacific thousands of miles from the epicenter of conflict – has seen spot rates climb 29% since the end of February.” Spot prices on services from the Far East to North Europe and Mediterranean – trades with direct exposure to the Middle East disruption – have climbed 31% and 30% since the end of February.

America Wants to Reshore Manufacturing—But Who Will Do the Work?: Supply Chian Management Review [reports](#) on the University of Tennessee Global Supply Chain Institute's white paper that concludes: *Reshoring is possible. But without the workforce, it will be expensive and unsustainable.* According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, as of June 2025, there were 8 million job openings, but only 6.8 million unemployed workers. The fertility rate has dropped to 1.62—well below the replacement threshold—and labor force participation remains stuck below pre-2000 levels. Absent a major policy shift, immigration will be the only source of population growth by 2040.

The World's Dumbest Tariff Has Been Revealed: The [Cato Institute](#) has reprinted a Bloomberg.com article on U.S. aluminum tariffs that concludes: *Overall, aluminum protectionism has been a confounding own-goal. Tariffs haven't just raised prices and harmed American manufacturers; they've actively pushed a top producer and close ally out of our market, with shrinking domestic sources unable to fill the gap. Given the metal's role in the US defense industrial base, aluminum-related risks are likely higher today than they were before "national security" tariffs were ever enacted.*

How Foreign Direct Investment Is Shaping Future Business: In this McKinsey [Future of Asia Podcast](#) there is a robust discussion of how AI infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and the resources that power them are rapidly becoming the recipients of cross-border foreign direct investment (FDI)—three-quarters of FDI announcements since 2022 have gone toward these industries, as well as energy and mining. With about half of cross-border FDI value coming from megadeals of over \$1 billion each, a small number of large projects is reshaping industries.

India's Reckoning: Geopolitics, Trade, and India's Development Strategy: In a Deep Dive commissioned and supported by the [Hinrich Foundation](#), *Visual Capitalist* lays out a visual essay that travels the long road of India's development, the geopolitical tightropes that it walks, its misgivings toward trade, and how the nation might find a way forward as it takes its place at the high table of global policy.

The Fastest-Growing Countries by GDP per Capita by 2030: Using IMF data, the [Visual Capitalist](#) ranks the countries projected to see the fastest GDP per capita growth between 2026 and 2030. It also highlights the economies expected to add the most per person in absolute dollar terms. Moldova is projected to see the fastest GDP per capita growth between 2026 and 2030, rising 53%.

Call for U.S. Buyers: Taiwan Trade Shows & Sourcing Programs (Spring–Summer 2026): The Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago (TAITRA) invites U.S. companies, particularly those in manufacturing, technology, automotive, and food industries, to explore sourcing opportunities in Taiwan through upcoming trade shows and buyer programs. Eligible buyers may qualify for travel incentives (flight and/or hotel support), subject to availability. Companies planning to source from Taiwan are welcome to contact the Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago for more information and application details: Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago - chicago@taitra.org.tw.

Jones Act Suspended for 60 Days: President Donald Trump issued a 60-day waiver of a longstanding U.S. shipping law in an attempt to stabilize oil markets amid the Iran war, the White House confirmed to [CNBC](#) on March 18. The temporary suspension of the Jones Act “will allow vital resources like oil, natural gas, fertilizer, and coal to flow freely to U.S. ports for sixty days,” said a White House spokesperson.

Heartland Connect & U.S. - China Ag Roundtable – Applications Now Open: [Heartland Connect](#) is an exclusive gathering specifically designed for local and business leaders from both the U.S. and China to explore new partnerships and opportunities. The 2026 program offers U.S. participants a first-hand opportunity to engage with Chinese provincial and national stakeholders, and identify opportunities for future collaboration across agriculture, food, healthcare, and related industries. This year's Heartland Connect will include the U.S.-China Agriculture Roundtable, held in Henan Province from June 15–17, followed by a Think Tank Dialogue in Beijing on June 18, organized in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Interested in attending or participating? Click [here](#).

Mapped: The World's Oil Chokepoints: In case you were wondering, only the Strait of Malacca, between Malaysia and Indonesia, is the world's busiest oil chokepoint, carrying about 29.1% of global maritime oil trade, according to the [Visual Capitalist](#). The Strait of Hormuz carries 26.2% of crude oil, 84% of which is destined for Asia. In total, about 73 million barrels per day of oil moved through major maritime chokepoints, representing the majority of globally traded seaborne oil.

2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 Annual Report: On March 2 USTR Greer delivered President Trump's [2026 Trade Policy Agenda and 2025 Annual Report](#) to Congress. The Report includes a comprehensive account of USTR's actions to support President Trump's America First Trade Policy, including negotiations with key trading partners to secure strong disciplines and expand market access for U.S. exporters.

The New FDI Map: The Rise of Investment Blocs in a Fragmenting World: This *FT Locations* [blog](#) describes how geopolitical rivalries are causing the global economy to increasingly fragment into competing blocs. But rather than retreating, foreign direct investment is being reshaped – revealing how capital is adjusting to a more divided, strategically driven world.

USTR Releases 2025 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy: On March 3 the Office of the USTR released the findings of its [2025 Review of Notorious Markets for Counterfeiting and Piracy](#) (the Notorious Markets List). The Notorious Markets List highlights online and physical markets that reportedly engage in or facilitate substantial trademark counterfeiting or copyright piracy.

A Comprehensive List of Supply Chain Organizations: *Supply Chain 24/7* has published a [comprehensive list](#) of major supply chain associations in the United States and globally. The list is organized by: General Supply Chain and Logistics Associations; Warehousing, Distribution, and 3PL Associations; Procurement and Sourcing Associations; Manufacturing and Operations Associations; Freight and Transportation Associations; Technology, Risk, and Automation Associations; Retail and Consumer Supply Chain Associations; Global Supply Chain Organizations.

Cato Launches IEEPA Informational Site: The Cato Institute has created a dedicated [website](#) compiling IEEPA background materials, scholar statements, past blogs, and press releases to help inform coverage as news develops.

Which Countries Rely Most on Imports: Globally, imported goods and services are equal to 28% of GDP. Despite importing \$3.4 trillion of goods, the U.S. has one of the lowest import-to-GDP ratios because of its massive and diverse economy. Several small island economies have extremely high import-to-GDP ratios, including Cuba (82%) and Taiwan (49%), given limited domestic production. *Visual Capitalist* captures [Import Reliance by Country](#) in one graphic.

- Apr. 13 ***THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS | THE FUTURES SUMMIT.*** Hybrid event, sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies, will explore how the U.S. economic toolkit can more proactively support the development and securing of critical infrastructure overseas. A core focus will be articulating how the U.S. can better coordinate public and private capital with allied governments and more effectively mobilize private investment by scaling development finance and strategic capital. Panelists include: Ambassador **Jose Manuel “Babe” del Gallego Romualdez**, Embassy of the Philippines; **Alexander Benard**, Co-Head of Cerberus Frontier and Senior Managing Director, Cerberus Capital Management; **Carlos Ruiz-Hernandez**, former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama; **Derek Berlin**, Senior Vice President, Logistics Plus Inc. 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/next-generation-global-infrastructure-partnerships>.
- Apr. 13 ***CROSS-BORDER TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Mid-America Chapter, will focus on the operational systems supporting North American trade and how companies are addressing infrastructure limitations, regulatory frameworks, supply chain risk, and technological innovation. Topics include: *Compliance requirements affecting transportation; Supply chain resilience and operational challenges; Technology in cross-border logistics; North America’s role as a global trade corridor; Practical insights and recommendations for binational operations.* 2:00 – 3:10 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.usmccoma.org/event-details/cross-border-transportation-and-logistics?utm_campaign=58e216b9-f28a-4b69-ab4a-082fa6797a16&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=cdf94de5-ebce-4770-93ea-f436e642cc93.
- Apr. 14 ***ONE YEAR LATER: THE YEAR TARIFFS TOOK OVER TRADE.*** Virtual program sponsored by Star USA. In this practical session, our trade compliance experts go beyond policy to focus on real-world application. You'll see how tariffs interact, where companies get caught off guard, and how to approach decisions with more confidence and control so your team can move from reacting to planning. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/april2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Q2%2026%20Newsletter&utm_content=Q2%2026%20Newsletter+CID_b4f24a71ab4597b44e97939b3f427ab0&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software.
- Apr. 14 ***FROM CONCEPT TO CLUSTER: UNDERSTANDING GERMANY’S DUAL APPRENTICESHIP MODEL.*** Virtual workshop, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest, offers a grounded introduction to Germany's renowned dual apprenticeship system and the key themes shaping transatlantic workforce development. 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advanced registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/from-concept-to-cluster-understanding-germany-s-dual-apprenticeship-model>.

- Apr. 14 **BRAZIL'S DATA CENTER & ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE OUTLOOK.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will highlight key market trends, investment opportunities, and strategies shaping Brazil's energy sector in support of its growing digital economy. Presentation by **Camila Ramos**, CEO and Founder of Clean Energy Latin America (CELA). 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advanced registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk251F8vMbP3gLskVQQqGe9KqY0jG-VCBxNUQVdTSUZBMksyOE82WDAyR1JJWFNMRkdDVi4u&route=shorturl>.
- Apr. 14 **EXPORT CONTROLS & COMPLIANCE.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover export controls from the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and State, including Export Administration Regulations, ITAR, and Trade Sanctions. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2m77t37>.
- Apr. 14 **CHICAGO PROPELLER CLUB EVENING WITH JOHN U. BACON AUTHOR GALES OF NOVEMBER.** Program and networking event sponsored by the Chicago Propeller Club. Presentation by **John U. Bacon**, author of New York Times best seller *Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald* in conversation with **Tom Wiater**, President of Central Marine Logistics. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Guinness Open Gate Brewery, 901 West Kinzie Street, Chicago. CPC Members - \$75; Non-members - \$95 (fee includes free bar and food). For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-propeller-club-evening-with-john-u-bacon-author-gales-of-november-tickets-1981959487179?msocid=24dd54e4f8a5694d3b464633f90d6894>.
- Apr. 14 **CHICAGO CUSTOMER APPRECIATION RECEPTION - PORT OF MONTREAL.** Annual Reception, sponsored by the Port of Montreal alongside valued industry partners for an evening of networking and insightful discussions. 5:30 p.m., The Drake Oak Brook, 2301 York Road, Oak Brook, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=y2Ekq9nu6EKgpLLiTAExVkHm1tvQmk9IsvPyur3gXZUREM0TUpIME1aMTdTNjICUINPR1pPUEE4MC4u>.
- Apr. 15 **TRADE 360 DEGREES: TRADE WINDS LIVE FROM DC!** Virtual program sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Experts will examine the current landscape across key regions: the US, Europe, China, Indonesia, and India. Is a new pattern of trade and economic cooperation beginning to take shape? Speakers include: **Chad P. Bown** (PIIE); **Mary E. Lovely** (PIIE); **Cecilia Malmström** (PIIE); **Mari Elka Pangestu** (International Trade and Multilateral Cooperation, Indonesia); **Adam S. Posen** (PIIE); and **Arvind Subramanian** (PIIE). 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/trade-360-degrees-trade-winds-live-dc>.
- Apr. 15 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE FINANCE: GETTING PAID.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will describe the range of payment methods used in international transactions to reduce risk. This information will help you evaluate which is best for your business. You'll also learn how to take advantage of U.S. government support for exporters through export credit insurance and loan guarantees. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/zvz2fx5>.
- Apr. 16 **STRATEGIES FOR PROTECTING AND ENFORCING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN CHINA.** Hybrid event, sponsored by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, about protecting and enforcing your intellectual property in China and the United States. Hear from U.S. government experts, IP attorneys, and local businesspeople as they share their insights on how U.S. rights holders can protect and enforce their IP in both countries. Topics include: *IP developments in China: Challenges and opportunities in a shifting IP environment; Enforcing IP rights in the United States against Chinese infringement; IP and China: The Mid-Atlantic perspective.* 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/protecting-IP-in-china-mid-atlantic-businesses>.

- Apr. 16 **INDIA'S COAL MARKET OUTLOOK: STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. EXPORTERS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will reveal the latest demand trends, procurement strategies, and real-world opportunities for U.S. coal, mining technology, and logistics suppliers. Attendees will gain actionable market intelligence, insight into government priorities, and a clearer path to connecting with qualified Indian buyers. 8:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/IndiasCoalMarketOutlookStrategiesandOpportunities/purchase.php>.
- Apr. 16 **TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.** First in the Trade Essentials™ Workshop Series sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago.** Instructor: **David Forge**, LCB, Partner, Barnes, Richardson & Colburn, LLP. Session overview: In today's high-risk importing environment, getting tariff classification right is more important than ever. Incorrect classifications can increase duty costs and expose companies to compliance risk. This workshop offers a clear foundation for those new to classification—and a focused refresher for experienced professionals. Included: A certificate of attendance for each participant. This program qualifies for two CCS/MCS, LCB credits. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., 1701 Golf Road, Building 3. Suite 300, Rolling Meadows, IL. ITA/GC Members & Affiliates - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-trade-essentialstm-workshop-series-tariff-classification-tickets-1985515186371>.
- Apr. 16 **DRIVING NORTH AMERICAN TRADE.** Webinar sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association as part of their USMCA Review Series. Speakers will discuss the importance of the U.S. – Mexico -Canada Agreement to the U.S. automotive sector; they will also discuss where improvements could be made as part of the review, including how to modernize the Agreement for the U.S. to better compete with China. Speakers include: **Matt Blunt**, President, American Automotive Policy Council; **Cody Lusk**, President and CEO, American International Automobile Dealers Association; **Paul McCarthy**, President & CEO, MEMA – the Vehicle Suppliers Association; **Jennifer Safavian**, President & CEO, Autos Drive America. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/usmca-autos-webinar/>.
- Apr. 16 **TAPPING INTO TRADE-PART 3: INTERNATIONAL BANKING.** Hybrid program, sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City, features an overview of how to: *Maintain cash flow while selling internationally; Reduce risk and ensure payment from overseas buyers; How ExIm Bank guarantees and supports expansion; How SBA Export Programs help finance growth; Understanding letters of credit and secure payment tools; Practical strategies for managing foreign currency sales; Government and banking resources that support global expansion.* 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. ITC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6569025>.
- Apr. 16 **TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE.** Webinar sponsored by Baker Tilly. **Pete Mento** and **Tosca Derrick**, directors in Baker Tilly's Global Trade Management practice, will provide clear analysis of emerging policy developments, enforcement trends and regulatory shifts — along with actionable considerations to help organizations assess risk, respond strategically and plan with greater confidence. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=INV2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_04.02.26#register.
- Apr. 16 **MITA TOURS AIRLITE PLASTICS.** Site visit, sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association, offers a unique opportunity to experience one of the Midwest's leading innovators in plastic manufacturing and packaging solutions. With decades of industry expertise and a reputation for innovation, Airlite partners with major food and consumer brands to create high-quality, visually impactful packaging that enhances product performance and shelf appeal. 12:45 – 3:00 p.m. (followed by a networking reception), Airlite Plastics, 6110 Abbott Drive, Omaha, NE. Fee: varies: \$0 - \$35). For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/mita-tours-airlite-plastics/>.

- Apr. 16 **NEXUS49 HAPPY HOUR.** Join Nexus49 for an informal happy hour to connect, unwind, and engage with fellow executives working across the U.S.–Canada and global marketplace. 5:00 p.m., 22 North Clinton Street, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://nexus49happyhourapril16.rsvpify.com/>.
- Apr. 17 **GLOBAL MARKET ENTRY STRATEGIES.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will detail the different strategies companies can use in foreign markets to help you decide on the best one for your company. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/a99b4ef>.
- Apr. 19 - 29 **SOUTHEAST ASIA MARITIME TRADE MISSION TO SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA.** TMA BlueTech, in collaboration with the International Trade Administration of the United States Department of Commerce, invites U.S. BlueTech companies to participate in the 2026 U.S. Maritime Technology Export Initiative. This federally supported program reduces the financial burden of international expansion and provides direct access to two of the most commercially active maritime markets in Southeast Asia. Participation in this delegation offers a rare opportunity to accelerate export growth, build long term partnerships, and engage directly with high level decision makers in Singapore and Indonesia. This mission builds on the strong results of last year's Singapore delegation and expands into one of the world's most dynamic emerging maritime markets. Up to eight U.S. companies will be accepted on a rolling basis. For information & an application, please see: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/66ad63b7e4f2fd7ec698e46e/t/6941fe31a608bb7418b6dace/1765932593234/2026+Trade+Mission+%28Singapore-Indonesia%29+E-Brochure.pdf>.
- Apr. 21 **TOWARD A NEW INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM.** Fifth Biennial CME Group Foundation (Hybrid) Symposium sponsored by the Yeutter Institute of International Trade & Finance at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Speakers include: **Julie Callahan**, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; **Mike Boyle**, President, Kawasaki Motors Mfg. Corp., U.S.A.; **Jordan Dux**, Senior Director of National Affairs, Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation; **Jayson Beckman**, Mike Yanney Yeutter Institute Chair, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; **Kathleen Claussen**, Professor, Georgetown University Law Center; former Associate General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative; **Angela Paolini Ellard**, Senior Adviser (Non-resident), Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) & Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization, June 2021 - August 2025. 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Great Plains Room, East Campus Union, 1705 Arbor Drive, Lincoln, NE. No fee; advanced registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-symposium-toward-a-new-international-trading-system-tickets-1980568043333?aff=oddtcreator#location>.
- Apr. 21 **EXPORTING TO KOREA DUTY-FREE.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss the benefits of the KORUS FTA and how they can help increase your international sales; it will also cover qualification and documentary requirements. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ukv5jni>.
- Apr. 22 **BABC CHICAGO - APRIL HAPPY HOUR.** Social event sponsored by the British American Business Council Chicago. Connect with other professionals and expand your social & business relationships. 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., The Red Lion Pub, 2446 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. No fee; advance registration appreciated. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/a7wec5s?source_id=eace1b69-d32e-40eb-a55a-31c39a6362f5&source_type=em&c=Gp12nNMQz4VzdUBRu2m_S0cQGEh0OQ5jubl_fMsEkiVnXjxnJEeExA==.
- Apr. 23 **BASIC EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide a comprehensive review of the most commonly used documents and terms in international trade. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/au9edgx>.

- Apr. 23 ***TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE.*** Webinar sponsored by Baker Tilly. **Pete Mento** and **Tosca Derrick**, directors in Baker Tilly’s Global Trade Management practice, will provide clear analysis of emerging policy developments, enforcement trends and regulatory shifts — along with actionable considerations to help organizations assess risk, respond strategically and plan with greater confidence. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=INV2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_04.02.26#register.
- Apr. 23 ***GROWING WISCONSIN CHEESE EXPORTS GLOBALLY.*** Event sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and collaboration with Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) and Schreiber Foods. Speakers from government, industry, and research will share how Wisconsin’s unique collaboration, spanning global promotion, innovation, export programs, and industry leadership, continues to expand the state’s presence in international markets and strengthen demand for Wisconsin cheese worldwide. 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Global Water Center, 247 West Freshwater Way, Milwaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/growing-wisconsin-cheese-exports-globally-1660543?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Apr. 29 - May 1 ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT SIAL CANADA 2026.*** The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at the SIAL Canada 2026 trade show in Montreal. Covering every aspect of the Canadian food & beverage industry, SIAL Canada provides the perfect platform for Illinois exporters servicing institutional foodservice, restaurants, and grocery stores. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: Exhibit space; Matchmaking assistance; 25 - 75% partial reimbursement of lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Briefing material; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics. Fee: \$1,000. For information & an application, please contact: Chris.Sedgwick@Illinois.gov.
- Apr. 29 ***OPERATING IN U.S. FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the basics including how FTZs work, and the benefits and rules for operating in an FTZ, helping your company evaluate the costs and benefits. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/7smm4ce>.
- Apr. 29 ***INTRODUCTION TO THE BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY (BIS) AND EXPORT BASICS.*** First in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. This briefing will discuss the basics of exporting in accordance with the Export Administration Regulations (EAR). Topics include the mission of the BIS, agencies that control U.S. exports, the primary authority of BIS, Overview of the EAR, the Commerce Control List (CCL), Export Control Classification Number (ECCN), Determining your ECCN, determining license requirements, and how to submit a license application or commodity classification request. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/#about>.
- Apr. 29 ***DOING BUSINESS IN CANADA: UNLOCK OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDING NORTH.*** Webinar, sponsored by Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions and the Arkansas District Export Council, will provide expert tips on market opportunities, regulations, and strategies for business success. Experts will break down the key steps to launching or scaling your business in Canada, including market opportunities, regulatory requirements, tax considerations, and strategic entry options. 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-in-canada-unlock-opportunities-for-expanding-north-tickets-1984567988276?aff=erellivmlt>.
- Apr. 30 ***EXPORTING TO BRAZIL.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the opportunities and challenges that companies may face in Brazil and will include strategies for entering the market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ym9becn>.

- Apr. 30 **TRADE POLICY AND TARIFF UPDATE.** Webinar sponsored by Baker Tilly. **Pete Mento** and **Tosca Derrick**, directors in Baker Tilly's Global Trade Management practice, will provide clear analysis of emerging policy developments, enforcement trends and regulatory shifts — along with actionable considerations to help organizations assess risk, respond strategically and plan with greater confidence. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.bakertilly.com/events/trade-policy-and-tariff-update?utm_source=INV2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Webinar_GTA_TPTU_04.02.26#register.
- May 4 **EXPORT WEEK KICK-OFF: NAVIGATING EXPORT RESOURCES FOR U.S. MANUFACTURERS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss how U.S. manufacturers can tap into federal export resources, trade counseling, market intelligence, and global connections to expand internationally. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/3d114ccd-b6d8-479b-902f-6cf0726e4faa@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 4 **GO GLOBAL WITH CONFIDENCE: MODERN MARKET RESEARCH FOR GLOBAL GROWTH.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service & their Rural Export Center, covers why market research matters, introduces key tools and market indicators, examines how certification requirements shape market access, and introduces you to the global network of the U.S. Commercial Service. 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/8ca7987d-540e-4824-81b4-cf6e66cc2df9@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 5 **EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES TO GO GLOBAL: FINANCING TOOLS, TIPS, AND BEST PRACTICES FOR EXPORT GROWTH.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will connect you with trade finance experts who will explain how to access export financing programs, find international buyers, ensure timely payment, and leverage capital resources to expand successfully into global markets. Industry professionals will share practical financing strategies and tools to help your business manage risk, strengthen cash flow, and expand confidently into new global markets. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/ab7416f7-cda5-455f-9432-1c196a1dca15@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 5 **COMPLYING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS (ITAR).** Second in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. The presentation will address: *Overview and scope of the ITAR; Determining What Is Subject to the ITAR; Complying with DDTC Registration Requirements; ITAR Licensing and Exemptions; Voluntary Disclosures, Enforcement and Penalties.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 5 **HEALTHCARE TECH: GENOMICS OMICS TECH.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is one of a series designed to provide sector-specific guidance on how exporters can navigate and leverage existing trade agreements to expand into international markets. This session will focus on Healthcare Tech trade opportunities in Türkiye, Italy, Greece and Sweden. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2b996072-03d8-4c93-ac1c-900d63f80913@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

- May 5 **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is focused on: *Indirect communication; Ambiguous and context-dependent messaging; English as a non-native language.* This in-depth seminar offers practical strategies for strengthening working relationships and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, subordinates, customers, and supervisors. By the end of the seminar, participants will be better equipped to: Interpret indirect or ambiguous messages more accurately; Communicate clearly and respectfully across language and cultural gaps; Reduce misunderstandings while preserving relationships; Increase confidence and effectiveness in day-to-day interactions with Japanese counterparts. 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980000899992?aff=oddtcreator>.
- May 6 **BRAZIL MEDICAL MARKET UPDATE - HEALTHCARE OPPORTUNITIES IN BRAZIL.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, provides a practical market briefing focused on real business opportunities and strategies for success. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/HealthcareOpportunitiesinBrazilWebinarMay2026/?_gl=1%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzc3JGcxJHQxNzc1MTY0MDg1JGo2MCRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzQyJGcxJHQxNzc1MTY0MDg1JGo2MCRsMCRoMA.
- May 6 **EXPORT DOCUMENTATION AWARENESS TRAINING.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service & Mohawk Global Logistics, will assist businesses to understand the documents used for an export transaction, their function and preparation, terminology, and resources available to exporters. Attendees will learn: *The Role of the international freight forwarder; The differences between a Freight Forwarder and customs broker; HS Codes/Schedule B Numbers, importance of using current codes; INCO Terms overview; Shipper's Letter of Instruction; Parties to the international transaction; AES/ACE filing; Preparing export documents when an export license is required.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/829bde7c-4973-4842-8567-d6912c2d2a2c@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 6 **FROM MICHIGAN TO THE WORLD.** 40th International Business Conference sponsored by the Grand Valley State University's Van Andel Global Trade Center and the U.S. Commercial Service. 12:00 – 4:30 p.m. (Reception follows), 50 Front Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI. Fee: \$225. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gvsu.edu/wtw/>.
- May 6 **NAVIGATING TRADE: THE BENEFITS OF FREE TRADE ZONES.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will highlight benefits on free trade zones (FTZs) for U.S. manufacturers exporting their goods. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advanced registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/23e391ff-d0b1-448b-ac14-566efcdd965d@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 6 **3,2,1, GO! eFILING IS 2 MONTHS AWAY.** Second of three webinars, sponsored by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, will highlight the 2-month mark until the full implementation date of eFiling for most regulated products. The topics will include a general overview, what to expect, certification resources, and updates to the Product Registry. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/2823c0db-94a1-4973-bd5c-51f970857528@7f5de26c-a63d-475c-9b6c-4126a914e132?utm_campaign=&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=20260330

- May 7 ***PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS: PREVENTING ADVANCED FEE AND CONFIDENCE SCAMS.*** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and GloBIS – Global Business Information Services. **Louise Kern**, President of Glo-BIS.com, will demonstrate how to spot scam emails, recognize common advance fee and confidence schemes, and apply quick screening techniques to avoid fraudulent deals before they turn into costly mistakes. Expert speakers from U.S. government agencies will also share prevention strategies, verification tips, and resources for reporting suspicious activity. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/a97ebac0-60c1-405e-a7cf-71064fe394e6@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 7 ***UNLOCKING EU MED TECH MARKETS: REGULATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN GERMANY & ITALY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide a focuses discussion on navigating the complexities of the European Union’s medical technology market. This session provides clear insights into regulatory requirements and commercial opportunities in Germany and Italy. It is tailored for U.S. exporters seeking a deeper understanding of EU market pathways and strategic opportunities in 2026 and beyond. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/UnlockingEUMedTechMarketsRegulationsandOpportuniti/?gl=1%2A1yuu0yk%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzc3JGcxJHQxNzc1MTY0NjYwJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzQyJGcxJHQxNzc1MTY0NjYwJGo2MCRsMCRoMA.
- May 7 ***ADVANCED MANUFACTURING: ROBOTICS & AI TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is one of a series that provides practical, sector-specific guidance on how exporters can navigate and leverage existing trade agreements to expand into international markets. This session will focus on Robotics and AI trade opportunities in South Korea and Japan. 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/df3dd817-ecb3-4057-88b8-72c3b92e0ab6@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 7 ***DRAFTING & MANAGING INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss the art of drafting and managing international contracts. Discover insider tips from a seasoned expert as he shares proven strategies for creating successful international sales agreements. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/356ac3d2-cd0a-4ce4-9662-cd314bddee4e@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 7 ***CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION.*** Networking event sponsored by the International Air Cargo Association of Chicago. Event promises a vibrant night of networking, great conversations, delicious food, and festive energy. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Tapalpa Mexican Restaurant, 770 South Arlington Heights Road, Elk Grove Village, IL. IACAC Members - \$45; Non-members - \$55. Fee includes 2 drink coupons & appetizers. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/still-celebrating-cinco-de-mayo/>.
- May 12 ***INSIDE BANGLADESH’S EXPANDING LPG SECTOR.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, is designed to provide U.S. LPG suppliers and exporters with a clear understanding of Bangladesh’s evolving LPG market and the key factors shaping current supply challenges and opportunities. Participants will gain valuable insights into current demand trends, the drivers behind recent supply disruptions, infrastructure and financing constraints, and emerging opportunities for international suppliers to strengthen Bangladesh’s expanding LPG market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7154a7d7-0309-44f6-b712-9e34c3f2d6e0@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

- May 12 **OUTREACH VISITS, ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AND VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURES.** Third in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. The presentation will address: *An overview of coordinated, multi-agency export control and economic sanctions enforcement authorities; Considerations for handling site visits and conducting internal investigations involving potential export control or economic sanction violations; The evaluation process for determining whether to voluntarily disclose a potential or actual violation to the government.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 12 **CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN & INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES IN COLOMBIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide market insights and export opportunities for U.S. companies. The U.S. Commercial Service Colombia, along with Colombian government leaders and industry guest speakers, will provide an overview of upcoming opportunities. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25f8vMbp3gN8ZC1LhF4BGo-z-j2d50W4dUN09EMjBNOEdIRFJYNTc1RDM4SkRDR0pYOS4u&route=shorturl>.
- May 13 - 14 **AES EXPORT COMPLIANCE SEMINAR.** Virtual program, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the U.S. Census Bureau, will give you the practical knowledge and real-world tools to strengthen your export operations and stay on the right side of U.S. export law. Learn: *How the U.S. Government oversees export controls and enforcement; Key provisions of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) — including classification, licensing, and enforcement; Navigating ITAR requirements and how they apply to your products and transactions; Best practices for AES filing and export documentation, including guidance directly from the U.S. Census Bureau; The most common compliance pitfalls – and exactly how to avoid them.* 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$125 (until April 4; \$150 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/AESEExportCompliance-May2026/?_gl=1%2Ahf4lh7%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzc3JGcxJHQxNzc1MTYyOTcyJGo2MCRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzQyJGcxJHQxNzc1MTYyOTcyJGo2MCRsMCRoMA.
- May 13 **HOW TO PREPARE, APPROACH, AND SELL YOUR PRODUCTS TO THE WORLD'S LEADING RETAILERS.** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Jim DeBetta**, President, DeBetta Enterprises, who will address: *What you need to have to approach retailers including assets needed like sell sheets, pricing, marketing plans, and more; What to say to a retail buyer when you initially approach them; How to make sure your pricing and packaging of your product gets the buyers attention; How to get set up as a vendor if the retailer shows interest.* 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2026/04/08/how-to-prepare-approach-and-sell-your-products-to-the-worlds-leading-retailers/?mc_cid=3b40371ae2&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- May 13 **FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY RISK MANAGEMENT.** Luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Currency volatility has reached near all-time highs amid ongoing geopolitical conflicts and uncertainty surrounding global tariffs. Associated Bank's **Angie Kappel**, CTP and **Mike Sankowski** will provide an overview of the foreign exchange market, introduce key currency risk management tools, and walk through a practical best-practices scenario. Their presentation will also touch on the evolving role of stablecoins and their potential implications for international payments and treasury management. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/foreign-exchange-and-currency-risk-management-tickets-1985959511359>.

- May 13 ***THE NORTH AMERICAN HAT TRICK: TRADE, TALENT, AND TEAMWORK UNDER USMCA.*** World Trade Day program sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. This program will provide critical insights and help you connect with professionals engaged in trade across North America. Speakers include: **Enrique Perret**, Managing Director, U.S. - Mexico Foundation (USMF); **Eric Goodman**, Managing Director, Business Development & Transload, CPKC; **Ludovic Ortuno**, Managing Director, Missouri DED Canadian Office; **Brian Gordon** (Moderator), SVP & Manager, International Banking, Commerce Bank. 3:30 – 6:00 p.m., CPKC Stadium, 1460 East Front Street, Kansas City, MO. ITC Members - \$15 (by April 28; \$20 thereafter); Non-members - \$25 (by April 28; \$30 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6640234>.
- May 14 ***GLOBAL TRADE AT A CROSSROADS: SECURITY, STRATEGY & THE MIDWEST ADVANTAGE.*** 2026 World Trade Conference sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. 7:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Tiburon Golf Club & Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/2026-world-trade-conference/>.
- May 14 ***APPAREL CLASSIFICATION SERIES: EVERYTHING BUT KNIT TOPS.*** Webinar sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg. Third in a series of five, this will review a variety of apparel examples and discuss the specific features that U.S. Customs and Border Protection focuses on when determining the correct classification and duty rate. This will cover the classification of many different knit and woven garments. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/apparel-classification-series-everything-but-knit-tops>.
- May 14 ***2026 GALA & BUSINESS AWARDS.*** Event sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago celebrating the Power of Connection with a keynote insight from **Cécile Béliot**, CEO of Bel Group. 6:00 p.m., Ivy Room, 12 East Ohio Street, Chicago. Individual Ticket - \$370 (by April 5; \$470 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://faccgala.carrd.co/>.
- May 15 ***HOW TO DO BUSINESS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center. Speakers include: Professor **Harry Lepinske**, CAPRC Charman; **Michael Kreyzston**, FX Frontier Investments LLC; **Jaibalan Harirajan**, Executive Director, Malaysia Investment Development Authority; **Effie Huang**, Director, Taiwan Trade Center. Wolf's Head Inn, 6937 Joliet Road, Indian Head Park, IL. CAPRC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please contact: lepinske@sbcglobal.net.
- May 19 ***EXPORT READY: OPPORTUNITY, REALITY, ACTION.*** Wisconsin World Trade Day event, sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association (MITA) with the WI District Export Council (DEC) and Wisconsin International Credit Executives. Plenary Session topics include *Fast-Tracking Success in Global Markets* and *Experienced Voices: Real-World Insights from Global Exporters*. Breakout Session topics include: *Financial Considerations for Global Trade*; *Legal Structures Supporting Global Trade*; *Logistics & Compliance - Moving Products Globally*; *Sales & Marketing – Go to Market Planning & Strategies*. 8:00 – 5:30 p.m., Waukesha County Technical College, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI. Fee: \$100 (by May 8; \$125 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://mita.mitatrade.org/events/Details/export-ready-opportunity-reality-action-1640187?sourceTypeId=EmailInvitation>.
- May 19 ***OFAC OVERVIEW.*** Fourth in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. This presentation will address: *OFAC Basics*; *Comprehensive Sanctions Programs*; *Sanctions Compliance Strategies*; *OFAC Enforcement Overview*; *OFAC Sanctions Resources*. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.

- May 19 ***EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GLOBAL TRADE AT THIS TIME.*** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association, will provide practical insights and perspectives (not legal advice) from three long-time collaborators and trusted partners in global trade compliance. Speakers include: **Adrienne Braumiller**, Partner, Braumiller Law Group, PLLC; **George Tuttle III**, Attorney, The Law Firm of George R. Tuttle; **Michelle Schulz**, Principal, Schulz Trade Law. 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Member - \$35; Non-member - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/d171fb20-57af-4b50-b872-04a2586795c0/summary>.
- May 20 ***DEVELOPING A CORPORATE EXPORT MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM (EMCP).*** Fifth in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Our presentation will indicate what points an EMCP should cover, best practices on how to roll out procedures on the ground, and how to make this document relevant in your company. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 20 ***MASTERING EXPORT MANAGEMENT COMPANIES: EVALUATING PARTNERS, NEGOTIATING COMMISSIONS, AND DRIVING PERFORMANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide U.S. companies with a practical overview of how to work with Export Management Companies (EMCs), including how to assess potential partners, negotiate commission structures, and effectively manage performance to drive international sales growth. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/be832f3a-741f-42b3-9e04-beb06cee8424@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- May 26 ***INTANGIBLE EXPORTS & AI - THE RISKS AND REWARDS.*** Sixth in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. In this session, you'll learn key concepts like “deemed export”, data classification, and data authorization. We'll explore intangible export control risks and explain how they manifest. We'll also look at the role AI plays in intangible export controls, to include AI export control risks and rewards. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 27 ***LICENSE EXCEPTIONS.*** Last in a series of 7 compliance webinars sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. This will cover the definition of license exception, benefits of using license exceptions, license exception statistical data, restrictions, reporting requirements, specific license exceptions (LVS, TMP, RPL, TSU, STA), and AES filing. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportComplianceEssentialsAMulti-PartComplianceSer/>.
- May 27 ***NAVIGATING MARITIME EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, AND PERU.*** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. U.S. Commercial specialists from each country will provide a 15-minute overview of key industry trends, demand drivers, and strategies to help U.S. firms successfully enter and expand in these dynamic markets. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7b061011-58c0-48e8-8f95-c2649a75dc7e@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Jun. 3 - ***GLOBAL BUSINESS CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE.*** Event sponsored by the North Dakota Trade Office. Industry leaders, trade specialists, and international business experts gather to share insight into the state of global business. **June 3**, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.: Awards Dinner. **June 4**, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Conference program. Holiday Inn Fargo, 3803 13th Avenue South, Fargo, ND. NDTO Members – No fee; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://ndto.com/events/gbc2026/>.

- Jun. 3 **3,2,1, GO! eFILING IS 1 MONTH AWAY.** Last of three webinars, sponsored by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, will highlight the 1-month mark until the full implementation date of eFiling for most regulated products. The topics will include a general overview, what to expect, certification resources, and updates to the Product Registry. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/e72a7710-c51f-4eed-8108-aed66344e800@7f5de26c-a63d-475c-9b6c-4126a914e132?utm_campaign=&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=20260330
- Jun. 9 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is designed to offer answers to the many questions non-Japanese may have (e.g., “Why do Japanese take so long to make decisions?”; “Why don’t Japanese give clear instructions?”). The seminar will also feature explanations of proper Japanese etiquette for meals and social activities. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-tickets-1790097432609?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Jun.16 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is designed to offer answers to the many questions non-Japanese may have (e.g., “Why do Japanese take so long to make decisions?”; “Why don’t Japanese give clear instructions?”). The seminar will also feature explanations of proper Japanese etiquette for meals and social activities. 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-tickets-1790257641799?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Jun.30 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS (アメリカ人と効果的に働く方法).** Virtual program, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducted entirely in Japanese, is designed to help Japanese gain a better understanding of their American colleagues’ behavior and gain skills for improving communications. Topics include: *Thinking about Culture; Case Studies: Communicating with Americans; Case Studies: Leadership Style and Verbal Direction; Specific Cultural Challenges; Blending American and Japanese Styles; Key Skills for Effective Communication.* 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1790580276809?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.
- Jul. 1 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT MANUFACTURING WORLD (TOKYO, JAPAN).** The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois booth at the Manufacturing World trade show in Tokyo. Illinois companies specializing in industrial machinery, automation, precision components, and advanced manufacturing are encouraged to apply for this unique opportunity for financial and technical assistance showcasing your products and services in one of the world's most dynamic and technologically advanced markets. Eligible Illinois companies will receive the following benefits: • Complimentary exhibit space; Interpreter services; 50 - 75% reimbursement for travel costs for up to two travelers (in accordance with guidelines); Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; Assistance with travel logistics. Participation fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: March 27. For information & an application, please contact: kevin.kim@illinois.gov.
- Jul. 20 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT THE FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW.** 24 The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment, invites you to exhibit in the Illinois booth at the Farnborough Airshow. The 2026 edition will spotlight five global industry themes: Global Security; Advanced Technology & AI; Supply Chain; Sustainability; and Future Workforce; Government matchmaking; In-country briefing and networking; Pre-show market briefings and on-site support; Ground transportation to and from the fairgrounds; Partial reimbursement of travel costs for lodging and airfare between 25 and 75%. Fee: \$1,500. For information & an application, please contact: Riccardo.Navon@Illinois.gov.

- Sep.29 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS (アメリカ人と効果的に働く方法)**. Virtual program, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducted entirely in Japanese, is designed to help Japanese gain a better understanding of their American colleagues' behavior and gain skills for improving communications. Topics include: *Thinking about Culture; Case Studies: Communicating with Americans; Case Studies: Leadership Style and Verbal Direction; Specific Cultural Challenges; Blending American and Japanese Styles; Key Skills for Effective Communication*. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1795564063449?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.
- Oct. 9 **THE 2026 CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL GALA**. Hosted annually by World Business Chicago and Chicago Sister Cities International, the Gala welcomes members of the Chicago Consular Corps—one of the largest in the U.S., representing over 80 countries—as distinguished guests. This distinguished evening celebrates the international community that makes Chicago a true global city. In addition to funding WBC'S work, a portion of the proceeds funds the Chicago Consular Corp's annual International Student Professional Development Grant at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). 6:00 p.m., The Field Museum. Details forthcoming. Please see: https://worldbusinesschicago.com/gala/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gala&utm_content=savethedate&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Save%20the%20Date%3A%20The%20Chicago%20International%20Gala%20-%20October%209&utm_campaign=Gala%20initial%20std.
- Oct.20 **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE**. Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is focused on: *Indirect communication; Ambiguous and context-dependent messaging; English as a non-native language*. This in-depth seminar offers practical strategies for strengthening working relationships and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, subordinates, customers, and supervisors. By the end of the seminar, participants will be better equipped to: Interpret indirect or ambiguous messages more accurately; Communicate clearly and respectfully across language and cultural gaps; Reduce misunderstandings while preserving relationships; Increase confidence and effectiveness in day-to-day interactions with Japanese counterparts. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980001138706?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.

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 ksmpa.com.