

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

April 27, 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 PROGRAMS

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

- 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 19** ***LOOKING AHEAD: A NEW U.S. – CHINA BUSINESS PARADIGM?*** Executive Roundtable sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest. **Ker Gibbs**, former President of the American Chamber of Commerce Shanghai and new author of *The Fragile Dragon: Trade, Trump and China's Vulnerabilities*, joins us for a discussion of key business and political developments from both Western and Chinese perspectives. He will offer guidance on how business people can think about China and what it takes to succeed, whether it's navigating the narrow corridor between what China wants and what the US will allow, partnering with rather than competing against local players, or structuring businesses to minimize risk if a catastrophic event takes place, as appears more and more likely. 11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC & Sponsors - \$100; Non-members - \$150. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/looking-ahead-a-new-us-china-business-paradigm-tickets-1987842311866?>

May 22 **MARITIME DAY LUNCHEON CRUISE.** Sponsored by Chicago Propeller Club with City Cruises and the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, the two-hour cruise will commence following a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at Navy Pier, with attendees then embarking on the Chicago Elite for an afternoon of fine company, superb views, and a few drinks in the late spring sunshine. 12:30 – 4:30 p.m., Navy Pier and the Chicago Elite vessel. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$80; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maritime-day-luncheon-cruise-following-blessing-of-fleet-ceremony-tickets-1987993605389?aff=erelexpmlt>.

Of Note:

U.S. and Philippines Plan the Launch of Historic 4,000 Acre Economic Security Zone to Shore Up Supply Chains: The US State Department recently [announced](#) in partnership with the Philippines its first “Economic Security Zone,” an industrial hub on the Philippine island of Luzon “expected to serve as a purpose-built platform for allied manufacturing.” The Economic Security Zone is part of the State Department’s [Pax Silica](#) initiative, meant to connect the United States and allies in cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI) and supply chain security.

Follow the Money: How FDI Is Redrawing the Global Economy: Today, massive capital commitments into areas like AI, semiconductors, and clean energy are signaling which industries will scale, where supply chains will land, and which regions will dominate. In this episode of [The McKinsey Podcast](#), McKinsey Senior Partners Nick Leung and Olivia White explain why FDI has become a critical early indicator of competitive advantage—and what leaders should be watching now.

USTR Greer and Mexican Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard Meet: Ambassador Jamieson Greer [met](#) on April 20 with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum to discuss U.S.-Mexico trade and economic relations ahead of the USMCA Joint Review on July 1. Ambassador Greer and Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard also agreed to hold a first official bilateral negotiating round for the USMCA Review the week of May 25, 2026, in Mexico City.

How the Middle East War Has Affected Oil Exporters and Importers: This [IMF Blog Post](#) features their Chart of Week, depicting the vastly different burdens oil exporting & importing countries face depending on their sovereign credit ratings.

Delays and Uncertainty in the Export Licensing Process: Findings from a CSIS Survey of U.S.

Technology Exporters: U.S. firms report that license reviews administered by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) are taking longer on average and providing less visibility into application status. This [report](#) by the Center for Strategic & International Studies uses new survey evidence from U.S. technology exporters to benchmark the current licensing process and its impact on U.S. firms.

Moving Production to Mexico: What U.S. Companies Get Wrong: Moving production to Mexico is more than just a sourcing decision. It is a legal and operational rebuild, according to Dan Harris in [China Law Blog](#). Companies that treat China/Mexico contracts, labor, IP, customs, and transition sequencing as afterthoughts often end up paying to fix avoidable mistakes.

CBP Updates Guidance on Jones Act Waiver: On April 16, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) provided updated guidance for implementing a temporary waiver of 46 [U.S.C. § 55102](#) (the “Jones Act”), while expanding the scope of covered merchandise, writes Austin J. Eighan in Barnes Richardson’s [Global Trade Law](#). The waiver permits foreign-flag vessels to transport certain cargo between U.S. ports until the waiver expires. In the agency’s latest CSMS [notice](#), CBP provides an expanded list of merchandise covered by the waiver according to Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) classification.

U.S.-Mexico Trade Hits \$73B in February as Border Capacity Tightens: Mexico remained the United States’ largest trading partner in February, totaling \$73.2 billion in two-way commerce, highlighting the durability of cross-border supply chains despite broader trade headwinds, according to [FreightWaves](#). Bilateral trade between the U.S. and Mexico was up about 7% year over year, maintaining Mexico’s No. 1 ranking among U.S. trading partners, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

Reining in the Export Control Arms Race: Export controls are a critical instrument of U.S. national security policy, designed to prevent adversaries from acquiring technologies that could enhance military capabilities or undermine global stability. In recent years and amid escalating U.S.-China tensions, export controls have evolved into a broader tool of economic statecraft. They are increasingly deployed unilaterally and even negotiated as part of trade deals, write Kate Koren, Scott Kennedy, Philip Luck, and Ilaria Mazzocco in this [commentary](#) for CSIS.

CBP Publishes CAPE Phase 1 Update: Barnes Richardson’s Pietro Bianchi [reports](#) CBP published CSMS #68340863, which provides further details for Phase 1 of its multiple-entry IEEPA refund claims system: Consolidated Administration and Processing of Entries (“CAPE”). CBP stated that [CAPE](#) is on track to deploy 8:00 a.m. EDT on April 20, 2026 and reminded importers to set up electronic refunds via Automated Clearing House in ACE.

China’s High-Tech Drive in 10 Charts: Scott Kennedy, Senior Advisor and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business & Economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, writes about [China’s high-tech drive](#) that has made enormous yet uneven progress over the last few decades, both in general and within specific industries. The United States and like-minded countries need to respond pragmatically to maximize the opportunities and minimize the risks resulting from these developments.

Trump Administration Tariffs Haven’t Achieved Their Goals: PPI’s [Ed Gresser](#) decries Trump administration’s tariffs haven’t achieved their goals: the average U.S. tariff rate is 11.8% this week — down from a 19% peak last summer, but still nearly five times the 2.5% average of January 2025. Moreover, the manufacturing share of U.S. GDP fell from 9.8% of GDP in 2024 to 9.4% in 2025. Job figures concur — manufacturing hiring fell by about 400,000 in 2025, and factories shed 108,000 jobs on net. Conclusions after one turbulent year might be premature, but in 2016 the manufacturing share of U.S. GDP was a lot higher – 10.8% – so post-2017 tariff increases haven’t lifted it.

Can the US Sustain Its Competitive Edge? This McKinsey [Podcast](#) describes new research that examines how AI, talent, infrastructure, and debt are converging to reshape US competitiveness—and what CEOs, boards, and other leaders can do about it.

Global Economy to Slow in 2026, and Outlook Clouded by War, Other Uncertainties: Summarizing an analysis earlier in April, the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#)’ Karen Dynan writes: The global economy continues to expand, supported by the artificial intelligence (AI) boom, even as high energy prices, trade tensions, policy uncertainty, and structural challenges weigh on activity. Real global GDP growth is projected to slow from 3.3 percent in 2025 to 3.0 percent in 2026 before picking up to 3.1 percent in 2027.

Who Owns America’s \$39T Debt: Inquiring minds want to know, so [Visual Capitalist](#) did some research: The Federal Reserve holds \$4.4T in Treasuries—more than the top three foreign holders combined; Domestic investors hold \$17.7T, nearly double foreign ownership at \$9.3T; About \$7.6T of U.S. debt is owed within government accounts. Japan, the UK & China lead foreign holders of U.S. debt.

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.

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.

America Wants to Reshore Manufacturing—But Who Will Do the Work?: Supply Chain 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

- Apr. 28 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN UKRAINE: U.S.-UKRAINE RECONSTRUCTION INVESTMENT FUND (URIF) AND UKRAINE RECOVERY CONFERENCE 2026.*** Virtual program, sponsored by the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council with the U.S. Commercial Service, will focus on emerging investment opportunities linked to Ukraine's reconstruction efforts and the upcoming Ukraine Recovery Conference 2026. The discussion will bring together senior representatives of the U.S. and Ukrainian governments, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C., and private sector to explore the U.S.-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund (URIF), available support mechanisms, and practical pathways for U.S. companies seeking to engage in Ukraine's recovery. 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://usubc.org/event/webinar-business-opportunities-in-ukraine-u-s-ukraine-reconstruction-investment-fund-urif-and-ukraine-recovery-conference-2026/>.
- Apr. 28 ***UNLOCKING INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES IN BANGLADESH.*** Webinar, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service in partnership with the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), will explore commercial opportunities for U.S. companies in Bangladesh's growing infrastructure sector. It will provide U.S. businesses with insights into upcoming projects, financing mechanisms, and procurement processes available through multilateral development banks and U.S. government agencies. Participants will hear directly from senior officials representing key institutions supporting infrastructure development in Bangladesh. 9:00 – 10:10 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/72f51102-9a3d-4589-86cf-4427ab6f1650@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Apr. 28 ***USER READINESS SUPPORT: CAPE DECLARATIONS FOR IEEPA DUTY REFUNDS.*** Webinar, sponsored by CBP's Office of Trade, will provide guidance to users on how to successfully navigate the CAPE tab and process the submission from start to finish. 12:00 p.m. CDT. For registration, please see: <https://inevent.com/en/WebinarUSCustomsandBorderProtection-1739306113/CAPEDeclarations042826/hotsite.php>.
- Apr. 28 ***CUTS AND CONSEQUENCES: THE END OF USAID.*** Program sponsored by the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations. Presentation by **Molly Knight Raskin**, Freelance Journalist, Author, and Documentary Producer who will share insights from her Pulitzer Center-supported reporting project, *Cuts and Consequences: The End of USAID*. The project documents the impact of the Trump administration's decision to shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the agency responsible for distributing more than \$40 billion a year to over 100 countries globally. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Industry Room (3rd floor), Union South (UW Campus), 1308 West Dayton Street, Madison, WI. Fee: \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://mcfr.wildapricot.org/event-6611844>.

- Apr. 29 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT SIAL CANADA 2026.*** The Illinois Department of
May 1 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 ***THE ASIA-PACIFIC LOGISTICS BLUEPRINT: UNLOCKING HONG KONG AS YOUR SME GATEWAY TO THE EAST.*** Webinar, sponsored by IBS Global Consulting with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest, in advance of the 2026 U.S. Trade Mission to Hong Kong (Nov. 16-20). This session is centered on one central idea: that Hong Kong, with its unrivalled free port status, world-class infrastructure, and preferential access to Mainland China, remains the most strategic entry point for SMEs entering the Asia-Pacific market. Speakers: **David King**, Board of Directors, Airforwarders Association - *Getting Your Goods to Asia: Freight Options and the Most Common SME Mistakes in Cross-Border Logistics*; **Evan Forrester**, Commercial Head of Nearshoring, U.S., Uber Freight - *Hong Kong as a Free Port and Regional Hub: Real Insights from Living and Working in Hong Kong*; **Mark Staublin**, Senior Advisor, Garrett Brands - *Garrett Brands in Hong Kong: A Case Study in Strategic Market Entry*. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration appreciated. For information & registration, please see: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/zXvCwnceS6Of0flxZqbuyA#/registration>.
- Apr. 29 ***MAJOR RETAILER ROADSHOW: CONNECT WITH BUYERS IN THE UK, IRELAND & CANADA.*** Webinar, sponsored by Navigator Global in collaboration with Product Guru, will describe: The roadshow format, how products are showcased and the review process; Discover categories in scope, participating retailers, submission requirements and logistics; The timeline, launch offer, and next steps. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://navigator.global/us/events/major-retailer-roadshow-connect-with-buyers-in-the-uk-ireland-canada-final-cohort?utm_ownership=&utm_ownership=---&utm_source=&utm_medium=&utm_campaign=us--partner_distribution_initiative-&utm_content=---&utm_term=
- 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 ***EXPORTING STEEL TO MEXICO: NEW COMPLIANCE RULES U.S. EXPORTERS NEED TO KNOW.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide a program focused on the evolving regulatory landscape for steel exports to Mexico. Participants will receive timely, practical guidance to help U.S. companies better understand Mexico's steel import process and prepare for the new compliance environment. Topics: The basics of Mexico's steel import process; Key compliance requirements U.S. exporters must meet; Common pitfalls that can lead to delays and shipment rejections; Practical strategies to reduce risk and improve market entry. 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExportingSteeltoMexico/>.
- Apr. 29 ***FROM IEEPA TO CAPE: UNDERSTANDING THE NEW PROCESS FOR RECOVERING UNLAWFUL TARIFFS.*** Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will provide a high-level overview of what has changed, what the CAPE process is designed to accomplish, and what importers should understand as this new system takes shape. The discussion will focus on practical considerations, including which entries may be impacted, how refund requests may be handled, and what role brokers, counsel, and importers each play in the process. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/hub/events/e9c80f5c-5515-47e9-b12c-5e8268ed5819/landing?environment=P2>.
- 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. 29 ***UNDERSTANDING AND NAVIGATING TRADE AND TARIFFS.*** Executive Forum sponsored by the Valley Industrial Association. Recent developments- including the Supreme Court's ruling on IEEPA tariffs, evolving refund procedures and new tariff actions – have created both uncertainty and opportunity for companies. Speakers include: **Ngosong Fonkem**, International Trade Lawyer and Partner, Amundsen Davis; **Richard Paullin**, Executive Director, International Trade Association of Greater Chicago; **Kim Roebke**, Director of Compliance and Regulatory, Rim Logistics. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Gripple Inc., 1611 Emily Lane, Aurora, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please contact: JessicaGarcia@viaassn.org.
- 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 ***HIGH TECH SUPPLY CHAIN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN EL SALVADOR.*** Direct Line webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, features senior officials from the U.S. and Salvadoran governments, including Assistant Secretary **Caleb Orr** and Minister of Economy **María Luisa Hayem**. Participants will gain insights into: *Investment opportunities in technology and manufacturing supply chains; Government incentives and support for foreign investors; El Salvador's strategy to modernize its industrial base.* No fee; advance registration (by April 23) required. For information & registration, please see: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=dFDPZv5a0UimkaErISH0S_Yh3GFoQuNNnOPkUnxX4tVUMjI1U1NXNTg5UU1VSDZQMTIWFZEMINaNi4u&route=shorturl.

- 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.
- Apr. 30 ***A GOLDEN ERA FOR US-CENTRAL ASIA RELATIONS?*** Hybrid event, sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. As US relations with many allies grow strained, ties with Central Asia are warming. The region offers key resources, trade corridors, and diplomatic opportunities, and Central Asian governments are eager to cooperate with Washington. Speakers will discuss Central Asia's evolving role in US strategy and US communities: **Edil Baisalov**, Ambassador-Designate of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States; **Ajar Chekirova**, Assistant Professor, Politics, Lake Forest College; **Elena V. Son-LaRocco**, Executive Director, Central Asia Business Council; **Alexander Cooley** (Moderator), Claire Tow Professor of Political Science, Barnard College & Senior Nonresident Fellow, Eurasia Affairs, Chicago Council on Global Affairs. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., CCGA Conference Center, 130 East Randolph Street, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://globalaffairs.org/events/golden-era-us-central-asia-relations?utm_source=promo&utm_campaign=events&utm_medium=email.
- 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-cfbc66cc2df9@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 **US-CHINA TRADE UPDATE: IMPORTS, EXPORTS, FENTANYL FLOWS, AND BEYOND.** Virtual event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. With extensive public focus on tariffs at the upcoming Trump-Xi Summit, this session provides a clear, evidence-based update on the broader state of US-China economic and technology relations, drawing on the latest data and analysis from PIIE experts: **Chad P. Bown** presents fresh 2025 trade flow insights from his upcoming and recently published blogs on US imports from and exports to China; **Marcus Noland** offers updates on fentanyl flows; **Mary E. Lovely** discusses her ongoing work on trade dynamics; and **Martin Chorzempa** provides an update on US and China export control policies and developments, for a briefing that separates fact from narrative and highlights issues likely to shape the upcoming Trump-Xi conversation. 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/us-china-trade-update-imports-exports-fentanyl-flows-and-beyond>.
- May 6 **AI GOVERNANCE FOR U.S. EXPORTERS: MANAGING RISK, COMPLIANCE, AND TRUST IN GLOBAL MARKETS.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will outline why AI governance matters, how the global regulatory landscape affects exporters, and share practical steps organizations can take to address AI governance challenges and opportunities. 10:00 – 11:10 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/WebinarAIGovernanceforUSExportersManagingRiskCompl/>.
- 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%2As8yh3s%2A_ga%2AMTQ0MjY3MDMxMC4xNjgwMTE3NjU1%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzc3JGcxJHQxNzc1MTY0MDg1JGo2MCRsMCRoMA..%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3NzUxNjE2NjMkbzQyJGcxJHQxNzc1MTY0MDg1JGo2MCRsMCRoMA.

- May 6 **COMPETITION IN UNPREDICTABLE TIMES: MANAGING RISK AND UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES.** Webinar, sponsored by Blakes, will explore how evolving enforcement priorities, new guidance and recent regulatory changes are reshaping the competition law and foreign investment landscape for businesses operating in Canada. A panel will focus on what these developments mean in practice, highlighting both emerging risks and opportunities for businesses navigating today's complex economic and political environment. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.blakes.com/insights/seminars/competition-in-unpredictable-times-managing-risk-and-unlocking-opportunities/?utm_source=vuture&utm_medium=email.
- 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 **DEMYSTIFYING EXPORT LICENSING.** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers and Descartes, will provide a practical discussion on how companies are navigating export classification challenges, determining licensing requirements, and improving internal processes to reduce delays and risk. Topics include: *How to approach ECCN classification with confidence; When licenses are required and how to avoid common missteps; Practical strategies to streamline licensing workflows; Tools and technologies that improve speed, accuracy, and visibility.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. AAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$60. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.aaei.org/ap/Events/Register/KVFyjAqcnCBCW>.
- 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 6 **THE STATE OF REAL ESTATE – CHICAGO.** Real Estate discussion forum sponsored by the British American Business Council Chicago. An expert panel breaks down the state of the market from the macro level to practical implications covering commercial and residential real estate. 5:00 – 8:30 p.m., AON Center, 200 East Randolph Street, Floor 44, Chicago. BABC Members - \$10; Non-members - \$20. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/2ayc4cx?source_id=4f2212fd-a863-48e5-a626-71dcf8bad69b&source_type=em&c=Rra7rtfrsiouK8iOp31PFFrPdR87w9lmc-53tOLZM916kPxmoAri9g==.

- 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 **UNLOCK FAST-TRACK ACCESS TO DEFENSE FUNDING.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss how the Defense Industrial Base Consortium (DIBC) is transforming access to U.S. defense opportunities. This session will show companies in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia how to connect directly with mission-critical needs, compete for live funding opportunities and scale within the global defense market. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/UnlockFast-TrackAccessToDefenseFunding-9884-177610/hotsite.php>.
- 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=8oPRoXtsmk25f8vMbP3gN8ZC1LhF4BGoz-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 - 14 **118TH ANNUAL DINNER & GOLF OUTING.** Networking events sponsored by the Traffic Club of Chicago. **May 13: Golf Outing** – Cog Hill Golf Course. Members - \$275; Non-members - \$325. **May 14: Annual Dinner** – Aon Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.traffic-club.org/ap/Events/Register/jKFGwy2fZCkCE>.
- 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 ***NEARSHORING TO MEXICO: A STRATEGIC MANUFACTURING OPTION FOR U.S. COMPANIES.*** Luncheon program, sponsored by Mowery & Schoenfeld, will address current critical topics for U.S. companies considering manufacturing operations in Mexico, including corporate and contractual factors, trade-related concerns, and tax implications. Speakers include: **Ricardo Aramburo Williams**, International Tax Principal, Mowery & Schoenfeld, along with **Jenny Ferron**, **Francisco Palmero**, and **Mario Lara** from Nader, Hayaux & Goebel. 12:30 – 2:00 p.m., Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, 410 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 900, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=1Gdj9K91JUWYUvxwFqMwCtdcGr3tOiNFILyIieobMgpUNIAxRkIXVE03WU1GSE5SWVI4Okk4RFJSOC4u&route=shorturl&cldee=GrgRJDMU-AN4AaH8DJ7PgbsMAmeMvifQcCXbnpnXrKEiRqJ-KxXtjZFvspqV_slp&recipientid=contact-aacc3b875d45e711929d0050569142af-337efade0a4a45f5b9508656ed4f8139&utm_source=ClickDimensions&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5%20Things%20Newsletter.
- May 13 ***AUDIT FINDINGS AND COMMON COMPLIANCE ISSUES.*** Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will provide a broad look at the types of mistakes, oversights, and process gaps that often lead to compliance concerns—and highlight practical ways importers can stay proactive and maintain stronger oversight. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://anderinger.cventevents.com/hub/events/28bb9008-434e-40f6-adb4-98b84e89f82c/landing>.
- 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. Speakers include: **Darci Vetter**, Principal, Sower Strategies, LLC; **Kellie Meiman**, Senior Counselor, McLarty Associates; **Cicely Batie**, Policy Advisor to the Governor, Office of Governor Jim Pillen; **Stephen Zambo**, Founder and CEO, The AGL Group; **Erin Saxby**, Vice President of Enterprise Data & AI, FNBO; **Caleb Hall**, Director, US Customs Brokerage, Scarbrough International, LTD. 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://facegala.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 - **U.S.-INDIA INTENSIVE TRADE SEMINAR.** Three-day virtual program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will help attendees increase their professional knowledge by learning the nuts and bolts of trade policy directly from career trade policy professionals from across government, industry, and law. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. CDT. WITA Members - \$50; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/us-india-its/>.
- 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?sourceTypeld=EmailInvitation>.
- May 19 **LOOKING AHEAD: A NEW U.S. – CHINA BUSINESS PARADIGM?** Executive Roundtable sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago** with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest. **Ker Gibbs**, former President of the American Chamber of Commerce Shanghai and new author of *The Fragile Dragon: Trade, Trump and China's Vulnerabilities*, joins us for a discussion of key business and political developments from both Western and Chinese perspectives. He will offer guidance on how business people can think about China and what it takes to succeed, whether it's navigating the narrow corridor between what China wants and what the US will allow, partnering with rather than competing against local players, or structuring businesses to minimize risk if a catastrophic event takes place, as appears more and more likely. Limited seating. 11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC & Sponsors - \$100; Non-members - \$150. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/looking-ahead-a-new-us-china-business-paradigm-tickets-1987842311866?>.
- 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 ***DOING BUSINESS WITH WESTERN EUROPE.*** Conference on Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Ireland sponsored by the Indiana District Export Council. 11:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Griffin Center, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN. Fee: \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-with-western-europe-tickets-1985328480930?aff=oddtcreator>.
- 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 20 ***WHITE ASPARAGUS DINNER 2026.*** Event, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, features the taste of authentic German white asparagus, freshly flown in from Germany. This event blends tradition with modern culinary craftsmanship, centered around one of Germany's most celebrated seasonal specialties. 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Sky On Nine, 6600 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, IL. GACC Members - \$120; Non-members - \$145. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/gpp6ujw?source_id=4f351def-cf4f-4729-947b-20483264fe66&source_type=em&c=wCs8JUPdZ2HMgrBMNDkpauNyszO3opK2Eui1icTINPKes2APkPKYA==.
- May 22 ***MARITIME DAY LUNCHEON CRUISE.*** Sponsored by Chicago Propeller Club with City Cruises and the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, the two-hour cruise will commence following a Blessing of the Fleet ceremony at Navy Pier, with attendees then embarking on the Chicago Elite for an afternoon of fine company, superb views, and a few drinks in the late spring sunshine. 12:30 – 4:30 p.m., Navy Pier and the Chicago Elite vessel. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$80; Non-members - \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maritime-day-luncheon-cruise-following-blessing-of-fleet-ceremony-tickets-1987993605389?aff=erelexpmlt>.

- 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>.
- May 28 ***TAPPING INTO TRADE – PART 4: LANDED COSTS.*** Hybrid program sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. The core of the seminar features an overview of: *Optionality in landed cost; Key cost components; Hidden and unexpected costs; How to calculate and compare; Using landed cost for better decisions.* 10:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6628866>.
- 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. 28 - **CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE NATIONWIDE PREPARATION WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 2026**
 Oct. 18 **EXAMINATION.** Remote Platform Cloud Based Virtual Online Training sponsored by The World Academy with The Alston Group. This course will assist you in the development of test taking reference familiarization, time management, Customs Regulations reference and Harmonized Tariff Schedule determination that will result in positive results in the development of each participant’s test taking ability towards a passing grade. Our instruction is detailed and consists of: Live lectures – Remote platform; Five-month instruction and help desk assistance; Group format with one-on-one tutorship options and Customs Examination preparation skills for positive results. Classes will be held on alternate Sundays, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$1,895 + materials. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/copy-of-2021-customs-broker-course>.
- 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
 3 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. 6 **INTELLIGENCE AT SCALE: HONG KONG'S AI-POWERED FUTURE.** CHINA CONFERENCE:
 HONG KONG 2026 – Hybrid event sponsored by the South China Morning Post and others. With hundreds of senior policymakers, business executives and academics gathered for a transformative day, the conference offers unparalleled insights into the forces shaping Hong Kong's competitiveness – from AI industrialization and cross-border finance to healthcare innovation, SME resilience and the bold infrastructure bets that will define the city's future. 7:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: varies. For information & registration, please see: <https://chinaconference.scmp.com/home>.
- Jul. 9 **ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT.** Event sponsored by the Chicago Custom Brokers and Freight Forwarders. Proceeds provide support for college expenses for CCBFA members’ students. 7:30 a.m., Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club, 1400 Poplar Creek Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://chicago-custom-brokers-and-freight-forwarders-annual-sc-924.perfectgolfevent.com/>.

- 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.17 ***DRIVING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS, WHILE CONNECTING TODAY'S LEADERS WITH THE NEXT GENERATION.*** Gala & Awards Dinner sponsored by the Italian American Chamber of Commerce Midwest. Honorees include **Alexi Giannoulis**, Secretary of State, State of Illinois, and **John R. Colletti**, Managing Partner, Gibsons Restaurant Group. 6:00 p.m., CineCity Studios, 2429 West 14th Street, Chicago. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.iacc-chicago.com/gala>.
- 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=oddttdcreator&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=oddttdcreator&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 ksmcpa.com.