

# ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

July 13, 2026

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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](http://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](mailto: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.**

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**New events, and events with additional/revised information, are indicated in Green.**

## FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

- Jul. 15 ***ANATOMY OF AN EMAIL SCAM.*** Luncheon program sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Presentation by **Louise Kern**, President, GloBIS – Global Business Information Services, Inc. This practical session walks participants through three real-world examples, including a highly convincing supplier-registration fraud impersonating a major international corporation. Participants will leave with a practical, repeatable methodology for evaluating suspicious emails and reducing the risk of fraud, phishing, business-email compromise, and supplier-registration scams. The presentation is designed for business professionals emphasizing simple investigative techniques that can be applied immediately using tools already available on most computers and smartphones. 11:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$55; Non-members - \$80. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anatomy-of-an-email-scam-tickets-1992584654340?>
- Jul. 16 ***SUMMER NETWORKING MIXER.*** Event sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest with the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Sip, Socialize & Scale Globally-Connect with Chicago's International Business Community for a fun evening of networking. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Skyline Club of Chicago, 307 North Michigan Avenue, 24th Floor Penthouse, Chicago. HKBAM & ITA/GC Members - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-networking-mixer-tickets-1990985736935?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm\\_campaign=following\\_published\\_event&utm\\_content=follow\\_notification&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-networking-mixer-tickets-1990985736935?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_content=follow_notification&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite).

### Of Note:

**The Great Digital Wave:** The [Hinrich Foundation](#), in partnership with the *Visual Capitalist*, notes there are two types of countries among the dozen or so leading the charge in global digital rule-making. They tend to be either small and open economies such as Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and New Zealand, or they are the two largest economies in the world: the United States and China.

**America's Future in the Post-American World Economy:** Writing in an Op-Ed for the Peterson Institute for International Economics, [Adam Posen](#) observes: “American global economic dominance has been clear for at least the last 110 years of its 250-year history, and it was widely foretold for half a century before that.” But now, if the United States does not change course, “no matter how many bilateral trade deals it brokers, no matter how many economies appear—at first—to align with Washington at a high cost, the country will find itself increasingly bypassed in commerce and technology.”

**World Bank's Commodity Markets Outlook, April 2026:** The Middle East war has triggered the largest oil supply shock on record, pushing commodity prices sharply higher and exposing vulnerabilities across energy, food, fertilizer, and metals markets. The World Bank's report [Commodity Markets Outlook, April 2026](#) examines how geopolitical disruptions at key chokepoints can cascade across commodity markets and what governments can do to build resilience.

**New Study Provides Insights into Arab Countries' Accession to the WTO:** A [new study](#) on the WTO accession experiences of Arab countries was launched on July 6, 2026, drawing lessons from past and ongoing accession processes of countries in the Arab region. The study is aimed at providing insights to Arab governments in the process of seeking WTO membership, examining the challenges associated with WTO accession for Arab economies and identifying approaches for advancing accession negotiations.

**Hormuz in the Rearview as Asia-US Ocean Container Rates Soar Past \$7,900:** The container shipping market is being driven by geopolitics, rates, and network reshuffling, but freight-rate volatility and adjustments by carriers to protect schedules and pricing has supplanted Middle East disruptions as top-level concerns, according to [American Shipper](#). Asia-U.S. West Coast prices increased 8% to \$6,175 per forty-foot equivalent unit (FEU), according to Freightos; prices for Asia-U.S. East Coast transportation also rose 8%, to \$7,998 per FEU.

**Ambassador Greer Issues Statement on the USMCA Joint Review:** On July 1 [USTR Greer](#), following a virtual meeting with Canada and Mexico, declared “the United States did not agree to renew the USMCA in its current form. As a result, the USMCA is not renewed. The United States will continue to engage with Mexico and Canada to address the Agreement's shortcomings and our trade deficits with these countries. However, the Agreement remains in force pending resolution of these issues or until the Agreement's termination.”

**U.S. Declaration to Exit USMCA to Start a Decade-long Countdown for the Pact:** With the U.S.'s declaration to not renew the USMCA, the [American Journal of Transportation](#) notes this will start a decade-long clock to wind down the 32-year-old North American free trade zone as the three countries haggle over proposed changes. It will do little to alter contentious negotiations over the pact's future, including sweeping demands to boost U.S. and regional content in North American automotive production and trade protections to block Chinese goods from benefiting from USMCA.

**The Impact of 2025 Trump Tariffs on US Imports:** This [BBVA Research paper](#) estimates the impact of the 2025 U.S. tariff increases by comparing sector- and country-level U.S. imports before and after their implementation, finding that exports to the United States declined by about 2% for every percentage-point increase in the tariff rate. Moreover, evidence provided in this analysis suggests that once tariffs have already increased substantially, further tariff increases have a progressively smaller impact on imports.

**The Incidence of Tariffs: Rates and Reality:** Statutory tariff rates on US imports recently reached levels not seen in more than 100 years, write Gita Gopinath and Brent Neiman in Cato Institute's [Research Briefs in Economic Policy](#) No. 490. By the end of 2025, the average statutory rate (weighted by the volume of trade subject to each rate) was 26 percent. Imports from 171 countries, accounting for more than 70 percent of all US imports, faced higher tariffs than at the end of 2024.

**European Union Implements U.S. Trade Deal:** As detailed by [Barnes Richardson](#)'s Austin J. Eighan, the EU has formally adopted implementing regulations for its 2025 [trade agreement](#) with the United States. The regulations eliminate EU customs duties on most U.S. industrial products, while expanding market access for U.S. exports through tariff-rate quotas and reduced duty rates for certain seafood and non-sensitive agricultural goods. In exchange, the U.S. maintains a 15% tariff baseline on most EU exports.

**Troubled Straits: Analyzing Trade Chokepoints in the South China Sea:** This Center for Strategic & International Studies [Brief](#) offers groundbreaking insight into the value and types of goods flowing through eight different South China Sea chokepoints, and it explores the potential conflicts and crises that could jeopardize regional and global trade flows. This CSIS Brief and its companion [interactive dashboard](#) offer groundbreaking insight into the value and types of goods transiting eight different South China Sea chokepoints.

**The World's Largest Economies in 2026: Nominal vs. PPP:** This graphic, by [Visual Capitalist](#), compares the world's 20 largest economies in 2026 using International Monetary Fund [World Economic Outlook](#) projections. It ranks countries by both nominal GDP, which measures output at current market exchange rates, and purchasing power parity (PPP), which adjusts for differences in local prices and cost of living.

**OECD Compendium of Productivity Indicators 2026:** The [Compendium of Productivity Indicators](#) provides an overview of recent and long-term productivity trends across OECD countries and, where possible, accession candidate countries. Across all OECD countries, labor productivity at the total economy level grew by 1.2% in 2024, double the growth recorded in 2023. Despite geopolitical tensions, skill shortages, and elevated economic uncertainty, 29 OECD countries saw labor productivity gains in 2024.

**U.S. Commercial Service User Fee Schedule Update:** The U.S. Commercial Service is updating its [User Fee Schedule](#) to better align fees with the cost and level of effort required to deliver services and to apply a consistent approach across programs. These updates are being implemented following publication of a [Federal Register Notice](#) and a required public notice and comment period (ends **December 31, 2026**: You are encouraged to [submit a comment](#) unless you don't mind paying much higher fees).

**Monitoring Global Trade by Products, Using Big Data:** This [OECD Working Paper](#) develops a novel methodology to derive timely, experimental estimates of trade by commodity with global coverage using messages from the Automatic Identification System (AIS). By transforming high-frequency vessel movements into trade proxies, the approach makes it possible to monitor global cross-border flows in near real time for 23 commodity groups worldwide, covering 97.8% of existing berths across 3534 ports.

**Atlas of Global Development 2026:** Across the global development landscape, which countries are moving the fastest, and which are losing ground? The 2026 edition of the [World Bank's Atlas of Global Development](#) puts progress at its center. Looking at how fast countries are moving toward better outcomes and facing different challenges, from their own individual starting points, this edition introduces a new framework to track development over the past 75 years, revealing how countries have advanced across key dimensions.

**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](mailto:chicago@taitra.org.tw).

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Jul. 13 **CHINA AND THE SECTION 301 INVESTIGATIONS: THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND DIPLOMATIC ISSUES.** Virtual program sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies. The USTR Section 301 investigations cover many countries, but China is a central target in both. Moderated by Trustee Chair **Scott Kennedy**, this roundtable will analyze the investigation from the legal, economic, and diplomatic perspectives, featuring insights from **Wendy Cutler** (Asia Society Policy Institute), **Mary Lovely** (Peterson Institute for International Economics), **Claire Reade** (Arnold & Porter), and **Wei Liang** (Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey). The discussion will compare the current case with the 2017-2018 Section 301 investigation into intellectual property rights (IPR) theft by China and consider potential alternative approaches to managing commercial relations with China. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/china-and-section-301-investigations-legal-economic-and-diplomatic-issues>.

Jul. 14 **THE JONES ACT WAIVER: LESSONS LEARNED AND WHAT COMES NEXT.** Hybrid event, sponsored by Cato Institute, will explore what policymakers can learn from the waiver, how it affected commercial activity and the movement of goods, and what insights it offers about the law's impact on the US economy. Cato's **Colin Grabow** will join **Chris Sununu**, president and CEO of Airlines for America and former governor of New Hampshire, will analyze the waiver's real-world implications from both a policy and industry perspective and discuss what lessons should inform future debates. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.cato.org/events/jones-act-waiver-lessons-learned-what-comes-next?utm\\_campaign=Event\\_Invitation&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Cato\\_Email](https://www.cato.org/events/jones-act-waiver-lessons-learned-what-comes-next?utm_campaign=Event_Invitation&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Cato_Email).

- Jul. 14 ***FROM MISTAKES TO MASTERY: LESSONS FROM A VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will include: *A real-world voluntary self-disclosure case from start to finish; What triggers risk and how issues are discovered; The impact of violations on a company.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://starusa.org/events/july2026/>.
- Jul. 14 ***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. 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.event.com/event/18f2f7c6-d512-4f14-9847-7812b943da52/summary>.
- Jul. 14 ***FROM GLOBAL TENSIONS TO LOCAL STRATEGY: GEOPOLITICAL BRIEFING FOR BUSINESS LEADERS.*** Event, sponsored by the Executives' Club of Chicago, convenes leaders for a geopolitical briefing designed for decision-makers navigating this new reality. This is not a foreign policy seminar. It is a leadership conversation about how global dynamics shape local strategy — and how executives can respond. Speakers include: **Tim Berry**, Global Head of Corporate Responsibility and Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Region, JPMorganChase; Dr. **Raymond Kuo**, Vice President of Research for Geostrategy and Diplomacy, Chicago Council on Global Affairs; **Dana Linnet**, CEO, The Summit Group DC; **Phoenix Ricks**, CEO, Girl Friday Advisors; **Per Kristian Hong** (Moderator), Partner and Global Lead, Global Business Policy Council, Kearney. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. (includes Reception), 425 South Financial Place, 3rd Floor, Chicago. Exec Club Members - \$100; Non-members - \$200. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.executivesclub.org/events/geopolitical-briefing-for-business-leaders/?utm\\_source=mailchimp\\_standalone&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=geopoliticalbriefing&utm\\_content=insights/](https://www.executivesclub.org/events/geopolitical-briefing-for-business-leaders/?utm_source=mailchimp_standalone&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=geopoliticalbriefing&utm_content=insights/)
- Jul. 15 ***THAILAND ROUNDTABLE WITH THAILAND BOARD OF INVESTMENT.*** Executive briefing sponsored by PSD Global and Thailand Board of Investment. Connect directly with the Thailand Board of Investment and explore new investment prospects in Thailand. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m., Barnes & Thornburg LLP, 1 North Wacker Drive, #4400, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. Space is limited. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thailand-roundtable-with-thailand-board-of-investment-tickets-1993010396747?aff=oddttdcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thailand-roundtable-with-thailand-board-of-investment-tickets-1993010396747?aff=oddttdcreator&keep_tld=true).
- Jul. 15 ***M&A TRENDS AND INTEGRATION BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES.*** Last of three webinars, sponsored by Plante Moran, features specialists across Plante Moran state and local tax and international tax practices, global mobility tax practice, and commercial real estate advisors practice, offering a wide range of perspectives for international businesses. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://event.on24.com/wcc/mr/6747227/5487142FE69FDC33E17C9A7699413665?partnerref=EMAILSEG2&mkt\\_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGh5g2YCwh9KhWY7alQHjXt7OlzV8MJvbIJQQtCjL9-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5clLA1xIXJzC\\_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b](https://event.on24.com/wcc/mr/6747227/5487142FE69FDC33E17C9A7699413665?partnerref=EMAILSEG2&mkt_tok=OTQ2LUNUWS02MDEAAAGh5g2YCwh9KhWY7alQHjXt7OlzV8MJvbIJQQtCjL9-pmgkMVmlAfQq75MOVpzGE3EPzb5clLA1xIXJzC_CDFiyNBHvrx1tQZrMpVthkwVuII2b).
- Jul. 15 ***US AT 250: TRADE VS. PROTECTIONISM – AMERICA'S ENDURING ECONOMIC DEBATE.*** Hybrid event, sponsored by Chatham House, explores how the long arc of economic thought informs the current moment of strategic competition with China, renewed industrial policy, and growing skepticism of globalization among Americans. Speakers will assess what these shifts mean for the future of US trade policy, how allies and partners should interpret Washington's evolving economic posture, and what the next phase of American leadership — or retrenchment — could mean for the global economy and the institutions built to sustain it. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.chathamhouse.org/events/all/standard-event/us-250-trade-vs-protectionism-americas-enduring-economic-debate?utm\\_source=Chatham%20House&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=15531039\\_CH%20-%20CH%20Newsletter%20Members%20and%20Non-Members%20-%202025.06.2026&utm\\_content=non-members-event-us-250-title&dm\\_i=1S3M,98VTR,7V1SMK,12TH0U,1,0,0,0](https://www.chathamhouse.org/events/all/standard-event/us-250-trade-vs-protectionism-americas-enduring-economic-debate?utm_source=Chatham%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15531039_CH%20-%20CH%20Newsletter%20Members%20and%20Non-Members%20-%202025.06.2026&utm_content=non-members-event-us-250-title&dm_i=1S3M,98VTR,7V1SMK,12TH0U,1,0,0,0)

- Jul. 15 ***SUPPLY CHAIN OUTLOOK: TRENDS AND RISKS TO WATCH IN 2026.*** Webinar sponsored by *Supply Chain Dive*. Journalists from *Supply Chain Dive*, *Manufacturing Dive*, *Trucking Dive* and *Packaging Dive* will speak with industry experts about the challenges retailers and manufacturers are facing and the strategies needed to succeed in a tumultuous marketplace. The panel will include insights from **James Kim**, a former lead attorney at Customs and Border Protection who helped implement the USMCA pact for the agency, and **Brian Janovitz**, who was an international trade and national security official for the White House for more than 10 years. 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://events.industrydive.com/events/supply-chain-risks-to-watch-in-2026?utm\\_source=SC&utm\\_medium=Ed-Notes&utm\\_campaign=Q32026SupplyChainOutlookLive&utm\\_term=Supply%20Chain%20Dive](https://events.industrydive.com/events/supply-chain-risks-to-watch-in-2026?utm_source=SC&utm_medium=Ed-Notes&utm_campaign=Q32026SupplyChainOutlookLive&utm_term=Supply%20Chain%20Dive).
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- Jul. 15 ***MENA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AFTER THE IRAN WAR: A CONVERSATION WITH JIHAD AZOUR.*** Webinar sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies Middle East Program. **Mona Yacoubian**, CSIS Middle East Program Director and Senior Adviser will discuss the International Monetary Fund's newly released *World Economic Outlook* with **Jihad Azour**, Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund. 2:00 – 2:35 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/menas-economic-outlook-after-iran-war-conversation-jihad-azour>.
- Jul. 15 ***WHERE PRECISION MEETS LOGISTICS: INSIDE SIMON HEGELE HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS!*** The German American Chambers of Commerce Midwest invite you to a behind the scenes tour of Simon Hegele Healthcare Solutions in Wood Dale, IL. Simon Hegele serves as the largest partner for original equipment manufacturing in the medical device industry, showcasing the fascinating world of logistics that powers the medical imaging industry. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Simon Hegele Healthcare Solutions, 1001 Mittel Drive, Wood Dale, IL. GACC Members - \$25; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/connection-series-il-simon-hegele>.
- Jul. 16 ***RATING INDIA 2026: KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS.*** Webinar sponsored by the Center for Strategic & International Studies. For the seventh consecutive year, the Chair on India and Emerging Asia Economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is proud to host senior India analysts from S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Ratings for a timely discussion on how the world's leading rating agencies are evaluating India's strengths, vulnerabilities, and reform trajectory. Speakers include: **Christian de Guzman**, Senior Vice President, Sovereign Risk Group at Moody's Investors Service; **Joydeep Mukherji**, Managing Director at S&P Global Ratings; and **Meredith Broadbent**, Senior Adviser (Non-resident), Economics Program and Scholl Chair in International Business, CSIS; **Richard Rossow** (Moderator), Senior Adviser and Chair on India and Emerging Asia Economics at CSIS. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/rating-india-2026-key-opportunities-and-risks>.

- Jul. 16 ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE OPPORTUNITIES IN EGYPT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide U.S. companies with an overview of the Egyptian aviation and defense markets, key government stakeholders, upcoming procurement priorities, and opportunities to engage with decision-makers. It will also provide an overview of Egypt's ongoing military modernization efforts, airport expansion projects, and commercial aviation growth plans, as well as opportunities to meet with senior government and industry officials during the upcoming Air Show. 8:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advancer registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/fce6f057-a970-465d-8e7d-063719790644@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Jul. 16 ***NAVIGATING STRATEGIC COMPETITION: SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH ON THE FUTURE OF U.S. INDO-PACIFIC ENGAGEMENT.*** Livestream program features a conversation with U.S. Senator **Tammy Duckworth** on her recent travels to the Indo-Pacific and Congressional perspectives on U.S. strategy in the region. She will share insights from her many recent engagements in the region and discuss Congressional views on the evolving strategic landscape in the Indo-Pacific, the future of U.S. regional engagement, and the role of Congress in advancing American security interests. 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.csis.org/events/navigating-strategic-competition-senator-tammy-duckworth-future-us-indo-pacific-engagement>.
- Jul. 16 ***NORTH AMERICA FREIGHT MARKET UPDATE LIVE.*** Webinar, sponsored by Flexport, will focus on: *North America Operations, Ports, & Labor Update; Transpacific Eastbound Ocean Updates; Indian Subcontinent Ocean Updates; Air Freight Updates.* 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://webinars.flexport.com/july-2026-nam-fmu-live/?utm\\_source=flexport&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=wbn-2026-07-16-nam-fmu-live&utm\\_content=1](https://webinars.flexport.com/july-2026-nam-fmu-live/?utm_source=flexport&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wbn-2026-07-16-nam-fmu-live&utm_content=1).
- Jul. 16 ***TRAINING THE ENTRY WRITER.*** Program, sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association, will cover: *How to fill out entry paperwork; Basics of valuation; AD/CVD; Classification; Practical guidance; ACE; Sections 122, 232, and 301.* 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Schaumburg Corporate Center, Conference Room A and B - Floor 1, 1501 East Woodfield Road, Schaumburg, IL. CCBFA Members – No fee; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.ccbfa.org/events/training-the-entry-writer>.
- Jul. 16 ***SUMMER NETWORKING MIXER.*** Event sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest with the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Sip, Socialize & Scale Globally-Connect with Chicago's International Business Community for a fun evening of networking. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Skyline Club of Chicago, 307 North Michigan Avenue, 24th Floor Penthouse, Chicago. HKBAM & ITA/GC Members - \$30; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-networking-mixer-tickets-1990985736935?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm\\_campaign=following\\_published\\_event&utm\\_content=notification&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-networking-mixer-tickets-1990985736935?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_content=notification&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite).
- Jul. 20 - 24 ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT THE FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW.*** 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](mailto:Riccardo.Navon@Illinois.gov).
- Jul. 21 ***ITCC SUMMER NETWORKING EVENT.*** Networking sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub, 400 North McClurg Court, Chicago. Fee: \$15; Cash Bar. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6712138>.

- Jul. 22 ***THE NEW TRADE BARRIER: GETTING RECOMMENDED BY AI SEARCH.*** Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils, will explain how AI is changing international buyer behavior, introduce the concept of Generative Engine Optimization (GEO), and provide practical strategies exporters can use to improve their visibility and credibility in AI-generated search results. It will also discuss the growing role of AI in digital marketing and what exporters should do now to remain competitive. 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Ix2IRQa\\_Rye-pNONdw1xRA#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ix2IRQa_Rye-pNONdw1xRA#/registration).
- Jul. 23 ***AN INTRODUCTION TO CITES AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, will provide an overview of the international treaty on endangered species (Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species - CITES), U.S. laws and regulations, and how best to comply. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/an-introduction-to-cites-and-endangered-species>.
- Jul. 29 ***DECOUPLING DEPENDENCE: VETTING SUPPLIERS BEYOND CHINA.*** Webinar sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Presentation by **Kyle Freeman**, Partner, Dezan, Shira & Associates, who will provide a practical discussion focused on evaluating suppliers beyond China and reducing risk in emerging sourcing markets. Topics Include: *Types of Due Diligence & When to Use Them; Fraud & Corruption Considerations; Country-Specific Due Diligence Insights.* 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. ITCGKC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6712666>.
- Jul. 29 ***BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A SHIFTING RISK LANDSCAPE.*** Hybrid symposium, sponsored by Roanoke Insurance Group, is structured around three focused sessions, each addressing where risk is intensifying and what actions have the greatest impact: *The New Reality for Customs Brokers; Turning Cargo Theft Intelligence into Operational Resilience; From Tariffs to Montgomery — Why the Fundamentals Still Matter.* 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. CDT, 1501 East Woodfield Road, Schaumburg, IL. No fee for in-person or virtual attendance. Advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://infospot.roanokegroup.com/acton/fs/blocks/showLandingPage/a/5777/p/p-0133/t/page/fm/0>.
- Jul. 29 ***OPENING RECEPTION OF THE AGLPA 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE.*** VIP event sponsored by the Chicago Propeller Club in honor of the opening of the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA) 2026 conference. Guests will include the AGLPA, port directors, MARAD, the US Coastguard, vessel operators and executives from the St Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation and Canada's St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Chicago Yacht Club, 400 East Monroe Drive, Chicago. CPC Members - \$81.88; Non-members - \$103.22. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-reception-of-the-aglpa-2026-annual-conference-tickets-1991477067518?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Jul. 30 ***ALGERIA'S ENERGY MARKET IN FOCUS: INSIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE ROAD TO NAPEC 2026.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, the U.S. Embassy in Algeria, the Bilateral Chamber, and legal and industry experts for a timely discussion of Algeria's evolving energy landscape and what it means for U.S. companies. The program will provide insights into Algeria's energy sector priorities, investment climate, and commercial opportunities, while examining the policies, partnerships, and technologies driving growth across the country's energy value chain. Speakers will also discuss key legal and regulatory considerations for doing business in Algeria and offer practical guidance for companies interested in pursuing opportunities in the market. 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/292f9498-f4ad-4600-953b-6930e8a5ef11@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

- Jul. 30 **WELCOME TO THE FRIDAY MADNESS! THE POST-SECTION 122 TARIFF ENVIRONMENT.** Webinar, sponsored by the National Association of Foreign Trade Zones, will review protocols, best practices, latest developments and resources. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. NAFTAZ Members – No fee; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.naftz.org/eventcalendar/Details/webinar-welcome-to-the-friday-madness-the-post-section-122-tariff-environment-1722805?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Jul. 30 **SKY-HIGH ROOFTOP HAPPY HOUR AT THE ROBEY HOTEL.** Event sponsored by the Traffic Club of Chicago. Enjoy reserved table space, hearty happy hour appetizers and snacks, skyline views, and an evening of networking with fellow TCC members and industry professionals. Cash bar. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., The Up Room at The Robey Hotel, 2018 West North Avenue, Chicago. TCC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$70. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.traffic-club.org/events/Details/sky-high-rooftop-happy-hour-1760537?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- Jul. 30 **SWISS NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION 2026.** The Swiss American Business Council proudly continues this tradition of bringing together the Swiss-American community in the Midwest for networking, exchanging ideas, and celebrating together. 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. SABC Members (+ one guest) – no fee; Non-members - \$40. For information & registration, please see: <https://sabcnow.com/product/swiss-national-day-reception-2026/>.
- Aug. 6 **TARIFF VOLATILITY, FTZ COMPLEXITY, AND THE TECHNOLOGY GAP.** Webinar, sponsored by the American Association of Exporters & Importers, presents the findings of a survey of more than 300 VP and C-level executives responsible for international trade, supply chain, and compliance at enterprise companies worldwide. 11:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://events.zoom.us/j/AkBuIQNwGII8SKgDIIKzT4RAKU6cjZaHJW4FN7iCC3mCoQ-\\_l6SB~AlreeXXOqHMwHsFmeCrPs7LSSw83wO\\_pa7vZODij8HkWI9iAysyiCoaFvw?utm\\_source=Zoom&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Webinars&utm\\_term=QAD](https://events.zoom.us/j/AkBuIQNwGII8SKgDIIKzT4RAKU6cjZaHJW4FN7iCC3mCoQ-_l6SB~AlreeXXOqHMwHsFmeCrPs7LSSw83wO_pa7vZODij8HkWI9iAysyiCoaFvw?utm_source=Zoom&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Webinars&utm_term=QAD).
- Aug. 13 **IACAC GOLF OUTING.** The International Air Cargo Association of Chicago invites you to their golf outing. Single golfers - \$160 (by July 1; \$175 thereafter); Foursomes - \$640 (by July 1; \$700 thereafter). 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., St. Andrews, West Chicago. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/iacac-golf/>.
- Aug. 18 **LEARN THE ESSENTIAL “KY’S” OF INTERNATIONAL CREDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT.** Webinar, sponsored by the Business Credit Management Association Wisconsin, is focused on building and maintaining an effective international credit policy. Learn the essential “KY’s” of international credit and risk management to help protect your business while supporting global growth. Whether you’re new to international sales or refining an established global process, this session will provide practical guidance to strengthen your credit operations and reduce risk exposure. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. ICE Members - \$50; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wcacredit.org/ice-online-registration/>.
- Aug. 19 **FROM IMMIGRANT TO OLD NAVY CO-FOUNDER TO ROTHY’S CEO: JENNY MING ON BUILDING A LIFE THAT MATTERS.** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Jenny J. Ming**, Public Company Director / Former CEO, Rothy’s / Founding President, Old Navy / Consumer & Retail Transformation Leader who will share: *How her immigrant experience shaped her approach to business and leadership; How she landed the role that became Old Navy and what she learned building it; What precipitated the opportunity at Rothy’s and how she approached it; How global branding drives growth for consumer brands.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8975206121719111257?mc\\_cid=828442bd8a&mc\\_eid=6499c7d108](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8975206121719111257?mc_cid=828442bd8a&mc_eid=6499c7d108).

- Aug. 20 **LATEST CHANGES IN FDA REGULATIONS.** Seminar sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association. Presentation by **Coley Anderson**, Registrar Corp's Industry & Government Relations Director & Senior Enterprise Solutions FDA Specialist, will discuss the latest changes in FDA regulations under the current administration. Topics will include: *Key updates to Food and Beverage; FSVP Supply Chain Risk Mitigation; FSVP Importer vs. IOR; FSVP Best Practices.* 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Schaumburg Corporate Center, Conference Room A and B - Floor 1, 1501 East Woodfield Road, Schaumburg, IL. CCBFA Members – No fee; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.ccbfa.org/events/registrar-corp-latest-changes-in-fda-regulations>.
- Aug. 20 **MITA'S 2026 SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT – DRUMLIN RIDGE WINERY.** Networking event, sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association, will be hosted at Drumlin Ridge Winery, the area's premier winery that offers a tranquil space to enjoy handcrafted wines, small plates, artisanal cheeses, sausages, and a curated selection of gifts. Appetizers and refreshments will be served with an available cash bar. 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., Drumlin Ridge Winery, 6000 River Road, Waunakee, WI. MITA Members - \$15; Non-members - \$30. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitatrade.org/events/>.
- 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=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=true](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](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](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980001138706?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true).

- Nov. 10 **INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS**. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on Managing Forwarders, brokers & carriers. Learn to control your international shipments by directly coordinating your documents with transportation rules and procedures. Review the air and ocean transportation & documentation process—a comprehensive review of the roles of the forwarder and the customs broker. Learn the evaluation and selection process of the international forwarder, customs broker, and carrier. Coordinate your documents with transportation rules and procedures and gain a solid understanding of the critical components of logistics. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: [https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-nov-10-2026/?145944\\_grid\\_view=false](https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-nov-10-2026/?145944_grid_view=false).
- Nov. 11 **TARIFF CLASSIFICATION**. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, is for import, export, FTA determination & clarification on Section 301 and Section 232. The classification & valuation of goods are major decisions! Critical information is not only for duty purposes but also to determine whether goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes, or other restrictions. Shipments with incorrect classifications may not reach their destination, and/or you may be subjected to penalties. Join us for this interactive, in-person workshop. Registration includes a valuable reference book. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/tariff-classification-chicago-nov-11-2026/>.
- Nov. 12 **IMPORTING PROCEDURES**. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on the importance of accurate paperwork and timely reporting. Designed to help commercial importers become more aware of their regulatory obligations, learn your broker’s responsibilities, and develop strategies for improving trade compliance within their organization. This course focuses on the import entry processes and the fundamental disciplines required for making an entry. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-procedures-chicago-nov-12-2026/>.
- Nov. 13 **IMPORTING 201**. Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, builds upon techniques presented in our Importing Procedures course and explains how to implement and strengthen your import controls. Course also describes what you should do to prepare for the eventuality of a CBP audit. Instructor: **Arthur O’Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O’Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-201-chicago-nov-13-2026/>.

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## 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](mailto:info@itagc.org); or visit: [www.itagc.org](http://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](http://ksmpa.com).