

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

July 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.

Of Note:

Trump Issues New Tariffs on over 80 Countries: By the time you read this on the morning of July 24, tariffs ranging from 10 – 12.5% will be in effect for more than 80 countries. These replace global 10% tariffs imposed earlier. For details, see David Forgue's analysis for Barnes, Richardson & Coburn [here](#).

U.S. Commercial Service Updated User Fee Schedule Now in Effect: The new Fee Schedule is [here](#), effective July 22, 2026.

Trump's New Canada Tariffs: What's Covered and What's Exempt?: [Supply Chain 24/7](#) summarizes Trump's new 50% tariff on a wide range of Canadian imports. The tariffs cover about \$20 billion worth of Canadian imports and are scheduled to take effect August 19, giving the United States and Canada 30 days to negotiate before the new duties begin. Unlike previous tariffs on Canadian imports, products covered by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will not receive an exemption.

Direct Investment by Country and Industry, 2025: On July 21 the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) released statistics for the U.S. direct investment abroad position (increased \$438.1 billion to \$7.14 trillion at the end of 2025) and the foreign direct investment in the U.S. position (increased \$266.0 billion to \$5.86 trillion at the end of 2025). Both are accompanied by regional analyses.

Ambassador Greer Signs the U.S.-Jordan Agreement on Reciprocal Trade: On July 21 USTR Greer joined Jordan's Minister of Industry, Trade, and Supply Yarub Qudah in signing the [United States-Jordan Agreement on Reciprocal Trade](#). To read the text of the United States-Jordan Agreement on Reciprocal Trade, click [here](#). To read the tariff schedule, click [here](#).

Ranked: Unemployment Rates around the World in 2026: Unemployment across the OECD averaged 4.9% in May 2026, but labor market conditions continued to vary significantly from one country to another as economic growth slowed across parts of the developed world. This [visualization](#) from *Visual Capitalist* ranks seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for people aged 15 and older across OECD member countries in May 2026, using data from the OECD.

Merchant Fleet Shipping Capacity Has Doubled since 2010: Since 1990 worldwide merchant shipping fleet deadweight tonnage has grown from 0.63 billion tons to 2.53 billion tons today, writes the [Progressive Policy Institute's](#) Ed Gresser. He cites many sources for estimating & tracking commercial and military vessels.

El Niño Could Drag Down the Global Economy by Almost \$700 billion or \$3 trillion—and the Choice Is Ours: Cullen S. Hendrix, writing in “Realtime Economics” for the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#): *If the intensity of El Niño winds up of similar magnitude to the last Super El Niño in 1997–98, the contemporaneous economic losses will be on the order of \$686 billion. Unless the international community and national-level policymakers start acting now, those losses could rise to \$3.1 trillion over the next five years.*

Updated WTO-IMF TPA Index Shows Continued Rise in Global Trade Policy Activity: A new [Trade Policy Activity \(TPA\) index](#) by WTO and IMF economists shows a marked rise in trade policy activity during 2025-26, alongside heightened trade policy tensions among large economies, against the backdrop of an overall upward trend. The index shows that facilitating measures – those that ease trade by reducing barriers or improving customs procedures – have lost relative momentum in recent years.

Request for Comments on the Scope and Operation of a Mechanism to Promote Reciprocal Managed Trade with China: USTR [Federal Register Notice](#) invites comments from interested parties to inform the development of negotiations with China aimed at optimizing bilateral trade in non-sensitive products in order to promote reciprocity and balance in the U.S.-China trade relationship.

EU-Mexico: Council Gives Final Approval to Modernized Trade Agreement: On July 14 the European Council adopted the decision to formally conclude the Interim Agreement on Trade (ITA) between the [European Union and Mexico](#). This decision concludes the EU’s internal process for the ITA and confirms that the EU has completed its internal procedures for the purposes of the agreement's entry into force.

Fertilizer Trade Impacted by Strait of Hormuz Conflict: In this [Data Blog](#) by the WTO Secretariat, the authors observe that trade in urea and phosphate fertilizers has been severely disrupted by the conflict in the Persian Gulf. Certain economies in Africa and Asia are particularly vulnerable to resulting fertilizer shortages and price hikes. Opening of the Strait of Hormuz - a key channel for fertilizer trade - will in due course contribute to easing trade frictions and restore stability to global markets.

Global Economy in Crosscurrents of War and Technology: The International Monetary Fund’s July 2026 [World Economic Outlook Update](#) has been released. Global growth is projected at 3.0 percent for 2026 and 3.4 percent for 2027, broadly unchanged cumulatively from the April 2026 *World Economic Outlook*. The outlook is uneven: The war shock is weighing on energy importers and vulnerable economies, while AI-driven demand is lifting countries integrated into the global technology value chain.

New IATA Direct Air Waybill May Impact Forwarder Liability: [Avalon Risk Management](#) reports that effective July 1, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) implemented changes to its Direct Air Waybill (DAWB) framework that may shift additional liability to freight forwarders when cargo moves by air under a direct air waybill. While this is not a change in U.S. law, it could impact forwarders that use DAWBs with airlines adopting the revised framework.

Introducing the Jones Act Waiver Tracker: The Cato Institute has built this tracker, an interactive, first-of-its-kind dashboard that draws directly on the voyage reports that waiver users must file with the Maritime Administration (MARAD). The [tracker](#) incorporates MARAD’s latest data, allowing anyone to follow the waiver as it unfolds rather than relying on static snapshots or anecdotal evidence.

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.

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.

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.

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.

- Jul. 28 **ANTIDUMPING.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide the information needed to help you know what to expect and how to participate in antidumping investigations. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/d2tvfu4>.
- Jul. 28 **DOING BUSINESS IN SINGAPORE: COMPLIANCE CALENDAR 2026 & BASICS OF SETTING UP AN ENTITY.** Webinar, sponsored by Dezan Shira & Associates, will cover the fundamentals of establishing an entity in Singapore and managing its annual compliance requirements effectively. Key Topics: *Entity Setup in Singapore: Overview of available entity types (Private Limited Company, Branch Office, Representative Office); Incorporation Process: Key registration steps, timelines, and statutory requirements; Post-Incorporation Essentials: Corporate bank accounts, registered office, company secretary, and statutory registers; Singapore Compliance Calendar 2026; Common Compliance Pitfalls and How to Avoid Penalties; Practical Tips for Maintaining Good Standing in Singapore.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3337970423918304087?source=flyer&utm_source=brevo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dsa_invitation.
- Jul. 29 **MINING AND MINING-RELATED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will highlight priority markets, emerging mining projects, and areas in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania where U.S. companies can bring competitive solutions to the sector. Participants will also learn about resources available to help U.S. exporters identify opportunities and pursue business in these markets. 8:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Mini-9884-1780513317/purchase.php>.
- 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 ***SCHEDULE B AND HTS CODES - CLASSIFYING YOUR PRODUCTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the details of these codes and the general rules of interpretation to give you confidence in classifying your products for export or import. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ajcde77>.
- 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. 29 ***BABC CHICAGO'S JULY HAPPY HOUR.*** Networking event sponsored by the British American Business Council Chicago. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., The Red Lion Pub, 2446 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. No fee; advance registration not required. For information, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/4qvtj65?source_id=89839391-31bb-4706-a823-44f8497d253f&source_type=em&c=v4ruAMdX4mxvlMhTRAueA7Rdv8n6pAoCxYKANue6cFsTKfiYQh8_rg==.
- Jul. 30 ***RSVP|CHINA-U.S. ECONOMIC AND TRADE COOPERATION FORUM (CHICAGO).*** Event sponsored by the China General Chamber of Commerce and CCPIT. 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., 150 North Riverside Plaza, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rsvp-china-us-economic-and-trade-cooperation-forum-chicago-tickets-1993959512578?aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail&ref=email&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_content=follow_notification&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite.
- 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 ***GLOBAL BUSINESS BRIEFING.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Salt Lake Chamber and World Trade Center Utah, will focus on Ireland, a strategic gateway to Europe for U.S. companies. The discussion will explore where opportunities are emerging and what Utah businesses should consider when evaluating expansion into Europe. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://business.slchamber.com/events/details/global-business-briefing-15978>.

- 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 ***MASTERING SECTION 232: RECENT CHANGES AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR BROKERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarder Association, will explore the latest Section 232 updates, their impact on customs operations, and practical strategies for managing compliance. We'll discuss recent regulatory changes, common filing challenges, documentation best practices, and proven approaches to help brokers support their clients with confidence. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.lacbfffa.org/events/mastering-section-232-recent-changes-and-practical-solutions-for-brokers>.
- Jul. 30 ***TRADE FRAUD ENFORCEMENT IS HERE: UNDERSTANDING THE NEW RESOURCE GUIDE & WHAT IT MEANS FOR IMPORTERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, will examine the key objectives of the Resource Guide, explaining how it complements the recent executive order on enforcement. Based on these two issuances, it will review what importers should expect from an increasingly enforcement-driven environment. Attendees will gain insight into the trade practices attracting government scrutiny, potential compliance risks, and practical steps organizations can take to strengthen their customs compliance programs. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://anderinger.cventevents.com/hub/events/2f52453d-f814-4fee-a8bf-35a39b333636/landing>.
- Jul. 30 ***MARKET OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the opportunities and challenges of doing business in India and will include strategies for success. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/9q9xgfm>.
- 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. 3 - ***VIRTUAL CUSTOMS BROKER EXAM PREP COURSE FOR THE OCTOBER 2026 EXAM.*** Sponsored
Oct. 5 by Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, this course prepares attendees to take and pass the customs broker examination. Its extensive overview of the customs brokerage/ import process makes it also a great option for those looking for training in this field. The course covers topics such as broker regulations, entry, classification, valuation, free trade agreements, antidumping/countervailing duty, fines, penalties and forfeitures, bonds, country of origin marking, liquidation, search and seizure, and intellectual property. Instruction also covers exam-specific test-taking mechanics, including highlighting and tabbing strategy, time management, and effective navigation of reference materials to maximize exam performance. Course meets virtually every Monday, August 3 – October 5, from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Fee: \$1,250. **Register deadline: July 31, 2026.** For information & registration, please see: <https://www.strtrade.com/training/events/upcoming-webinars/virtual-customs-broker-exam-prep-course-for-the-october-2026-exam>.

- Aug. 3 **2026 NEBRASKA LOGISTICS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF FUNDRAISER.** Sponsored by the Nebraska Logistics Council, the event helps to raise scholarship money for students seeking careers in Supply Chain/Logistics. 8:00 a.m., Pacific Springs Golf Course, 16810 Harney Street, Omaha NE. For information & registration, please see: <https://nebraskatruckingassociation.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/eZFOYYIHYCWCq>.
- Aug. 5 **STOP LETTING BAD SHIPPING TERMS EAT YOUR PROFITS!** Webinar, sponsored by the Professional Association of Exporters and Importers, will break down: *The 11 crucial Incoterms and exactly who owns the risk and cost; How to assign the right responsibilities to avoid double taxation; The hidden legal risks of being the Importer of Record (IOR); Proven strategies to protect your supply chain and clear customs fast.* 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. CDT. PAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.paei.org/paei-events/6505/>.
- Aug. 6 **DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA.** Webinar sponsored by the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) Africa Trade Office in advance of a trade mission in February 2027. Learn about key industry sectors and market opportunities in South Africa and Kenya for small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region. The program will cover current economic trends and GSGP's upcoming Trade Mission. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0a371458-2d8a-44cc-9bf7-bd1a48fd1731@aae478b6-e0ab-443d-bafb-1f1358f6696f?utm_source=GSGP+Trade+Missions&utm_campaign=572ea56a4f-1f1358f6696f&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b5ec95abd9-572ea56a4f-371975257.
- 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/jv/AkBu1QNwGII8SKgDIIKzT4RAKU6cjZaHJW4FN7tCC3mCoQ-16SB~AlreeXXOqHMwHsFmeCrPs7LSSw83wO_pa7vZODij8HkWI9iAysyiCoaFvw?utm_source=Zoom&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Webinars&utm_term=QAD.
- Aug. 11 **ENSURING YOUR LEGACY EVOLVES WITH YOU.** Webinar sponsored by Merrill Private Wealth Management and Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Laura Neiman**, President & CEO, Neiman Brothers Company. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://womenentrepreneursgrowglobal.org/2026/07/22/ensuring-your-legacy-evolves-with-you/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=ensuring-your-legacy-evolves-with-you&mc_cid=422ef6907e&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Aug. 13 **MANSAF MANIA.** Networking even sponsored by the SBDC at the Arab American Business & Professional Association. Join local entrepreneurs, professionals, and community leaders for an evening of networking, great conversations, and authentic connections. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Al Bahaar, 39 Orland Square Drive, Orland Park, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://form.jotform.com/261685920016053>.
- 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.
- Aug. 19 **BABC CHICAGO'S AUGUST HAPPY HOUR.** Networking event sponsored by the British American Business Council Chicago. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., The Red Lion Pub, 2446 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. No fee; advance registration not required. For information, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/h78vf2m?source_id=89839391-31bb-4706-a823-44f8497d253f&source_type=em&c=v4ruAMdX4mxvlMhTRaueA7Rdv8n6pAoCxYKANuc6cFsTKflYQh8_rg==.
- Aug. 20 **INFLUENCING DECISION-MAKING IN JAPANESE ORGANIZATIONS.** Webinar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, offers practical strategies for influencing decisions and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, customers, suppliers, partners, subordinates, and supervisors. Participants will gain a clear understanding of why Japanese organizations approach risk and decision-making the way they do, as well as concrete techniques for building support, addressing concerns, and navigating the consensus-building process effectively. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/influencing-decision-making-in-japanese-organizations-tickets-1994629796415?aff=erellivmlt>.
- 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. 15 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, this webinar is a golden opportunity to get your questions answered by an expert who is highly skilled in explaining the intricacies of Japanese business and society. 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-1795529058749?aff=erellivmlt>.
- Sep. 15 **GERMAN NIGHT RECEPTION (IMTS).** Networking event, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest, during the IMTS show. Join this exclusive gathering of leaders from the German, U.S., and global manufacturing communities. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., McCormick Place, 2301 South Martin Luther King Drive, South Building I Vista Room Lobby, Chicago. Early Bird Fee (through July 31): \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/german-night-reception-imts-2026-powered-by-wintrust-bank>.

- 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. 22 **GROWING GLOBAL 2026 – GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY: A CONVERSATION WITH EXECUTIVES FROM AIR CANADA, BRITISH AIRWAYS, LUFTHANSA AND SOUTHWEST AIRLINES.** Sponsored by World Trade Center St. Louis, this program will feature a timely conversation around international air connectivity, global commerce, economic development, and the partnerships helping to position St. Louis on the world stage. Speakers include: **Hubert Frach**, Vice President Sales North America – British Airways; **Vincent Gauthier-Doré**, Managing Director for Canada and U.S. Sales – Air Canada; **Dirk Janzen**, Vice President, The Americas – Lufthansa; **Daniel Jones**, Vice President, Network Planning – Southwest Airlines; **Debbie Monterrey** (Moderator), KMOX Morning News Anchor. 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., The Ritz-Carlton, 100 Carondelet Plaza, St. Louis, MO. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/events/growing-global-2026/>.
- 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. 6 - 8 **JOIN THE U.S. PAVILION AT MRO BRAZIL.** Discover opportunities in Brazil's US\$2.5 billion aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul market—one of the world's top five aircraft maintenance hubs. By exhibiting in the U.S. Pavilion at MRO Brazil, companies gain a platform to showcase capabilities and connect directly with leading Brazilian buyers, integrators, and operators. Space in the U.S. Pavilion at MRO Brazil is limited so companies are encouraged to contact Renato Sabaine (Renato.sabaine@trade.gov) at the U.S. Consulate General in São Paulo as soon as possible to secure a spot in the program.
- 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. 15 **IACAC AIRLINE NIGHT.** The International Air Cargo Association of Chicago (IACAC) is excited to invite you to our First-ever IACAC Airline Night 2026—an evening dedicated to bringing together professionals from across the aviation, air cargo, logistics, and supply chain industries. 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., Belvedere Events & Banquets, 1170 West Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL. Vendor tables available (\$300). Fee: \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/iacac-airline-night/>.

- 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.
- Oct. 22 **THE NEW TRADE FRONTIER: TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNANCE, AND GLOBAL RISK.** American Association of Exporters & Importers Fall 2026 Virtual Conference will bring together government officials, legal experts, industry practitioners, and technology leaders to examine how emerging technologies and trade policies are transforming global commerce. Through expert-led discussions, interactive polling, and practical case studies, attendees will explore the future of trade governance, AI-driven compliance strategies, import and export risk management, data governance, and the changing global trade landscape. The program will conclude with a forward-looking keynote from former WTO Deputy Director-General **Angela Ellard** on navigating the next chapter of international trade. 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. AAEI Members - \$150; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: https://members.aaei.org/ap/Events/Register/4IF9m08hRCMCx?utm_source=EMAIL&utm_medium=TradeCompass&utm_campaign=FC26.
- Nov. 6 - **TRADE MISSION TO AFRICA - KENYA & RWANDA.** World Trade Center St. Louis invites you to
15 join their first trade mission to Kenya & Rwanda. Mission participants will gain first-hand insights through: Meeting with African business, government, and civic leaders; Market briefings from local experts; Cultural experiences and networking events. Fee: \$5,000 exclusive of airfare. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/africa-trade-mission-2026/>.
- 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.
- Nov. 11 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ADVANCED DESIGN & MANUFACTURING,**
12 **MONTREAL, CANADA.** Qualified Illinois companies are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, to exhibit in the Illinois pavilion at the Advanced Design and Manufacturing (ADM) Expo in Montreal. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: *Exhibit Space; 25-75% partial reimbursement for lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Briefing Material; Pre-show promotion; Matchmaking Assistance; Assistance with travel and logistics.* Fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: **September 10**. For information & registration, please contact: Chris.Sedgwick@illinois.gov.

- 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. 12 **PASSPORT TO FRANCE.** Sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago, this event celebrates French food and culture with signature cuisine from top chefs and restaurants, bringing together an exceptional array of businesses. 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Artifact, 43.25 North Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago. FACC Members - \$140 by September 1; \$160 thereafter; Non-members - \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://p2f-tix.carrd.co/>.
- 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/>.
- Nov. 16 - **HONG KONG TRADE MISSION 2026.** IBS Global Consulting, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is organizing this mission in conjunction with the 27th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. The mission offers U.S. businesses firsthand insights into technology trends, market opportunities, and information on conducting business in Hong Kong, one of Asia's most vibrant business hubs. Companies in Emerging Technology & Innovation (e.g., MedTech, FoodTech, EdTech, and FinTech); Healthcare (e.g., Medical Devices and Pharmaceuticals); AI and Robotics; ICT and Digitalization; Logistics; Professional Services (e.g., Consultants, Legal Services); and Financial Services are encouraged to apply. Fee: \$1,250; deadline: **October 2, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://ibsglobalconsulting.com/hong-kong-trade-mission-2026>.
- Dec. 5 - **SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E. & EGYPT TRADE MISSION.** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) s leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration deadline: **September 18, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/saudi-arabia-uae-and-egypt-trade-mission-2026/>.

- Feb. 10 - ***SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: **November 4, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/south-africa-and-kenya-trade-mission-2027/>.
- Apr. 3 - ***BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: January 8, 2027. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/brazil-and-paraguay-trade-mission-2027/>.
-

About the ITA/GC

Founded in December 1977, **The International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)** was incorporated in January 1979 as an Illinois not-for-profit, voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms by providing a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable**.

Annual membership dues are: Individual - \$150; Consular/Diplomatic - \$75 (up to 3 members); Academic/Faculty - \$200 (up to 8 designated faculty members); Student from a participating academic institution - \$25; Regular student - \$50; Associate/Non-resident (more than 150 miles from O'Hare International Airport) - \$50; Retired/Job Transition - \$50; Corporate (up to 8 designated members) - \$300. For a Membership Application, please call 773/725-1106; e-mail: info@itagc.org; or visit: www.itagc.org.

Follow the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago on LinkedIn:



About Barnes Richardson

Barnes Richardson (<http://www.barnesrichardson.com>) has been focused on international trade regulation and customs law since 1919. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both within and outside of the United States. We are a proud member of Meritas, an international group of law firms providing local, reliable, and efficient legal representation all over the world. We have provided customs or trade advice to over one-third of the manufacturers in the Fortune 100.

About KSM

KSM (Katz, Sapper & Miller) is one of the top 50 largest independent advisory, tax, and audit firms in the United States. Through our deep experience across multiple disciplines and industries, we provide clients with the inspiration, insight, and technical expertise they need to achieve great things. KSM's international team provides tax planning and consulting services to help businesses and individuals navigate all aspects of cross-border activity. Headquartered in Indianapolis, we operate multiple offices and serve an impressive roster of clients who count on us to be their trusted advisors. Learn more at ksmpa.com.