

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

September 21, 2026

The *Illinois International Business Calendar* is published by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC). The *Calendar* is also available on our website: www.itagc.org. It is published every Friday, and available at no charge.

Inclusion Policy: As a public service to the international business community, we publish a listing of **international business events** for which we receive **written** notification, preferably by e-mail (info@itagc.org). Any organization may submit events that would be of interest to **and are open to** the Illinois international business community. There is no charge. All calendar listings are subject to the editor's discretion. Inclusion of an event does not imply endorsement by any of the sponsoring organizations.

Founded in 1978, the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)6 voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms. The ITA/GC provides a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. Members share interests in import and export matters, in international investment, alliance, and licensing opportunities, and – in the broader sense – doing business across the world.

The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

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

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

Sep. 23 **EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING.** Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, is tailor-made for both young professionals and experienced specialists alike looking to expand their network. Discover opportunities to get involved with local internationally focused organizations and meet like-minded professionals. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Magik Street, 2150 South Canalport Avenue, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$50; Non-members - \$60; walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-magik-street>.

Of Note:

USTR Seeks Public Comment on Foreign Trade Barriers for the 2027 National Trade Estimate Report:

The public is invited to comment on foreign barriers to U.S. exports of goods and services and U.S. foreign direct investment for inclusion in the 2027 National Trade Estimate Report. The deadline for submission of comments is October 29, 2026. To view the Federal Register Notice, click [here](#).

Who Depends Most on U.S.-Canada Trade? This Visual Capitalist [graphic](#) compares the share of international goods trade that all 50 U.S. states and Canada's 13 provinces and territories conduct with the other country in the first half of 2026, using data from the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) and [Statistics Canada](#). Alberta and North Dakota lead by share of trade with the other country, with roughly 78% of their international goods trade involving their cross-border neighbor.

The New World Map the UN Wants You to Use: On Sept. 4, 2026, the UN General Assembly adopted the "Correct the Map" resolution by a 164-1 vote, endorsing the Equal Earth projection. [Visual Capitalist](#) presents this new map alongside the old Mercator projection. The lone dissenter: the U.S.

Toolkit for Merger Planning and Review: A Guide to Getting Your Deal Done in Canada: [Blakes Canada](#) has published this guide to the Canadian merger process with confidence using our practical toolkit outlining key competition, foreign investment and deal execution considerations.

The \$531 Million “Small” Business: SBA Proposes Massive Overhaul of Size Standards: [Thompson Hine](#) reports SBA recently published two proposed rules that would fundamentally redefine what qualifies as a “small” business. [The first](#) overhauls the methodology for setting size standards; [the second](#) applies that methodology to produce dramatically higher thresholds.

Chinese ‘Foreign Direct Investment Stock’ in U.S. as of 2025: \$19 billion: Writing for the [Progressive Policy Institute](#), Ed Gresser observes, “UNCTAD’s [World Investment Report](#) series finds China now behind only the U.S. and Japan as an overseas investment source, and puts Chinese FDI stock abroad — that is, the value of Chinese-owned plants, labs, sales offices, real estate holdings, etc., abroad — at \$3.58 trillion in 2025. This is nearly double the \$1.94 trillion UNCTAD reported in 2018.”

Report Spotlights Role of Services Export Promotion Strategies as Catalyst for Development: A new report launched by the [WTO Secretariat](#) and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) on 17 September draws on case studies to illustrate how developing economies' export promotion strategies can help them take advantage of growing opportunities in services trade.

Almost 1 million TEUs in New Record for Long Beach: The Port of Long Beach handled its busiest August on record, moving nearly 920,000 container units as shippers continued to adjust supply-chain strategies amid tariffs and geopolitical uncertainty. Long Beach processed 919,992 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in August, up 2% from the same month in 2025. The result also ranked as the fifth-busiest month in the port’s 115-year history, reported [FreightWaves](#).

Which G20 Countries Rely Most on the U.S. for Exports? This visualization from [Visual Capitalist](#) ranks Group of 20 (G20) countries by the share of their goods exports sent to the U.S., using the latest available data (2025) from [UN Comtrade](#) and the [Observatory for Economic Complexity](#). Canada and Mexico are particularly exposed to shifts in U.S. trade policy because of their deeply integrated trade relationships with the United States.

DFC Announces More Than \$8 Billion in Investments to Fuel American Economic and National Security Interests: On September 16 the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation ([DFC](#)) Board of Directors approved more than \$8 billion in new investments, representing a significant milestone for the agency. These new projects will secure essential services in partner nations while prioritizing American export growth, securing reliable energy, and advancing U.S. technology, including DFC’s largest digital investment to date.

USTR Convenes Over 50 Trading Partners to Provide Training Related to Imposing and Enforcing Forced Labor Import Prohibitions: On Sept. 15 [USTR](#) convened representatives of over 50 trading partners from around the world to provide training related to imposing and effectively enforcing forced labor import prohibitions. USTR is partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Department of Labor to provide the training, as well as in-depth and country-specific technical assistance.

The U.S. States Hit Hardest by Canada’s Tariffs: [Visual Capitalist](#) presents this map showing the value of exports in each U.S. state covered by Canadian counter-tariffs, using the latest data from BBC for September 2026 from Scotiabank and Statistics Canada. The Great Lakes region stands out on the map, reflecting its central role in the roughly \$870 billion bilateral trading relationship. Ohio and Illinois are impacted the most.

Domestic Energy Shipments Are Breaking Records under the Jones Act Waiver: [Cato Institute](#) reports the Trump administration Joines Act waiver for energy and fertilizer shipments has resulted in domestic fuel shipments surging to unprecedented levels. One of the most dramatic examples of this increase has been to the West Coast, Alaska, and Hawaii, collectively known as PADD 5.

USMCA Joint Review Tracker: The International Compliance Professionals Association (ICPA) maintains this useful review of the 2026 [USMCA joint review](#): what has changed, what has not, and what it means for your compliance program.

CFIUS 2025 Annual Report: Key Statistics, Findings & Analysis: The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS or the Committee) recently released its [Annual Report to Congress](#), covering calendar year (CY) 2025 activity. The Report, a statutory requirement, provides annual statistics about CFIUS actions and processes as well as information on the Committee’s priorities. Wiley Rein LLP has summarized the findings [here](#).

Asia’s Next Growth Story: This [IMF Blog](#) examines the choices that will shape Asia’s future, largely through the lens of Southeast Asia’s economies. It previews the issues addressed in the September edition of [Finance & Development Magazine](#).

Ranked: Where GDP Per Capita Grew Fastest Since 1990: This [Visual Capitalist](#) graphic ranks countries by real GDP per capita growth from 1990 to 2025, based on [World Bank](#) data. Guyana leads the world in real GDP per capita growth since 1990, fueled by its recent oil boom. Asian economies make up nearly half of the global top 25, with China ranking second. The U.S. ranks 88th globally but recorded the strongest growth among G7 economies.

Business Plan Eurasia/Türkiye/China: Call for Proposals: For the 33rd year Professor Trevor Gunn of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service is seeking proposals to set students forth developing business plans for real companies. One-page proposals are due October 15, 2026. Reach out to: gunnt@georgetown.edu.

U.S.-Africa Trade at a Crossroads: A Moment for New Thinking: In this [commentary](#) for the Center for Strategic & International Studies, Oge Onubogu and Aaron Stanley argue that the recent extension of AGOA provides an opening to proactively develop a future-forward policy framework, with goals aligned with African partners that can be realized within the next two years to match the scale of the commercial ambitions of the United States and African countries.

EU Customs: Council Greenlights Landmark Reform: On September 3 the [Council of the EU](#) gave its final approval for an ambitious overhaul of the EU customs framework – the most comprehensive reform of its kind in decades. The updated legislation gives the Union a more modern toolbox and innovative new instruments to better facilitate global trade, especially in e-commerce, collect customs duties more efficiently and tighten controls on non-compliant, dangerous or unsafe goods.

CBP Seeks Input on New Supply Chain Traceability Requirements: Austin J. Eighan of [Barnes, Richardson & Colburn](#) details the requirements of Executive Order [14411](#) directing CBP to increase supply chain visibility, strengthen trade law enforcement, and “remedy systemic inefficiencies.” The notice sets out approximately 64 questions covering the agency’s proposals in a number of areas:

Mapped: Each U.S. State’s Top Export Partner: Not surprisingly, Canada and Mexico are the top export destinations for 37 of the 50 U.S. states. According to this [Visual Capitalist](#) depiction, Canada ranks first for 25 states, while Mexico is the leading export partner for 12 states. Among states with other top export destinations, New York exports most to Switzerland, Utah to the UK, Oregon and Washington to China, and New Hampshire and South Carolina to Germany.

Trump’s Trade War Timeline 2.0: An Up-to-date Guide: This timeline, originally published February 25, 2025, by the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#), is updated periodically to document US trade actions during President Donald Trump’s second term in office. It tracks the development of the most notable trade actions by the United States and other countries with links to the latest available data and PIIE analysis. Entries focus primarily on official government announcements and actions.

UNCTAD’s Trade and Development Foresights 2026: As reported by the [Hinrich Foundation](#), the UN Trade and Development’s (UNCTAD) report, [Trade and Development Foresights 2026: Global Economy Faces a Geopolitical Challenge](#), warns that global growth is expected to slow as the Middle East conflict disrupts energy markets, financial conditions, and shipping routes, including through the Strait of Hormuz. Rising uncertainty will weigh on trade, investment, and supply chains, with real merchandise trade growth projected to fall from 4.7% in 2025 to 1.5%–2.5% in 2026.

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

One of the World’s Smallest Countries Has a New Name: The [New York Times](#) reports the South Pacific island of Nauru wants its name to more closely match how it is said in the language spoken by its people: [Naoero](#). That’s the new name for the small South Pacific country formerly known as Nauru. Its Parliament unanimously approved the change in May and the name became official, President David Adeang said last week,

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.

- Sep. 22 ***THE TRUMP-XI SUMMIT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE OF US-CHINA ECONOMIC RELATIONS.*** Virtual event, sponsored by the Peterson Institute for international Economics, features a conversation with PIIE Reginald Jones Senior Fellow **Chad P. Bown**, Nonresident Senior Fellow **Yeling Tan**, and President Adam S. **Posen**. Each will offer insights from their latest research followed by a discussion of the broader economic and security implications of the Trump-Xi summit. The conversation will be moderated by PIIE Executive Vice President and Director of Studies **Marcus Noland**. 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.piie.com/events/2026/trump-xi-summit-and-possible-future-us-china-economic-relations>.
- 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. 22 ***U.S. TARIFFS IN TRANSITION: IEEPA REFUNDS, NEW TARIFFS, AND A RESILIENT APPROACH TO COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Professional Association of Exporters & Importers, will explore the rapidly evolving U.S. tariff landscape, duty recovery opportunities, and practical strategies to help businesses navigate increasing trade uncertainty. Key topics: *Current U.S. tariff landscape and recent changes affecting importers; IEEPA refunds via CAPE, litigation, and other processes; Key developments to monitor over the next 6 months; Strategies to mitigate tariff exposure through valuation, supply chain management, and trade programs; Managing increased Customs enforcement and audit risks; Keeping import compliance programs resilient amid ongoing regulatory uncertainty.* 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. PAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.paei.org/event/u-s-tariffs-in-transition-ieepa-refunds-new-tariffs-and-a-resilient-approach-to-compliance/>,
- Sep. 23 ***BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN VENEZUELA: TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will help U.S. firms better understand emerging business opportunities in Venezuela across several critical sectors, which may include: oil and gas, electrical equipment, information and communication technologies (ICT), healthcare, and mining. 12:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/DoingBusinessinVenezuelaWebinarSeries-9884-1773262/purchase.php>.
- Sep. 23 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING.*** Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, is tailor-made for both young professionals and experienced specialists alike looking to expand their network. Discover opportunities to get involved with local internationally focused organizations and meet like-minded professionals. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Magik Street, 2150 South Canalport Avenue, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$50; Non-members - \$60; walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-magik-street>.

- Sep. 24 ***EXPORT FINANCE RESOURCES FOR U.S. EXPORTERS: FINANCING GROWTH, MANAGING RISK, AND EXPANDING GLOBAL MARKETS.*** Webinar sponsored by the National Association of District Export Councils. Hear from representatives of EXIM, SBA, the U.S. Commercial Service, and GBC International Bank on how exporters can access capital, mitigate payment and commercial risks, identify qualified foreign buyers, and structure financing for international transactions. 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eLucDiyGSpuofl7RfkkVXw#/registration.
- Sep. 24 ***TRADE COMPLIANCE IN FOCUS: CBP ENFORCEMENT TRENDS AND PRIORITIES.*** Seminar sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association. Former CBP Regulatory Audit Field Director, **Danielle Bickel**, and former CBP Senior Auditor, **Kathryn Herrity**, share insights into current enforcement trends and priorities, with a focus on valuation and trade remedies. Learn what CBP is targeting now and how to stay ahead of compliance risks. 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/deleon-trade-trade-compliance-in-focus-cbp-enforcement-trends-and-priorities>.
- Sep. 24 ***ADVANCED MANUFACTURING COFFEE CHAT - ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN ASIA - 3D PRINTING, INDUSTRY 4.0 AND INDUSTRIAL ROBOTICS.*** Sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, this virtual event offers a valuable platform for U.S. companies to gain insights from industry experts from Japan, Indonesia, and Singapore within the 3D Printing, Industrial Robotics, and Industry 4.0 sectors. Our Commercial Specialist will also be providing market briefings and key insights on developing your market-entry strategy in the region. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/eb183467-3e77-4f40-9a55-307769340797@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- 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.
- Sep. 29 ***CLOSING, DOWNSIZING, OR RELOCATING A CHINA OPERATION? DANGERS & CHALLENGES OF CLOSING A FACTORY IN THE CURRENT CHINA ENVIRONMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will provide updated guidance to address key problems when closing or downsizing a plant in China to avoid challenges by the local China government, Labor Bureau as well as your Chinese employees. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4319395603654772319>.
- Sep. 29 ***UNDERSTANDING THE EVOLVING U.S. REGULATORY IMPORT COMPLIANCE RISK LANDSCAPE.*** First of four sessions sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. This session delivers fact-based details on what has been declared, what to expect next, and practical recommendations for shoring up this critical area of your business — with a primary focus on increased trade fraud enforcement and forced labor regulations. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 333 North Michigan Avenue, 4th Floor Meeting Room, Chicago. ITCC & Other Members - \$20; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6841599>.

- Sep. 29 **THAILAND MED TECH & DIGITAL HEALTH.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide practical insights into opportunities, market dynamics, and considerations for U.S. companies interested in expanding into this market. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/fdfe1cae-3571-4120-9f10-3604a60a7cd7@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780?source=copyLinkLegacyShareLinkDialog>.
- Sep. 30 **LATIN AMERICA TRADE DYNAMICS.** Breakfast workshop sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. This session includes an interactive discussion with **Kellie Meiman Hock** and **Ricardo Zuniga**, long-time diplomats and trade negotiators, as they explore Latin America trade dynamics and what these developments could mean for your business. **Andy Schilling**, Honorary Consul for Japan to Nebraska, will moderate the discussion. 8:30 – 11:00 a.m., Tiburon Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. Fee: varies (\$75 – 0). For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/latin-america-trade-dynamics/>.
- Oct. 1 **TRUMP-XI SUMMIT AFTERMATH: BUSINESS TAKEAWAYS FOR THE FUTURE OF STRATEGIC COMPETITION.** Webinar sponsored by Wiley. Speakers include: **Isaac Stone Fish**, CEO and Founder, Strategy Risks; **Bonnie S. Glaser**, Managing Director, German Marshall Fund; Hon. **Nazak Nikakhtar**, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: [https://comms.wiley.law/9/6495/landing-pages/rsvp-\(blank\).asp?sid=391e4a47-0440-4f63-ab04-bec062787281](https://comms.wiley.law/9/6495/landing-pages/rsvp-(blank).asp?sid=391e4a47-0440-4f63-ab04-bec062787281).
- Oct. 2 - 6 **2026 WITA ACADEMY VIRTUAL INTENSIVE TRADE SEMINAR.** Virtual program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will help attendees increase their professional knowledge by learning the nuts and bolts of trade policy directly from career trade policy professionals from across government, industry, and law. The topics over the 3-day program include: *Trade Law Primer (Sections 122, 232, 301, 338, IEEPA and update on legal challenges)*; *Interagency Process in the Trump Administration*; *The Congressional Role in Trade Policymaking*; *AD/CVD/Safeguards – Role of ITC and Commerce*; *USTR Role in Monitoring and Enforcement*; *Customs and Border Protection*; *Export Controls, Sanctions, and Investment Controls*; *U.S. Trade Update – Ongoing Negotiations and Tariffs*; *WITA International/Trade Around the World – Global Trade Initiatives*; *USMCA 6-Year Review – Status Update – Review Process*. 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Government rate - \$105.49; WITA member - \$209.19; Non-member - \$312.89. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-wita-academy-virtual-intensive-trade-seminar-early-bird-tickets-tickets-1996707392561?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.
- Oct. 4 - 6 **U.S. BUSINESS MISSION TO JORDAN.** The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S. – Jordan Business Program will lead a U.S. Department of Commerce-certified trade mission to Jordan this fall, with two full days of programming in Amman from October 4-5 and an optional third day in Aqaba on October 6. Through high-level roundtables, policy briefings, networking events, and site visits, delegates will engage senior U.S. and Jordanian government officials, industry leaders, and key stakeholders. The mission will provide participating companies with a focused opportunity to strengthen commercial relationships, explore investment opportunities, and advance the economic priorities shaping the future of U.S.-Jordan relations. The delegation will focus on sectors aligned with Jordan's Economic Modernization Vision, including energy and renewables, digital technologies, AI and ICT, water and infrastructure, transport and logistics, healthcare, agribusiness, financial services, and investment. It will also offer firsthand insight into Jordan's evolving business environment and Aqaba's growing role as a regional hub for commerce, logistics, and industrial development. For information & registration, please see: <https://uschamberofcommerce.swoogo.com/jordan-delegation-26/home>.

- Oct. 6 - ***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. 6 ***PHILIPPINES DEFENSE INDUSTRY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide you with in-depth insights into current and future requirements, where to find procurement opportunities, and how to bid on available contracts. 7:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/PhilippinesDefenseWebinar-9884-1788546562/purchase.php>.
- Oct. 7 ***FOREIGN OWNERSHIP, CONTROL AND INFLUENCE (FOCI) TRAINING FOR U.S. COMPANIES.*** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) for Foreign Ownership, Control and Influence (FOCI) Training. Dr. **Ruby Crenshaw-Lawrence**, Chief of DCSA's Office of Small Business Programs and Industry Engagements, will walk through how foreign ownership and investment arrangements are evaluated, what FOCI means for U.S. companies working in and around the defense industrial base, and the steps businesses can take to identify and mitigate risk. 12:009 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/590ee544-3aa6-479e-915e-1a17987d5a36@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- 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. 13 ***TRADE COMPLIANCE AT THE CROSSROADS OF TARIFFS, TAX, AND TRANSFER PRICING.*** Sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association, this program features an insightful discussion on the growing intersection of transfer pricing, customs valuation, and global trade compliance in today's evolving tariff environment. Speakers include: **Sonal Majmudar**, Partner, Washington, DC Office of Mayer Brown Law Firm; **Susan Fickling**, Managing Director, Transfer Pricing at Kroll; **Alison Jacobs**, VP, Trade and Customs at Kroll; **Ryan Lange**, Managing Director, Transfer Pricing at Kroll. 2:00 – 6:00 p.m., Waukesha County Technical College, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/trade-compliance-at-the-crossroads-of-tariffs-tax-and-transfer-pricing-1903444?sourceTypeId=Website>.

- Oct. 15 **ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING: MARKET INSIGHTS FROM BRAZIL AND GERMANY.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will explore key opportunities and emerging trends across two rapidly evolving additive manufacturing markets: Brazil and Germany. Expert speakers will provide practical, data-driven insights to help U.S. companies understand market conditions, technology adoption, sector growth, and pathways for partnership in both countries. Attendees will gain actionable market intelligence—including insights on local industry demand, examples of real-world applications, and collaboration pathways—to better position their companies for global engagement in additive manufacturing. A live Q&A will conclude the session. 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/363994c4-5cdc-492e-88e1-e38c0ef04873@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- 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. 16 **2026 GERMAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIDWEST ANNUAL GALA.** The GACC Midwest promises an evening dedicated to celebrating the excellence, innovation, and enduring commitment of the German American business community. The Gala will bring together industry leaders and C-level executives to honor long-standing membership anniversaries and recognize the outstanding contributions of valued members and companies across the Midwest. Guests will enjoy high-level networking and dinner, engaging entertainment and live music. In addition, we'll have an exciting silent auction benefiting the German American Apprenticeship and Education Foundation—highlighting our shared investment in workforce development and future talent. 6:00 p.m., The InterContinental Hotel Chicago Mag Mile, 505 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago. GACC Members - \$285; Non-members - \$350. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/gacc-midwest-annual-gala/2026-gacc-midwest-annual-gala>.
- 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. 21 **THE FUTURE OF TURKISH PORTS: ENERGY TRANSITION, DIGITALIZATION, AND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will provide an in-depth briefing on current trends, emerging technology needs, upcoming tenders, and areas where U.S. firms can support Turkey's evolving maritime ecosystem. This virtual session, developed in collaboration with TURKLIM, offers U.S. companies a rare opportunity to hear directly from sector experts and decision-makers shaping the future of Türkiye's port infrastructure. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/d13b04f8-0327-4709-9af7-a307a7ef5645@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.

- Oct. 22 - **TARIFFS, SUPPLY CHAIN SHIFTS, AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL MANUFACTURING**
 23 **COMPETITIVENESS.** Twenty-fifth Annual U.S.-China Trade Conference sponsored by the United States of America – China Chamber of Commerce. Topics include: *The New Era of Global Trade, Manufacturing, and Consumer Markets; Navigating and Coping with the Rapidly Changing Tariff Environment; Resilience and Diversification Without Abandoning China: Alternative Manufacturing Hubs; Adapting Transportation Networks to Changing Trade Patterns; The Impact of AI Technology and Automation on Competitiveness; Selling Overseas: How to Reposition U.S. SMEs During a Disruptive Trade Environment; Talent Requirements to Stay Competitive in the AI Economy; Future Trade and Tariff Outlook: Strategic Priorities for Governments and Businesses.* 8:00 a.m., The Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Fees & Discounts vary. For information & registration, please see: https://www.usccc.org/files/ugd/1817b4_9bd222cdca1d490e947e27f0bedbb467.pdf.
- 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.
- Oct. 23 **AI-POWERED EXPORTS & ECOMMERCE: CREATING GLOBAL VALUE.** 11th Global Small Business Forum (Virtual) sponsored by Global TradeSource Ltd. Two world-class experts share research, tools, and decisions behind creating value with AI and using it in ecommerce. Speakers: **Kati Suominen**, Founder and CEO of Nextrade Group and **Fabian Stachelin**, Founder, e-traid. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://globalsmallbusinessforum.com/?mc_cid=2234daa307&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Oct. 26 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ECO EXPO ASIA 2026, HONG KONG.** Illinois
 29 companies in the environmental sector are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment on a Trade Mission to Hong Kong, and co-exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at Eco Expo Asia. Eligible Illinois companies for this mission will receive: *Complimentary Exhibit Space; 25-75% partial reimbursement for lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Pre-show promotion; Matchmaking Assistance; In-country briefing and networking events; Assistance with travel and logistics.* Fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: **September 10**. For information & registration, please contact: kelly.hou@illinois.gov.
- Oct. 28 **GREAT LAKES PORTS UPDATE RECEPTION.** Sponsored by the Chicago Propeller Club, this event honors three port directors – **Erik Valela** from Illinois International Port District, **Ryan McCoy** from Ports of Indiana, and **Benjamin Timm** from Port Milwaukee. Each will be giving the latest updates on port operations, as well as supplier and RFP opportunities as the ports invest tens of millions in upgrading infrastructure. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Guinness Open Gate Brewery – West Loop, 901 West Kinzie Street, Chicago. Members - \$81.80; Non-members - \$103.22. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-lakes-ports-update-reception-tickets-1998373165934?aff=oddtcreator>.
- 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. 11 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE: MANAGING RISKS AND REAPING REWARDS.** Luncheon program sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association. This innovative session combines experienced risk managers, industry experts, and global trade leaders to learn best practices and compare notes so you can lean with confidence into the opportunities abroad for your products and services. Speakers: **Mike Klemp-North**, VP of Administration and Facilities Hsu's Ginseng; **Bruce Glaub**, Director, Trade Credit, M3 Insurance; **Hannah Misciasci**, International Advisor, M3 Insurance; **Pete Dewar**, Client Executive, M3 Insurance. 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., M3 Insurance, 828 John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI. MITA Members - \$55; Non-members - \$80. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.mitatrade.org/events/Details/international-trade-managing-risks-and-reaping-rewards-1903441?sourceTypeId=Website>.
- 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. 4 ***BABC HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 2026.*** Sponsored by the British American Chamber of Commerce Chicago, expect: Curated whisky reception; Three-course holiday meal at The Drake Hotel; Inspiring remarks from community leaders, including His Majesty's Consul General **Richard Hyde**; Fundraising raffle & seasonal entertainment; Holiday photo booth; Networking with executives, members, partners, and distinguished guests. 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., The Drake, 140 East Walton Place, Chicago. Members - \$250; Non-members - \$299. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/f7wx53t?source_id=ed04e12e-5fb4-43b6-a513-febf323ad1cc&source_type=em&c=8jQOrobaIqIBV3uQwO5UaJ7YwoqwsPWQw7G9r9V22yb4MUJxhqLM9w==.
- Dec. 5 - ***SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E. & EGYPT TRADE MISSION.*** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and 15 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 17 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
11 (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.

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About Barnes Richardson

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

About KSM

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