

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

October 26, 2026

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

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

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

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

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

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAM

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

Dec. 4 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!***
Twenty-second Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago's international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots.** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - \$45; Non-members - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-put-a-little-fa-la-la-la-la-in-your-season-tickets-2003791692894>.

Of Note:

US Exports to China 2026: The U.S.-China Business Council has just released their [2026 report](#). This report explores the latest data on American exports to China and the jobs they support across the United States. These figures include goods exports during calendar year 2025. This report does not capture services exports to China.

WTO Releases Global Trade Outlook and Statistics: According to the latest [Global Trade Outlook and Statistics](#) released on October 8, merchandise trade volume is now expected to grow by 3.9% in 2026, up from the March forecast of 1.9%, before increasing further to 4.1% in 2027. IN the first half of 2026, merchandise trade volume grew by 3.5%, exceeding expectations despite the disruption caused by the Middle East conflict.

IMF's World Economic Outlook: The October 2026 [World Economic Outlook](#) projects global growth to slow to 3.1% in 2026 and rebound to 3.4% in 2027. Global headline inflation is projected to rise notably to 4.7% in 2026 before easing to 4.1% in 2027. Energy-importing economies outside the technology value chain face the most difficult outlook.

New Long Beach Record as Volume Nears 1M Containers: [Freight Waves](#) reports the Port of Long Beach moved 997,177 twenty-foot-equivalent units in September, its busiest month in 115 years and a 25% increase from September 2025. The total surpassed the port's previous monthly record of 987,191 TEUs, set in October 2024.

Panama Canal Challenges Drive Shippers to Port of Los Angeles: As reported in [Supply Chain Dive](#), delays at the Panama Canal, coupled with high fuel costs, are pushing shippers and carriers to shift volume (about 5% more) to Los Angeles to avoid longer transit times.

Global Container Volumes Hit Record 17.46 Million TEUs: Global container shipping volumes reached a record 17.46 million twenty-foot equivalent units in August, reports [Freight Waves](#), while freight pricing climbed to its highest level in more than two years, according to Container Trades Statistics. The figures show continued growth in container trade despite elevated fuel prices, disruption in the Arabian Gulf, Panama Canal constraints and changing tariff conditions.

Ranked: The World's Largest Economies in 2026: This [Visual Capitalist graphic](#) compares the world's 20 largest economies by nominal gross domestic product (GDP) and purchasing power parity (PPP), using 2026 projections from the [IMF's October 2026 World Economic Outlook](#). The U.S. is the world's largest economy by nominal GDP in 2026, while China leads when adjusting for purchasing power.

Ranked: The World's 30 Largest Banks in 2026: This graphic from [Visual Capitalist](#) ranks the world's 30 largest banks using [S&P Global Market Intelligence's April 2026](#) ranking, based primarily on year-end 2025 financial statements. China is home to the world's four largest banks by total assets. America's biggest bank ranks only fifth globally, highlighting the enormous scale of China's banking system.

Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act Gets Waived: Barnes Richardson's David Forgue provides a [concise description](#) of the [Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act](#). The bill directed the administration to impose 500% tariffs on Russian imports and duties of up to 100% on imports from the five largest purchasers of Russian energy products. On October 16 the administration [waived](#) the tariffs on both Russia and the energy purchasers.

Moving Manufacturing From China to Mexico: Harris Sliwoski provides this useful [guide](#) that covers tariffs and USMCA rules, manufacturing costs, Mexican labor laws, shelter companies, IP protection, and how to leave China without putting your business at risk.

USTR Seeks Public Comment on the 2027 Joint Review of USMCA: The [Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#) announced a public consultation process in advance of the 2027 joint review of the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (USMCA). The deadline for submission of comments is **January 12, 2027**, at 11:59 p.m. EST. The *Federal Register* notice is [here](#). To submit comments, click [here](#).

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](#).

Ranked: The World's Richest Countries (2006-2026): This visualization ([Visual Capitalist](#)) ranks the countries with the highest GDP per capita in 2006, 2016, and 2026 using projections from the International Monetary Fund's [World Economic Outlook](#). Figures are in current prices and have been adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP). Most of the world's wealthiest countries by this measurement are small offshore financial hubs such as Singapore and Switzerland.

Ranked: The World's 40 Richest Cities by GDP Per Person: This visualization ([Visual Capitalist](#)) ranks the top 40 cities by GDP per person among those featured in the [2026 Global Cities Index](#) published by Oxford Economics. The U.S. accounts for 27 of the 40 cities with the highest GDP per person, led by major technology hubs. San Jose ranks first at \$238,700 per person, roughly \$57,000 ahead of second-place San Francisco.

Ranked: The Fastest-Growing Major Economies in 2026: Despite geopolitical conflicts and supply chain disruptions, the global economy is forecast to grow by 3% in 2026. Among major economies, however, growth rates vary considerably. This visualization (by [Visual Capitalist](#)) ranks Group of 20 (G20) members by their projected real gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2026, using the latest projections from the International Monetary Fund's [World Economic Outlook](#).

China Economic Outlook: September 2026: BBVA Research on Sept. 29 released its [Outlook on China](#). In summary, the Chinese economy slowed to 4.3% in Q2 2026 due to domestic risks such as a supply-demand mismatch, weak consumption, and a housing crisis. The GDP growth forecast is maintained at 4.5% for 2026 and 4.2% for 2027, and the CPI forecast is lowered to 0.8%.

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.

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.

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.

- Oct. 26 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ECO EXPO ASIA 2026, HONG KONG.*** Illinois 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. 26 - ***U.S. - ASIA TRADE & INVESTMENT DELEGATION.*** Sponsored by Asia Chamber of America, this delegation aims to strengthen economic ties between the United States and Asian economies by fostering direct engagement among American businesses, Asian consulates, trade and economic development offices, and regional partners. Through meetings and relationship-building opportunities, participants will explore new markets, identify potential trade and investment opportunities, and develop partnerships that support long-term economic growth. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Chicago. Fee: \$28.50 - \$55.20. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-asia-trade-investment-delegation-to-nyc-chicago-tickets-2003359400897?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.
- Oct. 26 ***THE U.S.-PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will explain the details of the agreement and how you can take advantage of these opportunities. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/xmuhfu7>.
- Oct. 27 ***INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND EMERGING COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES IN BRAZIL-US RELATIONS.*** Webinar sponsored by American Conference Institute in partnership with the Instituto Brasileiro de Direito Empresarial. Join a panel of experienced practitioners with deep expertise in Brazil and Latin America to explore emerging regulatory developments, shifting enforcement priorities, and what they mean for anti-corruption and corporate compliance programs. Gain practical insights to better navigate cross-border risks and stay ahead of developments impacting your organization. 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.ringcentral.com/events/aci-s-complimentary-webinar-fcpa-de?utm_source=brevo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CC%20700L27-WAS%20E22%20Webinar%203%20with%20IBRADEMP%20---%20Webinar&utm_id=2292.

- Oct. 27 ***GUYANA'S NEXT ENERGY CHAPTER: OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss Guyana's energy market, emerging commercial opportunities, and how participation in the Guyana Energy Conference & Supply Chain Expo 2027 can help U.S. businesses explore the market and build valuable connections. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/5e597ec2-529f-48fe-bcf4-73bb7aa02c74@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780?source=copyLinkLegacyShareLinkDialog&sftoken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJpYXQiOiE3OTI2ODYyODMsImV4cCI6MTc5MjY4NjM0MywiaW5kaXZpZHVhbnElkIjoiMUDHU0owMDAwMDA3RzRQNEFVtiwidGVuYW50SWQIoiJhMzYwL2dpYXBYb2QxL2NkNDMzMzQxNWJjODRhNjQ4NmRiZDNmMWMzN2IwZDZkIiwiaWF0Ij0iY29yZVRlbnFudElkIjoiY29yZS9wcm9kLzAwRHQwMDAwMDAwR3lkBEVBQyJ9.JtiqahC70KqPOZUFJbRFZufCxCxJRIYAP2b_0ycfQUJCg.
- Oct. 27 ***NAVIGATING U.S. TARIFFS: SECTION 232, SECTION 301 & CHAPTER 99.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, provides an overview of Section 232, Section 301, Chapter 99, and other key trade measures affecting U.S. imports. Learn how these tariffs are applied, how duties may stack, and explore strategies to improve compliance and reduce costs through real-world examples and practical guidance. 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$139. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/kayuekh>.
- Oct. 27 ***FRACTIONAL & INTERIM LEADERSHIP & EXECUTIVE SEARCH: THE SECRET WEAPON FOR DRIVING CHANGE IN YOUR CHINA OPERATIONS.*** Webinar, sponsored by East West Associates, will examine where interim and fractional executives can add value, how their responsibilities differ from those of consultants and permanent hires, and what companies should consider when selecting leaders for complex China assignments. We will also discuss how to align temporary leadership with HQ expectations while building credibility with local teams. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4097126030501562720>.
- Oct. 27 ***ENFORCEMENT WITHOUT BORDERS: FORCED LABOR, TRANSSHIPMENT & THE NEW COMPLIANCE LANDSCAPE.*** Webinar, sponsored by A.N. Deringer, explores the latest enforcement trends, including the growing use of adverse inference, heightened scrutiny of country of origin claims, and transshipment investigations. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://anderinger.cventevents.com/hub/events/7b11ab42-6928-48fe-ba1f-add9759aa7c4/landing>.
- Oct. 27 ***DRAM & DISCUSSION.*** Hybrid program sponsored by the Chicago Scots. Join **Gus Noble** OBE in-person or online when **Stuart Miller**, a top global sustainability scientist at UL Materials Research Institute, hosts his friend, Nobel Laureate Sir **David MacMillan**, the James S. McDonnell Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Princeton University, for a 'Dram & Discussion' on his accomplished career, his love of football, and how being Scottish helped him win the Nobel Prize! 5:30 – 6:45 p.m., UL Materials Discovery Research Institute, 8045 Lamon Avenue, Suites 320 & 360, Skokie, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://chicagoscots.org/dram-and-discussion/>.
- Oct. 27 ***BUILDING NET-ZERO: GERMAN-AMERICAN GREEN BUILDING EXCHANGE.*** Networking Reception, sponsored by the German American Chambers of Commerce, will bring together leaders, innovators, researchers, developers, architects, engineers, policymakers, and sustainability professionals from across the green building ecosystem and showcase the latest developments shaping the future of sustainable construction and the built environment. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., GACC Midwest Office, 150 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/58h27um?source_id=27ff5651-18bc-4fa3-ab74-cd79a4b72189&source_type=em&c=yCNRCjmyg9tZ7WyyRxrgTp-QUrg5oE3xklk4-TpBF-0c-m5mAtKc-A==.

- Oct. 28 ***MAURITIUS: THE GATEWAY TO MINING OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICA.*** Webinar sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service. Senior government officials and industry experts will explain Mauritius' unique advantages as a regional headquarters location, its strong investment-protection framework, and its role in facilitating compliant, efficient cross-border mining ventures. You'll also hear how the 18th U.S.-Africa Business Summit connects U.S. companies to emerging mineral opportunities across the continent. 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/544afb6f-e3df-4ca0-b1b0-a5f99e637cf7@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Oct. 28 ***THE NEXT CHAPTER IN U.S.-CHINA BUSINESS: TRADE, TARIFFS, AND TECH.*** Program sponsored by Asia-Pacific Business Association of Indiana co-hosted with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and Indy Economic Development and hosted by Barnes & Thornburg. Gain insights from an expert panel on the economy and technology, and a roundtable discussion with Indiana business leaders. Panelists include: **Sarah Beran**, incoming president of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations; **Kevin Xu**, Founder of Interconnected Capital, a global technology hedge fund, and author of *Interconnected*, a bilingual English-Chinese newsletter exploring the intersections of technology, business, investing, geopolitics, and U.S.-Asia relations; **Russell Menyhart**, Partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP in Indianapolis and a former diplomat with extensive international experience. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Barnes & Thornburg Building, Indianapolis, IN. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://insight.btlaw.com/23/2473/landing-pages/rsvp-blank.asp?ExcludePageBreak=true>.
- Oct. 28 ***SAMPLES, PROTOTYPES, AND REPAIRS - TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR SHIPMENTS THROUGH CUSTOMS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will provide tips for getting these shipments through Customs in the U.S. and other countries. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/e7sfkpb6>.
- Oct. 28 ***CUSTOMS AND TRADE FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS: RESPONDING TO DOJ'S AND DHS'S AGGRESSIVE AND EXPANDING ENFORCEMENT OF CUSTOMS FRAUD THROUGH THE FALSE CLAIMS ACT.*** Webinar, sponsored by ArentFox Schiff, will provide an in-depth discussion of how compliance officers and general counsel can bolster current international trade compliance mechanisms in light of the government's unprecedented focus on combatting customs fraud. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://ecomms.afslaw.com/s/aad7f118279742ce999959cb7a6068a37c653502/h=ff0114e31743dc8ef74ae0bbd14c97e20d63924b>.
- Oct. 28 ***THE EU'S PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE REGULATION (PPWR): PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. EXPORTERS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will highlight key compliance considerations, potential implementation challenges, and practical steps companies can take to prepare. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/35dcfcb4-8e0f-4692-b04d-7bf3f098b6f3@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780?source=copyLinkLegacyShareEventDialog>.
- Oct. 28 ***GREAT LAKES PORTS UPDATE RECEPTION.*** Sponsored by the Chicago Propeller Club, this event honors three port directors – **Erik Varela** 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>.

- Oct. 29 ***STRENGTHENING USMCA TO ADVANCE COMPETITIVENESS, RESILIENCE, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY IN NORTH AMERICA.*** Virtual program - one in a series of USMCA reviews sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association. Session will explore how the United States, Canada, and Mexico can use USMCA to strengthen competitiveness, resilience, and economic security. As geopolitical competition intensifies and supply chains realign, the discussion will look at an integrated trilateral strategy across advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, energy, food security, digital trade, and artificial intelligence. Speakers include: **Brian Kingston**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association; **Ed Brzytwa**, Vice President International Trade, Consumer Technology Association; **Kristy Goodfellow**, Vice President of Trade and Industry Affairs, Corn Refiners Association; **Joseph Whitlock**, Executive Director, Global Data Alliance; Senior Director, Policy, Business Software Alliance; **Heather Helm** (Moderator), Executive Vice President of Global Strategies, Personal Care Products Council. 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/usmca-review-series-economic-security/>.
- Oct. 29 ***ADVANCED EXPORT DOCUMENTATION.*** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will review less common documents in international trade. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/nfz8z88>.
- Oct. 29 ***THE FRAGILE DRAGON: CHINA'S STRENGTH AND THE LIMITS TO ITS POWER.*** Webinar sponsored by the United States Heartland China Association. Presentation by **Ker Gibbs**, author, *The Fragile Dragon*. Drawing on the author's experience as president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai under Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden, the book analyzes key business and political developments from both Western and Chinese perspectives. 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JHFGtmk2Rp2PFoHFsfklGg#/registration.
- Nov. 2 ***GULF COAST AEROSPACE & DEFENSE SUMMIT.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will explain why US companies would benefit from signing up and attending the upcoming Gulf Coast Aerospace & Defense Summit. 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/7d6421e0-8788-49e0-b1ca-4ce9782cf51c@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780?source=copyLinkLegacyShareLinkDialog>.
- Nov. 4 ***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 Gabon, Cote D'Ivoire and Nigeria 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 – 9:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/US-AfricaBusinessSummitWebinar-9884-1790621586/>.
- Nov. 4 ***FROM THE MIDWEST TO THE WORLD: CONNECTING THE SUPPLY CHAIN.*** Breakfast program sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association. This will be an interactive discussion as key multimodal partners break down current corridor capacity, supply chain integration strategies, and actionable solutions for local shippers looking to optimize their regional logistics footprint. Speakers include: **Andy Bradfield**, Director of Intermodal Sales, Iowa Interstate Railroad, LLC; **Steve Ronan**, Branch Manager, DSV Air & Sea Omaha; **Paul Lesnefsky**, Senior Key Account Executive, Ocean Network Express (North America) Inc. (ONE); **Brooklynne Rosado**, Assistant Vice President TSL Customer Service, TSL Companies; **Steve Schulz**, Ph.D. (Moderator), Director, Healthcare Logistics & Supply Chain Management, University of Nebraska at Omaha. 9:00 – 11:30 a.m., Tiburon Banquet Facility, 10302 South 168th Street, Omaha, NE. MITA Members – No fee - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/from-the-midwest-to-the-world-connecting-the-supply-chain/>.

- Nov. 4 **READING THE TAX TEA LEAVES: A POST-MIDTERM FORECAST FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS.** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Jessica Wargo**, International Tax Services Partner, Plante Moran will share: *How the post-election landscape may influence tax policy priorities; Current landscape for trade policy and negotiations; Strategic considerations for multinational businesses as they plan for the year ahead.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9059271484514191705?mc_cid=b3291e996d&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Nov. 4 **HOW TO WIN A TRADE WAR.** Hybrid program sponsored by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Join **Soumaya Keynes**, **Brent Neiman**, and moderator **Kyla Scanlon** for a conversation on trade, economic strategy, and where the United States goes from here. Copies of Soumaya Keynes' new book, *How to Win a Trade War: An Optimistic Guide to an Anxious Global Economy*, co-authored with Chad P. Bown, and Kyla Scanlon's book, *In This Economy? How Money & Markets Really Work*, will be available for sale and signing at the program. 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. CST, Chicago Council Conference Center, 130 East Randolph Street, Chicago. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://globalaffairs.org/events/how-win-trade-war?utm_source=promo&utm_campaign=events&utm_medium=email.
- Nov. 5 **GUY FAWKES CELEBRATION 2026.** Sponsored by the British-American Business Council Chicago, this event promises festive sparklers, delicious food, cold drinks, and a rowdy night. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., Duke of Perth, 2827 North Broadway Street, Chicago. BABC Members – No fee; Non-members - \$15. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6bsujdr?source_id=8c6dc49e-d11e-4e59-b5c5-acb5b89206fc&source_type=em&c=PuJV7f9B2wP9eOHSu9b6DXV6dH9e1H0H7LvXdfigs4FKf9IDRYuYMqw==.
- Nov. 6 - 15 **TRADE MISSION TO AFRICA - KENYA & RWANDA.** World Trade Center St. Louis invites you to 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. 10 **LEVERAGING DATA & AI TO ENHANCE TRADE COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS.** Second in a series of workshops sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. Program examines how data, analytics, and AI are changing international trade compliance — and what those changes mean for your business. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 333 North Michigan Avenue, 4th Floor Meeting Room, Chicago. ITCC Members - \$20; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6886183>.
- Nov. 10 **NAVIGATING THE IMPACT OF TARIFFS AND DISRUPTION.** Webinar, sponsored by the Small Business Development Center, University of Georgia in partnership with Blue Tiger International. Instructor **Tom Cook** discusses the current state of the global supply chain, outlining uncertainty and disruption with a special focus on tariffs and trade. 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://files.constantcontact.com/f7adb5d7501/fe88165e-6792-4ea1-a6a8-733a2b88f078.pdf>.

- Nov. 11 - **EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ADVANCED DESIGN & MANUFACTURING, 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 **TRADES-GIVING.** Networking event sponsored by the International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City. Members will share their personal career journeys and the experiences that shaped their success. Meet innovative vendors, see real-world solutions, and discover what's next. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Keystone CoLABS, 800 East 18th Street, Kansas City, MO. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6861528>.
- 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.carrrd.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. 13 **HOW TO ENTER THE CENTRAL ASIAN MARKET.** Luncheon seminar, sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center, will address: *Timely Report from Baku; Marketing and Advertising in Central Asia; Logistics Challenges in Central Asia*. 11:00 a.m., Wolf's Head Inn, 6937 Joliet Road, Indian Head Park, IL. CAPRC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please contact: hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com.
- 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>.
- Nov. 16 **THE STATE OF BANGLADESH: SOURCING TIMES REPORT INSIGHTS.** Webinar, sponsored by the American Apparel & Footwear Association and Harnest, provides an executive debrief of *The Sourcing Times: Bangladesh Report*, examining how the country's apparel and textile sector is evolving beyond its traditional position as a high-volume, low-cost sourcing market. Led by report author **Brooke Roberts-Islam**, the session explores labor reform and compliance, trade dynamics and LDC graduation, vertical integration, Tier 2 and 3 sourcing opportunities, circularity, renewable energy, and manufacturing innovation. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/Webinars/2026/2026_Landing_Pages/WEB261116.aspx.
- Nov. 18 **CRAIG VANGRASSTEK PRESENTS: ON TRADE WAR.** Workshop sponsored by the Midwest International Trade Association and the Clayton Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance, University of Nebraska–Lincoln. **Craig VanGrasstek**, Trade Historian and author, *On Trade War*, provides historical context for understanding the forces influencing today's global trade landscape. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Mammel Hall, 6708 Pine Street, Omaha, NE. MITA Members - \$0 - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/craig-vangrasstek-presents-on-trade-war/>.
- Nov. 18 **PREPARING FOR EUFLR: STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAIN EVIDENCE AND INTELLIGENCE.** Webinar, sponsored by the American Apparel & Footwear Association, will explore the types of supply chain evidence organizations may be asked to provide under emerging regulations such as the EU Forced Labour Regulation (EUFLR), where brands commonly encounter challenges, and practical steps they can take today to strengthen their approach. Attendees will learn how forensic origin verification can complement existing traceability, supplier due diligence, and compliance programs by verifying whether a product is consistent with its claimed origin. The session will also examine how brands can use verified data to build stronger supply chain intelligence, support decision-making, and improve confidence in the information they rely on across complex supply chains. 1:00 -2:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/Webinars/2026/2026_Landing_Pages/WEB261118.aspx.

- Nov. 18 ***SINGAPORE AUTONOMOUS APPLICATIONS FOR MARITIME SECURITY.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service and U.S. Embassy Singapore, will discuss Singapore's maritime security priorities, emerging technology needs, industry requirements and potential opportunities for U.S. companies. 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/b3a2e227-8fdc-419b-913b-f90ed705825b@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Dec. 1 ***ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND FUNDRAISER.*** Reception & dinner sponsored by the Swiss American Business Council. 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago. SABC Members - \$200; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://sabcnw.com/#>.
- Dec. 3 - ***US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND SECURITY MISSION:***
 4 ***INDONESIA.*** Mission is designed to connect U.S. firms with key government stakeholders, distributors, industry partners, and procurement agencies. This program will provide high-impact opportunities to gain the latest market insights from experts and network with senior government officials and decision-makers. For information & an application, please see: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25f8vMbP3gFvKtDYUBvdIgGFMziersuZUQzVVMjBaTUtDT0pCVVQ1SEdZN1laT0FTWS4u>.
- 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. 4 ***HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION: PUT A LITTLE FA-LA-LA-LA-LA IN YOUR SEASON!*** Twenty-second Annual Holiday Networking Reception & Toy Drive sponsored by the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Please join us for a relaxed evening of networking with peers and colleagues from Chicago's international business community. We provide the FA-LA-LA-LA-LA (buffet dinner, music, and a magical, festive atmosphere). **All guests are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy for donation to Toys for Tots.** 6:00 – 8:30 p.m., Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members, Sponsors & Friends - \$45; Non-members - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-networking-reception-put-a-little-fa-la-la-la-la-in-your-season-tickets-2003791692894>.
- 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/>.
- Dec. 6 - ***CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE NATIONWIDE PREPARATION WORKSHOP - APRIL 2027***
 Apr. 18 ***EXAMINATION.*** Sponsored by The World Academy and the Alston Group, this course will assist you in the development of test taking reference familiarization, time management, Customs Regulations reference and Harmonized Tariff Schedule determination that will result in positive results in the development of each participant test taking ability towards a passing grade. Classes are held on alternate Sundays (8:30 – 11:00 a.m. CST) and consist of: Live lectures – Remote platform; Five-month instruction and help desk assistance; Group format with One-on-one tutorship options

and Customs Examination preparation skills for positive results. Fee: \$1,995. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.theworldacademy.com/copy-of-2021-customs-broker-course>.

- Dec. 7 - **US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND SECURITY MISSION:**
8 **VIETNAM.** Mission is designed to connect U.S. firms with key government stakeholders, distributors, industry partners, and procurement agencies. This program will provide high-impact opportunities to gain the latest market insights from experts and network with senior government officials and decision-makers. For information & an application, please see: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=8oPRoXtsmk25lF8vMbP3gFvKtDYUBvdIgGFMziersuZUQzVVMjBaTUtDT0pCVVQ1SEdZN1laT0FTWS4u>.
- Dec. 9 - **ARGENTINA OIL, GAS AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE CERTIFIED TRADE MISSION.** Sponsored
11 by the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU) and the U.S. Department of Commerce, the delegation will be accompanied by The Honorable David L. Fogel, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service for the International Trade Administration (ITA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. The mission will provide participating U.S. companies with unique opportunities to engage Argentine government and industry stakeholders and explore commercial opportunities across the oil and gas value chain, including drilling and completion equipment, hydraulic fracturing, oilfield services, logistics and field infrastructure, pipelines and gathering systems, processing and compression, and related digital and information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure. The mission will also serve as an opportunity for U.S. companies to learn more about and leverage emerging commercial opportunities created by the U.S.-Argentina Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment (ARTI), including reduced trade barriers and deepening bilateral trade and investment cooperation to advance shared strategic U.S. and Argentine economic and political objectives. For information & registration (deadline: **November 13**), please see: <https://bcIU.zohobackstage.com/ArgentinaEnergyOilGasCTM>.
- Dec. 9 **2026 TRADE & TECH SUMMIT.** Hybrid program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will address such topics as: *The New Digital Trade Framework; The Role of U.S. in Global Tech Leadership; Working with Partners: Trade, Innovation and the AI Stack; The Tech, Trade, and Security Nexus; The Congressional Role in U.S. Global Tech Leadership.* 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CST. In-person - \$150; virtual - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.wita.org/events/witas-trade-tech-summit-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/>.
- Feb. 15 **ANNUAL CHINESE NEW YEAR LUNCHEON.** Luncheon sponsored by the Central Asian Productivity Research Center. 11:30 a.m., Evergreen Restaurant, 2411 South Wentworth Avenue, Chicago. CAPRC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$45. For information & registration, please contact: hlepinske.caprc@gmail.com.
- 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.