ILLINOIS
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

November 23, 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

Dec. 2 ***NAVIGATING A NEW ERA OF CROSS-BORDER BUSINESS***. Virtual program sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest with support from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Whether your organization is seeking growth opportunities, managing international operations, raising capital, or evaluating market entry strategies, this discussion will provide timely insights and practical perspectives for today's changing business environment. Speakers: **Brian B. Su**, Founder & President, Artisan Business Group; **Chris Renn**, Managing Director, Family Office Advisory Affiliate of Regiment Securities; **David Nealis** (Moderator), CEO, Ceres Ltd. 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For registration, please see: https://hktdc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y4ozcfVBQVOR1Ztc8ZR2mg#/registration.

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** with support from the: Central Asian Productivity Research Center; Chicago International Trade Commissioners' Association (CITCA); Organization of Women in International Trade – Chicago; Swiss American Business Council; and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce Midwest. 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-la-in-your-season-tickets-2003791692894.

Dec. 9 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING – CHRISTKINDLMARKET CHICAGO AT DALEY PLAZA***. Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Join us at the Grand Timber Haus inside Chicago's iconic Christkindlmarket for an evening of networking, conversation and the festive charm of the Christkindlmarket. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Christkindlmarket Chicago at Daley Plaza - at Grand Timber Haus. Members of sponsoring organizations - $59; Non-members - $69. For information & registration, please see: https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-christkindlmarket-chicago-at-daley-plaza.

Of Note:

Apply to Be Featured in the U.S. Resources Management Industry Listing: The International Trade Administration (ITA) has officially announced the U.S. Resources Management Industry Listing (RMIL), a new platform designed to showcase U.S. companies and technologies in sectors such as water and wastewater treatment, waste management and recycling, and air quality measuring, monitoring and control, to put U.S. solutions in front of international buyers and business partners. To apply, please complete the application form.

Trump Says Thailand Will Eliminate Tariffs on U.S. Exports Under New Deal: As reported in The Hill, President Trump said on November 17 that Thailand will eliminate all tariffs on U.S. exports and remove substantial nontariff barriers on a number of products as part of a trade deal the two countries will be finalizing. Trump and Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul signed a joint statement saying they have "reached substantial conclusion" in their trade negotiations.

Mexico Economic Outlook: BBVA Research's recent report raises their 2026 growth forecast for Mexico to 1.4% after a stronger second quarter, driven by a gradual recovery in domestic demand. It also projects that headline and core inflation will close the year at 3.7% and 3.8%. Formal job creation shows a gradual recovery, while real wage gains support the wage bill; BBVA has revised their employment growth forecasts upward to 1.5% for 2026 and 2.1% for 2027.

U.S. Container Imports Hit Record 2.67 Million TEUs in October as Port Delays Rise: *Freight Waves* reports containerized imports through U.S ports reached a record 2.67 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in October, pushing volumes above the previous peak set during the pandemic-era surge. Rising shipments from China and a rebound at East and Gulf Coast ports fueled the record, according to Descartes data.

Rigging The Game: How China Undermined Western Manufacturing and Helped Hollow Out American Industry: Recently released by the House Select Committee on China, this bipartisan report focuses on four case studies: the biomanufacturing, aerospace, semiconductor, and machine tool industries. Through these case studies, it details the painful consequences of American deindustrialization while analyzing the CCP's deliberate central planning system to jumpstart its manufacturing base.

Ranked: Government Debt by Country in 2026: This *Visual Capitalist* graphic breaks down projected government debt by country in 2026, based on the International Monetary Fund's October 2026 World Economic Outlook. Global government gross debt is projected to reach $121 trillion in 2026, equivalent to 94.6% of world GDP. The U.S. and China account for nearly 53% of the total, with a combined $63.9 trillion in debt.

EXIM Announces $99 Million Loan to Boost U.S. Locomotive Production: On November 19 the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) announced financing for a $99M loan to Grupo Ferroviario Mexicano to support the modernization of 30 locomotives by Progress Rail, a Caterpillar company. This loan is expected to boost reliance on U.S.-manufactured transportation across the continent by putting EMD locomotives on the backbone of Mexico's freight network.

Help Shape the Future of Small Business Exporting: The National Small Business Association and the EXIM Bank have partnered to develop a survey on how exporting policies and realities are impacting small businesses' opportunities to participate in the global market. Your input helps NSBA better understand what business owners are facing and strengthens its ability to advocate on behalf of small businesses nationwide.

CBP Expands CTPAT and Broker Requirements for Foreign Importers: Barnes Richardson reports Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has issued an interim final rule that establishes heightened requirements for "foreign importers of record (FIORs)" and imposes new verification obligations on customs brokers. The rule implements Executive Order 14411, Strengthening Customs Enforcement, and aims to improve CBP's ability to identify foreign importers, collect unpaid duties, and enforce U.S. customs laws.

Surprising (Almost) No One, the US Trade Deficit Is Back to Pre-Tariff Levels: Writing for the Cato Institute, Scott Lincicome and Chad Smitson observe: …despite more than a year of historically high tariffs and after wild pre- and post-tariff gyrations, the nominal US trade deficit was actually higher in August than before this administration's grand tariff experiment began last spring—just as trade economists and other experts predicted before the tariffs began.

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.

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: Ther *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.

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Nov. 23 ***UN Procurement Explained: How Companies Can Compete and Win***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will offer an overview of the UN's more than $27 billion procurement market. An expert will share insights into the organization's demand for goods and services. The presentation will explain how to get started with UN procurement, give tips for winning UN tenders, and provide resources for support. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6knu2dd.

Nov. 24 ***Country of Origin and Rules of Origin Explained***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will demonstrate how country of origin is determined for duty assessment, government procurement, and preferential trade programs. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/u9au8dw.

Nov. 24 ***Next Steps for the USMCA and US Trade: A Post-election Review***. Virtual event sponsored by the Peterson Institute for International Economics. PIIE experts **Chad P. Bown**, **Inu Manak**, and **Alejandro Werner** will provide an update on the state of the trade and economic relationships among the three countries as well as potential US legislative initiatives in the new Congress. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://petersoninstituteforinternationaleconomics.formtitan.com/ftproject/event-registration-form?campaignid=701iM00000EbMZPQA3&type=gen&contact_id=.

Nov. 30 ***Exporting to Australia: What You Need to Know***. Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss key market opportunities in Australia, the practical advantages of exporting under the U.S.–Australia Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA), and how to leverage the agreement to reduce costs and increase sales. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CST. Fee: $89. For information & registration, please see: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/djapz36.

Dec. 1 ***INSIDE MEXICO'S INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN***. In-person roundtable sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Mid-America Chapter. The objective is to examine which sectors and projects are furthest along, how foreign and private capital can realistically participate under the new investment schemes, and the execution risks businesses should weigh before engaging. 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Wintrust, 231 South LaSalle Street, Chicago. USMCoC Members - $35; Non-members - $55. For information & registration, please see: https://www.usmcocma.org/event-details/inside-mexicos-infrastructure-investment-plan?utm_campaign=6709062c-0791-43af-ad9c-5fb74c078cd6&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=b3679a42-d0d8-41b9-8ecc-c72d9ebe6646.

Dec. 1 ***FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT WORKSHOP***. Program sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago in cooperation with the Illinois Economic Development Corporation. This session takes a practical look at investment in both directions: what brings international companies to Illinois, and what it takes for Illinois companies to succeed abroad. Topics: *Overview of Illinois inbound and outbound FDI*; *Illinois companies abroad*; *Case study: Illinois inbound*; *Case study: Illinois outbound*. 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., 333 North Michigan Avenue, 4th Floor, Chicago. Members - $20; Non-members - $35. For information & registration, please see: https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6906934.

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://sabcnow.com/#.

Dec. 2 ***CROSS BORDER LOGISTICS SUMMIT***. Virtual event sponsored by Freight Waves. Cross-border freight is no longer just about moving goods; it's about moving data, and the momentum behind regionalized supply chains is no longer just a projection—it is a reality. Mexico solidified its position as the ultimate U.S. trading partner, reaching a record-breaking $872.8 billion in two-way cross-border commerce. As freight volumes continue to surge along critical border choke points, logistics leaders are facing an entirely new set of operational demands. Topics: *Navigating the Border Capacity Crunch*; *Tariffs, Regulations, and the USMCA Review*; *Mitigating High-Velocity Cargo Security Risks*; *Next-Gen Cross-Border Automation*; *Solving the Bi-National Driver and Equipment Shortage*; *Zero-Trust Security*; *The Sustainable Border*. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://live.freightwaves.com/cross-border-logistics-summit-2026.

Dec. 2 ***AMBASSADOR INSIGHT SERIES: GUYANA – EMERGING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ROAD AHEAD***. Webinar sponsored by the Bilateral Chamber. U.S. Ambassador to Guyana, T.H. **Nicole D. Theriot**, shares her insight and perspective on the U.S.–Guyana economic relationship, the investment and business climate, emerging opportunities for American companies, and the role of U.S. commercial engagement in supporting Guyana's economic diversification. Hon. **Deodat Indar**, the Minister of Public Utilities and Aviation (invited), will also highlight business and commercial opportunities for U.S. companies. 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For registration, please see: https://web.cvent.com/event/0c1454af-dbcd-4664-91b7-7b53bdc9dbc0/register?environment=P2.

Dec. 2 ***NAVIGATING A NEW ERA OF CROSS-BORDER BUSINESS***. Virtual program sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest with support from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Whether your organization is seeking growth opportunities, managing international operations, raising capital, or evaluating market entry strategies, this discussion will provide timely insights and practical perspectives for today's changing business environment. Speakers: **Brian B. Su**, Founder & President, Artisan Business Group; **Chris Renn**, Managing Director, Family Office Advisory Affiliate of Regiment Securities; **David Nealis** (Moderator), CEO, Ceres Ltd. 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For registration, please see: https://hktdc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_y4ozcfVBQVOR1Ztc8ZR2mg#/registration.

Dec. 2 ***OCEAN MARKET PREDICTIONS FOR 2027***. Webinar, sponsored by Flexport, features an expert panel exploring key predictions and scenarios for 2027. Topics include: How to build a 2027 ocean plan and budget that holds up in every scenario; How to diversify across carriers and services, choosing on real door-to-door performance; Smart contracting in a volatile market: spot, FAK (freight all kinds), index-linked, fixed, and freight futures and options; What tariffs, customs changes and sourcing shifts mean for your 2027 routing. 10:00 a.m. CST. No feel advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://webinars.flexport.com/ocean-predictions-2027/?utm_source=flexport&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wbn-2026-12-02-global-ocean-predictions&utm_content=2.

Dec. 2 ***AEROSPACE & DEFENSE: MEXICO'S DEFENSE PRIORITIES***. Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will discuss Mexico's defense priorities and requirements and how participation in FAMEX 2027 can help position your company before relevant government and industry stakeholders. The session will feature representatives from the U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Military Group, the Mexican Federation of the Aerospace Industry (FEMIA) and the President of FAMEX's Organizing Committee. 11:00 a.m. CST. Fee: $25. For registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/UnlockingOpportunitiesinMexicosDefenseSector-9884-/purchase.php.

Dec. 2 ***MITA & MCFR ANNUAL HOLIDAY NETWORKING RECEPTION***. Sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association in collaboration with the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations, this event brings together exporters, importers, logistics experts, and compliance specialists from across the region. Expand your professional network, discuss emerging market trends and regulatory changes, and exchange insights with fellow trade leaders in a celebratory setting. 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Rotunda Café, Lake Ridge Bank Atrium, 1965 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI. MITA Members – No fee; Non-members - $30. For information & registration, please see: https://mitatrade.org/event_item/mita-mcfr-annual-holiday-networking-reception/.

Dec. 3 - 4 ***US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND SECURITY MISSION: 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=8oPRoXtsmk25lF8vMbP3gFvKtDYUBvdIgGFMziersuZUQzVVMjBaTUtDT0pCVVQ1SEdZN1laT0FTWS4u.

Dec. 3 ***THE 2027 COMPETITIVE EDGE: DIGITAL VISIBILITY, AI TOOLS & SMARTER SALES STRATEGIES***. Webinar sponsored by the North Dakota Trade Office in partnership with IBT Online. This is a practical, forward-looking session designed to help North Dakota businesses build a clear strategy for 2027. Topics: *Get found in the new search landscape*; *AISO, GEO and LLM visibility*; *The new buyer journey*; *Your digital authority*; *AI-powered marketing*; *Smarter sales enablement*; *From individual tools to AI workflows*; *Your 2027 priorities*. 10:00 a.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://info.ibt.onl/2027-competitive-edge-ai-visibility-sales-ndto.

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=8jQOrobaIqlBV3uQwO5UaJ7YwoqwsPWQw7G9r9V22yb4MUJxhqLM9w==.

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Dec. 5 - 15 ***SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E. & EGYPT TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) s leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration deadline: **September 18, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/saudi-arabia-uae-and-egypt-trade-mission-2026/.

Dec. 6 - Apr. 18 ***CUSTOMS BROKERAGE LICENSE NATIONWIDE PREPARATION WORKSHOP - APRIL 2027 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 - 8 ***US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL AEROSPACE, DEFENSE, AND SECURITY MISSION: 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. 8 ***10TH CGCC CHICAGO ANNUAL GALA 2026***. Sponsored by the China General Chamber of Commerce Chicago, the event is a premier gathering of senior business executives, government officials, diplomatic representatives, and community leaders dedicated to strengthening U.S.–China economic and cultural ties. 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago. Fees from $1,068.91. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-cgcc-chicago-annual-gala-2026-tickets-2000315724178?aff=oddtdtcreator.

Dec. 9 - 11 ***ARGENTINA OIL, GAS AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE CERTIFIED TRADE MISSION***. Sponsored 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/.

Dec. 9 ***CBP PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY***. Sponsored by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Chicago Field Office (CFO) Academies Team, this event will include presentations from key CBP personnel located in Chicago and may include the Base Metals CEE, USDA, FPF and potentially a tour of DHL or the International Mail Facility/Terminal 5. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., US Customs Rosemont, 5600 Pearl Street, Rosemont, IL. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OneDayAcademyRegister.

Dec. 9 ***FROM A KITCHEN PROBLEM TO A GLOBAL BRAND: TAKING FRYAWAY ACROSS BORDERS***. Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Laura Lady**, Founder & CEO, FryAway®, who will discuss: *How to turn an everyday problem nobody talks about into a product people want*; *Using Amazon as a launchpad into new countries*; *Adapting your product line, pricing and packaging market by market*; *Building a lean team of contractors across countries and time zones*; *Lessons learned on inventory and choosing which markets to enter first*. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4504482994534875991?mc_cid=18b713ff9c&mc_eid=6499c7d108.

Dec. 9 ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING – CHRISTKINDLMARKET CHICAGO AT DALEY PLAZA***. Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**. Join us at the Grand Timber Haus inside Chicago's iconic Christkindlmarket for an evening of networking, conversation and the festive charm of the Christkindlmarket. 5:00 – 7:30 p.m., Christkindlmarket Chicago at Daley Plaza - at Grand Timber Haus. Members of sponsoring organizations - $59; Non-members - $69. For information & registration, please see: https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-christkindlmarket-chicago-at-daley-plaza.

Dec. 10 ***35TH ANNUAL STUDY OF LOGISTICS AND TRANSPORTATION TRENDS: TRUST, BUT VERIFY: LOGISTICS' NEXT OPERATING CHALLENGE***. Virtual session sponsored by *Logistics Management* and *Supply Chain Management Review*. The research team behind the *35th Annual Study of Logistics and Transportation Trends* will examine how the industry is moving from AI awareness to widespread adoption—and why confidence, accountability and verification are emerging as the next major management challenges. The team will explore where logistics professionals place their trust and how changing fraud and cybersecurity risks are increasing the need for verification. 12:00 p.m. CST. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/5477201/3E60501B6E3EC395D80FCD3CB2FBCF1E?partnerref=ebstudyTR.

Dec. 10 ***CCBFA HOLIDAY PARTY 2026***. Networking event sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association. Celebrate the holiday season with CCBFA members, colleagues, and friends for an enjoyable evening of dinner, networking, and holiday cheer. 5:30 – 10:00 p.m., The Belvidere, 1170 West Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL. CCBFA Members - $100; Non-members - $120. For information & registration, please see: https://www.ccbfa.org/events/ccbfa-holiday-party-2026.

Dec. 10 ***HONG KONG HOLIDAY RECEPTION***. Event sponsored by the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, New York, and Garrett Brands. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Union League Club of Chicago, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. HKBAM Members - $50; Non-members - $75. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hong-kong-holiday-reception-tickets-2003721913181?aff=oddtdtcreator.

Feb. 10 - 17 ***SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: **November 4, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/south-africa-and-kenya-trade-mission-2027/.

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.

Mar. 1 - 4 ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS, BARCELONA, SPAIN***. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, invites qualified Illinois small businesses to exhibit within the Illinois Pavilion at Mobile World Congress 2027. The event is particularly relevant for companies developing Al, SG, loT, blockchain, quantum computing, mobile communications, lCT components and devices, systems, applications, and software solutions. Qualified Illinois companies will receive: Exhibit space within the Illinois Pavilion; One Gold Pass providing access to speaker sessions and high-level networking events; 25-75% reimbursement of eligible lodging and airfare expenses in accordance with ISTEP guidelines; Event briefing materials; Pre-show promotion through social media. Fee: $2,000. Application deadline: **December 11, 2026**. For information, please contact: riccardo.navon@illinois.gov.

Apr. 3 - 11 ***BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: **January 8, 2027**. For information & registration, please see: https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/brazil-and-paraguay-trade-mission-2027/.

Jun. 14 - 17 ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT PARIS AIR SHOW, PARIS, FRANCE***. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, invites qualified Illinois small businesses to co-exhibit on the Illinois stand within the USA Pavilion at the Paris Air Show. The show brings together key players from the civil, commercial, defense, and space sectors, providing Illinois companies with an opportunity to showcase their expertise and innovations, develop new commercial opportunities, and establish technological and industrial partnerships. Illinois companies selected for the mission will receive: Exhibit space within the Illinois Pavilion; 25-75% partial reimbursement of eligible lodging and airfare costs, in accordance with ISTEP program eligibility guidelines; Briefing materials; Pre-show promotion; B2B matchmaking services. Fee: $1,500. Application deadline: **February 26, 2027**. For information, please contact: riccardo.navon@illinois.gov.

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.

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