

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



2025- International Trade Overview

The California Chamber of Commerce is a broad-based non-profit membership organization through which business, industry and agriculture join forces to work for positive action on key legislation and regulatory issues affecting California's economic and job climate.

The organization, established in 1890, is the largest and most broadly based employer representative in Sacramento. Its members include more than 14,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, as well as 300 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations.

The California Chamber also offers a variety of services to help businesses comply with complex laws and regulations, as well as compete in the international marketplace.

Overview

The California Chamber supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

The CalChamber promotes subnational diplomacy, as it builds more layers and durability into the fabric of the United States' international partnerships and adds to the country's global diplomacy by building lasting relationships among leaders at many levels.

International activities include:

1. Monitoring state and federal legislative issues as well as bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations that are beneficial to international business.
2. Assisting members with general export and import activities.
3. Serving as a clearinghouse for exchange of information on international trade.
4. Maintaining liaison with government agencies and private organizations domestically and abroad.
5. Stimulating cooperation among members by encouraging exchange of information, experiences and opinions related to international trade.
6. Sponsoring/co-sponsoring appropriate international trade and investment missions, trade shows and catalog shows.
7. Hosting/co-hosting appropriate incoming trade and investment missions.
8. Sponsoring/co-sponsoring appropriate international trade events, conferences, educational programs, workshops and seminars.
9. Helping create an international atmosphere among California Chamber members to foster better understanding of international trade.

Council for International Trade

- **The CalChamber Council for International Trade expands California's voice on trade.** The Council boosts the ability of California businesses and organizations to advocate sound international business policies.
- **The CalChamber Council for International Trade is focused on sound policy.** The Council works with state and federal administrations and lawmakers to influence international business policies that support California's global success, job creation and sustainability.
- **Leadership on these issues is more important than ever.** California business and trade leadership on domestic and global issues remains a key in fostering California competitiveness.

Chamber Positions

Overall, recognizing the current U.S. and California trade deficits, the California Chamber:

- **Supports** achieving and maintaining a stable and competitive relationship between the U.S. dollar and the currencies of our major trading partners.
- **Supports** actions designed to eliminate barriers that impede U.S. and California commerce domestically and abroad by aggressively negotiating fair and equitable market access for California agriculture, manufactured products and services.
- **Promotes** the education of California's citizens, legislators and businesses about the benefit of trade to the state's economy.

Legislative Issues

The California Chamber of Commerce has supported a number of state and federal programs, but it should be noted that the Chamber also dissuades the introduction of legislation that is unnecessary, unconstitutional or violates existing trade agreements. The Chamber:

- **Opposes** protectionist-oriented legislation that will result in higher prices to the consumer for the specific product protected and in limited choices of products for consumers. Protectionist legislation causes a net loss of jobs in related industries, retaliation by our trading partners, and violates provisions of the World Trade Organization, as well as free trade agreements.
- **Opposes** state and local legislation that imposes sanctions on businesses that are engaged in trade with foreign countries and/or conflict with federal international policies.
- **Supports** legislation to allow California companies to compete more effectively in foreign markets, as well as to attract foreign business to California.

The CalChamber supports a National Free Trade Agenda with Trade being a priority:

- Support US engagement in the World Trade Organization to make it a meaningful forum while supporting efforts to ensure our trading partners adhere to fair and transparent trade practices while being held accountable if they violate international rules.
- Seek commercially meaningful outcomes in negotiations with regions around the world: the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Africa.
- Support renewal of Trade Promotion Authority enabling the United States to easily pursue new trade deals.
- Press for bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade agreements — which are critical to consumers, workers, businesses, farmers and ranchers.
- Continue focus on lowering tariffs and nontariff barriers to support the expansion of American exports.
- Support full funding of the federal international affairs budget to advance U.S. economic interests, national security, and humanitarian values.

California Coalition for Free Trade

The [**California Coalition for Free Trade**](#) is a broad-based group of CalChamber companies and business organizations working to secure a national free trade agenda.

California Chamber of Commerce Represented on:

- National & District Export Councils (appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce)
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce's International Policy Committee
- California International Relations Foundation
- California Diplomacy Foundation
- Chile – California Council

California Chamber Trade and Investment Missions

As part of the California Chamber's ongoing effort to promote international trade and investment opportunities for California businesses, members of the Board of Directors, International Trade Committee and Chamber officials have participated in missions abroad in conjunction with the opening of the state's former trade and investment offices in China, Tokyo, London, Mexico City, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Johannesburg.

Members and Chamber officials also have participated in international trade events in Expo '86 in Vancouver, Expo '88 in Brisbane, Japan, Korea, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Chile and the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Further, California Chamber Board members and officials have accompanied California Governors to various worldwide destinations, including Mexico City, Canada, Japan, Australia, Southeast Asia, Europe, China/Hong Kong and South Korea.

California Chamber International Website

Detailed information vital to the businesses that make California one of the largest exporting states in the nation and one of the ten largest economies in the world is available on the **international trade section of the California Chamber website** at <http://www.calchamber.com/international>.

The international trade web page outlines the Chamber's activities to assist members with general export and import needs. The international web page also covers trade legislation/ issues, answers to frequently asked questions, web links to additional international trade organizations, and trade statistics.

Trade Update Newsletter

The Council for International Trade Update, an e-newsletter from the CalChamber Council for International Trade, is an easy-to-scan digest of the latest news and information about trade policy.

Each weekly newsletter features:

- International headlines
- U.S. trade policy updates
- Relevant information compiled from:
 - *the White House;*
 - *U.S. Department of State;*
 - *U.S. Department of Commerce;*
 - *U.S. Trade Representative;*
 - *World Bank;*
 - *International Monetary Fund;*
 - *World Trade Organization;*
 - *CalChamber Alert;*
 - *CalChamber Daily Headlines; and*
 - *Hundreds of newspapers worldwide.*
- A place for readers to post worldwide events of interest to international trade practitioners.

To be added to the subscriber list for the free e-newsletter, please email us at international@calchamber.com

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