

### [Government Shutdown Disrupts And Delays Various Trade Agency Functions](#)

The federal government is, thankfully, back open for business. But the sixteen day shutdown, which disrupted a broad array of U.S. trade agency functions, will continue to have ramifications for months to come as federal agencies extend deadlines and work through backlogs. [More »](#)

### [China Launches Pilot Free Trade Zone In Shanghai](#)

On September 29, 2013, China officially opened another special zone in its ongoing economic reform, China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone ("the Pilot Free Trade Zone"). Integrating four existing bonded zones in Shanghai, Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone, Waigaoqiao Free Trade Logistics Park, Yangshan Free Trade Port Area, and Pudong Airport Comprehensive Free Trade Zone, the Pilot Free Trade Zone covers an area of 11 square miles. At the opening ceremony, 25 Chinese domestic companies and 11 foreign-invested companies were granted business licenses. [More »](#)

### ["Reshoring" Gaining Momentum Among U.S. Manufacturers](#)

U.S. manufacturers have moved millions of jobs overseas in search of cheaper labor, less expensive production processes, and a stronger bottom line. In recent months, however, American companies have started to bring some of these jobs back to the United States. This phenomenon, called "reshoring," is occurring due to higher costs of manufacturing in other countries and the increasing economic and other benefits of production in the United States. A brief look at reshoring and the factors that drive it demonstrate that U.S. manufacturers are in a prime position to bring more jobs and production back to the United States. [More »](#)

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#### News Of Note

- **Wal-Mart Commits To Increasing American-Made Products In Its Stores** – Wal-Mart recently committed to purchase \$50 billion worth of goods made in the United States over the next 10 years. According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), Wal-Mart has already committed to sell socks, towels, candles, light bulbs, and battery-operated toy cars manufactured in the United States. [More »](#)

- **The United States and Japan Streamline Trade In Organic Products With Equivalency Arrangement** – The United States and Japan exchanged letters on September 26, 2013 creating an Equivalency Arrangement for trade in organic products between the two countries. Beginning on January 1, 2014, organic products certified in the U.S. or Japan may be sold as organic in either country. [More »](#)
- **Arun Kumar Nominated For Director Of Commercial Service** – On October 4, 2013, President Obama nominated Arun M. Kumar to serve as Director General of the U.S. Commercial Service and Foreign Commercial Service, part of Commerce. A member of the board of directors at KPMG LLP, Mr. Kumar led the firm's West Coast Finance Management Consulting and US-India practices prior to his nomination. [More »](#)
- **First Round Of Export Control Reform Takes Effect** – On October 15, 2013, the first set of final rules of the Obama administration's Export Control Reform Initiative went into effect. Currently, most exports are subject to one of the following export control regulations: the International Traffic in Arms Regulations ("ITAR"), administered by the State Department, or the Export Administration Regulations ("EAR"), administered by the Commerce Department. [More »](#)

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