

### American Manufacturers See Increase In Orders

A report published by the U.S. Department of Commerce ("Commerce") in July stated that orders to U.S. factories rose in May. According to the report, the increase in orders was caused, in part, by increased business investment over the last three months. Contributing to May's increase in factory orders were orders for aircraft, machinery, computers, and household appliances. [More »](#)

### Ways And Means Conducts Hearing On Trade With Brazil

Following Vice President Biden's trip to Brazil in May 2013, U.S.-Brazilian trade relations were discussed at a Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee hearing on June 12, 2013. At that hearing, Chairman Devin Nunes declared his intention to draft a bill to elevate and streamline various existing U.S.-Brazilian bilateral dialogues into one overarching Strategic Economic Dialogue. According to Chairman Nunes, the vast number of bilateral dialogues between the United States and Brazil currently in existence (approx. 30) "lack common branding and a common schedule which undermines visibility," in addition to simply being "a little confusing." Going forward, Chairman Nunes also anticipates closer involvement with Michael Froman, the recently appointed United States Trade Representative ("USTR"), sworn in on June 21, 2013. [More »](#)

### GAO Publishes Study On Counterfeit And Pirated Goods

The Government Accountability Office ("GAO") published the testimony of Chief Economist Susan Offutt prepared for the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee on July 9, 2013. The testimony discusses the importance of strong intellectual property rights enforcement to the overall economic health of the United States, given the relatively recent increase of incidents involving pirated and counterfeited intellectual property. [More »](#)

### News Of Note

- **China Issues Guidelines On Financial Support** – The State Council of China published its *Guidelines on Financial Supports for Economic Structural Adjustment, Transformation, and Upgrade* on July 5, an important directive for Chinese financial institutions. Continuing its prior monetary policy, the Chinese government mandates financial institutions to increase the marketization of interest rates. [More »](#)

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- **TTIP Negotiations Begin** – Over 150 European and American Trade negotiators began the first formal negotiation round for the TransAtlantic Trade and Investment Partnership ("TTIP") agreement in Washington, DC on July 8, 2013. If the agreement is successful, it will create the biggest bilateral free trade zone in the world. [More »](#)
- **Annual Review Results Of GSP Program Announced As Deadline Looms To Extend The Program** – The Obama administration announced the results of the 2012 Annual Review under the Generalized System of Preferences ("GSP") program on June 26, 2013. The GSP program offers duty-free treatment to imports into the United States from developing countries. [More »](#)
- **Commerce Initiates New AD/CVD Investigations** – Commerce recently initiated antidumping ("AD") and countervailing duty ("CVD") investigations on products from numerous countries. [More »](#)

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## Contacts

Gilbert B. Kaplan  
gkaplan@kslaw.com  
+1 202 661 7981

Jeffrey M. Telep  
jtelep@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2390

Taryn Koball Williams  
taryn\_williams@kslaw.com  
+1 202 661 7895

P. Lee Smith  
lsmith@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2940

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