

Country Report November 2025

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Organization: Precision Metalforming Association

Country: United States

U.S. Economy September 2025

General Indicators

- **Basic interest rate:** The Federal Reserve lowered interest rates in September to a range of 4.00% to 4.25%. This was the first interest rate cut of 2025, with expectations for further adjustments in the next few months.
- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** increased 0.4% in August with an overall inflation rate of 2.9% over the past year.
- Institute for Supply Management's **U.S. manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI)** was 49.1% in September 2025, increasing from 48.7% the previous month. It was the seventh straight month that the PMI remained below a reading of 50, indicating contraction in manufacturing.

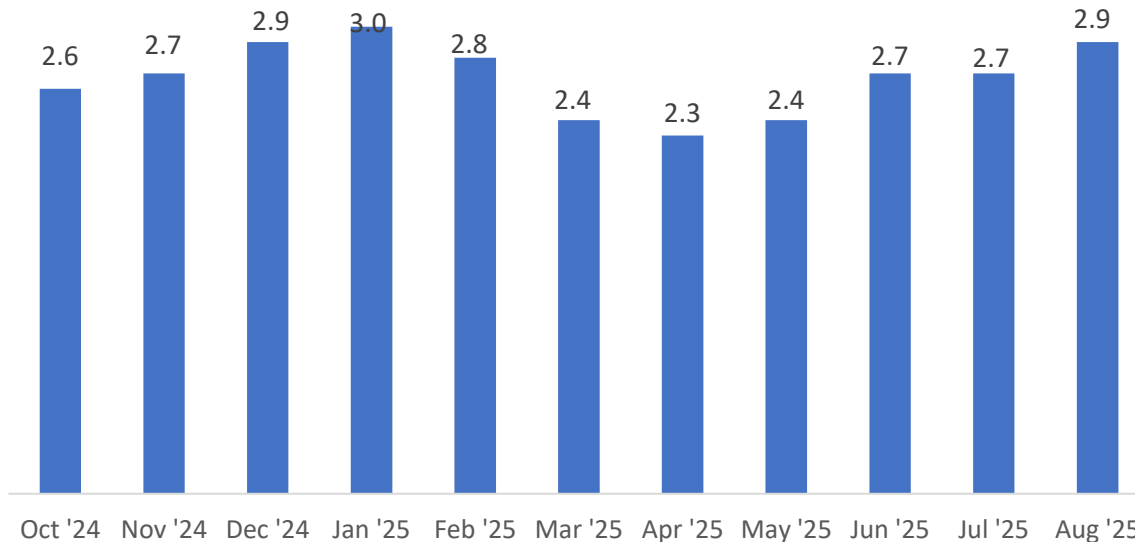
U.S. Economy

Data from August 2025

Inflation

The annualized inflation rate for the United States was 2.9% for the 12 months ended August 2025.

U.S. Inflation Rates Over the Last Year

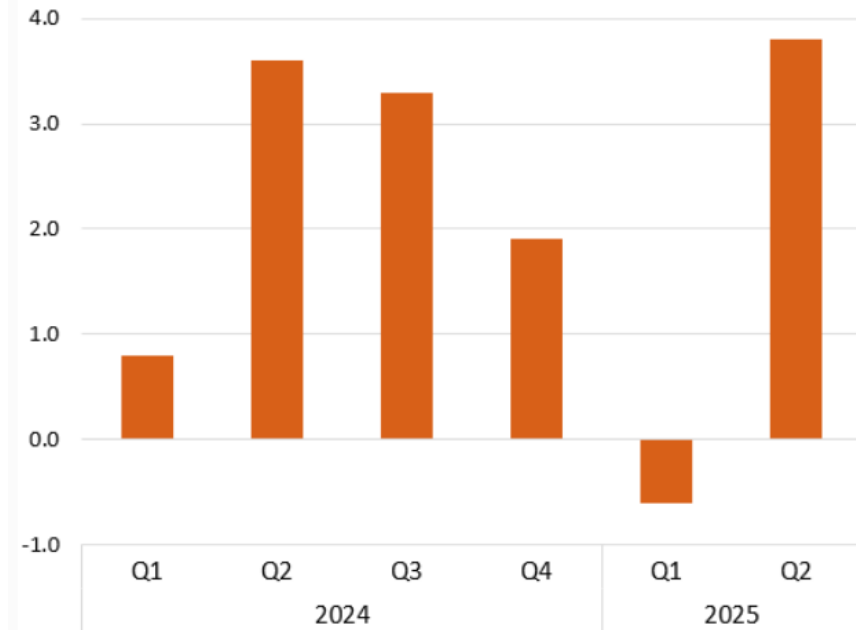


U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

GDP

GDP grew by an annualized 3.8% in Q2 2025, an increase from -0.6% in Q1 2025.

Real GDP, Percent Change From Preceding Quarter



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Seasonally adjusted annual rates

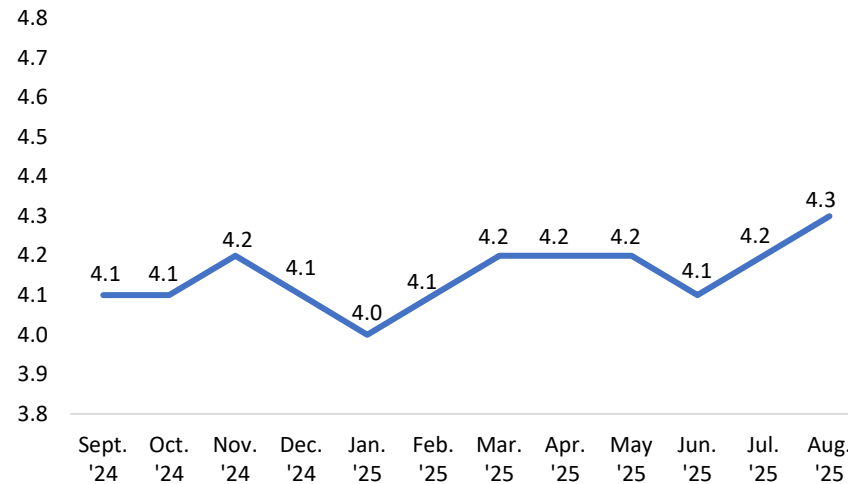
U.S. Economy

Data from August 2025

Unemployment Rate

Overall, the U.S. unemployment rate has held steady during the 12 months, ranging from 4.1 to 4.3%.

U.S. Unemployment Rate in the Last 12 Months



Employment Rate

In August 2025, there were 159.54 million people employed on nonfarm payrolls in the United States, up from 158.07 million one year ago.

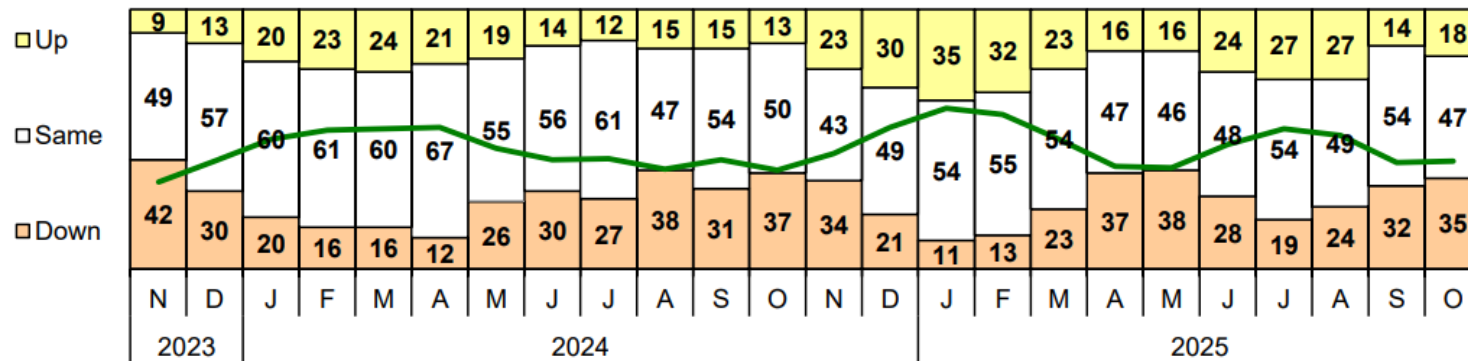
In August 2025, the **manufacturing sector** employed 12,722,000 people—a decline of approximately 12,000 workers compared to July 2025.

U.S. Economy October 2025

Data from PMA's October 2025 Business Conditions Survey

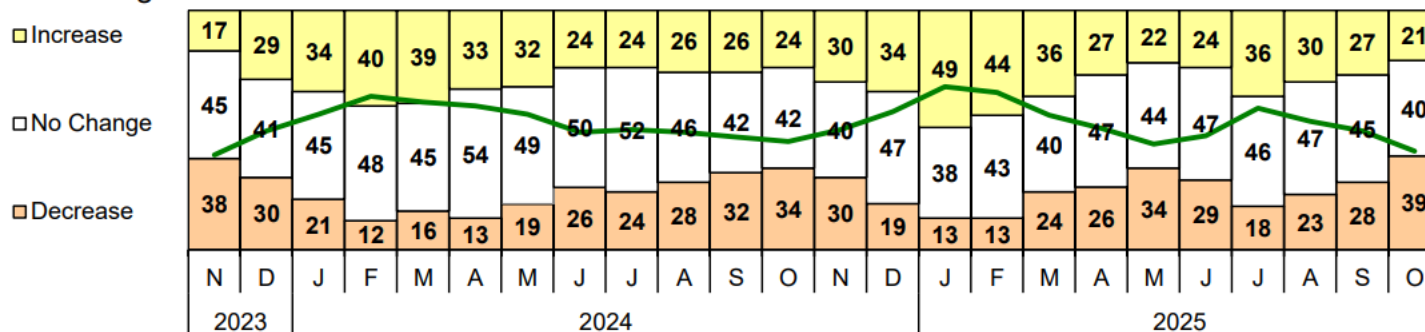
PMA members' forecast for economic activity is less optimistic than it was a few months ago:

Compared with today, the trend of general economic activity for the next 3 months is expected to be:



Expectations for incoming orders have fallen in four consecutive months:

Compared with the last 3 months, what do you expect the trend to be in your incoming orders during the next 3 months:

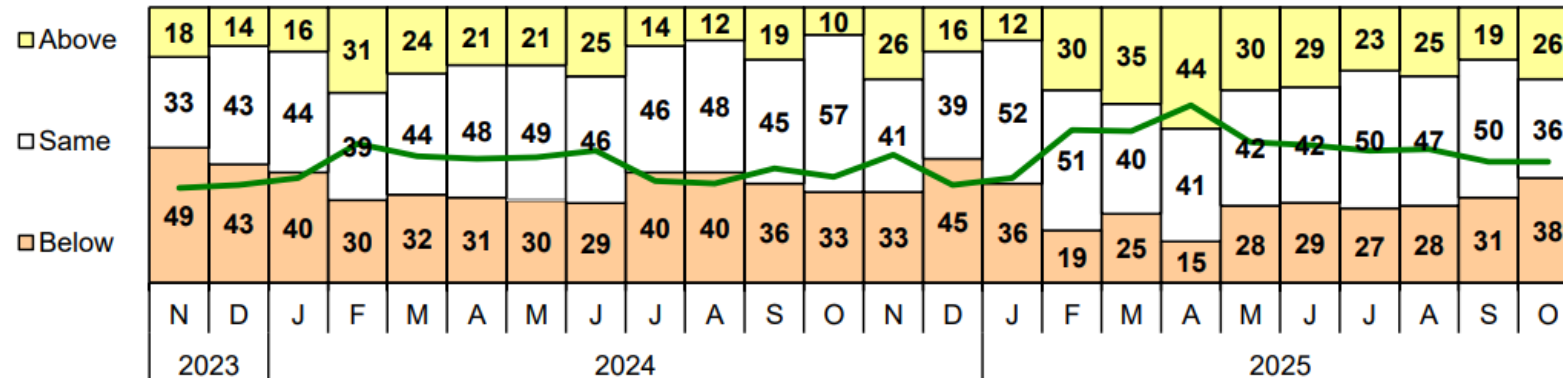


U.S. Economy October 2025

Data from PMA's October 2025 Business Conditions Survey

After a spike in average daily shipping levels in April, shipping levels declined and have remained fairly steady:

Compared to 3 months ago, current average daily shipping levels are:



Other key findings in October:

- 29% of companies are currently expanding their workforce.
- 8% of companies had a portion of their workforce on short time or layoff in October, compared to 11% in September.

Tariffs

- Tariffs remain a top priority issue for the Trump Administration, with ongoing implications for manufacturers and supply chains.
- Tariffs are hurting some suppliers while helping others depending on their markets.
- PMA is actively engaging policymakers to mitigate the impact of tariffs on members — including advocating for the reduction or removal of tariffs on materials and components not produced domestically.
- PMA also supports our members by providing timely updates, analysis and guidance to help navigate U.S. trade and tariff policy.

Tariff Laws Apply Differently

Tariff	Abbrev	Applies To:
International Emergency Economic Powers Act	IEEPA	Countries (reciprocal, border, opioid)
Section 232 Nat'l Security Trade Expansion Act of 1962	232	Specific Products, Derivatives, Parts
Sec. 301 China Tech Transfer	301	10,000 HTS lines
Section 301 China	Ships	Built, owned, operated
Section 301 Trade Policy	Brazil	Brazil



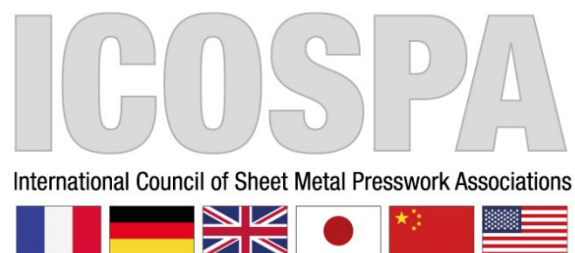
International Council of Sheet Metal Presswork Associations



Current Tariff Rates as of October 20, 2025



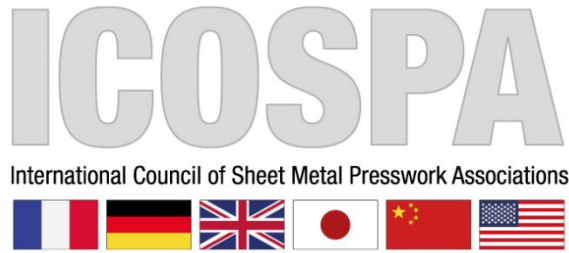
Country	Rate	Notes
Brazil	50%	Combined tariff rate; 301 pending
Canada	35%	Exempts USMCA qualified goods
China	30-95%	10% reciprocal; 20% opioid; 7.5% or 25% 301 tariff, 232
European Union	15%	Includes General Duty rates; lower auto; no aero
India	50%	25% reciprocal in effect; 25% “Russia oil” on August 27
Indonesia	19%	Transshipment provision; “not domestically produced”
Japan	15%	Includes General Duty rates; no 232 steel tariff deal
Mexico	25%	Status quo extension; no tariffs on USMCA auto
South Korea	15%	Still no agreement on 232 steel, aluminum 50% tariffs
United Kingdom	15%	Still no agreement on 232 steel, aluminum 50% tariffs
Vietnam	20%	40% rate on transshipped goods



232 Industry Tariffs in Effect on Goods as of October 20, 2025



Product	Scope	Status
Steel	Chapter 72, articles in Chapter 73; Select goods made of steel	50%
Aluminum	Most of Chapter 76; Select goods made of aluminum	50%
Copper	Copper; Copper Alloys; Select Products made of Copper	50%
Autos, Automotive Parts	Autos, select automotive parts (scope possibly expanded in 2025)	25%



U.S. Adds Steel, Aluminum Parts to Tariffs



- Who:** Exports from any country, including Canada, Mexico, China
- What:** Importers may request tariff “inclusions” up to 3 times per year
- Latest (Aug. 18) round added 400+ imports
 - Steel/aluminum content: 50% tariff
 - Other content is subject to exporting country’s reciprocal tariff rate (10-41%)
- When:** Next Inclusion Request Window is January 1-14, 2026
- How:** Importers report metal, non-metal material value
50% tariff and reciprocal tariffs apply upon entry/withdrawal

Energy

- Deregulation has helped and oil production has increased; reserves are still low.
- LNG export capacity is expected to increase another 2.4 billion cubic feet per day (BCF/D) by January 2026.
- Gas demand is expected to increase by 1.3 BCF/D in 2026.
- House Democrats have introduced a bill to remove barriers to clean energy investments.
- White House and Department of Energy announced \$625 million investment in the coal industry.

Supply Chain

- Suppliers are having to deal with risk landscape defined by trade uncertainty, rare earth restrictions, regulatory enforcement, and new customer terms.
 - > Material dependency in the supply chain for earth materials and semiconductor chips
 - > Prep for stricter enforcement of the Ughar Forced Labor Prevention Act requiring traceability beyond Tier 1 causing more constraints and penalties.
 - > Suppliers having to plan around logistics bottlenecks and global trade shifts such as EU CBAM and USMCA sourcing rules.
 - > Customers changing contract terms with amendments allowing buyer to extend term of contract, ending fixed term contracts that allowed suppliers clarity on program end dates.

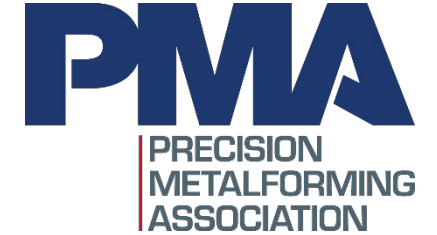


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Material Supply

Steel Pricing and Production Trends



U.S. Hot-Rolled Band prices declined in October 2025 after falling for the fifth consecutive time.

U.S. HRB is \$469 per metric tonne more expensive than in China and \$204 per metric tonne higher than in Western Europe.

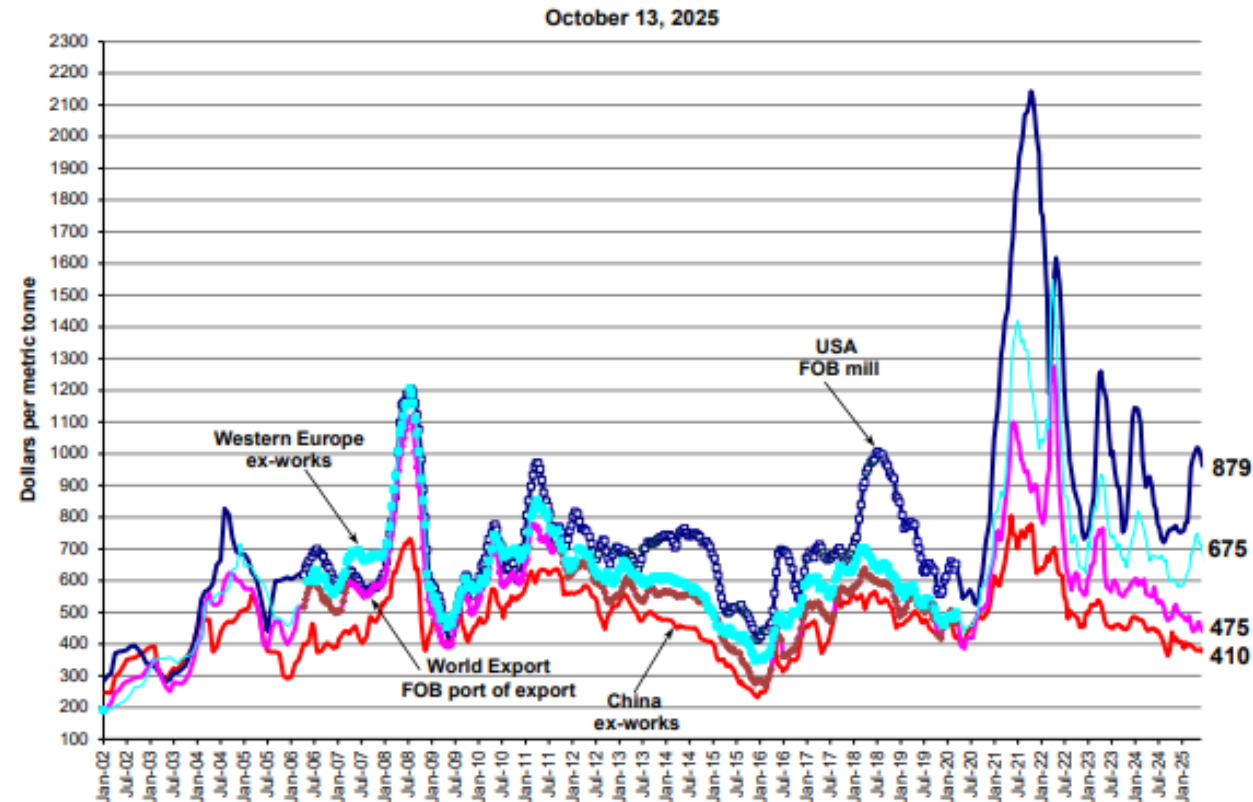
Through October 11, year-to-date domestic raw steel production was at a 77.0% capability utilization rate, a 2.5% increase from the same period last year.

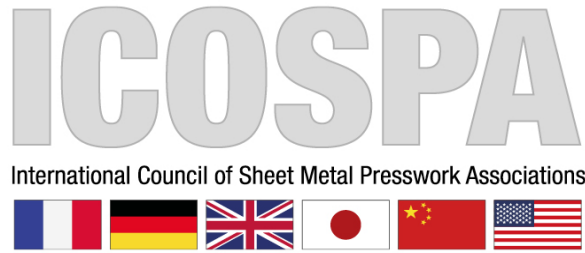
Pricing information: SteelBenchmarkr, 10/13/25
Production information: AISI, 10/11/25

SteelBenchmarker™ HRB Price

USA, China, Western Europe and World Export

(WSD's PriceTrack data, Jan. 2002 - March 2006; SteelBenchmarker data begins April 2006)





Trade Association Activities

- Membership continues to be strong. We are currently at 925 members, with a 97% retention rate.
- PMA's annual meeting, the Forming Our Future conference, was held in Puerto Rico in March with a 300+ attendees. Next year's event will take place in Tucson, AZ, on March 11-14, 2026. FABTECH USA was held in Chicago, IL, in September—more than 42,000 attendees and 1,700 exhibitors.
- and 1,700 exhibiting companies. FABTECH Mexico took place in May in Monterrey and was also a success.
- Upcoming FABTECH shows will take place in Mexico City, Mexico, May 12-14, 2026; in Toronto, Canada, June 9-11, 2026; and in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, October 21-23, 2026.
- Workforce Development and EDU are still a major priority. There continues to be high demand for technical training, in particular from Tier Ones and large companies.
- We also are developing four apprenticeship programs—stamping press operator, die setter, roll forming technician, and tool and die maintenance and troubleshooting.
- We are creating a strategic plan for the association for the next few years. The first items of focus are on membership engagement, workforce development, our new association management system, and ICOSPA.

PMA Hosting Upcoming ICOSPA Events



ICOSPA

International Council of Sheet Metal Presswork Associations



PMA looks forward to hosting the 2027 ICOSPA International Congress as well the 2026 and 2028 Presidents Council meetings!

It is important that all ICOSPA member countries participate and encourage their members to attend the 2027 Congress, not only for the success of PMA and the United States, but also for future U.S. involvement in ICOSPA.

ICOSPA Presidents Council Meeting

September 22-24, 2026



- Taking place at the Meson De Santa Rosa Hotel in Queretaro, Mexico
- Schedule at a glance:

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

1:00-5:00 p.m. – Presidents Council Meeting
6:30-8:30 p.m. – Welcome Reception and Dinner

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Plant Tours
Dinner on own

Thursday, September 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Plant Tours
6:00-8:00 p.m. – Farewell Dinner

- Plant tour planning is in progress – Kirchhoff, Batesville, NASG (confirmed), Ulbrich/Ulbrinox (request), 5th location (TBD)
- No more than 3 representatives per country
- Spouse event? Who will bring a spouse?

22nd ICOSPA International Congress

September 15-17, 2027 – Chicago, Illinois, USA



- Congress to be held at the Intercontinental Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel the same week as the FABTECH tradeshow (FABTECH takes place Sept. 13-16, 2027)
- Congress schedule at a glance:

Monday, September 13, 2027

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Optional: Visit FABTECH (on your own)

Tuesday, September 14, 2027

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Optional: Visit FABTECH (on your own)

6:00-8:00 p.m. – Optional Reception for Early Arrivals

Wednesday, September 15, 2027

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Optional: Non-Presidents Council Attendees Can Visit FABTECH (on your own)

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Presidents Council Meeting

1:00-4:00 p.m. – Congress Opening Session

6:00-9:00 p.m. – Themed Reception and Dinner

Thursday, September 16, 2027

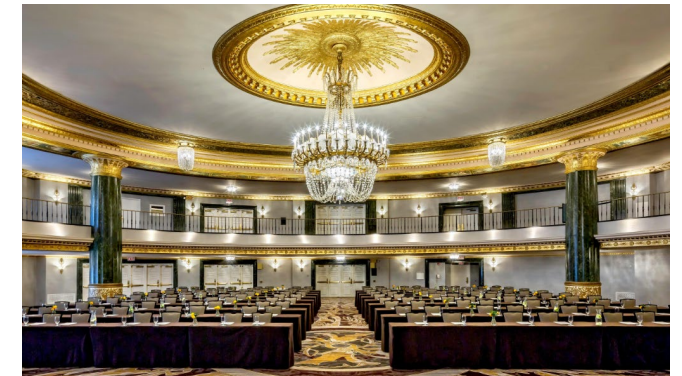
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Plant Tours

Evening on Own

Friday, September 17, 2027

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Congress Session with Keynotes

6:00-9:00 p.m. – Closing Gala



22nd ICOSPA International Congress Sponsorships

- Numerous sponsorship opportunities available ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000
- Sponsorship committee of PMA members has been formed to help sell sponsorships
- \$65,000 sold to date
- Two-page flyer and full sponsorship prospectus are available to share with interested companies

