



**U.S. International Trade Commission  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**



# SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

October 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026





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## UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON, DC 20436

May 20, 2026

### **Message from the Chair**

In accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 3 (IG Act), the U.S. International Trade Commission (“USITC,” or “Commission”) hereby transmits the USITC Inspector General Semiannual Report for the six-month period ending March 31, 2026.

The Commission appreciates the Inspector General’s continuing efforts to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity of the Commission’s operations. Our agency has benefitted greatly from the Inspector General’s analysis of our operations. The Office of Inspector General continually provides valuable assistance to the Commission and its staff throughout the year.

The Semiannual Report identifies the agency’s top management and performance challenges from the Inspector General’s perspective. The Commission agrees with the Inspector General’s prior assessment of these challenges. The Commission appreciates the significant efforts and progress made by Commission staff to address these challenges during this period.

### **Actions Taken on IG Recommendations from Prior Year Reports**

The Commission has made significant progress on several management decisions made in response to the report issued by the Inspector General during prior years.<sup>1</sup> The Commission is committed to responding to the Inspector General’s recommendations in a timely manner as evidenced by the fact that there are currently no open management decisions over one year old.

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<sup>1</sup> See Table C of Appendix A: Chairman’s Statistical Tables.

We attach the statistical tables required under the IG Act as Appendix A to this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Karpel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "l".

Amy A. Karpel  
Chair



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## UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON, DC 20436

April 30, 2026

IG-YY-003

Commissioners:

I am pleased to present this Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. This report summarizes the major activities and accomplishments of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC or Commission), and its submission is in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Section 5 of the Inspector General Act requires that the Commission transmit this report to the appropriate committees or subcommittees of Congress within 30 days of receipt.

During this semiannual period, the OIG focused on statutorily mandated work, completing three reports: (1) the annual report on the USITC's management and performance challenges, (2) the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statement Audit Opinion, and (3) the charge card program risk assessment. A financial statement audit management letter was not required. We issued one recommendation to promote the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Commission's operations.

In the next reporting period, the OIG will conduct both mandated and discretionary audit work. The OIG will continue its discretionary audit of the Commission's badge access controls. The OIG's [\*Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Audit Plan\*](#) includes a list of reserve audits and reviews we would like to conduct if additional resources become available. As a small office, we are focused on our statutory responsibilities and conducting our work in the most cost-efficient and effective way possible, while maintaining our independence.

We are currently operating at 57% below our authorized staff level. In 2025 we lost two critical members of our team, the Counsel to the Inspector General/Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (AIGI) and the Senior Auditor. The OIG also has two other vacancies for an Auditor and an Information Technology Specialist, the latter of which will be repurposed. We received Office of Personnel Management approval to fill three of the four positions and are working with USITC to accomplish this goal by the end of the fiscal year.

# U.S. International Trade Commission

## Inspector General Semiannual Report

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I appreciate the Commission's support in our efforts to provide independent oversight of the USITC's programs and operations. We recognize that the agency is also dealing with staffing shortages and the need to fill positions. We look forward to working closely with the Commission and Congress to promote integrity and increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Sincerely,



Rashmi Bartlett  
Inspector General

# U.S. International Trade Commission

## Inspector General Semiannual Report

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## Inspector General Semiannual Report

Table 1: Reporting Requirements Index

IG Act Reference	Reporting Requirements	Page
Section 404(a)(2)	Review of legislation and regulations	6
Section 405(a)(1)	Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies relating to the administration of programs and operations	None
Section 405(a)(2)	Recommendations with respect to significant problems, abuses, or deficiencies	None
Section 405(a)(3)	Significant recommendations included in previous reports on which corrective action has not been taken (Table 3)	2
Section 405(a)(4)	Matters referred to prosecutive authorities (Table 5)	5
Section 405(a)(5)	Summary of instances where information was refused	None
Section 405(a)(6)	Listing of reports by subject matter (Table 4)	3
Section 405(a)(7)	Summary of significant reports (Table 4)	3
Section 405(a)(8)	Statistical table – Reports with questioned costs (Table 4)	3
Section 405(a)(9)	Statistical table – Recommendations that funds be put to better use (Table 4)	3
Section 405(a)(10)	Summary of each audit, inspection, and evaluation report issued before this reporting period for which no management decision was made by end of the reporting period, no establishment comment was returned within 60 days; or for those with any outstanding unimplemented recommendations, including the potential aggregate cost savings (Table 3)	2
Section 405(a)(11)	Description and explanation of significant revised management decisions	None
Section 405(a)(12)	Significant management decisions with which the Inspector General disagrees	None
Section 405(a)(13)	Information under section 804(b) of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996	3
Section 405(a)(14)(15)(16)	Peer review activity on OIG and Peer review activity by OIG on another OIG	3
Section 405(a)(17)	Statistical Table – Investigative Reports / Summary of Investigative Activity for the Reporting Period of October 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026 (Table 5)	5
Section 405(a)(18)	Description of metrics used for developing the data for the statistical table under Section 5(a)(17) (Table 5)	5
Section 405(a)(19)	Report on each investigation involving a senior Government employee where allegations of misconduct were substantiated	5
Section 405(a)(20)	Description of whistleblower retaliation	5
Section 405(a)(21)	Description of any attempt by establishment to interfere with the independence including budget constraints, resisted to or objected to oversight, delayed access to information	6
Section 405(a)(22)	Description of particular circumstances of each inspection, evaluation, and audit conducted that is closed and was not disclosed to the public; and investigation conducted by the Office involving a senior Government employee that is closed and was not disclosed to the public	6
PL117-348 § 122(e)	Table 6: Anti-Trafficking-In-Persons Activity	5

# U.S. International Trade Commission

## Inspector General Semiannual Report

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### Office of Inspector General

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC or Commission) established the Office of Inspector General (OIG) when the Inspector General Act (IG Act) was amended in 1988. The IG Act states that the Inspector General (IG) is responsible for conducting audits and investigations; recommending policies and procedures that promote the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of agency resources and programs; and preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

Our mission is to promote and preserve the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Commission. We plan and conduct our activities based on several factors: requirements of laws and regulations, requests from management officials, complaints from Commission personnel and other sources, resource availability, and the Inspector General's initiative.

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### Semiannual Report Requirements

The IG Act requires each Inspector General to prepare a report twice a year that summarizes the office's activities. This Semiannual Report covers October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. The 24 requirements in Table 1 are specified in the IG Act or other legislation and must be included in the report.

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### Top Management and Performance Challenges

Each year, our office must identify and report the most significant management and performance challenges facing the Commission in the coming year and management's actions to address them. The OIG's [management and performance challenges reports](#) are available on our website. The most recent report ([OIG-MR-26-01](#)), issued in December 2025, focuses on the three challenges listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Management and Performance Challenges

Management and Performance Challenges
1. Internal Controls
2. Data Management
3. Human Capital Management

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## Inspector General Semiannual Report

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The challenges are based on oversight work by the Office of Inspector General, knowledge of the Commission’s programs and operations, the Commission’s strategic plan, annual management plan, enterprise risk management assessments, statements of assurance, observations, and discussions with senior leaders.

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### **Prior Report Recommendations with Final Action Pending**

The Inspector General did not identify any recommendations made before October 1, 2025, where the corrective actions were not completed before the end of the reporting period.

Table 3: Status of Reports Issued Without Final Action Made Before the Reporting Period

<b>Report Title</b>	<b># of Recs.</b>	<b>Mgt. Decisions</b>	<b>Final Action Complete</b>	<b>Action Not Complete</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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### **Summary of Significant Investigations Closed and Convictions**

The Office of Inspector General had no significant investigations closed or convictions during the reporting period.

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### **Inspector General Reports Issued During This Period**

During this reporting period, the Inspector General issued three reports containing one recommendation. Table 4 lists each report issued, the number of recommendations in each, and whether a management decision has been made.

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## Inspector General Semiannual Report

Table 4: Reports Issued from October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Report Number	Report Title	Date Issued	# of Recs	Mgt Decision
<a href="#">OIG-MR-26-01</a>	<i>USITC Management and Performance Challenges</i>	12/17/2025	0	N/A
<a href="#">OIG-AR-26-02</a>	<i>Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statement Opinion</i>	12/18/2025	0	N/A
<a href="#">OIG-MR-26-03</a>	<i>Management Report Fiscal Year 2026 Charge Card Risk Assessment</i>	1/27/2026	1	✓
<b>Total recommendations issued during this reporting period</b>			<b>1</b>	
<b>Note: These reports did not identify any questioned costs, unsupported costs, or funds that could be put to better use.</b>				

### Management Decisions for Recommendations Issued in Prior Periods

In the previous reporting period, there were no reports in which the Commission did not provide management decisions within the reporting period.

### Federal Financial Management Improvement Act Reporting

The IG Act and the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (FFMIA) require the inspectors general of certain agencies to report “instances and reasons” when the agency has not met intermediate target dates established in a remediation plan to bring the agency’s financial management system into substantial compliance with the FFMIA. The Commission is not subject to the FFMIA but voluntarily complies with most of its requirements. During this reporting period, no events gave rise to a duty to report under FFMIA.

### Peer Review

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, requires OIGs to report the results of peer reviews of their operations conducted by other OIGs, the date of the last peer review, outstanding recommendations from peer reviews, and peer reviews conducted by

# U.S. International Trade Commission

## Inspector General Semiannual Report

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an OIG of other OIGs in the semiannual period. Peer reviews are conducted by member organizations of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

The Consumer Product Safety Commission OIG completed an external peer review of our audit organization. The USITC OIG received a rating of pass for its system of quality control for the three-year period ending September 30, 2024. Pursuant to the March 2020 *CIGIE Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Audit Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*, a pass rating issued from an external peer review is the highest rating that can be issued. A copy of the [final peer review report](#) is posted on our website.

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## Hotline and Investigations

### Investigations and Inquiries: Overview

One of the OIG's functions is to conduct investigations and inquiries into alleged criminal, civil, and administrative wrongdoing involving Commission programs, operations, and personnel. Our office primarily receives complaints through the OIG hotline, which allows Commission employees and members of the public to contact the OIG. We may investigate possible violations of federal criminal law, regulations on employee responsibilities and conduct, and other statutes and regulations covering Commission activities.

The OIG reviews and analyzes each complaint received to decide the correct course of action and, as appropriate, conducts a preliminary inquiry. If the information we find during the preliminary inquiry indicates that a full investigation is warranted, we will launch an investigation.

### OIG Hotline Contacts

Our office maintains a hotline for reporting information about suspected waste, fraud, abuse, or other misconduct involving Commission programs or operations. The information may come to us in person, by telephone, email, or mail, or through a web-based form. Complaints may also be made anonymously. When requested, we will endeavor to keep a provider's identity confidential.

We receive complaints from employees, contractors, and the public regarding the Commission's responsibility areas. We examine these complaints to determine whether there is any indication of Commission wrongdoing or misconduct. If the complaint does not relate to the Commission, we refer it to the appropriate entity for a response. If the complaint lacks merit, we close the matter.

U.S. International Trade Commission  
Inspector General Semiannual Report

**Investigative Reports**

Table 5: Statistical Table of Investigative Reports and Referrals

Description	Count
Number of investigative reports issued	0
Number of persons referred to DOJ for criminal prosecution	0
Number of persons referred to State and local authorities for criminal prosecution	0
Number of indictments and criminal information resulting from any prior referrals to prosecuting authorities	0
<b>Note: The information in this table is derived from the Office of Inspector General's investigations.</b>	

**Investigations With Substantiated Allegations Involving Senior Government Employees**

The Office of Inspector General did not issue any investigative reports substantiating allegations involving senior government employees.

**Instances of Whistleblower Retaliation**

The Office of Inspector General identified no instances of whistleblower retaliation during this reporting period.

**Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection**

As required by PL 117-348, section 122(e), the OIG submits the data in Table 6 related to Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection.

Table 6: Statistical Table of Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection

Number of Suspected Violations Reported	Number of Investigations	Status
0	0	N/A
<b>Note: The OIG made no recommended actions to improve the programs and operations related to trafficking victims.</b>		

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## Inspector General Semiannual Report

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### **Interference by the Establishment**

The USITC OIG encountered no instances of attempted interference with the office's independence. There were no attempted budget constraints designed to limit the capabilities of the OIG during this reporting period, and no attempted instances in which the establishment resisted or objected to the OIG's oversight activities or restricted or significantly delayed access to information. The USITC OIG did not make any reports under section 406(c)(2) during this reporting period.

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### **Summary of Reports Not Disclosed to the Public**

#### **Inspections, Evaluations, and Audits**

The Office of Inspector General did not issue any inspections, evaluations, or audits that were not disclosed to the public during this reporting period.

#### **Investigations**

The Office of Inspector General did not conduct any investigations involving Senior Government Employees that were closed and not disclosed to the public during this reporting period.

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### **Legislation Review**

We reviewed legislation and/or regulations individually and in coordination with CIGIE.

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### **Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency**

The Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) was established by law as an independent entity by the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-409) to address integrity, economy, and effectiveness issues that transcend individual government agencies. CIGIE is comprised of Presidentially Appointed, Senate-Confirmed inspectors general and Designated Federal Entity inspectors general.

# U.S. International Trade Commission

## Inspector General Semiannual Report

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The USITC OIG participates in CIGIE's efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness through communication and coordination across federal inspectors general offices. The Inspector General is a member of the Audit Committee and the Technology Committee. OIG staff participate in the Mentoring Program, the Audit Committee, the Financial Statement Audit Network, and the Inspections and Evaluations Committee.

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## Appendix A: Chairman's Statistical Tables

Table A: Management Decisions for Reports from Prior Periods

The table below identifies each report issued in a prior reporting period in which management decisions were received during this reporting period.

Report	Management Decisions Made This Reporting Period	Recommendations Without Management Decisions	Disallowed Costs	Funds to Be Put to Better Use
OIG-AR-25-08	6	N/A	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Table B: Recommendations with Final Action Completed Prior to the End of the Reporting Period

The table below provides statistical information on recommendations with questioned costs and the total dollar value of disallowed costs where final action was completed during this reporting period.

Category	Number of Recommendations	Dollar Value
Recommendations with Final Action Completed	6	\$0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disallowed Costs Recovered by Management</li> </ul>		\$0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disallowed Costs Written Off by Management</li> </ul>		\$0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disallowed Costs and Funds to be Put to Better Use Not Yet Recovered or Written Off by Management</li> </ul>		\$0
Recommendations that Management has Concluded Should Not or Could Not be Implemented or Completed	0	\$0

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## Appendix A: Chairman's Statistical Tables

Table C: Status of Reports Issued Prior to This Reporting Period

The table below provides information on the number of reports with questioned costs, the total dollar value of disallowed costs, and funds to be put to better use as identified in the management decision. In cases where a management decision has not been received, the dollar value shown is the amount identified in the report.

Status	Number of Reports	Disallowed Costs	Funds to be Put to Better Use
Reports Issued Prior to This Reporting Period with Final Action Completed This Reporting Period	1	\$0	\$0
Reports Issued Prior to This Reporting Period Without Final Action Completed	-	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Table D: Reports with Management Decisions Without Final Action

The table below identifies each report from prior periods in which management decisions were made, but no final action was taken.

Report	Date Issued	Reason Final Action has Not Been Taken
N/A	N/A	N/A



**U.S. International Trade Commission  
Office of Inspector General  
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**REPORT WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, OR MISMANAGEMENT**

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<https://usitcoig.oversight.gov/report-fraud-waste-or-abuse>