

U.S.-Israel Trade Forum Explores Benefits of a More Connected Middle East

On Monday, the Chamber's U.S.-Israel Business Initiative celebrated the 35th anniversary of the U.S.-Israel free trade agreement (FTA) at its annual U.S.-Israel Trade Forum.

What happened: In his keynote remarks, Israeli Minister of Economy H.E. Amir Peretz noted that bilateral trade has multiplied 10-fold since the FTA's signing and accounts for 20% of U.S. bilateral trade with the Middle East, though Israel makes up just 2% of the region's population.

The forum included conversations with American and Israeli business executives who talked about the nexus between open trade and deepening innovation ties. Israel is now home to more than 300 American research and development centers.

Senior executives from Google, JP Morgan, and Teva Pharmaceuticals emphasized that continued upgrades to trade and investment policy in both the U.S. and Israel will pave the way for development of cutting-edge global industries in areas like high-tech, financial services and health care.

Watch: [Ambassador of Israel to the U.S. Ron Dermer](#) highlighted the enormous regional economic impact of recent agreements between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan, which will benefit American companies across a more connected Middle East region.

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