



Key themes for 2025

Editorial themes, roundtables, live
podcasts, and webinars

Trade and payables finance themes 2025

Supply chain finance (SCF) and its evolution

A continued focus on improving SCF to address disruptions, with an emphasis on transparency, flexibility, and deep tier SCF, as global supply chains face ongoing uncertainty.

Trade as an asset class

Institutional investors are increasingly viewing trade finance as a low-risk, short-term asset, further supported by growing interest in trade finance distribution models and automation.

Digitalisation and digitisation in trade finance

Despite advances, trade finance remains heavily reliant on paper-based processes. This year will see a marked shift towards full automation, interoperability, and the adoption of API standards. Alongside this, we expect bodies to promote data harmonisation, interoperable standards, and corporate adoption of digital trade instruments, following enactments of MLETR (or equivalent).

Sustainability and ESG in trade

ESG compliance is taking the centre stage in trade finance, with closer scrutiny on supply chains and sustainable investments. This holds strong influence on financing decisions and trade policies globally.

Risk management in global trade

The impact of increasing sanctions, geopolitical risk, and the fragmentation of global trade policies are central concerns, necessitating stronger risk mitigation strategies and fraud prevention tools.

The future of letters of credit (LCs)

With traditional trade finance products like LCs evolving, their relevance and application in a digital and increasingly de-risked trade finance ecosystem will be a key theme.

Data and analytics in trade finance

The value of aggregating and standardising trade data is gaining recognition, particularly for improving risk assessment, AML, and KYC processes across the ecosystem. This is aided by developments in AI, which make large dataset analysis more streamlined.

Regulatory shifts and trade policy

The implications of new trade policies, tariffs, and trade wars will remain central to the global trade finance discussion. As Donald Trump returns for his second term in office, the US' regulatory policy will be important to monitor, with repercussions across the world.

Customs, sanctions, and compliance

A lot of the regulation which was proposed in 2024 will take effect this year. Managing cross-border trade with increasingly complex customs regulations, sanctions, and compliance requirements is an ongoing challenge.

TFAAS and tradetech platforms

New technologies such as blockchain, AI, and OCR are set to reshape how trade finance transactions are executed (e.g. trade finance as a service, TFAAS), with a continued focus on reducing friction and enhancing efficiency.

Receivables and ABL finance themes 2025

Private credit in receivables finance

Private credit is increasingly supporting receivables finance, offering scalable, low-risk solutions for investors seeking short-term returns and helping businesses access liquidity.

Technological advancements

AI, blockchain, and automation will streamline processes in receivables finance, enhancing risk management and improving the speed and security of transactions, with a focus on fraud detection and operational efficiency.

ESG-linked receivables finance

Sustainability and ESG considerations will play a greater role, as companies offering compliant, sustainable practices gain access to more favourable financing terms through ESG-linked receivables solutions.

Regulatory compliance and Basel 3.1/4

The introduction of Basel 3.1/4 and evolving global regulations will force receivables finance providers to adapt, impacting how they calculate risk and capital requirements, potentially raising costs for borrowers.

Fintech and alternative financing models

Fintech-driven innovations, including supply chain finance platforms, will expand access to receivables finance, particularly for SMEs in emerging markets, helping address liquidity gaps.

Geopolitical risks and economic uncertainty

Global instability and geopolitical risks will drive cautious growth in receivables finance, as lenders focus on risk mitigation strategies and more secure structures to safeguard transactions.

Advanced data-analytics/ML/AI insights

The increased use of advanced data analytics will enhance risk assessment and monitoring, allowing for more accurate decision-making and helping to mitigate potential risks in receivables portfolios.

Securitisation and distribution models

The growth of securitisation and the use of receivables as investable assets will continue, offering new distribution channels for investors seeking stable, structured finance opportunities.

Trade credit insurance, export finance, MDB themes 2025

Credit insurance distribution models

Insurance companies are increasingly adopting distribution models to spread risk through securitisation and partnerships with private insurers, making trade credit insurance more accessible to a broader range of businesses.

Multilateral and export finance collaboration

Multilateral development banks are partnering with export credit agencies (ECAs) to bridge financing gaps for projects in emerging markets, particularly in sectors like renewable energy and infrastructure, where private financing is limited.

Basel 3.1 and capital costs for insurers

The introduction of Basel 3.1/4 will not only impact banks but also trade credit insurers, as increased capital requirements will affect their ability to underwrite large-scale risks, particularly for SMEs and high-risk markets.

Public-private partnerships in insurance

Governments and private insurers are working together to mitigate risks in politically unstable regions, using trade credit insurance to support projects in high-risk areas, while balancing political and commercial risk factors.

Insurance for ESG-related projects

Trade credit insurance providers are increasingly factoring ESG criteria into their underwriting processes, encouraging more sustainable and environmentally friendly projects by offering more favourable insurance terms.

Broker-driven innovation in trade credit insurance

Brokers are playing a crucial role in the development of new products and services, especially in digital platforms that enable faster policy issuance and better risk management. They are also working closely with fintechs to improve accessibility to trade credit insurance for SMEs.

Underwriter and broker collaboration

The insurance community is increasingly syndicating and partnering to distribute risk across broader markets. This collaboration is enhancing insurers' ability to handle large-scale projects, particularly in emerging markets, while maintaining lower exposure to concentrated risks.

Future-proofing through blended finance

The increasing use of blended finance models, combining public and private capital, helps de-risk projects, particularly in emerging markets, supporting long-term sustainable finance.

Commodity finance themes 2025

Energy transition and resource nationalism

Commodity finance is increasingly shaped by the global energy transition, particularly as nations secure access to critical minerals and metals essential for renewable energy projects. Countries are intensifying their control over these resources, driving geopolitical risks, especially in regions like Africa where significant deposits of strategic metals are located.

ECAs and supply chain resilience

Export credit agencies (ECAs) continue to play a pivotal role in securing commodity supplies, particularly for energy security. Deals like Trafigura's gas loan backed by the German government highlight how ECAs are increasingly used to stabilise markets amid geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions. This trend is extending to other soft commodities, such as agricultural products, which are becoming more central to ECA involvement.

Sustainability and ESG in commodity finance

The growing focus on sustainability is transforming commodity finance. Larger commodity traders are diversifying into renewable energy, acquiring assets that align with global ESG goals. Though traditional oil and gas remain dominant, this shift is leading to greater financing opportunities for projects that promote environmental sustainability.

Technological innovation in risk management

Commodity finance is benefiting from new technological tools, including AI and data analytics, which are enhancing risk management, particularly in volatile markets. These innovations are allowing banks and traders to better navigate supply chain disruptions, price fluctuations, and logistical challenges.

Liquidity and strategic acquisitions

Larger commodity traders are increasingly using their liquidity to make strategic acquisitions, securing physical assets that help control supply chain risk. This trend is set to continue, as traders look for ways to stabilise prices and ensure supply amidst rising market volatility.

Treasury themes 2025

Payments and cash management

Businesses have been seeking to optimise liquidity through better visibility and control, in the interest of cash management. Innovative solutions, such as virtual accounts and cash pooling, enable treasurers to streamline processes and reduce operational costs.

AI in treasury

AI automates repetitive tasks, provides predictive insights, and allows for data-driven decision-making. Machine learning algorithms in particular hold great promise in large dataset analysis.

Risk management

Comprehensive risk management strategies, supported by advanced analytics and real-time data, help mitigate exposure and safeguard organisations from evolving risks, from geopolitical volatility to cyber threats.

Funding and investing

Access to diverse funding sources and strategic investment of surplus cash are critical for maintaining financial agility. Treasurers are the likes of green bonds or private placements, to align funding strategies with business objectives.

Regulatory compliance

Treasurers must ensure compliance with changing regulations, such as Basel III and AML directives, in order to maintain trust. This can be ensured by automating compliance processes and staying abreast of regulatory updates.

Technology and digital transformation

Treasury functions are being made more efficient and connected thanks to digitalisation, introducing cloud-based platforms, APIs, and robotic process automation (RPA). Beyond AI, these different technologies empower treasurers to focus on strategic priorities rather than manual processes.

Treasury centralisation and efficiency

Organisations can better consolidate global cash positions and optimise working capital by centralising their treasury operations. Shared service centres and in-house banks are popular models to this end.

ESG and DEI

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are becoming key considerations. Treasurers are well placed to align financial strategies with sustainability goals.

Payments themes 2025

Instant payments and real-time settlement

Businesses increasingly demand real-time cross-border payments to optimise cash flow and reduce settlement times, with fintech platforms leading in providing faster solutions.

Cost and FX management

Lowering transaction and foreign exchange costs is a priority for businesses, with many turning to fintech platforms to manage these expenses efficiently.

Blockchain and stablecoins in payments

Blockchain technology and stablecoins are set to transform cross-border payments, offering speed, transparency, and reduced costs. Digital currency ecosystems could also play a significant role, as we have seen in Brazil.

B2B ecommerce growth

As B2B ecommerce grows, so too does the need for more efficient cross-border payment solutions. Businesses are increasingly adopting ecommerce tools to facilitate smoother international transactions.

APIs and embedded finance

The rise of open banking and API-driven services is transforming cross-border payments by further integrating payment systems with business processes.

Regulatory developments

Compliance with emerging regulatory frameworks, such as ISO 20022, and managing risks related to money laundering and fraud are key concerns in cross-border payments.

Fintech-driven innovation

Non-bank players are rapidly gaining market share, offering innovative payment solutions, and driving much of the growth in the cross-border payment space.

Displacement of traditional payment methods

From everyday life to B2B, cash is becoming less relevant in payments, particularly with the rise of digital and mobile payment systems that are faster and more secure. These have been transformative when rolled out preemptively in developing countries, such as India.

Sustainability in payments

ESG considerations are influencing how businesses handle cross-border payments, pushing companies to adopt greener and more socially responsible payment practices.

Generative AI and automation

GenAI is increasingly being used to streamline payment workflows, reducing the need for manual interventions and improving efficiency.

Roundtables for 2025 (PART 1)

Sustainability and energy transition in trade finance

- ◆ **Europe:** Paris, June 2025 – Side event at the OECD Export Credit Group meeting
- ◆ **Middle East:** UAE, May 2025 – Side event at the Global Trade Facilitation Summit
- ◆ **Asia:** Singapore, September 2025 – Side event at ITFA Annual Conference
- ◆ **Key topics:** Green bonds, transition finance, ESG reporting, supply chain decarbonisation, regulatory compliance, and the evolving role of ECAs.



Commodity finance and geopolitical risk

- ◆ **North America:** Houston, October 2025 – Side event at Energy Trading Week
- ◆ **Europe:** Geneva, November 2025 – Tied to WTO Public Forum
- ◆ **Africa:** Johannesburg, June 2025 – Side event at Afreximbank Annual Meeting
- ◆ **Key topics:** Resource nationalism, supply chain security, strategic metals, trade sanctions, emerging market financing, and energy transition's impact on commodities.



Roundtables for 2025 (PART 2)

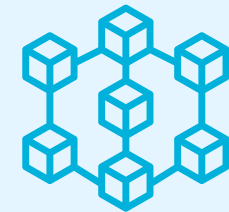
The future of cross-border payments

- ◆ **Asia:** Singapore, September 2025 – ITFA Annual Conference
- ◆ **North America:** Washington DC, February 2025 – Tied to BAFT Trade and Payments Conference
- ◆ **Europe:** Frankfurt, September 2025 – Side event at Sibos
- ◆ **Key topics:** Instant payments, blockchain, cross-border regulatory harmonisation, digital currencies, real-time liquidity management, and fraud prevention.



Technological innovation in trade and treasury management

- ◆ **Europe:** London, March 2025 – During the Women in Trade, Treasury, and Payments event
- ◆ **North America:** Houston, October 2025 – Side event at Energy Trading Week
- ◆ **Asia:** Tokyo, September 2025 – Side event at Sibos
- ◆ **Key topics:** Blockchain, AI in risk management, digital trade finance platforms, API-driven systems, real-time treasury visibility, and TradeTech adoption.



Insurance and risk mitigation in global trade

- ◆ **Europe:** London, February 2025 – Tied to ExCred International
- ◆ **Middle East:** Dubai, February 2025 – Side event at BAFT MENA
- ◆ **Asia:** Hong Kong, November 2025 – Tied to TXF Asia
- ◆ **Key topics:** Political risk insurance, credit insurance distribution models, Basel III.1 impact, public-private partnerships in de-risking, and sustainability in underwriting.



Roundtables for 2025 (PART 3)

Infrastructure finance and blended finance solutions

- ◆ **Africa:** Nairobi, June 2025 – Afreximbank Annual Meeting
- ◆ **Asia:** Mumbai, May 2025 – ADB Annual Meeting
- ◆ **Europe:** London, May 2025 – EBRD Annual Meeting
- ◆ **Key topics:** Public-private partnerships, de-risking through blended finance, green infrastructure projects, multilateral development bank involvement, and managing political risk in emerging markets.



Trade credit insurance and liquidity management

- ◆ **Europe:** Zurich, June 2025 – Commodity Trading Week, London
- ◆ **North America:** Washington DC, February 2025 – Linked to BAFT Trade and Payments Conference
- ◆ **Asia:** Singapore, September 2025 – ITFA Annual Conference
- ◆ **Key topics:** Credit risk management, liquidity solutions in trade finance, Basel III.1 implications for insurers, credit distribution models, and ESG in underwriting.



Supply chain resilience and financing in a volatile global market

- ◆ **North America:** Houston, April 2025 – Side event at TXF Americas
- ◆ **Europe:** London, June 2025 – Commodity Trading Week
- ◆ **Asia:** Singapore, September 2025 – Side event at ITFA Annual Conference
- ◆ **Key topics:** Supply chain finance, geopolitical risk, logistics financing, trade sanctions, resource management, and technology-driven supply chain visibility.



Live Podcasts for 2025 (PART 1)



The evolving role of multilateral development banks in trade and infrastructure finance

◆ Europe:

London, May 2025 – EBRD Annual Meeting

◆ Asia:

Philippines, May 2025 – ADB Annual Meeting

◆ Africa:

Nairobi, June 2025 – Afreximbank Annual Meeting

Key topics:



MDB involvement in de-risking projects, green finance initiatives, public-private partnerships, financing emerging market infrastructure, and the future of blended finance.

Trade finance as an asset class

◆ Europe:

London, November 2025 – TFDI Conference (Trade Finance as an Asset Class)

◆ North America:

New York, July 2025 – Linked to FCI Annual Meeting, Rio

◆ Asia:

Singapore, September 2025 – Side event at ITFA Annual Conference

Key topics:



Securitisation of trade finance, institutional investor appetite, regulatory considerations, risk distribution models, and the rise of TFAAS (Trade Finance as a Service).

Live Podcasts for 2025 (PART 2)



Geopolitics and sanctions in global trade

◆ North America:

Washington DC, February 2025 – Tied to BAFT Trade and Payments Conference

◆ Europe:

London, February 2025 – ExCred International

◆ Middle East:

Dubai, May 2025 – Global Trade Facilitation Summit

Key topics:



Trade sanctions, navigating geopolitical risks, impact on global supply chains, compliance and regulatory challenges, and the role of ECAs in mitigating risk.

Supply chain finance and digitalisation in emerging markets

◆ Africa:

Lagos, June 2025 – Side event at Afreximbank Annual Meeting

◆ Asia:

Manila, May 2025 – ADB Annual Meeting

◆ Europe:

Amsterdam, June 2025 – TXF Amsterdam

Key topics:



Digitalisation of supply chain finance, fintech solutions for SMEs, blockchain for transparency, logistics financing, and overcoming barriers in developing markets.

Navigating Basel III.1 in trade and commodity finance

◆ Europe:

London, February 2025 – ExCred International

◆ North America:

New York, April 2025 – TXF Americas

◆ Middle East:

Dubai, October 2025 – Tied to BAFT MENA

Key topics:



Impact of Basel III.1 on trade finance liquidity, regulatory capital changes, trade credit insurance, risk-sharing models, and the role of ECAs in filling the financing gap.

Live Podcasts for 2025 (PART 3)



Innovation in cross-border payments and fintech

◆ Asia:

Singapore, September 2025 – ITFA Annual Conference

◆ North America:

Washington DC, February 2025 – BAFT Trade and Payments

◆ Europe:

Frankfurt, September 2025 – Sibos

Key topics:



Fintech's role in cross-border payments, real-time payments, blockchain and CBDCs, open banking, and regulatory changes impacting the future of payments.

The future of green and sustainable finance in commodities

◆ North America:

Houston, October 2025 – Energy Trading Week

◆ Europe:

London, June 2025 – Commodity Trading Week

◆ Middle East:

Dubai, May 2025 – Global Trade Facilitation Summit

Key topics:



Financing the energy transition, sustainable supply chains, carbon markets, ESG regulations, and the role of commodity traders in shaping a greener future.

Women leaders in trade, treasury, and payments

◆ Europe:

London, February 2025 – ExCred International

◆ Asia:

Singapore, September 2025 – ITFA Annual Conference

◆ North America:

New York, April 2025 – Side event at FCI Annual Meeting

Key topics:



Leadership development, gender equality in finance, diversity and inclusion initiatives, mentorship and networking, and the role of women in shaping the future of global trade.

Webinars for 2025 (Part 1)



January 2025: Commodities finance and risk management in 2025

Speakers:

Large bank, commodity trader, insurance provider

Themes:

The commodities market faces heightened volatility as geopolitical tensions and energy transitions reshape global supply chains. This session will cover price fluctuations in critical commodities like oil, gas, and rare earth metals, strategies for managing resource nationalism, and the impact of ESG regulations on commodity financing. Experts will explore hedging, political risk insurance, and the role of fintech in stabilising trade in high-risk regions.

February 2025: The evolution of CPRI and political risk insurance post-Basel III.1

Speakers:

Correspondent bank, insurance company, trade finance association

Themes:

Basel III.1 introduces significant challenges for credit and political risk insurers, increasing capital requirements and altering risk models. This webinar will delve into the evolving landscape of CPRI distribution, the implications of stricter regulatory capital requirements on trade credit, and how public-private partnerships are mitigating political risk in unstable markets. Speakers will discuss the future of risk-sharing models between insurers and ECAs.

March 2025: Digitalisation and supply chain finance – the future of trade operations

Speakers:

Technology company, large corporate, SCF provider

Themes:

Supply chain finance is undergoing a digital revolution, with blockchain, AI, and data integration reshaping how companies manage trade operations. This webinar will explore the impact of digitalisation on SCF, from real-time data visibility and predictive analytics to the integration of blockchain for secure, transparent transactions. Panellists will also discuss how SMEs can benefit from digital SCF platforms and the growing role of fintech in driving innovation.

Webinars for 2025 (Part 2)



April 2025: Green finance and sustainable shipping – navigating the energy transition

Speakers:

Shipping company, ECA, sustainable finance expert

Themes:

As the shipping industry faces pressure to decarbonise, financing the energy transition is becoming increasingly urgent. This session will cover how green bonds and transition finance are supporting the move to more sustainable shipping practices. Speakers will explore the role of ECAs and private financiers in driving sustainable investments in shipping, as well as the regulatory landscape shaping decarbonisation targets and carbon pricing.

May 2025: Correspondent banking and fintech partnerships – the future of payments

Speakers:

Correspondent bank, fintech company, large bank

Themes:

The future of cross-border payments is being reshaped by fintech partnerships with traditional correspondent banks, enabling faster, more transparent transactions. This webinar will cover the latest developments in real-time settlement, the rise of API-driven payments ecosystems, and the adoption of blockchain for cross-border transactions. Panellists will also discuss how regulatory frameworks are evolving to accommodate these new technologies.

June 2025: Treasury management in a volatile market – tech and strategy innovations

Speakers:

Treasury solutions provider, large corporate, fintech firm

Themes:

Volatile markets require innovative treasury management solutions that provide real-time visibility and optimised liquidity strategies. This session will explore the integration of AI and data analytics in treasury operations, enabling more efficient cash flow management and risk mitigation. Panellists will also highlight the role of fintech in driving automation and the use of real-time data to support treasury decision-making in a fluctuating environment.

Webinars for 2025 (Part 3)



July 2025: Financing commodities in Africa – opportunities and challenges

Speakers:

Development bank,
commodity trader,
fintech provider

Themes:

Africa's vast resources are a focal point for global commodity markets, but access to finance remains a significant barrier. This webinar will examine the opportunities and challenges in financing African commodities, from securing international investment to addressing infrastructure gaps. Speakers will discuss how development banks, fintech solutions, and innovative risk management strategies are helping to unlock the potential of Africa's commodities sector.

August 2025: Credit risk management and liquidity strategies in global trade

Speakers:

Credit insurer,
large bank,
fintech company

Themes:

With new Basel III.1 regulations coming into effect, credit risk management is more critical than ever. This session will cover the implications of higher capital requirements on liquidity, the role of credit insurers in mitigating risk, and how technology is enabling better credit risk assessment and distribution. Panellists will also explore liquidity strategies to ensure smooth trade flows amidst tightening financial conditions.

September 2025: Sustainability and trade finance – aligning ESG goals with financing models

Speakers:

ECA, large corporate,
sustainability
consultant

Themes:

As global trade increasingly aligns with ESG goals, the financing of sustainable trade is evolving. This webinar will explore the growing importance of sustainability-linked loans, the role of ECAs in promoting green finance, and the challenges companies face in meeting ESG criteria. Panellists will highlight case studies of successful ESG integration in trade finance and the regulatory frameworks pushing sustainability to the forefront of trade operations.

Webinars for 2025 (Part 4)



October 2025: The future of cross-border trade payments – disruption and opportunities

Speakers:

Payments provider,
correspondent bank,
fintech company

Themes:

Cross-border payments are undergoing rapid disruption, with new technologies like blockchain and digital currencies promising faster, cheaper, and more secure transactions. This session will discuss the future of cross-border payments, focusing on the adoption of digital currencies, the impact of blockchain on payments infrastructure, and the regulatory challenges that come with these innovations. Panellists will also explore real-time payment systems and the opportunities they present for global trade.

November 2025: Commodity finance and the energy transition – securing supply chains

Speakers:

Energy company,
large bank, commodity
finance specialist

Themes:

The energy transition is creating both challenges and opportunities for commodity finance. This webinar will explore how companies are securing supply chains for critical resources like lithium and copper, essential for renewable energy technologies. Speakers will also discuss the role of financiers in supporting the energy transition, managing price volatility, and mitigating geopolitical risks that affect commodity markets.

December 2025: Trade finance outlook 2026 – trends and challenges for the year ahead

Speakers:

Large bank,
correspondent bank,
trade finance expert

Themes:

As the global trade landscape continues to evolve, this session will provide insights into the key trends shaping trade finance in 2026. Panellists will discuss the impact of regulatory developments, advancements in digitalisation, and geopolitical risks on trade finance operations. The session will also explore how ECAs and private financiers are adapting to these changes to ensure continued access to finance for global trade.