The three-county Charleston region relies on international engagement to sustain our economy. Whether you are a teacher, truck driver, or business executive, you are influenced by global connections every day.

Charleston is evolving into a globally fluent metro, where we appreciate our connectivity to the global economy and we work together to ensure that everyone benefits from those connections. By welcoming new companies and new people, we help bring good jobs to our community, we improve our education and healthcare, we support new technology, we make new neighbors and friends.

Developed as part of Charleston’s Global Fluency Initiative, the 2019 Global Connectivity Snapshot illustrates how our global connections continue to help people and businesses in our region thrive.

For more resources and information on the Global Fluency Initiative, visit CharlestonCommunityGuide.com/International-Community or email us at globalfluency@crda.org

OUR ECONOMY
181 international companies employ 18,000 people
Source: Center for Business Research, 12/5/18

OUR PEOPLE
5% of population is international
Source: US Census Bureau

OUR COMMUNITY
60+ international cultural and religious organizations
Source: Global Fluency Action Team

The Global Fluency Initiative is an activation of the Charleston Metro FDI Plan and the One Region Global Competitiveness Strategy. It is led and implemented by a volunteer Action Team committed to continuing to grow the community’s global fluency.

DID YOU KNOW:
With Charleston’s new British Airways nonstop flights to Heathrow, you can travel to 119 countries in the world with only one layover?
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OUR ECONOMY
International investment and trade are vital to the long-term health of Charleston's economy. Our global connections support thousands of regional jobs at every skill level across many industries.

CHARLESTON HAS 41,551 FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS

Top 5 countries that employ Charlestonians:
1. Germany
2. Canada
3. Netherlands
4. China
5. Mexico

Top 5 international birthplaces:
1. Mexico
2. Philippines
3. India
4. Colombia
5. Germany

7% speak a language other than English at home
1.4% of U.S. citizens in Charleston were born abroad
7% of new residents in 2018 moved from abroad

72% of these residents are U.S. citizens

OUR PEOPLE
Charleston’s people have a global heritage. Whether they recently moved or are third-generation U.S. citizens, our international residents are dynamic members of our community. They create new businesses, bring skills to local employers, and share their arts and culture throughout the region.

OUR COMMUNITY
Charleston’s global connectivity brings arts festivals and tourism income, charitable giving and expanded employment opportunities. Through our companies, organizations, and people, our international community actively contributes to the vibrant life and economy of our region.
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EMPLOYMENT

181 International companies
Employ 18,000 people including 1/3 of manufacturing employees

Top 5 countries that employ Charlestonians:
- Germany
- Canada
- Netherlands
- France
- South Korea

Top 5 Charleston export markets:
- China
- Mexico
- South Korea
- Japan
- Saudi Arabia

2,400 new jobs in 2018
$620M in new investment in the Charleston region
Wages 22% above the regional average

NEW JOBS

TRADE

RECORD YEAR FOR SC PORTS IN 2018
23,000+ jobs and $8.8B in exports via Charleston in 2017

Top 5 Charleston export markets:
- China
- Mexico
- South Korea
- Japan
- Saudi Arabia

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45% of these residents are U.S. citizens

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4. Colombia
5. Germany

7% of U.S. citizens in Charleston were born abroad
7% of new residents in 2016 moved from abroad

GLOBAL TRAVEL

345,000 international visitors to Charleston annually

40 international players on the rosters for:

Examples of global companies giving back in 2018:
- Ingenuity sponsored the Trident United Way Day of Caring – 20+ multinational companies participated
- Volvo Cars USA launched the Volvo Cars Investment Grant Program
- Bosch and Nucor Steel sponsored the Girls Day Out STEM camp
- Google invested in Rolling Study Halls, Race & Social Justice Initiative, & MUSC Mobile Health Clinic

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20 multinational HQ locations
627 small and medium-sized businesses support their local operations through exports
1 in 5 companies participating in youth apprenticeships are multinational

They employ 22% of our region’s youth apprentices

2018 Spoleto Festival USA
10+ international performances, including 2 U.S. premières

Source: Charleston Area CVB, U.S. Department of Transportation, 2017
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Source: Center for Business Research, 2018

NEW JOBS
2,400 new jobs
In 2018, foreign-owned companies announced:

$620M in new investment in the Charleston region
Wages 22% above the regional average

Source: Center for Business Research, 2018

TRADE
53% exports to N. Europe
32% in exports via Charleston

Sources: SC Ports Authority, Brookings Institution, International Trade Administration, 2017

RECORD YEAR FOR SC PORTS IN 2018
23,000+ jobs rely on Charleston
$8.8B in exports via Charleston in 2017

Sources: SC Ports Authority, Brookings Institution, International Trade Administration, 2017

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Source: 2017 American Community Survey

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