



# GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY SNAPSHOT

CHARLESTON | SC | USA

# 2022



# GLOBAL FLUENCY IN CHARLESTON

The Charleston region relies on international engagement to sustain our economy. From teachers to truck drivers to business executives, we are all influenced by global connections every day.

Charleston is a globally fluent metro, where we appreciate our connectivity to the global economy and work together to ensure everyone benefits from these 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, and we make new neighbors and friends.

Developed as part of Charleston's Global Fluency Initiative, the *2022 Global Connectivity Snapshot* illustrates how our global connections continue to help people and businesses in our region thrive.

# OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

International investments 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.

## EMPLOYMENT



**165** foreign-owned companies  
Employ 20,100 people including  
40% of manufacturing employees



### Top 5 countries



Germany



UK



Switzerland



Canada



France

Source: Charleston Regional Development Alliance, 2/2022

## FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

In 2021, foreign-owned companies announced:

**2,261**  
new jobs

**\$303M**  
in new investment in the  
Charleston region

**\$27.47 /hr**  
average wage

Source: Charleston Regional Development Alliance, 2/2022

## TRADE

### RECORD YEAR FOR SC PORTS IN 2021

**\$73B** in goods

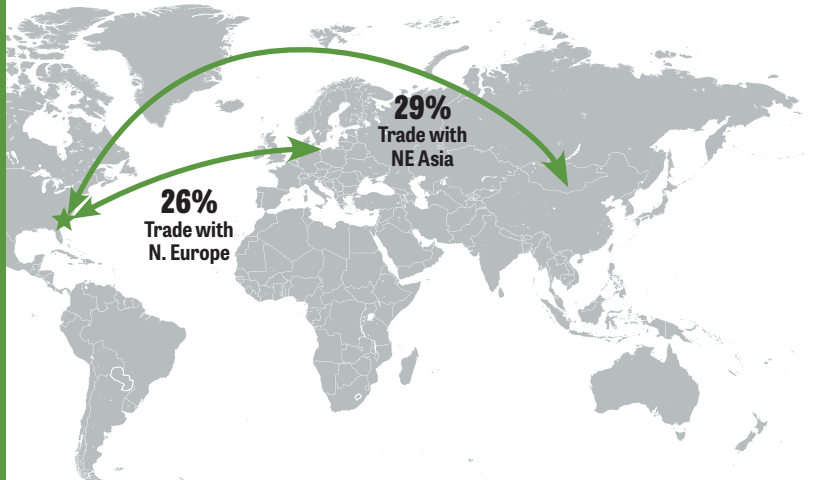
traded via SC Ports

**28,000+** local jobs

rely on trade via the  
Port of Charleston

#### Top 5 Charleston-made exports:

1. Transportation Equipment: \$3.5B
2. Chemicals: \$668M
3. Electrical Equipment \$535M
4. Computer & Electronic Products: \$439M
5. Machinery: \$245M

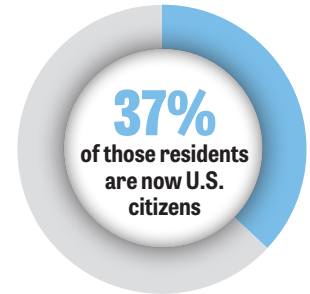


Sources: SC Ports Authority, U.S. International Trade Administration

# OUR PEOPLE

Charleston's people have a global heritage. Whether they are recent arrivals or 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.

Charleston has **54,350** foreign-born residents  
**6.8% POPULATION IS INTERNATIONAL**



From 2010 to 2019, Charleston's born-abroad population grew by nearly 10,000 residents – the fastest growing foreign-born population of all U.S. metro areas.

*Source: Heartland Forward's 2021 analysis of Census Bureau data*

## Top 10 international birthplaces:

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mexico      | 6. United Kingdom |
| 2. Philippines | 7. Germany        |
| 3. China       | 8. Guatemala      |
| 4. India       | 9. Honduras       |
| 5. Brazil      | 10. Canada        |

**8%**  
speak a language other  
than English at home

**1.6%**  
of U.S. citizens in Charleston  
were born abroad

*Source: 2019 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau*

## FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS

**71%**  
labor force participation rate  
(compared to 69% total residents)

**37%**  
have bachelor's degree or higher  
(compared to 37.5% total residents)

## STUDENTS

“Study South Carolina is a not-for-profit consortia of accredited public and private universities, colleges, and secondary schools focused on connecting students from around the world with opportunities and resources for studying abroad in South Carolina.”

[www.studysouthcarolina.org](http://www.studysouthcarolina.org)



*Photo: CSU International Studies*

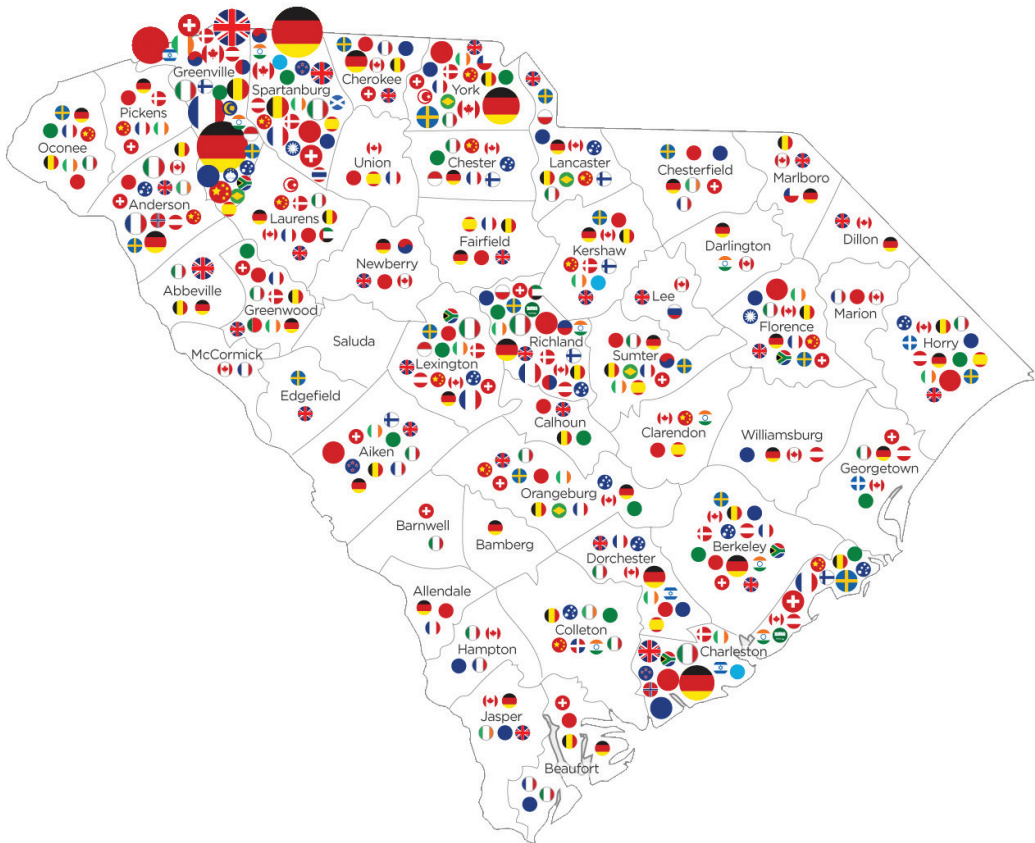
# OUR STATE

South Carolina is home to more than 1,200 foreign-owned businesses.  
These companies are major contributors to our state and regional economies.

## Top 3 Since 2011

South Carolina has ranked among the top three states in the nation for attracting jobs through foreign investment on a per capita basis.

## 40 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED ACROSS SOUTH CAROLINA



**“South Carolina is the #1 passenger vehicle exporter  
of all states in the U.S.”**

[www.sccommerce.com](http://www.sccommerce.com)

# GET CONNECTED

Through companies, organizations, and people, Charleston's international community actively contributes to our region's vibrant lifestyle and economy. This global connectivity brings world-class arts, cultural festivals, tourism income, charitable giving, and expanded employment opportunities.

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## 60+ International Cultural and Religious Organizations

*Source: Global Fluency Action Team*

Spoletto Festival USA | International African American Museum | Piccolo Spoleto  
MOJA Arts Festival | Charleston Greek Festival | Charleston Caribbean Festival  
Latin American Festival | International Film Festival | and more!

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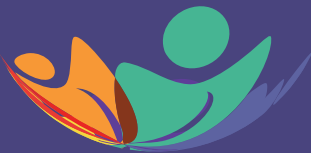
Charleston Sister Cities  
INTERNATIONAL

### Partnering Globally, Thriving Locally.

Charleston Sister Cities promotes the Charleston region and enhances our community's international understanding through trade missions, and civic, cultural, educational and humanitarian engagement with partners abroad.

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CHARLESTON  
Global Fluency



## STAY CONNECTED



LinkedIn

For more resources and information on the Global Fluency Initiative, visit [CharlestonCommunityGuide.com/International-Community](https://CharlestonCommunityGuide.com/International-Community) or email us at [globalfluency@crda.org](mailto:globalfluency@crda.org)