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.

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### International Employment in Charleston

- 18,000 people employed by international companies

### Global Connectivity in Charleston, SC

- 2019

### Charleston's Global Fluency Initiative

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.
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.

EMPLOYMENT

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

Top 5 countries that employ Charlestonians:
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Canada
- Sweden
- China

NEW JOBS

2,400 new jobs

$620M in new investment in the Charleston region

Wages 22% above the regional average

Source: Center for Business Research, 12/2018

TRADE

RECORD YEAR FOR SC PORTS IN 2018

23,000+ jobs created in the Port of Charleston

$8.8B in exports via Charleston in 2017

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

Top 5 countries that export products to Charleston:
- Germany
- South Korea
- Japan
- Canada
- Netherlands

NEW JOBS

In 2018, foreign-owned companies announced:

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Source: Center for Business Research, 12/2018

Examples of global companies giving back in 2018:
- Ingevity 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

345,000 international visitors to Charleston annually

Source: Charleston Area CVB, U.S. Department of Transportation, 2017

45% of those residents are now U.S. citizens

International companies
134,000 of CHS travelers are on international itineraries
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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.

CHARLESTON HAS 41,551 FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS

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 2016 moved from abroad

Source: 2017 American Communities Survey

GLOBAL TRAVEL

345,000 international visitors to Charleston annually

134,000 of CHS travelers are on international itineraries

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STUDENTS

International students at local colleges contributed $17M to the economy in 2017-2018 and supported 97 jobs

Source: NAFSA, for SC Congressional District 1

Local college students study abroad in 60+ countries

Source: CBDA

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International players on the rosters for

1 in 5 companies participating in youth apprenticeships are multinational
They employ 22% of our region’s youth apprentices

Source: Center for Business Research

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627 small and medium-sized businesses support their local operations through exports

Source: Center for Business Research, 12/5/18

20 multinational HQ locations

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

Source: spoletousa.org

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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.

EMPLOYMENT

- **2018**
- **23,000+** jobs rely on trade via the Port of Charleston
- **$8.8B** in exports via Charleston in 2017

Top 5 Charleston export markets:
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