INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

With more than 245,000 foreign-born residents, the Charlotte MSA is a truly global hub. Charlotte offers exceptional non-stop air service, foreign trade zones and numerous nonprofit organizations focused on international businesses, foreign policy and global culture.

• More than 1,000 internationally owned firms do business in the Charlotte Region, employing more than 66,000 in the area*

• Real exports from the Charlotte MSA accounted for $16.5 billion in 2016, according to the Brookings Institute

• 700 flights each day to more than 150 non-stop destinations including Barcelona, Dublin, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Montreal, Munich, Paris, Rome, Toronto and several Caribbean destinations.

*Source: Charlotte Chamber International Business Directory, 2018
Charlotte has seen steady and impressive growth in international business. The presence of internationally owned businesses in our area dates back to 1925 when Sandoz Corporation moved to Charlotte. Currently, there are more than 1,018 firms in the region, representing 45 different countries and employing 66,000 people.

Charlotte offers a nurturing climate for regional, national and international companies of all sizes. The area’s high quality of life, reasonable cost of living, world-class arts, major league sports and educational and advancement opportunities attract talented people from around the globe. Our region’s assets include exceptional air service, a foreign trade zone, transparent government and business practices and numerous nonprofit organizations that focus on international business, foreign policy and global culture. Charlotte is home to honorary consuls of Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua and Switzerland.

A steady influx of new residents moving to Charlotte each year keeps the city’s business and social structure fresh and vibrant. Charlotte welcomes new leaders and encourages them to help shape and build its future. This is an easy city for making fresh starts and leaving a mark on a company or the community. Our business community is actively engaged in steering public policy, and many of Charlotte’s top leaders come directly from the corporate sector, making Charlotte one of the most business-focused cities in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY OF PARENT COMPANY</th>
<th>COMPANIES</th>
<th>LOCATIONS</th>
<th>REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT</th>
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<tr>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Belgium</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>162</td>
<td>7,431</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,026</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,201</strong></td>
<td><strong>66,417</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Charlotte Chamber Data

**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES BY PARENT COUNTRY**

**EXPERTS FROM THE CHARLOTTE MSA INCREASED MORE THAN 238.4% SINCE 2009.**

Source: International Trade Administration

**FOR A FULL LIST OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSES, VISIT CHARLOTTECHAMBER.COM/INTERNATIONALBUSINESS.**
One of the largest global freight forwarders, Swiss-based Kuehne + Nagel has grown its presence in the Charlotte area from a small sales office in the 1970s to its current 75,000 square-foot facility and more than 180 employees. Kuehne + Nagel has more than 1,300 offices in more than 100 countries. The company’s Charlotte office takes advantage of our region’s strategic location and growing business community by providing logistics and supply chain management services to several locally headquartered corporations.

**ADVANTAGES OF DOING BUSINESS IN CHARLOTTE**

**ACCESS**
A central location on the U.S. East Coast and the fifth busiest global airport puts the world within Charlotte’s reach. 53% of the US population lives within 12-hours trucking distance or a two-hour flight, and with more than 700 daily nonstop flights to 150-plus destinations, nowhere is too far away.

**TALENT**
Charlotte’s companies rely on a talented, young and growing workforce. The region’s 23 colleges and universities, plus 18 community colleges and vocational schools offer training for all types of skills and occupations.

**AFFORDABILITY**
Comprehensive tax reform has brought North Carolina one of the lowest flat corporate tax rates at 3% in the nation as of 2017. North Carolina regularly ranks high in business friendliness.

**QUALITY OF LIFE**
Charlotte consistently ranks high as a destination city for all ages. More than 33,000 newcomers arrive in the Charlotte area each year, drawn by career opportunities, diverse living options and a cost of living 95.9 percent of the national average.

**CHARLOTTE IS LOCATED IN FOREIGN TRADE ZONE #57, WHICH OFFERS PARTICIPATING COMPANIES ABILITY TO DEFER, REDUCE OR ELIMINATE SOME CUSTOMS DUTIES**

Source: CharlotteUSA.com
Daily nonstop flights to international cities such as Barcelona, Dublin, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Montreal, Munich, Paris, Rome and Toronto, as well as several Caribbean destinations.

INTERNATIONAL FIRMS IN THE CHARLOTTE REGION

HONORARY CONSULATES
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- France
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Mexico
- Moldova
- Nicaragua
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

INTERNATIONALLY-FOCUSED PRIVATE SCHOOLS
- British
- Chinese
- German
- Greek
- Japanese
- Korean
- Russian
- Swedish

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