South Carolina Demographics

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South Carolina (2024)*

- Total foreign-born population – 351,009
- 6.4% of the state's ~ 5.4 million people are foreign born
  - 44.8% naturalized citizens
  - 21% legal permanent residents (as of 2023)*
  - 34% temporary visa holders or undocumented immigrants
- 202.7% rise in immigrant population from 2000 to 2024
- Length of time immigrants have lived in the U.S.
  - 33% entered before 2000
  - 23.1% entered 2000 - 2009
  - 43.9% since 2010
- 14.3% of children under age 18 have one or more immigrant parents
  - 85.7% of these children are native-born U.S. citizens

*Source: MPI Data Hub, "State Immigration Data Profiles: Demographics," (April 2026).

South Carolina– Countries/Regions of Origin & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)(2024)*

- Latin America – 50.9%
  - Mexico (21.0%)
  - South America (13.0%)
  - Other Central America (8.3%)
  - Caribbean (7.0%)
- Asia – 21.8%
  - Southeastern Asia (7.9%)
  - India (6.2%)
  - Eastern Asia (5.8%)
- Europe – 16.3%
  - Eastern Europe (6.9%)
  - Western Europe (4.1%)
- Africa – 4.8%
- Canada – 3.5%
- Middle East – 2.0%
- Oceania – 0.4%
- Language spoken
  - 9.0% of people in the state who speak a language other than English at home
  - 40.8% of foreign born persons are LEP - speak English less than "very well"

*Source: MPI Data Hub, "State Immigration Data Profiles: Demographics," (April, 2026)

South Carolina - Languages Spoken at Home (2024)*

- Spanish (282,255)
- German (13,629)
- French (including Cajun) (17,262)
- Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (13,581)
- Tagalog (including Filipino) (10,852)
- Russian (14,302)
- Gujarati (10,827)
- Portuguese (11,020)
- Hindi (4,339)
- Vietnamese (8,633)
- Nepali, Marathi, or Other Indic Languages (2,936)
- Arabic (8,086)
- Japanese (3,830)
- Persian (including Farsi, Dari) (1,762)
- Swahili or Other Languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa (2,226)
- Polish (1,922)
- Tamil (1,905)

* Source: MPI Data Hub, "State Immigration Data Profiles: Language and Education," (April 2026).

South Carolina - LEP (2024)*

- Limited English Proficiency (Speak English less than very well)
  - Naturalized citizens – 25.1%
  - Noncitizens – 53.8%
- Limited English Proficiency by language spoken at home
  - Vietnamese (55.7%)
  - Gujarati (34.4%)
  - Russian (36.5%)
  - Spanish (45.2%)
  - Japanese (35.7%)
  - Tagalog (32.4%)
  - Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (51.8%)
  - Arabic (38.6%)
  - Polish (14.0%)
  - Nepali, Marathi, or Other Indic Languages (19.4%)
  - French (8.9%)

- Source: MPI Data Hub, "State Immigration Data Profiles: Language and Education," (April 2026).