

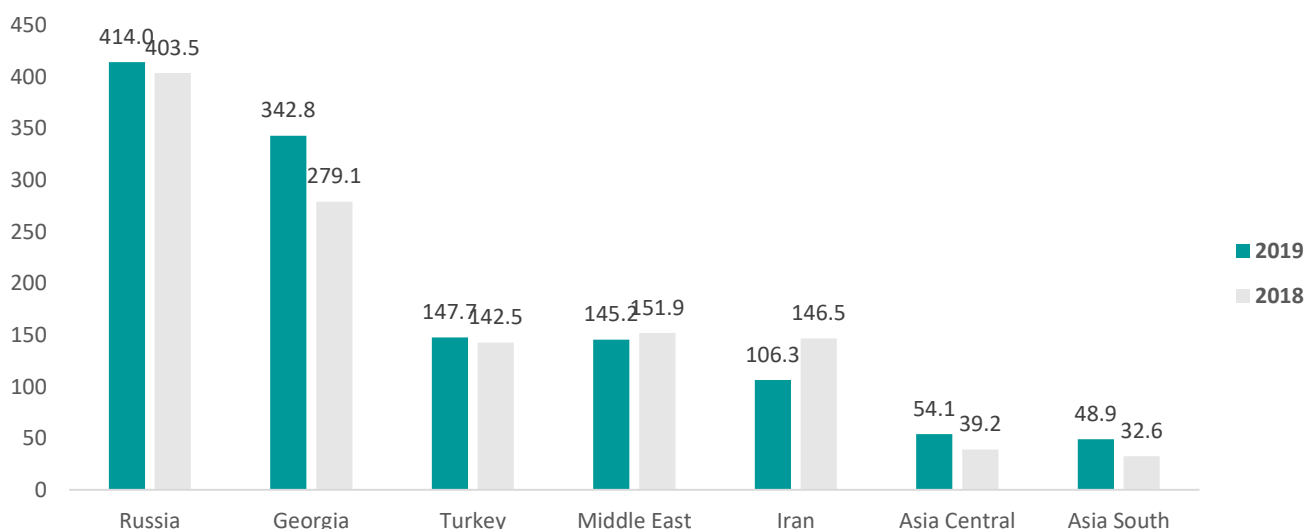


## 6.5% or 86 thousand more travelers in the first half of 2019

The number of foreign travelers arriving in Azerbaijan in the first half of 2019 reached 1.4 mln., an increase of 86 thou. or 6.5% compared to 1.3 mln. foreign citizens in the same period of 2018. The largest flow, namely 29.4% of all travelers, came from Russia (414 thou.); further 24.3% came from Georgia (343 thou.), an impressive increase of by 22.8% or 64 thou. Note that more than 50% of all travelers come from these two countries. The number of travelers from Turkey totaled 148 thou., an increase of 3.7%. For the countries of Central and South Asia, a rapid increase in the number of foreign visitors is observed, continuing the trend of the recent years; the growth of inbound flow from these regions amounted to 37.8% and 50.2%. The main tourism markets in South Asia are India (27 thou., an increase of 80.2%) and Pakistan (19 thou., an increase of 24.4%); main markets in Central Asia are Kazakhstan (20 thou.; an increase in 15.1%) and Turkmenistan (21 thou.; an increase of 85%).

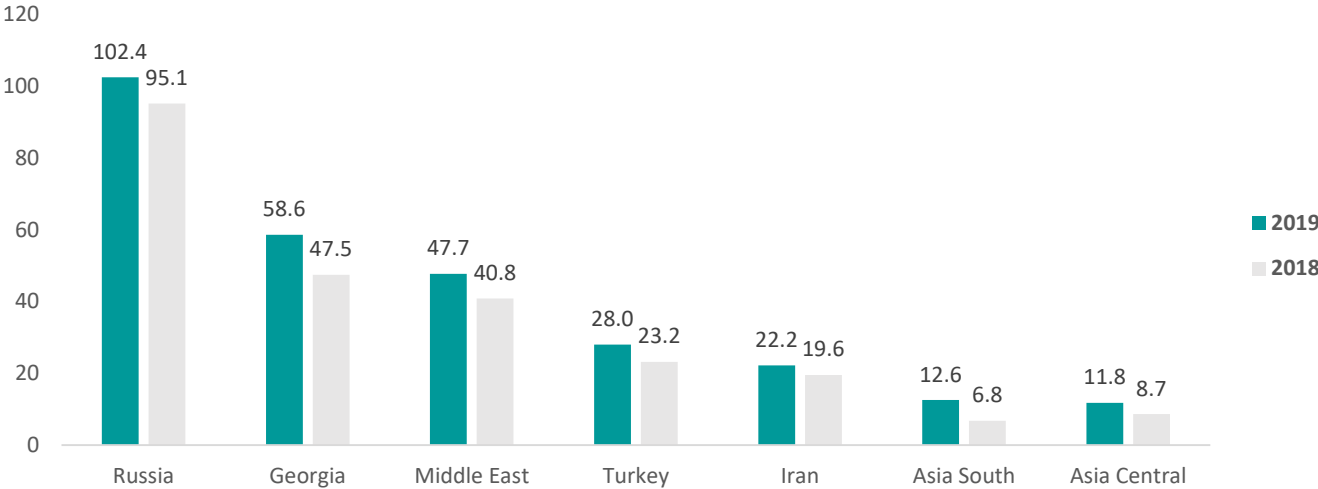
A substantial decline is observed for Iranians: the number of travelers went down by 40 thou. or 27.5% compared to the same period in 2018. There is also a decrease in the number of travelers from the Middle East by 7 thou. or 4.4%. This reduction is mainly due to countries such as Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait; the reduction in these countries compared to the same period last year is 31.5%, 25% and 14.1%, respectively. An increase of nearly 80% is observed for the number of travelers from Saudi Arabia which raised by 15 thousand to more than 34 thousand.

**Figure 1: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries and regions in Jan-Jun period of 2019 and 2018**



In June, an enormous increase of 17.2% in the number of travelers is observed; this trend applies to all countries and regions which are characteristic for tourism of Azerbaijan; see Figure 2. Record growth rates are seen for the number of travelers from the countries of South, Central and East Asia: 85.3% was the increase of travelers from South Asia, with growths of 104% and 75% for India and Pakistan, respectively, increases between 30% and 60% for the other Asian regions. The number of travelers from Iran, Turkey, the Middle East and Russia increased by 13.6%, 20.5%, 16.7% and 7.7%, respectively. It should be noted that a growing flow of travelers from Iran is observed for the first time after a long period of decline. Saudi Arabia stood out among Middle Eastern countries with an increase in the number of guests which amounts to 10 thousand or 82.5%. But the largest increase in the number of travelers is observed for Georgia: Azerbaijan was visited by 11 thou. or 23.4% more visitors from Georgia compared to the same period last year.

**Figure 2: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries/regions in June 2019 and 2018**



**Methodological note:** The numbers of foreign travellers are counts of border crossings as registered by the State Border Service. These numbers cover touristic visitors but also other travellers who do not fulfil the definition of being a touristic visitor given by the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008, such as border workers, long-term workers and students and patients, etc.; hence, the inbound tourism flow is slightly lower than the numbers of travellers provided in this report.

Table 1: Number of foreign travelers from various countries and regions in June 2019 and in January-June 2019, and similar figures for 2018.

Region	2019		2018	
	June	January-June	June	January-June
Russia	102 433	413 968	95 085	403 549
Georgia	58 615	342 823	47 483	279 102
Middle East	47 682	145 245	40 849	151 859
Turkey	27 988	147 703	23 223	142 476
Iran	22 248	106 267	19 578	146 480
Asia South	12 586	48 905	6 794	32 552
Asia Central	11 767	54 056	8 668	39 235
Europe East	10 828	48 290	9 556	46 439
Europe West	9 696	57 071	9 277	46 017
Asia East-North	5 319	17 982	3 594	11 786
America	3 215	13 346	2 990	12 339
Asia East-South	1 203	5 179	770	4 297
Rest	1 158	4 207	921	3 350
Africa	1 014	4 682	595	3 774
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>315 752</b>	<b>1 409 724</b>	<b>269 383</b>	<b>1 323 255</b>