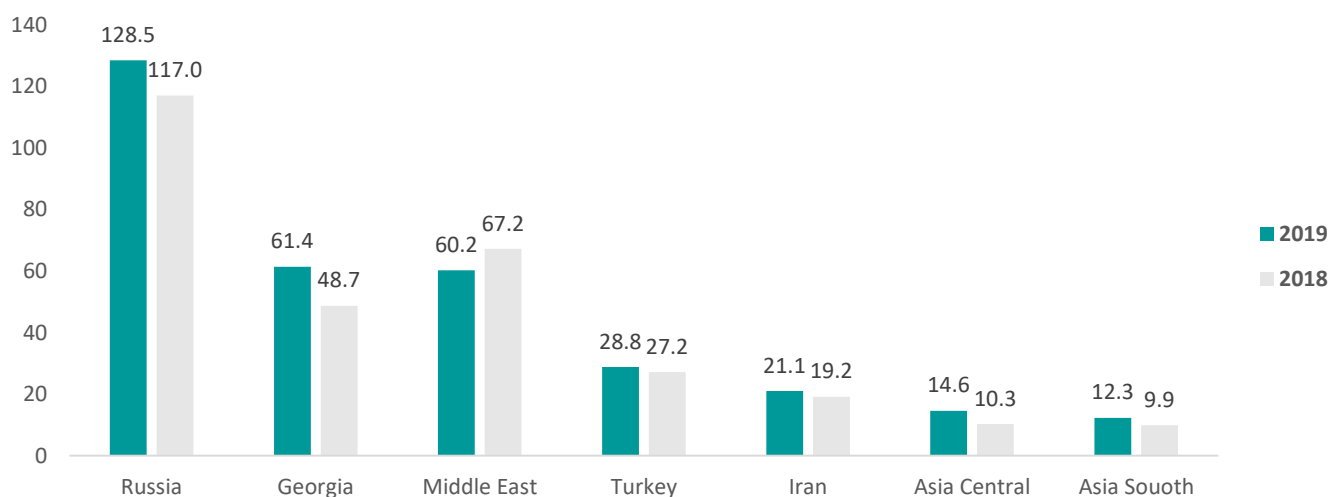




## In July, 10.6% more foreign guest in Azerbaijan

In July 2019, 365 thousand foreign travelers visited Azerbaijan, which is an increase of 10.6% compared to July 2018. More than one third, 35%, arrived from Russia; the increase in the number of travelers from Russia amounted to 11 thousand or 10%, compared with the same month of 2018. The largest increase of travelers, 12 thousand or 26%, is observed for Georgia: 61 thousand came in July. From countries of the Middle East, the number of travelers decreased by 7 thousand or 10% to 60 thousand. It should be noted that the number of travelers from Saudi Arabia increased by 25% to a record of 29 thousand; for other countries of the Middle East like Iraq, the UAE, Oman and Kuwait, a decrease is observed. From Turkey, Iran, Central and South Asia arrived 29, 21, 14 and 12 thousand travelers, a growth amounting to 6%, 10%, 41% and 25%, respectively. As in recent months, India (7 thousand; 81% increase) and Pakistan (5 thousand; 13% decrease) are the main tourist markets of South Asia, while Kazakhstan (6 thousand; 26% increase) and Turkmenistan (6 thousand; 68% increase) of Central Asia.

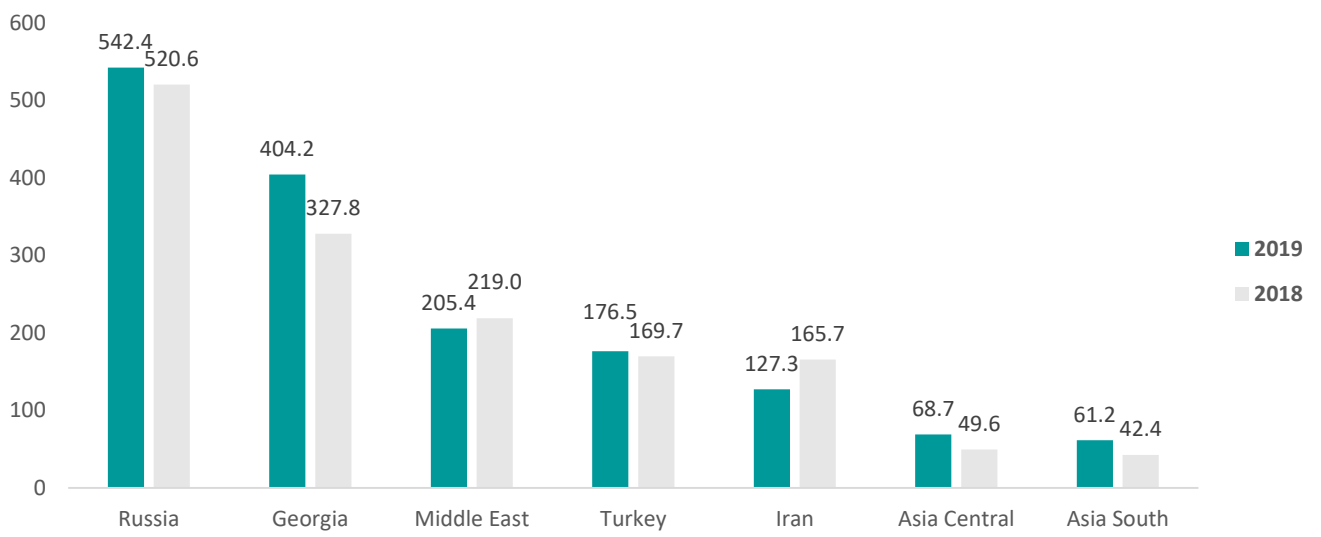
**Figure 1: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries/regions in July 2019 and 2018**



In the period January-July of the current year, Azerbaijan was visited by 1.8 million foreign travelers, which is 122 thousand and 7.4% more compared with the first seven months of 2018. The largest increase is observed for travelers from Georgia: 76 thousand or 23% more travelers came to Azerbaijan. There are also substantial increases in travelers from Central and South Asia, by 39% and 44%, respectively. For Russia and Turkey, top touristic markets with 542 and 176 thousand travelers, increases of about 4% are observed. Emerging markets are countries of South and Central Asia, the most rapid growth in the number of travelers being observed for India, 80% to 33 thousand, and Turkmenistan, 81% to 27 thousand. The number of travelers from Iran decreased by 23% to 127 thousand, those from the Middle East by 6% to 205 thousand.

It is worth noting that from Western European countries, a region which traditionally is of only limited touristic relevance for Azerbaijan, the number of travelers increased by 14 thousand or 25% to 71 thousand.

**Figure 2: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries and regions in January-July period of 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 July 2019 and in January-July 2019, and similar figures for 2018.

Region	2019		2018	
	July	January-July	July	January-July
Russia	128 457	542 425	117 022	520 571
Georgia	61 390	404 213	48 714	327 816
Middle East	60 192	205 437	67 155	219 014
Turkey	28 791	176 494	27 193	169 669
Iran	21 064	127 331	19 200	165 680
Asia Central	14 610	68 666	10 339	49 574
Europe West	13 872	70 943	10 839	56 856
Europe East	13 286	61 576	10 880	57 319
Asia South	12 333	61 238	9 882	42 434
Asia East-North	5 277	23 259	3 407	15 193
America	2 957	16 303	2 863	15 202
Rest	1 232	5 439	1 166	4 516
Africa	909	5 591	698	4 472
Asia East-South	783	5 962	675	4 972
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>365 153</b>	<b>1 774 877</b>	<b>330 033</b>	<b>1 653 288</b>