

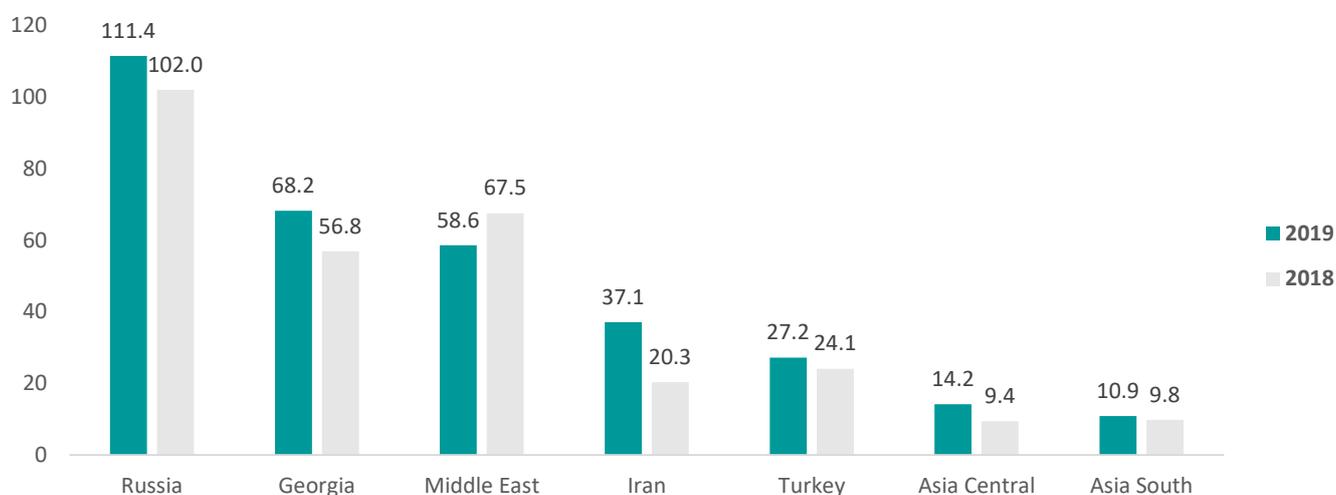


## 82% more guests from Iran in August

In August, 361 thousand travelers arrived in Azerbaijan, an increase of 42 thousand or 13.2% compared to August 2018. The largest number of travelers, 111 thousand, an increase of 9.3%, came from Russia. The largest growth is observed for Iran with 82.2% or 17 thousand, totaling to 37 thousand travelers. High growth is also characteristic for Georgian residents: 68 thousand arrived, an increase of 11 thousand or 20% over last year. The number of guests from Turkey, Central and South Asia increased by 13%, 50% and 11.2% respectively amounting to 27 thousand, 14 thousand and 11 thousand. As in recent months, India (5.6 thousand; a plus of 19.1%) and Pakistan (4.6 thousand; an increase of 6.5%) in South Asia, and Kazakhstan (5.8 thousand; an increase of 39.7%) and Turkmenistan (5.1 thousand.; a plus of 91.7%) in Central Asia are the largest touristic markets of Azerbaijan.

From the Middle East region, 58 thousand travelers visited Azerbaijan, 9 thousand or 13.3% less compared to the previous year. This decline is largely due to a decrease in travelers from Iraq, the UAE, Oman and Bahrain. The largest market in the Middle East region is still Saudi Arabia: 22.6 travelers arrived, an increase of 18.3%.

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

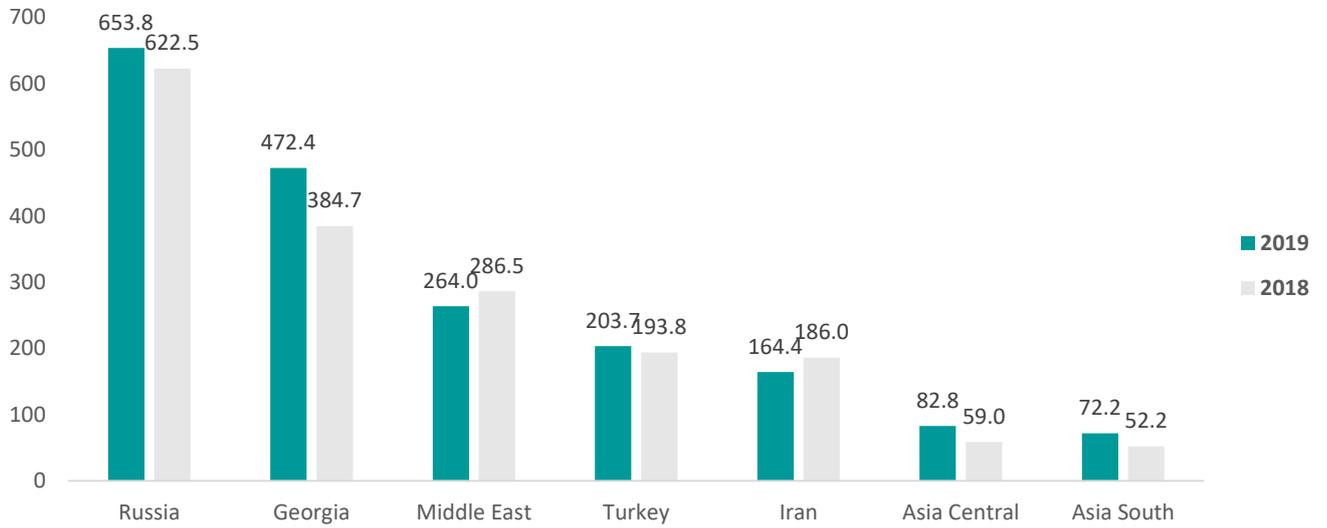


In the period January-August, the number of foreign travelers visiting Azerbaijan increased by 8.3% to 2.1 million. More than half, namely 53%, of the travelers came from Russia (653 thousand) and Georgia (472 thousand), the latter with an enormous increase of 22.8% or 87 thousand. Large increases of 40.4% and 38.1% to 82.8 and 72.2 thousand are observed for Central and South Asia, respectively. From South Asia, most foreign travelers came from India (39 thousand; 68% growth) and Pakistan (29 thousand; 12.9% growth); and from Central Asia, most came from Turkmenistan (32 thousand; 82.9% growth) and Kazakhstan (31 thousand; 21.2% growth). The number of travelers from Turkey increased by 5.1% to 203 thousand compared to the same period last year.

The number of travelers to Azerbaijan from the Middle East and Iran decreased by 23 and 22 thousand, totaling to 264 thousand and 164 thousand, respectively.

Rep Offices has been established in December of 2018 in China, India, Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia and UAE. From these countries, 236.7 thousand travelers arrived in the period January-August, an increase of 35.4 thousand or 17.4% over the same period of 2018; without the UAE, the increase of travelers amounts to 42.5%.

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

Region	2019		2018	
	August	January-August	August	January-August
Russia	111 398	653 823	101 959	622 530
Georgia	68 220	472 433	56 842	384 658
Middle East	58 557	263 994	67 530	286 544
Iran	37 062	164 393	20 342	186 022
Turkey	27 209	203 703	24 088	193 757
Asia Central	14 168	82 834	9 441	59 015
Europe East	11 182	72 758	9 762	67 081
Europe West	11 118	82 061	9 429	66 285
Asia South	10 915	72 153	9 814	52 248
Asia East-North	4 768	28 027	3 737	18 930
America	3 203	19 506	2 972	18 174
Rest	1 296	6 735	1 261	5 777
Asia East-South	1 206	7 168	977	5 949
Africa	1 057	6 648	1 187	5 659
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>361 359</b>	<b>2 136 236</b>	<b>319 341</b>	<b>1 972 629</b>