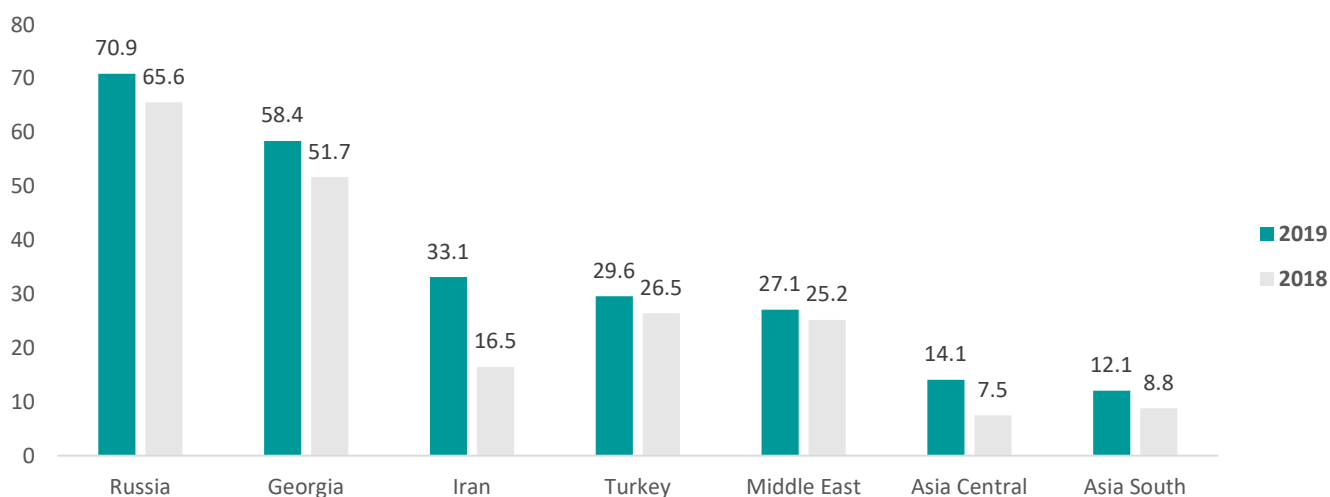




## Record growth of international travelers in September: 20.8% plus

According to data from the State Border Service, in September 2019, 280 thousand in total and 48 thousand or 20.8% more foreign citizens crossed the borders of Azerbaijan than in September 2018. The highest increases are recorded for Iran, doubling the number of travelers up to 33 thousand, and Central Asian countries with 88%. Followed by Iran, highest growth in absolute numbers show Georgia, plus 6.7 thousand and 13%, and Russia with plus 5.3 thousand and 8%. Among travelers from Central Asian countries, the number of guests from Turkmenistan increased by a record 231.8% to 6.8 thousand. Among the South Asian countries, a sharp increase is experienced for travelers from India (83.7% or 3 thousand), and among Middle East countries for Saudi Arabia (96.1% or 3.8 thousand). The number of travelers from the Middle East and South Asia increased by 7.5% and 37.6% to 27.1 thousand and 12.1 thousand, respectively. As usual, nearly half of all travelers (46.3%) came from Russia (70 thousand; an increase of 8%) and Georgia (58 thousand; an increase of 13%).

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

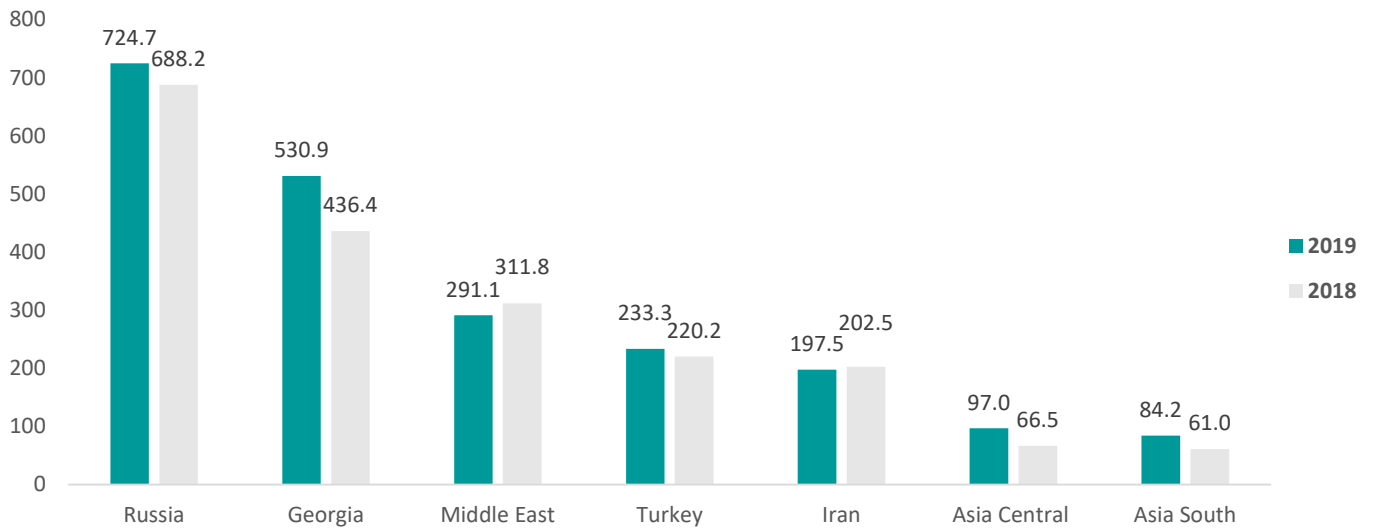


In the period January-September 2019, the number of foreign travelers visiting Azerbaijan increased by 9.6% compared with the same period last year and exceeded 2.4 million. As in September, the largest number of travelers arrived from Russia and Georgia, in total 1.26 million; these two countries are origin of 52% of all travelers. The number of travelers from Georgia was growing by impressive 94.5 thousand or 21.7%. Increases in the tourism flow are observed for the countries of Central and South Asia: 45.8% and 38% more guests, respectively. The largest markets in South Asia are India with 45 thousand travelers, an increase of 70.1%, and Pakistan with 33 thousand travelers, an increase of 11.8%. In Central Asia, the largest number of travelers came from Turkmenistan, 39 thousand and an increase of 98.5%, and from Kazakhstan, 35.6 thousand and an increase of 22.6%. The number of travelers from Turkey increased by 13 thousand or 5.9% and reached 233 thousand.

For travelers from the Middle East and Iran, a slight decrease is observed: Azerbaijan was visited by 291.1 thousand and 197.5 thousand people, respectively, a reduction of 20 and 4.9 thousand or 6.6% and 2.5%. The decrease is observed for all major Middle Eastern countries except for Saudi Arabia, for which the number of travelers increased by 42.4% to 93 thousand.

From the countries where Rep Offices has been established (China, India, Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, UAE) 950.7 thousand travelers arrived in the first nine months of 2019, an increase of 72 thousand or 8% over the same period of 2018. The highest increases were observed for India, China, and Saudi Arabia.

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

Region	2019		2018	
	September	January-September	September	January-September
Russia	70 907	724 730	65 633	688 163
Georgia	58 440	530 873	51 703	436 361
Iran	33 142	197 535	16 483	202 505
Turkey	29 619	233 322	26 475	220 232
Middle East	27 132	291 126	25 228	311 772
Asia Central	14 121	96 955	7 490	66 505
Asia South	12 095	84 248	8 791	61 039
Europe East	11 077	83 835	9 851	76 932
Europe West	10 822	92 883	9 643	75 928
Asia East-North	5 582	33 609	4 669	23 599
America	3 357	22 863	2 905	21 079
Asia East-South	1 391	8 559	896	6 845
Rest	1 102	7 837	1 016	6 793
Africa	831	7 479	708	6 367
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>279 618</b>	<b>2 415 854</b>	<b>231 491</b>	<b>2 204 120</b>