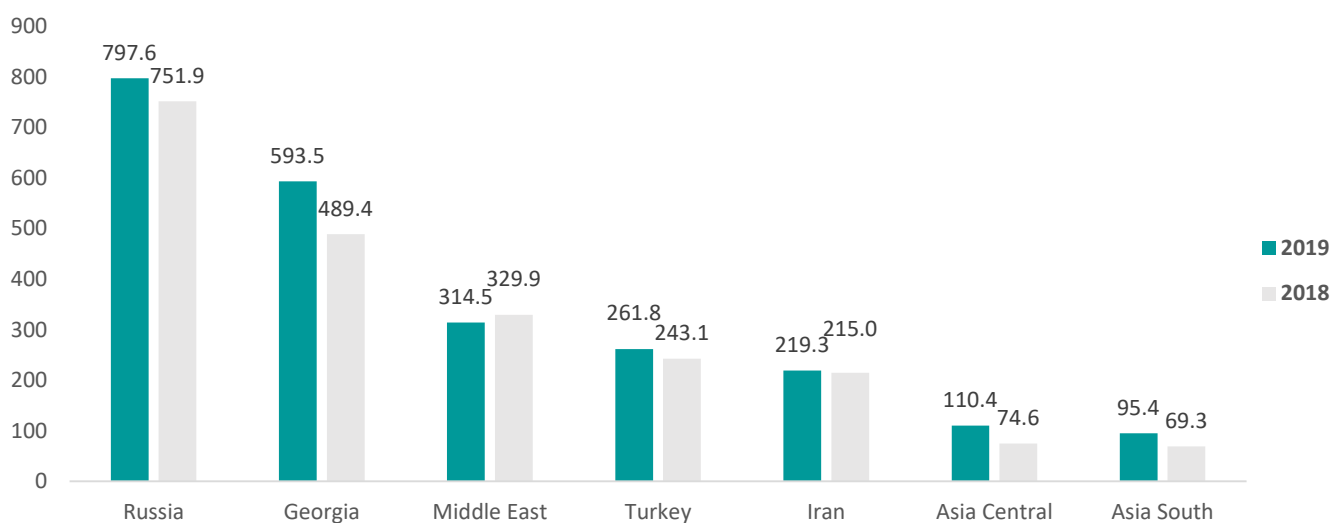




Azerbaijan expects record year of inbound tourism in 2019

Nearly 2.7 million foreign travelers visiting Azerbaijan in 2019 so far are an increase by 10.9% or 264 thousand compared with the same period last year and let expect a record year with more than 3 million inbound travelers to Azerbaijan in 2019. The largest number of travelers arrived from Russia, nearly 800 thousand, and Georgia, nearly 600 thousand; these two countries are origin of 51.9% of all travelers. The number of travelers from Georgia was growing by impressive 104 thousand or 21.3%. Increases in the tourism flow are observed for the countries of Central and South Asia: 47.9% and 37.8% more guests, respectively. The largest markets in South Asia are India with 51 thousand travelers, an increase of 66.6%, and Pakistan with 38 thousand travelers, an increase of 13.2%. In Central Asia, the largest number of travelers came from Turkmenistan, 44.5 thousand and an increase of 98.7%, and from Kazakhstan, 40 thousand and an increase of 24.5%. The number of travelers from Turkey increased by 18.7 thousand or 7.7% and reached 262 thousand. Among Middle East countries, travelers from Saudi Arabia grew to 98 thousand, an increase of 44.1%.

Figure 1: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries and regions in January-October period of 2019 and 2018

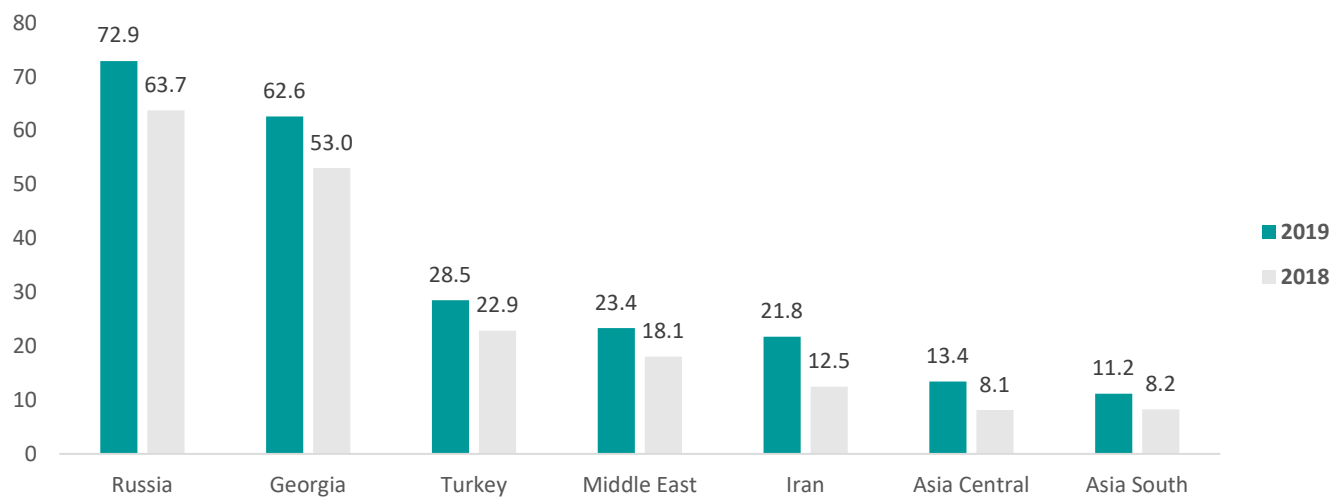


From the countries where Rep Offices has been established (China, India, Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, UAE) 104.2 thousand travelers arrived so far in 2019, an increase of 86 thousand or 9% over the same period of 2018. The highest increases were observed for India, China, and Saudi Arabia.

In October 2019, 264 thousand in total and 52 thousand or 24.7% more travelers crossed the borders of Azerbaijan than in October 2018. The highest increases are recorded for Iran with 74.3% and Central Asian countries with 65.1%. Highest growth in absolute numbers show Georgia, plus 9.6 thousand and 18%, and Russia with plus 9.2 thousand and 14.4%. Among travelers from Central Asian countries, the number of guests from Turkmenistan increased by a record 100.4% to 5.4 thousand. Among the South Asian countries, a sharp increase is experienced for travelers from India with 41.7%, amounting to 5.4 thousand, and among Middle East countries for Saudi Arabia with 83.7%, amounting to 5.2 thousand travelers. The number

of travelers from the Middle East and South Asia increased by 29.1% and 35.8% to 23.4 thousand and 11.2 thousand, respectively.

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

Region	2019		2018	
	October	January-October	October	January-October
Russia	72 905	797 635	63 745	751 908
Georgia	62 603	593 476	53 047	489 408
Turkey	28 506	261 828	22 865	243 097
Middle East	23 356	314 482	18 088	329 860
Iran	21 757	219 292	12 485	214 990
Asia Central	13 419	110 374	8 127	74 632
Asia South	11 189	95 437	8 242	69 281
Europe East	9 931	93 766	8 817	85 749
Europe West	9 258	102 141	8 830	84 758
Asia East-North	4 294	37 903	3 134	26 733
America	2 821	25 684	2 261	23 340
Asia East-South	1 681	10 240	839	7 684
Africa	1 070	8 549	625	6 992
Rest	1 288	9 125	698	7 491
Grand Total	264 078	2 679 932	211 803	2 415 923