



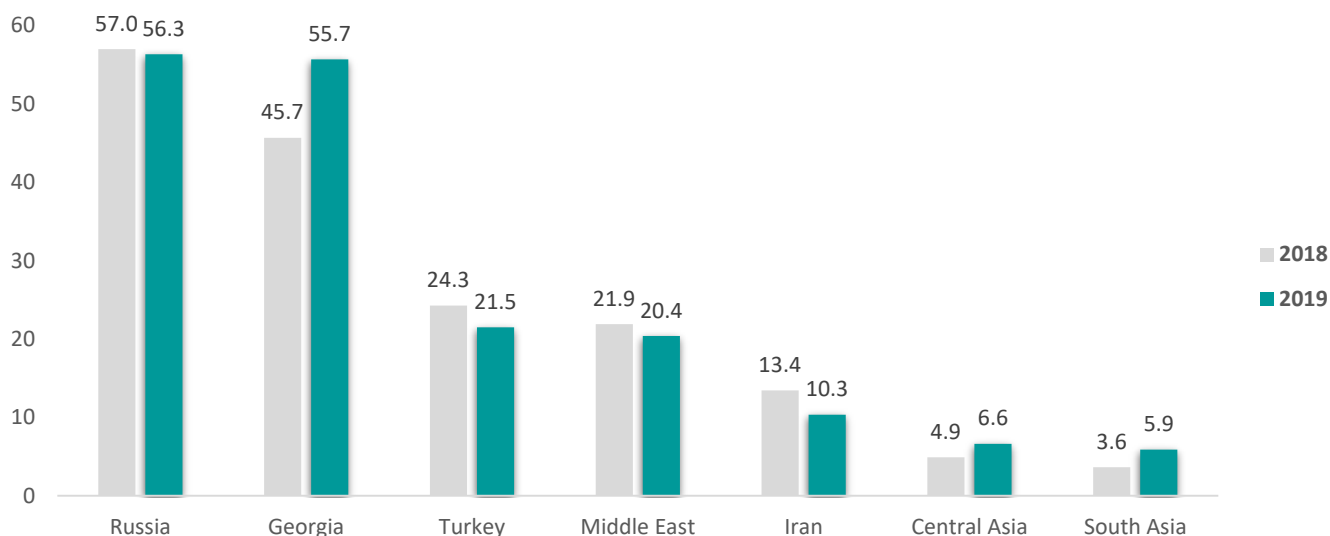
### 2019 started with further growth of foreign travelers

The increase in the number of foreign travelers in Azerbaijan observed in 2018 continued in January 2019. According to data received from the State Border Service, 191.4 thousand foreign travelers arrived in our country during January, which is 5 thousand or 3% more, compared to the same period of the last year.

The largest increase in the number of foreign travelers is observed for Georgia: 55.7 thousand Georgians arrived, an increase of 22%. South Asia and Central Asia are the other substantially growing markets: 12.5 thousand travelers arrived from these countries, an impressive increase of 60.9% and 35.4%, respectively. The highest growth rates are observed for the South Asian countries Pakistan and India, and for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan from Central Asia, all with more than 2000 arrivals in January.

For some countries, the number of arrivals decreased. This applies for two of the big markets of tourism in Azerbaijan, for Turkey and Iran. The number of travelers from Turkey amounted to 21.5 thousand, a decrease of 11.5%. Even higher was the decrease of travelers from Iran, 23% or 3 thousand guests less than in January 2018; this decrease continues the trend already seen in the whole year 2018. From the countries of the Middle East, a decrease of 1.5 thousand or 7% is observed. The number of travelers from Russia, the most important market of Azerbaijan, remained almost unchanged at 56.3 thousand.

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



**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 Jan 2019 as well as changes of these numbers against the same periods in 2018.

Region	2019	Change in 2018
	Jan	Jan
Russia	56 339	56 990
Georgia	55 685	45 679
Turkey	21 481	24 276
Middle East	20 375	21 899
Iran	10 336	13 437
Asia Central	6 615	4 886
Asia South	5 865	3 645
Europe East	5 351	6 125
Europe West	5 138	5 246
America	1 313	1 366
Asia North-East	1 235	1 008
Africa	765	499
Asia South-East	571	545
Rest	355	312
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>191 424</b>	<b>185 913</b>