

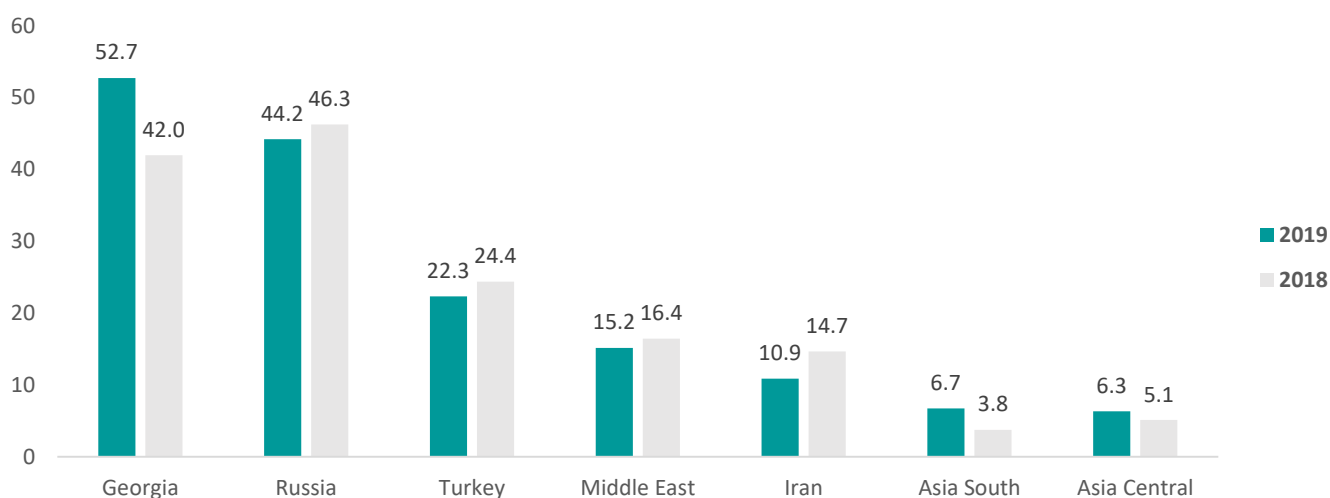


Statistics of visiting Azerbaijan: Georgian citizens are ahead of Russians

In February of this year Azerbaijan was visited by 172.7 thousand foreign travelers; this is an increase of 3.9% or 6.5 thousand travelers compared to the same period of the last year. For the first time, Georgia, with 52 thousand travelers, became the leading market in terms of the number of guests: In February, compared to the same month of the last year, the increase amounted to 25.6% or 10.8 thousand. Georgia was also the top market in the first two months of 2019: 108 thousand travelers from Georgia are an increase of 23.7 % or 20.8 thousand; 29.8 % of all travelers were coming from Georgia. It should be noted that this strong growth of arrivals from Georgia is observed since last fall: starting from October the average annual increase in the number of travelers is 23.7%.

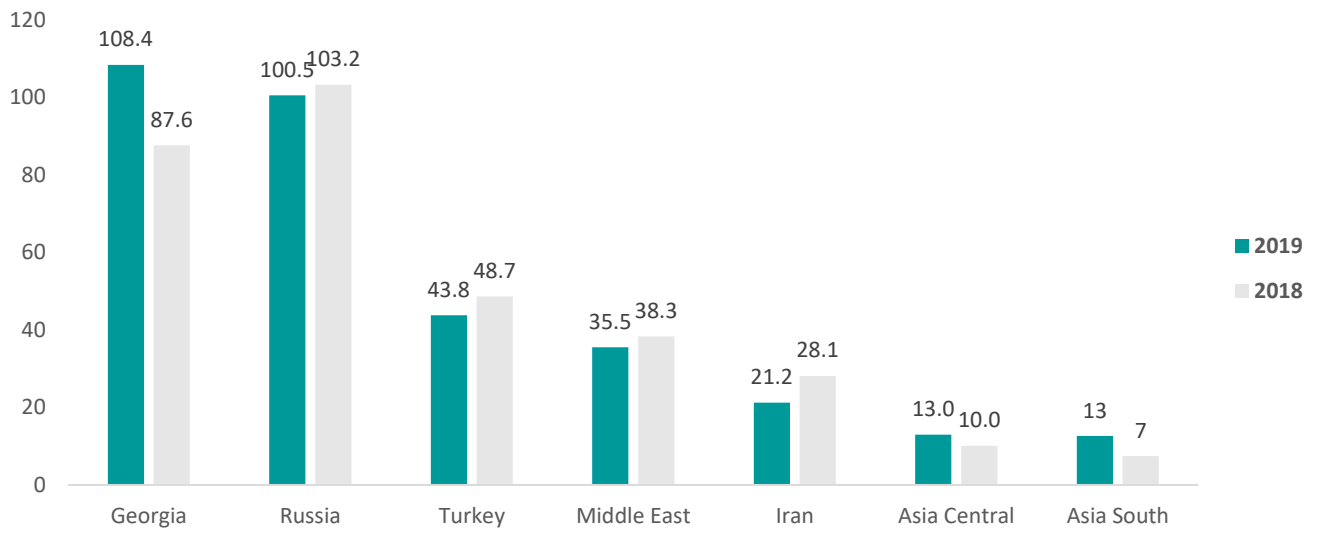
South and Central Asia are the other fast-growing markets. In January and February 2019, Azerbaijan was visited by 70.2% and 29.2% more guests from South and Central Asia, respectively, than in the same period of 2018. Most of travelers from South Asia account for those from India (6.1 thousand) and Pakistan (5.5 thousand), whereas from Central Asia, top markets are Turkmenistan (5.1 thousand) and Kazakhstan (4.5 thousand). In February, the increase of travelers, compared to the same period last year, was 3.0 thousand and 1.2 thousand for the South and Central Asian regions, respectively, in total amounting to 6.7 thousand and 6.3 thousand.

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



In February, the numbers of travelers from Russia, Turkey and the Middle East decreased by 4.5%, 8.4%, 7.7%, respectively, compared with 2018. A similar picture is seen for the period January-February: the declines of travelers from these countries were 2.6%, 10% and 7.3%, respectively. As in the whole year 2018, the biggest decline is observed among citizens from Iran: In January and February, 21.2 thousand travelers arrived, a decrease of 6.9 thousand or 24.6%; in February, the decrease was even higher, amounting to 26.0%.

Figure 2: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries and regions in Jan-Feb 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 Feb 2019 and in the period Jan-Feb as well as changes of these numbers against the same periods in 2018.

Region	2019		Change against 2018	
	February	January-February	February	January-February
Georgia	52 730	108 415	41 970	87 649
Russia	44 192	100 531	46 255	103 245
Turkey	22 322	43 803	24 381	48 657
Middle East	15 167	35 542	16 429	38 328
Iran	10 855	21 191	14 674	28 111
Asia South	6 742	12 607	3 762	7 407
Asia Central	6 337	12 952	5 138	10 024
Europe East	5 224	10 575	5 401	11 526
Europe West	5 070	10 208	4 914	10 160
Asia East-North	1 348	2 583	970	1 978
America	1 234	2 547	1 093	2 459
Asia South-East	574	1 145	480	1 025
Africa	516	1 281	442	941
Other	368	723	244	556
TOTAL	172 679	364 103	166 153	352 066