

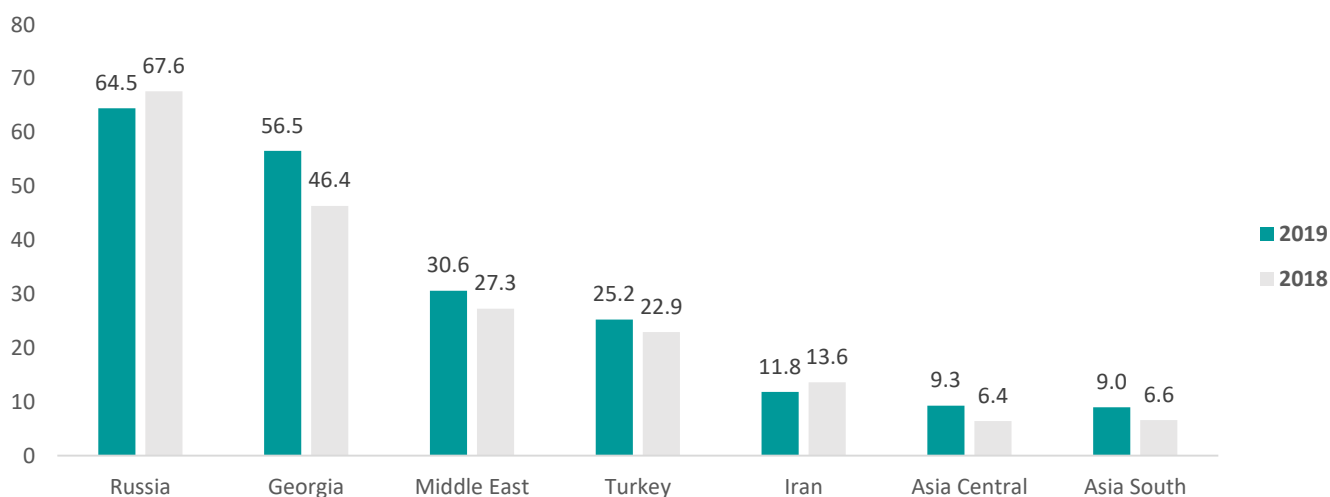


Arrivals in April: 12% more guests from the Middle East

In April, the number of foreign travelers in Azerbaijan increased by 8.9% or 19.4 thousand to nearly 238 thousand in comparison to April 2018, according to data from State Border Service. The biggest increase in the number of travelers is observed for Georgia with a growth of 22% or 10.2 thousand. 30 thousand travelers from the Middle East correspond to 12% of growth; this growth is largely due to the increased number of travelers from UAE (16.2%), Saudi Arabia (101.3%) and Israel (70.1%). The number of travelers from South (35.4%) and Central Asia (44.2%) keep increasing at a high pace. Of South Asia, India with an increase of 95%, and of Central Asia, Turkmenistan with 144% growth, are remarkable. For travelers from Turkey an increase of 10% is observed, resulting in 25.2 thousand.

The number of travelers from Russia and Iran, as shown in Figure 1, decreased by 3.2 and 1.8 thousand, respectively.

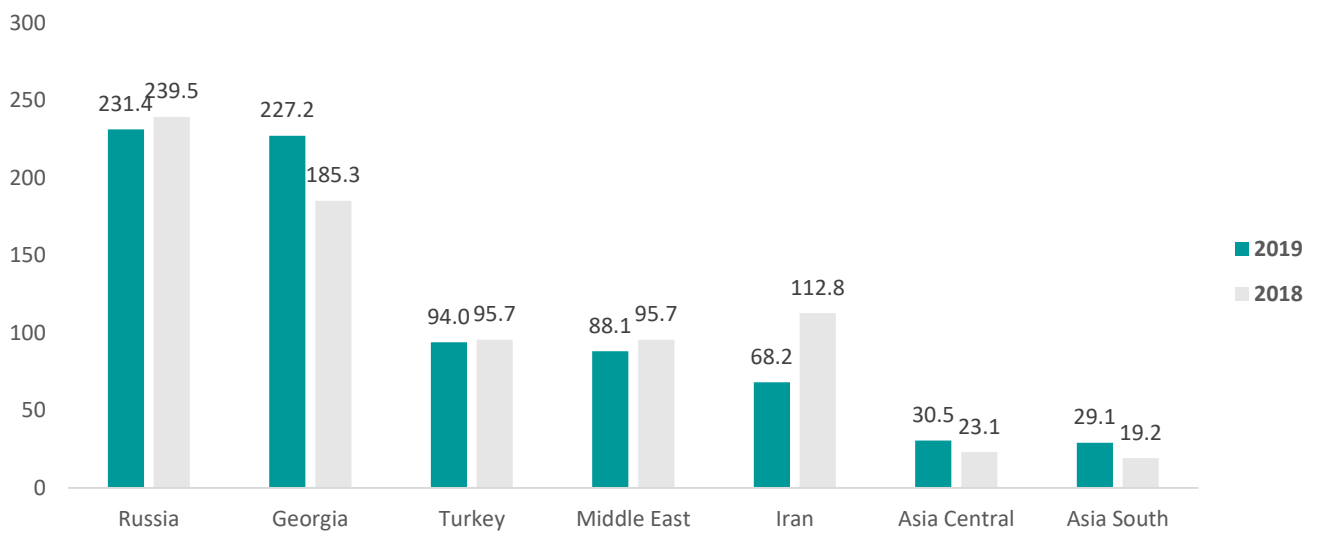
Figure 1: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries/regions in April 2019 and 2018



For the first four months of 2019, a slight increase of 2 thou. in the number of foreign travelers is observed, compared with the same period of 2018; in total 848 thousand travelers came to Azerbaijan this year so far. As in April, so in January-April period Georgia and the regions South and Central Asia are the most developing regions; the increases in the number of travelers from these markets are 22.6%, 51.4% and 31.9% respectively. India with 15.1 thousand travelers and Pakistan with 11.8 thousand travelers are the major source markets from South Asia, Turkmenistan with 12.0 thousand travelers and Kazakhstan with 10.5 thousand travelers those from Central Asia.

For some countries, particularly for Russia and Iran, the number of arrivals in the first four months of 2019 decreased. The number of travelers from Russia amounted to 231 thousand, a slight decrease of 3.4%. The decrease of travelers from Iran was even higher with 40%. From the countries of the Middle East, a decrease of 7.5 thousand or 8% is observed. The number of travelers from Turkey slightly decreased by 2% totaling to 94 thousand.

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

Region	2019		2018	
	April	January-April	April	January-April
Russia	64 487	231 411	67 642	239 456
Georgia	56 548	227 233	46 377	185 286
Middle East	30 601	88 135	27 305	95 670
Turkey	25 248	94 028	22 930	95 663
Europe West	12 909	29 843	11 490	28 058
Iran	11 825	68 197	13 626	112 784
Asia Central	9 293	30 474	6 444	23 109
Asia South	8 960	29 079	6 616	19 201
Europe East	8 877	26 754	9 064	27 960
Asia East-North	3 029	7 493	1 770	5 071
America	2 616	7 131	2 210	6 594
Asia East-South	1 159	2 961	1 009	2 732
Africa	1 092	3 083	951	2 614
Others	817	2 080	633	1 695
TOTAL	237 461	847 902	218 067	845 893