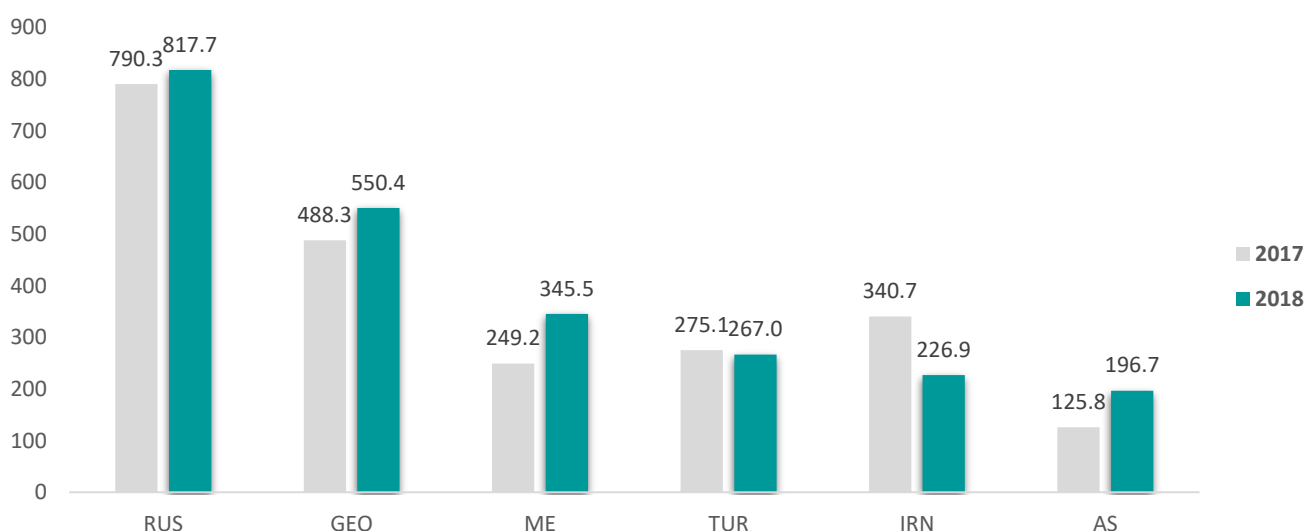


Foreign travelers in Azerbaijan reach 2,5 million; 40% less travellers from Iran in November

In the period January to November 2018, the number of foreign travelers who visited Azerbaijan increased by 6% or 151 thousand in comparison to the same period of 2017; nearly 2,5 million travelers crossed our borders. More than 50% of the travelers came from Russia and Georgia, people from these countries have increased by 4% and 13%, respectively, totaling to 817 and 550 thousand. The most remarkable increases are those for Middle East and Asian countries: 39% and 56% more travelers, in total 346 and 297 thousand, respectively, came from these regions. UAE (81 thou.), Saudi Arabia (70 thou.) and Iraq (64 thou.) are the main Middle East contributors, Pakistan (37 thou.), Kazakhstan (35 thou.), India (35 thou.) and Turkmenistan (25 thou.) are the main Asian markets.

This overall positive picture is disturbed by the development of the number of guests from Iran: This number fell from 341 thousand in 2017 to 227 thousand in 2018, a decrease of 114 thousand or 33%. In 2017, the Islamic Republic was – behind Russia and Georgia - the third biggest market of tourism in Azerbaijan. It is quite obvious that Iran will lose this favorable position in the tourism of Azerbaijan in 2018. A slight decrease of 3% in the number of arrivals is observed for Turkey, resulting in 267 thousand travelers.

Figure 1: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 6 countries and regions in Jan-Nov period of 2017 and 2018



In November, the number of foreign travelers increased by 6% in comparison with 2017, reaching 213 thousand. Considerable growth can be observed - see **Figure 1** - for Georgia and from Asian countries with 25% and 53%, respectively, the latter, nevertheless, still amounting to only 18 thousand. Like in the whole year 2018, the noticeable decrease of nearly 40% is observed for travelers from Iran.

Figure 2: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 6 countries/regions in November 2017 and 2018

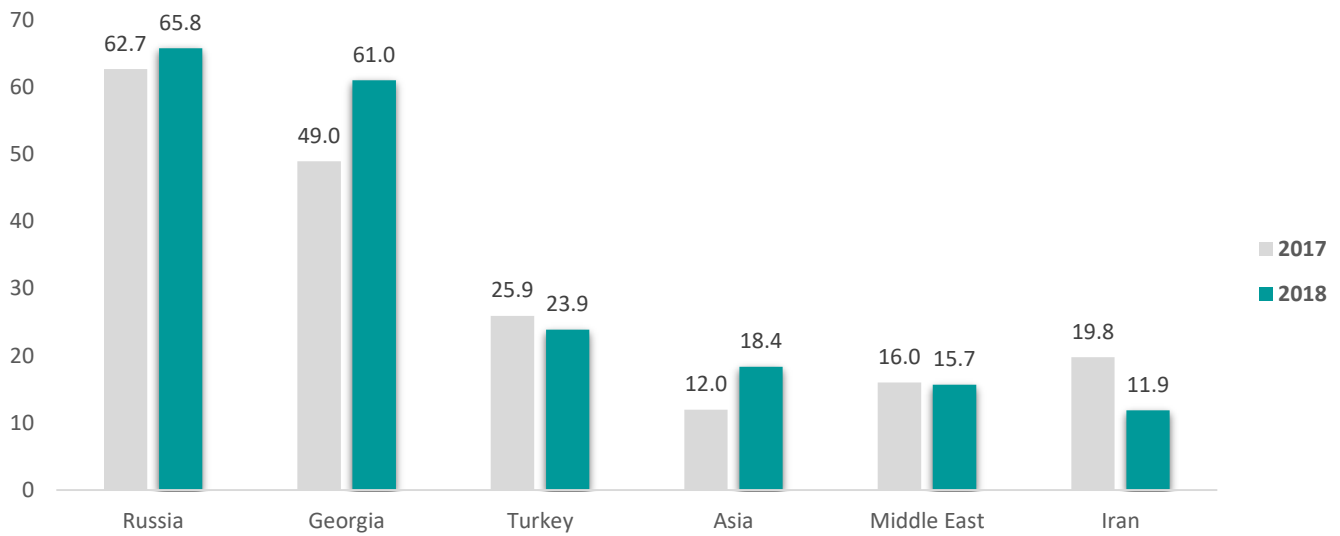


Figure 4 illustrates market shares of 6 countries and regions in Jan-Nov 2018 period. As can be seen from the graphic, Russia, Georgia and Middle East amount for 65% of the total number of travelers in the year 2018 so far. However, there are some shifts in market shares of 6 countries and regions. In comparison to the same period of 2017 (see Figure 3), Iran lost about 5%-points of its share, while Russia and Turkey just about 1% point. Middle East, Asia and Georgia, on the other hand, gained shares with 3%, 2% and 1% points, respectively.

Figure 3: market shares of 6 countries and regions for Jan-Nov 2017 period

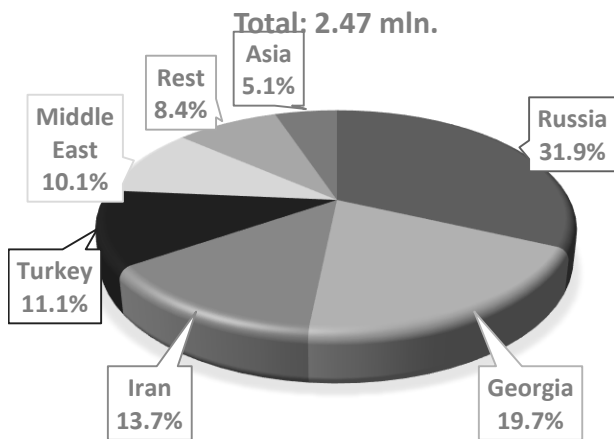
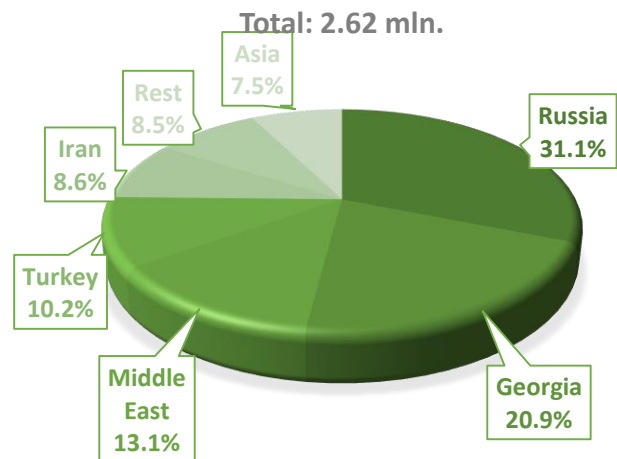


Figure 4: market shares of 6 countries and regions for Jan-Nov 2018 period



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 Nov 2018 and in the period January to Nov 2018 as well as changes of these numbers against the same periods in 2017.

Region	2018		Change against 2017	
	Nov	Jan-Nov	Nov	Jan-Nov
Russia	65 781	817 689	62 681	790 258
Georgia	61 014	550 422	48 964	488 269
Turkey	23 881	266 978	25 937	275 147
Asia	18 359	196 701	12 002	125 821
Middle East	15 674	345 534	16 036	249 202
Iran	11 907	226 897	19 798	340 702
Europe East	7 212	92 961	6 859	90 488
Europe West	6 280	91 038	6 663	84 924
America	1 641	24 985	1 506	20 763
Africa	668	7 660	333	4 321
Rest	565	8 052	525	8 013
TOTAL	212 982	2 628 917	201 304	2 477 908