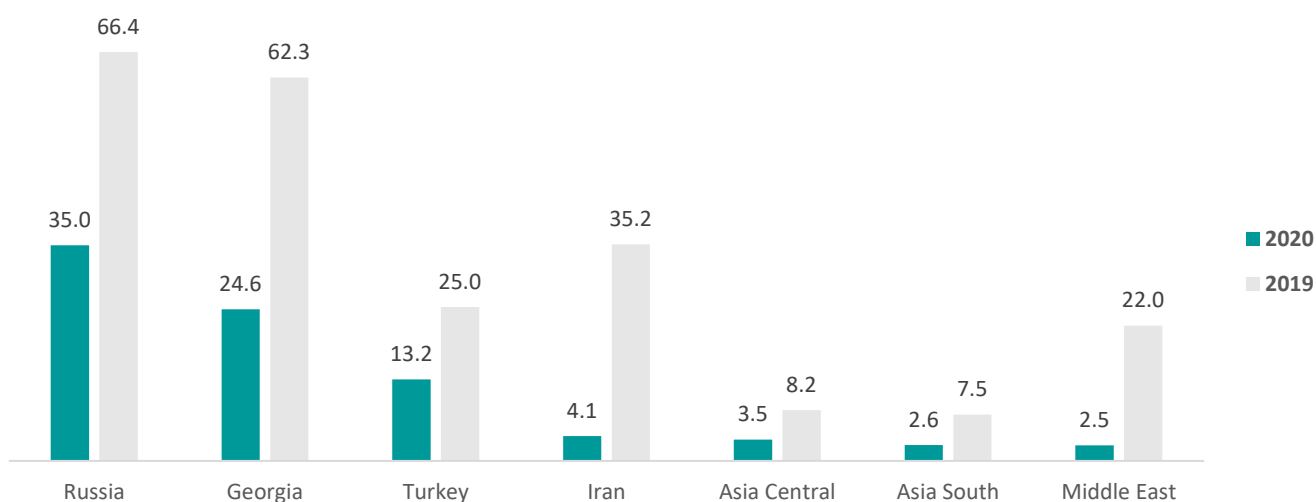




The number of arrivals in March 2020 dropped by 62% due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the State Border Service, in March 2020 nearly 93 thousand foreign travelers visited Azerbaijan, which is 153 thousand or 62.2% less compared to March 2019. The largest number of travelers arrived from Russia and Georgia; 35 thousand and 25 thousand respectively, 31 thousand and 38 thousand fewer travelers in March compared to last year. From Turkey 13 thousand, Iran 4 thousand and Middle East 3 thousand guests arrived, with 47.0%, 88.5% and 88.4% decrease rates respectively. Among Middle East countries, the largest number of arrivals, 915 people is observed for Saudi Arabia, with 71% decrease. The number of visitors from Eastern and Western Europe dropped by 3 thousand or 45.0% and 4 thousand or 63.6% in comparison with March 2019, totaling to 4 thousand and 2 thousand people respectively. The number of travelers from Central and South Asia has decreased by 58.0% and 65.8% totaling to 3 thousand people per each. Most of the guests from South Asia arrived from India and Pakistan; 1 thousand for both. Moreover, among Central Asian countries Turkmenistan with a thousand arrivals shows the highest result.

Figure 1: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries/regions in March 2020 and 2019



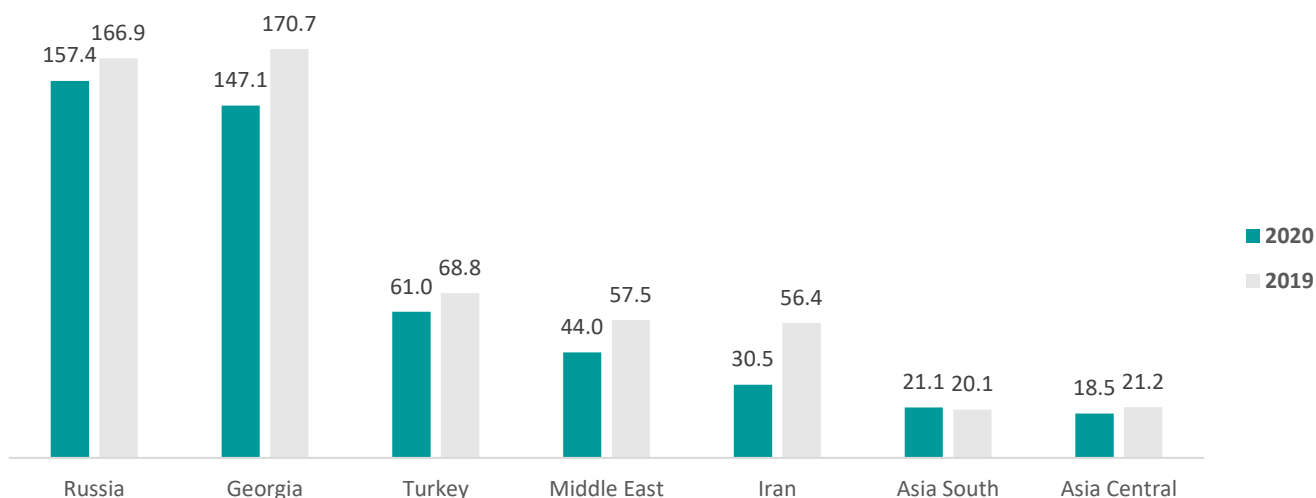
Source: State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan

In March 2020, a total of 38 thousand travelers arrived from the countries where Representation Offices have been established (China, India, Russia, Germany, Saudi Arabia, UAE), which dropped by 54.8% compared to 2019. These countries – Russia (-47.3%), India (68.1%), Saudi

Arabia (-70.8%), Germany (-59.5%), UAE (-96.0%) and China (-97.8%) experienced decrease in the number of arrivals.

From January to March 2020, the total number of foreign travelers who arrived in Azerbaijan dropped by 14.9%, compared to the same period of 2019, totaling to 519 thousand. Most of the guests came from Russia (157 thousand) and Georgia (147 thousand), with 58.6% share of the total number of arrivals. Among Middle East countries, the highest number of arrivals is observed for Saudi Arabia (12 thousand), UAE (8 thousand) and Kuwait (7 thousand). The number of travelers from South Asia increased by 4.7% and reached to 21 thousand. The largest market share among South Asian countries belongs to India with total of 12 thousand travelers, an increase of 20.0%. Despite the decrease March, Saudi Arabia and India show increase for January-March period, 85% and 20% respectively. In Central Asia, the largest number of travelers came from Kazakhstan 7 thousand (13.0% decrease). The number of travelers from Turkey and Iran decreased by 8 thousand and 26 thousand and totaled to 60 thousand and 30 thousand respectively.

Figure 2: Foreign travellers (in thousands) from 7 countries/regions in January-March period of 2020 and 2019



Source: State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Methodological note: The numbers of foreign travellers (A traveller is someone who moves between different geographic locations, for any purpose and any duration (International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics ([IRTS](#)) 2008, 2.4) 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 IRTS 2008, such as border workers, long-term workers and students and patients, etc.

Table 1: Number of foreign travelers from various countries and regions in March 2020 and 2019.

Region	2020	2019	2020	2019
	March	March	January – March	January – March
Russia	35020	66393	157419	166924
Georgia	24613	62270	147130	170685
Iran	4055	35181	30535	56372
Turkey	13235	24977	60952	68780
Middle East	2548	21992	44037	57534
Central Asia	3460	8229	18544	21181
Southern Asia	2568	7512	21067	20119
Eastern Europe	4019	7302	16708	17877
Western Europe	2450	6726	13124	16934
America	510	1968	3225	4515
North-Eastern Asia	142	1881	2621	4464
Africa	213	710	1466	1991
South-Eastern Asia	173	657	1500	1802
Other	195	540	1002	1263
TOTAL	93201	246338	519330	610441