

# Azerbaijan



## General Information



### Population

10.119.100 (STAT AZ 2021)

10.110.116 (World Bank:  
2020)



### Immigration

252.228 (UN DESA  
Immigration Stock 2020)

2.042 (Flow by STAT AZ 2019)



### Emigration

1.163.922 (UN DESA  
Emigration Stock 2020)

1.654 (Flow STAT AZ 2019)



### Working-age population

6.940.900 (STAT AZ 2021)

7.051.107 (World Bank 2020)



### Unemployment rate

7.2 (AZ STAT 2020)

6.2 (ILO Estimate 2020)



### GDP

72432.2 mln, current prices  
AZN (STAT AZ 2020)

42607.18 mln, current prices  
USD (World Bank: 2020)



### Refugees and IDPs

Refugees:

1.582 (UN Refugee Stock  
2020)

Asylum seekers:

48 (UN Asylum Stock 2020)

IDPs:

653921 (UNHCR 2020)

753,000 (IDMC 2020)



### Citizenship

By Birth: No

By Descent: Yes

Dual citizenship: No

Years of Residency: 5



### Territory

86.600 km<sup>2</sup> (CIA World  
Factbook)

# Migration Authorities

## Responsible Body

State Migration Service

## Line Ministries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Labour & Social Protection

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Health

## Agencies

State Border Service

State Security Service

The State Committee for Refugees and IDPs

## Key Policy Documents

2013 Migration Code

1999 Law on IDPs and Stateless Persons

1998 Law on Citizenship

1996 Law on Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons

1994 Law about Exit, Entry, and Passports

## Relevant Publications

Extended Migration Profile 2010

Migration Profile Light 2015

Analytical report “Combating irregular migration and human trafficking in the CIS countries”

Report on the National Action Plan to Fight Trafficking in Human Beings of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Recommendations for the Roadmap to Refugee Integration Policy in Azerbaijan

Background Note ‘Migration and Mobility in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: What to expect in times of COVID-19?’

Baseline Study on Migration in Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan features **substantial cross-border movements**, both from and into the country. For 2018, the **CIS portal** reveals an influx of 2,845,679 and outflow of 2,842,773 foreigners. In 2020, these **figures** decreased threefold, presumably owing to COVID-19. Meanwhile, the national statistics of Azerbaijan only reflect foreigners holding permanent residence permits. In 2019, there were **2,042 immigrants and 1,654 emigrants** according to the State Migration Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Among the post-Soviet countries, Azerbaijan had one of the highest **emigration rates of nearly 20 %** of its total population, resulting in over one million nationals residing abroad. Since 2010, this rate has been in decline, amounting to 10,6 % in 2020 (calculation is based on the **national population statistics and UN Migrant Stocks at mid-year**). This change largely occurred due to the growth in population, which surpassed the **ten million mark in 2020**. Azerbaijan is one of few Prague Process countries experiencing population growth and **is projected** to remain the most populous country in the South Caucasus until 2045.

Emigration from Azerbaijan is mostly a regional phenomenon. Based on the **UN migrant stocks 2019**, the most populous Azerbaijani communities exist in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Altogether, these countries are home to nearly one million Azerbaijani nationals. Russia still represents the prime target. In 2019, **over one million Azerbaijani nationals** crossed the border with Russia in both directions with over 75 % coming for private purposes and some 11 % (over 138,000) for work reasons. Meanwhile, the number of work patents and other work permits issued to Azerbaijani nationals in Russia in 2019 exceeded **55,000**. In recent years, Turkey also became one of the preferred destinations of Azerbaijani nationals, recording an increase in stocks and flows. In 2019, they reached over **22,000** and **over 26,000** respectively. Within **the EU**, the main destinations are Germany, France, Poland, the Netherlands and Sweden, with the former issuing most first-time residence permits (2,690 in 2019), as well as hosting most Azerbaijani nationals with valid residence permits at the end of 2019 (13,338). While family reunification is the most common reason for granting residency, Poland has issued most permits for work reasons, and France – on international protection grounds.

On par with declining emigration, immigration to Azerbaijan has also decreased. Since 2010, the immigrant stock decreased significantly, reaching **252,228 in 2020**. In 2016-2018, the flow remained rather stable with over **3,000 immigrants per year**, although it shrank by one third in 2019. As of 2013, Georgians, Russians and Turks represent the three main groups of immigrants. Turkish nationals hold most **long-term work permits in Azerbaijan**, followed by citizens of Ireland and India. **Irregular migration** has equally declined from over 21,000 persons violating the national migration law in 2017 to some 7,300 persons in 2020. Over the same period, the annual number of asylum seekers fluctuated from **671 to 93 persons**, most of whom were nationals of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. The recognition rate remains low and did not exceed ten persons over three years. However, due to the unresolved conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan hosts **the second largest** number of IDPs in Central Asia and Eastern Europe amounting to 753,000. Amongst them, **84,000 were displaced in 2020** due to the most violent flare up of conflict since 1994.

Assessing the regular return migration to Azerbaijan remains challenging due to statistical limitations. The number of

returning emigrants from e.g. Russia can provide only a relative estimate: some 50,000 nationals of Azerbaijan left Russia in 2017-2019. Meanwhile, the return rates of irregular Azerbaijani migrants from the EU increased twofold from 42 % in 2015 (out of 1,040 persons who were ordered to leave 445 actually returned) to over 97 % in 2019 (1,340 returned out of 1380).

Azerbaijan endorsed the Global Compact for Migration and recently developed the new National Migration Strategy on Migration for 2020-2025 (adoption yet pending in August 2021) in compliance with relevant international legal frameworks. The country also performed a diaspora mapping, providing insights into the skills and demographic profiles of Azerbaijani diaspora communities. In May 2020, Azerbaijan amended its Migration Code by widening the options for temporary residence permits on education grounds. Meanwhile, in June 2020 the country amended its Criminal Code along with the Law on Citizenship by eliminating the prosecution of Azerbaijani citizens who have acquired the citizenship of a foreign state. On 17 March 2021, Azerbaijan signed the Seat Agreement with ICMPD on the status of the latter in the Republic.