



Azerbaijan

General Information



Population

10 202 850 (World Bank 2024)

10 180 800 (STAT AZ 2024)



Immigration

218 460 (UN DESA
Immigration Stock 2024)

3 638 (STAT AZ Flow 2023)



Emigration

810 116 (UN DESA Emigration
Stock 2024)

2 483 (STAT AZ Flow 2023)



Working-age population

7 104 510 (World Bank 2024)

5 249 700 (STAT AZ 2023)



Unemployment rate

5.7 % (World Bank 2022)

5.5 % (STAT AZ 2023)



GDP

74 315 882 352.9 current
prices USD (World Bank 2024)

59 current prices AZN (STAT
AZ 2024)



Refugees, Asylum seekers, IDPs

Refugees

6 431 (UNHCR 2024)

Asylum Seekers

267 (UNHCR 2024)

IDPs

655 212 (UNHCR 2024)



Citizenship

By Birth

No (GLOBALCIT 2024)

By Descent

Yes (GLOBALCIT 2024)

Years of Residency

5 (GLOBALCIT 2024)



Territory

86 600 km² (CIA World
Factbook)

Data from international sources is updated automatically as it becomes available.

Migration Authorities

Responsible Body

State Migration Service

Line Ministries

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Labour & Social Protection of Population

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Science and Education

Agencies

State Border Service

State Security Service

The State Committee for Refugees and IDPs

State Committee on Work with Diaspora

Administration of the Regional Medical Divisions TABIB

Office of Commissioner of the Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ombudsman

The State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Key Policy Documents

Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2022-2026

2013 (2023) Migration Code

2009 Regulations on service in migration bodies

1999 Law on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Status

1998 Law on Citizenship

1994 Law on Passports

1994 Law on Identification document of citizens

The Republic of Azerbaijan features **substantial cross-border movements**, both from and into the country. In 2022, the border crossings exceeded 6 million in both directions, with half of them performed by foreigners and stateless persons and another half by Azerbaijani nationals.

In 2023, there were **3,638 immigrants and 2,483 emigrants** according to the **State Statistics Committee**. Since 2008, Azerbaijan's **net migration** is positive reaching 1.8 in 2022 and 1.2 in 2023. The population of Azerbaijan has been steadily growing, surpassing 10 million people in 2021. Azerbaijan **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 2020**, the most populous Azerbaijani communities exist in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Altogether, these countries are home to nearly one million Azerbaijani nationals. From 2013 to 2020, 10,547 Azerbaijanis left for permanent residence of whom 62% were female. The vast majority of all Azerbaijani emigrants have settled in the **CIS region**, primarily to Russia, followed by Kazakhstan, Türkiye (**25 950** Azerbaijani in 2023), Ukraine, and Georgia.

The EU and the US are also becoming increasingly attractive for Azerbaijani emigrants. EU countries issued **11,310 first-time permits** in 2022 to Azerbaijani nationals, 32% more than in 2019. Poland (mostly for employment and education), Germany (equal numbers for all reasons) and Lithuania (mostly for employment) are issuing most of such permits. In 2023, the amount of first-time permits in Lithuania increased fivefold, which could be due to the rising labour **shortages**. However, in absolute numbers, Azerbaijani nationals represent a **smaller** group of migrants in Lithuania compared to nationals from other Post-Soviet countries. Looking at the number of all valid permits at the year end, Germany issued most residence permits for family reasons (5 780) of Azerbaijani emigrants in 2022 while Poland had the most valid permits issued for employment (4 439) in 2023 as well as those issued for all reasons and length of validity (**7 225**).

The immigrant stock in Azerbaijan in 2020 constituted **252 228 persons**. From 2001 to 2023, the average annual immigration flow remained steady at approximately 2,500 people. However, 2023 saw a significant increase, with 3,638 immigrants recorded, representing a 27% rise compared to 2022, which could be attributed to the challenging geopolitical situation in the region. As of 2013, Georgians, Russians and Turks represent the three main groups of immigrants.

According to the **State Statistical Committee**, there is an increase in permanent residency permits (from 2900 in 2022 to 3700 in 2023), with significant numbers coming from neighbouring countries such as Russia, Georgia and Türkiye. Out of nearly **8,000 long-term work** permits issued or extended in 2022, over half (4,506) were issued to Turkish nationals (4,506 in 2022) followed by citizens of Russia (506), the UK (503) and India (377). Notably, nationals of just ten countries account for around **81%** of all work permit issuances and extensions, with citizens of Türkiye and the United Kingdom together receiving 55% of all work permits issued for the period 2013-2021. These permits are part of Azerbaijan's strategy to manage labour migration effectively and ensure that the influx of foreign workers aligns with the nation's labour market demands. Work permits in Azerbaijan are regulated by annually calculated labour quotas established by the Cabinet of Ministers, reflecting the country's labour needs.

Irregular migration of foreign nationals in Azerbaijan has slightly increased, up from 21,438 persons violating the national migration law in 2017 to 23,089 persons in 2023. Meanwhile, the return rates of irregular Azerbaijani migrants from the EU increased from 39.5% in 2022 to 53.8% in 2023. In 2023, out of **1,365** persons - mostly from Germany (285), France (275), Sweden (170) - who were ordered to leave **735** actually returned (130 from Germany).

According to the **UNHCR**, as of 2023, there are 6,777 asylum seekers and 158,098 refugees from Azerbaijan worldwide. In 2021, 9 persons applied for asylum in Azerbaijan, whereas 47 persons (78 with family members) were granted protection, most of whom were nationals of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. The recognition rate remains low and did not exceed ten persons over three years. At the end of 2023, Azerbaijan was still hosting **658,000 IDPs**, as a result of the decades-long conflict in the Karabakh region, which ended in September 2023, following Azerbaijan's military operation. After the restoration of its sovereignty in Karabakh, Azerbaijan initiated a program for the return of internally displaced persons who fled Karabakh for other parts of Azerbaijan over the past 30 years, aiming to resettle around 140,000 IDPs by 2026, while 5,400 former IDPs have already been resettled by early 2024. The programme envisages the reconstruction of parts of the Karabakh and East Zangazur regions, intended for resettlement, including the construction of housing.

Azerbaijan endorsed the Global Compact for Migration. On 17 March 2021, it signed the **Seat Agreement with ICMPD** on the status of the latter in the Republic. The country also developed a new **National Strategy on Migration for 2020-2025** in compliance with relevant international legal frameworks, but the strategy has been pending adoption still in July 2024. Azerbaijan performed a diaspora mapping, providing insights into the skills and demographic profiles of Azerbaijani diaspora communities. In June 2023, Azerbaijan **amended** its Migration Code by widening the options for temporary residence permits for foreigners engaged in entrepreneurial activities. The new amendments also changed grounds for obtaining permanent residency in Azerbaijan. The framework for EU-Azerbaijan relations is set by the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership Priorities endorsed 2018, with mobility and people-to-people contacts being one of the key areas. One specific objective of the Partnership is to promote a holistic approach, to strengthen capacities and coordination among institutions dealing with migration governance, through the full implementation and smooth functioning of the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements and future potential visa liberalisation dialogue, and to foster the effective implementation of the Mobility Partnership.

Attracting highly skilled migrants to stimulate the economy has been one of the main policy **objectives** of Azerbaijan in the last couple of years. On 6 June 2024, President Aliyev signed a decree "**On measures to attract highly skilled foreigners and stateless persons to engage in paid employment in the Republic of Azerbaijan**". This decree establishes the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme, designed to increase opportunities for such individuals to engage in paid employment in Azerbaijan. As part of the decree, the Cabinet of Ministers has been given a three-month deadline to draft regulations that will outline the benefits for highly

skilled migrants. These regulations will cover necessary documents for staying, residing, or working in Azerbaijan, the duration of permits, exemptions from work permit requirements, and the processing time for applications. The benefits will apply to the qualified migrants and their families and will be facilitated through a one-window portal.

latest update: 9 September 2024

Relevant Publications

Combating irregular migration and human trafficking in the CIS countries

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

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

Azerbaijan Extended Migration Profile 2010

Azerbaijan Migration Profile Light 2015

Baseline Study on Migration in Azerbaijan

Recommendations for the Roadmap to Refugee Integration Policy in Azerbaijan

Migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan: A country profile, IOM 2023

Baseline study on Migration Data Management in Azerbaijan, 2023

Migration Textbook, 2024

Migration Curriculum, 2024

Best Practices on Diaspora Engagement for Azerbaijan, 2024

Integral Human Development: Country Profile Azerbaijan