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MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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Migration Facts Azerbaijan

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Introduction. External migration was generally not allowed during the Soviet period. Migration flows from and to the Republic were limited to the territory of the USSR. After 1991 Azerbaijan became a country of emigration. A major challenge for Azerbaijan was the welfare, territorial resettlement, and the re-integration of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and also of the Meshkhetian Turks from Georgia that had arrived to Azerbaijan for refuge due to conflicts in Georgia. With the revival of oil and gas sectors in recent years, emigration has declined. Starting from 2008 Azerbaijan has had a positive net migration largely due to migration of labour force from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Central Asia. Current migration flows are mainly directed to the Russian Federation, the EU and the US. The main source countries are Turkey and the CIS states.

Demographic-Economic	
Outward Migration	Inward Migration
STOCK	
Azerbaijani emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)	
Total emigrants: 282,440	
Five top countries of residence: Armenia 111,689 United States 20,531 Russia 40,349 Germany 15,368 Israel 28,837	
Sex: Males: 44.1% Females: 55.9%	Age group: Less than 15: 9.3% 15-64: 74.3% 65+: 16.4%
Level of education (year 2006): primary or below (19.6%); secondary (35.4%); tertiary (44.9%)	
Occupation (year 2006): professionals (18.8%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (18.3%); craft and related trades workers (15.2%)	
Notes: (a) Azerbaijani emigrants are defined according to the country of birth (best option) or country of nationality criterion according to countries of residence. In the post-Soviet zone, the country of nationality is used	
Source: destination countries' sources (population census/population register/household survey)	
Immigration stocks in Azerbaijan - year 2009 (b)	
Total immigrants: 11,237 (0.1% of the total resident population)	
Five top countries of nationality (c): Georgia: 4,088 Iran: 518 Russia: 3,417 Uzbekistan: 420 Turkey: 1,484	
Notes: (b) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion; (c) Irregular migrants are not included	
Source: Azerbaijani population census - 2009	
Estimate of irregular migrants (year 2008): 25,000	
Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare – Azerbaijan	
Refugees in Azerbaijan, years 2002-2011	
2002	2003
458	326
2004	2005
8,606	3,004
2006	2007
2,618	2,352
2008	2009
2,061	1,642
2010	2011
1,891	1,730
Top country of nationality (year 2011): Russia: 889 Afghanistan: 706	
Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	
FLOWS	
Outflows of Azerbaijani nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011	
Total outflows: 3,366	
Five top countries of destination: Russia: 4,929 Germany: 479 Ukraine: 813 United States: 431 United Kingdom: 678	
Source: flow data are proxied by granted first residence permits (EU MS + Norway), issued visas (US + Australia) and the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence (post-Soviet zone)	
Inflows of migrants in Azerbaijan – year 2011	
Total inflows: 2,200	
Four top countries of departure: Turkey: 1,276 Russia: 110 Georgia: 264 Iran: 66	
Source: flow data are proxied by the number of registrations to a place of permanent residence in Azerbaijan (State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan)	

Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

General Legal Framework

2002 Law On State Policy Concerning Citizens Residing Abroad (amended in 2003)
 2000 Law On Labor Migration
 1999 Law On the Legal Status of Refugees and Displaced Persons
 1998 Law On Citizenship
 1996 Law On the Legal Status of Foreigners and Stateless Persons
 1999 Law On Immigration
 1995 Constitution of Azerbaijan (amended 2002)
 1994 Law On Exit from the Country, Entry into the Country and Passports

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
Visa	Visa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Azeri citizens are exempted from the visa requirements in the CIS countries, except Turkmenistan. - Agreements on reciprocal visits without a visa for citizens with the RF, KZ, UZ, for tourists with China, and persons with diplomatic and service passports with Egypt, Montenegro, Qatar, Serbia, UAE, Mexico, Vietnam, Libya, Austria, Portugal, Estonia, Slovenia. - EU-Azerbaijan Visa Facilitation Agreement is being negotiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 types of visa: transit visa, tourist visa, study visa, humanitarian visa, business visa, and guest visa. Aliens, who have arrived without a visa, can stay for up to 90 days. Persons staying less than 30 days have to register as per their place of sojourn within 24 hours of arrival, whereas those staying more than 30 days have to register at the place of residence within 3 days. - Agreements on reciprocal visa-free visits for CIS citizens (except Turkmenistan), tourists from China and persons with diplomatic and service passports with Egypt, Montenegro, Qatar, Serbia, UAE, Mexico, Vietnam, Libya, Austria, Portugal, Estonia, Slovenia.
Labour	Labour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convention on the legal status of migrant workers and their families, adopted by CIS MSs (in force since 2010). - Agreement on cooperation in the field of labour migration and social protection for migrant workers, adopted by CIS Member States (in force since 1996) - Protocol on amendments to the Agreement on cooperation in the field of labour migration and social protection for migrant workers, adopted by CIS Member States (signed in 2005) - Azeri citizens who are employed in foreign countries must register in Azerbaijan's appropriate embassy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Party to the UN Migrant Workers Convention since 1999. - Law on Labour Migration regulates labour migration of foreign nationals to Azerbaijan. This Law and the Regulation 'On Determination of Quotas for Labor Migration' stipulates labor migration quotas. To employ aliens, legal and physical persons have to obtain a special permission from the authorized body of Azerbaijan government. - Work-permit (valid for 1 year) issued by the Migration Service of Azerbaijan is obligatory in all cases except for the heads of representative offices and branches of foreign legal entities, as well as for foreigners engaged into business activities in Azerbaijan.
Rights	Rights
<p>According to the constitution, Azerbaijan citizens enjoy the protection of their State both at home and abroad.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aliens and their family members have a right to social welfare and retirement benefits in Azerbaijan. - Aliens are exempt from military duties. - Aliens do not have a right to participate in national elections; they have the right to participate in municipal elections if they resided within a relevant municipal territory for at least 5 years, and if similar right is in place for foreigners in their country of citizenship.
Readmission Agreements	Irregular Migration
<p>No bilateral agreements are signed on readmission of illegal migrants.</p>	<p>Illegal entry, stay and transit are administrative infringements. The Code of Administrative Offences regulates the removal of irregular migrants and the procedure of reimbursement for expenses related to the removal of individuals. The person deported from Azerbaijan has no right to re-enter into Azerbaijan.</p>
Diaspora	International Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Committee on Diaspora established in 2008, chairman is appointed by the Azerbaijan President. - Law On State Policy Concerning Citizens Residing Abroad defines state policy of Azerbaijan on its Diaspora. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accession to the Geneva Refugee Convention in 1993 - Forms of protection granted: refugee status and political asylum.
Multiple Citizenship	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple citizenship is not allowed. - Citizens, who are at the same time citizens of other states, are considered in relation to Azerbaijan only as Azerbaijani citizens. 	<p>Preconditions of the naturalization are: 5 years of permanent residency, knowledge of state language, lawful source of income and the obligation to comply with the Constitution and national laws.</p>