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MIGRATION POLICY CENTRE



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Migration Facts Georgia

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Introduction. During the Soviet period, external migration was generally not allowed. Migration from and to the Republic was limited to the territory of the USSR. Post-Soviet migration flows have been mainly directed to the EU, the US and the Russian Federation. Top source countries include India, Turkey and China. Georgia experienced a civil war in the early 1990s and ethnic conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. These conflicts led to massive emigration of the population and ethnic minorities in particular, among those Greeks, Meshkhetian Turks, and Armenians. In recent years emigration has declined, yet it still exceeds immigration. Russia has ceased to be the primary destination for migrants from Georgia following the introduction of visa requirement in 2006.

Demographic-Economic			
Outward Migration		Inward Migration	
STOCK			
Georgian emigration stocks - year 2011 (a)		Immigration stocks in Georgia - year 2002 (b)	
Total emigrants: 200,085		Total immigrants: 8,058 (0.2% of the total resident population)	
Five top countries of residence: Russia: 53,000 Israel: 44,462 Germany: 14,462 United States: 14,270 Greece: 13,254		Five top countries of nationality (c): Russia: 5,316 Armenia: 859 Ukraine: 360 Turkey: 300 Germany: 81 (c) Irregular migrants are not included	
Sex: Males: 44.5% Females: 55.5%	Age group: Less than 15: 10.1% 15-64: 83.3% 65+: 6.5%	Sex: Males: 50.2% Females: 49.8%	Age group: Less than 15: 20.7% 15-64: 73.1% 65+: 6.1%
Level of education (year 2006): primary or below (25.6%); secondary (35.7%); tertiary (38.7%)		Level of education: primary or below (27.7%); secondary (50.0%); tertiary (22.3%)	
Occupation (year 2006): professionals (18.4%); service workers and shop and market sales workers (16.4%); craft and related trades workers (14.8%)		Notes: (b) Immigrants are defined according to the country of nationality criterion except of the table on "Level of education", where the country of birth criterion is used Source: Georgian population census – 2002	
Notes: (a) Georgian 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)		Refugees in Georgia (year 2011): 462	
		Top country of nationality Russia: 446	
		Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	
FLOWS			
Outflows of Georgian nationals to selected countries of destination – year 2011		Inflows of foreign nationals in Georgia – years 2010	
Total outflows: 9,052		Total inflows: 4,858	
Five top countries of destination: Italy: 1,483 Spain: 1,240 United States: 857 Ukraine: 847 Greece: 820		Five top countries of nationality: India: 1,645 Turkey: 1,020 China: 904 Iran: 109 Nepal: 107	
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)		Source: flow data are proxied by temporary residence permits persons granted to foreign nationals (Civil Registry Agency - Georgia)	

Legal and political framework governing migration and mobility

General legal references

2012 Law on Refugee and Humanitarian Status
 2011 Law on Diaspora Organizations and Compatriots Living Abroad
 2006 Law on Combating Human Trafficking
 2005 Law on Legal Status of Aliens
 1996 Law on the Rules of Registration of Georgian Citizens and Aliens Residing in Georgia
 1995 Constitution of Georgia (last amended 2012)
 1993 Law on Aliens' Temporary Entry Into, Stay In and Exit From Georgia (replaced by 2006 law)
 1993 Law on the Rules of Georgian Citizen's Entry into and Exit from Georgia (last amended in 2011)
 1993 Law on the Citizenship of Georgia

Outward Migration and Mobility	Inward Migration and Mobility
Visa	Visa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU-Georgia Visa Facilitation agreement (in force since 2011). - EU-Georgia Mobility Partnership (2009) - Georgian citizens need to obtain an emigration permit to emigrate: in practice persons defy this rule. - Georgian citizens are exempted from the visa requirements in the CIS countries, except for the Russian Federation. 	<p>Georgia has in place an open-borders regime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 types of visa: diplomatic, service, ordinary, study. Diplomatic, service and ordinary visas can be for stays up to 90 or 360 days; study visas are up to 360 days. - Visa-free travel for citizens of more than 80 countries, incl. EU member-states, and the RF (max 90 days). - Bilateral agreements on short-term reciprocal visa-free visits (up to 90 days) with AM, AZ, KZ, Turkey, etc.
Labour	Labour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No bilateral or multilateral agreements. Some EU MSs offer circular schemes for certain categories of workers within the Mobility Partnership. - Accession to the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention in 1995. - Accession to the ILO Convention on Private Employment Agencies in 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GE has a policy of an open labour market with very few limitations. Work permits are not needed to be employed, ordinary visas suffice. Aliens cannot work in public service/judiciary or in the notary's service.
Rights	Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to the constitution, Georgian citizens enjoy the protection of their State both at home and abroad. - Law on Diaspora Organizations and Compatriots Living Abroad gives those with the status of compatriots living abroad the right to enter Georgia without a visa, the right to stay in Georgia for up to 30 days, to receive state grants for secondary and higher education, and to represent Georgia at sport events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aliens have the same rights as the citizens with the exception of the right to found/join or donate to political parties, vote in national or local elections. - Aliens qualify to social and retirement benefits if they have legally resided in Georgia during the last 10 years. - Persons with asylum, refugee or humanitarian status have the same rights to education as Georgian citizens. - The right to temporary residence is granted up to six years. The right to permanent residence can be granted, as a rule, after 6 years of temporary residence (excluding study/med. treatment/diplomatic mission).
Readmission Agreements	Irregular Migration
<p>2010 EU-Georgia Agreement on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorisation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aliens whose legal status has expired must leave within 10 days otherwise a fine is imposed. Failure to pay the fine limits the right to re-enter the country. - Illegal crossing of the state border and human trafficking are crimes, while the violation of the rules of stay and residence as well as illegal employment of aliens is administrative infringements.
Diaspora	International Protection
<p>GE has been developing a diaspora policy focusing on return of own nationals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Diaspora Issues of Georgia established in 2008. - Law on Compatriots Living Abroad and Diaspora Organizations defines the bases for acquiring the status of compatriots living abroad and benefits derived from this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accession to the Geneva Refugee Convention in 1998 - Forms of protection granted are: asylum (granted within 10 days after the application), refugee protection and humanitarian status (granted within 6 months after the application). Persons in all 3 categories have the same rights to education as citizens.
Multiple Citizenship	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dual citizenship is not allowed for citizens of Georgia, unless granting Georgian citizenship to the person is in the interest of the Georgia state or if the person has made special contribution to the Georgia state (granted by the president). 	<p>Preconditions for naturalization are: 5 years of permanent residence, knowledge of the Georgian language, history and legislation, legal means of income or real estate or shares or stocks of companies, registered in Georgia. Facilitated naturalization for persons with merit to Georgia or mankind or profession or qualifications, which are of interest to Georgia, for spouses of Georgian citizens and for persons with repatriate status.</p>