

# Azerbaijan

## Geography

Location: Southwestern Asia, bordering the Caspian Sea, between Iran and Russia.

Map references: Commonwealth of Independent States - European States.

Area:

total area: 86,600 sq km.

land area: 86,100 sq km.

note: includes the exclave of Naxcivan Autonomous Republic and the Nagorno-Karabakh region; the region's autonomy was abolished by Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet on 26 November 1991.

Land boundaries: total 2,013 km, Armenia (west) 566 km, Armenia (southwest) 221 km, Georgia 322 km, Iran (south) 432 km, Iran (southwest) 179 km, Russia 284 km, Turkey 9 km.

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked).

note: Azerbaijan borders the Caspian Sea (800 km, est.)

Climate: dry, semiarid steppe.

Terrain: large, flat Kur-Araz Lowland (much of it below sea level) with Great Caucasus Mountains to the north, Qarabag (Karabakh) Upland in west; Baku lies on Abseron (Apsheeron) Peninsula that juts into Caspian Sea.

Natural resources: petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, nonferrous metals, alumina.

Land use:

arable land: 18%.

permanent crops: 4%.

meadows and pastures: 25%.

forest and woodland: 0%.

other: 53%.

Irrigated land: 14,010 sq km (1990).

Environment:

current issues: local scientists consider the Abseron (Apsheeron) Peninsula (including Baku and Sumqayit) and the Caspian Sea to be the ecologically most devastated area in the world because of severe air, water, and soil pollution; soil pollution results from the

use of DDT as a pesticide and also from toxic defoliants used in the production of cotton  
natural hazards: droughts; some lowland areas threatened by rising levels of the Caspian Sea.

## People

Population: 7,789,886 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 33% (female 1,241,952; male 1,315,313).

15-64 years: 61% (female 2,437,810; male 2,307,496).

65 years and over: 6% (female 303,926; male 183,389) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 1.32% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 22.05 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 6.56 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: -2.32 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 33.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:  
total population: 71.09 years.  
male: 67.4 years.  
female: 74.97 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 2.64 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Azerbaijani(s).  
adjective: Azerbaijani.

Ethnic divisions: Azeri 90%, Dagestani Peoples 3.2%, Russian 2.5%, Armenian 2.3%, other 2% (1995 est.)  
note: almost all Armenians live in the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Religions: Muslim 93.4%, Russian Orthodox 2.5%, Armenian Orthodox 2.3%, other 1.8% (1995 est.)  
note: religious affiliation is still nominal in Azerbaijan; actual practicing adherents are much lower.

Languages: Azeri 89%, Russian 3%, Armenian 2%, other 6% (1995 est.)

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1989).  
total population: 97%.  
male: 99%.  
female: 96%.

Labor force: 2.789 million.  
by occupation: agriculture and forestry 32%, industry and  
construction 26%, other 42% (1990).

## Government

Names:

conventional long form: Azerbaijani Republic.

conventional short form: Azerbaijan.

local long form: Azarbaycan Respublikasi.

local short form: none.

former: Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic.

Type: republic.

Capital: Baku (Baki).

Administrative divisions: 59 rayons (rayonlar; rayon - singular), 11  
cities\* (saharlar; sahar - singular), 1 autonomous republic\*\* (muxtar

respublika); Abşeron Rayonu, Ağcabədi Rayonu, Ağdam Rayonu, Ağdas Rayonu, Ağstafa Rayonu, Ağsu Rayonu, AliBəyramlı Sahari\*, Astara Rayonu, Bakı Sahari\*, Balakan Rayonu, Barda Rayonu, Beyləqan Rayonu, Biləsuvar Rayonu, Cəbrayıl Rayonu, Cəlilabad Rayonu, Dəskasan Rayonu, Dəvəci Rayonu, Füzuli Rayonu, Gədəbəy Rayonu, Gəncə Sahari\*, Goranboy Rayonu, Göyçay Rayonu, Hacıqabul Rayonu, İmişli Rayonu, İsmayilli Rayonu, Kalbəcər Rayonu, Kürdəmir Rayonu, Ləcin Rayonu, Lənkəran Rayonu, Lənkəran Sahari\*, Lerik Rayonu, Məsəlli Rayonu, Mingəçevir Sahari\*, Neftçala Rayonu, Oguz Rayonu, Qəbələ Rayonu, Qax Rayonu, Qazax Rayonu, Qobuстан Rayonu, Quba Rayonu, Qubadlı Rayonu, Qusar Rayonu, Saatlı Rayonu, Səbirabad Rayonu, Səki Rayonu, Səki Sahari\*, Salyan Rayonu, Samaxı Rayonu, Səmkir Rayonu, Səmux Rayonu, Siyazan Rayonu, Sumqayıt Sahari\*, Susa Rayonu, Susa Sahari\*, Tartar Rayonu, Tovuz Rayonu, Ucar Rayonu, Xacmaz Rayonu, Xankəndi Sahari\*, Xanlar Rayonu, Xızı Rayonu, Xocalı Rayonu, Xocavənd Rayonu, Yardımb Rayonu, Yevlax Rayonu, Yevlax Sahari\*, Zəngilan Rayonu, Zəqatala Rayonu, Zərdab Rayonu.

Independence: 30 August 1991 (from Soviet Union).

National holiday: Independence Day, 28 May.

Legal system: based on civil law system.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal.

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), red, and green; a crescent and eight-pointed star in white are centered in red band.

## Economy

Overview: Azerbaijan is less developed industrially than either Armenia or Georgia, the other Transcaucasian states. It resembles the Central Asian states in its majority nominally Muslim population, high structural unemployment, and low standard of living. The economy's most prominent products are oil, cotton, and gas. Production from the Caspian oil and gas field has been in decline for several years, but the November 1994 ratification of the \$7.5 billion oil deal with a consortium of Western companies should generate the funds needed to spur future industrial development. Azerbaijan accounted for 1.5% to 2% of the capital stock and output of the former Soviet Union. Azerbaijan shares all the formidable problems of the ex-Soviet republics in making the transition from a command to a market economy, but its considerable energy resources brighten its long-term prospects. Baku has only recently

begun making progress on economic reform, and old economic ties and structures have yet to be replaced.

## Transportation

### Railroads:

total: 2,090 km in common carrier service; does not include industrial lines.

### Highways:

total: 36,700 km.

Pipelines: crude oil 1,130 km; petroleum products 630 km; natural gas 1,240 km.

Ports: Baku (Baki).

### Airports:

total: 69.

## Defence Forces

Branches: Army, Air Force, Navy, Maritime Border Guard, National Guard, Security Forces (internal and border troops).