

## **FACT SHEET ON AZERBAIJAN**

**EMBASSY OF INDIA**  
**31/39, OKTAY KARIMOV STREET,**  
**GANJLIK, NARIMANOV DISTRICT,**  
**BAKU AZ 1069**

**PHONE** : +994 12 5646344 / 5646354  
**FAX** : +994 12 4472572  
**E-Mail:** [hoc.baku@indianembassybaku.org](mailto:hoc.baku@indianembassybaku.org)  
[Com.baku@indianembassybaku.org](mailto:Com.baku@indianembassybaku.org)

### **Local Time:**

**SUMMER:** -minus 30 minutes IST [LAST Sunday of MARCH to LAST Saturday of OCTOBER]  
**WINTER:** -minus 90 minutes IST [LAST Sunday of OCTOBER to LAST Saturday of MARCH]

### **BASIC FACTS ABOUT AZERBAIJAN**

#### **Basic Data**

**Official name**

Republic of Azerbaijan

**Area**

86,600 sq kms.

**Population**

9.1 million [April, 2010]

**Population growth rate**

1.2%

**Main languages**

Azerbaijani and Russian

**Capital**

Baku

**Main Cities**

Baku, Ganja, Sumgait

**Religion**

Shia Muslim: 70%, Sunni Muslim: 23%, Russian Orthodox: 2.5%, Armenian Orthodox: 2.3%

**National Day**

28<sup>th</sup> May [Republic Day]; 18 October [Independence Day]

#### **Political**

**Type of Government**

Presidential with a directly elected President, who has a five year term. The Government is headed by a Prime Minister who has a Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers are appointed by the President.

**Legislature**

Unicameral 125 member Milli Mejlis [National Assembly]

**Last elections**

October, 2008 [Presidential]; November 2010 [National Assembly]

**Next elections due**

October, 2013 [Presidential], November, 2015 [National Assembly.]

**Head of State**

His Excellency Mr Ilham ALIYEV  
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Official Website**

[www.prezident.az](http://www.prezident.az)

**Head of Government**

H.E. Mr Artur RASIZADE, Prime Minister

**Speaker**

H.E. Mr Ogtay ASADOV

**Foreign Minister**

H.E. Mr Elmar MAMMADYAROV  
[www.mfa.gov.az](http://www.mfa.gov.az)

**Finance Minister**

H.E. Mr Samir SHARIFOV

**Defence Minister**

H.E. Colonel General Safar ABIYEV

**Economic Development  
Minister**

H.E. Mr. Shahin MUSTAFAYEV  
[www.economy.gov.az](http://www.economy.gov.az)

<b>Industry &amp; Energy Minister</b>	H.E. Mr.Natig ALIYEV
<b>Ecology and Natural Resources Minister &amp; Co-Chairman of the Azerbaijan-India IGC</b>	H.E Huseynqulu BAGHIROV, Co-Chairman of the India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic and Technological Cooperation. Indian Co-Chairman is the Minister of State for Commerce
<b>Main Political Parties</b>	Yeni Azerbaijan [President Aliyev`s party]; Azerbaijani Popular Front; National Independence Party; Musavat Party.
<b>Member of regional/multilateral/institutions &amp; organisations</b>	UNO, World Bank, IMF, WHO, IOC, World Tourism Organization, WCO, ICJ; OIC, PACE, OSCE, GUAM-ODED, TRACECA, etc.
<b><u>Economic</u></b>	
<b>GDP</b>	AZN 41.6 billion [2010] = US \$ 52 billion
<b>Per capita GDP</b>	US \$ 5500/- (PPP \$ 9954/-)
<b>GDP growth rate in 2010</b>	5 %
<b>Total Foreign Investment</b>	\$ 60 billion (cumulative)
<b>Main five investors</b>	UK, USA, Japan, Turkey and Norway
<b>Unemployment</b>	6.07% [2010]
<b>Monetary Unit</b>	1 Manat = 100 Gapiks
<b>Exchange Rate</b>	US\$ 1.00 = 0.80 MANATS [average during 2010]
<b>Total Imports</b>	US\$ 6.6 billion [2010]
<b>Total Exports</b>	US\$ 21.3 billion [2010]
<b>Imports from India</b>	US\$ \$ 32 million [2010]; Mainly bauxite, medicines, tea, meat, intellectual cards and industrial machinery
<b>Exports to India</b>	US\$ \$ 299 million [2010]; Mainly crude oil & Iodine ( <i>Source: State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan</i> )
<b>Principal Exports [all countries]</b>	Mineral products [oil, gas etc.]; lubricants; chemicals; fermented tobacco; cotton yarn & fibre; machinery; electro-technical domestic appliances; and machines.
<b>Principal Imports [all countries]</b>	Electro-technical domestic appliances and machines; vegetable products; food products; misc. articles made of base metal; motor-vehicles; ferrous & non-ferrous metals; pharmaceuticals & consumer goods; chemicals; and cigarettes
<b>Trade partners</b>	Russia & other CIS countries; Italy; Turkey; Israel; USA; India and Iran
<b>VAT:</b>	18%
<b>Central Bank</b>	National Bank of Azerbaijan Chairman: Mr. Elman RUSTAMOV R.Behbudov Str, 32, AZ-1014 Baku, Tel: 493 11 22, 493 55 41, Website: <a href="http://www.nba.az">www.nba.az</a>
<b>Major Universities</b>	Baku State University Azerbaijan University of Languages (AUL), Baku Khazar University, Baku [Private – Indian medical & engineering students]
<b>Scientific Institutions</b>	State Medical University, Baku, State Economic University, Baku

## Major Tourist attractions

Azerbaijan State Academy of Sciences, Baku, Baku is on the Caspian Sea coast. It has a relatively modern international airport & provides direct air flights to many cities of the world. Significantly Baku also has splendid sandy beaches and gentle sloping sea bottom which attracts tourists.

Places of tourist attractions are:

- Palace of Shirvanshahs and the Maiden's Tower in Baku;
- Ateshgah Fire Temple monument close to Baku City
- a unique monument of Azerbaijani art of the Mesolithic Period [*circa* VIII-VII BC] in the form of rock drawings at Gobustan;
- Talish mountains, Palace of Sheki Khans at Sheki, mountainous regions of Zagatala, Oguz, Guba;
- Gizilagach National Park and the salt mines in Nakhchivan

## Major Media Organisations

### Newspapers

*KHALG GAZETI* [State owned]-Editor-in-Chief: Mr.Hasan HASANOV; *MUSAVAT*, Editor-in-Chief: Mr.Rauf ARIFOGLU ; *ZERKALO*, Editor-in-Chief : Mr. Elchin SHYKHLINSKI

### News Agencies

Today.Az(<http://www.today.az/>)

APA(<http://en.apa.az/>)

Trend(<http://news.trend.az/>)

AzerTag([http://www.azertag.com/index\\_en.html](http://www.azertag.com/index_en.html))

### Magazines

*EL*-Editor-in-Chief: Mr. Nadir BADALOV

AZERBAIJAN QADINI-Editor-in-Chief: Ms. Fatima Abdullazade

### TV Channels

AZ TV-1 & 2 [State owned]-Head: Mr. Arif ALISHANOV

ANS TV [Private]-Head: Mr. Vahid MUSTAFAYEV

Space TV [Private]-Head: Mr. Vaqif MUSTAFAYEV

ATV [Private]-Head: Mr. Tagi IBRAHIMOV

LIDER TV [Private]-Head: Mr. Vugar QARADAGLI

Public TV-Head: Mr. Ismayil OMAROV

Khazar TV [Private]- Head: Mr. Huseyin Dinlemez

Shri. Debnath Shaw, Ambassador

Tel: +994 12 4472562

## Embassy of India, Baku

Shri. T.R. Meena,

Head of Chancery

Tel: +994 12 4480394

## **FOREIGN EXCHANGE REGULATIONS**

All visitors are required to declare on arrival foreign currency being carried in person. A visitor is permitted to take foreign currency out of the country without payment of tax, of a sum NOT more than the amount declared on arrival. Conversion from hard currency to local currency and *vice versa* is permissible at the numerous licensed exchange counters all around the country and also at all banks. The rates of exchange for buying and selling of all hard currency are fixed by the National Bank of Azerbaijan.

November 2011

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