



Country Information Sheet for Return and Reintegration Counsellors



Georgia





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for Return and Reintegration Counsellors



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European Border and Coast Guard Agency – Frontex

Plac Europejski 6 • 00-844 Warsaw • Poland
frontex@frontex.europa.eu • www.frontex.europa.eu

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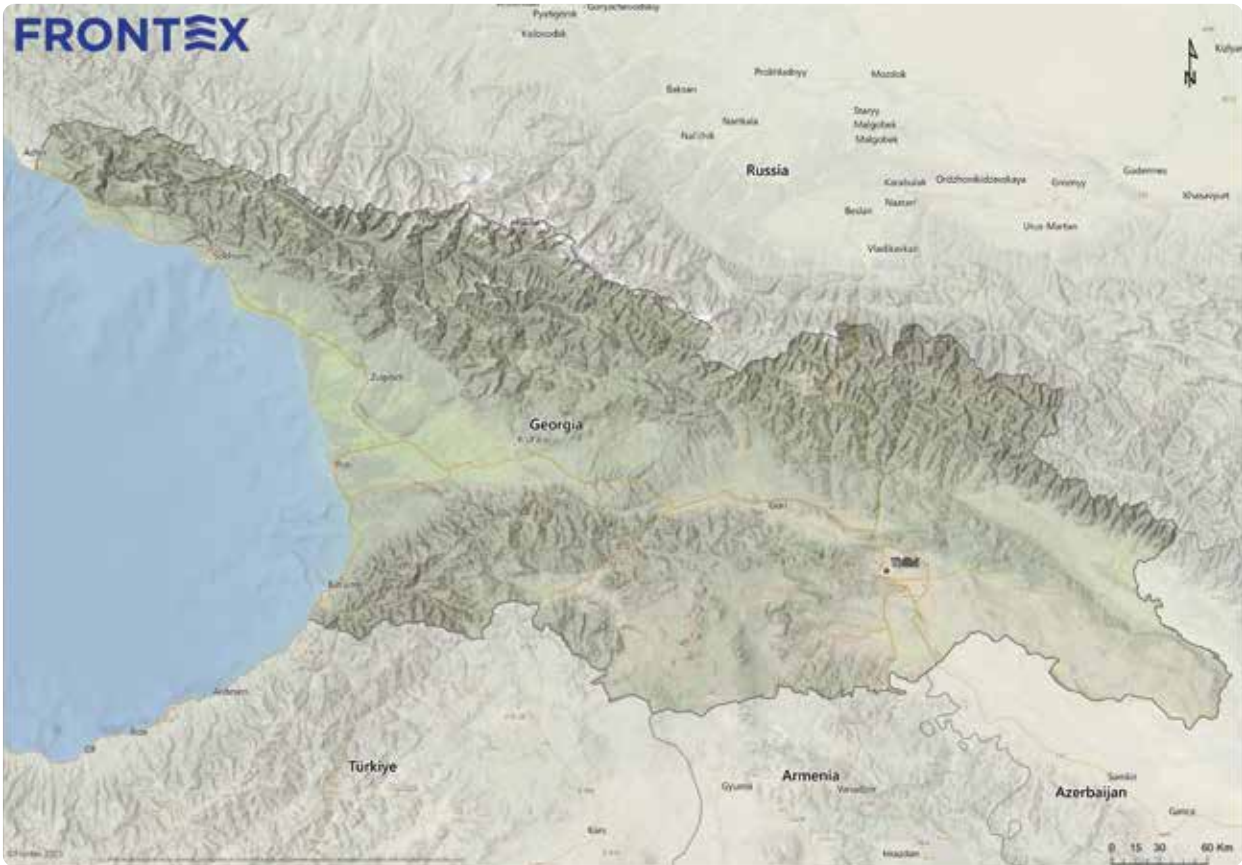
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1. General information



Population¹
total: 3,806,055 (2026 est.)

Ethnic groups
Georgian 86,8%, Azeri 6,3%, Armenian 4,5%, other 2,3% (includes Russian, Ossetian, Yazidi, Ukrainian, Kist, Greek)

Languages
Georgian (official) 87,6%, Azeri 6,2%, Armenian 3,9%, Russian 1,2%, other 1%; note - Abkhaz is the official language in Abkhazia

Religions
Eastern Orthodox Christian (official) 83,4%, Muslim 10,7%, Armenian Apostolic Christian 2,9%, other 1,2% (includes Roman Catholic Christian, Jehovah's Witness, Yazidi, Protestant Christian, Jewish), none 0,5%, unspecified/no answer 1,2%

Population growth rate
-0,57% (2023 est.)

Government type
semi-presidential republic

Capital name
Tbilisi

Telephone code
995

¹ [National Statistics Office of Georgia \(geostat.ge\)](https://geostat.ge)

2. Reintegration partner

To implement reintegration assistance, Frontex has concluded a partnership with IRARA, in Georgia, to assure the delivery of a high level of support.

reintegration activities focused on enhancing the lives of those returning to India and the communities in which they live.

IRARA has been delivering expert reintegration services in Georgia for several years and provides quality, tailored



15 R. Agladze Str. Business Center
Megaline, Office N1, 0119, Tbilisi, Georgia

Regional Offices:

21 Tabukashvili Str., 2100, Zugdidi,
Georgia

29 T. Tabidze Str., 4600, Kutaisi, Georgia
18/3 Stalin Street, 1400, Gori, Georgia



+032 2 152 911
+995 577 960444



Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (local time)



reintegration@irara.org



www.irara.org/returnees

3. Travel documents

3.1 Types, procedure and required documents

Travel document to return

to Georgia is a one-time travel document that is issued instead of an expired, lost, or damaged travel document, or no such document ever existed, to facilitate the return to Georgia of a Georgian citizen staying abroad.

It is possible to request a Travel Document for Return at a Diplomatic Representation/Consular Post of Georgia in the country of residence through a personal announcement or by post.

Documents to be submitted:

- An application
- Any document confirming the applicant's Georgian citizenship, his/her status as a stateless person in Georgia, the possession of a residence permit in Georgia, a neutral ID and/or a neutral travel document
- In the case of a minor - consent of one of the parents and birth certificate
- In case of requesting a Travels Document for Return to Georgia through an attorney, a power of attorney and a document confirming the identity of the authorized person are to be presented
- Colour biometric photograph, size 3.5X4.5 cm, in electronic form
- Receipt confirming the payment of the consular fees

Validity:

- 10 years for adults
- 3 years for children

In case of justification, it is possible to request a second biometric passport. In such a case, the validity period of the passport will be 1 year.

An application requesting a passport shall be submitted at a Diplomatic Representation/Consular Post of Georgia abroad in person from the age of 9 years. This requirement does not apply to an application through the Power of Attorney.

It takes up to 45 days from applying for the relevant Diplomatic Representation/Consular Post to issue a biometric passport.

Documents to be submitted:

- Identity document.
- Biometric photograph, 3.5x4.5 in electronic format.
- Document confirming the payment of the service fee.
- In the case of a minor - a birth certificate.
- For minors under the age of 16, the consent of both parents is mandatory. It can be expressed in the presence of a consular official or notarised.
- If applicant has changed his personal data and wants to receive a passport with new data, additionally, a document confirming change must be submitted.
- If the application is made through a representative - a duly attested Power of Attorney and a document confirming the identity of the authorised person.



For more information, please see:

<https://sda.gov.ge/en/products/passport/#::-text=There%20are%203%20ways%20to,passport%20of%20a%20stateless%20person>

3.2 Fees

For a Georgian citizen applying for a new biometric passport while abroad, the fee at a Georgian diplomatic or consular mission is USD 50 for standard processing

(usually within 45 days). For faster service, online application options are available, though prices can vary.

Indicative Fees & Options:		
Consulate/Embassy Application	-USD 50	takes up to 45 days
Online Application (Abroad)	GEL 300 (approx. USD 100)	delivered within 2 working days.
Representative/Proxy (in Georgia)	GEL 230	10th Working Day
	GEL 300	5th Working Day

4. Transport

Main airports:

- Tbilisi International Airport (TBS)
- Batumi International Airport (BUS)
- Kutaisi International Airport (KUT)

Public transport

The national carrier is Georgian Airways. There are few internal flights within Georgia. Most domestic travel is by road.

By bus

Buses operate in all major cities, including Tbilisi, Batumi, and Kutaisi. They are an affordable way to get around, with routes covering both city centres and suburban areas. Tickets can usually be purchased using a travel card or directly from the driver with cash. Many buses in Tbilisi are modern, equipped with digital displays, and offer free Wi-Fi.

Tbilisi Metro

The **Tbilisi Metro** is a quick way to navigate the city, avoiding traffic and reducing travel time. The Metro has

two main lines (Red and Green) with stations located near popular tourist spots and key neighbourhoods. It operates from **6 am to midnight**, with trains arriving every 2-5 minutes during peak hours. You need a **Metromoney Card** to access the metro, which can also be used for buses and the city's cable car.

By train

For intercity travel, Georgia's **train network** connects major cities. The trains range from standard to **high-speed trains**, with varying comfort levels. Tickets can be booked online via the **Georgian Railway** website or purchased at stations.

“Marshrutkas”

Marshrutkas are shared minibuses that run on fixed routes both within cities and between towns. While marshrutkas don't always follow strict schedules, they depart frequently and are especially useful for routes not covered by trains or buses. Payment is typically made in cash to the driver, and prices are very reasonable.

5. Emergency contacts

There's only one emergency number in Georgia that provides every kind of urgent help: 112

By calling this number you can summon:

- Ambulance
- Firefighters
- Police
- Emergency situations response

6. Health-care

Overview

The healthcare system in Georgia is largely privatised and is dominated by private service providers who are independent of the government in terms of ownership and management.

About 80% of hospital beds are private, and almost all primary care providers and outpatient specialists are for-profit. Public health facilities consist primarily of several hospitals that provide emergency care, mental health care, and care for tuberculosis and HIV.

In addition, around 20 public service providers operate in remote areas of the country where profitability is more difficult for private actors.

Georgia has a high number of doctors per capita, but uneven geographical distribution (the number of doctors per capita is quite high, but they are poorly distributed across the country, with three times more family doctors in Tbilisi than in other regions of the country.) The country also suffers from a serious shortage of nurses.

This shortage is also highlighted by the Georgia Public Defender, or Ombudsman, who adds that working

conditions in the hospital sector are generally difficult with salaries often low.

Another problem, according to the Ombudsman, is that there is no tangible and effective standard in the country that would set the limits for creating a decent salary system for health workers.

Low use of primary health care:

Patients prefer to pay for specialized services. According to WHO, a peculiarity of the Georgian health system is that only a fraction of registered beneficiaries (17-23% per facility) uses primary health care services in Georgia.

Nearly all providers at all levels of the system are independent of government in terms of ownership and management and the health system is dominated by private, for-profit entities, the key exception being rural ambulatories.

Rural ambulatories are owned by the local government or the state-owned company that is accountable to the MoDPLHSA, which also owns the medical centres in difficult-to-reach areas.²

6.1 Health insurance

In 2013, the Georgian government established the Universal Health Coverage Program (UHCP). UHCP aims to provide some level of coverage for primary healthcare, specialist care, and necessary medication.

However, the scope of coverage is limited. Certain vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, young children under five years old, and people with disabilities, have 100% of their costs covered by the UHCP, but only for select medical services. In reality, the UHCP fully pays expenses solely related to emergency treatment and visits to general doctors. For the rest of the citizens and specific treatments, state funding is limited to the 30% of cost coverage, forcing patients to pay high out-of-pocket costs, which can impede access to medical care. To take advantage of the program, one must select and officially register with a specific healthcare facility.

To obtain the publicly financed PHC (primary healthcare) services under UHCP, the beneficiary needs to register with a PHC provider of choice. Once registered, urban residents will get access to both general and specialised services included in this package, while rural residents need to obtain registration with PHC provided in municipal

medical centres or with multi-profile polyclinics and family medicine centres located in larger cities.

Under the UHCP, patients can directly access non-urgent, planned inpatient services, bypassing primary care.

However, registration with an urban PHC provider and a referral from a rural doctor or family doctor is required to access free or subsidised diagnostic and specialised services covered under the UHCP benefit package.

For a comprehensive overview of the provision of healthcare in Georgia, access the following link: https://euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2025-04/2025_MedCOI_Georgia_Provision_of_Healthcare.pdf

More information on the STATE UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME IN GEORGIA: [UNHCR-Healthcare-Brochure_ENGL.pdf](#)

For more information on universal healthcare and state programmes please see the webpage of LEPL National Health Agency of Georgia: <https://nha.moh.gov.ge/en/p/your-health>

² [Health systems in action: Georgia | European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies \(who.int\)](#)

7. Education

7.1 Overview

Over the past two decades, Georgia has embarked upon significant educational reform. These reforms have included decentralising school governance and introducing new, competence-based curricula and developing a teacher professional development scheme.

Efforts such as these have contributed to a significant improvement in key educational indicators, including achieving near universal enrolment in primary education and an increase in student performance on international surveys.

General education in Georgia is structured to ensure accessibility for all students, including those residing in remote or mountainous areas. The state has implemented a voucher system and designated programs that increase funding as needed, supporting educational access regardless of geographical challenges. This commitment to equitable access aligns with broader national education policies that emphasize equal distribution of resources across regions.

7.2 Education system structure³

Pre-school education ages 1-5 is not compulsory.

Primary education of 6 years (6-11) and basic education of 3 years (12-14) is compulsory.

Secondary education lasts 3 years (15-17) and students must successfully pass secondary education and the Unified National examination in order to enter higher education. Vocational training is open to students having completed 9 years of compulsory education, with enrolment twice per year, in spring and autumn.

³ [EUROEDUCATION: Postgraduate and Undergraduate Programs in Europe | EuroEducation.net](https://euroeducation.net)

Age of	entry: 6 exit: 18
Structure of School System	Primary: Length of program: 6 Age level from: 6 Age level to: 11 Basic: Length of program: 3 Age level from: 12 Age level to: 14 Certificate/Diploma awarded at end: Sabazo zogadi ganatiebis atestati Secondary: Length of program: 3 Age level from: 12 Age level to: 14 Certificate/Diploma awarded at end: Sruli zogadi ganatiebis atestati Vocational: Age level from: 12 Age level to: 14
Description of School System	Pre-school education (1-5) is not compulsory. Primary education of 6 years (6 to 11) and basic education of 3 years (12-14) is compulsory. Secondary education lasts 3 years (15-17) and students must successfully pass secondary education and pass the Unified National Examination in order to enter higher education. Vocational training is open to students having completed 9 years of compulsory education, with enrolment open twice per year, in spring and autumn.

7.3 Enrolment procedure for public education

Excerpt from the Education Ministry's website: "Parents/ legal representatives must provide a statement containing the legal representative's contact information and residence details, along with a copy of the legal representative's identity card and a document confirming residence in Georgia.

Additionally, a copy of the student's birth certificate or identity document and proof of residence must be submitted. Documents in foreign languages must be translated into Georgian as per Georgian legislation.⁴"

⁴ [Ministry of Education, Science And Youth of Georgia \(mes.gov.ge\)](http://mes.gov.ge)

8. Economy

Georgia has made notable gains in income growth and poverty reduction over the past decade and continues to enjoy strong growth as the country started 2024 on a high note, having achieved EU candidacy status, bolstering consumer and business confidence.

Key risks include a prolongation of water stress, a slowdown in European demand and a new surge in shipping costs.

The country has a service-oriented economy, with tourism, finance, and real estate as key contributors. Agriculture and light manufacturing also play essential roles, particularly in rural areas. Tourism, in particular, has become a crucial part of the Georgian economy,

contributing significantly to GDP. The country's favourable tax policies, strategic location as a corridor between Europe and Asia, and association agreements with the EU have made Georgia an attractive destination for foreign investment.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

- Unemployment rate: 14%
- Youth unemployment rate: 21%
- Average monthly Nominal Earnings: aprox. GEL 2,054 equivalent to 600 euros
- GDP growth in 2024: 7,5%
- Inflation rate: 2% in 2025
- Currency: Georgian Lari- GEL⁵

9. Labour market

9.1 Overview

The job market experienced a strong recovery, with unemployment falling from 20,6% percent in 2021 to a record low of 16,4% in 2023, which was estimated to positively impact poverty levels.

About a third of workers remain engaged in low-productivity agriculture, and Georgia also has a large share of self-employed in other sectors. Access to finance remains a major obstacle for SMEs, while skills mismatches are reported to be an impediment for most firms. Due to its high degree of trade openness and dependence on tourism, Georgia is vulnerable to external shocks.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia (MoESCS) develops and strengthens the Vocational Education and Training System all around Georgia to ensure the synergy between the needs of the labour market, the professional skills of graduates and qualifications offered by the educational institutions in a lifelong learning perspective.

There are no unemployment benefits (contributory or otherwise) in Georgia, leaving nearly 250,000 unemployed

people without social security as they search for jobs. The only instance when the country implemented such a measure was during the COVID-19 which lasted for six months.

The Government of Georgia has established a mixture of targeted and universal non-contributory schemes that provide varying levels of protection for different age groups. The design and implementation of the social protection system in Georgia is still strongly determined by its institutional legacies. Still, as of the of end 2021, 16% of the population live below the absolute national poverty line.

Overall, around 40% of the Georgian population is covered by at least one social protection benefit. Some 42% of men receive at least one social protection benefit, compared with 48% of the female population.

The higher number of female beneficiaries are mainly a result of higher rates of women pensioners receiving a universal old-age pension. However, more women (around 55%) than men (around 45%) receive targeted

⁵ <https://www.geostat.ge/>

social assistance aimed at alleviating the socio-economic vulnerabilities of households.⁶

MY.GOV.GE is a unified web portal of electronic services in the public and private sector, created by the “Digital Governance Agency”, a public law legal entity operating in the sphere of governance of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

Currently, there are more than 400 electronic services available on the portal, which are available to portal users on the principle of “one window” - only from one point, after registering on the portal and agreeing to the rules of using the portal. The services available on the portal

are grouped according to their content into relevant categories (personal information, municipal services, business, permits and licenses, co-financing, transport, social services, property, taxes, fines, utility bills and others), which makes it easier for the user to choose the desired service and use it.

The user of the portal can electronically request public information from various state agencies, as well as to fill out an application to receive various services, if necessary, use a qualified electronic signature/stamp on it, send the completed application to the address and receive a response through the portal.⁷

9.2 Recruitment agencies/websites:

- <https://jobs.hrajara.gov.ge/en/>
- <http://www.jobs.ge>
- <http://www.hr.com.ge>
- worknet.gov.ge

⁶ [ESCAP-2023-RP-action-plan-strengthen-social-protection-Georgia.pdf](#)

⁷ [my.gov.ge \(my-gov-ge.translate.goog\)](#)

10. Housing

Georgia's housing market remains fundamentally strong, with residential property prices continuing their upward trajectory, driven by robust demand and a healthy economy. Georgia has currently a homeownership rate of about 92%, one of the highest in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Gori, the regional capital of Shida Kartli, has the highest homeownership rate in the country at 94,9%, followed

by Telavi (93,8%), Poti (93%), Zugdidi (93%), Kutaisi (92,7%), Batumi (92,6%), Kobuleti (92,6%), and Rustavi (89%). Tbilisi had the lowest homeownership rate among Georgia's major cities, at 84,5%.⁸

Rents continue to fall. In March 2025, the monthly average asking rent in Tbilisi dropped by 11% to USD 10.6 per square meter (sqm), according to [TBC Capital](#).⁹

 Rent per month	 Edit
1 Bedroom Apartment in City Centre	1 427.09 GEL
1 Bedroom Apartment Outside City Centre	994.63 GEL
3 Bedroom Apartment in City Centre	2 804.87 GEL
3 Bedroom Apartment Outside City Centre	1 763.23 GEL
 Buy Apartment Price	 Edit
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Centre	4 563.69 GEL
Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of City Centre	2 775.57 GEL

11. Security situation

According to the 2025 Global Peace Index (GPI) published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, Georgia is ranked 100 out of 163 countries globally, indicating a medium level of peace.

A country's rank reflects its overall peacefulness based on an assessment of 23 indicators across three domains: societal safety and security, ongoing conflict, and militarization. A lower rank indicates a more peaceful country, with the ranking of "1" signifying the most

peaceful nation, while a higher rank indicates less peacefulness.

The political situation in Georgia is generally calm.

Due to the volatility of local conditions, you are strongly advised to consult regularly updated sources as [USDOS advisories](#) and [UK FCDO travel advice](#) and to verify current conditions directly with the relevant Ministry of Foreign Affairs or embassy websites.

⁸ [Georgia's house price growth continues to accelerate \(Q2, 2024\) \(globalpropertyguide.com\)](#)

⁹ https://www.globalpropertyguide.com/asia/georgia/price-history#_Rental_Market

12. Operational details

Caritas Georgia has also established a formal complaints mechanism, accessible through their website. Complaints are reviewed by a designated committee composed of four members, including the director of Caritas Georgia, the programme's project manager, and - soon - the newly appointed Migration Department manager. The committee is responsible for providing formal responses to submitted grievances.

Airport procedures or protocols:

During the pre-departure phase, returnees are encouraged to initiate contact with Caritas Georgia upon arrival in the country. Post-arrival assistance can be delivered at both Tbilisi and Kutaisi airports if requested by the MS. In cases where returnees do not initiate contact, Caritas Georgia attempts to reach them within 48 hours. If the returnee is eligible only for post-return (not post-arrival) support, this contact may occur within a longer timeframe - sometimes up to one month, depending on the caseload and success in communication.

Caritas provides airport-based post-arrival assistance in Tbilisi and Kutaisi, including reception by staff wearing branded jackets and using designated areas for reception. However, no structured presence exists in Batumi, limiting coverage for returnees arriving at that location.

Caritas Georgia has the ability to meet anyone at either Tbilisi airport or Kutaisi airport but they need precise including:

- Flight number
- Passport and other photo
- Flight date
- Exact destination
- The migrant must stand at the information centre
- The number of returnees must be the same as indicated

Possibility of receiving cash-assistance:

Caritas Georgia prefers to transfer money via a bank because of the number of returnees but exceptions can be made (if the migrant has a critical situation) if the migrant doesn't have an active bank account money can be transferred by the local bank transfer system (similar to Wester-Union).

Temporary accommodation:

Caritas Georgia does not have its own shelter or space for temporary accommodation, but they cooperate with state programme which provides six days in a hotel with expenses paid.

13. Cultural tips



Georgians value friendly and approachable people



Use a firm handshake with eye contact, especially in professional settings



Respect for elders is very important in Georgian culture. Always stand when greeting an elder and offer your hand first



Use formal language and titles in the initial stages of interaction, as a sign of respect



Georgians tend to be indirect in their communication style. Don't rush them in decisions or force direct answers



Avoid using first names unless the person specifically invites you to do so



Georgians are not afraid to express their emotions. Do not be surprised if people display anger or extreme disappointment



Similarly, Georgians can be emotive speakers. When discussing a topic, voices may become raised and hand gestures increased



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EUROPEAN BORDER AND
COAST GUARD AGENCY

European Border and Coast Guard Agency – Frontex
Plac Europejski 6 • 00-844 Warsaw • Poland
frontex@frontex.europa.eu • www.frontex.europa.eu

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