

# GEORGIA



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Capital: Tbilisi  
 Language: Georgian (official) 87.6%, Azeri 6.2%, Armenian 3.9%, Russian 1.2%  
 Population: 4,926,330 (July 2017 est.)  
 Median age: 38.1 years  
 Fertility rate: 1.76 children born/woman (2017 est.)  
 Ethnic groups: Georgian 86.8%, Azeri 6.3%, Armenian 4.5%, other 2.3% (2014 est.)  
 Religion: Orthodox (official) 83.4%, Muslim 10.7%, Armenian Apostolic 2.9%, other 1.2% (includes Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, Yazidi, Protestant, Jewish)



## EDUCATION

Precondition for entering higher educational institutions is the successful passing of Unified National Exams. Every person presenting the document of completed secondary education can participate in the exam.

State kindergartens are free of charge. Education in public schools is free of charge also. With regard to the results of the national exams the students are granted state grants in accordance with the rules defined by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. In 2014, 21 students have been financed by the state.

Educational Level	Age
e.g. child care / nursery school	0,5 – 3
e.g. Kindergarten	3 – 6
Primary level	
e.g. Elementary school	6 - 10
Secondary Level	
e.g. Middle School	10 – 15
e.g. High School	15 – 19
Higher Education	
e.g. College, University, Professional School, etc.	From 19

## HEALTH CARE and PENSION

### Health care:

Georgia offers a universal health care program funded by the State:

- Stationary treatment and some ambulatory care are fully covered
- Treatment of HIV and TB as well as insulin for diabetes patients are free of charge
- Dialysis is also available in several clinics
- Medical costs for child-care (up to 5 years) are partly covered by the state depending on the illness

All clinics in Georgia are privatized and Universal Health Care does not cover all costs. Most of the drugs are not covered by the state program. If the returnee is a Georgian citizen, he/she is automatically a participant of state insurance.

### Pension:

There is only one pension system, which is a public one. The registration is free. The state pension is 180 GEL per month.

Retirement age: 65 (man), 60 (woman)

## HISTORY

### Current history:

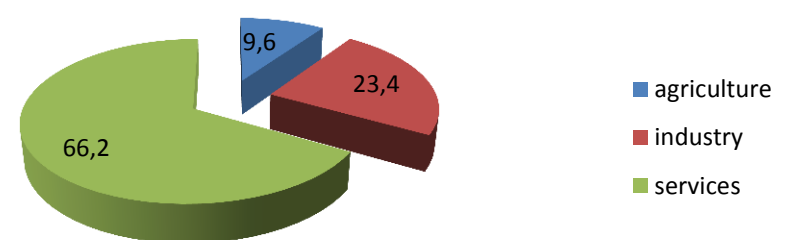
By the 1980s, Georgians were ready to abandon the existing system altogether. A pro-independence movement led to the secession from the Soviet Union in April 1991. For most of the following decade, post-Soviet Georgia suffered from civil conflicts, secessionist wars in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and economic crisis. Following the bloodless Rose Revolution in 2003, Georgia strongly pursued a pro-Western foreign policy; aimed at NATO and European integration, it introduced a series of democratic and economic reforms. This brought about mixed results, but strengthened state institutions. The country's Western orientation soon led to the worsening of relations with Russia, culminating in the brief Russo-Georgian War in August 2008 and Georgia's current territorial dispute with Russia.

### Disputes - international:

Russia's military support and subsequent recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia independence in 2008 continue to sour relations with Georgia.

## ECONOMY

### GDP by sector of origin (2017 est.)



Average income: The average monthly income per capita is 294.2 GEL (2016).

Average monthly nominal salary:

The average monthly nominal salary is 985 GEL (2016). The highest salaries can be found in the financial intermediation sphere (1838.30GEL) and in public administration (1319.70 GEL).

Unemployment rate: 11.5% (2017 est.) There is no unemployment benefit.

Currency: Lari ₾ (GEL); 1 GEL = 0.32396 EUR (October 2018)

Inflation rate: 6% (2017 est.) for consumer prices

## SOURCES

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia\\_%28country%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_%28country%29)
- IOM Country Fact Sheet Georgia 2017