

COUNTRY FACT SHEET

GEORGIA

(2016)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. To do before the return

The returnee should:

- request documents from the German authorities, especially birth certificates of children born outside Georgia, legalised by apostil , as otherwise you will not be able to register children in state policlinics for free vaccinations and also for kindergartens/schools.
- bring all the medical and job related documents that you may need for Georgian clinics and employers
- bring all the documents related to citizenship, education, medical, etc., as you will need them for follow-up procedures in Georgia
- get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey
 - Taxi is the only transport available from the airport. Travel to the centre of Tbilisi costs 25 GEL.
 - There you can get buses and train to every part of Georgia from central train and bus stations.
 - however most of the flights to Georgia arrive at night, when buses and trains do not run, so taxi may be the only option for onward travel as well
- check vaccinations (especially for children):
No vaccinations are needed for re-entry, but you have to register the children at your district polyclinic so that they have access to free scheduled vaccinations
- find a temporary accommodation: For assistance contact the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia; 15, Tamarashvili street assistance (+995)322431100; (+995) 32 231 13 37)

2. To do immediately after the return

The returnee should:

- (re-)register for the health insurance and the pension insurance system.
 - 15-05 hotline of the Ministry of Labour. Health and Social Affairs, call concerning health insurance and pension
- contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing:
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 - Social Service Agency (hotline 15-05; web: ssa.gov.ge ; address: 144, Tsereteli Ave, Tbilisi)
 - For housing only single mothers and victims of family violence (trafficking) contact Social Service Agency
- apply for social welfare, if he/she is below poverty line or socially vulnerable
- apply for child care, schools or other educational institutions
 - Social Service Agency (for child care)
 - Schools and education (Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Address: 0102 Tbilisi, Dimitri Uznadze N 52, Hot-line (995 32 2) 200 220
- All sorts of documents can be obtained at Public Service Agencies. They are functional in different regions of Georgia and there you can get the majority of State services - over 300 types of services, such as issuance of ID documents, passports, marriage certificates, as well as documents related to getting a visa or registering immovable property

II. HEALTH CARE

1. Health care system

a. General information on the health care system

Georgia offers a universal health care program funded by state. It provides number of packages in ambulatory and stationary care intended for beneficiaries of various age and social groups. Universal Health Care:

- Open to Citizens of Georgia as well as asylum seekers (while their application is being processed) and persons with humanitarian or refugee status
 - Stationary treatment is fully covered as well as some ambulatory care
 - Treatment of HIV and TB is free of charge, as well as insulin for diabetes patients
 - Dialysis program 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

- Contact Ministry of Health and enrol in the nearest clinic
- Information on healthcare providers can be seen at:
<http://cloud.moh.gov.ge/Default.aspx?languagePair=en-US>

b. Access, especially for returnees

- Eligibility and requirements: If a person is a Georgian citizen, he/she is automatically a participant of state insurance. To become active, the returnee would have to contact their nearest clinic/family doctor.
- Registration procedure: All Georgian citizens are eligible for participation. The returnee just has to consult their district polyclinic if they need out-patient service. If a surgery is needed, the patient has to visit a clinic where the surgery will be implemented. All the clinics are providers of state insurance services. The state covers 70-80% of the surgery costs, the remaining costs have to be paid by the patient.
- Required document: The only required document is a valid ID. Other relevant medical documents will be issued at the clinics.

c. Benefits

Benefits include planned out-patient services located closest to the place of residence, services of family doctor (100%), tests and treatment prescribed by relevant profile doctors after referral of the family doctor (70-100%), certain emergencies (100%), planned surgeries (70%), chemotherapy (80%) with annual limit of 12000 GEL, child delivery (limit 500 GEL), caesarean (limit 800 GEL).

d. Costs

All costs not covered by the State Insurance have to be paid by the patient him/herself. For pensioners the Government has 100 GEL allocations every 3 months in the district municipalities.

2. Medical treatment and availability and costs of medication

a. Medical facilities and doctors

All clinics in Georgia are privatized. For Universal Health Care program does not cover all the aspects, Georgian citizens can address any clinic at any time, based on their needs. However this service has to be paid. Preferably, call and sign up for appointment. There are daily queues for urgent cases.

- Main Medical Facilities:
 - Tbilisi Central Hospital; address: 1 Konstantine Chachava St, Tbilisi 0159; Tel: +995 322 10 44 44;
 - Medical Centre CITO; address: 40 Zakaria Paliashvili Street, Tbilisi; Tel: +995 322 29 06 71;
 - Research Institute of Clinical Medicine; address: 13 Tevdore Mgvdeli St., Tbilisi 0112; Tel: +995 322 34 81 19

b. Procedures of admission

Patients can call and sign up for an appointment. For State Insurance, the patients have to consult their family doctor (according to their place of residence) who will then refer them to relevant specialist doctors. Some of these appointments and medicines are covered by the State Insurance.

c. Availability and costs of medication

- Major pharmacies in Georgia provide variety of medicaments. The availability of certain medicaments can be verified by their brand names or generic names either online or by phone at following sites
 - Medical Information Service
<http://www.mis.ge/ka/FindDrug.jsp?Clear=True> Tel: +995 032 2 252233;
 - Ministry of Labour Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
<http://apps.ssa.gov.ge/recepti/Camlebi>
- Most of the drugs are not covered by the state programs. Therefore patients have to bear the cost on their own. For some drugs prescription is necessary. In this case, the patients should first contact the relevant doctor and obtain the prescription.

III. LABOR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

1. Labour market situation

a. Labor force

According to the National Statistics Office's official data published in 2015, the rate of the economically active population (aged 15+) in Georgia is 67.8%: 59.9 % in urban regions and 75.3 % in rural areas. The high level of economically active population in rural area is due to the low income jobs in agriculture. Georgia has high employment rates for persons above retirement age (+65 years, 43%) as they cannot survive on the low pension only. At the same time, young people (aged 15-25) who live in cities (youth in rural areas are more active as self-employed in small-scale agriculture) are more economically inactive. Most employed persons are aged 40-60. Most jobs exist in wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and personal and household goods sectors (25 %), in industry (19%) and in construction (11%).

b. Average income

The average monthly income per capita is 284.50 GEL (Cash and non-cash inflows, total) (2015, household survey data). The average salary in the sector with most employment (wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal and household goods sectors) is 783.90 GEL. PPP is not calculated for Georgia.

c. Average monthly nominal salary of employee

The average monthly nominal salary is 900.40 GEL (2015 data). The highest salaries can be found in the financial intermediation sphere (1691.40 GEL) and in public administration (1342.70 GEL).

d. Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in Georgia is very high and there is no unemployment benefit. Anyone who has turned 16 may work. As for the required documents, they depend on the employers.

Employment in the public sector requires Georgian citizenship.

2. Ways/assistance to find employment

The greatest demand for jobs is in the service sector. The salary scales can be checked at http://geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=149&lang=eng

For further information, contact the following agencies:

- State employment agency: Hotline 15-05, <http://ssa.gov.ge> or <http://www.worknet.gov.ge>
- Adjara autonomous republic state employment agency
Address: 18, Rustaveli street, Batumi, Tel: +995 32 222 222
Email: info@adjarainfo.org.ge; Web: www.hrajara.gov.ge/ge/
- Websites for available vacancies: <http://www.jobs.ge> or <http://www.hr.com.ge>

3. Unemployment assistance

There is no assistance for unemployed persons in Georgia.

4. Further education possibilities and vocational trainings

For further education possibilities or vocational trainings you can contact the Ministry of Education: Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia; 0102 Tbilisi, Dimitri Uznadze N 52, Hotline (995 32 2) 200 220

IV HOUSING

1. Housing situation

a. Average rent, running costs/utilities (e.g. electricity, water, etc.)

The average rent for a two room apartment in Tbilisi is about 350 USD per month depending on the district and state. Utilities cost around 150-250 GEL per month.

b. Demand and supply

There are a great number of apartments available for rent. Relevant information can be retrieved from the websites www.myhome.ge and www.place.ge, or from newspapers like Sitkva da Sakme.

c. Housing facilities for returnees / social housing

There is one shelter for homeless persons in Tbilisi, located in Lilo district. The shelter has capacities for 250 persons and is well equipped. One room accommodates 10-12 persons. To be allowed to stay in this shelter the following criteria should be met:

- Must be citizen of Georgia
- Must be registered in Tbilisi at least for the last 2 years
- Must be employable
- Mustn't have any property
- Mustn't have family members who are the employable (with any property)
- Should not have any medical and legal problems
- Should be able to take care of himself

The shelter is a temporary place for living and persons can stay from 10 to max 18 months.

2. **Ways / assistance to find accommodation**

For assistance contact the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia; 15, Tamarashvili street assistance (+995)322431100; (+995) 32 231 13 37

3. **Social grants for housing,**

There is no social grant for housing available

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

1. **Social welfare system**

a. **General information on the welfare system**

- The social welfare system is composed of the following financial benefits
 - Subsistence allowance
 - Reintegration assistance
 - Foster care
 - Adult family care assistance
 - In-kind social aid
 - State compensation
 - Household subsidy
 - Social package
- Contact: Social Service Agency (hotline 1505), for reintegration assistance (+995)322431100; (+995)322311337

b. **Access, especially for returnees**

- Eligibility and requirements: There are specific programs for some groups (e.g. persons with different disabilities, elderly persons, persons below poverty line) with varying eligibility criteria. The returnee should address the nearest office of Social Service Agency, complete an application form and present their ID. Other required documents vary according to the type of assistance needed. The returnee will be advised by the agency staff. After submitting all necessary documents, the applicant will receive the benefit within one month. More information about such benefits can be retrieved from http://ssa.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=34
- Registration procedure for social security/insurance: For registration the returnee should address the nearest office of Social Service Agency. Next steps for obtaining the benefits depend on the type of social benefits. For instance, if a person wants to obtain a social package, a social service agency will review this application and will make the final decision within maximum 10 calendar days. Further information can be obtained at [www: ssa.gov.ge](http://www.ssa.gov.ge) or call hotline 15-05
- Required documents: Dependent on the types of benefit

c. **Benefits**

Families living below poverty line can receive a cash subsistence allowance starting from 10 GEL per family member up to 60 GEL per family member (depends on the family rating score).

2. **Pension system**

a. **Access, especially for returnees**

- Eligibility/Requirements
 - reaching the pension age (male 65 years, female 60 years)
 - establishment of disability status;
 - death of breadwinner
- Registration procedure for social security/insurance: Application has to be submitted to the nearest social service offices. The decision will be made within 10 days. Receiving a foreign pension excludes persons from the Georgian state pension.
- Required documents: ID card and other relevant documents

b. **Costs**

The registration is free.

c. **Benefits**

The state pension is 180 GEL.

3. **Vulnerable persons**

a. **Assistance for vulnerable persons**

The program Provision of People with Mental Disorders with Asylums provides daily service. This program is eligible for persons older than 18 years having dementia caused by congenital or acquired mental diseases, as well as mental disorders, requiring the service stipulated by the program and proven appropriate decision on their inclusion in the subprogram.

VI. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

1. Educational system

General information on the system

- 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 exams. Citizens of Georgia, who have obtained the document of completed secondary education abroad or/and the right to access higher education abroad, can also participate in Unified National Exams. Registration can be done online: <http://registration.emis.ge/>
- State kindergartens are free of charge. Registration is done online in three stages.
 - Stage 1 – for socially vulnerable 1-5 July
 - Stage 2 – for children whose siblings go to the same kindergarten 5-10 July
 - State 3 – for all other children from 10 July
- 28 universities, 32 educational institutes and 14 colleges have an international accreditation
- The state recognizes only diplomas of authorized higher institutions. Required documents:
 - Application form, prepared in Georgian language or bring a notarized translation
 - copy of ID card (in case of foreign citizen, the notarized translation of passport copy)
 - if another person files application: document certifying the authority (power of attorney)
 - if parent files application: notarized copy of child's birth certificate
 - translated and notarized copy of educational documents:
 - Certificate of complete general education and its supplement, certificate of base education and its supplement, certificate of primary education and its supplement
 - Vocational Diploma and its supplement
 - Higher Education Diploma and its supplement
 - document certifying the awarded academic qualification
 - Application fee of 30 GEL needs to be paid
 - Recognition of qualification acquired abroad costs 60 GEL

| Educational level | Age |
|---|---------|
| Child care / nursery school | 2-3 |
| Kindergarten | 3-6 |
| Primary level | |
| e.g. elementary school, etc. | 6-12 |
| Secondary level | |
| e.g. middle school | 12-15 |
| e.g. high school, vocational training, etc. | 15-18 |
| Higher education | |
| e.g. college, university, professional school, etc. | from 18 |

2. Access and registration procedure, especially for returnees

Returnees have access to the educational institutions like Georgian citizens. Students are enrolled in the state and private higher educational institutions with regard to the results of the national exams

3. Costs, loans and stipends

a. General information on tuition fees

Education in public schools is free. 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. The grant varies from 100% to 50%. In 2014, 21 students have been financed by state.

b. Access and requirements to stipends and/or loans for covering tuition

There are different types and amounts of stipends available at the institutes and universities with different requirements. There are as well governmental stipends and exchange programs with different foreign universities. For more information please visit

<http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=21&lang=geo>

4. Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

- Approval and Recognition is subject to: general education, vocational education, higher education
- Recognition is not valid to: preschool education (kindergarten), residency (postgraduate medical training), education acquired within exchange programs implemented by Georgian educational institutions upon permission of the center.
- Required documents include:
 - Application form, prepared in Georgian language or bring a notarized translation
 - copy of ID card (in case of foreign citizen, the notarized translation of passport copy)
 - if another person files application: document certifying the authority (power of attorney)
 - if parent files application: notarized copy of child’s birth certificate
 - translated and notarized copy of educational documents
 - Application fee payment receipt (regular procedure [one month] 30 GEL; expedited procedure [15 business days] 60 GEL)
- Studies in higher educational institutions without taking Unified National Exams or Unified Masters Exams are possible for students who have been studying abroad for at least 2 years in accredited higher educational institutions. Interested persons should address the National Center for Education Quality Development:
 - National Center for Education Quality Development 1, Aleksidze Street, Tbilisi; Tel: 2200220, E-mail: info@eqe.ge

VII. CONCRETE SUPPORT FOR RETURNEES

1. Reintegration assistance programs

- services are limited, so not everyone addressing the centre can get the assistance
- Requirement: comply with the criteria and be socially vulnerable

2. Financial and administrative support

Legal assistance and micro businesses can be financed by the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation.

3. Support to start income generating activities

Income generating activities can be financed by the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

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|--|---|
| <p>Social service agency Address: Social service agency, 144 Ak. Tsereteveli avenue E-mail: info@ssa.gov.ge, Tel: 15-05 Website: www.ssa.gov.ge</p> | <p>State employment agency Address: Tbilisi, 51, Javakhisvhili street Website: worknet.gov.ge</p> |
| <p>Ministry of education Address: 0102 Tbilisi, Dimitri Uznadze N 52 E-mail: pr@mes.gov.ge Tel: (+ 995 32) 220 02 20 ext. 1150 Website: mes.gov.ge</p> | <p>Tbilisi municipality. NPO Temporary shelter Address: Tbilisi, Didi Lilo, al. Japaridze Street Tel: 577 90 25 20</p> |
| <p>IOM Address 19 Tengiz Abuladze Street, 0162 Tbilisi Tel.: +995 32 225 22 16 +995 32 225 22 16 Fax: +995 32 225 22 17 E-mail: iombilisi@iom.int</p> | <p>UN Georgia Address 9, Eristavi St. UN House, Tbilisi, Georgia Tel 0322 25 11 26 Website: www.ungeorgia.ge</p> |