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INFORMATION ON RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN Georgia / 2022



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Exchange rate (December 2022: 1 USD = 2.685 Georgian Lari (GEL))

Country Information Sheet last updated in December / 2022

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I. INTRODUCTION

As one of its programs, IOM Bern is implementing the Swiss Return Information Fund (RIF) project. This project aims at providing the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and the Return Counselors in the Cantons and in the asylum registration and procedure centres with current and clear information helping them to prepare and support voluntary returns and reintegration.

TO DO BEFORE THE RETURN

The returnee should

✓ request documents from the Swiss authorities, especially birth certificates of children born outside of Georgia, legalized by apostil, as otherwise you will not be able to register children in state polyclinics 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

✓ 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

✓ get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey:

- First get from the airport to Tbilisi by taxi (approximately 30 minutes to city center; 80 GEL average), Bus (N337; 1.00 GEL). Bus N337 is part of the municipal transportation which is available 24/7.
- From Tbilisi central station you can get buses and trains to every part of Georgia. The biggest bus stations are as follows: "Okriba" "Ortachala" and "Vagzali". "Vagzali" combines bus and train stations.
- However, most of the flights to Georgia arrive at night, when buses and trains do not run frequently, so taxi may be the only option for immediate onward travel from the airport.
- Taxi fares from the airport to: Tbilisi – 80 GEL; Rustavi – 130 GEL; Gori – 200 GEL; Kutaisi – 420 GEL; Poti – 580 GEL; Zugdidi – 600 GEL; Batumi – 650 GEL; Gurjaani – 200 GEL; Telavi – 250 GEL.

TO DO AFTER THE RETURN

The returnee should

✓ (re-)register for the health insurance and the pension insurance system.

I. The 15-05 hotline number of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia can be called concerning health insurance and pension

✓ contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing:

- State Employment Support Agency
Address: 9, M. Asatiani Street, Tbilisi
Tel: +995 32 239 53 06

✓ For housing of single mothers and victims of family violence or human trafficking, contact the Social Service Agency; Victims of Trafficking or victims of family violence may refer to the State Fund for protection and Assistance of Statutory Victims of Human Trafficking.

- Hotline: +995 32 2 116 006

✓ apply for social welfare, if the person is below poverty line or socially vulnerable

✓ apply for childcare, schools or other educational institutions

- Social Service Agency (for childcare) Hotline 15-05 ssa.gov.ge
Address: 144, Tsereteli Ave, Tbilisi
- Ministry of Education and Science
Address: 0102 Tbilisi, Dimitri Uznadze N 52, Hotline (995 32 2) 200 220

✓ Public Service Halls are active in different regions of Georgia, where 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 obtaining a visa or registering immovable property.



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In the framework of RIF, IOM Bern also develops Country Information Sheets (CIS) that contain an overview of various topics relevant to return and reintegration in the countries of origin. The CIS has the purpose of facilitating the preparations of voluntary returns by clarifying frequent questions and basic information on relevant countries of origin in the Swiss context.

II. HEALTHCARE

Universal Health Care (UHC) Programme: The Government programme guarantees full accessibility to essential medical services for all citizens who qualify for this option. Health care costs of the UHC programme beneficiaries are covered fully or partially by the Government. Beneficiaries of the programme could be the citizens of Georgia along with the stateless persons, neutral ID and travel document holders, individuals with refugee or humanitarian status and asylum seekers (citizens whose monthly income does not exceed 1000 GEL together with the people with low income). Furthermore, if a person already has gotten a private health insurance, UHC will only cover the following treatments: prenatal care, caesarean section, high risk pregnancy, maternal and infectious diseases, treatment of oncological diseases;

All health providers, which satisfy the requirements set by Georgian legislation and have a will to participate in the program are eligible to participate in UHC. Program beneficiaries have a right to choose a hospital by themselves.

Please see web page for more information: <https://www.moh.gov.ge/ka/529>

1505 – Hotline number within the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, through which beneficiaries can get complete information about the UHC programme and other services timely and in preferable language.

Other State-run medical programmes and their beneficiaries:

Tuberculosis Management – eligible: citizens of Georgia, foreigners with permanent residence and stateless persons.

Mental Health State Programme – eligible: citizens of Georgia, foreigners together with the persons permanently residing in Georgia.

Urgent Emergency Assistance and Medical Transportation (includes medical emergency on the spot, hospitalization, house calls) – citizens of Georgia, individuals living permanently in Georgia and residing on the territory of Georgia.

State Programme for Battling Drug Addiction – includes detoxification and opioid substitution treatment services and is available for the citizens of Georgia and foreigners who were



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engaged in the replacement programme abroad before their departure. Although, participation in the programme is free of charge, those who conducted drug replacement therapy abroad, should provide notarized translation of medical certificate issued abroad in order to get the same treatment in Georgia.

HIV/AIDS Programme – eligible: Georgian citizens, foreigners with permanent residence and states persons, holders of Georgian citizenship as well as foreigners permanently living in Georgia or persons without citizenship.

Essential contact details/hotline numbers about medical programmes:

112 - contact number of the local emergency service, which combines fire and rescue brigades, emergency medical services together with the patrol police.

1505 - Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs

116001- National Service for Disease Control and Public Health - <https://www.ncdc.ge/>
<https://www.moh.gov.ge/> - Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs

<http://apps.ssa.gov.ge/recepti/Camlebi> - List of medications registered in Georgia

[Stopcov.gov.ge](http://stopcov.gov.ge) - Informational portal about prevention of COVID-19 spread in Georgia

Comprehensive information on all immigration related issues: http://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article_id=15&clang=1

Universal Health Program, funding Terms:

Groups who can benefit from the Universal Healthcare programme: Socially vulnerable, pensioners, children aged 0-6, teachers, students, IDPs, people with disabilities:

The right to use an additional private insurance package is not restricted.

Group#1 Citizens with a score of 70,000 to 100,000 and adolescents aged 6 to 18 years

Entitlement: The basic package of the universal health care program is maintained; The right to use an additional private insurance package is not restricted.

Group#2 Citizens with an income of less than 1000 GEL per month, self-employed, citizens with irregular income



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Entitlement: They enjoy a slightly limited package of universal health care program; In case of private insurance, emergency services will be funded by the state; Treatment of oncological diseases (chemo, hormonal and radiation therapy) and financing childbirth / caesarean delivery (C-section) is funded.

For middle-income citizens, whose monthly income is more than 1,000 GEL, but whose annual income does not exceed 40,000 GEL: Enjoy either the limited services of the universal health care program or the private insurance package. Treatment of oncological (chemotherapy and hormone therapy), maternity / caesarean delivery (C-section) is funded.

Group #3 Citizens with an annual income of more than GEL 40,000 will no longer be able to benefit from the universal health care program.

Additional Terms: Under the program, all citizens will be provided with funding of maternity / caesarean delivery (C-section).

Note: The scope of services of the universal health care program is determined on case-by-case basis and not by family income.

Citizens registered in the unified database of socially vulnerable families with up to 100,000 rating points will be funded for the treatment of chronic diseases (cardiovascular, pulmonary, type 2 diabetes (non-insulin dependent), thyroid diseases).

State Programme for Mental health

Who benefits from the program?

The beneficiaries of the program are citizens of Georgia, foreign citizens living in Georgia and stateless persons permanently residing in Georgia, persons in penitentiary institutions, despite the lack of an official identification document.

What does the state mental health program include?

Community Outpatient Services: counselling services, diagnostics, treatment, provision of medicines prescribed by a psychiatrist, continuous care/monitoring and follow-up, social support; Close cooperation with medical (primary health care) and social services in the community; In-home visit / community (carried out by a mental health specialist in certain cases) that should not exceed 4 visits by a member of the multidisciplinary team within 2 months;

Children's Mental Health:

Evaluation of child's mental health state, diagnosing patients under the age of 18 who have changed mental state and behaviour, deterioration of social functioning, and inadaptation.



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Services include involvement of neurodevelopmental and psychiatric team; Provision of medication (during the diagnosis period) according to the doctor's prescription; Clinical-laboratory examinations according to the doctor's prescription; Consultation of specialists' according to the doctor's prescription.

Psychiatric Crisis Intervention Service for Adults (age range: 16-65) - a specialized service that provides services in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Batumi and Rustavi to persons, who have acute psychotic symptoms or such behavioural and affective symptoms that may endanger the life and / or health of the patient or those around him, but treatment may be provided at the place of residence, by a specialized team, with two visits per day and provides: Emergency and planned outpatient counselling in the day hospital, psychiatric evaluation of patients and medical treatment; As needed, consultations with physicians and clinical-laboratory monitoring; Individual, family and group psycho-therapeutic services, and 24 hour telephone consultations for beneficiaries;

Implementation of crisis intervention by the mobile crisis team at the patient's place of residence and, if necessary, transfer of the patient to the crisis intervention center or referral to another appropriate psychosocial/psychiatric service provider.

After the end of the crisis and the improvement of the patient's clinical condition, when the need for daily visits no longer exists, the multidisciplinary team refers the patient to the appropriate outpatient service, and if the patient's condition does not improve, despite the twice-daily visits, the patient is hospitalized;

Community-based mobile team services:

For people with severe mental disorders who are hospitalized frequently, or they discontinue treatment, which worsens the psychopathological symptoms, or have social problems that cannot be solved independently due to illness. Services include: Develop and implement an individual management plan for the situation; Home service, regular visits, medications prescribed by the treating psychiatrist, social skill training, psychoeducation of the patient and patient's family members and supportive psycho-consultation, hospitalisation in case of need, in case of somatic problems referral to relevant physicians and programs (Mainly in Kakheti and Kvemo Kartli districts);

What documents are needed to involve in state programme for mental health?

-Application form

-Person's ID

-Medical certificate

-Statement if person has a disability



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-Photo size 3X4

-if person is lodging an application on behalf of the patient, ID of patient's official representative

- Official statement that the same person has right to lodge application on behalf of the patient

Decision is made by the Social Service Agency within one-month period. Applicant will receive sms notification by the SSA within 5 working days.

A. CONTIDIONS FOR THE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL TREATMENT

Universal Health Care:

- Open to citizens of Georgia as well as asylum seekers, and persons with humanitarian or refugee status
- Emergency care is covered by 70-100%
- Treatment of HIV, Hepatitis C and TB as well as insulin for diabetes patients are free of charge
- Dialysis is also available in big cities and is free of charge
- State funded Methadone Substitution program is available free of charge. At an initial phase only a check-up / enrollment fee of 70 GEL has to be paid.
- Medical costs for child-care (up to age 5) are partly covered depending on illness
- Contact the Ministry of Health and enroll at the nearest clinic
- Information on health-care providers can be found at: [e-Health Cloud \(moh.gov.ge\)](http://e-Health Cloud (moh.gov.ge))

Costs:

All costs which are not covered by the state insurance have to be paid by the patients.

Benefits:

Benefits include planned out-patient services located near the place of residence; services of family doctors (100%); tests and treatment prescribed by relevant profile doctors after referral (70%); certain emergencies (100%); planned surgeries (70%); chemotherapy (80% with a limit of 12.000GEL/year); child delivery (max. 500GEL), caesarean (max. 800GEL).

Medical facilities and doctors:



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

Procedure of admission:

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

Availability and costs of medication:

Major pharmacies in Georgia provide a variety of medication. The availability of certain medicaments can be verified by their brand names or generic names either online or by phone at the following sites:

Medical Information Service

Mis.ge

+995 032 2 252233

Ministry of Labor Health and Social Affairs

<https://www.moh.gov.ge/>

Most of the drugs are not covered by the state programs. Therefore, patients have to bear the cost on their own. For some drugs a prescription is necessary. In this case, the patient should contact the relevant doctor and obtain the prescription first.

Download the app on your mobile device: **EKIMO**

This is an app that makes it easy to get information on medications in Georgian pharmacy networks. In addition to this, you can make an appointment with doctor and choose preferable medical service.

More information is available at:

<https://ekimo.ge/>

Health Care System: Access for Returnees

Eligibility and requirements:

All citizens of Georgia as well as asylum seekers, and persons with humanitarian or refugee status are eligible for the health insurance system in Georgia.

Registration procedure:



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Georgian citizens automatically become participants of the state insurance. However, registration is necessary in order to enjoy benefits of the programme. For this purpose, returnees should call the 15-05 hotline of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia or directly contact the nearest polyclinic, medical centre or hospital for registration.

Required documents: Valid Georgian ID.

As many healthcare services are still not covered by the State insurance, some people choose to get private insurance.

Examples of private Insurance providers (below):

Name of the company	Contact
“Aldagi”	Central office: David Aghmashenebeli avenue 66a; +995 32 2 444 999 https://aldagi.ge/ka/
“GPI Holding”	Kostava street#67 +995 32 2 505 111 https://www.gpih.ge/gpih/
“IRAO”	Botchorishvili street#88/15 +995 32 2 949 949 www.iraog.ge
“Imedi L”	Ana polistkosvkaia str. #9 +995 32 2 922 222 https://www.imedil.ge

III. HOUSING

General Information

After crisis in Ukraine prices have tripled in Georgia especially in real estate. Rent fees for one/two room apartments have been increased due to high demand from Russian migrants.

Housing facilities for returnees / social housing:

There is only one shelter for homeless persons in Tbilisi, located in the Lilo district. Please find below the criteria for admission. It is very difficult to get into the shelter as the places are limited and criteria quite strict. It has capacities for 250 persons and is well equipped. One room accommodates 10-12 people.

The shelter is a temporary place for living and people can stay there from 10 to a maximum of 18 months. The person will be provided with food and clothes. One can address the shelter individually



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(on his/her own) or with the assistance of police officers. First, the person has to undergo a screening procedure to check his/her eligibility. Contact number 577 902520

To be allowed to stay in the shelter the person should meet the following criteria:

- must be a citizen of Georgia
- must be registered in Tbilisi for at least the last 2 years
- must be employable
- must not have any property
- must not have family members who are employed (with any property)
- should not have any medical and legal problems
- should be able to take care of himself/herself

A. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Temporary accommodation can be provided through State Reintegration Programme only for 6 days if the returnee complies with program criteria. Should be out of Georgia for over one year.

Address: 0159, 144 Akaki Tsereteli Av., Tbilisi; Hotline: (+995)322 1505

Web page: www.moh.gov.ge

FB page of the Agency: <https://www.facebook.com/IDPsAgency>

It is advisable to contact to the Agency after arrival in order to find out programme related details.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES OR EMERGENCY SHELTERS

If the returnee is a victim of trafficking or domestic violence or homeless, there are shelters available where he/she can temporarily stay after returning.

Housing for VoTs and victims of domestic violence

The State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking (SCA) is a state-run fund which has two shelters for VoTs and victims of domestic violence in Tbilisi and Batumi. On top of this, presumed VoT or victims of domestic violence can be placed at the Crisis Center together with dependents. Shelters and Crisis centre provide the following services to their beneficiaries: daily accommodation; psychological assistance; medical assistance; legal assistance; translator's service, one-off compensation. Shelters for victims of domestic violence apart from VoTs shelters operate



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in Sighnaghi, Kutaisi and Gori and provide all the services mentioned above. For more information please see Website: [Atipfund webpage](#) ; Tel.: 116 006. Child victims: Tel: 111

State Care Agency (SCA) provides assistance programs for victims of various forms of violence at multiple locations in Georgia. For more information, please, visit at: [Atipfund regional centers](#)

C. BUY OR RENT REAL ESTATE

In 2022, the number of residential property transactions improved by 36%. The increase was similarly impressive compared to 2019 and 2020 as well. Considering the touristic nature of the

city, both number of transactions and sale prices especially in Batumi have a seasonal trend with the higher activity observed in the summer. During the last two years, this trend was distorted by the pandemic, however, the summer of 2022 might set the new highs for real estate market driven by strong recovery in tourism and migration. There is a limited number of apartments available, especially in the city center.

Relevant information can be retrieved from the websites:

- www.myhome.ge
- www.place.ge
- www.saqme.ge

or from newspapers like Sitkva da Sakme.



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- One-bedroom apartment 800 / 1000

GEL (Suburb of Tbilisi)

- One-bedroom apartment 1500 / 2000

GEL (Center of Tbilisi)

- Two-bedroom apartment 2500 / 3000

GEL (Suburb of Tbilisi)

- Two-bedroom apartment 1200 / 1500 (Suburb of Tbilisi)

IV. EDUCATION

General overview of the education system

The network of educational institutions and adult professional training / retraining courses is well developed in Georgia.

The Georgian education system comprises the following steps:

- pre-school education (for children under 6);
- primary education (grades I-VI);
- basic education (grades VII-IX);
- secondary education (grades X-XII);
- professional education;
- academic higher education.

Educational level	Age
Pre-school	
Child care / nursery school (optional)	2-3
Kindergarten (optional)	3-6
Primary level (mandatory)	
Pre-school	6-12
Primary school (6 years)	
Secondary level (mandatory)	
High School (6 years = 3 + 3)	15-18
Higher education	18+
University	

State kindergartens are free of charge. Registration is done online according to the procedures adopted every year, usually several months before kindergarten and school starts (May, June). In primary schools registration is done in several stages. The procedures are established by the Ministry of Education. <http://emis.ge>

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 or/and the right to access higher education abroad, can also participate in Unified National Exams.



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Registration can be done online: <https://emis.ge/upload/doc/Registration.pdf> ; online.naec.ge

30 universities, 20 educational institutes, and 63 colleges have official accreditation; the list can be found at:

<http://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=1855&lang=geo> ; <https://mes.gov.ge/content.php?id=215&lang=geo>

A. ACCESS AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR RETURNEES

Returnees have access to the educational institutions like any other Georgian citizen. For kindergartens, schools and universities there is online registration. Students are enrolled in the state and private higher educational institutions with regard to the results in the national exams.

B. VOCATIONAL TRAINING POSSIBILITIES

Possibilities of technical / vocational trainings

Job seekers can register on the website [WorkNet \(moh.gov.ge\)](http://moh.gov.ge) which connects job seekers and employers.

Prerequisites for admission to Vocational Education Persons who possess the document certifying at least the general education are eligible for the Basic Vocational Education Program.

Vocational training is fully financed from the State budget. Registration is open twice per year and vocational education institutions are located almost in every region in Georgia. There are two ways of entering the Vocational Education Program:

1. Professional Tests
2. Competition/selection defined by the education institution

To enrol in the program, it is necessary for the applicant to go through the registration using the webpage vet.emis.ge . The term for the registration is announced by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. Applicant is free to choose the online registration or visit the education institution and get the administration assistance.

Please, see more information about list of authorised Vocational Education Institutions:

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



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C. SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Education in public schools is free. Regarding the results of the national exams, students in higher educational institutions are granted state grants in accordance with the rules defined by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The grants vary between 100%, 70% and 50%. In 2022, more than 1000 students received a 100% state grant, while 70% state grants were given up to 1500 students, and 50% state grants to 4000 students.

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/>

<https://edu.aris.ge/>

V. LABOUR MARKET AND EMPLOYMENT

General situation of the labour market

According to the National Statistics Office's official data for 2021, the rate of the economically active population (aged 15+) in Georgia is at 50.9%. The high level of the economically active population in rural areas is due to the low-income jobs in agriculture.

Most employed persons are aged between 30 and 55. Most people are self-employed in agricultural sector –18.9%. As for hired employed persons, most of them are working in wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, personal and household goods sectors (14.8%) and education (12%).

The average monthly income per capita is 364.8 GEL (2021, household survey data). Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) has not been calculated for Georgia.

For detailed information see: http://www.geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=143&lang=eng

The average monthly nominal salary is 1304.5 GEL. The highest salaries can be found in financial and insurance sectors - 2 368.1 GEL; Professional, scientific and technical activities - 2 075.3 GEL; Information and communication - 2 030.9 GEL; Construction-1 805.9 GEL; (2021 data)

Unemployment rate in Georgia is not very high in figures: In 2021, it stood at 20.6%. There are no unemployment benefits. Unemployment rates are especially high for age groups 15-19 with 43.9 % and 20-24 38.3 % (2021 data). Furthermore, according to the 2021 data unemployment is higher for



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men (22.7 %) than for women (17.8 %). Unemployment rate is higher in urban areas (22.23 %) than in rural areas (18.2%).

From 2013, changes were introduced in the Labour Code of Georgia for the protection of labour rights of workers. A labour market management portal was created ([WorkNet \(moh.gov.ge\)](http://worknet.moh.gov.ge)) where job seekers can be registered. Small projects in the fields of agriculture and industry are implemented.

The greatest demand is for jobs in service sector. The salary scales can be checked at

http://geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=149&lang=eng

A. MOST AVAILABLE JOBS AND SALARY LEVELS

Best job fields where to find employment and average salary

The greatest demand for jobs is in the service sector. The salary scales can be checked at

[Wages - National Statistics Office of Georgia \(geostat.ge\)](http://wages-nso.ge) For further information, contact the following agencies:

State Employment Support Agency:

Address: 9, M. Asatiani Street, Tbilisi

Tel: +995 32 239 53 06,

[WorkNet \(moh.gov.ge\)](http://worknet.moh.gov.ge)

Adjara Autonomous Republic State Employment Agency:

Address: 18, Rustaveli street, Batumi;

Tel: +995 32 222 222;

email: info@adjarainfo.org.ge

Vacancies can also be found on these websites: <http://www.jobs.ge> or hr.ge

B. UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Unemployment Assistance: Access for Returnees

The State Employment Support Agency provides assistance to job seekers /unemployed persons in career planning, job mediation and placement; Supports engagement of job seekers in the vocational training, retraining and qualification upgrade programmes.

REQUIREMENTS TO ACCESS THE LABOUR MARKET

People from 16 years old can access the labour market. The required documents are identified by the employers. Georgian citizenship is only required for jobs in public administration.



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Job seeker should register on the website [WorkNet \(moh.gov.ge\)](http://moh.gov.ge) or address to the employment support agency , where they can receive several services: job counselling, CV creation and referral to potential employers.

Benefits and Costs:

There is no financial unemployment benefit for unemployed persons.

Eligibility and requirements:

All Georgian citizens and persons with permanent residence permit are eligible to receive assistance from the State Employment Support Agency (SESA), in job seeking, mediation, vocational training, etc.

Registration procedure:

Required documents:

Valid ID and all relevant work-related documents, such as diploma for proof of education, qualification and work experience.

C. PENSION SYSTEM

There is a public pension system in Georgia. People are eligible for it if they fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

- reaching the pension age (65 years for men, 60 years for women)

An accumulative pension system has been introduced since 2019, which is voluntary for persons who are self-employed, also for employed persons above 40. The participation in the system is obligatory for Georgian citizens below 40 who are employed and/or self-employed, as well as foreigners who hold a permanent residence permit of Georgia. 2% of the participant's salary go on his/her personal pension account. In addition to this, Government and employer will add 2-2% to the person's account. When reaching the pension age, the participant is eligible to receive accumulated pension on a monthly basis.

Registration procedure:

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.

Registration documents:

An ID document and (if applicable) proof of fulfilling the respective criterion are required.



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VI. BUSINESS SET-UP OPPORTUNITIES

Successful institutional and regulatory reforms in Georgia have significantly improved the business environment. The business environment in Georgia has been based on the development of business-friendly state institutions, simplification of legislative regulations, reducing bureaucracy, labor market liberalization and macroeconomic reforms.

Georgia became one of the most rapidly reforming countries in the world. In the annual *Doing Business* report, published by the World Bank, Georgia's position on the 'ease of doing business' indicator in 2019 achieved its highest ranking in the report – six of 190 countries. Among the 10 indicators, its best result was in protecting minority investors (second place) and registering property (fourth place), while its relatively low position was in resolving insolvency (60th) and in trading across borders (43rd). In order to start a private business a person must register as an Individual Entrepreneur or as a legal person (Limited liability company, Limited partnership, General partnership, Joint stock company, Co-operative).

Registration of a business subject is done at the Public Service Hall or National Public Service Agency field offices, which are the legal Entity of public law under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

Registration as an entrepreneur comprises state and tax registrations.

Registration fees and terms:

Individual Entrepreneur – 26 GEL within one working day; 75 GEL – on the day of application.

Ltd or other Legal forms – 200 GEL within one working day; 400 GEL - on the day of application.

A. FINANCIAL SUPPORT OR CREDIT

There are several state programmes aiming at supporting business start-up / expansion where two main programmes can be singled out: Enterprise Georgia and programmes of Rural Development Agency:

➤ „Enterprise Georgia“:

- **Micro and Small Business Support Program** - The right to participate in the grant competition announced within the framework of the state program for micro and small entrepreneurship will be available to any adult Georgian citizen, as an entrepreneurial entity. The program is implemented throughout Georgia. More than 300 economic activities can be financed within the framework of the program



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- **CREDIT GUARANTEE MECHANISM** - involves providing credit guarantees to viable small and medium-sized enterprises that do not have the ability to meet the requirements for loan collateral
- **Business Universal** - The goal of the program is to develop entrepreneurship in Georgia, support entrepreneurial entities, promote the creation of new enterprises/expansion/retooling of existing enterprises, and increase the competitiveness of the private sector by increasing access to finance
- **Tourism Development** - The program aims to develop and financially support the country's tourism and tourism-related services.

Detailed information about the programme can be accessed at:
<https://www.enterprisegeorgia.gov.ge/ka/Business-Development>

➤ „Rural Development Agency“:

- Program for supporting hazelnut production;
- Bioproduction Promotion Program;
- Plant The Future
- Tea plantation rehabilitation program;
- State Co-financing Program of Refrigerated Storage Facilities for Berry Crops of Agricultural Cooperatives;
- State Program for Rational Use of State-Owned Pastures in Mountainous Regions;
- State Technical Assistance Program;
- Preferential Agrocredit Project;
- Agroinsurance

Detailed information about the programme can be accessed at: <https://rda.gov.ge/programs>.

Apart from this, commercial banks and microfinance organizations provide credit for business start-up and expansion.

Source:

General overview of the program:

[About | Enterprise Georgia](#)

Micro and small business support: [Micro and Small Business Support | Enterprise Georgia](#)



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[Micro and Small Business Support | Enterprise Georgia](#) Regarding voluntary returnees from Switzer-

FOR PERSONS WITH LITTLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN URBAN AREAS

- Grocery
- Beauty Salon
- Fast food business
- Mixed shop
- Trade (e.g. jewelry)

FOR RETURNEES WHO RESIDE IN RURAL AREAS

- Cattle breeding / pig farming
- Chicken farm
- Agricultural activities (fruits, vegetables, vineyards etc)
- Apiary business

FOR PERSONS WITH CRAFT-SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE IN URBAN AREAS

- Tailoring workshop
- Workshop to produce plastic- metal windows and doors
-

FURTHER RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

- Car wash
- Taxi driver
- Delivery service at GLOVO, WOLT (e.g. future employment support), for example purchase of scooter.

land, several business projects can be recommended:

VII. TRANSPORTATION

Rail system: general information

Tbilisi is connected with railway to regions of Georgia as well as Armenia.

Contact information of Georgian Railway (Hotline for passenger transportation and Central railway information bureau) Tel: (+995 32) 219 90 10, 1331.

E-mail: railway@railway.ge

More information about online tickets available at: <https://ticket.railway.ge> and www.tkt.ge .

Mobile application is available at: www.railway.ge



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Train ticket average prices (one way): (some examples for important routings)

From	To	Fare
Tbilisi	Batumi (Daily)	34-74 GEL
Tbilisi	Ozurgeti (Daily)	9 GEL
Tbilisi	Poti (Daily)	15-27-42 GEL
Tbilisi	Zugdidi (Daily)	15 GEL
Tbilisi	Yerevan (Daily)	90-125-165 GEL

Flights: general information

There are six airports in Georgia (three international airports located in Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi and

PROJECTS NOT RECOMMENDED

There is no such project. Majority of returnees from Switzerland are entitled to medical assistance. Housing option is also very popular among them. However, we strongly recommend in case of covering rent fee to make at least two installments in order to avoid money laundering. Monitoring is recommended for the cases from Switzerland.

three local airports located in Ambrolauri, Mestia and Natakhtari). Tbilisi airport is connected with the whole world with direct and transit flights, as well as charter. Kutaisi Airport is the second busiest airport after Tbilisi. There are three air companies operating at Kutaisi airport: Wizzair, Fly Arystan and Belavia. Turkish airlines, Pegasus, El Al airlines, Arkia Israeli Airlines operates at Batumi airport.

Additional information on flights and airports can be accessed at the web site of Georgian Civil Aviation Agency www.gcaa.ge and www.airports.ge

Tbilisi Airport-www.tbilisiairport.com/ka-GE/

Kutaisi Airport- www.kutaisi.aero

Batumi Airport – www.batumiairport.com

Approximate flight fares: (some examples for important routings)

From	To	Price
Tbilisi	Baku	150 USD
Tbilisi	Istanbul	150 USD
Kutaisi	Vienna	200 USD
Kutaisi	Berlin	280 USD
Kutaisi	Gdansk	100 USD
Kutaisi	Athens	150 USD

Note: Prices for flight tickets are subject to change. We have indicated an average price for specific route. For low fare flights, prices differ and are subject to constant change. The lowest fare can be



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30-40 EUR up to 150-180 EUR depending on availability, type of ticket, high/low season, seasonal discounts, special discount days etc.

Taxi: general information

Taxi is the only transport which can be used 24 hours a day. A lot of on-call taxis operate in Tbilisi. Although it is not difficult to catch a taxi in any place in Tbilisi, it is much effective to call an operator, or order it via mobile application. **Bolt, Yandex Taxi, Maxim and Indriver** are the most frequently used mobile apps. Officially registered Tbilisi city taxi is white.

Underground: general information

There are several means of public transport in Tbilisi: Underground, buses and Minibuses (“Marshrutka”) and 3 ropeways. According to the new reform all of them has the same payment method. Travel is possible by special plastic card “Metromoney”, special subscription cards and as well as with different bank plastic cards. Purchase of subscription and “Metromoney” card is possible at any payment office of metro stations of Tbilisi and at express branches of the Bank of Georgia. The cost of card is 2 GEL.

Subscription fare for municipal transport 1 GEL – 90 minutes unlimited free travel (payment is possible with “Metromoney” card as well as with different cards.

Subscription fare for municipal transport (**metro, bus, minibus, Bagebi-University ropeway**):

- **1 GEL - 90 minutes unlimited free travel** - payment is possible with " Metromoney" card, as well as with different bank cards*.
- **3 GEL – 1-day unlimited travel** - package purchase is possible only with a subscription card.
- **20 GEL - 1-week unlimited travel** - package purchase is possible only with a subscription card.
- **40 GEL – 1-month unlimited travel** - package purchase is possible only with a subscription card.
- **100 GEL – 3-months unlimited travel** - package purchase is possible only with a subscription card.
- **150 GEL – 6-months unlimited travel** - package purchase is possible only with a subscription card.
- **250 GEL – 1-year unlimited travel** - package purchase is possible only with a subscription card.

Several groups of Tbilisi populations have discounts on traveling by municipal transports, they are: pensioners, students, teachers, socially vulnerable groups, etc. It is free of charge to travel by municipal transport for some groups (veterans, persons with disability, school pupils, etc.).



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All the details about Tbilisi municipal transport can be found on the website: [About Tbilisi transport company | TTC](#)

There are also several intercity bus stations in Tbilisi from where it is possible to travel throughout Georgia. They are: Tbilisi Central Station, Okriba Bus Station, Navtlughi Bus Station, Isani Bus Station, New Bus Station of Gldani, Didube Bus Station “Nige” and Bus Station “Express 91”. Details about the bus stations can be found on website: [Bus Stations in Tbilisi | Georgian Travel Guide](#) .

VIII. TELECOMMUNICATION

Possible service providers for cellphones, landlines, internet...

Mobile phone companies:

- „MagtiCom“

Service Center: From any network: 11 00 11 From landline: 032 217 00 00

<http://www.magticom.ge/>

- „Silknet“

ServiceCenter: From any network: +995 32 2 100 100

<https://silknet.com>

- „Beeline“

Service Center: From Beeline number: 11 01 01 From landline: 032 220 06 11

<http://beeline.ge>

Internet Providers

- **Caucasus online**

Caucasus Online offers the following services: Caucasus link, optic-fiber internet, DSL internet, Radio Internet, Caucasus TV, Caucasus Landline phone, Multi offer (Internet, TV and Phone)

For tariffs and additional information please refer to <http://www.co.ge/>

- **Silk Net**

Company Silk Net offers: SILK LTE 4G, Silk optic, DSL Internet, Antivirus, Wireless internet, Silknet WiFi, Wireless phone, Silk TV, Silk TV optima, S1 Mobile network, Triple play offer (internet, TV and phone). Tariffs can be seen on the web page: www.Silknet.com

- „MagtiCom“

Service Center: From any network: 11 00 11 From landline: 032 217 00 00

<http://www.magticom.ge/>



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IX. LIST OF CONTACTS

A. HEALTH CARE

I. Health care centres

Name of the hospital	Address	Contact
Aversi Clinic	Address: Vazha-Pshavela Ave.27b, Tbilisi	Tel.: +995 32 2 500 700 Email: info.clinic@aversi.ge Internet: www.aversiclinic.ge
New Hospitals	Address: Krtsanisi str.12 Tbilisi	Tel.: +995 32 2 190 190 Email: office@newhospitals.ge Internet: www.newhospitals.ge
Tbilisi Central Hospital	Address: K. Chachava str. Tbilisi 0159	Tel.: +995 322 10 44 44
Medical centre "CITO"	Address: 40 Z. Paliashvili str. Tbilisi	Tel.: +995 322 29 06 71 Email: info@cito.ge Internet: www.cito.ge
AIDs and Clinical Immunology Research Center	Address: 16 Kazbegi Ave. Tbilisi	Tel.: +995 32 2 39 80 18 Email: aids@gol.ge Internet: www.aidscenter.ge
Iashvili Children's hospital	Address: Tbilisi, Lubiana str 13/6;	call hotline to make an appointment: +995 0322 600 600
Jerarsi Clinic	Address: Tbilisi, Temka, Mukhiani str. 2a	TEL: +995 032 2 11 11 12
New Hospitals	Address; Tbilisi, Krtsanisi str.12	TEL: +995 322 190 190
Todua Clinic	Address; Tbilisi , Tevdore Mgvdeli str. 13,/ Tbilisi, Iakob Nikoladze str. 10	TEL: +995 0322 57 57 57
Caucasus Medical Centre;	Address; Tbilisi 23 Petre Kavtaradze Street	TEL: +995 322 600 600
Mrcheveli Clinic and laboratory	Address; Tbilisi, Al. Kazbegi avenue 9	TEL:+995 0322 93 10 00 ;



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B. HOUSING

I. Real estate agencies or other means to access the house market

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Kibe.ge		Address: Tbilisi Saburtalo E-mail: info@kibe.ge ; skype: neliko7771 Tel / Viber / WhatsApp: +995 577 777 141 Opening hours: 11:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday
Samaklero.ge		+995 574 63 01 01
Home24.ge	S. Kandelaki street#8, Tbilisi	+995 595 49 24 24 mail@home24.ge
Widely used online portals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• www.myhome.ge• www.place.ge• www.saqme.ge• www.area.ge• www.ss.ge• www.makler.ge• www.my-market.ge		(+995 32) 247-10-20; (+995 599) 42-88-44

C. EDUCATION

I. Schools and other institutions related to education/training



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Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Vocational college "Spectri"	10, Tchitchinadze Str. Tbilisi	Tel: (+995 32) 2401687, 2456363 www.spectri.org
Vocational college "Bleqsi"	84, Lermontov Str, Batumi	Tel: (995422) 24 77 51; 24 77 52; mob: 577 177 919; bleqsi@gmail.com
Vocational College "Modusi"	4, Shartava Ave, Rustavi	Tel: (0341) 25 20 41; (0341) 22 79 29 Email: modusimodusi@gmail.com www.modusi.ge
Vocational College "Icarus"	Marshal Gelovanis Ave #4, Tbilisi	+995 32 2 37 39 81; 2 37 39 96 www.icarus.ge
NB Academy	1/5 Sul Khan Saba street, Tbilisi	www.nbacademy.ge
Tourism and Hotel management Academy	2 Pekin Avenue, Tbilisi	
BDC Academy	172 Agmashenebeli Ave, Tbilisi	https://bdc-academy.ge
Georgian Federation of Professional accountants and Auditors	61, Tsereteli Ave, Tbilisi	www.gfpaa.ge ; www.baf.ge
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University	1 Ilia Chavchavadze Ave, Tbilisi	https://www.tsu.ge/ Tel: +995 32 2 25 04 84
Ilia State University	3/5 Kakutsa Cholokashvili Str, Tbilisi	https://iliauni.edu.ge/ Tel: +995 32 222 00 09 info@iliauni.edu.ge
Kutaisi University	13 Tsereteli Str, Kutaisi	https://www.unik.edu.ge/ Tel: +995 (431) 23 79 79 info@unik.edu.ge



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International Black Sea University	2, David Agmashenebeli Alley, Tbilisi	https://ibsu.edu.ge/ Tel: +995 32 2595006 contact@ibsu.edu.ge
New Vision University	11, N. Bokhua Str, Tbilisi	https://newvision.ge/ Tel: +995 32 24 24 440 info@newvision.ge
Georgian American University (GAU)	10, Merab Aleksidze Str, Tbilisi,	https://www.gau.edu.ge/ Tel: +995 32 220 65 20 info@gau.edu.ge
Gori State University	53, Chavchavadze Ave, Gori	https://www.gu.edu.ge Tel: 0(370)272413 contact@gu.edu.ge

2. Organizations providing assistance in the educational sector

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia	Dimitri Uznadze #52, Tbilisi	+995 32 2 200 220 http://mes.gov.ge/

D. EMPLOYMENT

I. Employment centres

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
State Employment Support agency	Address: 9, M. Asatiani Street, Tbilisi	Telephone: +995 32 239 53 06, WorkNet (moh.gov.ge)



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Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Human Resources – HR.GE Sphere-All categories job vacancies	Address: 12, Topuria St, Tbilisi, 0186,	tel.: (+995)32 219 33 33; 57715 30 38 E-mail: info@hr.com.ge; Website: HR.ge
Widely used job seeking online portals:	HR.ge www.jobs.ge	

E. FINANCIAL SECTOR

I. Main banks and financial institutions

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
“TBC Bank”	0102, Tbilisi, Marjanishvili St. N7	(995 32) 2272 727 info@tcbank.ge www.tcbank.ge
„BANK OF GEORGIA“	0160, Tbilisi, Gagarin st. N29	(995 32) 2444 444 customerservice@bog.ge http://bankofgeorgia.ge/
“Liberty Bank”	0162, Tbilisi, Chavchavadze Ave. N74	info@libertybank.ge www.libertybank.ge (99532)2555-500 (995 32) 2555-504
„Cartu Bank“	0162, Tbilisi, Chavchavadze ave. N39a	(995 32) 2925 592 cartubank@cartubank.ge www.cartubank.ge
„Terabank”	0103, Tbilisi, Tsminda Ketevan Dedophali Ave. N 3	(995 32) 255 00 00 info@terabank.ge https://terabank.ge/ge/retail
“ProCredit Bank”	0160, Tbilisi, Al. Kazbegi Ave. N21	(995 32) 220 2222 geo.info@procredit-group.com https://procreditbank.ge/



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Name of the organization	Address	Contact
„Halyk Bank“	0160, Tbilisi, Zhiuli Shartava St N 40	(995 32) 2 24 07 07 info@hbg.ge https://halykbank.ge/en/individuals
“Credo Bank”	0108, Tbilisi, R. Tabukashvili St N27	(995 32) 2 42 42 42 info@credo.ge https://credobank.ge/

2. Organizations providing assistance in the financial sector

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Micro Finance Organization "Swisscapital"	Tbilisi, Pekini street #34	+995 32 2 300 300 www.swisscapital.ge

F. TRANSPORTATION

Name of the organization	Address	Contact
Central Bus Terminal	1 Gulia str.Tbilisi	Tel: (995 32) 275 34 33; 995 595 22 54 41; (995 32) 275 40 14;
Bus Station “Okriba”,	5, Karaleti str. Tbilisi	Tel: (995 32) 234 26 92
Bus Station in Gldani	Marat Nozadze street, territory adjacent to 1 kvartal, Tbilisi	(995 32) 2132 132
Information on flights and airports can be accessed at the web site of Georgian Civil Aviation Agency www.gcaa.ge . Tbilisi Airport- http://www.tbilisiairport.com/ka-GE/ Kutaisi Airport- http://www.kutaisi.aero/ka		



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For more information on return and reintegration possibilities on this country, please contact the IOM Bern office [IOM in Bern | IOM Switzerland](#)