Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
Azerbaijan

World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

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This is one of the 53 country profiles covering developments in nutrition, physical activity and obesity in the WHO European Region. The full set of individual profiles and an overview report including methodology and summary can be downloaded from the WHO Regional Office for Europe web site: http://www.euro.who.int/en/nutrition-country-profiles.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	
Total population	9 188 000
Median age (years)	29.5
Life expectancy at birth (years) female | male	73.7 | 68.0
GDP per capita (US$)	5637.6
GDP spent on health (%)	5.9

Monitoring and surveillance
Overweight and obesity in three age groups

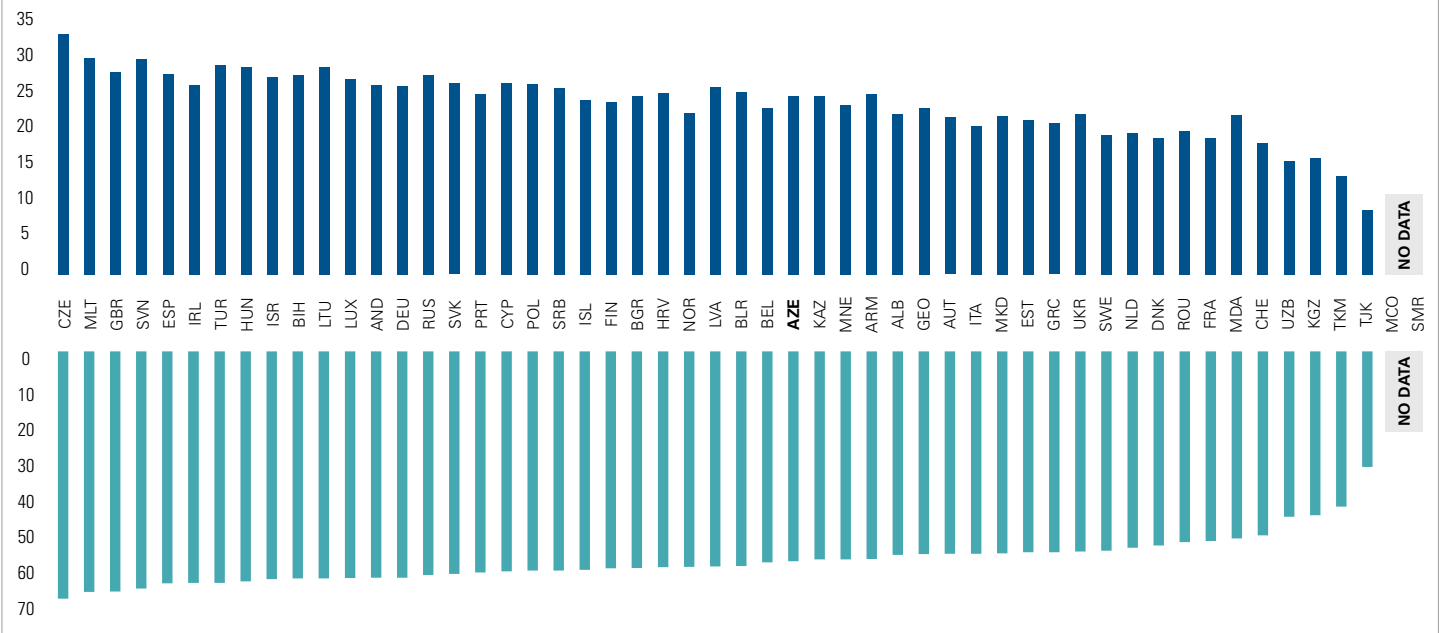
Adults (20 years and over)

Intercountry comparable overweight and obesity estimates from 2008 *(1)* show that 56.1% of the adult population (≥ 20 years old) in Azerbaijan were overweight and 23.8% were obese. The prevalence of overweight was lower among men (50.6%) than women (60.1%). The proportion of men and women that were obese was 15.1% and 31.4%, respectively. Adulthood obesity prevalence forecasts (2010–2030) predict that in 2020, 32% of men and 5% of women will be obese. By 2030, the model predicts that 43% of men and 2% of women will be obese.[1]

PREVALENCE OF OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY (%) AMONG AZERBAIJANI ADULTS BASED ON WHO 2008 ESTIMATES

Source: WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository *(1)*.

PREVALENCE OF OBESITY (%) (BMI ≥30.0 KG/M²) AMONG ADULTS IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION BASED ON WHO 2008 ESTIMATES



PREVALENCE OF OVERWEIGHT (%) (BMI ≥25.0 KG/M²) AMONG ADULTS IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION BASED ON WHO 2008 ESTIMATES

Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Data ranking for obesity is intentionally the same as for the overweight data. BMI: body mass index.
Source: WHO Global Health Observatory Data Repository *(1)*.

[1] Report on modelling adulthood obesity across the WHO European Region, prepared by consultants (led by T. Marsh and colleagues) for the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2013.

The Regional Office is grateful to the European Commission (EC) for its financial support for the development of the nutrition, obesity and physical activity database that provided data for this country profile.

Adolescents (10–19 years)

No data are available from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey (2009/2010). However, according to data from the Azerbaijan Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2006 *(2),* the prevalence of overweight was higher among boys aged 15–19 years (11.5%) than among girls of the same age (9.7%). The proportion of boys and girls aged 15–19 years that were obese was 1.6% and 0.9%, respectively. These data should be interpreted with caution as WHO criteria for adults were used to define overweight/obesity indicators in adolescents aged 15–19 years.

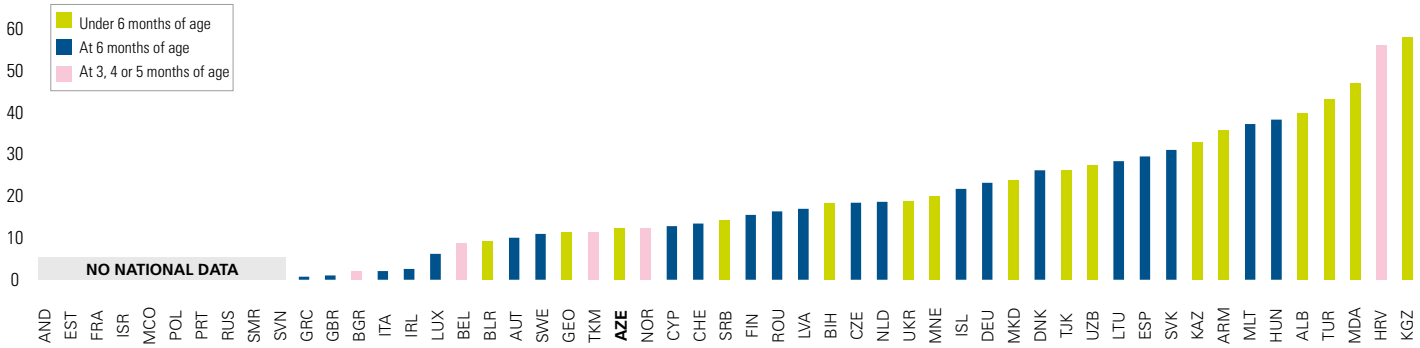
Children (0–9 years)

No prevalence figures are available for overweight and obesity in schoolchildren based on measured intercountry comparable data. Azerbaijan is not yet participating in the WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative (COSI).

Exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months of age

The DHS 2006 shows that the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months of age was 11.8% in Azerbaijan *(2).*[2]

PREVALENCE OF EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING (%) UNDER OR AT 6 MONTHS OF AGE FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY-BASED SURVEYS, VARIOUS YEARS

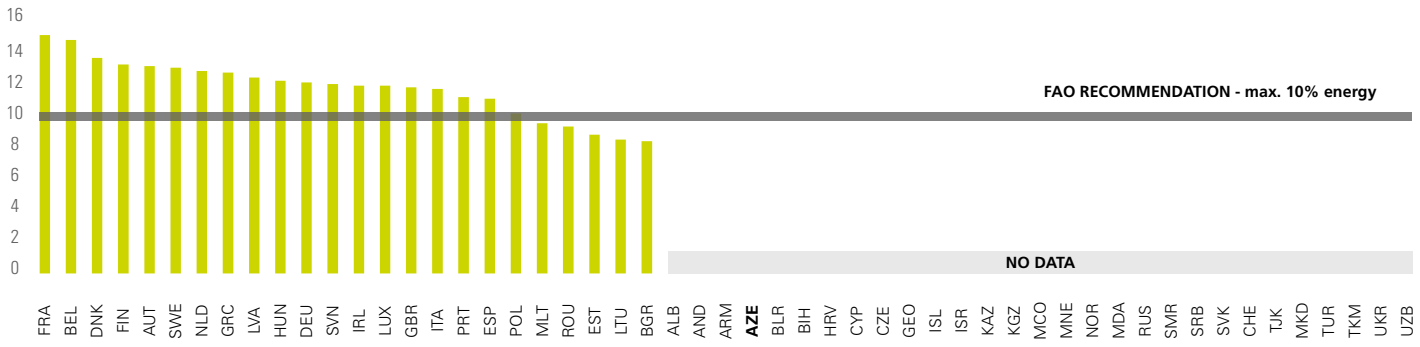


Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Data were derived from country-specific publications on surveys carried out in this field, not as part of a European-wide survey. Due to different data collection methods of the country-specific surveys, any comparisons between countries must be made with caution.
Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on breastfeeding.

Saturated fat intake

No data are available.

PROPORTION OF ENERGY FROM SATURATED FATTY ACIDS (%) AMONG ADULTS IN THE WHO EUROPEAN REGION, 2007

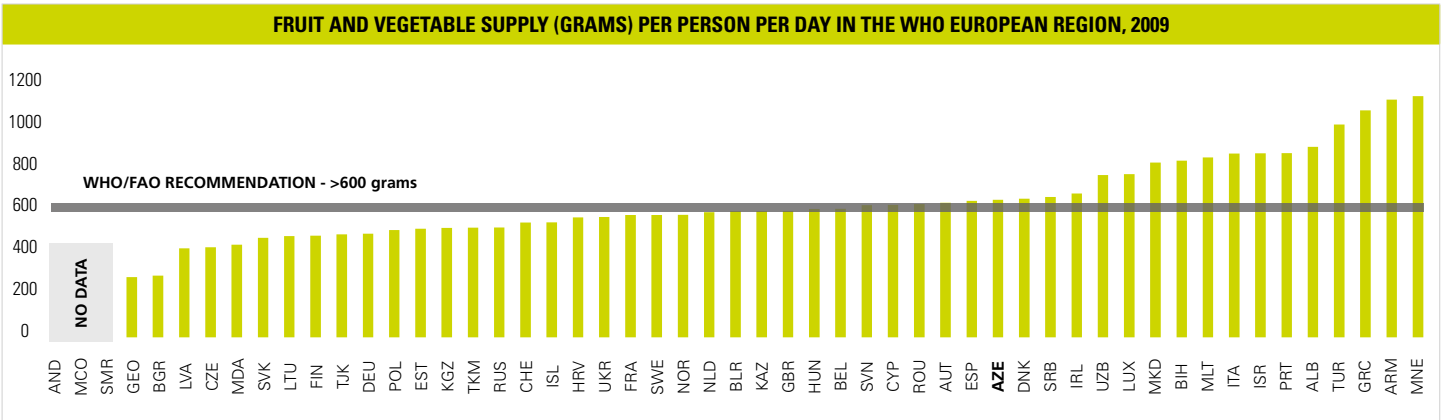


Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Ranking of data was carried out so that country data at the right-hand side of the graph – with values below the FAO recommendation – fall within the positive frame of the indicator. FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
Source: FAOSTAT *(3).*

[2] See also WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on breastfeeding.

Fruit and vegetable supply

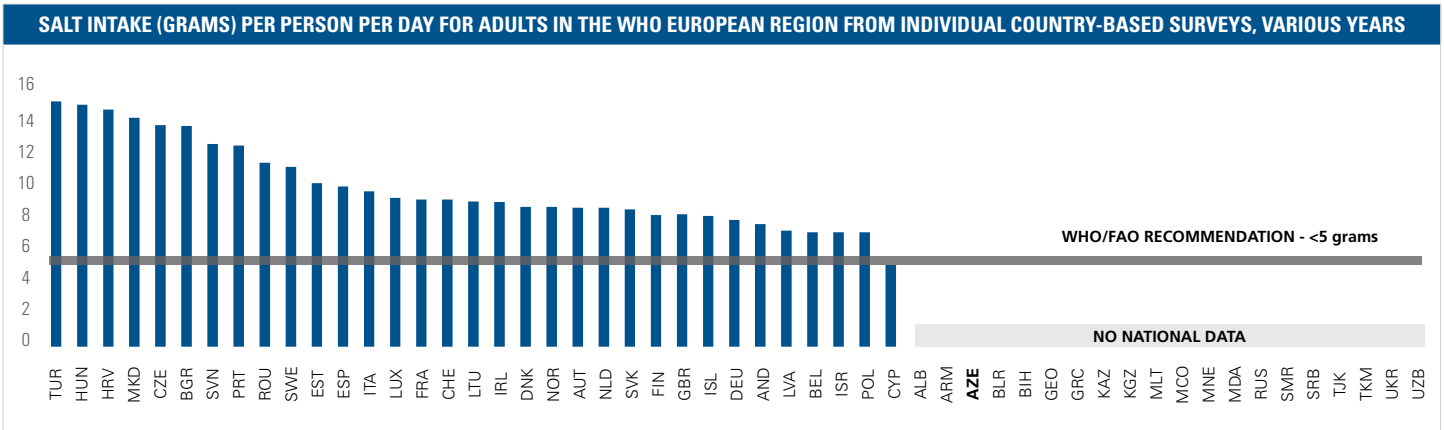
Azerbaijan had a fruit and vegetable supply of 640 grams per capita per day, according to 2009 estimates *(3)*.



Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Ranking of data was carried out so that country data at the right-hand side of the graph – with values above the WHO/FAO recommendation – fall within the positive frame of the indicator.
Source: FAOSTAT *(3)*.

Salt intake

No data are available.



Notes. The country codes refer to the ISO 3166-1 Alpha-3 country codes. Data were derived from country-specific publications on surveys carried out in this field, not as part of a European-wide survey. Due to different data collection methods of the country-specific surveys, any comparisons between countries must be made with caution. Ranking of data was carried out so that country data at the right-hand side of the graph – with values below the WHO/FAO recommendation – fall within the positive frame of the indicator.
Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe *(4)*.

Iodine status

According to the most recent estimates on iodine status, published in 2012, the proportion of the population with an iodine level lower than 100 µg/L was 13.3% *(5, 6)*.

Physical inactivity

No data are available for the adult population.

Policies and actions

The table below displays (a) monitoring and evaluation methods of salt intake in Azerbaijan; (b) the stakeholder approach toward salt reduction; and (c) the population approach in terms of labelling and consumer awareness initiatives *(4)*.

Salt reduction initiatives

Monitoring & evaluation		Stakeholder approach			Population approach						
					Labelling	Consumer awareness initiatives					
Industry self-reporting		Industry involvement	Food reformulation	Specific food category		Brochure Print	TV Radio	Web site Software	Education Schools Health care facilities	Conference	Reporting
Salt content in food											
Salt intake											
Consumer awareness											
Behavioural change											
Urinary salt excretion (24 hrs)											

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe *(4)*.

Trans fatty acids (TFA) policies

Legislation	Type of legislation	Measure

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on TFA and health, TFA policy and food industry approaches.

Price policies (food taxation and subsidies)

Taxes	School fruit schemes

Source: WHO Regional Office for Europe grey literature from 2012 on diet and the use of fiscal policy in the control and prevention of noncommunicable diseases.

Marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children *(7)*

In 2012 the National Institute of Public Health initiated a project with the aim of developing policy and a draft national strategy on the marketing of food and beverages to children. To this end, plans are being made to carry out research with the aim of defining the exposure of children to different types of advertising and through different media. Furthermore, within the framework of a bilateral collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, it has been agreed that a policy on marketing of foods high in fat, sugar or salt to children will be developed during the 2012–2013 biennium.

Physical activity (PA), national policy documents and action plans

Sport	Target groups	Health	Education		Transportation	
Existence of national "sport for all" policy and/or national "sport for all" implementation programme	Existence of specific scheme or programme for community interventions to promote PA in the elderly	Counselling on PA as part of primary health care activities	Mandatory physical education in primary and secondary schools	Inclusion of PA in general teaching training	National or subnational schemes promoting active travel to school	Existence of an incentive scheme for companies or employees to promote active travel to work
✔						

Source: country reporting template on Azerbaijan from 2009 developed in the context of a WHO/EC project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and PA and preventing obesity in the European Union (EU).

Leadership, partnerships and professional networks on health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA)

Existence of national coordination mechanism on HEPA promotion	Leading institution	Participating bodies

Source: country reporting template on Azerbaijan from 2009 developed in the context of a WHO/EC project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and PA and preventing obesity in the EU.

PA recommendations, goals and surveillance

Existence of national recommendation on HEPA	Target groups adressed by national HEPA policy	PA included in the national health monitoring system

Source: country reporting template on Azerbaijan from 2009 developed in the context of a WHO/EC project on monitoring progress on improving nutrition and PA and preventing obesity in the EU.

References

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4. *Mapping salt reduction initiatives in the WHO European Region.* Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2013 (http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/186462/Mapping-salt-reduction-initiatives-in-the-WHO-European-Region-final.pdf, accessed 29 May 2013).
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7. *Marketing of foods high in fat, salt and sugar to children: update 2012–2013.* Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2013 (http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/191125/e96859.pdf, accessed 10 October 2013).