

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is located at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, and may be considered to be in either Europe or in Asia. Until the early 19th century it was part of Persia. It was briefly independent after the first world war when the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic declared independence from the Russian Empire. It was however soon incorporated into the Soviet Union, in 1920, as the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. It used its own stamps, and those of the Transcaucasian Federation, until they were superseded by those of the Soviet Union, in 1924.



Its independence was proclaimed, on 30 August 1991, by the Republic of Azerbaijan shortly before the dissolution of the USSR. The Nagorno-Karabakh region however seceded in 1991 to form the Republic of Artsakh. Part of this returned to Azerbaijani control in 2020 following the Nagorno-Karabakh war.
Map ex Nations Online Project

The Temple of Eternal Fires has been shown repeatedly on Azerbaijan stamps, starting with their first issue, in 1919. Five oil derricks appear in the background of these stamps.

1919, Oct. 20 Definitive Issue:
 White paper with whitish gum

1920 Definitive Issue: Greyish to buff or brownish paper with yellow gum or no gum



1921-2 Definitive Issue - Oil Well blowing out (2R) and Bibi Eibatt Oil Field, Baku Province (5R & 3000R)

1922, 20 May- Surcharges on previous definitive issue by hand numbering machine
 Horizontal and diagonal surcharges



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1920 Definitive : Baku Temple of Eternal Fires
Greyish to buff or brownish paper with no gum: Unused block of 21.

1922, 20 May: 5000R surcharge on 3000R: Block of 14 used



Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic 1924 -1991

Azerbaijan was incorporated into the Soviet Union as the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic in 1920. It proclaimed its independence on 30 August 1991. From 1924 until 1991 it used the stamps of the Soviet Union. The subject of a few of the oil related stamps issued relates to Azerbaijan; there are others where the location of the subject is unclear. Stamps including the arms of Azerbaijan SSR are oil related, as the arms includes an oil drilling derrick.

1934, Feb. – 10th Anniv. of Soviet Civil Aviation and Air-mail Service; Aeroplane over Baku Oilfield. Issued wmkd. (Left) and with no wmk. (Right).



1938, May – Constitution of the USSR: Arms of Soviet Republics



1957, 25 Oct. – 40th Anniv. of October Revolution – Derricks at R

1947, 9 Feb. – Elections to Supreme Council

1960, 20 Apr. – 40th Anniv. of Azerbaijan SSR - Derricks at R



1967, 4 Oct. – 50th Anniv. of October Revolution

1970, 15 Apr. – 50th Anniv. of Azerbaijan SSR - Derricks

1971, 30 Dec. – Baku Oil Industry



Nakhichevan ASSR was an autonomous republic within Azerbaijan SSR; it is now an autonomous republic within Azerbaijan. It is isolated from the rest of the country by Armenia.

1974, 6 Feb. – 50th Anniv. of Nakhichevan ASSR

1984, 20 Sept. – 60th Anniv. of Nakhichevan ASSR



Azerbaijan

2019, 9 September – 20th Anniversary of State Oil Fund

Stamp includes a drilling derrick, pump jack, SOFAZ offices and fund logo. The SOFAZ offices are also used as the illustration for the FDC.

