

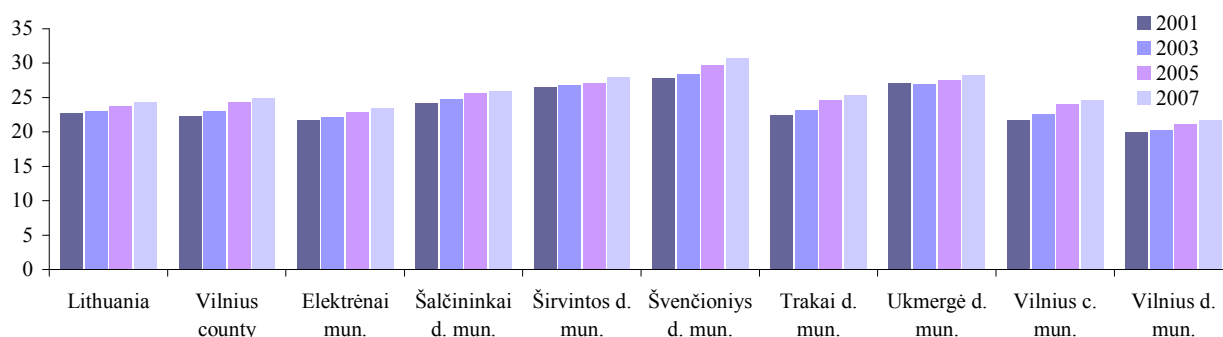
ENVIRONMENT OF VILNIUS COUNTY

Housing

The indicator of provision of the residents of Vilnius county with living space is close to the national average; the difference makes just 2 % (0.5 m²). In Vilnius district municipality, useful area per capita was much lower than the national average. The said indicator was higher in Ukmergė and Švenčionys district municipalities, which are situated further from larger cities and towns, as well as in Širvintos district municipality. The indicators of the rest of municipalities were close to national averages. Given a sufficiently well-developed social infrastructure and service sector, most of the county's municipalities, namely those which are easier accessible from Vilnius city, could become more attractive for living to persons arriving from other regions of the country.

Useful floor area per capita, 2001–2007

m²



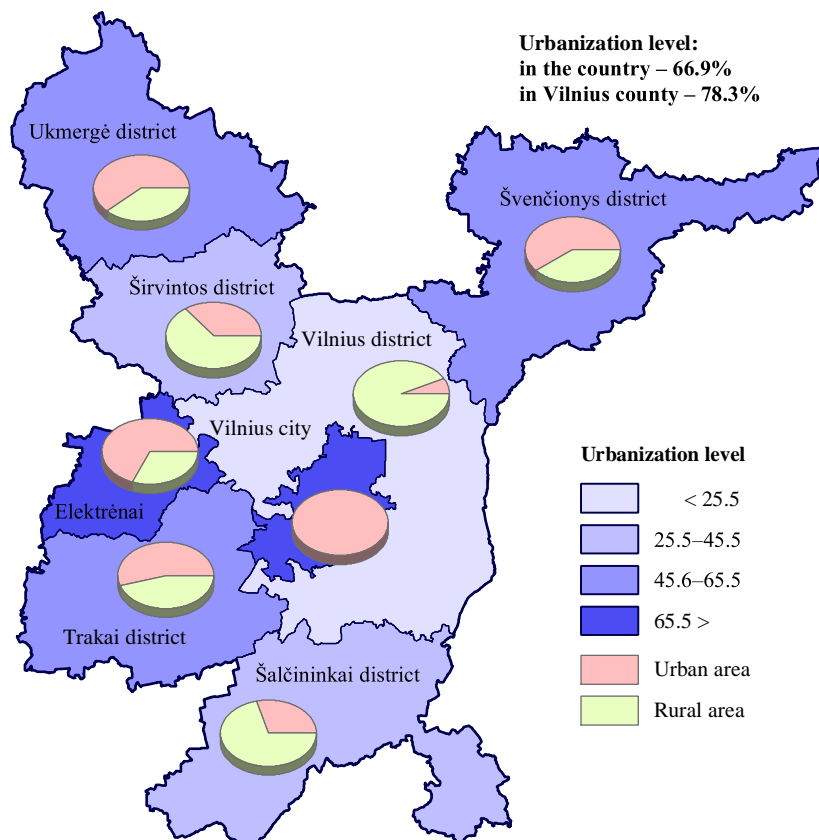
Social infrastructure

Vilnius county centre – Vilnius city, which in 2008 was inhabited by 544 thousand persons (82 % of the county population); 11.5 thousand persons lived in Grigiškės town, belonging to Vilnius city municipality. Vilnius county is characterised by a monocentric structure: the rest of the county's towns are much smaller than Vilnius city. The second largest town of the county – that of Utena, inhabited by 27.6 persons. Vilnius county is relatively highly urbanised: alongside Vilnius city municipality, urban population dominated in 4 more municipalities. The share of the rural population was higher only in Širvintos, Šalčininkai, particularly high – in Vilnius district municipality (as much as 94 %).

Inhabitants of less populated municipalities are more often faced with problems arising due to insufficiently developed social services; in such municipalities, private enterprises also provide fewer services. Geographic distribution of the social infrastructure in the municipalities of Vilnius county often conditions the attractiveness of its territories for living. The issues of accessibility of the social infrastructure are of particular importance to the territories where the objects of the social infrastructure are situated far from each other, which is typical of the rural municipalities of Šalčininkai and Širvintos district. Residents of urbanised municipalities can easier access most of the important objects of the social infrastructure; however, they are much more concerned about the improvement of their quality and quantity.

Urbanization level in municipalities, beginning of 2008

Per cent



Preschool education institutions

64 % of preschool education institutions in Vilnius county were concentrated in Vilnius city municipality; a relatively high number of preschool education institutions was in less populated Šalčininkai and Vilnius district municipalities.

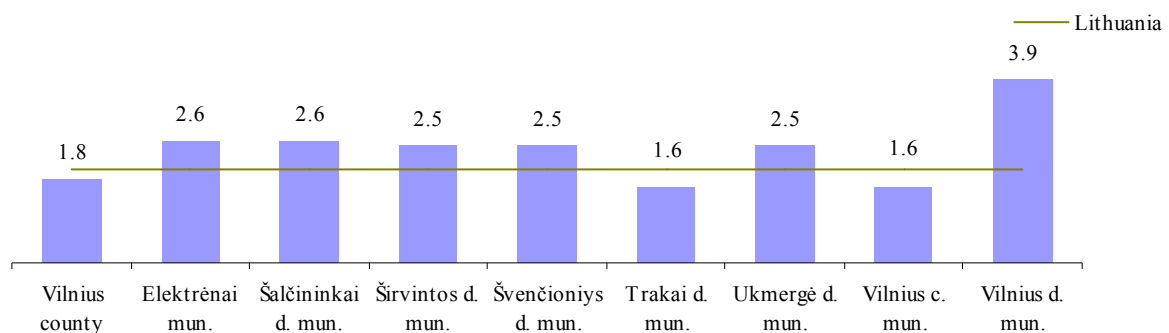
Number of preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Vilnius county	202	195	198	192
Elektrėnai mun.	3	3	3	3
Šalčininkai d. mun.	15	13	13	13
Širvintos d. mun.	6	6	6	5
Švenčionys d. mun.	8	8	7	7
Trakai d. mun.	9	9	9	10
Ukmergė d. mun.	12	12	11	11
Vilnius c. mun	130	124	129	122
Vilnius d. mun.	19	20	20	21

At the end of 2007, there were, on average, 2 children of preschool age per place in the country's preschool education institutions. The Vilnius county indicator was somewhat better than the national average. The lack of places in kindergartens has been observed in all county's municipalities; however, a considerable irregularity of the distribution of such establishments was observed: in Trakai district and Vilnius city municipalities, the difference between the number of children and places in preschool education institutions made up 60 %, in the rest of

municipalities – 2.5–4 times. The poorest ratio of the number of children to that of places in preschool education institutions was recorded in rural municipalities: the share of settlements of such municipalities where there was not a single preschool education institution was rather high. In more urbanised municipalities and towns, the distance to the nearest preschool education institution is usually rather short; however, the number of places in such institutions is much lower than the demand, which makes the task of finding a vacant place in a kindergarten rather a complicated one. The situation was problematic in the urbanised Elektrėnai municipality, where there were just 3 preschool education institutions, and the number of places in them was lower than that of children as much as 2.6 times, i.e. although the distance to the nearest preschool education institution for most of the residents was relatively short, the shortage of places in such institutions was particularly acute.

Number of children aged 1–6 per place in preschool education institutions, end of 2007



The density of the network of preschool education institutions in Vilnius county is conditioned by the indicators of Vilnius city municipality; it is close to the national average; however, in some municipalities (those of Elektrėnai and Šalčininkai district, as well as other areas), there is a threat of them becoming less attractive to the youth and women wishing to participate in the labour market. Shortage of preschool education institutions may condition not only insufficient quality of provided services, but also further depopulation of scarcely populated territories and slowdown in economic development of such municipalities as that of Elektrėnai.

General schools

In Vilnius county, as well as in the entire country, a trend towards the decrease in the number of general schools has been observed (except for Vilnius city municipality, where since 2001 12 new schools were opened). In Trakai, Švenčionys, Šalčininkai and Širvintos district municipalities, the number of general schools over 2001–2007 halved. In the county, the number of general schools decreased by a quarter.

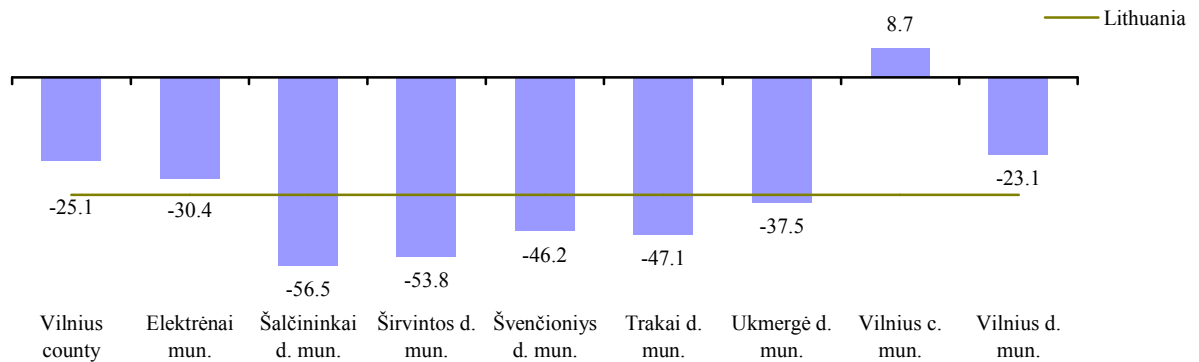
Number of general schools

	Number of general schools				Number of pupils per general school			
	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008
Lithuania	2270	1932	1534	1472	265.4	301.8	351.1	332.5
Vilnius county	447	413	341	335	312.8	326.4	367.8	343.6
Elektrėnai mun.	23	15	16	16	223.0	325.1	267.3	238.4
Šalčininkai d. mun.	69	59	33	30	103.5	117.5	191.8	186.9
Širvintos d. mun.	26	24	13	12	137.5	142.8	243.8	232.7
Švenčionys d. mun.	26	25	14	14	211.5	207.0	339.7	302.6
Trakai d. mun.	34	34	19	18	190.6	184.7	304.8	300.5

	Number of general schools				Number of pupils per general school			
	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008
Ukmergė d. mun.	40	27	25	25	201.2	286.2	280.2	252.6
Vilnius c. mun.	138	141	147	150	653.5	617.8	556.1	503.1
Vilnius d. mun.	91	88	74	70	151.3	150.9	166.7	163.9

Changes in the number of general schools, 2001–2008

Per cent



The number of schools has been rapidly decreasing in those municipalities where schools having a low number of pupils dominate; the number of pupils in the only school of Vilnius district municipality remained stably low, stable – in Elektrėnai municipality. In the rest of municipalities, the average number of pupils per school (whether increasing or decreasing) has been approximating the national average. A trend common both to Lithuania and Vilnius county has been observed – schools serve more pupils, while in more remote areas general educational services become less accessible to pupils. In Vilnius town municipality, the number of schools has been increasing, that of pupils – decreasing.

With the further decrease in the number of schools and enlargement of the remaining ones, a heavier load in future should fall within educational institutions located in Šalčininkai, Širvintos, Trakai towns, and other municipal centres or larger towns (Švenčionėliai, Pabradė); transport issues, related to trips to school of pupils living in more remote areas, will have to be solved; attention will have to be directed towards the demand for the teaching staff, which will be growing in future.

Cultural infrastructure

Vilnius county is characterised by a relatively well-developed cultural infrastructure, which allows satisfying cultural needs of the locals, as well as provides them a possibility to engage in social activities: although the number of libraries per 1000 population was relatively low, the highest number of libraries was in peripheral municipalities. In Vilnius city municipality, there were 30 libraries; it was outpaced by Vilnius and Ukmergė district municipalities. The rest of municipalities lagged behind just inconsiderably, e.g. in Širvintos district municipality, with as much as 30 times smaller population, there were 21 libraries in 2007.

Libraries, end of 2001–2007

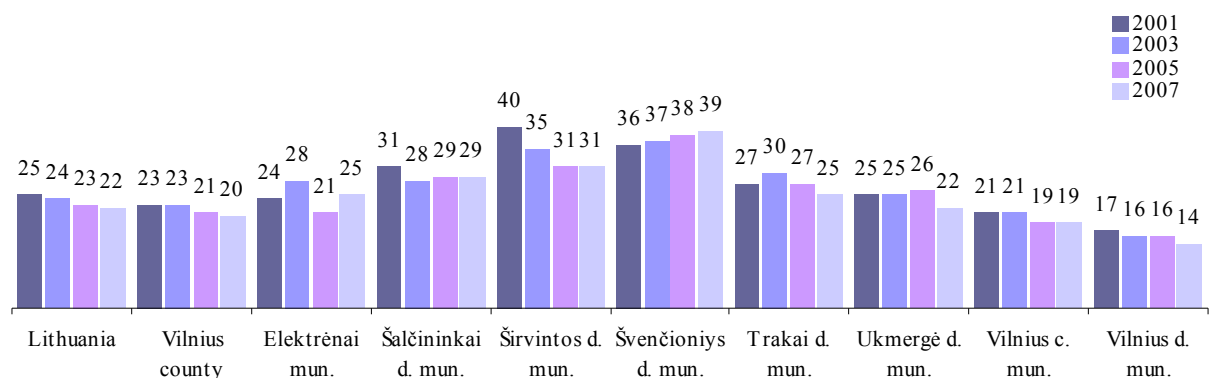
	Number of libraries				Number of libraries per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	1449	1418	1396	1395	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Vilnius county	216	208	206	206	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Elektrėnai mun.	12	12	12	12	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Šalčininkai d. mun.	29	27	26	26	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Širvintos d. mun.	23	21	21	21	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Švenčionys d. mun.	24	24	24	24	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Trakai d. mun.	18	18	18	18	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Ukmergė d. mun.	37	34	33	33	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7
Vilnius c. mun.	31	30	30	30	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Vilnius d. mun.	42	42	42	42	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4

It was observed that in terms of accessibility of libraries urbanised municipalities of Vilnius county lagged behind the less populated ones, whereas in Širvintos, Švenčionys, Šalčininkai, Ukmergė district municipalities the number of libraries per 1000 population was about two times higher than the national average; the said indicator was slightly lower in Trakai district municipality. Most of the residents of peripheral settlements have a possibility to use library services. Elektrėnai and Vilnius city municipalities are characterised by bigger libraries, serving a large number of users. Part of libraries located in Vilnius city serve not only the locals, but also the residents of the entire country.

Densely situated and easily accessible libraries do not attract much attention of the locals. At the end of 2007, about one-fifth of the Vilnius county population used library services (national average – 22 %); however, this indicator was largely impacted on by the fact that the number of library users was relatively low in Vilnius city and district municipalities, whose residents made up the largest share of the county population. The situation was more favourable in peripheral municipalities; the highest number of library users was in Švenčionys (39 % of the population) and Širvintos (31 %) district municipalities. The lowest share of library users, as compared with the total population, was in Vilnius district municipality; the number of libraries per 1000 population in the said municipality was also relatively low. It was observed that libraries in more distant and less populated areas attract more attention of the locals; however, such municipalities as those of Elektrėnai and Ukmergė district lag behind just inconsiderably.

Share of library users, 2001–2007

Against the total population, per cent



In addition to their primary function of providing information, libraries have considerable potential for becoming centres of attraction to the population, contributing to the improvement of the residents' qualification and activeness, providing a possibility to use information technologies. Thus, the living environment and quality of life are improving namely in those areas where the supply of other social services is rather poor, whereas residents of the territories where this potential is underused may be faced with a problem of increasing "information exclusion".

The number of cultural centres in the largest part of the territory of the county was sufficient: although their number per 1000 population was lower than the national average as much as three times, it was conditioned by the low number (just 7) of cultural centres in the largest municipalities of Vilnius city. Another municipality where this indicator was low – that of Trakai district. There were many cultural centres in Širvintos and Ukmergė district municipalities, while the rest of municipalities in terms of the indicator in question may be classified as mediocre.

These data allow making a conclusion that the main cultural services are available in all larger and a relatively large part of smaller county's municipalities; however, a high concentration of cultural centres is observed only in part of the county's territory, where their number ranges around the national average. In Vilnius city municipality, due to a high supply of other cultural services, the demand for cultural centres is low.

Number of cultural centres, 2001–2007

	Number of cultural centres				Number of cultural centres per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	947	882	850	853	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Vilnius county	140	117	117	118	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Elektrėnai mun.	9	8	9	9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Šalčininkai d. mun.	17	12	12	12	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Širvintos d. mun.	21	14	14	14	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7
Švenčionys d. mun.	15	15	15	15	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Trakai d. mun.	11	9	9	9	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Ukmergė d. mun.	26	23	23	24	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Vilnius c. mun.	10	13	7	7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vilnius d. mun.	31	23	28	28	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

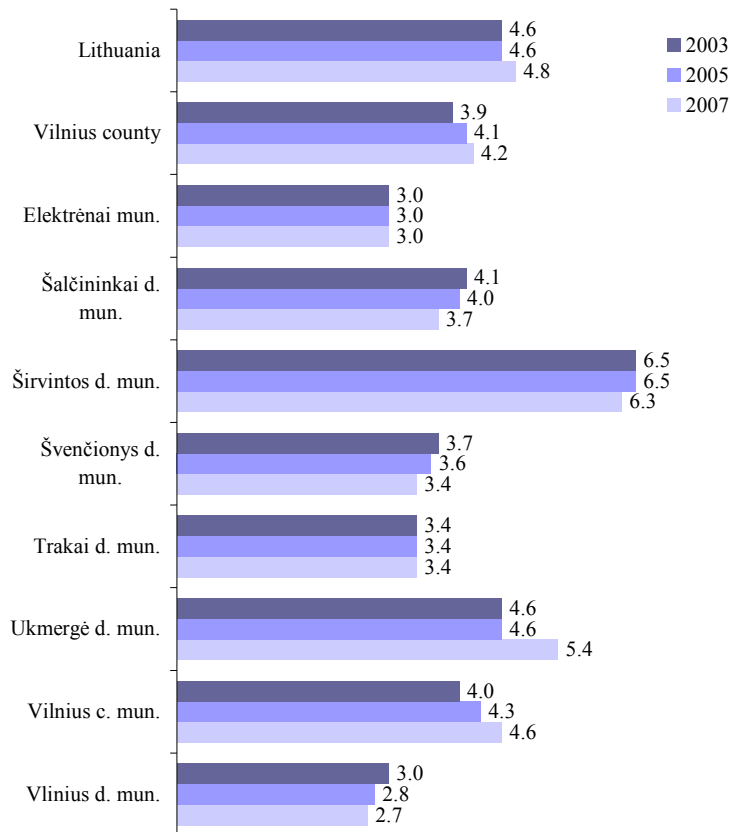
Even and dense distribution of cultural centres and a well-developed network of libraries provide favourable conditions for the provision of cultural services in less populated municipalities and form centres of attraction to the population. However, a high number of small cultural establishments causes problems related to the maintenance and renovation of the available infrastructure; both qualitative development of cultural services, as well as public participation in these processes are necessary. The existing infrastructure per se, although affording possibilities for the provision of cultural services and increasing public activity, does not ensure good quality of offered services.

Trade and service enterprises

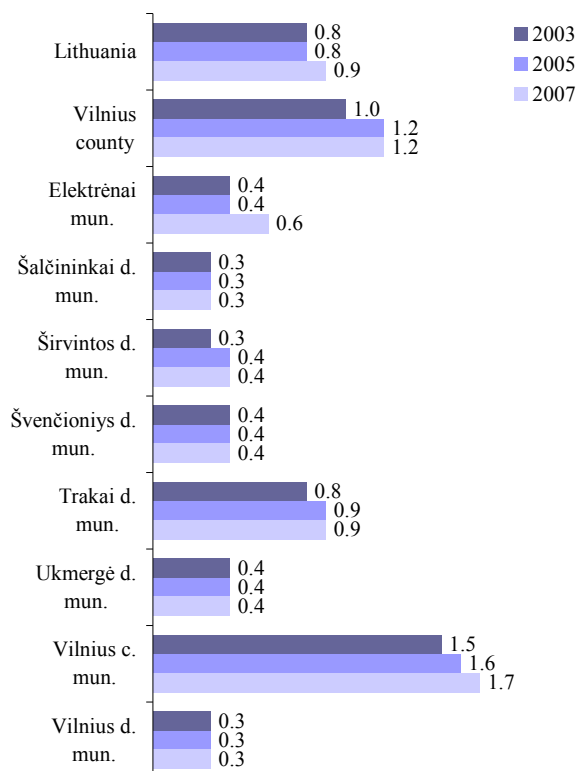
It was observed that at the end of 2007 the number of shops per 1000 Vilnius county population was slightly lower than the national average. This indicator has been, although slowly, increasing (although it decreased in Švenčionys, Šalčininkai and Vilnius district municipalities). The best-developed network of shops was in Širvintos and Ukmergė district municipalities, which outpaced even the county centre – Vilnius city municipality. The lowest supply of shops was in Vilnius district (where it was further decreasing) and in Elektrėnai

(where it remained stable) municipalities; thus, an assumption can be made that the residents of these municipalities often do shopping in other municipalities, while a local trade network is underdeveloped.

Number of shops per 1000 population, 2003–2007



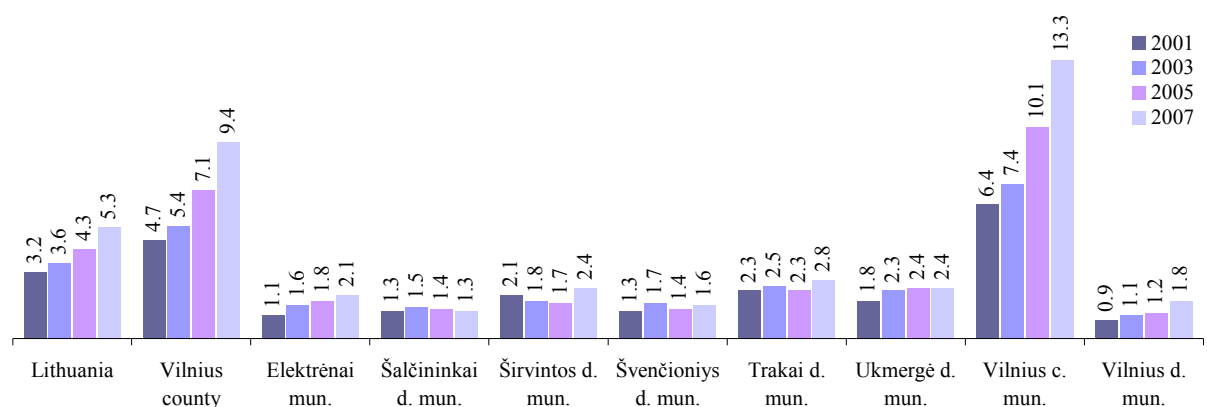
Number of restaurants, bars, canteens per 1000 population, 2003–2007



The number of restaurants, bars and canteens in Vilnius county was high; however, the absolute majority thereof fell within Vilnius city and Trakai district municipalities. The demand for catering enterprises formed due to higher income of the population and arriving tourists conditioned their supply only in those municipalities. In Elektrėnai municipality, the supply of public catering services was by one-third lower than the national average. In the rest of municipalities, the number of restaurants, bars and canteens per 1000 population was 2–3 times lower than the national average.

The number of service enterprises in Vilnius county (9.4 service enterprises per 1000 population) substantially exceeded the national average (5.3); however, this figure was influenced by a particularly high indicator of Vilnius city municipality. The unevenness in the distribution of such enterprises within the county was prominent: all municipalities, except for that of Vilnius city, considerably lagged behind the national average. In 2008, the difference between Vilnius city municipality and the second, in terms of this indicator, Trakai district municipality reached almost 5 times, while between Vilnius city and Šalčininkai district municipalities – as much as 10 times. From 2001, the number of service enterprises has been rather rapidly increasing in Elektrėnai, Vilnius district, Ukmergė district municipalities; however, the difference between these municipalities and the national average remained considerable. Low indicators and a slow growth were observed in Šalčininkai and Švenčionys district municipalities.

Number of service enterprises per 1000 population, 2001–2007



The relatively low number of service enterprises may be an indicator of insufficiently exploited tourism development potential in the region, as well as insufficient income of its residents. On the other hand, service supply and quality may be the decisive factors when choosing the place of residence, particularly in case of the high-income population. However, positive trends in the service sector have been observed – a rapid growth in the sector in part of the county's municipalities may contribute to the creation of a more favourable living environment for the locals, as well as improve development prospects of the municipalities. Meanwhile, in the less developed territories, the living environment and quality of life in future may worsen even more.

Communication

The best developed communication infrastructure – in Vilnius city municipality; however, the indicators of this municipality are not comparable with national averages due to a relatively small area and high density of its population. Besides Vilnius city municipality, the average density of the road network exceeded the national average in Ukmergė district and Elektrėnai municipalities, where the level of urbanisation was also higher than in the rest of the county's municipalities. The communication infrastructure is rather well-developed in Vilnius district municipality, while the sparsest road network is in Šalčininkai district municipality. Despite the low density of the road network in the latter municipality, the share of roads with an improved roadway surface, against the total number of roads, there was lower only than the indicator of Vilnius city municipality; in Vilnius district municipality, the share of roads with an improved roadway surface made up 34 %. Vilnius district municipality was characterised by both relatively high density of the road network and a higher quality thereof. The poorest situation was in Širvintos and Švenčionys district municipalities, where the share of roads with

an improved roadway surface was considerably lower than the national average; moreover, in Švenčionys district municipality, density of the road network was low.

Density of the network of national and local roads, 2007

km/km²

	National and local roads			Share of roads with an improved roadway surface, against the total number of roads, per cent
	Total	surfaced	with an improved roadway surface	
Lithuania	1.2	1.1	0.4	29
Vilnius county	1.2	1.0	0.4	34
Elektrėnai mun.	1.6	1.1	0.5	31
Šalčininkai d. mun.	0.8	0.6	0.3	34
Širvintos d. mun.	1.2	1.1	0.2	20
Švenčionys d. mun.	0.9	0.6	0.2	23
Trakai d. mun.	1.0	0.9	0.3	33
Ukmergė d. mun.	1.4	1.3	0.4	26
Vilnius c. mun.	2.6	2.4	2.0	77
Vilnius d. mun.	1.2	1.0	0.4	34

Quite a number of residents of Vilnius county own cars: at the end of 2007, there were 426 private cars per 1000 population (national average – 429); since 2001, this number grew by as much as 42 %. The highest number of private cars per 1000 population was in Trakai, Šalčininkai and Vilnius district municipalities, the lowest – in Švenčionys and Širvintos district municipalities, where the lower number of cars tallied with poorer indicators of roads.

Private cars per 1000 population, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	304	336	395	429
Vilnius county	299	333	389	426
Elektrėnai mun.	252	265	389	450
Šalčininkai d. mun.	270	319	407	445
Širvintos d. mun.	229	270	345	412
Švenčionys d. mun.	205	252	319	376
Trakai d. mun.	282	356	386	453
Ukmergė d. mun.	263	305	373	414
Vilnius c. mun.	320	349	396	423
Vilnius d. mun.	269	305	378	446

Most of the areas of Vilnius county municipalities are rather easily accessible by private cars (due to a sufficient quality of roads and a high number of private cars); public transport systems in the county are developed rather evenly. In 2007, half of bus routes available in Vilnius county fell within Vilnius city municipality, while in the rest of municipalities the number of routes ranged from 34 to 64. Territory per bus route in the county was larger than the national average; however, it was much lower than the national median value. Rather favourable indicators of distribution of routes were in the peripheral municipalities of Švenčionys, Širvintos and Šalčininkai districts, whose indicators of territory per bus route were lower than the national median value (in most of the county's municipalities, density of bus routes was lower). The poorest were the indicators of Vilnius and Ukmergė district municipalities.

Number of bus routes, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	3859	4001	3807	3155
Vilnius county	1010	566	595	540
Elektrėnai mun.	27	31	33	...
Šalčininkai d. mun.	80	55	53	64
Širvintos d. mun.	127	120	63	39
Švenčionys d. mun.	27	29	26	61
Trakai d. mun.	52	38	35	30
Ukmergė d. mun.	34	34	34	34
Vilnius c. mun	635	237	321	266
Vilnius d. mun.	28	22	30	46
Territory per route, km²				
Lithuania (average)	16.9	16.3	17.2	20.7
Lithuania (median)*	30.8	29.9	28.1	29.3
Vilnius county	9.7	17.2	16.4	18.0
Elektrėnai mun.	19.9	16.4	15.4	...
Šalčininkai d. mun.	18.6	27.1	28.1	23.3
Širvintos d. mun.	7.1	7.6	14.4	23.2
Švenčionys d. mun.	62.7	58.3	65.1	27.7
Trakai d. mun.	23.2	31.8	34.5	40.3
Ukmergė d. mun.	41.0	41.0	41.0	41.0
Vilnius c. mun	0.6	1.7	1.2	1.5
Vilnius d. mun.	76.0	96.8	71.0	46.3

*the largest share of bus routes falls within the municipalities of major cities/towns; therefore, smaller municipalities may be compared with each other by means of estimation of the country's median – a middle (central) value of indicators of all municipalities.

The number of bus trips per capita shows that the public transport system in Vilnius county, except for Vilnius city municipality, is underused. For example, the residents of Širvintos and Švenčionys districts municipality, despite a high number of bus routes, did not travel by bus a lot. In Ukmergė district municipality, on the contrary, the network of bus routes was sparser; however, the number of bus trips per capita was higher than in most of the country's municipalities. The number of bus routes per capita was rather high in Šalčininkai district municipality; the residents of Vilnius city municipality used bus services constantly.

Public safety

In 2007, the number of criminal offences registered in Vilnius county made 3170, which is by 45 % more than the national average. The highest number of criminal offences was registered in Vilnius city municipality, which stood out among the rest of municipalities both by the number of criminal offences and that of crimes; the crime rate was somewhat higher than the national average in Vilnius district municipality. In the rest of municipalities, particularly in those located far from major cities and towns – e.g. those of Švenčionys, Trakai districts – the crime rate was about two times lower than the national average. A rather good situation was observed in the urbanised Elektrėnai municipality.

Registered criminal offences per 100 000 population, 2007

	Criminal offences	Crimes
Lithuania	2185	2014
Vilnius county	3170	2937

	Criminal offences	Crimes
Elektrėnai mun.	1164	1107
Šalčininkai d. mun.	1371	1289
Širvintos d. mun.	1677	1584
Švenčionys d. mun.	1039	955
Trakai d. mun.	1169	1125
Ukmergė d. mun.	1556	1471
Vilnius c. mun	3995	3685
Vilnius d. mun.	2193	2080

A usual trend of the number of registered criminal offences being lower in peripheral, rural municipalities proves to be true in Vilnius county – in most rural areas, except for Vilnius district municipality, the crime rate is low. All county's municipalities are relatively safe; therefore, the differences in the quality of their living environment are determined by other factors. The differences in public safety indicators in the county's municipalities are prominent and may condition qualitative differences in the living environment, as well as become an important factor when looking for a place to live.

Environmental protection and management

In 2007, 4 540 557 thous. m³ of domestic, municipal and industrial waste water was discharged into Lithuanian surface waters, of which 209 073.3 thous. m³ – that requiring treatment. In Vilnius county, 51 016.3 thous. m³ of industrial waste water was discharged (about 24 % of the total amount of waste water in Lithuania). The amount of waste water generated in 2007 was by 6.4 % larger than in 2005, while against 2001 it increased by 14.8 %. The number of waste water treatment facilities has been annually increasing, the existing ones are being modernised; therefore, the share of waste water treated to meet the norm has been increasing as well. In 2007, there were 144 complexes of domestic, municipal and industrial waste management facilities in the region, of which 107 – biological treatment facilities. The largest share of waste water requiring treatment – 85 % – was generated in Vilnius city municipality; however, the total amount thereof was treated. Only in Šalčininkai and Švenčionys district municipalities, the share of waste water treated is still insufficient.

Domestic, municipal and industrial waste water generated that required treatment, 2001–2007

Thousand m³

	2001	2003	2005	2007	Share of waste water treated to meet standards (MAP) in the total amount of waste water generated, per cent			
					2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	171169.6	167064.5	192212.4	209073.3	17.8	54.6	70.5	72.3
Vilnius county	44458.1	50352.9	47962.4	51016.3	9.5	98.9	98.8	97.9
Elektrėnai mun.	...	1171.1	2254.4	2271.4	...	100.0	100.0	100.0
Šalčininkai d. mun.	462.6	439.0	377.0	734.5	17.8	42.9	31.6	25.9
Širvintos d. mun.	283.5	244.6	347.0	339.0	98.6	100.0	99.4	99.7
Švenčionys d. mun.	443.4	368.5	424.0	553.0	32.5	63.4	56.8	60.4
Trakai d. mun.	2713.2	573.4	460.0	228.0	23.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Ukmergė d. mun.	2128.0	1492.0	1743.0	1789.0	99.8	98.8	99.5	99.1
Vilnius c. mun	37479.6	38979.5	41088.0	43351.0	0.5	99.9	100.0	100.0
Vilnius d. mun.	947.8	7084.8	1269.0	1750.4	82.9	98.6	91.6	84.6

In 2006, against 2005, the amount of municipal waste collected in Vilnius county decreased by 2.8 %, which was impacted on by the expansion of the system of collection of secondary raw materials, in situ sorting of waste, development of waste accounting. 98.5 % of generated waste was managed.

Municipal waste generated, 2004–2006

Tonnes

	2004	2005	2006
Vilnius county	347826.5	388337.1	377498.2
Elektrėnai mun.	8649.6	6072.5	6552.0
Šalčininkai d. mun.	9013.4	8499.1	9449.8
Širvintos d. mun.	7939.1	14994.5	13709.0
Švenčionys d. mun.	27546.1	28064.4	17949.0
Trakai d. mun.	8255.1	6004.5	8995.0
Ukmergė d. mun.	7482.8	9743.8	9527.8
Vilnius c. mun	265455.4	276892.1	284278.7
Vilnius d. mun.	13485.1	38066.1	27036.9

In 2007, a new Kazokiškės landfill site started functioning in Elektrėnai municipality; the said landfill site corresponds to modern standards and is one of the most modern landfill sites in Eastern Europe. The landfill site is equipped in a former sand and gravel quarry and covers the area of 30 ha; the territory is protected with a 2.5 m high fence. All waste brought to the landfill site is surveyed, weighted, registered in a computerised database, and only then carried to the place of unloading. The wheels of vehicles leaving the place are washed. There is an impermeable layer (a 0.5 m compacted layer of clay covered with a special film) at the bottom of the site, which aims at protecting the environment. Constant monitoring of ground water, filtrate water, generated gas is carried out at the landfill site. Water purification and gas collection systems, special facilities for frightening away birds are equipped.

The amount of municipal waste taken to landfill sites has been decreasing, whereas with the introduction of a system of sorting of waste an increasing amount of secondary raw materials has been segregated from the flow of municipal waste and recycled; however, in 2006, the amount of waste generated in Vilnius county that was disposed of at landfill sites – 80.7 % – was by 4.5 % higher than the national average (76.2 %).

Municipal waste managed, 2004–2006

Tonnes

	2004	2005	2006
Vilnius county	356417.4	360145.9	371655.7
Elektrėnai mun.	8644.0	5888.6	6327.0
Šalčininkai d. mun.	8868.6	8297.6	9837.2
Širvintos d. mun.	19005.6	16626.0	16875.7
Švenčionys d. mun.	26457.1	27509.5	17833.1
Trakai d. mun.	225156.7	223727.6	237964.4
Ukmergė d. mun.	6071.2	8608.7	9153.3
Vilnius c. mun	52507.6	59555.8	59820.4
Vilnius d. mun.	9706.7	9932.1	13844.7

The attractiveness of certain territories for living and quality of the living environment may be determined by many other factors, which were not discussed in this chapter. These are economic development of the region, labour market situation, real estate prices, as well as other subjective factors, which are hardly expressible in quantitative terms. The municipalities

analysed are very different: in terms of the population (differing several or even several tens of times), area, other characteristics. Smaller municipalities may offer a relatively large area for living; however, they are traditionally characterised by a sparser network of the social infrastructure, which is also harder accessible due to an insufficiently effective public transport system. The geographic location of Elektrėnai municipality – between Vilnius and Kaunas cities – is very convenient from the point of view of communication, and is characterised by a safe living environment, yet a poorer developed service sector. Areas of the county are connected by a well-developed communication system; however, isolated areas become prominent, which are beyond the reach of the general progress of the county's living environment.