

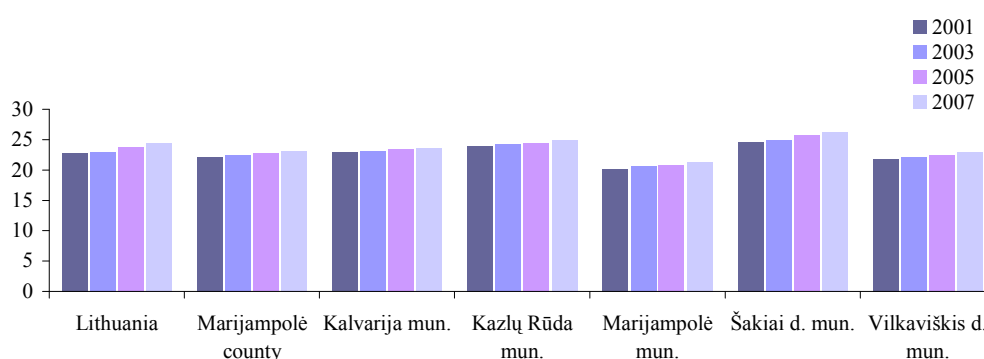
ENVIRONMENT OF MARIJAMPOLĖ COUNTY

Housing

The provision of the residents of Marijampolė county with living space is poorer than the national average: at the end of 2007, there were 23.2 m² of useful floor area per capita in the county, which is by more than 1.2 m² less than the national average. The useful floor area per capita was lower than the national average in a more urbanised Marijampolė municipality, as well as in Vilkaviškis district and Kalvarija municipalities. A more favourable situation was observed in Šakiai district and Kazlų Rūda municipalities, where the national average was exceeded. A larger supply of the living space was only in two municipalities of Marijampolė county; therefore, a sufficient supply of housing may become a factor stimulating social and economic development only in part of the county's territory.

Useful floor area per capita, 2001–2007

m²



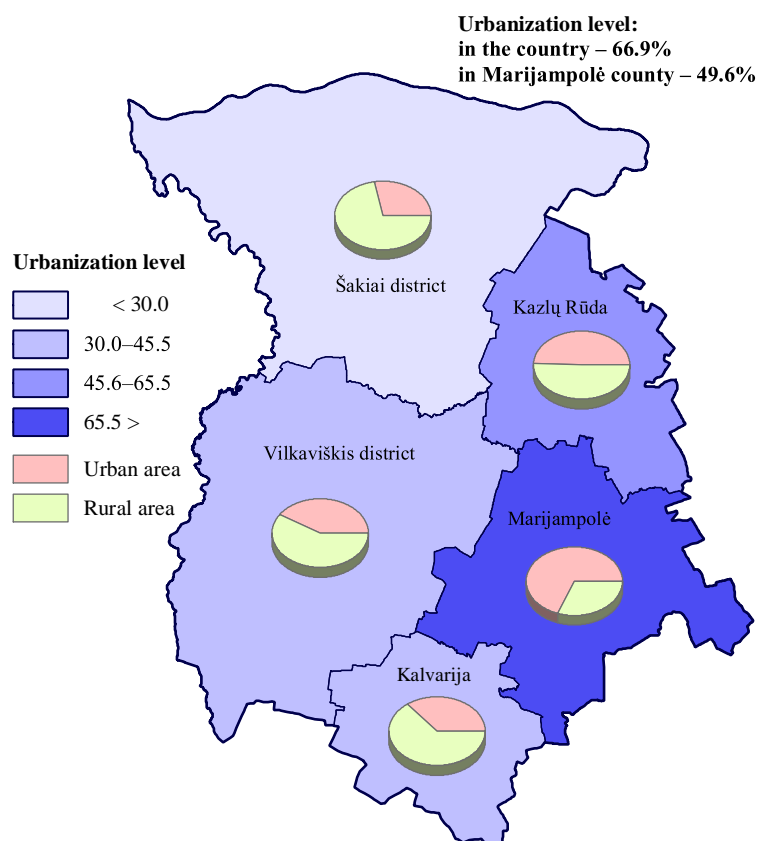
Social infrastructure

The distribution of the urban and rural population in Marijampolė county was even; the urban population was larger in Marijampolė municipality, which was conditioned by the fact that it included Marijampolė town, inhabited by 47 thousand persons. About half of the population of a small Kazlų Rūda municipality lived in the town of Kazlų Rūda, whereas in the rest of municipalities the rural population dominated.

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 Marijampolė 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 – in larger rural municipalities. Residents of urbanised municipalities can easier access most of the important objects of the social infrastructure; nevertheless, certain problems related to the provision of public services occur there as well.

Urbanization level in municipalities, beginning of 2008

Per cent



Preschool education institutions

10 out of 25 preschool education institutions of Marijampolė county were concentrated in Marijampolė municipality, 7 – in Vilkaviškis district municipality, whereas in that of Kazlų Rūda there was just one institution of such kind.

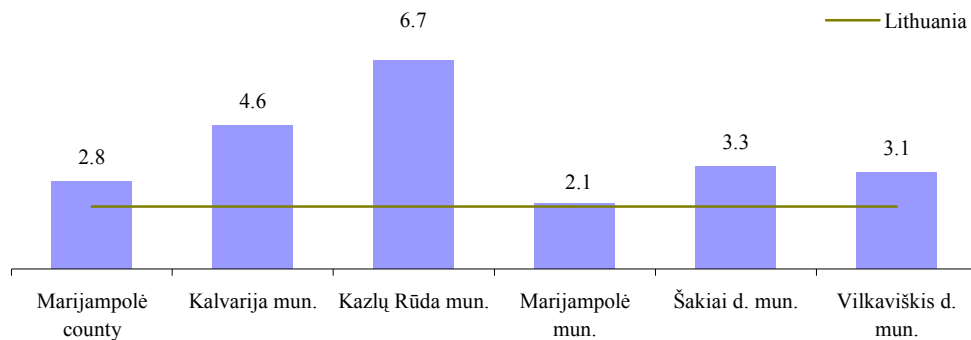
Number of preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Marijampolė county	33	33	27	25
Kalvarija mun.	2	2	1	2
Kazlų Rūda mun.	1	1	1	1
Marijampolė mun.	10	10	10	10
Šakiai d. mun.	9	9	8	5
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	11	11	7	7

At the end of 2007, there were, on average, 2 children of preschool age per place in the country's preschool education institutions. The Marijampolė county indicator was much lower than the national average. The lack of places in kindergartens has been observed in all county's municipalities; however, considerable unevenness has been observed. In Marijampolė municipality, the indicator in question was higher than the national average, whereas in the rest of municipalities – much lower. The most prominent difference between the number of children and that of places in preschool education institutions was in the smallest Kalvarija and Kazlų Rūda municipalities – as much as 4.6 and 6.7 times respectively. 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. However, in more urbanised or smaller municipalities, such as those of Kazlų Rūda or Kalvarija, where the distance to the nearest preschool education institution is usually rather short, the number of places in such institutions is much lower than the demand.

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 Marijampolė county is close to the national average; however, in a couple of municipalities (those of Kazlų Rūda and Kalvarija), there is a threat of them becoming less attractive to the youth and women wishing to participate in the labour market. The 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 their economic development.

General schools

In Marijampolė county, as well as in the entire country, a trend towards the decrease in the number of general schools has been observed: from 2001, the number of general schools almost halved, while in the country, on average, it decreased by 35 %.

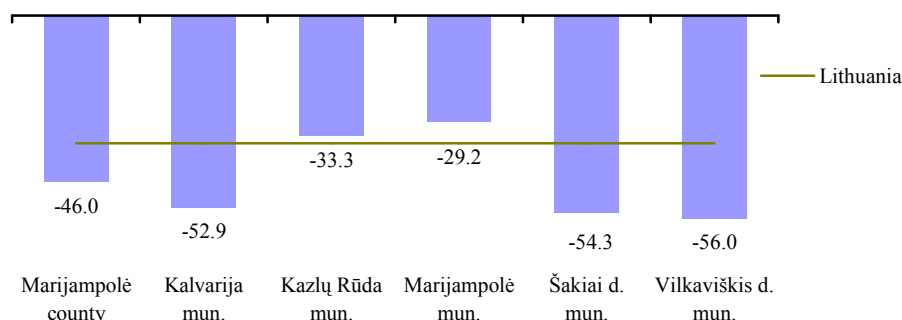
In 2001–2007, the most considerable decrease (more than twice) in the number of general schools was observed in Kalvarija, Šakiai district, Vilkaviškis district municipalities. In the rest of municipalities, the rates of decrease in the number of general schools were close to the national average.

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	301.79	351.07	332.5
Marijampolė county	176	107	96	95	196.2	317.3	331.8	305.5
Kalvarija mun.	17	8	8	8	147.8	318.4	300.5	279.6
Kazlų Rūda mun.	15	16	10	10	177.1	161.6	235.8	211.6
Marijampolė mun.	48	34	33	34	271.5	376.9	369.0	327.3
Šakiai d. mun.	46	24	23	21	157.3	296.9	285.3	286.6
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	50	25	22	22	181.8	355.2	379.9	342.0

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 (e.g. in those of Kalvarija, Šakiai district, Vilkaviškis district), with a minor exception of Kazlų Rūda municipality, where currently 212 pupils, on average, are enrolled in one school. The network of schools in this municipality thinned out; however, less than in the rest of the county's municipalities. A trend common both to Lithuania and Marijampolė county has been observed – schools serve more pupils, while in more remote areas general educational services become less accessible to pupils.

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 Marijampolė, Vilkaviškis, Šakiai towns, and other municipal centres; 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

Marijampolė 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. At the end of 2007, there were 111 libraries in Marijampolė county, the largest share whereof fell within less populated areas – Kalvarija, Šakiai and Vilkaviškis district municipalities. By the number of libraries per 1000 population, not a single municipality lagged behind the national average, whereas in 3 municipalities the national average was exceeded as much as twice.

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
Marijampolė county	116	113	112	111	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Kalvarija mun.	13	13	12	12	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Kazlų Rūda mun.	11	11	11	11	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Marijampolė mun.	28	27	27	27	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Šakiai d. mun.	32	30	30	29	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	32	32	32	32	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7

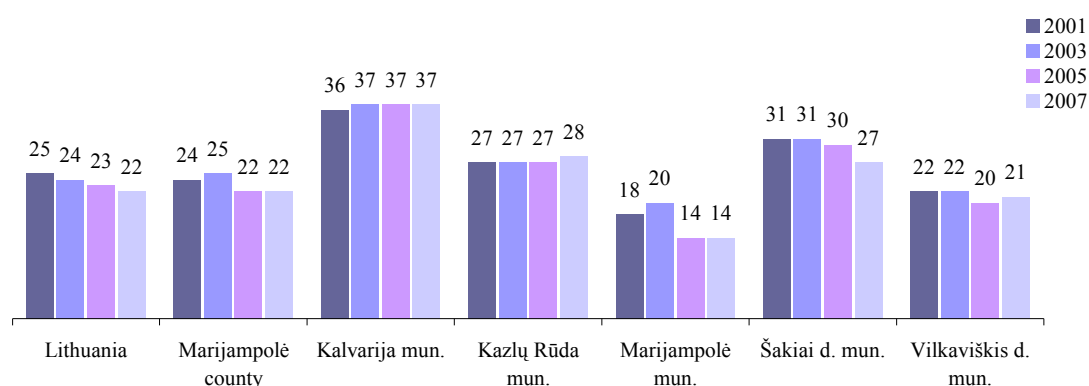
It was observed that in terms of accessibility of libraries a more densely populated urbanised Marijampolė municipality lagged behind the rest of municipalities. Most of the

residents of peripheral settlements have a possibility to use library services. Marijampolė county should be characterised by larger libraries, serving a higher number of library users.

Densely situated and easily accessible libraries do not attract much attention of the locals. In 2007, the share of library users, against the total population, equalled the national average (22 %); however, in part of municipalities the situation was better – the highest number of library users was received by the libraries of Kalvarija (more than one-third of the population) and Kazlų Rūda (28 %) municipalities. The relatively low county average was conditioned by a lower number of library users in larger – Marijampolė and Vilkaviškis district – municipalities. The libraries of peripheral and less populated areas attracted more attention of the locals.

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 distribution of cultural centres in Marijampolė county is relatively even as well. The highest number of cultural centres – in Šakiai district and Marijampolė municipalities; a lower number – in Kazlų Rūda municipality, which, however, is a much smaller one itself.

The number of cultural centres per 1000 population in Marijampolė county exceeded the national average by one-third. In Kalvarija municipality, the national average was exceeded 3 times. In Marijampolė municipality (partly due to the concentration of the population and larger cultural establishments in Marijampolė town), the number of cultural centres per 1000 population was lower. As compared with other county's municipalities, as well as less urbanised country's municipalities, the network of cultural centres in Vilkaviškis district municipality was rather sparse. The high number of cultural centres per 1000 population allows making a conclusion that main cultural services are provided even in small settlements of Marijampolė county.

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
Marijampolė county	79	71	72	73	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Kalvarija mun.	12	12	12	12	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9

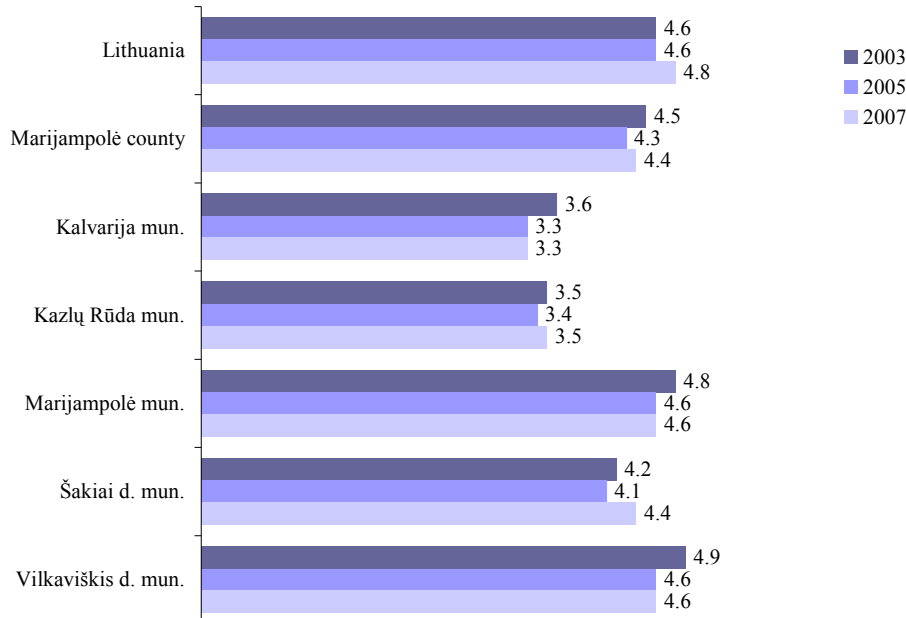
	Number of cultural centres				Number of cultural centres per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Kazlų Rūda mun.	8	7	7	7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Marijampolė mun.	16	16	16	16	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Šakiai d. mun.	26	27	25	26	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	17	9	12	12	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3

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 and 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

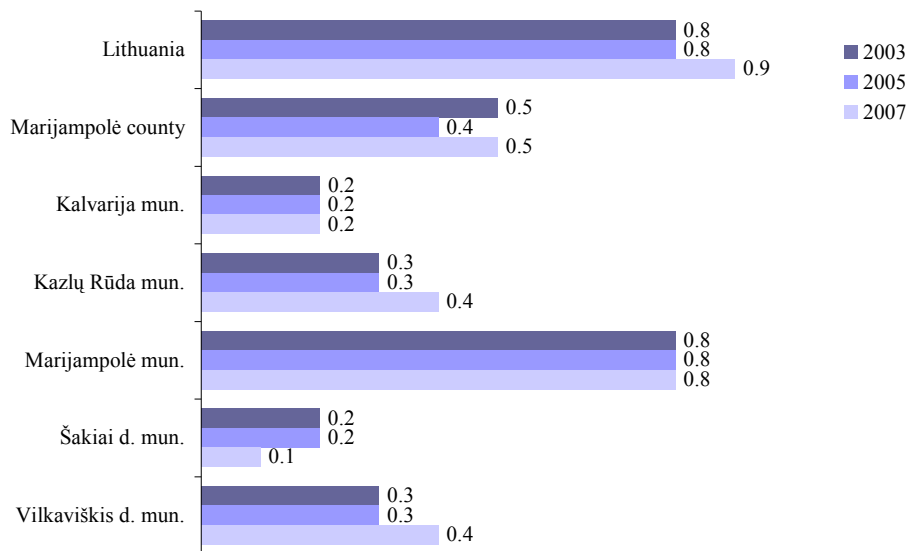
It was observed that at the end of 2007 the number of shops per 1000 Marijampolė county population was slightly lower than the national average. This indicator has been decreasing, the gap between the value of the indicator and the national average has been increasing. In 2003–2005, the number of shops grew only in Šakiai district municipality; in the rest of municipalities, it remained stable or decreased. Small municipalities – those of Kalvarija and Kazlų Rūda – were lagging behind the national average the most.

Number of shops per 1000 population, 2003–2007



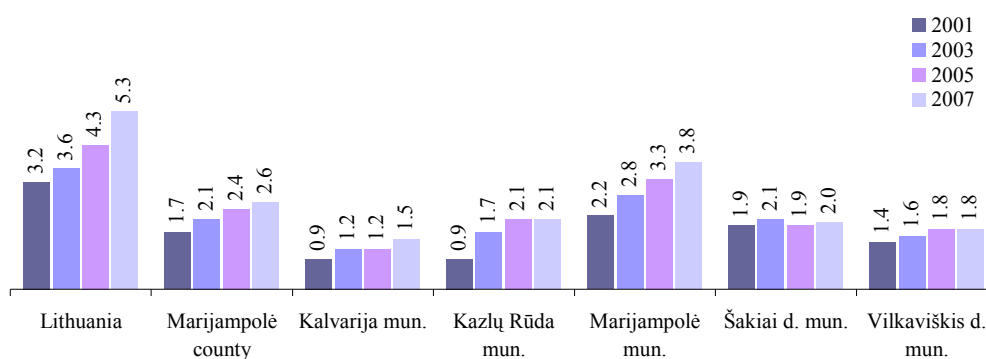
The number of restaurants, bars and canteens in Marijampolė county was relatively low. Only in the regional centre – Marijampolė municipality – the number of restaurants, bars and canteens at the end of 2007 was lagging behind the national average just inconsiderably, while in the rest of municipalities it was 2–4, in Šakiai district municipality – as much as 9 times lower than the national average. Positive changes have been observed in Vilkaviškis district and Kazlų Rūda municipality, where the number of catering enterprises increased; in the rest of municipalities, the said indicator has been decreasing or remained stable.

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



In 2007, the number of service enterprises in Marijampolė county (2.6 service enterprises per 1000 population) was more than twice as low as the national average (5.3). The indicators of Marijampolė municipality were better; however, even they were by as much as 28 % lower than the national average. Despite the fact that the number of service enterprises has been, although slowly, increasing in all county's municipalities, the gap between the indicator in question and the national average has been growing as well. The poorest indicators were observed in Vilkaviškis, Šakiai districts and Kalvarija municipalities. In Šakiai district municipality, the number of service enterprises has been growing just inconsiderably; therefore, the gap between the indicators of the said municipality and the rapidly growing national averages was particularly wide. In Kalvarija municipality, on the contrary, the number of service enterprises since 2001 grew by as much as two-thirds; however, even this strong growth was not enough, and in 2007 the number of service enterprises in the municipality was still the lowest in the county.

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. Negative trends in the development of the service sector in Marijampolė county may mean a notable deterioration in the living environment and quality of life in future.

Communication

The best developed communication infrastructure – in Marijampolė municipality, which is partly due to the dense network of roads in Marijampolė town. As far as the rest of the municipalities are concerned, the indicator of the density of the road network equalled the national average only in that of Vilkaviškis district; the rest of municipalities, although inconsiderably, lagged behind the national average. As compared with the national averages, the share of roads with an improved roadway surface, against the total number of roads, in Marijampolė county was relatively high, in Marijampolė, Kalvarija and Vilkaviškis district municipalities – by 10–20 % higher than the national average. The indicators of Kazlų Rūda municipality visibly lagged behind both the county and national averages.

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
Marijampolė county	1.2	1.1	0.4	31
Kalvarija mun.	1.0	1.0	0.4	34
Kazlų Rūda mun.	1.1	0.8	0.3	24
Marijampolė mun.	1.7	1.5	0.6	35
Šakiai d. mun.	1.1	1.0	0.3	28
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	1.2	1.2	0.4	32

In 2007, almost half of the county population had cars (there were 483 private cars per 1000 population; national average – 429). From 2001, this figure grew by 25 %. The highest number of private cars per 1000 population was in Marijampolė municipality – as much as 566, the lowest – in Vilkaviškis district municipality (418); it was only in the latter that the number of private cars per 1000 population was, although slightly, lower than the national average.

Private cars per 1000 population, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	304	336	395	429
Marijampolė county	384	394	479	483
Kalvarija mun.	339	243	411	443
Kazlų Rūda mun.	326	270	419	468
Marijampolė mun.	540	527	609	566
Šakiai d. mun.	279	325	387	433
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	276	338	400	418

Most of the areas of Marijampolė county municipalities are rather easily accessible by private cars (due to a sufficient quality of roads and a high number of private cars); the public transport system in the county is also rather well-developed. The territory per bus route in the county was by 6 % larger than the national average; however, the territory per bus route in 3 out of 5 county's municipalities was larger than the national median, in 2 county's municipalities – than the national average. Meanwhile, in Kazlų Rūda municipality, the territory per bus route (given the total number of bus routes of 2) was as much as 23 times larger than the national average. The shortage of bus routes in the said municipality is partly compensated by railway communication possibilities. Another municipality that is rather problematic from the point of view of communication is that of Kalvarija. In 2001–2007,

although the number of bus routes was decreasing countrywide, communication by shuttle buses in part of the country's regions became more accessible: in Šakiai and Vilkaviškis district municipalities, the number of bus routes has been increasing, while the territory per bus route – decreasing; in Kalvarija municipality, the number of bus routes, which was decreasing up to the year 2005, started growing, in Marijampolė municipality – remained sufficient. Kazlų Rūda municipality remained problematic in this respect.

Number of bus routes, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	3859	4001	3807	3155
Marijampolė county	196	196	197	203
Kalvarija mun.	12	4	5	11
Kazlų Rūda mun.	2	2	2	2
Marijampolė mun.	97	80	67	65
Šakiai d. mun.	52	65	67	63
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	33	45	56	62
Territory per route, km²				
Lithuania (average)	16.9	16.3	17.2	20.7
Lithuania (median)*	30.8	29.9	28.7	29.3
Marijampolė county	22.8	22.8	22.7	22.0
Kalvarija mun.	36.8	110.3	88.2	40.1
Kazlų Rūda mun.	277.5	277.5	277.5	277.5
Marijampolė mun.	7.8	9.4	11.3	11.6
Šakiai d. mun.	27.9	22.4	21.7	23.1
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	38.2	28.0	22.5	20.3

*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 a larger part of Marijampolė county is used sufficiently or, at least, averagely – the number of bus trips per capita was close to the national median value in Šakiai and Vilkaviškis district municipalities, higher than the national median value – in Marijampolė municipality. The lowest number of bus trips per capita was in small – Kalvarija and Kazlų Rūda – municipalities (in Kazlų Rūda municipality – just about 1 bus trip per capita per year; presumably, this indicator was compensated by trips of the locals by railway). In Kalvarija municipality, the number of bus trips since 2001 dropped more than twice. In the rest of municipalities, positive trends were observed – the number of bus trips has been, although slowly, growing.

Public safety

Marijampolė county is attributable to safer regions of Lithuania. In 2007, the number of registered criminal offences per 100 000 Marijampolė county population made 1598, which is by 26 % less than the national average. The lowest number of criminal offences was registered in Šakiai district and Kazlų Rūda municipalities, the highest – in Marijampolė and Kalvarija municipalities.

Registered criminal offences per 100 000 population, 2007

	Criminal offences	Crimes
Lithuania	2185	2014
Marijampolė county	1598	1484
Kalvarija mun.	2796	2424

	Criminal offences	Crimes
Kazlų Rūda mun.	1312	1223
Marijampolė mun.	1624	1509
Šakiai d. mun.	1252	1162
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	1575	1511

A usual trend of the number of registered criminal offences being lower in peripheral, rural municipalities proves to be true in Marijampolė county – the number of criminal offences and crimes registered in Marijampolė and Vilkaviškis district municipalities, which included larger county's towns, was somewhat higher, while in Kazlų Rūda and Šakiai district municipalities the crime rate was lower. Because of its geographic location and a small population, Kalvarija municipality stood out among the rest of municipalities: due to the cases of smuggling registered there, the number of criminal offences and crimes per 100 000 population in the municipality was higher than both the indicators of the rest of the county's municipalities and national averages.

Environmental protection and management

With the increase in the total water consumption, the amount of waste water discharged into surface waters increases as well. 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 Marijampolė county, about 4 % of the total amount of waste water requiring treatment in Lithuania was discharged. The amount of waste water requiring treatment discharged in Marijampolė county is not high, and the total amount is treated to meet the maximum allowable pollution (MAP) standards (which is by 27 % more than the national average).

The largest share of waste water requiring treatment – 74 % – was generated in Marijampolė municipality.

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
Marijampolė county	7207.4	6813.1	7418.1	8073.8	28.5	98.8	99.7	99.6
Kalvarija mun.	118.0	139.2	265.6	241.3	79.7	86.1	92.5	93.4
Kazlų Rūda mun.	...	403.6	241	397.1	...	100.0	100.0	100.0
Marijampolė mun.	5451.8	5029.8	5541.8	5953.8	6.0	99.4	100.0	99.7
Šakiai d. mun.	622.0	382.0	511.0	558.0	100.0	92.4	100.0	100.0
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	1015.6	858.5	858.7	923.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

A municipal waste management system has been successfully developed in the county. Since 2004, the amount of municipal waste collected in Marijampolė county grew by 9 % (in 2005 – by 10 %).

Municipal waste generated, 2004–2006

Tonnes

	2004	2005	2006
Marijampolė county	60121.9	66245.2	65621.3
Kalvarija mun.	2640.3	2103.5	3152.7
Kazlų Rūda mun.	10544.3	11805.4	7505.4
Marijampolė mun.	35824.9	25296.5	29126.8
Šakiai d. mun.	9596.7	11197.9	12462.8
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	1515.6	15841.9	13373.6

In 2006, against 2004, the amount of municipal waste collected in Marijampolė county increased by 11 %, and made about 360 kg (in 2005 – 359 kg).

Municipal waste managed, 2004–2006

Tonnes

	2004	2005	2006
Marijampolė county	58649.0	65009.6	62847.1
Kalvarija mun.	2553.0	2016.0	2757.0
Kazlų Rūda mun.	10207.0	11865.8	8086.9
Marijampolė mun.	35542.8	25082.0	27306.3
Šakiai d. mun.	9004.2	10629.7	11812.8
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	1342.0	15416.1	12884.2

In the course of developing the region's municipal waste management infrastructure, 3 landfill sites were liquidated in Marijampolė region in 2007. In 2008, as the newly built landfill site is put into operation, it is planned to close 7 more landfill sites in the region. In most of the county's municipalities, domestic waste was managed in situ.

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, area, and other characteristics. In summary, it can be stated that Marijampolė county is characterised by a rather well-developed social infrastructure network; the public transport system in most of the municipalities functions well and, moreover, is further developed; the crime rate in most of the municipalities is not high. However, it is mentionable that quite a number of the analysed indicators, although distributed rather evenly, condition dissimilar living conditions in different areas of the county. In respect of quite a number of components of the living environment and quality of life, the municipalities of Marijampolė county lag behind national averages.