

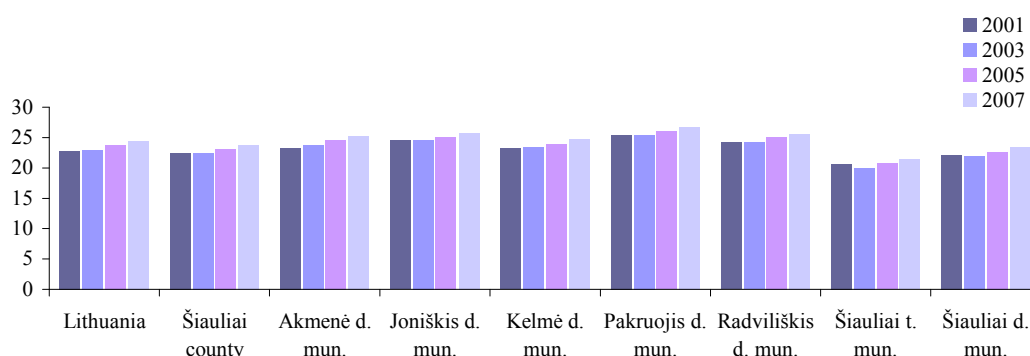
ENVIRONMENT OF ŠIAULIAI COUNTY

Housing

The provision of the residents of Šiauliai county with living space is poorer than the national average: at the end of 2007, there were 23.7 m² of useful floor area per capita in the county, but the gap between the county and the national average was not wide. The gap between the indicators of most of the county's municipalities and the national average was not big, except for the indicator of Šiauliai town municipality, where useful floor area per capita was by 12 % smaller, and that of Pakruojis district municipality, where useful floor area per capita was by 10 % larger than the national average. A good supply of living space in Pakruojis district municipality, as well as in other municipalities, whose indicators outpaced the county and national averages, may be one of the relative advantages thereof; however, a relevant social infrastructure should be insured alongside. Meanwhile, a poor supply of living space in Šiauliai town municipality may become one of the main factors limiting socioeconomic development of the municipality, as well as stimulate the locals to move to the environs of Šiauliai town.

Useful floor area per capita, 2001–2007

m²



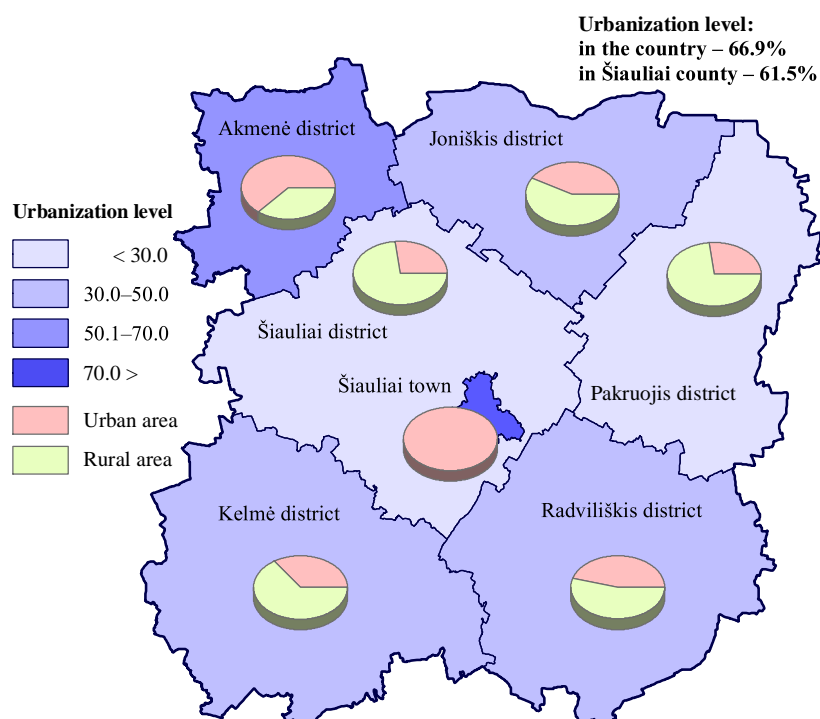
Social infrastructure

Šiauliai county centre – Šiauliai town – ranks fourth in Lithuania in terms of size; in 2008, it was inhabited by 127.1 thous. persons (36 % of the county population); another larger town – Radviliškis (19.6 thous. persons). The largest towns of four municipalities (Kuršėnai, Naujoji Akmenė, Joniškis and Kelmė) were of similar size (13.6, 11.4, 10.8 and 10.3 thous. inhabitants respectively), while the centre of the smallest (Pakruojis district) municipality – a small Pakruojis town – was inhabited by just 5.8 thous. persons. There was just one urban municipality; urban residents (those of Naujoji Akmenė, Venta and Akmenė towns) also predominated in Akmenė district municipality, while in the rest of municipalities the share of the urban population was smaller than that of the rural population (in the mixed Joniškis and Radviliškis district municipalities, the share of the urban population was just slightly lower than half of the total population, while the rest of municipalities were rural).

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. The geographic distribution of the social infrastructure in the municipalities of Šiauliai county and integration of their areas with Šiauliai town or other larger towns often conditions the attractiveness of their 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 Kelmė, Šiauliai, Pakruojis district municipalities. The shortage of a local infrastructure in part of

Urbanization level in municipalities, beginning of 2008

Per cent



Šiauliai and Radviliškis district municipalities is compensated by the infrastructure available in Šiauliai town. Residents of urbanised municipalities can easier access most of the important objects of the social infrastructure; nevertheless, their number is also often insufficient.

Preschool education institutions

Almost half of preschool education institutions in the county were concentrated in Šiauliai town municipality, while in the rest of municipalities their number was several times lower.

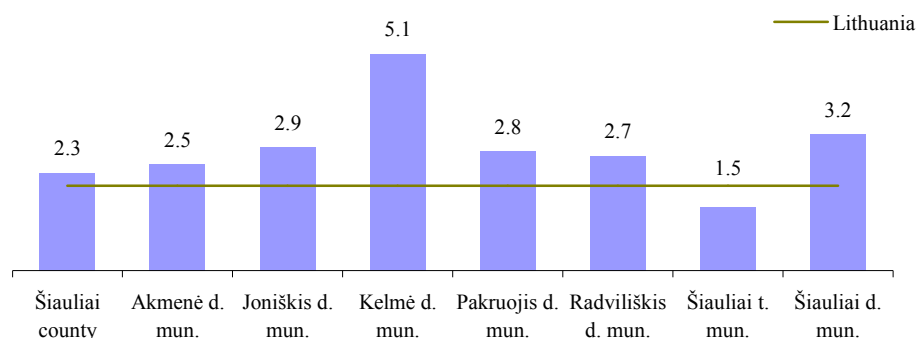
Number of preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Šiauliai county	67	65	63	63
Akmenė d. mun.	5	5	5	5
Joniškis d. mun.	7	7	6	6
Kelmė d. mun.	5	5	3	3
Pakruojis d. mun.	9	7	8	7
Radviliškis d. mun.	2	2	3	3
Šiauliai t. mun.	28	28	29	29
Šiauliai d. mun.	11	11	9	10

At the end of 2007, there were, on average, 2 children of preschool age per place in the country's preschool education institutions. The Šiauliai county indicator was slightly better than the national average. The lack of places in kindergartens has been observed in all county's municipalities; however, considerable disparities between the county's municipalities have been observed – in Šiauliai town municipality, the difference between the number of children and that of places in preschool education institutions made up 50 %, in the rest of municipalities – 2–3, in Kelmė district municipality – as much as 5 times. The poorest ratio of the number of children of preschool age to that of places in preschool education institutions was in rural and mixed municipalities – a large part of their settlements did not have a single preschool education institution. Since 2001, the number of preschool education institutions in

most of the county's municipalities has been stable or just slightly decreased; this number has been growing only in Šiauliai town and Radviliškis district municipalities. However, even the growing number of preschool education institutions did not allow reaching a sufficient supply of preschool education services. Both in rural and more urbanised municipalities and towns, the distance to the nearest preschool education institution is usually relatively short; however, the number of places in preschool education 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 Šiauliai county is lower than the national average, the situation is rather problematic in most of the municipalities; there are some territories (Kelmė, Radviliškis district municipalities) which are under a threat of 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

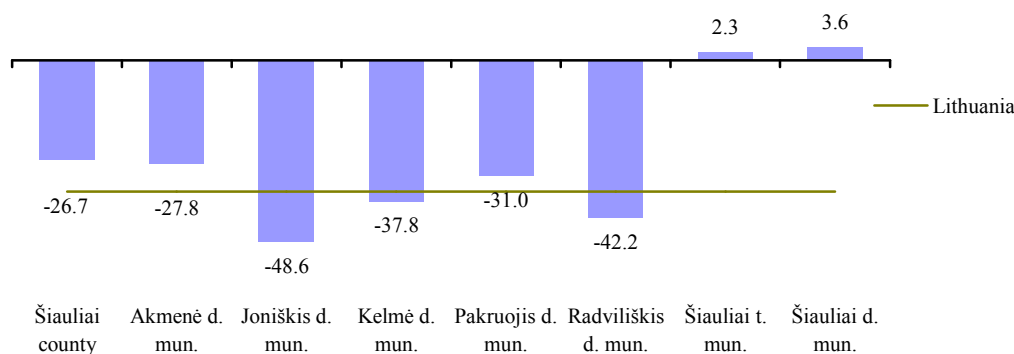
In Šiauliai county, as well as in the entire country, a trend towards the decrease in the number of general schools has been observed. However, in Šiauliai county, this decrease was not as dramatic as in other counties and in the country, on average, while in Šiauliai town and district municipalities new schools were opened. Meanwhile, in Joniškis district municipality, the number of schools almost halved, in Radviliškis district municipality – decreased by 42 %.

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
Šiauliai county	243	242	185	178	272.2	263.5	318.3	296.9
Akmenė d. mun.	18	18	14	13	320.2	307.2	372.9	366.2
Joniškis d. mun.	35	30	19	18	169.7	187.3	271.5	255.9
Kelmė d. mun.	45	45	30	28	160.9	155.9	213.3	204.3
Pakruojis d. mun.	29	30	21	20	178.3	169.4	221.1	207.7
Radviliškis d. mun.	45	45	27	26	209.7	202.2	303.6	281.7
Šiauliai t. mun.	43	45	45	44	572.4	525.0	490.0	451.2
Šiauliai d. mun.	28	29	29	29	284.5	268.9	249.0	221.7

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 Kelmė, Radviliškis, Pakruojis district municipalities). A trend common both to Lithuania and Šiauliai county has been observed – schools serve more pupils, while in more remote areas general educational services become less accessible to pupils. However, Šiauliai county, especially several municipalities thereof, stood out by its indicators of availability of general schools – the number of schools decreased even in Akmenė district municipality, where schools had already been big (bigger than the national average) as early as in 2001, while in Šiauliai district municipality the number of schools increased (the number of pupils enrolled per school has been gradually moving away from the national average – schools have been getting smaller). Moreover, despite a notable decrease in the number of schools, schools in most of the county's municipalities remained relatively small. With the decrease in the number of pupils and an increase in the number of schools, the indicators of Šiauliai town municipality have been approaching the national average.

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 Naujoji Akmenė, Šiauliai 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

Šiauliai 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 169 libraries in Šiauliai county, the largest share whereof fell within less populated areas – Radviliškis, Kelmė, Pakruojis, Šiauliai district municipalities.

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
Šiauliai county	181	178	169	169	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Akmenė d. mun.	14	14	14	14	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Joniškis d. mun.	27	27	24	24	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Kelmė d. mun.	32	32	31	31	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8

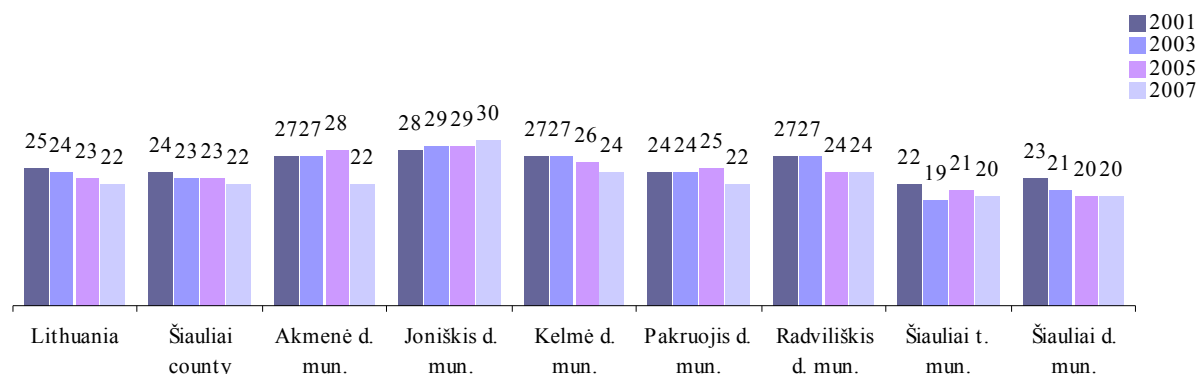
	Number of libraries				Number of libraries per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Pakruojis d. mun.	25	25	25	25	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Radviliškis d. mun.	38	38	34	34	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Šiauliai t. mun.	12	11	10	10	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Šiauliai d. mun.	33	31	31	31	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6

It was observed that in terms of accessibility of libraries a more densely populated urbanised Šiauliai town and Akmenė district municipalities lagged behind less populated, rural and mixed municipalities. Except for Šiauliai town and Akmenė district municipalities, the number of libraries per 1000 population in the county's municipalities was 1.5–2 times higher than the national average; even in Akmenė district municipality, where urban residents predominated, this indicator was much higher than the national average. Most of the residents of peripheral settlements have a possibility to use library services. Šiauliai town municipality is characterised by bigger – regional – libraries, serving a large number of users.

Densely distributed and easily accessible libraries are used only averagely: in 2007, the share of library users, as compared with the total population, in the county equalled the national average (22 %). However, in part of municipalities the situation was better – the highest number of users was received by the libraries in Joniškis (30 % of the population) and Kelmė (24 %) district municipalities. The relatively low county average was conditioned by a lower share of library users in the biggest – Šiauliai town – municipality, as well as Šiauliai district municipality. Libraries located in peripheral, less populated municipalities attracted more attention of the locals; however, most of the county's municipalities in terms of the indicator in question ranked mediocre.

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 per 1000 population in Šiauliai county equalled the national average. In Šiauliai town municipality (due to high population density and a concentration of bigger cultural establishments), the number of cultural centres per 1000 population was very low; however, bigger – regional – cultural establishments functioned

there. As compared with the rest of the county's municipalities, a rather sparse network of cultural centres was in Akmenė district municipality; however, even in this municipality, the indicator in question exceeded the national average. The high indicator of cultural centres per 1000 population allows making a conclusion that main cultural services were provided even in small settlements of Šiauliai county municipalities: the supply of local cultural services is not much lower even in peripheral areas.

Number of cultural centres, 2001–2007

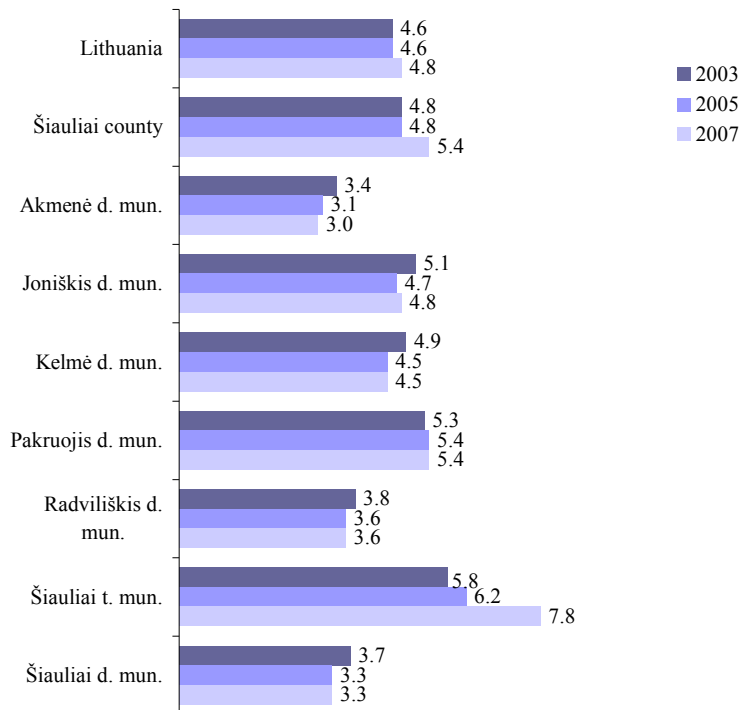
	Number of cultural centres				Number of cultural centres per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	947	882	850	853	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Šiauliai county	119	115	111	106	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Akmenė d. mun.	9	4	12	11	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.4
Joniškis d. mun.	15	14	15	15	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Kelmė d. mun.	23	23	23	22	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Pakruojis d. mun.	15	15	15	15	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Radviliškis d. mun.	28	28	28	25	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Šiauliai t. mun.	2	3	4	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Šiauliai d. mun.	27	28	14	14	0.5	0.5	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 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.

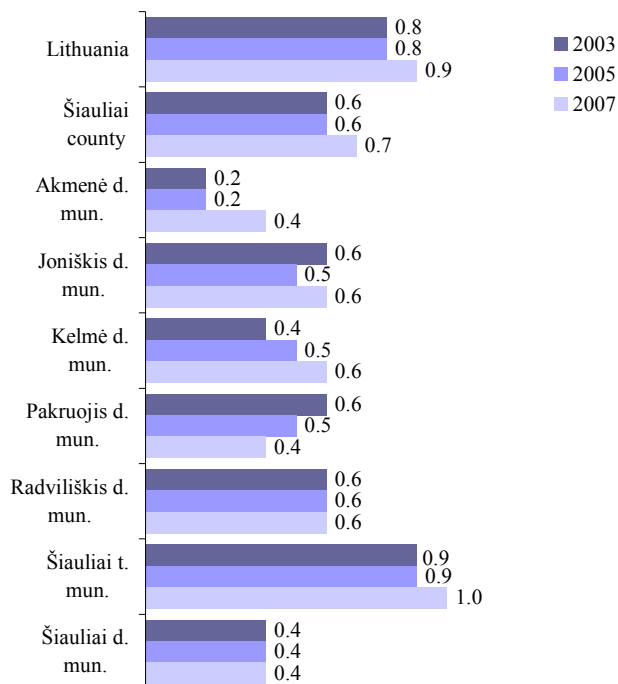
Trade and service enterprises

It was observed that at the end of 2007 the number of shops per 1000 Šiauliai county population was higher than the national average; moreover, this indicator has been increasing in most of the county's municipalities (except those of Akmenė, Kelmė and Šiauliai districts). The highest number of shops per 1000 population was in Pakruojis district and Šiauliai town municipalities. However, the number of shops was high not in all county's municipalities – trade services were more hard to access in Akmenė district municipality, where the number of shops was by more than one-third lower than the national average. The indicator in question was also low in Šiauliai and Radviliškis district municipalities; however, in these municipalities, the demand for local trade services was lower due to a possibility to do shopping in Šiauliai town, which, in turn, conditioned a lower supply of such services.

Number of shops per 1000 population, 2003–2007



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

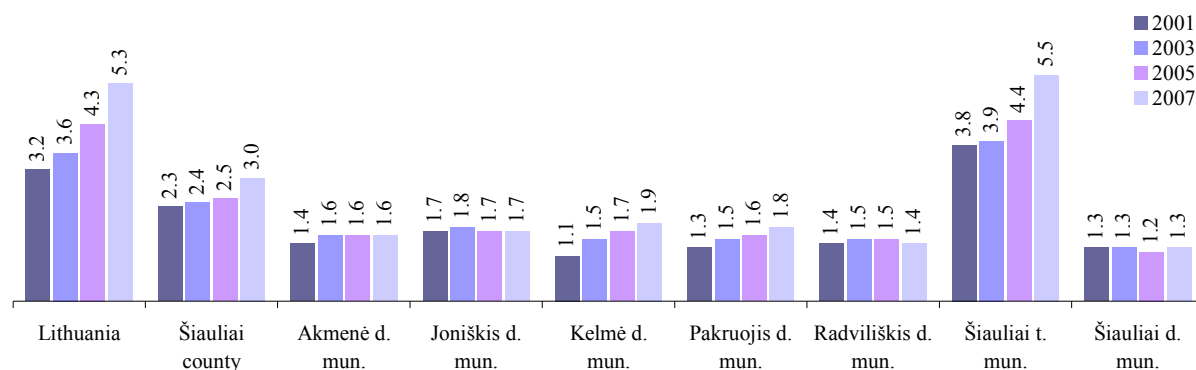


In 2007, the number of restaurants, bars and canteens in Šiauliai county was somewhat lower than the national average. Only in the regional centre – Šiauliai town municipality – the number of restaurants, bars and canteens at the end of 2007 exceeded the national average; in Joniškis, Kelmė and Radviliškis district municipalities, the indicator in question was by one-third, in the rest of municipalities – about 2 times lower than the national average. In all municipalities, the indicator in question has been increasing or just slightly decreasing.

In 2007, the number of service enterprises in Šiauliai county (3 service enterprises per 1000 population) notably lagged behind the national average (5.1). The best respective indicator was in Šiauliai town municipality (5.5 service enterprises per 1000 population) – it was the only municipality to exceed the national average. The poorest indicators were observed in Šiauliai, Radviliškis and Akmenė district municipalities – just 1.3, 1.4 and 1.6 service enterprises per 1000 population respectively; in the rest of peripheral municipalities, the indicator in question was also rather

low (lower than half the national average). In Šiauliai and Radviliškis district municipalities, the shortage of service enterprises was partly compensated by such enterprises operating in Šiauliai town, whereas in the rest of municipalities the locals were offered less services provided by private businesses. Although the number of service enterprises in Šiauliai county has been gradually increasing, this growth was not sufficient for this number to approximate the national average.

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. Too slow service sector development trends, observed in Šiauliai county in 2001–2007, may mean a notable deterioration in the living environment and quality of life in future.

Communication

The best developed communication infrastructure – in Šiauliai town municipality; however, due to a small area and a large population thereof, its indicators are not comparable with national averages. In the rest of Šiauliai county municipalities, the average density of the road network was more or less similar to the national average. Except for Šiauliai town municipality, the best developed communication infrastructure was in Akmenė and Kelmė district municipalities, where the density of the road network was the highest, while in the rest of municipalities the density of the road network was slightly lower than the national average. The share of roads with an improved roadway surface (except for Šiauliai town municipality) was higher than the national average in Akmenė (34 %) and Pakruojis district municipalities. A relatively high indicator in Akmenė district municipality was reached due to a high level of urbanisation of the municipality, which meant that a considerable share in the total number of roads was made up of streets of the towns. The indicator of Pakruojis district municipality testifies to a relatively good quality of roads in the county. When assessing the road infrastructure of the county's municipalities by the density of roads with an improved roadway surface, it may be observed that it was much (two times) lower than the national average only in one municipality (that of Kelmė district); the national average was exceeded in urbanised – Šiauliai town and Akmenė district – municipalities, while indicators of the rest of – peripheral – municipalities were the same – 0.3 km/km² (by one-fourth lower than the national average). Thus, in summary, it may be stated that there is certain unevenness in the density and quality of the road network in the county, while the network itself is somewhat sparser than, on average, in the country.

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
Šiauliai county	1.2	1.1	0.3	27
Akmenė d. mun.	1.4	1.4	0.5	34
Joniškis d. mun.	1.1	1.1	0.3	27
Kelmė d. mun.	1.3	1.0	0.2	19
Pakruojis d. mun.	1.0	1.0	0.3	31
Radviliškis d. mun.	1.1	1.0	0.3	25
Šiauliai t. mun.	4.3	3.6	2.2	52
Šiauliai d. mun.	1.2	1.2	0.3	25

At the end of 2007, there were 381 private cars per 1000 Šiauliai county population (by 11 % less than the national average). Although from 2001 this figure grew by 43 %, Šiauliai county did not reach the national average. In 2007, not in a single Šiauliai county municipality the number of cars per 1000 population was close to the national average; the indicators of Akmenė, Pakruojis and Joniškis district municipalities lagged particularly far behind (the number of cars per 1000 population in 2007 there was by almost one-fifth lower than the national average). The indicator of Šiauliai town municipality, which in 2001 had exceeded the national average, in 2007 already lagged behind it. The indicators of the rest of municipalities lagged behind the national average; however, this gap has been decreasing.

Private cars per 1000 population, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	304	336	395	429
Šiauliai county	266	300	352	381
Akmenė d. mun.	224	268	300	344
Joniškis d. mun.	238	271	326	351
Kelmė d. mun.	243	279	336	358
Pakruojis d. mun.	220	252	314	346
Radviliškis d. mun.	258	299	354	394
Šiauliai t. mun.	306	332	380	399
Šiauliai d. mun.	253	298	359	394

Part of the residents of Šiauliai county municipalities may be faced with difficulties related to accessing certain territories, which is due to a lower number of private cars and a poorer developed communication infrastructure; therefore, there is a need of an effectively operating public transport in the region. The public transport system in Šiauliai county is not developed evenly enough. In 2007, about one-third of bus routes in Šiauliai county fell within Šiauliai town municipality; in the rest of municipalities (except for that of Pakruojis district), the number of routes fluctuated inconsiderably and approximately corresponded to the size of a certain municipality, but the number of routes was relatively low. The territory per bus route in the county was not large; however (except for Šiauliai town and Pakruojis district municipalities, the territory per bus route was larger than the national average, while in peripheral municipalities – smaller than the national median value), the density of bus routes was higher in most of the country's municipalities. The number of bus routes – both in Šiauliai county and in the country – has been decreasing (the situation had improved in 2003–2005;

however, later, the number of bus routes decreased). The situation considerably improved only in Pakruojis district municipality – the number of bus routes increased and exceeded the national average. Meanwhile, in a larger part of the county, communication by regular buses has become less accessible; in this respect, peripheral municipalities remained the most problematic.

Number of bus routes, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	3859	4001	3807	3155
Šiauliai county	369	532	461	364
Akmenė d. mun.	32	34	32	28
Joniškis d. mun.	19	29	30	29
Kelmė d. mun.	37	38	47	47
Pakruojis d. mun.	44	44	47	66
Radviliškis d. mun.	63	44	105	38
Šiauliai t. mun.	126	288	163	113
Šiauliai d. mun.	48	55	37	43
Territory per route, km²				
Lithuania (average)	16.9	16.3	17.2	20.7
Lithuania (median)*	30.8	29.9	28.1	29.3
Šiauliai county	23.1	16.1	18.5	23.5
Akmenė d. mun.	26.4	24.8	26.4	30.1
Joniškis d. mun.	60.6	39.7	38.4	39.7
Kelmė d. mun.	46.1	44.9	36.3	36.3
Pakruojis d. mun.	29.9	29.9	28.0	19.9
Radviliškis d. mun.	26.0	37.2	15.6	43.0
Šiauliai t. mun.	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.7
Šiauliai d. mun.	37.6	32.9	48.8	42.0

*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 indicator of bus trips per capita shows that the public transport system in Šiauliai county is underused. The lowest number of bus trips per capita was in Pasvalys (despite the dense network of bus routes) and Radviliškis district municipalities. Public transport systems operated more efficiently in Joniškis and Kelmė district municipalities, which by the indicator of bus trips per capita ranked mediocre in the country. A relatively high county average was conditioned by the transport system of Šiauliai town. Positive trends have been observed – in all county's municipalities, except for that of Šiauliai district, the locals would use bus services more often than in 2001.

Public safety

Although Šiauliai county cannot be characterised as a safe one (the safest regions are usually those which do not cover big cities and towns), the number of registered criminal offences per 100 000 Šiauliai county population in 2007 made 1693, which is by 22.5 % less than the national average. The lowest number of criminal offences and crimes per 100 000 population was registered in Kelmė and Šiauliai district municipalities, where it was twice as low as the national average. The rather poor national average was impacted on by the indicators of Šiauliai town municipality, which was the only municipality in the county where the crime rate exceeded the national average.

Registered criminal offences per 100 000 population, 2007

	Criminal offences	Crimes
Lithuania	2185	2014
Šiauliai county	1693	1545
Akmenė d. mun.	1212	1130
Joniškis d. mun.	1351	1186
Kelmė d. mun.	1075	947
Pakruojis d. mun.	1685	1486
Radviliškis d. mun.	1619	1492
Šiauliai t. mun.	2339	2142
Šiauliai d. mun.	1077	1017

A usual trend of the number of registered criminal offences being lower in peripheral, rural municipalities proves to be true in Šiauliai county – the number of criminal offences and crimes registered in Šiauliai town municipality was higher than in the rest of the county's municipalities. The rest of the county's municipalities are relatively safe; Radviliškis and Pakruojis district municipalities stand out among other municipalities a little, and differences in the quality of their living environment are determined by other factors.

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. The amount of waste water discharged in Šiauliai county made 15 129 thous. m³ – about 7 % of the total amount of waste water in Lithuania. In 2007, as compared with 2005, the amount of waste water discharged in Šiauliai county increased by 23 %. The largest amount of waste water requiring treatment – 63 % – was generated in Šiauliai town municipality; however, the total amount of waste water was treated. New waste water treatment facilities are put into operation annually, the existing ones are being modernised; therefore, the amount of domestic, municipal and industrial waste water treated to meet maximum allowable pollution (MAP) standards in the county has been growing, and in 2007, against 2005, increased by 4 %.

In 2006, the Helsinki Commission resolved to delete the waste water treatment facilities of Šiauliai town from the list of the largest Baltic Sea pollution sources, so-called hot spots, whereas currently the improved, modernised waste treatment technologies in Šiauliai town already meet EU requirements.

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
Šiauliai county	13900.3	12542.9	12254.4	15129.0	20.8	9.3	75.1	79.4
Akmenė d. mun.	848.4	834.0	802.0	767.0	21.1	11.5	30.5	33.8
Joniškis d. mun.	933.0	799.0	776.0	1114.0	17.4	15.0	15.5	14.3
Kelmė d. mun.	335.0	295.0	355.0	447.0	74.0	93.2	96.6	98.0
Pakruojis d. mun.	280.0	283.0	406.0	525.0	94.2	98.6	98.8	100.0
Radviliškis d. mun.	1228.9	1179.5	1226.4	1471.0	19.4	21.7	23.4	52.5

	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
Šiauliai t. mun.	8236.0	7813.4	7551.0	9599.0	0.4	0.6	100.0	100.0
Šiauliai d. mun.	2039.0	1339.0	1138.0	1206.0	86.9	6.9	22.7	21.3

As the economy and consumption have been growing, the amount of municipal waste generated has been annually increasing. As a regional waste management system was introduced, the container waste management system in 2006 was used by 60 % of the Šiauliai county population.

Municipal waste generated, 2004–2006

Tonnes

	2004	2005	2006
Šiauliai county	134193.4	179778.3	162443.2
Akmenė d. mun.	5421.9	4974.8	5101.6
Joniškis d. mun.	14012.5	15893.0	15704.5
Kelmė d. mun.	11539.5	12169.0	12286.2
Pakruojis d. mun.	7222.6	9275.6	7696.7
Radviliškis d. mun.	23722.6	24426.8	19913.1
Šiauliai t. mun.	62426.6	99870.4	76980.9
Šiauliai d. mun.	9847.6	13168.8	24760.3

The amount of waste taken to landfill sites in 2006 was by 0.6 % higher than in 2005. In 2004–2006, the share of waste disposed of at landfill sites made up 99–99.7 %. The amount of municipal waste collected has been growing because container waste collection systems were being introduced in smaller settlements and villages of Šiauliai county, whereas previously municipal waste from these areas had been taken to rural landfill sites and no records had been kept.

Recently, the amount of waste disposed of at landfill sites, as well as the amount of secondary raw materials segregated from the common flow of waste has been growing, which is an indication that primary sorting of waste takes place.

Municipal waste managed, 2004–2006

Tonnes

	2004	2005	2006
Šiauliai county	120724.6	135653.8	143576.1
Akmenė d. mun.	5421.0	4964.8	4951.0
Joniškis d. mun.	13985.0	15892.0	15652.0
Kelmė d. mun.	11539.3	11314.5	11205.0
Pakruojis d. mun.	7213.0	7812.9	5881.0
Radviliškis d. mun.	23706.2	24336.0	19832.0
Šiauliai t. mun.	40.0	0.0	0.0
Šiauliai d. mun.	58820.1	71333.6	86055.1

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. Smaller

municipalities may offer a relatively large area for living, most of them are safe; however, despite a relatively high number of general schools and local cultural establishments remaining in rural areas, they are characterised by a sparser social infrastructure network and a poorly developed private service sector. The differences in the quality of life are also due to insufficient integration of Šiauliai town and its environs; better communication between municipalities and their localities would allow making maximum use of advantages of different areas, as well as offering more qualitative services to the locals. Currently, peripheral municipalities of Šiauliai county are not characterised by considerable differences in their living environment and quality of life; however, they lag behind national indicators.