

ECONOMY OF KAUNAS COUNTY

According to the level of economic development, Kaunas county slightly lags behind the national average. Kaunas county produced 19.3 % of county's gross domestic product (GDP). GDP per capita, on average, in the county made LTL 28 thousand, which is by 3.7 % less than the national average in 2007. Nominal GDP per capita in 2007 in the county grew by 19.6 % (national average – 20.2 %). According GDP per capita, Kaunas county may be classified under the leading ones.

As compared with the general structure of the national economy, Kaunas county has better-developed industry and construction, where 35.9 % of the county's gross value added (GVA) is generated (national average – 32.8 %).

In 2007, the enterprises of Kaunas county paid LTL 385.7 million of the profits tax, which is by 27.2 % more than in 2006. The most considerable growth in the amount of the profits tax paid was recorded in Kaunas city and Prienai municipalities, where in 2007, against 2006, profits tax grew by 40.2 and 37.4 % respectively. The highest amounts of the profits tax in Kaunas county in 2007 were paid by retail and wholesale trade and manufacturing enterprises. The amount of the social tax paid in 2007 made LTL 81.3 million.

Profits tax paid, 2004–2007

LTL thousand

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Kaunas county	199460.5	238946.6	303321.0	385693.5
Birštonas mun.	303.3	323.8	303.4	216.7
Kaunas c. mun.	147194.8	172224.4	204764.6	287127.8
Jonava d. mun.	22040.1	35603.9	44519.5	35563.3
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	2732.8	2574.8	3572.7	4115.9
Kaunas d. mun.	14572.3	13468.5	15541.5	19490.8
Kėdainiai d. mun.	7768.6	10159.5	26745.1	28446.0
Prienai d. mun.	1867.1	1523.9	2485.6	3414.0
Raseiniai d. mun.	2981.5	3070.9	5388.5	7319.0

Revenue of local authorities received from collected taxes grew as well. The largest amount of revenue of local authorities is received from the income and immovable property taxes paid.

Taxes paid to and included in local budgets, 2007

LTL thousand

	Taxes paid, total	of which					
		income tax	land tax	inheritance tax	immovable property tax	pollution tax	charges and fees
Kaunas county	607938.9	532444.2	7912.6	975.3	50361.9	46.7	9089.1
Birštonas mun.	12998.1	12561.3	42.3	7.1	326.1	2822.6	14.6
Kaunas c. mun.	312720.3	266341.1	2910.0	678.7	33679.6	675.3	6288.3
Jonava d. mun.	51268.2	47787.6	459.4	27.5	2168.8	152.7	149.6
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	37554.1	29821.1	376.2	32.4	7068.2	2406.0	103.5
Kaunas d. mun.	72292.0	65006.0	1175.0	163.0	3231.0	849.5	311.0
Kėdainiai d. mun.	56892.0	50075.4	1254.5	32.1	2766.8	86.0	1913.7
Prienai d. mun.	27882.4	26557.1	564.0	28.5	559.8	117.0	87.0
Raseiniai d. mun.	36331.8	34294.6	1131.2	6.0	561.6	7155.8	221.4

In 2006, investment in tangible fixed assets in Kaunas county made LTL 3123.3 million, or LTL 4599 per capita (national average – LTL 5861 per capita). In Kaunas city, per capita investment was by LTL 1638 higher than in the county, and by LTL 376 higher than the national average. Over 2004–2006, per capita investment in tangible fixed assets was increasing in Birštonas, Kėdainiai, Prienai and Raseiniai district municipalities; however, it did not reach the county average. The lowest total and per capita investment in tangible fixed assets in 2006 was in Kaišiadorys (LTL 85.4 million and LTL 2345 respectively) and Prienai (LTL 48.2 million and LTL 1410) district municipalities.

Per capita investment in tangible fixed assets, 2004–2006

LTL

	2004	2005	2006
Lithuania	3523	4540	5861
Kaunas county	2811	3781	4599
Birštonas mun.	1501	1858	3222
Jonava d. mun.	3268	3944	3795
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	1377	2613	2345
Kaunas c. mun.	3595	4781	6237
Kaunas d. mun.	1874	3632	2914
Kėdainiai d. mun.	2135	2115	2957
Prienai d. mun.	1033	1135	1410
Raseiniai d. mun.	1290	1289	2256

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Kaunas county as of 1 January 2008 made LTL 3925.2 million (as of 1 January 2007 – LTL 2455.8 million) and grew by 60 %, while against 1 January 2001 – 3.2 times (as of 1 January 2001 – LTL 1211.1 million).

As of 1 January 2008, according to the FDI indicator, Kaunas county ranked third in the country (after Vilnius and Telšiai counties). 57 % (LTL 2254.6 million) of the total FDI in Kaunas county was invested in Kaunas city, 37 % (LTL 1469.9 million) – in Kėdainiai district municipality.

The per capita FDI in the county, on average, made LTL 5826, or by 61 % more than as of 1 January 2007 (LTL 3626). According to this indicator, Kaunas county ranks fourth in the country; however, it lags behind the national average (LTL 10 547) 1.8 times.

The highest per capita FDI in Kaunas county was in Kėdainiai district municipality – LTL 23 331, i.e. 4 times higher than the county and 2 times higher than the national average. The lowest total and per capita FDI was in Birštonas (LTL 0.1 million and LTL 28), Prienai (LTL 3.3 million and LTL 97) and Kaišiadorys (LTL 11.2 million and LTL 312) district municipalities.

The bulk of investment in Kaunas county was made by the investors from Russia (LTL 1410.4 million, or 36 % of the total FDI), Finland (LTL 564.5 million, or 14 %), Denmark (LTL 204.2 million, or 5 %), Luxembourg (LTL 199.2 million, or 5 %) and the United States of America (LTL 196.4 million, or 5 %).

In Kaunas county, as of 1 January 2008, the bulk of investment was made in manufacturing (LTL 2506.3 million, or 64 % of the total FDI), wholesale and retail trade (LTL 726.1 million, or 18 %) and real estate, renting and other business activities (LTL 205.3 million, or 5 %).

In manufacturing, the bulk of the FDI was made in the manufacture of chemicals – LTL 1639.5 million (65 % of the total FDI in manufacturing, which in turn made up almost half of the total FDI in Kaunas county), food products and beverages – LTL 310.4 million, or 12 %, and textiles – LTL 206.0 million, or 8 %.

The number of operating enterprises in Kaunas county has been constantly increasing since 2005, and as of 31 December 2007 made 16 287 economic entities. By kind of economic activity,

the highest number of operating economic entities was in wholesale and retail trade, a lower number – in real estate, renting and other business activities, manufacturing, construction. Economic entities having up to 9 employees, against the total number of operating economic entities, made up 74.5 %, while those having 250 and more employees – just 0.7 %.

Entrepreneurship, industry, construction

By the level of entrepreneurship Kaunas county is outpaced only by Vilnius and Klaipėda counties and exceeds the national average. In 2007, the national average was 18.8, while in Kaunas county – 19.

In 2007, by the value of Kaunas county industrial production sold, 50 % fell within Kaunas city, 19 % – Jonava district, 17 % – Kėdainiai, 6 % – Kaunas district, 5 % – Kaišiadorys, 2 % – Raseiniai, 1 % – Prienai district, 0.2 % – Birštonas municipalities. In Jonava and Kėdainiai, the concentration of fertilisers and chemical products produced in and exported from Lithuania is the highest. In Kaunas, whose share in national industry makes up about 11 %, production is very different. Manufacturing of compound feedingstuff, beverages, textiles and plastic products, construction materials, bodywork, trailers, semi-trailers and parts thereof, electricity distribution and control apparatus, computers, furniture has been growing at the fastest pace.

Main products manufactured, 2001–2007

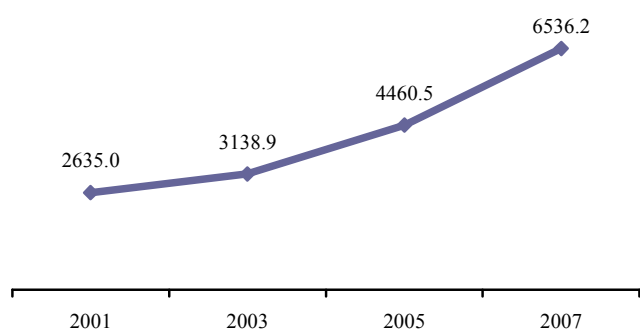
	2001	2003	2005	2007
Synthetic ammonia, thousand t N	449.0	462.0	432.0	936.0
Mineral fertilisers, per 100 % of nutrients, thousand t	551.4	623.7	822.8	929.5
Flour, thousand t	69.4	72.0	82.2	72.2
Compound feeding stuff, thousand t	71.7	99.8	129.0	173.9
Sparkling fermented beverages, thousand dal	433.2	527.0	572.7	487.9
Woollen fabrics, million m ²	12.4	10.7	11.4	10.1
Polyhedral insulation elements made of glass, thousand m ²	201.0	393.4	650.7	628.5
Prefabricated construction elements, thousand t	107.4	137.1	200.6	219.3
Phosphoric acid, thousand t (P ₂ O ₅)	159.3	374.2	409.4	430.3
Sulphuric acid monohydrate, thousand t (SO ₂)	303.8	655.0	713.2	747.5
Diammophos, thousand	312.7	726.4	720.9	821.6

The largest and better-known county's industrial enterprises – public company Achema (nitrogenous fertilisers, other chemicals), public company Lifosa (fertilisers) and Kemira Lifosa (fertilisers), public company Sanitas (medicines), public company Danisco Sugar Kėdainiai (sugar industry), public company Kraft foods Lietuva (manufacture and trade in food products), public company Stumbras (alcoholic beverages), public company Ragutis (beer and cider), agricultural cooperative company Krekenavos mėsa (meat industry), public company Kaišiadorių paukštynas (poultry industry), private company Samsonas and agricultural company Nematekas (meat and meat products), public company Audimas (clothing), private company Lietlinen (linen yarn), private company Betonika and private company Kauno gelžbetonis (concrete products), private company Mechel Nemunas (wire), private company Kitron (electronic equipment), private company Carlo Gavazzi industri Kaunas (electronic components), public company Freda, public company Kauno baldai and private company Theca furniture (furniture).

46.4 % of production manufactured in Kaunas county is sold on the domestic, 53.6 % – on the export market. Increasing production volumes in the county's enterprises determined a more rapid growth in exports. In total, goods manufactured in Kaunas county accounted for 22.2 % of exports of Lithuanian goods. The bulk of exported goods fell within fertilisers, furniture, direct-flow valves, cellulose acetate yarn.

Exports of goods manufactured, 2001–2007

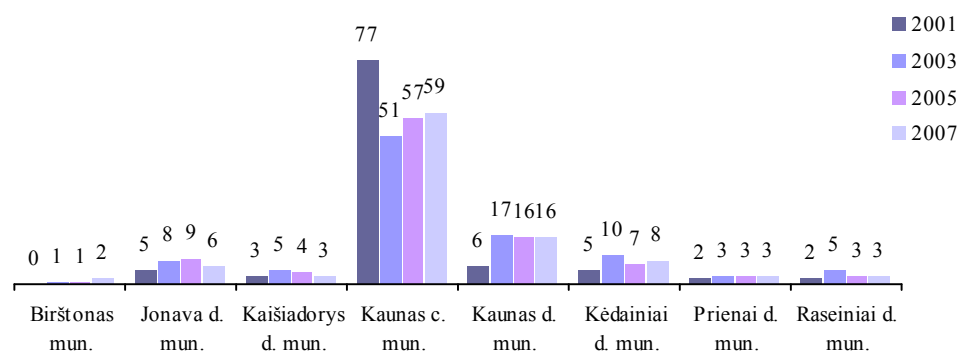
LTL million



Own-account construction work carried out in Kaunas county accounted for 17.6 % of total own-account construction work carried out within the country. In 2007, construction work carried out by construction enterprises in the county accounted for LTL 1892.6 million, i.e. 3.3 times more than in 2001. The increase in the volume of construction work was determined by the rapidity of new construction and reconstruction work.

Construction work carried out, 2001–2007

Total construction work carried out in Kaunas county – 100 per cent



In 2007, 701 residential buildings were completed in the county (10 blocks of flats and 691 1–2 dwelling buildings), with 1140 dwellings were equipped there, which made up 12 % of all new dwellings were equipped in Lithuania, and was 2 times more than in 2001. The average useful floor area per dwelling reached 126.8 m² (national average – 102.6 m²). Construction of 1–2 dwelling buildings has been prevalent in the county; in 2007, 691 1–2 dwelling buildings were built, with 713 dwellings equipped there; their useful floor area made 116.7 thousand m², i.e. 80 % of the floor area of all new dwellings equipped in Kaunas county. Only 1–2 dwelling buildings were built in Birštonas, Jonava, Kaišiadorys, Kėdainiai, Prienai and Raseiniai district municipalities. The largest houses in terms of the average floor area per dwelling were built in Kaunas district municipality (169.0 m²). The rest of 427 dwellings were equipped in blocks of flats; their useful floor area made 27.9 thousand m². The share of new dwellings equipped in Kaunas city municipality made up almost 57 % of all new flats refurbished in the county.

In 2007, 1953 building permits for the construction of residential buildings were issued in Kaunas county, with 3307 dwellings (i.e. by 1022 dwellings more than in 2006) planned to be equipped there.

Number of new dwellings equipped and their useful floor area, 2001–2007

	Number of dwellings				Useful floor area, thousand m ²			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	3785	4628	5933	9286	385.3	491.4	651.6	953.2
Kaunas county	532	543	1099	1140	66.9	84.6	149.6	144.6
Birštonas mun.	20	1	2	2	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.3
Jonava d. mun.	39	36	37	33	4.2	4.0	5.5	4.5
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	32	40	176	29	3.4	8.5	17.5	4.1
Kaunas c. mun.	240	192	546	649	31.8	35.8	80.9	66.6
Kaunas d. mun.	147	196	223	343	20.0	26.7	30.6	58.0
Kėdainiai d. mun.	8	19	48	22	1.0	2.1	6.7	3.3
Prienai d. mun.	20	29	45	37	2.6	3.5	5.1	4.8
Raseiniai d. mun.	26	30	22	25	3.0	3.9	3.1	3.0

In 2007, 1076 non-residential buildings were completed in the county, with the total area of 339.3 thousand m² (against 2006, the area built up with non-residential buildings in the county increased by 151.6 thousand m²). The bulk of new non-residential construction in Kaunas city municipality in terms of the total area fell within industrial buildings and warehouses, trade, hotels and public catering enterprises; in Kaunas and Kėdainiai district municipalities – industrial buildings and warehouses; in other municipalities of Kaunas county – agricultural buildings.

Number and total floor area of non-residential buildings completed, 2001–2007

	Number of buildings				Total floor area, thousand m ²			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	940	1348	5623	5620	672.5	773.7	1300.2	1607.3
Kaunas county	197	411	894	1076	187.5	182.3	260.1	339.3
Birštonas mun.	1	1	15	29	0.1	0.3	0.9	17.2
Jonava d. mun.	17	21	141	101	8.1	6.1	51.4	13.8
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	53	53	116	93	27.8	15.2	22.3	12.0
Kaunas c. mun.	58	89	60	75	125.4	111.7	127.9	121.7
Kaunas d. mun.	19	188	316	443	5.3	26.5	33.1	116.4
Kėdainiai d. mun.	9	20	136	102	10.6	8.9	8.2	22.7
Prienai d. mun.	10	14	82	124	1.9	4.9	8.6	14.3
Raseiniai d. mun.	30	25	28	109	8.3	8.7	7.7	21.2

In 2007, 297 building permits for the construction of 301 non-residential buildings with the total floor area of 263.0 thousand m² (i.e. by 33.2 thousand m² more than in 2006) were issued in Kaunas county.

Services

In 2007, against 2005, passenger transport by bus in Kaunas county increased by 6.8 %; passengers were serviced by 124 passenger transport enterprises, of which 7 belonged to bus companies. The largest share of carriers was individual enterprises. In 2007, the turnover of passenger transport by buses made 715.1 million passenger kilometres; against 2005, it increased by 1.7 %, while the average distance of passenger transportation remained almost unchanged and made 10.9 km.

Bus trips per capita, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	69.1	81.6	89.6	94.2
Kaunas county	84.1	93.0	90.3	97.5
Birštonas mun.	-	-	-	-
Jonava d. mun.	36.9	43.4	49.6	41.0
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	48.0	40.5	43.5	36.8
Kaunas c. mun.	124.9	134.7	125.0	147.4
Kaunas d. mun.	30.6	57.6	73.4	44.9
Kėdainiai d. mun.	59.1	62.6	61.0	60.9
Prienai d. mun.	20.7	24.1	27.9	25.0
Raseiniai d. mun.	17.1	19.9	21.7	26.9

There is an international airport in Kaunas county, Karmėlava. In 2007, 389.2 thousand passengers arrived at and departed from the airport, which made up 22.7 % of the total number of passengers serviced in Lithuanian airports. In 2007, against 2006, the number of passengers increased by 60.5 %. In 2007, 6.8 tonnes of freight were loaded and unloaded in Kaunas airport, or 50 % of the total amount of freight loaded and unloaded in Lithuania.

Over 2007, national transport by road in Kaunas county made 11 717.8 thousand tonnes, or 23.7 % of goods loaded in the country. The average distance of transportation of a tonne of goods in the county reached 52.8 km, and was similar to the national average (54.8 km).

National freight transport by road, 2004–2007

Thousand tonnes

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Goods loaded in Kaunas county, total	11025.1	7820.5	8364.3	11717.8
of which unloaded in:				
Alytus county	117.4	124.8	216.0	234.8
Kaunas county	8632.0	5640.2	5676.0	8724.7
Klaipėda county	486.1	305	339.9	329.5
Marijampolė county	214.9	303.2	390.9	373.3
Panevėžys county	205.8	254.3	267.1	273.9
Šiauliai county	124.2	235.5	435.1	268.6
Tauragė county	271.1	51.4	73.6	88.0
Telšiai county	46.6	86.8	80.0	56.4
Utena county	161.1	53.3	79.4	113.9
Vilnius county	766.0	765.9	806.3	1254.6

At the end of 2007, the number of motor vehicles in Kaunas county reached 354.5 thousand, of which 90 % were cars. The most popular marques were Volkswagen (61.2 thousand, or 19.2 % of cars in the county) and Audi (44.9 thousand, or 14.1 %). In 2007, against 2005, the number of cars increased by 8.1 %.

Number of passenger cars, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007 (newly registered)
Kaunas county	228656	258867	294961	318899	41399
Birštonas mun.	2289	1803	2174	2412	332

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007 (newly registered)
Jonava d. mun.	12975	16296	19423	22025	2945
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	9645	11949	13972	15978	2017
Kaunas c. mun.	129984	147409	164538	174049	22559
Kaunas d. mun.	29074	32529	38946	43926	5926
Kėdainiai d. mun.	19794	22770	25699	27420	3357
Prienai d. mun.	12723	12929	14462	15502	1922
Raseiniai d. mun.	12172	13182	15747	17587	2341

The turnover of retail trade enterprises in the county in 2007 made LTL 3445.6 million, or 18 % of the national total. The highest turnover in the county was recorded in Kaunas city (75.6 %), the lowest – in Birštonas municipality. In 2007, retail sales per capita in the county, on average, made LTL 5101, and this indicator, although constantly increasing, was by 10 % lower than the national average. The highest sales per capita were recorded in Kaunas city (LTL 7296), while the lowest – Kaunas district (LTL 1330) municipality.

Turnover of retail trade enterprises (VAT excluded), 2003–2007

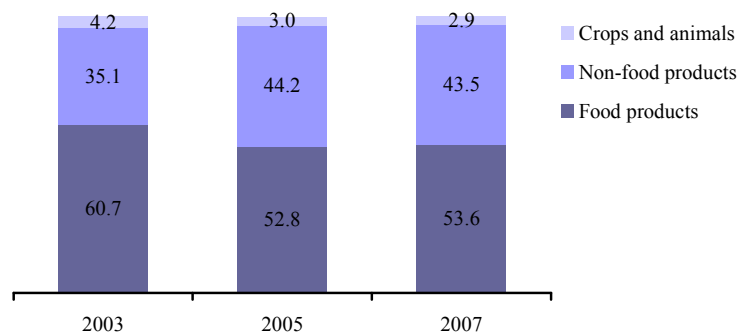
LTL million

	2003	2005	2007
Kaunas county	2087.6	2653.4	3445.6
Birštonas mun.	9.9	10.0	12.9
Jonava d. mun.	98.5	115.5	168.9
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	75.9	87.1	117.9
Kaunas c. mun.	1542.3	2005.7	2603.6
Kaunas d. mun.	91.8	100.4	114.7
Kėdainiai d. mun.	123.6	159.8	197.7
Prienai d. mun.	53.2	65.8	82.3
Raseiniai d. mun.	92.4	109.1	147.6

Residents of Kaunas county purchase quite a considerable amount of food products, clothing, footwear and other goods at markets. In 2007, at Kaunas county markets, sales made LTL 154.5 million, which made up 4.5 % compared to the turnover of retail trade enterprises. The markets of Kaunas county are smaller than those of Vilnius county, with food products prevailing there.

Structure of turnover of goods at markets, 2003–2007

Turnover of goods at Kaunas county markets – 100 per cent



The turnover of restaurants, bars and other catering enterprises has been constantly increasing. In 2007, the turnover of restaurants, bars and other catering enterprises in the county made LTL

185.0 million, or 20.9 % of the turnover of all analogous enterprises in the country. According to this indicator, Kaunas county is outpaced only by Vilnius county, where the turnover of such enterprises is more than twice as high. The highest concentration of catering enterprises has been observed in Kaunas city (84.5 % of turnover of county's restaurants, bars and other catering enterprises). The per capita turnover of catering enterprises in the county, on average, made LTL 274, which is by 4.6 % more than the national average (LTL 262). The highest per capita turnover of catering enterprises was recorded in Kaunas city (LTL 438), the lowest – in Kaunas district (LTL 49).

Turnover of restaurants, bars and other catering enterprises (VAT excluded), 2003–2007

LTL million

	2003	2005	2007
Kaunas county	110.6	161.4	185.0
Birštonas mun.	0.8	1.0	2.0
Jonava d. mun.	3.1	4.1	5.5
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	5.0	5.5	6.1
Kaunas c. mun.	89.9	137.7	156.3
Kaunas d. mun.	3.3	3.7	4.2
Kėdainiai d. mun.	5.2	5.5	6.1
Prienai d. mun.	1.0	1.3	1.7
Raseiniai d. mun.	2.3	2.6	3.1

Geographical location of Kaunas county is particularly favourable for developing tourism business. The region is crossed by the key road transport arteries (Via Baltika, motorway Vilnius–Klaipėda), railway; there is also an international airport in Karmėlava. By the number of guests who had stayed in the county's accommodation establishments and the number of their overnight stays, Kaunas county ranks fourth in Lithuania (being outpaced by Alytus, Vilnius and Klaipėda counties). The share of guests who stayed in Lithuanian accommodation establishments falling within Kaunas county and their overnight stays made up 10 %. In 2001–2007, the number of guests who had stayed in the county's accommodation establishments grew 2.5 times (i.e. as the national average).

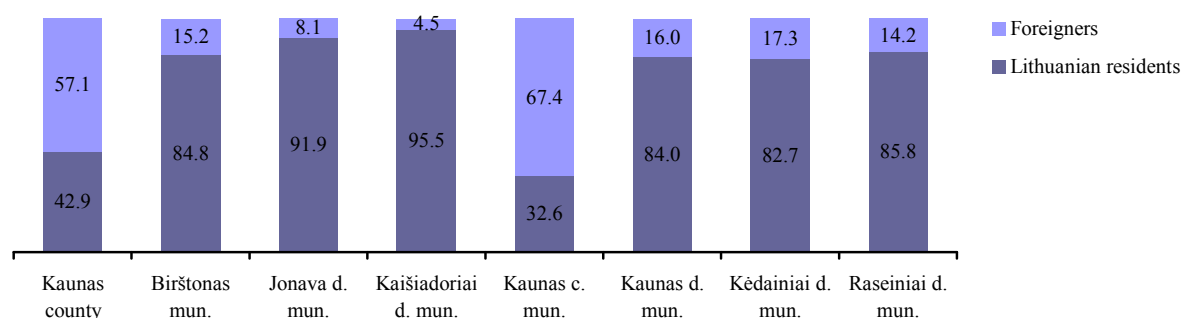
Indicators of accommodation establishments, 2001 and 2007

Thousand

	Number of places		Accommodated guests		Overnight stays	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
Kaunas county	3.6	4.9	69.8	172.5	292.9	521.7
Birštonas mun.	1.0	0.8	5.4	15.3	89.2	130.2
Jonava d. mun.	0.1	0.1	2.6	1.7	25.6	20.3
Kaišiadorys mun.	0.2	0.1	2.5	1.0	4.3	3.0
Kaunas c. mun.	1.2	2.1	52.7	138.8	122.1	288.6
Kaunas d. mun.	1.0	1.5	3.7	7.0	44.4	63.3
Kėdainiai d. mun.	0.1	0.2	2.1	6.2	4.8	11.9
Prienai d. mun.	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-
Raseiniai d. mun.	0.1	0.1	0.8	2.5	2.3	4.3

Structure of guests who stayed in accommodation establishments, 2007

Per cent



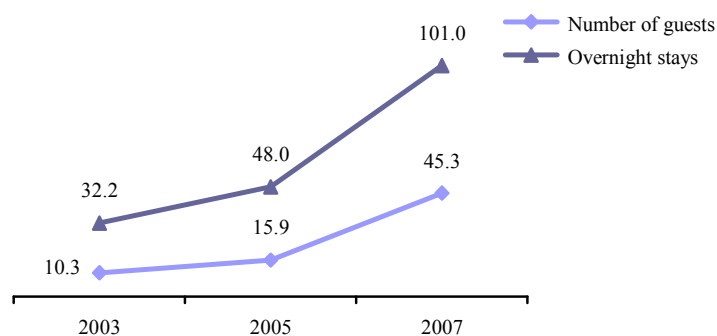
More than half of Kaunas county hotels are situated in Kaunas city; in 2007, they accept 89 % of all guests staying in the county's hotels. Over 2001–2007, the number of guests in Kaunas hotels grew 2 times. Foreigners make up about 80 % of all guests staying in the county's hotels, most of them being from Germany, Belarus, Russia, Poland and Latvia.

Birštonas resort is famous for its unique landscape and health centre services. In 2007, sanatoriums of Birštonas accepted 10.6 thousand guests (in 2001 – 5 thousand). Health centre services were usually used by Lithuanians, who made up about 85 % of sanatorium guests.

Rural tourism is also popular in the county. The number of rural tourism farmsteads in the region over 2003–2007 grew from 30 to 56, the number of guests – 4 times. Rural tourism farmsteads in Kaunas county received 15 % of guests of all Lithuanian rural tourism farmsteads.

Guests accommodated in rural tourism farmsteads and their overnight stays, 2003–2007

Thousand



Agriculture

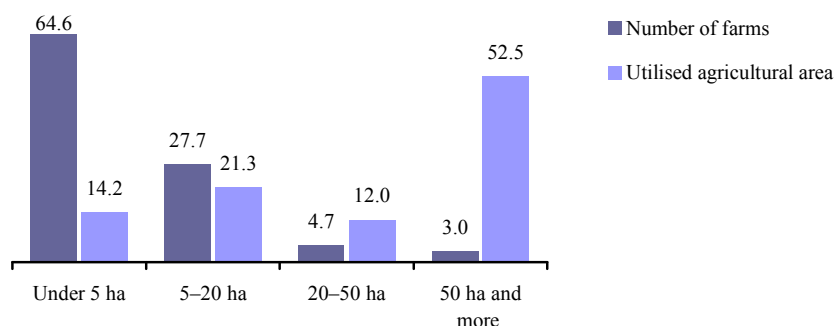
The area of agricultural land of Kaunas county farms producing agricultural products is one of the highest in Lithuania and makes up 14 % of the total area of agricultural land of Lithuanian farms producing agricultural products. The largest share of agricultural land is made up of arable land (as much as 71 %), meadows and pastures (28 %); just 1 % of agricultural land is under perennial crops.

In 2007, there were 32.3 thousand farms producing agricultural products and having more than 1 ha of agricultural land in Kaunas county. Out of this number, 111 were agricultural companies and enterprises. The average size of a farm was 11.9 ha (national average – 11.6 ha). Small farms prevailed; however, the number of farms having 50 ha and more of agricultural land has been increasing. Such farms, making up 3 % of all county's farms producing agricultural products, own

more than half of agricultural land in the county. The largest farms were in Kėdainiai and Raseiniai district municipalities (the average size of a farm – 16.3 and 14.8 ha respectively).

Number of farms and utilised agricultural area by farm size, 2007

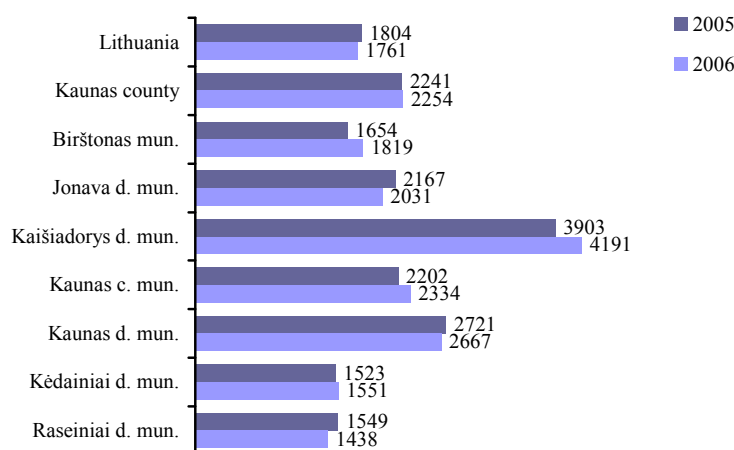
Per cent



In 2006, the largest share (18.9 %) of the country's agricultural production was grown in Kaunas county. 30.1 % of this amount was grown in Kėdainiai, 19 % – Kaišiadorys, 17.1 % – Kaunas district municipalities. The shares of crop and animal production in gross agricultural production were similar. However, at the municipal level, the situation was different. Animal production made up a larger share in Kaišiadorys (80.6 %), Jonava (55.6 %), Prienai (52.9 %) district municipalities, while crop production – in Kėdainiai (65 %), Kaunas (63.2 %) districts, Birštonas (51.7 %), Raseiniai (51.2 %) district municipalities.

Gross agricultural production per 1 ha of agricultural land, 2005 and 2006

LTL



Kaunas county ranks third by the crop area. In all municipalities, the major share in the crop structure is made up of grain crops. They are mostly grown in Kėdainiai (in 2007 – 31.3 % of the total county's land under grain crops) and Raseiniai (in 2007 – 23.5 %) district municipalities. The most popular is spring cereals. In 2007, the productivity of grain crops in the county reached 3.14 t/ha and was higher than the national average (in 2007 – 2.94 t/ha), as well as one of the highest as compared with the indicators of other counties.

The amount of rapeseed grown has been increasing. In 2007, in the county's crop structure, rapeseed made up 12.2 %, while in 2001 – just 3.4 %. Over 2001–2007, the area of agricultural land under rapeseed in the county increased 4.3 times. Rapeseed is mostly grown in Kėdainiai district (in 2007 –

39.8 % of the total county's land under rapeseed). The productivity of these crops in the county (in 2007 – 1.76 t/ha) is lower than the national average (in 2007 – 1.79 t/ha); however, in Birštonas, as well as Prienai and Kėdainiai district municipalities, it exceeds the county and national averages.

Although in the county's crop structure the share of potatoes and field vegetables is inconsiderable (in 2007 – 3.8 %), the area of land under such crops and their productivity are one of the highest as compared with other counties.

Kaunas county ranks second by the number of livestock, pigs and poultry kept. At the beginning of 2008, 13.2 % of livestock, 16.4 % of pigs, 26.6 % of poultry kept in the country were kept in the county. The highest number of livestock was kept in Raseiniai (at the beginning of 2008 – 24.3 % of livestock kept in the county) and Kėdainiai (23.7 %) district municipalities. The highest number of pigs was kept in Jonava (at the beginning of 2008 – 31 % of pigs kept in the county) and Kėdainiai (26.1 %) district municipalities. As much as 90.6 % of poultry kept in the county are bred in Kaišiadorys district, which makes up one-fourth of poultry kept in Lithuania.

Organic farming is popular in the county. Based on the data of the public undertaking Ekoagros, 364 farms were certified in Kaunas county in 2007 (12.8 % of all farms certified in Lithuania). The certified area made 16.4 thousand ha, or 13.6 % of the total area certified in the country. Rules of organic agriculture on their farms have been applied by 140 farmers of Raseiniai, 51 – of Kaišiadorys, 49 – of Kėdainiai district, 49 – of Prienai district and Birštonas, 38 – of Jonava and 37 – of Kaunas district municipalities.

The county's contribution to Lithuanian agriculture is substantial. The county is characterised by rich soil and therefore provides favourable conditions for the development of crop and animal production.

Kaunas county is one of the most important regions of Lithuania. However, further acceleration of economic growth in the entire region, making use of its industrial and infrastructural potential, is vital. It is necessary to develop and modernise the region's road infrastructure through integrating it into the common national and EU system, as well as to enhance industrial and business competitiveness by introducing high value added production and information technologies.