

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF KAUNAS COUNTY

Population

Kaunas county ranks second in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, it was inhabited by 673.7 thousand persons, or 20 % of the country's population.

Population at the beginning of the year, 2001–2008

	Population, thousand							Females per 1000 males
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2008			2008
					Total	Males	Females	
Lithuania	3487.0	3462.6	3425.3	3384.9	3366.4	1567.0	1799.4	1148
Kaunas county	702.1	696.2	685.7	677.3	673.7	309.8	363.9	1174
Birštonas mun.	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.3	2.4	2.9	1195
Jonava d. mun.	52.2	52.2	52.4	51.9	51.7	24.3	27.4	1127
Kaišiadorys d.	37.6	37.5	36.9	36.3	35.9	17.6	18.3	1042
Kaunas c. mun.	379.7	373.7	364.0	358.1	355.6	159.3	196.3	1232
Kaunas d. mun.	81.4	82.7	84.6	85.7	86.7	41.2	45.5	1103
Kėdainiai d. mun.	65.7	65.5	64.6	63.6	63.0	29.4	33.6	1142
Prienai d. mun.	35.8	35.4	34.8	34.0	33.6	15.9	17.7	1108
Raseiniai d. mun.	44.2	43.8	43.1	42.4	41.9	19.7	22.2	1128

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 28.4 thousand (4 %). Over the said period, the population was growing only in Kaunas district municipality (by 6.5 %), while in other county's municipalities it was decreasing: the most – in Prienai district and Kaunas city municipalities (by 6 % in each), the least – in Jonava district municipality (by 1 %).

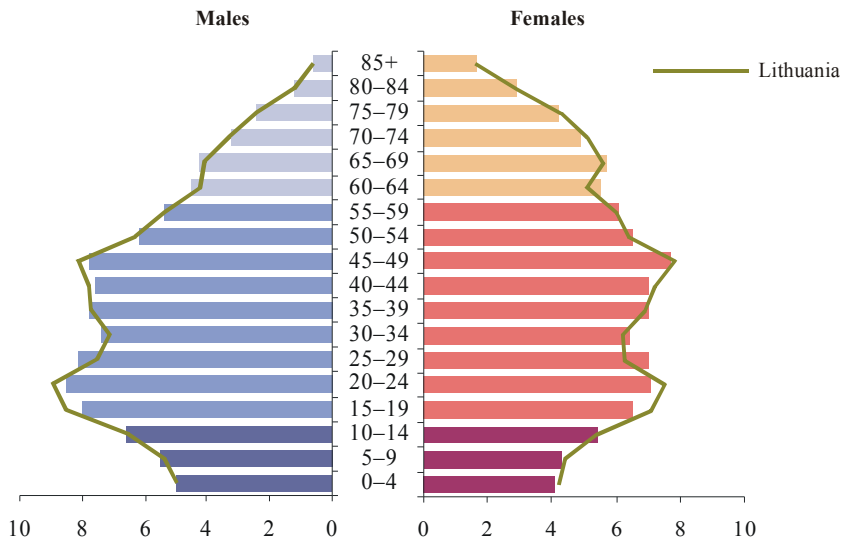
At the beginning of 2008, Kaunas county was inhabited by 46 % of men and 54 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1174 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Kaunas city municipality is the highest in the country.

In 2001–2007, due to the natural decrease, the population in Kaunas county declined by 14.8 thousand (52.1 %), while due to negative net migration – by 13.6 thousand (47.9 %).

Changes in the structure of the Kaunas county population by sex and age are demonstrated in the pyramid diagram below.

Population by sex and age in Kaunas county, beginning of 2008

Per cent

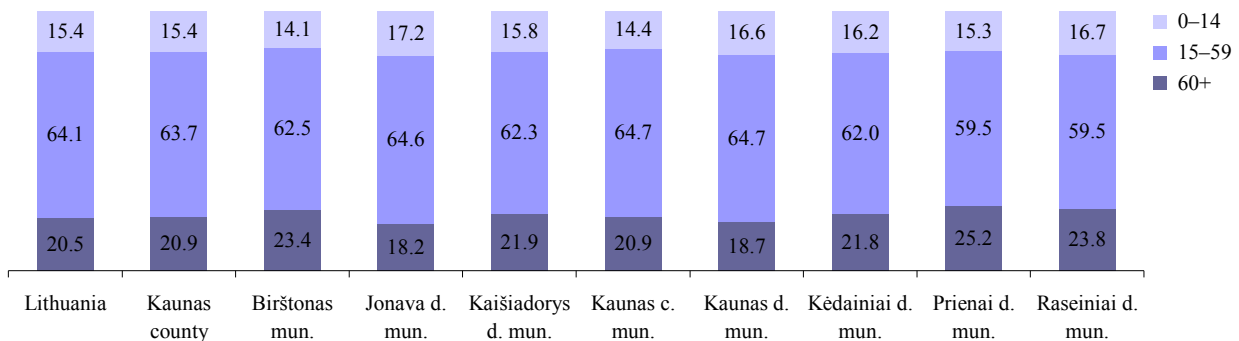


In Kaunas county elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 20.9 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each sixth man and each fourth woman in Kaunas county, as well as countrywide, are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 26.7 % (national average – 25.2 %) lower than that of elderly people. In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 22.4 % (national average – 24.7 %).

Population structure by main age groups, beginning of 2008

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Prienai, Raseiniai districts and Birštonas, where elderly people make up 25–23 % of the population. Better age structure is in Jonava district municipality, where elderly people make up 18.2 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 24 children and 33 elderly persons per 100 Kaunas county population aged 15–59 (national average – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 30 and 31 respectively. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Raseiniai, Prienai and Kėdainiai districts municipalities, where there were 68–61 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

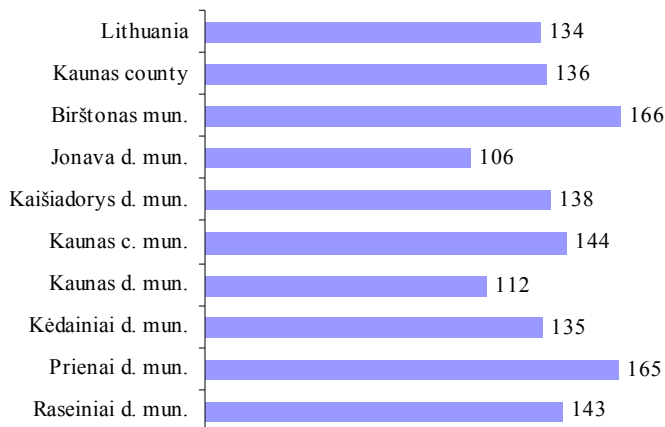
Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	Persons of certain age per 100 population aged 15–59					
	0–14		60+		0–14 and 60+	
	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008
Lithuania	32	24	32	32	64	56
Kaunas county	30	24	31	33	61	57
Birštonas mun.	34	23	41	37	75	60
Jonava d. mun.	35	27	26	28	61	55
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	33	25	37	35	70	60
Kaunas c. mun.	27	22	28	32	55	54
Kaunas d. mun.	34	25	29	29	63	54
Kėdainiai d. mun.	35	26	34	35	69	61
Prienai d. mun.	37	26	46	42	83	68
Raseiniai d. mun.	37	28	41	40	78	68

At the beginning of 2008, there were 136 elderly persons per 100 children in Kaunas county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 the share of children and that of elderly people were similar. The highest number of elderly persons per 100 children was in Birštonas (166) and Prienai district (165) municipalities, while the lowest – in Jonava district municipality (106).

Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

Number of persons aged 60 and older per 100 children aged 0–14



The mean age of the Kaunas county population exceeds the national average. At the beginning of 2008, this indicator in the county was 39.2 years (national average – 39 years), while at the beginning of 2001 – 37 years.

Migration

In 2001–2007, based on the data of the declaration of the place of residence, more than 11 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Kaunas county to take up the usual residence for a period longer than 6 months, while more than 13 thousand persons would leave it. There were, on average, 16.3 persons who arrived in the county and 19.1 who left it per 1000 county population. In 2007, to Birštonas and Kaunas district municipalities more residents arrived than left.

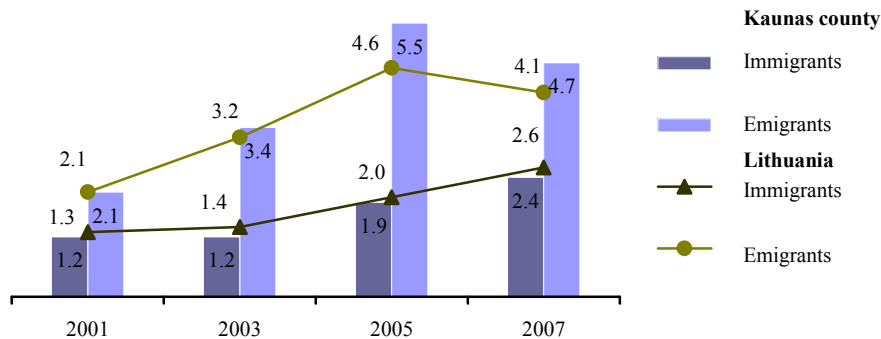
Internal and international migration, 2001–2007¹

	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	42166	62124	59522	65044	44725	68428	68304	70288	-2559	-6304	-4857	-5244
Kaunas county	8583	11980	11901	13105	9695	14771	14377	14334	-1112	-2791	-2476	-1229
Birštonas mun.	72	194	139	211	75	178	138	144	-3	16	1	67
Jonava d. mun.	1170	1526	1451	1523	1056	1358	1493	1541	114	168	-42	-18
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	359	717	719	652	323	797	821	772	36	-80	-102	-120
Kaunas c. mun.	2805	3848	4542	5140	5072	7794	7168	6935	-2267	-3946	-2626	-1795
Kaunas d. mun.	1893	3115	2491	2913	1219	1758	1807	1832	674	1357	684	1081
Kėdainiai d. mun.	1207	1148	1119	1194	1022	1346	1398	1412	185	-198	-279	-218
Prienai d. mun.	498	629	670	674	402	707	672	734	96	-78	-2	-60
Raseiniai d. mun.	579	803	770	798	526	833	880	964	53	-30	-110	-166

In 2001–2007, on average, 10.3 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Kaunas county from abroad, while 21 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Kaunas county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (81.3 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at just 13 %.

International migration, 2001–2007²

Per 1000 population



Fertility

The crude birth rate in Kaunas county has been increasing. In 2001, there were 9 live births per 1000 county population, while in 2007 – 9.6.

Number of live births and the crude birth rate, 2001–2007

	Live births				Live births per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	31546	30598	30541	32346	9.1	8.9	8.9	9.6
Kaunas county	6297	6091	6161	6482	9.0	8.8	9.0	9.6
Birštonas mun.	36	45	37	37	6.6	8.4	7.0	7.0
Jonava d. mun.	592	525	553	541	11.3	10.0	10.6	10.4

¹ By data of the declaration of the place of residence.

² By data of the declaration of the place of residence.

	Live births				Live births per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	351	329	339	344	9.3	8.8	9.2	9.5
Kaunas c. mun.	3082	3040	3197	3464	8.1	8.2	8.8	9.7
Kaunas d. mun.	778	812	784	872	9.5	9.7	9.2	10.1
Kėdainiai d. mun.	667	619	597	581	10.2	9.5	9.3	9.2
Prienai d. mun.	324	292	265	256	9.1	8.3	7.7	7.6
Raseiniai d. mun.	467	429	389	387	10.6	9.8	9.1	9.2

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Kaunas county was 1.30 (national average – 1.35). The total fertility rate was the highest (1.63) in Kaišiadorys district, the lowest (1.21) – in Kaunas city municipalities.

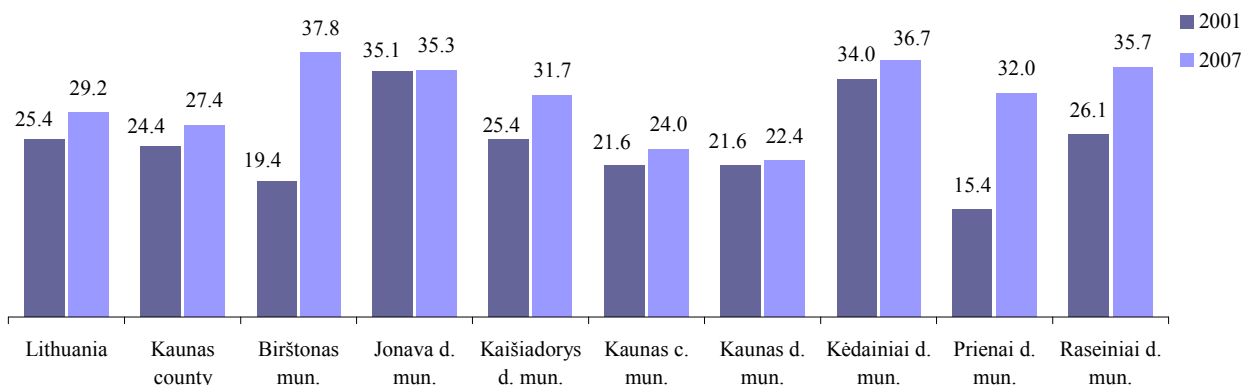
The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Kaunas county was 28.1 years (national average – 28 years), while in 2001 – 27.2 years (national average – 26.9 years).

Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 17.5 % in 2001 to 13.9 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate live births in Kaunas county was 1773, while in 2001 – 1536, which made up, respectively, 27.4 and 24.4 % (national average – 29.2 and 25.4 %), as compared to the total number of live births. In 2007, the highest number of illegitimate live births (37.8 %) was in Birštonas, while the lowest (22.4 %) – in Kaunas district municipalities.

Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

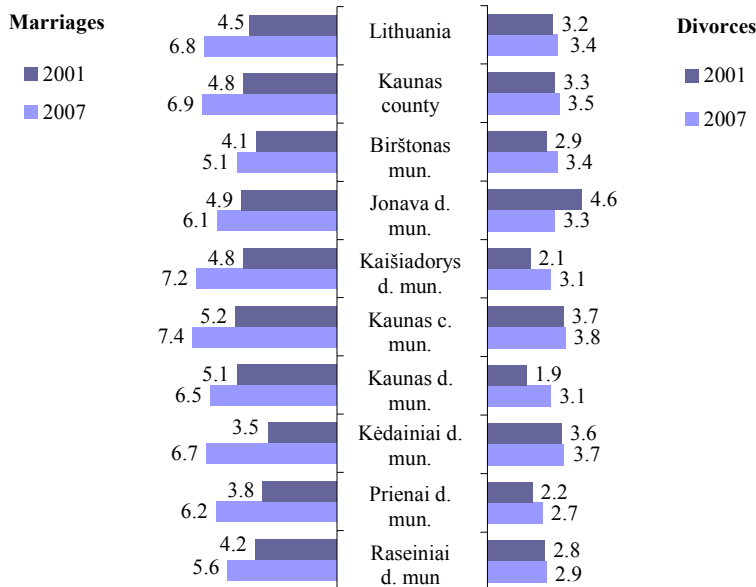
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Kaunas county was increasing. In 2007, 4665 marriages were registered; there were 6.9 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 3379 and 4.8. In 2001–2007, the crude marriage rate in Kaunas county was slightly higher than the national average.

Number of marriages and divorces per 1000 population, 2001 and 2007



In 2007, the mean age at first marriage of men in Kaunas county was 27.8, that of women – 25.5 years (national averages – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2001–2007, the number of divorces in Kaunas county was changing insignificantly. In 2007, 2369 divorces were registered; there were 3.5 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 2341 and 3.3 respectively. The crude divorce rate in Kaunas county in 2001–2007 was slightly higher than the national average. In Kaunas city municipality, as compared with other county's municipalities, the crude of divorce rate is the highest: in 2007, there were 3.8 divorces per 1000 population.

Mortality

In 2007, 8831 deaths were registered in Kaunas county, which made up 19.4 % of all deaths in the country. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 11 %. In 2007, there were 13.1 deaths per 1000 Kaunas county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 11.4.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Kaunas county municipalities. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Prienai district and Birštonas municipalities (19.0 and 18.8 % respectively).

In 2007, there were 5.6 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) per 1000 live births in Kaunas county (national average – 5.9).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men in Kaunas county was 65.7 years, that for women – 77.8 years. Compared to the national average, both the LE for men and for women were higher (by 0.8 and 0.6 year respectively). In 2001–2007, the LE for men in the county decreased by 1.1 years, while that for women remained almost unchanged. Over the period in question, the difference between the LE for men and that for women remained considerable: in 2007, the LE for men was by 12.2 years shorter than that for women (in 2001 – by 11.1 years).

The structure of causes of death in Kaunas county is similar to that across the country. In 2007, the three main causes of death were as follows: diseases of the circulatory system, malignant neoplasms, and external causes of death, which caused 83.2 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 85.7 % (national average – 87 %).

Mortality by main cause of death, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population

	2001				2007			
	Malignant neoplasms	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	External causes of death	Malignant neoplasms	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	External causes of death
Lithuania	223.9	628.2	42.3	157.9	245.3	720.1	57.9	155.4
Kaunas county	229.3	586.6	39.4	157.8	243.8	691.3	48.4	152.3
Birštonas mun.	257.4	625.2	55.2	202.3	304.3	1141.0	152.1	133.1
Jonava d. mun.	181.6	556.2	30.6	183.5	233.4	632.7	46.3	223.8
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	218.2	761.1	69.2	183.6	274.3	955.7	55.4	210.5
Kaunas c. mun.	237.7	513.3	25.1	142.0	244.6	606.1	37.3	115.7
Kaunas d. mun.	184.8	517.8	49.0	155.5	212.3	615.9	33.6	134.6
Kėdainiai d. mun.	228.2	695.4	56.3	184.1	244.9	758.3	66.4	188.0
Prienai d. mun.	330.6	910.7	64.4	204.6	292.9	1062.1	103.5	275.1
Raseiniai d. mun.	222.1	800.0	81.6	163.2	239.7	958.8	85.4	211.2

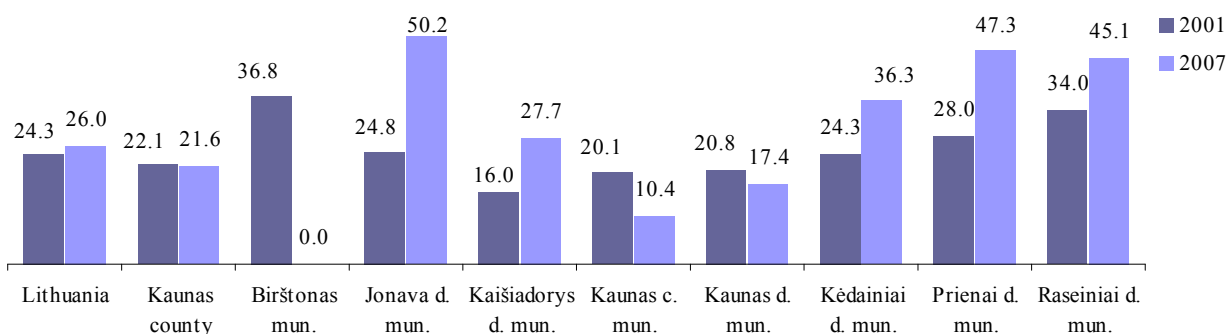
In 2007, more than half (53 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system (in 2001 – 51.6 %). In Birštonas municipality, mortality due to these diseases for women was 2 times higher than the national average.

In 2007, there were 1647 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (almost one-fifth of all deaths in Kaunas county). Compared to other county's municipalities, the highest death rate due to malignant neoplasms for men was in Birštonas and Prienai district, while that for women – in Kaišiadorys district municipalities.

In 2007, there were 1029 deaths due to external causes of death (almost 12 % of all deaths in the county). In Prienai district municipality, the death rate due to the said cause for women was 2 times, that for men – 1.7 times higher than the county average. In 2007, mortality due to suicides in Kaunas county was close to the national average, while mortality due to transport accidents – one the lowest in the country.

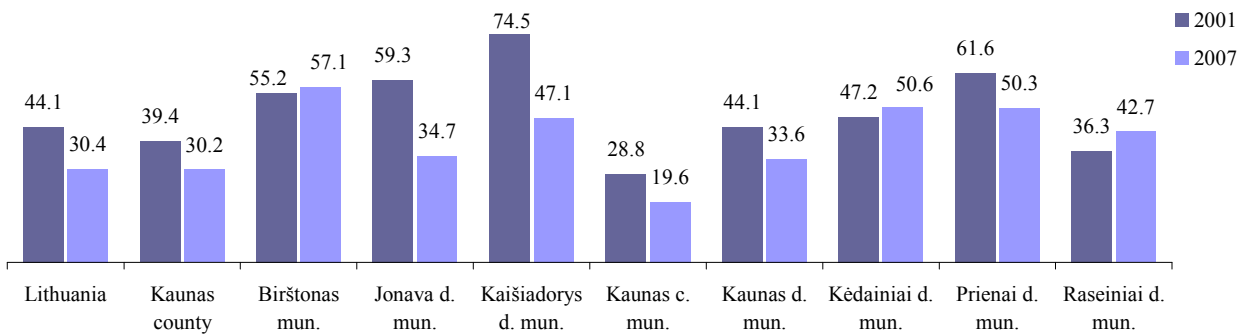
Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Health

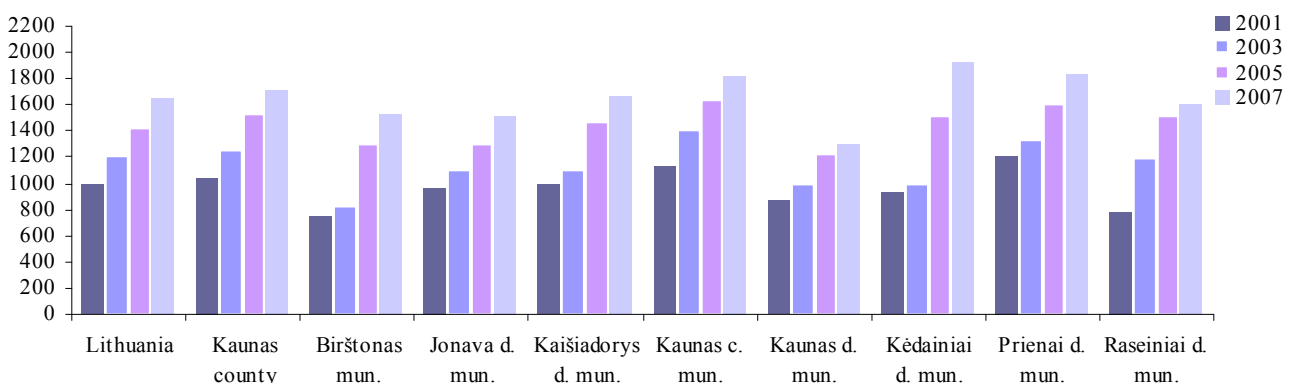
Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre³, in 2007, 157.6 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Kaunas county, were treated in hospital. Against other county's municipalities, residents of Kaišiadorys district municipality more often (each third) stayed in hospital and used primary health care services (5.4 visits per capita; national average – 4.6 visits). Residents of Birštonas used health care services (both inpatient and primary outpatient) the least: each sixth resident was treated in hospital, while the per capita use of outpatient primary health care services made, on average, 3.3 times.

The prevalence of malignant neoplasms among the residents of Kaunas county in 2007 was somewhat higher (1712 cases per 100 000 population) than the national average (1650); however, in Kaunas, Jonava district and Birštonas municipalities, this indicator was lower (1292, 1510 and 1521 cases per 100 000 population respectively).

In 2007, the prevalence of malignant neoplasms was the highest among the population of Kėdainiai district municipality (1926 cases per 100 000 population).

Changes in prevalence of malignant neoplasms, 2001–2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



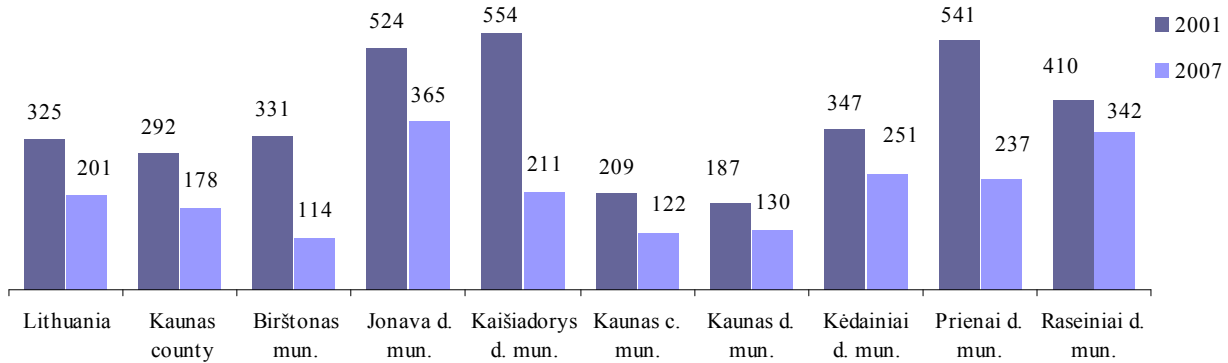
Over 2001–2007, the prevalence of tuberculosis among the Kaunas county population remained lower than the national average; however, the prevalence of this so-called social disease among the county's municipalities remained uneven. In 2007, the prevalence of tuberculosis was the highest in Jonava and Raseiniai district municipalities (365 and 342 cases per 100 000 population,

³ Indicators of inpatient services and prevalence of diseases calculated based on the data of the information system of the State Patient Fund SVEIDRA.

i.e. almost twice as high as the national and county averages), while in Birštonas municipality it was the lowest in the county (114 cases per 100 000 population).

Prevalence of tuberculosis, 2001 and 2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



In 2007, against other country's regions, the prevalence of ischemic heart disease among the Kaunas county population was the highest (6192 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 4328), while in Jonava and Kaišiadorys districts the prevalence of this disease was the highest among all country's municipalities (8829 and 8724 cases per 100 000 population respectively). In Kaunas county, common were spinal pathologies and diabetes (4194 and 2124 cases per 100 000 population; national averages – 3348 and 1832 respectively); in 2007, against other counties, the registered number of persons having influenza here was the highest (2268 cases per 100 000 population, national average – 1791).

Social protection

In 2007, 119.3 thousand (or each sixth resident of the county, i.e. as the national average) residents of Kaunas county were state social insurance old age pensioners; 50.3 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 280 old age and 118 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county. The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Prienai district and Birštonas municipality⁴.

In 2007, almost 66 thousand residents of Kaunas county received child benefits; 44 % thereof were residents of Kaunas city municipality. 2656 persons received guardianship (curatorship) benefits, almost 500 persons – support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 1040 women, birth grants – 5.7 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Kaunas county were paid LTL 77 123.5 thousand of benefits.

The number of residents of the county receiving social services at home has been constantly changing. In 2007, 1125 residents of the county were nursed or attended at home, more than one-fourth thereof – in Kaunas city municipality.

At the end of 2007, there were 930 persons living in eighteen care institutions for the elderly, and almost 400 persons – in two care institutions for disabled adults. There were also 17 child care institutions functioning in the county, where 946 children were taken care of; 85 children were fostered in families. In 2007, 611 persons stayed in seven temporary residence institutions (shelters and crisis centres) of Kaunas county.

Based on the data of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, there were about 2.6 thousand families at social risk living in Kaunas county in 2007, with more than 5 thousand children brought up in them.

⁴ Data are submitted by regional divisions of the State Social Insurance Fund Board.

Families at social risk and children in them, 2005–2007

	Number of families at social risk			Number of children in them		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Kaunas county	3700	2765	2572	7347	6097	5374
Birštonas mun.	32	29	33	82	77	81
Jonava d. mun.	366	271	231	894	697	624
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	229	213	255	533	492	508
Kaunas c. mun.	1358	851	665	2303	1449	1020
Kaunas d. mun.	721	613	514	1603	1415	1028
Kėdainiai d. mun.	511	360	462	859	872	1024
Prienai d. mun.	226	212	207	431	525	571
Raseiniai d. mun.	257	216	205	642	570	518

Education

At the end of 2007, there were 139 preschool education institutions in the county, where 19.1 thousand children were enrolled. The number of children enrolled in preschool education institutions, which up to 2003 had been decreasing, started growing in 2004, and in 2007 almost reached the level of the year 2001. In 2001–2007, the number of children enrolled in preschool education institutions in different municipalities was changing differently: in Kėdainiai district – decreased by 15 %, while in Kaunas district – grew by 30 %.

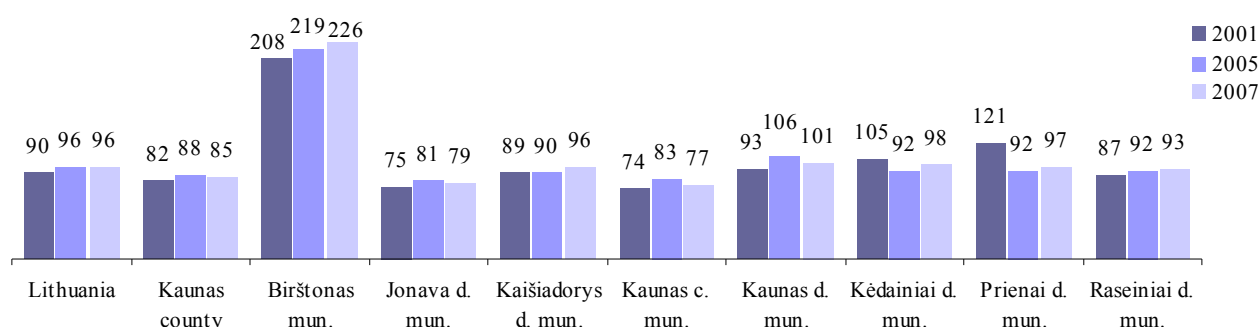
Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Lithuania	89841	89469	90021	93044	3.6
Kaunas county	19244	17990	18213	19146	-0.5
Birštonas mun.	134	129	128	124	-7.5
Jonava d. mun.	1698	1545	1698	1727	1.7
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	664	710	676	702	5.7
Kaunas c. mun.	11901	11183	11108	11628	-2.3
Kaunas d. mun.	1540	1622	1794	1995	29.5
Kėdainiai d. mun.	1980	1602	1574	1679	-15.2
Prienai d. mun.	543	503	534	565	4.1
Raseiniai d. mun.	784	696	701	726	-7.4

In 2007, there were, on average, 85 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions. The number of places for children in preschool education institutions was sufficient only in Birštonas and Kaunas district municipalities, while the most acute shortage was experienced by Kaunas city and Jonava district municipalities.

Ratio of the number of children in preschool education institutions to that of places in them, 2001–2007

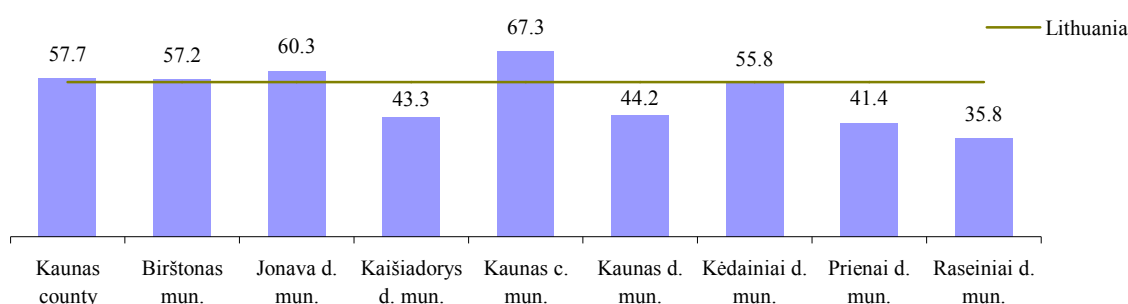
Places per 100 children



The share of children educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes has been increasing. At the end of 2007, the share of children educated according to such programmes in Kaunas county made up almost 58 % of children aged 1–6. The change in this indicator in the county's municipalities ranged from 36 % in Raseiniai district to 67 % in Kaunas city.

Children in preschool and pre-primary education, 2007

Against all children aged 1–6, per cent



At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 246 general schools in the county, where 97 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools decreased from 368 to 246 (by 33 %), while that of pupils – by 18 thousand (16 %). The number of schools has been decreasing in all county's municipalities, the most – in Raseiniai district – 2.4 times. The most considerable changes in the number of pupils have been observed in Birštonas and Prienai district municipalities, where this number decreased by 22 and 21 % respectively.

Number of pupils in general schools

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Lithuania	602419	583063	538541	489442	-18.8
Kaunas county	114718	112657	103857	96607	-15.8
Birštonas mun.	969	929	853	752	-22.4
Jonava d. mun.	9140	8998	8490	8017	-12.3
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	5912	5827	5409	5035	-14.8
Kaunas c. mun.	61261	60192	55025	51374	-16.1
Kaunas d. mun.	12838	12816	11942	11290	-12.1

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Kėdainiai d. mun.	10986	10775	9970	9105	-17.1
Prienai d. mun.	5940	5696	5264	4668	-21.4
Raseiniai d. mun.	7672	7424	6904	6366	-17.0

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 8 thousand teachers in the general schools of Kaunas county. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the total number of teachers and school managers, to whom this job was the main one, decreased from 9142 to 8041, or by almost 12 %. The number of teachers has been decreasing in all county's municipalities, while the most notable decrease was observed in Birštonas and Prienai district municipalities – in 2007, against 2001, by 27 and 17 % respectively. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, most (93 %) teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 88 %). More teachers having higher education work in Kaunas city (96 %), Birštonas (95 %) and Kaunas district (93 %) municipalities.

In 2007, general schools were finished by 7.5 thousand pupils, of whom 81 % continued their studies in the same year: 53 % entered universities, 20 % – colleges, 7 % – vocational training institutions.

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 15 vocational schools operating in the county, where 9.6 thousand students were enrolled. Against 2003, the number of vocational schools remained unchanged, while the number of students in them increased by 3 %. In terms of the number of vocational schools, Kaunas county (15 vocational schools) only lags behind Vilnius county (17 vocational schools); however, in terms of the number of vocational school students, it ranks first in Lithuania: 22 % of vocational school students of Lithuania (in Vilnius county – 20 %, in Klaipėda county – 14 %).

Number of vocational schools and students in them

	Number of vocational schools			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	83	76	80	44403	46334	43880	14465	12980	12565
Kaunas county	15	15	15	9285	10048	9606	3038	2830	2953
Birštonas mun.	1	1	1	448	506	451	162	135	129
Jonava d. mun.	1	1	1	341	338	275	51	89	72
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	9	9	9	6503	7313	7063	2218	2071	2228
Kaunas c. mun.	1	1	1	337	362	400	101	88	103
Kaunas d. mun.	1	1	1	1051	938	920	370	306	280
Kėdainiai d. mun.	1	1	1	241	234	249	54	61	86
Prienai d. mun.	1	1	1	364	357	248	82	80	55

The highest concentration of vocational schools is in Kaunas city, where in 9 vocational schools study 7 thousand, or 74 % of all students of the county's vocational schools. In each of other county's municipalities, one vocational school functions.

There are 13 higher education institutions – 6 colleges and 7 universities – in the county, where at the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year studied almost 59 thousand, or 29 % of all country's students.

In colleges, higher non-university education is pursued by 13 thousand students. Against 2003, the number of college students increased 1.5 times. About 2.5 thousand college graduates annually acquire a professional bachelor's qualification degree. There are 5 colleges in Kaunas city (3 public and 2 private), providing education to 90 % of all students of the county's colleges. Kaunas college

is one of the biggest and second by the number of students public college in Lithuania. It also provides an opportunity for its students to study in Druskininkai, Tauragė and Kėdainiai departments thereof.

Number of colleges and students in them

	Number of colleges			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	27	28	28	40472	55949	60096	4602	11173	11940
Kaunas county	6	6	6	8476	11809	12877	927	2485	2661
Kaunas c. mun.	5	5	5	8012	10730	11646	927	2357	2464
Kaunas d. mun.	1	1	1	380	797	789	-	117	161
Kėdainiai d. mun.	-	-	-	84	282	442	-	11	36

In 2007, against 2003, the number of universities and students in them remained unchanged. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, higher university education was pursued by 46 thousand students, or 32 % of all county's university students. 37 thousand (80 %) students were enrolled in undergraduate (bachelor's) studies, in master's and residency studies – 8 thousand (17 %); a doctoral degree was pursued by 1.2 thousand (3 %) students. In 2007, 34 % university students were studying in evening or extramural courses.

Number of universities and students in them

	Number of universities			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	21	21	22	103245	141771	144336	22959	28089	31153
Kaunas county	7	7	7	45833	47385	45895	7703	9445	9594
Kaunas c. mun.	6	6	6	39038	40090	38606	6641	8240	8361
Kaunas d. mun.	1	1	1	6795	7295	7289	1062	1205	1233

There are 6 universities in Kaunas city (5 public and 1 private), the biggest ones being the Kaunas University of Technology (17 thousand students) and Vytautas Magnus University (8.6 thousand students). The county has the Lithuanian University of Agriculture, where more than 7 thousand students are enrolled.

Employment

In terms of the population, Kaunas county is among the largest ones; therefore, the number of employed persons in the county is rather high. In 2007, 313.4 thousand, or 66 % of the population aged 15–64, were working in Kaunas county, which made up about one-fifth of the employed population in the country.

Although due to increasing emigration the population in the county, as well as countrywide, has been decreasing, the number of employed persons has been annually (except for 2005) increasing. It has been impacted on by positive changes in the national and county's economy.

Employed population, 2001–2007

Thousand

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	1351.8	1438.0	1473.9	1534.2
Kaunas county	273.4	291.7	288.7	313.4
Birštonas mun.	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.1
Jonava d. mun.	20.6	21.4	21.1	23.3

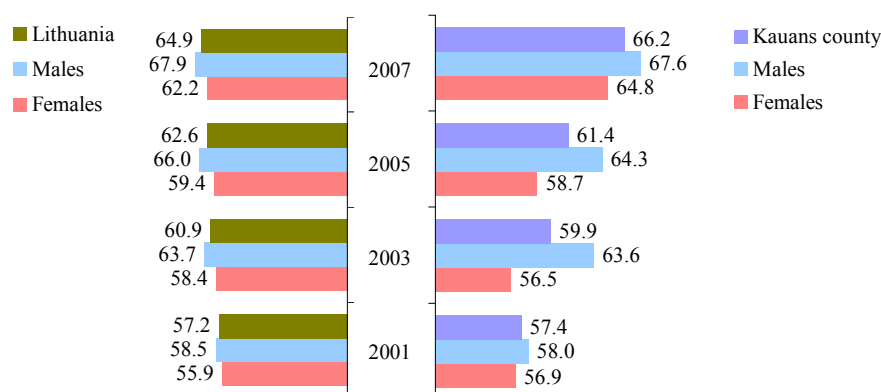
	2001	2003	2005	2007
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	12.2	12.2	12.4	13.0
Kaunas c. mun.	155.5	161.9	160.5	173.0
Kaunas d. mun.	28.4	32.6	33.2	37.7
Kėdainiai d. mun.	28.7	30.8	30.2	32.4
Prienai d. mun.	11.1	13.6	12.6	13.5
Raseiniai d. mun.	15.0	17.2	16.5	18.4

In 2007, more than half (55 %) of persons employed in Kaunas county were working in Kaunas city, 12 % – Kaunas, 10 % – Kėdainiai, 7 % – Jonava districts. In 2001–2007, the number of employed persons in different municipalities was changing at a different pace. The most rapid increase in the number of employed persons was recorded in Kaunas, where it increased from 155 thousand in 2001 to 173 thousand in 2007 (by 11%). In other municipalities, this number has been increasing insignificantly.

In 2007, the employment rate of the population aged 15–64 in Kaunas county made up 66 % and was by 1 % higher than the national average (64.9 %). In 2007, the highest employment rate both at the county and national levels was reached. The lowest employment rates in the county were recorded in 2001 and 2002 – 57.4 and 59.6 % respectively (national averages – 57.2 and 59.6 %). The male and female employment rates differ. Whereas quite a large share of the population in Kaunas county work in industry and construction, the male employment rate is quite high. In 2007, the male employment rate was 67.6 %, i.e. equalled male national average, while the female one – 64.8 %, i.e. by almost 3 percentage points higher than the national average. The lowest employment rate in Kaunas county was recorded in 2001 – 57.4 %, and almost equalled the national average. In the said year, the male employment rate in Kaunas county was 58, the female one – 57 %.

Employment rate of the population aged 15–64, 2001–2007

Per cent



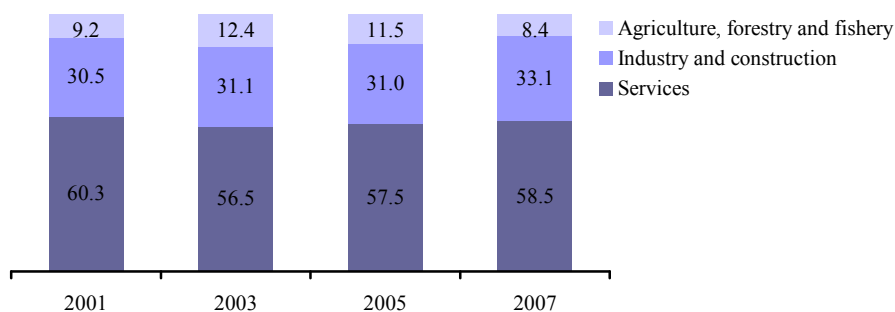
Given the shortage of the labour force, it is important to make use of the reserves of all population groups in the labour market. One of the methods is increasing employment of older (aged 55–64) persons. In 2007, 53.4 %, or by 4.5 percentage points more than the national average, of the population of this age group were working in Lithuania, while in Kaunas county – 57.9 %; from 2001, their share grew by almost 15 percentage points.

The major share (59 %) of the employed population in 2007, as well as in 2004–2006, were working in the service sector. In 2001–2007, about one-third of the employed population were working in industrial enterprises and the construction sector. The share of persons working in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishery has been decreasing in the county, as well as across the country. Quite a number of the rural population, who have purchased modern equipment, can do agricultural work faster and, through coordinating the time of works, engage in other economic sectors. It is characteristic of rural areas, where more and more rural population work in adjacent or

other larger towns and cities, as well as other economic sectors. In 2007, just 8.4 % of the Kaunas county population were working in agriculture, forestry and fishery, although as late as in 2002–2003 this sector had employed the major share – 12.4 % of, or 1.5 times more – employed persons. In Lithuania, in 2007, 10 % of the employed population were working in this sector.

Employment by economic sector, 2001–2007

Per cent



Unemployment

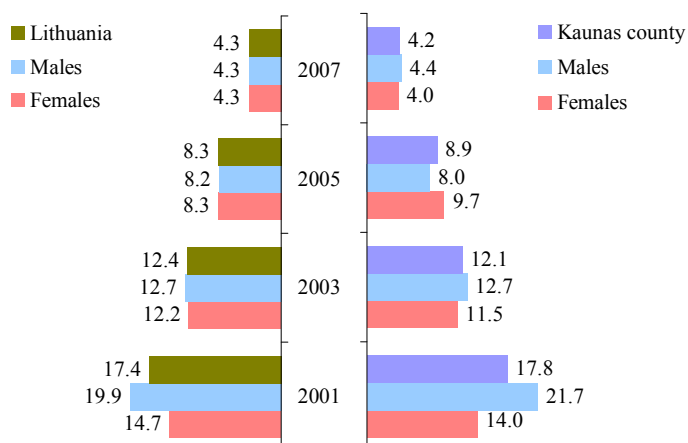
Unemployment, which for a long time had been one of the country's burning problems, rapidly decreased. In Lithuania, over 2001–2007, the number of the unemployed decreased from 284 thousand to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Kaunas county, the highest number of the unemployed (59 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased 4 times – to 13.8 thousand. In 2001–2003 and 2007, the number of the male unemployed was higher than that of the female ones.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. In Kaunas county, it was decreasing at a similar pace as the country average. The unemployment rate in the county decreased from 17.8 % in 2001 to 4.2 % in 2007, and was close to the national average, which in 2007 made up 4.3 %. In Kaunas county, the male unemployment rate was 4.4 %, the female one – 4.0 %, while in 2004–2006 the female unemployment rate was higher than the male one.

However, these seemingly positive changes in unemployment rates did not lead to higher territorial social cohesion of country's regions. The decrease in the unemployment rate and the number of the unemployed was first of all determined by emigration, which was stimulated by Lithuania's accession to the EU, as well as people moving to major country's cities. The largest share of those who emigrated from Lithuania are people of working age, moving to other regions of Lithuania or abroad due to unfavourable social, economic and local living conditions.

Unemployment rate of the population aged 15–74, 2001–2007

Per cent



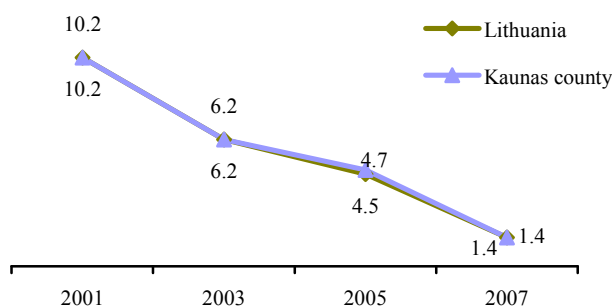
Not only the total number of the unemployed, but also that of the long-term unemployed, i.e. people looking for a job for a year or longer, have been decreasing. The number of the long-term unemployed in Kaunas county decreased from 34 thousand in 2001 to 4 thousand in 2007, while the long-term unemployment rate, similarly to the national average, decreased from 10.2 % in 2001 to 1.4 % in 2007. In 2007, the female long-term unemployment rate at the county and national levels was similar to the male one.

In 2001, the share of the long-term unemployed in Kaunas county made up 57 % (national average – 59 %) of the total number of the unemployed, while in 2007 it decreased in the county, as well as in the entire country, and made up 32 %. The major share of the long-term unemployed are unqualified persons, who are not ready to compete in the labour market due to the lack of professional skills, necessary for successful competition, or have lost touch with the labour market, as well as persons at various social risks or exposed to social exclusion.

The decrease in the number of such unemployed in Kaunas county positively impacted on the decrease in the number of the long-term unemployed and the unemployment rate in the country. It can be stated that there are almost no long-term unemployed left in the county.

Long-term unemployment rate of the population aged 15–74, 2001–2007

Per cent



Labour force

In recent years, the shortage of the labour force has been prominent in the county, as well as in the entire country. Although the number of employed persons has been annually increasing, a rapid decrease in the number of the unemployed alongside emigration to better-developed EU countries, which have opened their labour markets, conditioned the decrease in the labour force both in Kaunas county and in the entire country. In 2007, the number of residents attributable to the labour force, i.e. employed or unemployed but wanting to work, in Kaunas county was 327 thousand, while the labour force activity rate made up 69.2 %, i.e. by 1.3 % higher than the national average. This indicator was one of the highest in the country, and demonstrated a rather high labour force activity rate in the county.

Earnings

In 2007, average gross monthly earnings in Kaunas county made LTL 1720, and were by 4.6 percentage points lower than the national average. In 2001–2007, the highest earnings were in Jonava district municipality; in the recent year, they exceeded the national average by 6 %. Over the period in question, the most rapid growth in earnings was observed in Jonava and Kėdainiai district municipalities – by 93 % in each, while the slowest – in Prienai district municipality (69 %).

Average gross monthly earnings and indices, 2001–2007

	Average gross monthly earnings, LTL				Indices, per cent	
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007 against 2006	National economy - 100
Lithuania	982	1073	1276	1802	120.5	100.0
Kaunas county	909	992	1192	1720	121.8	95.4
Birštonas mun.	796	881	1009	1375	121.5	76.3
Jonava d. mun.	990	1121	1339	1915	119.9	106.3
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	862	880	1009	1464	120.5	81.2
Kaunas c. mun.	946	1033	1250	1802	122.0	100.0
Kaunas d. mun.	775	839	977	1419	122.6	78.7
Kėdainiai d. mun.	801	878	1052	1551	123.4	86.1
Prienai d. mun.	796	826	978	1347	119.5	74.8
Raseiniai d. mun.	708	778	924	1334	122.0	74.0

Average gross monthly earnings by major occupational group and level of education, 2006

	Lithuania	Kaunas county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1485	852	1089	1162	1190	1413	2064
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	2401	–	•	1510	1612	1828	2692
Professionals	1924	1780	–	•	1304	1279	1445	1918
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1360	–	•	1046	1260	1417	1610
Clerks	1322	1284	•	•	1236	1232	1282	1448
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	978	970	996	1019	826	1068	1126
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	849	–	•	832	•	–	•
Craft and related trades workers	1337	1273	•	1176	1279	1257	1401	1444
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1278	•	1333	1277	1218	1438	1517
Elementary occupations	888	889	•	881	879	913	935	914

In 2006, in Kaunas county, earnings of employees of different major occupational groups having the same level of education were different. Average gross monthly earnings of legislators, senior officials and legislators managers, etc. having higher education were by 40 % higher than earnings of professionals and by 67 % – than earnings of technicians and associate professionals having the same educational level. In the county, earnings of non-manual workers were by 9 %, while those of manual workers – by 3.5 % higher than the national average.

In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 1917) were those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise of 40 and more years, while the lowest (by one-third less) – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 30–39 had the highest earnings (by 60 % higher than earnings of employees aged under 19).

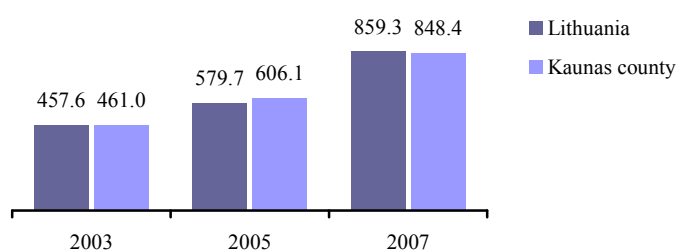
Standard of living

Based on the data of the Household Budget Survey, average disposable household income (in cash and in kind) in Kaunas county in 2007 made LTL 848 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 11 less than the national average. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 27.6 %, while against 2003 – by 84 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 30.2 %, while against 2003 – twice.

Against 2006, the most visible increase was observed for earned income, of which the most considerable – for income from paid employment. The increase in earned income made up 75 % of the increase in disposable income.

Changes in average disposable income, 2003–2007

Per household member per month, LTL



In Kaunas county, income from paid employment in 2007 made up 62.4 % of the total disposable income, i.e. equalled the national average. Social transfers in 2007 made up 23.3 % of disposable income of the Kaunas county population (by 2 percentage points more than the national average), or, on average, LTL 197 per capita per month.

Average disposable income, 2003–2007

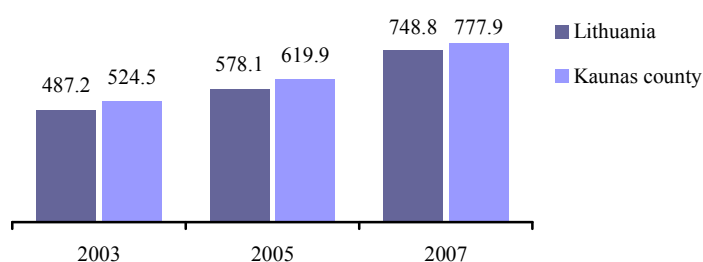
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Kaunas county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Total disposable income	859.3	461.0	606.1	848.4
Income from paid employment	536.4	263.2	350.1	529.4
Income from self-employment	105.0	49.5	65.0	78.8
income from agriculture	58.8	23.5	38.9	45.2
Social transfers	182.6	105.8	144.1	197.4
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	42.6	46.9	42.9

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Kaunas county in 2007 made LTL 778 per month, which is by LTL 29 more than the national average. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 17.2 %, or LTL 115 per month. Disposable income has been increasing more rapidly than consumption expenditure. An increase was observed for the share of income meant for investment and savings.

Average consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Per capita per month, LTL



In 2007, households in Kaunas county spent on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) 32.6 % of their total consumption expenditure, which made, on average, LTL 254 per household member per month (by LTL 5.6 more than the national average). Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products decreased by 0.5 percentage point, while against 2003 – by 4.2 percentage points.

Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure – 100 per cent

	Lithuania	Kaunas county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	36.8	34.2	32.6
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	4.2	3.9	3.9
Clothing and footwear	9.2	8.4	9.0	10.7
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	12.2	11.5	11.7
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	4.5	5.1	5.2
Health care	4.8	5.5	5.6	5.1
Transport	10.4	9.0	9.5	10.5
Communication	4.9	5.3	5.0	4.9
Recreation and culture	5.5	4.0	4.6	5.0
Education	0.8	1.0	1.2	0.5
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	4.5	5.4	4.8
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	4.6	4.8	5.1

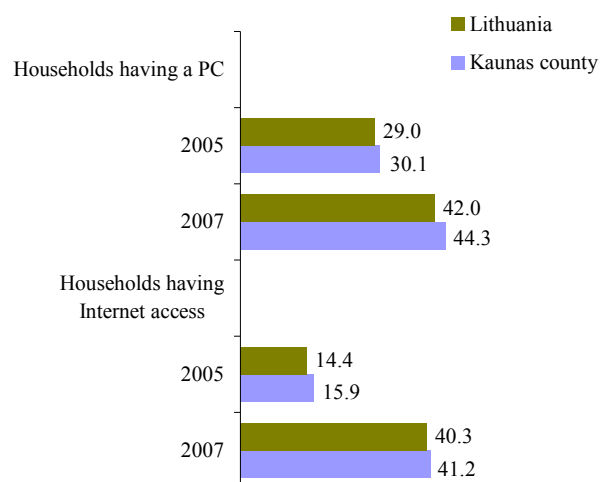
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Kaunas county made LTL 91 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 11.7 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). Over four years, expenditure on the maintenance of the house in the county increased 1.4 times, while their specific weight in consumption expenditure slightly decreased.

Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Kaunas county households with personal computers and use of the Internet slightly exceeded the national average. In I quarter 2007, 44 % of Kaunas county households had a personal computer at home, 41 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Over two years, the share of Kaunas county households having a PC increased by 14, those having Internet access – 25 percentage points. The increase in the share of households having Internet access was impacted on by the enhanced provision of Internet services via mobile communication networks.

Households with computers and Internet access, 2005 and 2007

Per cent



In I quarter 2007, computers were used by 52 % of the Kaunas county population aged 16–74 (i.e. the indicator equalled the national average). 73 % of persons who were using computers used them daily (national average – 66 %), 23 % – at least once a week.

In I quarter 2007, the Internet was used by slightly more than half (51 %) of the Kaunas county population (national average – 49 %).

Two-thirds (68 %) of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, each fourth person – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 48 % of the Kaunas county population aged 16–74 were using the Internet regularly (at least once a week) (national average – 45 %).

Usually the Internet was used for communication, search for information, reading newspapers and magazines. E-banking services in 2007 were used by 24 % of the Kaunas county population aged 16–74 (by 3 percentage points more than the national average). The Kaunas county population more often used the Internet for communication (44 %, national average – 41 %), education and studying (27 and 24 % respectively).

In I quarter 2007, goods and services for personal use were purchased or ordered via the Internet by 6 % of the Kaunas county population aged 16–74, or by 11.3 % of internet users (national averages – 3.7 and 7.2 % per cent respectively).

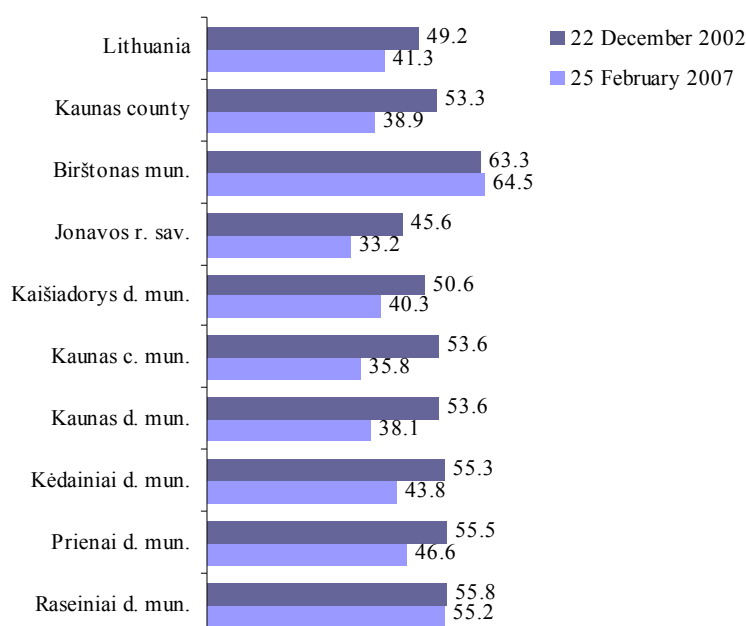
Results of elections to municipal councils

(Data of the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Lithuania)

Electoral activity at the municipal council elections in Kaunas county in 2007, against 2002, decreased in all municipalities, except for that of Birštonas, and was among the lowest, as compared with the rest of the counties. In 2007, as in 2002, the most active were the residents of Birštonas and Raseiniai district municipalities, where, respectively, 64.5 and 55.2 of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. In 2007 the least active were the residents of Jonava district (33.2 %), Kaunas city (35.8 %), Kaunas district (38.1%) and Kaišiadorys district (40.3 %). In other municipalities, electoral activity exceeded the national average (41.3 %).

Electoral activity at municipal council elections, 2002 and 2007

Per cent



In 2007, in Kaunas county, out of the total of 218 municipal council mandates, women obtained 42, or 19.3 %, which is less than the national average (22.2 %). In Kaunas city, Kaišiadorys district and Birštonas municipal councils, women obtained one-fourth of mandates. It is 2 times more than those of Prienai and Raseiniai district municipalities, where the share of women elected to municipal councils was the lowest – just 3 (12 %) out of 25 mandates were obtained by women.

Number of mandates obtained at the 2007 municipal council elections by sex

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
Lithuania	1550	77.8	22.2
Kaunas county	218	80.7	19.3
Birštonas mun.	21	76.2	23.8
Jonava d. mun.	27	81.5	18.5
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	25	76.0	24.0
Kaunas c. mun.	41	75.6	24.4
Kaunas d. mun.	27	85.2	14.8
Kėdainiai d. mun.	27	77.8	22.2
Prienai d. mun.	25	88.0	12.0
Raseiniai d. mun.	25	88.0	12.0

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Kaunas county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 51 mandates, or 23 %, the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) – 39, or 18 %, and the Labour Party – 26 mandates, or 12 %.

In the 2007 elections, in Kaunas city municipal council, 14, or one-third of mandates was obtained by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats), half as many – by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party. Kėdainiai district municipality council, the Labour Party and the Civil Democracy Party obtained 10 or 37 % of mandates each. In Jonava district municipality council, a quarter of mandates was obtained by the Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties, in Prienai district municipality – the Lithuanian

Social Democratic Party and Liberal and Centre Union. In other municipalities, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party.

Number of mandates obtained at the 2007 municipal council elections by party

	Kaunas county	Birštonas mun.	Jonava d. mun.	Kaišiadorys d. mun.	Kaunas c. mun.	Kaunas d. mun.	Kėdainiai d. mun.	Prienai d. mun.	Raseiniai d. mun.
Total	218	21	27	25	41	27	27	25	25
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	51	9	5	6	7	8	2	6	8
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats)	39	2	4	3	14	7	3	4	2
Labour Party	26	2	2	2	3	2	10	2	3
Liberal and Centre Union	21	4	3	2	4	–	2	6	–
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	20	–	5	2	4	3	–	2	4
Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	14	2	–	5	4	1	–	–	2
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	12	–	7	2	–	2	–	1	–
Civil Democracy Party	12	2	–	–	–	–	10	–	–
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	11	–	–	2	3	2	–	2	2
The New Union (Social Liberals)	10	–	1	1	–	2	–	2	4
Party “Young Lithuania”	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–

Culture

Over 2001–2007, the number of cultural institutions in the county remained almost unchanged. In all municipalities, the number of libraries was the highest. By the number of museums, Kaunas county is outpaced only by Vilnius county.

Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

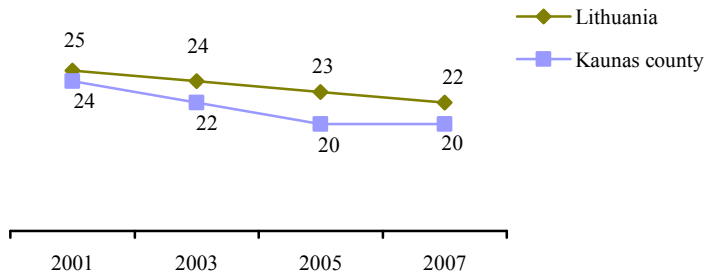
	Libraries				Cultural centres and branches thereof				Museums and branches thereof			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	1449	1418	1396	1395	947	882	850	853	100	111	105	106
Kaunas county	222	215	215	214	125	122	121	126	21	25	20	22
Birštonas mun.	4	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jonava d. mun.	17	17	17	17	15	15	15	15	1	1	1	1
Kaišiadorys d. mun.	25	25	25	25	14	17	17	20	3	3	2	1
Kaunas c. mun.	33	32	32	32	7	2	2	2	11	11	11	12
Kaunas d. mun.	34	34	34	34	28	28	28	28	1	3	1	3
Kėdainiai d. mun.	45	39	39	39	17	18	18	18	1	3	2	2
Prienai d. mun.	30	30	30	29	19	17	16	16	2	2	1	1
Raseiniai d. mun.	34	34	34	34	24	24	24	26	1	1	1	1

In 2007, against 2001, the number of libraries in Kaunas county decreased by 7, of which as many as 6 – in Kėdainiai district municipality. The number of library users per 100 population in the county in 2007 was by 10 % lower than the national average. However, in Birštonas, there were 2.5

times more library users per 100 population than, on average, in the county. In 2007, there were, on average, 631 users per county library. By the number of users per library, Kaunas county is the third after Vilnius (829) and Klaipėda (817) counties.

Number of county library users, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

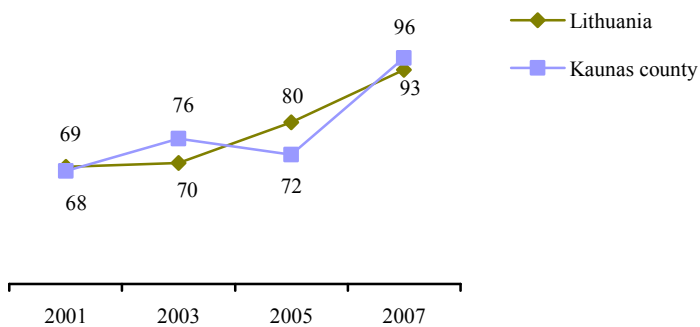


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 13 times. Only Tauragė county libraries were visited less often – 12 times, on average. 61 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %). This figure was higher only in Klaipėda (77 %) and Utena (70 %) counties. In 2007, there were 694 documents per 100 Kaunas county population (national average – 840, or by 17 % more).

In 2007, there were 22 museums in Kaunas county, which over the year were visited by 645 thousand persons. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors in the county grew by 25 %. The most popular museums – National M. K. Čiurlionis Art Museum, which in 2007 received 137 thousand visitors, and Kaunas IX Fort Museum (130 thousand visitors). By the indicator of museum attendances per 100 population (96), Kaunas county is outpaced by Klaipėda (210) and Vilnius (112) counties.

Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

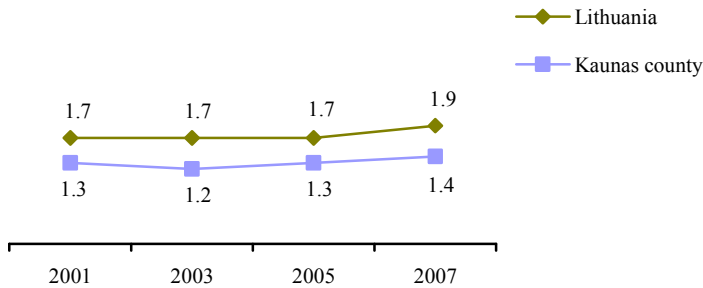


Against 2001, the indicator of museum attendances per 100 population in Kaunas county increased by 30 % (national average – 25 %).

The number of amateur art groups, against 2001, increased by 10 %, the number of their members – by 5 %. In 2007, against 2001, in Kėdainiai district, the number of amateur art groups almost doubled, while the number of their members increased by 40%. In Kaunas city municipality, in 2007, there were just 2 cultural centres, while the number of amateur art groups, against 2001, halved.

Number of members of amateur art groups, 2001–2007

Per 100 population



The number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population in the county is one of the lowest, lower indicators being recorded just for Vilnius (1.1) and Klaipėda (1.3) counties.

In 2007, there were 16 cinema halls in the county, of which 13 – in Kaunas city. The number of cinemagoers over 2001–2007 increased three times (in 2001 – 309 thousand, in 2007 – 1049 thousand); 99 % of cinemagoers went to the Kaunas city cinemas. In 2007, cinema attendances per 100 county population made 156. Against 2001, this number increased 3.5 times. In 2007, this indicator was by almost 50 % higher than the national average; a higher indicator was recorded only in Vilnius county (175).

Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

