

## SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF KLAIPĖDA COUNTY

### Population

Klaipėda county ranks third in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, it was inhabited by 378.8 thousand persons, or 11.3 % 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	
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>3487.0</b>	<b>3462.6</b>	<b>3425.3</b>	<b>3384.9</b>	<b>3366.4</b>	<b>1567.0</b>	<b>1799.4</b>	<b>1148</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>386.1</b>	<b>383.9</b>	<b>382.2</b>	<b>379.5</b>	<b>378.8</b>	<b>177.3</b>	<b>201.5</b>	<b>1136</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	193.2	191.6	188.8	185.9	184.6	84.6	100.0	1181
Klaipėda d. mun.	46.2	46.4	47.8	49.3	50.6	24.6	26.0	1056
Kretinga d. mun.	45.7	45.8	46.1	46.0	45.8	21.7	24.1	1115
Neringa mun.	2.4	2.4	2.8	3.1	3.4	1.7	1.7	950
Palanga t. mun.	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.6	7.9	9.7	1217
Skuodas d. mun.	25.6	25.3	24.9	24.2	23.8	11.4	12.4	1091
Šilutė d. mun.	55.4	54.8	54.2	53.4	53.0	25.4	27.6	1090

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 7.3 thousand (1.9 %). Over the said period, the population was growing in four municipalities (the most – by 41.7 % – in that of Neringa), while in other municipalities it was decreasing: the most – in Skuodas district (by 7 %), as well as Klaipėda city (4.5 %) and Šilutė district (4.3 %) municipalities.

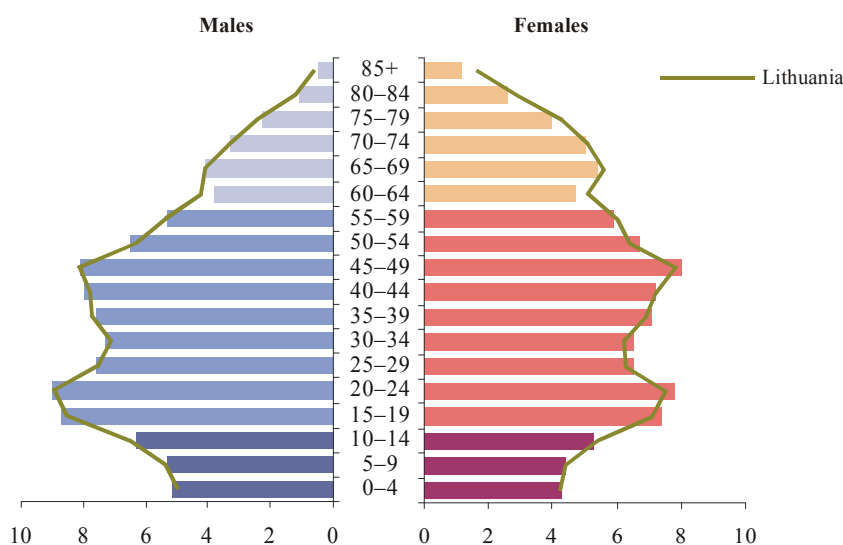
At the beginning of 2008, Klaipėda county was inhabited by 46.8 % of men and 53.2 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1136 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Neringa municipality is the lowest in the country.

In 2001–2007, due to the natural decrease, the population of Klaipėda county declined by 5.1 thousand (69.9 %), while due to negative net migration – by 2.2 thousand (30.1 %).

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

### Population by sex and age in Klaipėda county, beginning of 2008

Per cent

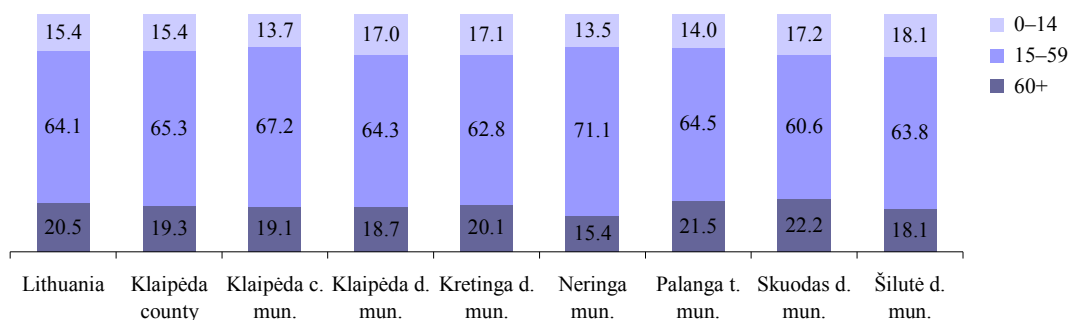


Klaipėda county is one of the demographically “youngest” ones in Lithuania. Elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 19.3 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each seventh man (national average – each sixth) and each fourth woman in Klaipėda county are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 20.3 % (national average – 25.2 %) lower than that of elderly people. In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 25 % (national average – 24.7%).

### Population structure by main age groups, beginning of 2008

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Skuodas district, Palanga town and Kretinga district, where elderly people make up 22–20 % of the population. Better age structure is in Neringa municipality, where elderly people make up just 15.4 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 23 children and 30 elderly persons per 100 Klaipėda county population aged 15–59 (national average – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 33 and 29 respectively. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Skuodas, Kretinga and Šilutė districts municipalities, there were 65–56 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

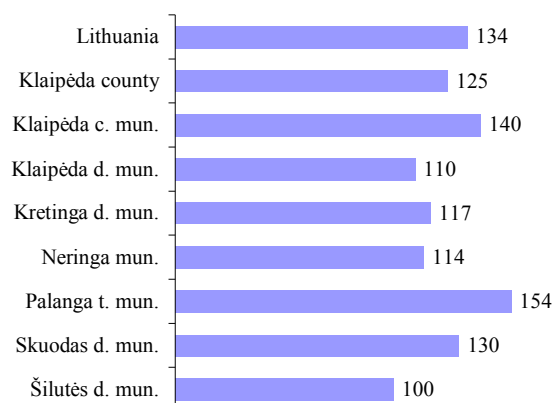
### Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	Persons of certain age per 100 population aged 15–59					
	0–14		60+		0–14 and 60+	
	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	27	21	27	28	54	49
Klaipėda d. mun.	38	26	32	29	70	55
Kretinga d. mun.	37	27	34	32	71	59
Neringa mun.	33	19	28	22	61	41
Palanga t. mun.	32	22	30	33	62	55
Skuodas d. mun.	42	28	39	37	81	65
Šilutės d. mun.	41	28	31	28	72	56

At the beginning of 2008, there were 125 elderly persons per 100 children in Klaipėda county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 – 91. The highest number of elderly persons per 100 children was in Palanga town municipality (154), while the lowest – in Šilutė district municipality (100).

### Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

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



The mean age of the Klaipėda county population is lower than the national average. At the beginning of 2008, this indicator in the county was 38.4 years (national average – 39 years), while at the beginning of 2001 – 36.2 years.

### Migration

In 2001–2007, based on the data of the declaration of the place of residence, 7 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Klaipėda county to take up the usual residence for a period longer than 6 months, while more than 7.4 thousand persons would leave it. There were, on average, 18.6 persons who arrived in the county and 19.4 who left it per 1000 county population. Over the period in question, more people left three municipalities of Klaipėda county (Klaipėda city, Skuodas and Šilutė districts) than arrived in them, while in four municipalities (those of Klaipėda and Kretinga districts, Neringa and Palanga town) more residents arrived than left.

### Internal and international migration, 2001–2007<sup>1</sup>

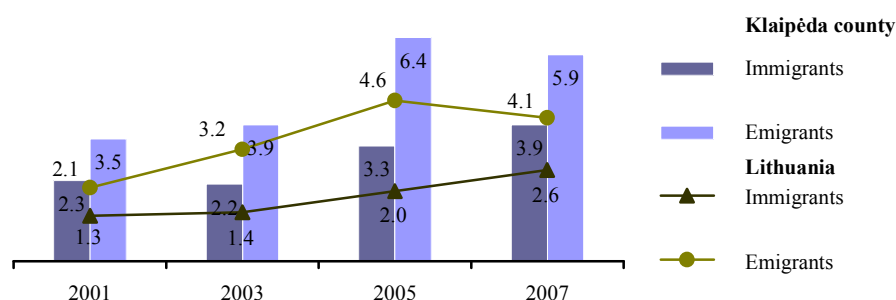
	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>42166</b>	<b>62124</b>	<b>59522</b>	<b>65044</b>	<b>44725</b>	<b>68428</b>	<b>68304</b>	<b>70288</b>	<b>-2559</b>	<b>-6304</b>	<b>-8782</b>	<b>-5244</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>4222</b>	<b>7555</b>	<b>7800</b>	<b>9125</b>	<b>4840</b>	<b>7646</b>	<b>8346</b>	<b>9031</b>	<b>-618</b>	<b>-91</b>	<b>-546</b>	<b>94</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	2044	2720	3064	3350	2602	3892	4200	4390	-558	-1172	-1136	-1040
Klaipėda d. mun.	578	1548	1746	2443	459	839	1012	1139	119	709	734	1304
Kretinga d. mun.	710	1151	842	1035	585	857	811	1018	125	294	31	17
Neringa mun.	30	280	274	341	28	60	87	115	2	220	187	226
Palanga t. mun.	254	585	612	556	244	572	512	526	10	13	100	30
Skuodas d. mun.	300	379	305	325	305	432	502	542	-5	-53	-197	-217
Šilutė d. mun.	306	892	957	1075	617	994	1222	1301	-311	-102	-265	-226

In 2001–2007, on average, 15.7 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Klaipėda county from abroad, while 25.1 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Klaipėda county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (62.1 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at just 11.1 %.

<sup>1</sup> By data of the declaration of the place of residence.

## International migration, 2001–2007<sup>2</sup>

Per 1000 population



## Fertility

The crude birth rate in Klaipėda county has been increasing. In 2001, there were 9.3 live births per 1000 county population, while in 2007 – 10.3.

### 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
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>31546</b>	<b>30598</b>	<b>30541</b>	<b>32346</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>3572</b>	<b>3461</b>	<b>3455</b>	<b>3924</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	1667	1514	1608	1860	8.6	7.9	8.5	10.0
Klaipėda d. mun.	471	483	477	626	10.2	10.4	9.9	12.5
Kretinga d. mun.	433	479	449	468	9.5	10.4	9.8	10.2
Neringa mun.	13	16	31	38	5.5	6.4	10.6	11.7
Palanga t. mun.	137	153	138	153	7.8	8.7	7.8	8.7
Skuodas d. mun.	248	243	209	183	9.7	9.6	8.5	7.6
Šilutė d. mun.	603	573	543	596	10.9	10.5	10.1	11.2

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Klaipėda county was 1.41 (national average – 1.35). The total fertility rate was the highest (1.76) in Klaipėda district, the lowest (1.25) – in Klaipėda city municipalities.

The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Klaipėda county was 28 years (i.e. equalled the national average), while in 2001 – 26.8 years (national average – 26.9 years).

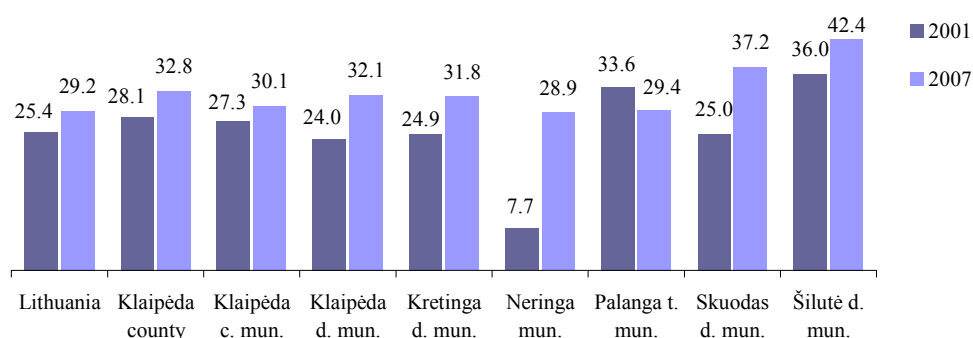
Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 17.5 % in 2001 to 13.3 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate live births in Klaipėda county was 1287, while in 2001 – 1002, which made up, respectively, 32.8 and 28.1 % (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 (42.4 %) was in Šilutė district, while the lowest (28.9 %) – in Neringa municipalities.

<sup>2</sup> By data of the declaration of the place of residence.

## Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

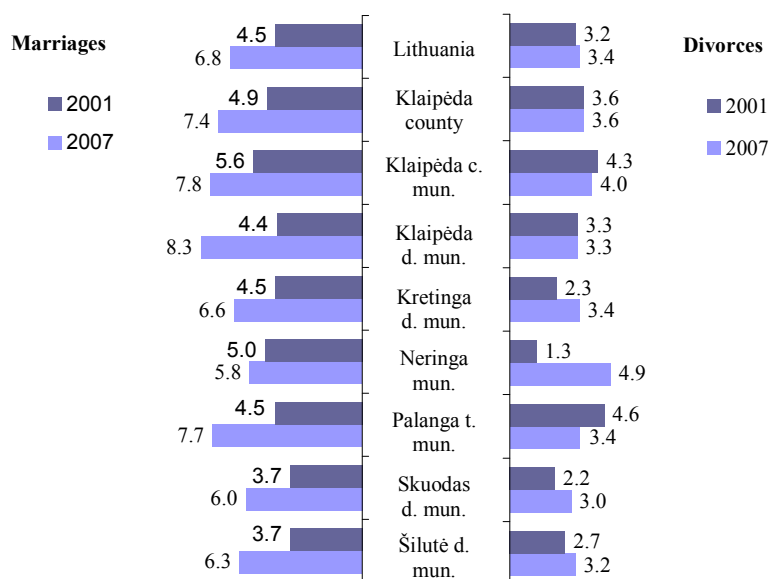
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



## Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Klaipėda county was increasing. In 2007, 2792 marriages were registered; there were 7.4 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 1886 and 4.9. In 2001–2007, the crude marriage rate in Klaipėda county was 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 Klaipėda county was 28.2, that of women – 25.7 years (national average – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2007, 1372 divorces were registered; there were 3.6 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 1382 and 3.6 respectively. The crude divorce rate in Klaipėda county in 2001–2007 was slightly higher than the national average. In Neringa and Klaipėda city municipalities, as compared with other county's municipalities, the crude divorce rate was the highest (in 2007, 4.9 and 4 respectively).

## Mortality

In 2007, 4647 deaths were registered in Klaipėda county. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 14 %. In 2007, there were 12.3 deaths per 1000 Klaipėda county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 10.6.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Klaipėda county municipalities, except for those of Neringa and Skuodas district. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Šilutė and Skuodas districts municipalities (14.7 and 13.8 ‰ respectively).

In 2007, there were 5.1 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) per 1000 live births in Klaipėda county (national average – 5.9).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men in Klaipėda county was 65.7 years, that for women – 77.5. Compared to the national average, the LE both for men and for women was higher (by 0.8 and 0.3 year respectively). In 2001–2007, the LE for women in the county decreased by 0.4, while that for men remained almost unchanged. Although the difference between the LE for men and that for women had decreased, it remained vast: in 2007, the LE for men was by 11.8 years shorter than that for women (in 2001 – by 12.1 years).

The structure of causes of death in Klaipėda 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 82 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 85 % (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
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>223.9</b>	<b>628.2</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>157.9</b>	<b>245.3</b>	<b>720.1</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>155.4</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>211.6</b>	<b>538.4</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>148.1</b>	<b>244.2</b>	<b>615.0</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>147.4</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	221.4	468.7	20.2	129.6	250.4	548.9	52.3	131.1
Klaipėda d. mun.	212.0	532.1	34.6	164.4	226.2	578.5	56.0	188.2
Kretinga d. mun.	196.8	664.8	65.6	161.8	222.2	771.3	65.4	139.4
Neringa mun.	544.4	544.4	83.8	167.5	123.0	369.1	92.3	92.3
Palanga t. mun.	187.4	545.2	28.4	107.9	283.7	510.6	51.1	96.4
Skuodas d. mun.	230.7	813.3	125.1	172.0	262.9	771.9	79.3	141.9
Šilutė d. mun.	174.0	552.7	63.4	188.5	244.5	724.1	107.2	195.6

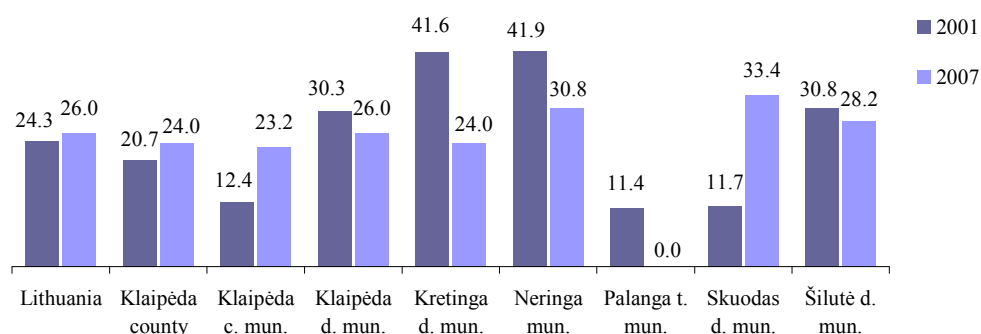
In 2007, half (50.2 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system (in 2001 – 50.9 %). In Klaipėda county, mortality due to these diseases is the lowest in Lithuania.

In 2007, there were 926 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (one-fifth of all deaths in Klaipėda county). Compared to other county's municipalities, the highest death rate due to malignant neoplasms for men was in Skuodas district, while that for women – in Palanga town municipalities.

In 2007, there were 559 deaths due to external causes of death (12 % of all deaths in the county). In Šilutė district municipality, the death rate due to the said cause for women was 1.5 times, that for men – 1.3 times higher than the national average. In 2007, mortality due to transport accidents and suicides in Klaipėda county was one the lowest in the country.

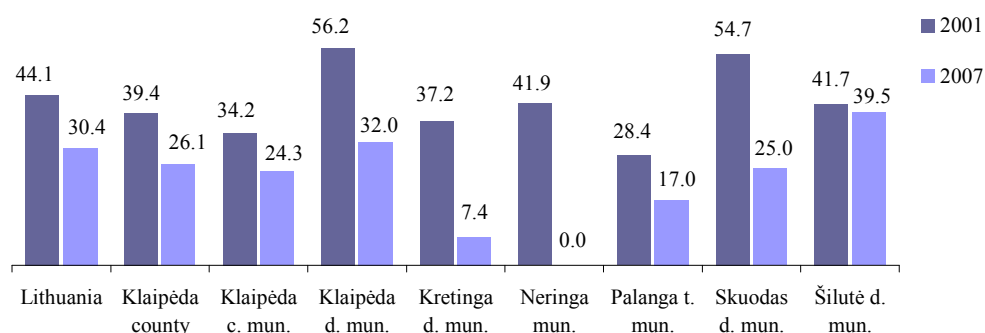
### Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



### Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



## Health

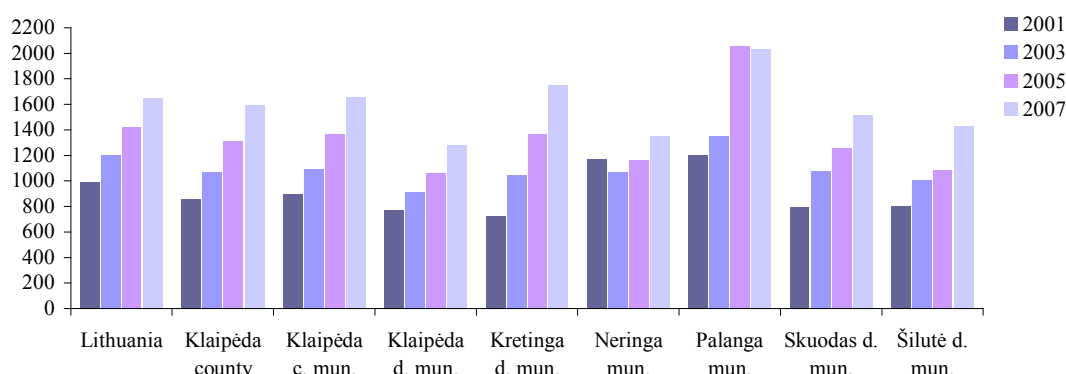
Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre<sup>3</sup>, in 2007, 95.5 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Klaipėda county, were treated in hospital. One county's resident, would, on average, use primary outpatient health care services 4 times (national average – 5 times).

The prevalence of malignant neoplasms among the residents of Klaipėda county in 2007 was lower (1595 cases per 100 000 population) than the national average (1650). In 2007, the prevalence of malignant neoplasms was the lowest in Klaipėda district and Neringa municipalities (1283 and 1354 sick persons per 100 000 population respectively). Over 2001–2007, the malignant neoplasms prevalence rate was the highest in Palanga town municipality; however, in 2006–2007, a downward trend was observed. Meanwhile, in Kretinga district municipality, where in 2001 the respective share of persons who suffered from malignant neoplasms was the lowest in the county, this indicator increased 2.4 times.

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

### Changes in prevalence of malignant neoplasms, 2001–2007

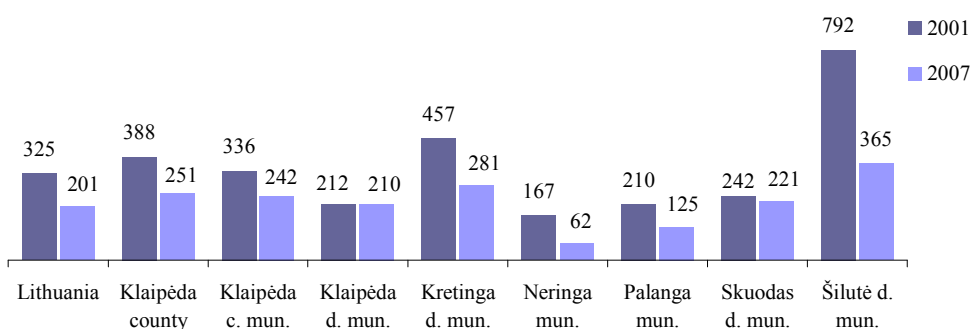
Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



Over 2001–2007, the prevalence of tuberculosis in Klaipėda county, alarming health professionals and society, has been decreasing; however, in 2007, it was still by as much as 25 % higher than the national average. The prevalence of tuberculosis was the highest in Šilutė district municipality; however, against 2001, it decreased more than 2 times.

### Prevalence of tuberculosis, 2001 and 2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



In 2007, against other country's regions, the prevalence of osteoporosis (a disease more typical of older people, especially of women) was the highest in Klaipėda county. In 2007, the rate of the prevalence of this disease in Klaipėda county (768 cases per 100 000 population) was by as much as 66 % higher than the national average (462), while in Šilutė district municipality the prevalence of this disease exceeded the national average 2 times, and the rate (984 sick persons per 100 000 population) was the highest in the country.

Compared with other counties, the prevalence of gastritis and duodenitis in Klaipėda county was the lowest. Except for Kretinga district (2332 cases per 100 000 population), this indicator in the entire county was lower than the national average (2064).

### Social protection

In 2007, 63.8 thousand (or each sixth resident of the county, i.e. as the national average) residents of Klaipėda county were state social insurance old age pensioners; almost 19 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 254 old age and 75 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county, these indicators being somewhat lower than national averages (275 and 96 respectively). The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Skuodas district municipality (308 old age pensioners per 1000 population), the lowest – in Šilutė district municipality (224).



In 2007, almost 39 thousand residents of Klaipėda county received child benefits; 37 % thereof were residents of Klaipėda city municipality. 1190 persons received guardianship (curatorship) benefits, 157 persons – support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 712 women, birth grants – 3.7 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Klaipėda county were paid LTL 43 744.2 thousand of benefits.

The number of residents of the county receiving social services at home has been constantly changing. In 2007, 717 residents of the county were nursed or attended at home, each fourth thereof – in Klaipėda city municipality. At the end of 2007, there were 760 persons living in ten care institutions for the elderly, and 528 persons – in two care institutions for disabled adults. There were also 18 care institutions for children functioning in the county, where 528 children were taken care of; 15 children were fostered in families. In 2007, 365 persons stayed in five temporary residence institutions (shelters and crisis centres) of Klaipėda county.

Based on the data of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, there were 1.1 thousand families at social risk living in Klaipėda county in 2007, with about 2.6 thousand children brought up in them. Almost one-third of children brought up in families at social risk were living in Šilutė district municipality.

#### **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
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>1572</b>	<b>1227</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>3495</b>	<b>2787</b>	<b>2597</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	536	450	313	974	841	626
Klaipėda d. mun.	435	209	204	977	502	472
Kretinga d. mun.	174	152	145	388	336	326
Neringa mun.	9	9	8	20	18	16
Palanga t. mun.	51	43	40	105	76	71
Skuodas d. mun.	92	86	112	252	234	306
Šilutė d. mun.	275	278	285	779	780	780

#### **Education**

At the end of 2007, there were 70 preschool education institutions in the county, where 12 thousand children were enrolled. Over 2001–2007, both the number of preschool education institutions in the county and that of children enrolled in them was changing insignificantly. The number of preschool education institutions decreased from 75 to 70, while changes in the number of children enrolled in preschool education institutions of different counties were different: in Klaipėda district municipality, this number increased by 28 %, while in that of Neringa – decreased by 22 %.

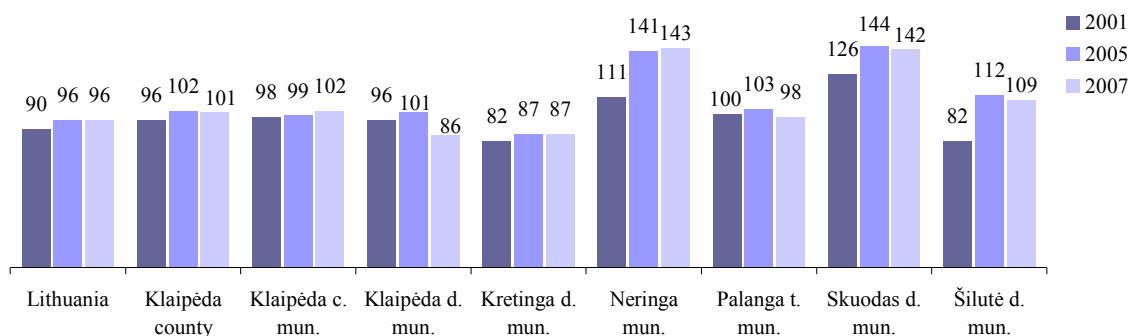
#### **Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007**

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>89841</b>	<b>89469</b>	<b>90021</b>	<b>93044</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>11120</b>	<b>11456</b>	<b>11661</b>	<b>12254</b>	<b>10.2</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	6663	6688	6741	7214	8.3
Klaipėda d. mun.	1093	1275	1418	1399	28.0
Kretinga d. mun.	973	952	1080	1188	22.1
Neringa mun.	99	96	78	77	-22.2
Palanga t. mun.	689	629	617	682	-1.0
Skuodas d. mun.	377	542	499	438	16.2
Šilutė d. mun.	1226	1274	1228	1256	2.4

In 2007, there were, on average, 101 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions of Klaipėda county. The number of places for children in preschool education institutions was sufficient in Neringa, Skuodas and Šilutė district municipalities, while the most acute shortage was experienced in Klaipėda and Kretinga district municipalities.

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

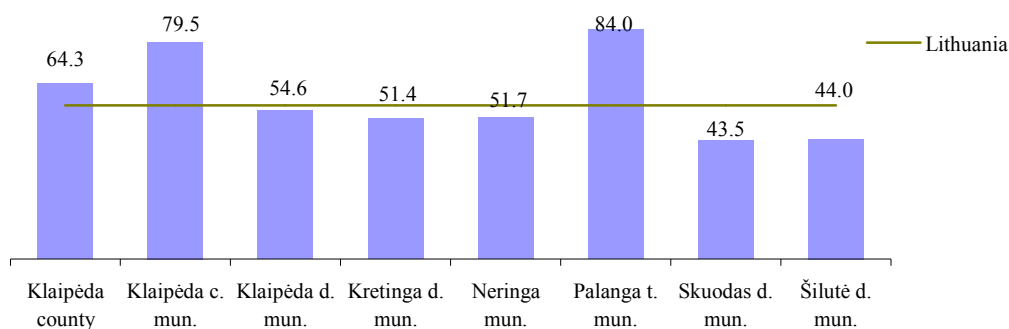
Places per 100 children



In 2007, the share of children educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes in Klaipėda county made up 64 % of children aged 1–6. As compared with other counties, this share in Klaipėda county was the highest. The highest number of children of this age were educated in Palanga town (84 %) and Klaipėda city (80 %) municipalities, the lowest – in Skuodas district municipality (43 %).

### 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 150 general schools in the county, where almost 54 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools decreased from 234 to 150 (by 36 %), while that of pupils – by 15 thousand (21 %).

The number of schools has been decreasing in almost all county's municipalities, the most – in Skuodas district – 2.4 times, as well as in Šilutė and Klaipėda districts – 2 times in each. The number of schools remained unchanged only in Neringa municipality. The number of pupils has been decreasing as well. The most considerable changes in the number of pupils have been observed in Klaipėda city, Skuodas and Šilutė district municipalities, where this number decreased respectively, by 24, 24 and 23 %.

### Number of pupils in general schools

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>602419</b>	<b>583063</b>	<b>538541</b>	<b>489442</b>	<b>-18.8</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>69084</b>	<b>65756</b>	<b>60510</b>	<b>54282</b>	<b>-21.4</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	33119	30956	28343	25310	-23.6
Klaipėda d. mun.	7709	7415	6812	6327	-17.9
Kretinga d. mun.	8253	8236	7851	7228	-12.4
Neringa mun.	387	347	321	309	-20.2
Palanga t. mun.	3415	3269	2997	2674	-21.7
Skuodas d. mun.	5112	4885	4527	3895	-23.8
Šilutė d. mun.	11089	10648	9659	8539	-23.0

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 4.7 thousand teachers in the general schools of the 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 5408 to 4700, or by almost 13 %. The number of teachers has been decreasing in all county's municipalities, especially in those of Palanga and Skuodas districts (in 2007, against 2001, the number of teachers in these municipalities decreased by 26 %). At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, the largest share (95 %) of teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 90 %). The share of teachers having higher education in Klaipėda county throughout the entire period in question was higher than the national average and the highest in Lithuania. In Neringa municipality, all teachers have higher education. More teachers having higher education work in Klaipėda city, Palanga town (96 % in each) and Kretinga district (94 %) municipalities.

In 2007, general schools were finished by 4 thousand pupils, of whom 73 % continued their studies in the same year: 36 % entered universities, 34 % – colleges, 3 % – vocational training institutions. As compared with other counties, school-leavers in Klaipėda county were pursuing education the least.

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 11 vocational schools operating in the county, where 6 thousand students were enrolled. Against 2003, the number of students in vocational schools decreased by 2 %.

### 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
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>44403</b>	<b>46334</b>	<b>43880</b>	<b>14465</b>	<b>12980</b>	<b>12565</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6145</b>	<b>6542</b>	<b>6265</b>	<b>2153</b>	<b>1771</b>	<b>1713</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	6	7	7	4137	4536	4383	1643	1269	1213
Kretinga d. mun.	1	1	1	515	507	501	174	149	130
Skuodas d. mun.	1	1	1	132	153	165	-	51	44
Šilutė d. mun.	2	2	2	1361	1346	1216	336	302	326

The highest concentration of vocational schools is in Klaipėda city, where 4 thousand, or 70 % of all county's vocational school students, study in 7 vocational schools.

There are 8 higher education institutions – 6 colleges and 2 universities – in the county, where at the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year almost 20 thousand, or 10 % of all country's students, were enrolled.

In colleges, higher non-university education is pursued by 10 thousand students. All colleges – 3 public and 3 private – are situated in Klaipėda. The largest thereof – Klaipėda Business and

Technology College – prepares professionals in the fields of technology, social and physical sciences. In Klaipėda College, students acquire vocational qualification in the fields of health care, education and social care. The Lithuanian Maritime College is the only higher education institution in the country preparing highly-skilled marine, river, vessel and port professionals.

### 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
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40472</b>	<b>55949</b>	<b>60096</b>	<b>4602</b>	<b>11173</b>	<b>11940</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7093</b>	<b>9499</b>	<b>9966</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>1811</b>	<b>1911</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	6	6	6	7093	9499	9966	251	1811	1911

In 2007–2008, higher university education in the county's universities – Klaipėda University and LCC International University – was pursued by almost 10 thousand students; more than half thereof (55 %) – in social sciences.

### 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
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>130245</b>	<b>141771</b>	<b>144336</b>	<b>22959</b>	<b>28089</b>	<b>31153</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9212</b>	<b>9924</b>	<b>9971</b>	<b>1688</b>	<b>2269</b>	<b>2419</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	2	2	2	9212	9924	9971	1688	2269	2419

Klaipėda University is one of the biggest universities in Lithuania. Alongside usual curricula, students may choose such study programmes which are not offered by other Lithuanian universities: marine regional studies and sea transport engineering, hydrology and oceanography, as well as other similar programmes. In the LCC International University, students are offered three study programmes – English language and literature, evangelical theology and business administration. In this public university, curricula are tough in English.

### Employment

In 2007, 169 thousand, or 64 % of the population aged 15–64, were working in Klaipėda county, which made up about one-tenth 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 2003) increasing. It has been impacted on by positive changes in the national and county's economy.

### Employed population, 2001–2007

Thousand

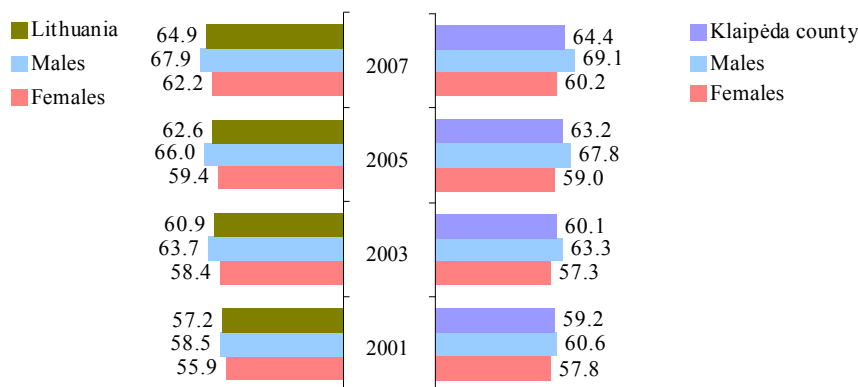
	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1351.8</b>	<b>1438.0</b>	<b>1473.9</b>	<b>1534.2</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>154.8</b>	<b>153.7</b>	<b>165.9</b>	<b>168.9</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	81.9	79.2	86.5	87.9
Klaipėda d. mun.	19.6	20.5	21.4	21.4
Kretinga d. mun.	16.6	17.4	18.2	19.2
Neringa mun.	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4
Palanga t. mun.	8.6	9.1	9.6	9.8
Skuodas d. mun.	8.1	8.3	9.0	9.1
Šilutė d. mun.	18.8	18.0	19.9	20.1

In 2007, more than half (52 %) of persons employed in Klaipėda county were working in Klaipėda, Kretinga and Šilutė districts (12 % of persons employed in the county in each). In 2001–2007, the number of employed persons in different municipalities was changing without considerable fluctuations.

In 2007, the employment rate of the population aged 15–64 in Klaipėda county made up 64.4 %, i.e. was similar to 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 2001–2004, when they ranged from 59.2 to 60.9 %, while since 2005 the employment rate started increasing and exceeded 63 %. The male and female employment rates differ. The female employment rate is traditionally substantially lower than the male one. For example, in 2007, the female employment rate was 60.2 %, while the male one – by almost 9 % higher. A large number of men work in the field of shipbuilding, on fishing boats, as well as in other industrial enterprises and construction. In 2005–2007, the male employment rate in Klaipėda county was by more than 1 percentage point higher than the national average, while the female one was lower than the national average over the entire period in question. The lowest female employment rate in Klaipėda county was recorded in 2004 – 56.6, while the highest – in 2007 (60.2 %).

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

Per cent

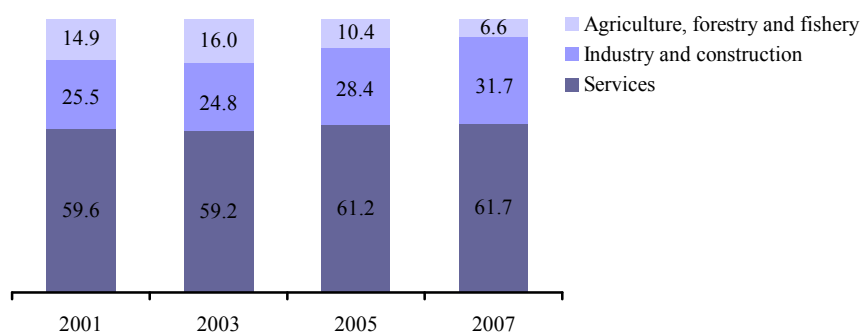


Developing economy and continuing emigration conditioned the shortage of the labour force. Given the shortage of the labour force, one of the solutions is increasing employment of women and elderly persons (aged 55–64). In 2007, 53.4 % of the population of this age group were working in Lithuania, while in Klaipėda county – 57.1 %; from 2001, their share grew by almost 10 percentage points. It is one of the highest indicators of employment of elderly people in the country, after that of Kaunas county.

Traditionally, most of the Klaipėda county population work in the service sector. In 2007, almost 62 % of the county population were working in this sector, which is more than the national average. In 2007, about one-third of the employed population were working in industrial enterprises and the construction sector (in 2001 – just a quarter). 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 6.6 % of the Klaipėda county population were working in agriculture, forestry and fishery, although as late as in 2003–2004 this sector had covered 16 % of employed persons.

## Employment by economic sector, 2001–2007

Per cent



## Unemployment

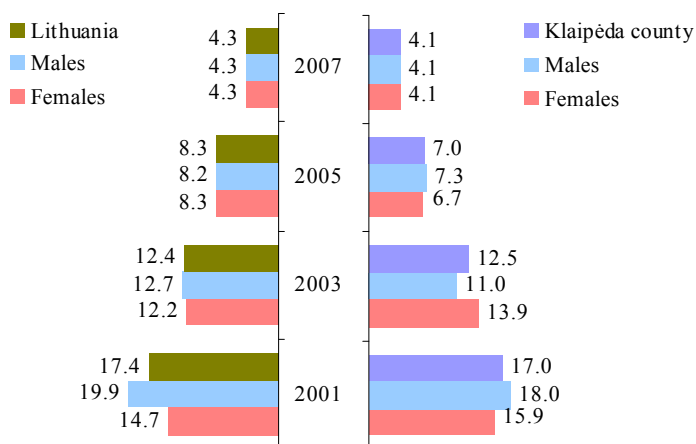
Unemployment, which for a long time had been one of the country's burning problems, rapidly decreased. In Lithuania, over 2001–2007, the number of the unemployed decreased from 284 to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Klaipėda county, the highest number of the unemployed (32 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased 4 times – to 7 thousand. In 2001, 2002 and 2005, the number of the male unemployed was higher than that of the female ones. In recent years (2006–2007), the shares of the male and female unemployed became equal.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. In Klaipėda county, it was decreasing at a similar pace as the national average. The unemployment rate in the county decreased from 17 % in 2001 to 4.1 % in 2007, and was by 0.2 % lower than the national average, which in 2007 made up 4.3 %. In Klaipėda county, the male and female unemployment rates were equal and made up 4.1 %, while in 2001 the male unemployment rate reached 18 % (national average – 19.9 %), the female one – 15.9 %.

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 and economic 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

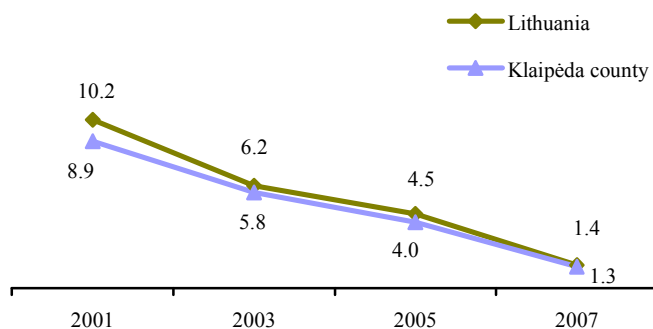
unemployed in Klaipėda county decreased from 17 thousand in 2001 to 2.3 thousand in 2007, while the long-term unemployment rate decreased from 8.9 % in 2001 to 1.3 % in 2007. In 2007, the male long-term unemployment rate was higher than the national average and reached 1.8 %, while the female one – 0.9 %.

However, unemployment in the country, as well as in Klaipėda county, is structurally unfavourable; an increase in the share of unqualified unemployed or those who had lost qualification has been observed. In 2001, the share of the long-term unemployed in Klaipėda county made up 52 % (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. These are the main obstacles for integrating into the labour market.

The decrease in the number of such unemployed in Klaipėda county positively impacted on the decrease in the number of the long-term unemployed and the unemployment rate in the country.

### 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 Klaipėda 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 Klaipėda county was 176 thousand, while the labour force activity rate made up 67.2 %, i.e. was by 0.7 % lower than the national average. The highest activity rate in 2007 was recorded in Vilnius county – 70.7 %, while the lowest – in Alytus county (63.2 %).

### Earnings

In 2007, average gross monthly earnings in Klaipėda county made LTL 1765 (by 2.1 percentage points less than the national average); by this indicator, Klaipėda county ranked second in Lithuania. In 2001–2007, the highest earnings were in Klaipėda city municipality. Over the period in question, the most rapid growth in earnings was observed in Palanga town municipality – by 94 %, while the slowest – in Šilutė district municipality (74 %).

### 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
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1073</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>1802</b>	<b>120.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>1060</b>	<b>1256</b>	<b>1765</b>	<b>119.7</b>	<b>97.9</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	1059	1161	1384	1921	118.8	106.6
Klaipėda d. mun.	932	1020	1212	1759	123.4	97.6
Kretinga d. mun.	771	817	937	1381	124.0	76.6
Neringa mun.	759	837	974	1361	119.7	75.5
Palanga t. mun.	722	820	940	1403	124.9	77.9
Skuodas d. mun.	748	849	961	1353	118.7	75.1
Šilutė d. mun.	795	846	980	1383	119.2	76.7

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

	Lithuania	Klaipėda county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1624	●	1226	1262	1346	1623	2352
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	2688	–	●	1671	1744	2016	3183
Professionals	1924	1909	–	●	1400	1560	1563	2063
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1650	●	●	1155	1460	1730	2130
Clerks	1322	1374	–	●	1177	1422	1396	1576
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	972	●	963	1007	893	983	●
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	●	–	●	●	●	–	●
Craft and related trades workers	1337	1474	●	1333	1403	1453	1869	2008
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1450	●	1477	1441	1348	1729	1974
Elementary occupations	888	1051	●	1010	1099	1016	1017	●

In 2006, in Klaipėda 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, on average, by 50 % higher than earnings of professionals and technicians and associate professionals having the same educational level. In the county, earnings of non-manual workers were by 1 % lower, while those of manual workers – by 12 % higher than the national average.

In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 2102) were those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise of 30–39 years, while the lowest (LTL 1340) – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 30–39 had the highest earnings (by 61 % 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 Klaipėda county in 2007 made LTL 874 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 15 less than the national average. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 24.9 %, while against

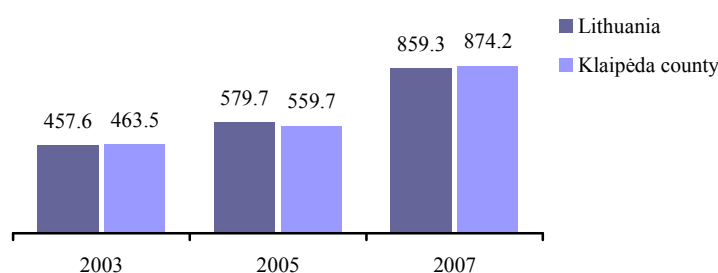


2003 – by 88.6 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 26.7 %, while against 2003 – twice.

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 82 % of the increase in disposable income.

### Changes in average disposable income, 2003–2007

Per household member per month, LTL



In Klaipėda county, income from paid employment in 2007 made up 69.5 % of the total disposable income, i.e. by 7.1 percentage points more than the national average. Social transfers in 2007 made up 17.5 % of disposable income of the Klaipėda county population (by 3.8 percentage points less than the national average), or, on average, LTL 152.6 per capita per month.

### Average disposable income, 2003–2007

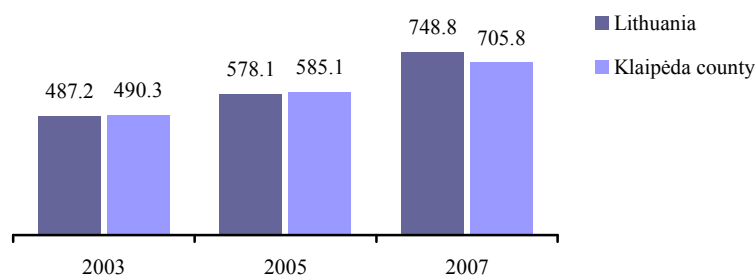
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Klaipėda county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
<b>Total disposable income</b>	<b>859.3</b>	<b>463.5</b>	<b>559.7</b>	<b>874.2</b>
Income from paid employment	536.4	292.2	364.5	607.7
Income from self-employment	105.0	39.5	47.5	84.5
income from agriculture	58.8	21.4	22.0	41.8
Social transfers	182.6	96.5	115.8	152.6
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	35.3	31.7	29.4

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Klaipėda county in 2007 made LTL 706 per month, which is by LTL 43 less than the national average. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 1.4 %, or LTL 10 per month. The growth in disposable income was much more rapid than that of 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 Klaipėda county spent on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) 33 % of their total consumption expenditure, which made, on average, LTL

233 per household member per month (by LTL 15.3 less than the national average). Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products increased by 1.3 percentage points, while against 2003 – decreased by 4.3 percentage points.

### Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure – 100 per cent

	Lithuania	Klaipėda county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	37.3	35.1	33.0
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	4.1	3.4	3.3
Clothing and footwear	9.2	8.2	8.8	8.5
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	13.9	12.4	13.7
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	3.3	3.9	6.6
Health care	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.6
Transport	10.4	8.4	8.4	8.5
Communication	4.9	5.6	5.2	6.0
Recreation and culture	5.5	3.9	5.2	5.0
Education	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.1
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	5.7	5.4	4.7
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	4.3	6.1	5.0

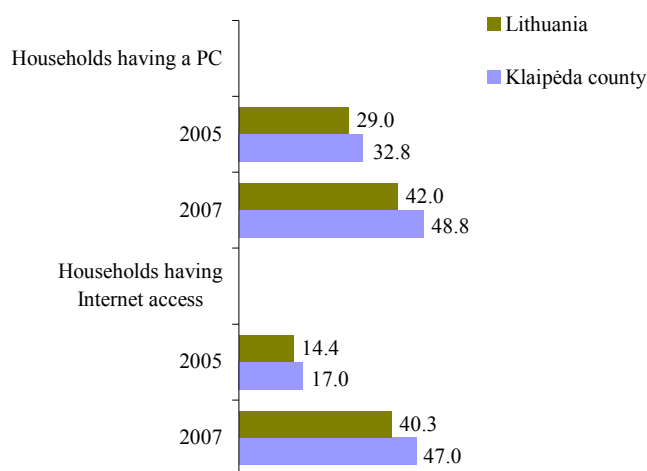
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Klaipėda county made LTL 97 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 13.7 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). The relative share of consumption expenditure on housing in Klaipėda county was the highest in Lithuania.

### Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Klaipėda county households with personal computers and use of the Internet exceeded the national average. In I quarter 2007, 49 % of Klaipėda county households had a personal computer at home, 47 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Against 2005, the share of Klaipėda county households having a PC increased by 16, those having Internet access – by 30 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 59 % of the Klaipėda county population aged 16–74 (national average – 52 %). 72 % 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 more than half (55 %) of the Klaipėda county population (national average – 49 %).

Two-thirds (67 %) of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, each fourth person – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 52 % of the Klaipėda county population aged 16–74 were using the Internet regularly (at least once a week), i.e. by 7 percentage points more than the national average.

The Internet was usually used for communication, search for information, reading newspapers and magazines. In Klaipėda county, 46 % of the population used email (national average – 39 %), made phone calls via the Internet, participated in video conferences – 28 % (national average – 19 %), searched for information on goods and services – 42 % (national average – 36 %), used travel-related services – 21 % (national average – 14 %), read newspapers, magazines – 39 % (national average – 32 %), used the Internet for education and studying – 28 % (national average – 24 %), used e-banking services – 28 % (national average – 21 %).

In Klaipėda county, the share of persons using the Internet is higher than the national average. By Internet usage for communication, reading newspapers and magazines, online gaming, downloading audio and video files by the population, Klaipėda county outpaces other counties of Lithuania.

In I quarter 2007, goods and services for personal use were purchased or ordered via the Internet by 3 % of the Klaipėda county population aged 16–74, or by 5.2 % of internet users (national average – 3.7 and 7.2 % per cent respectively).

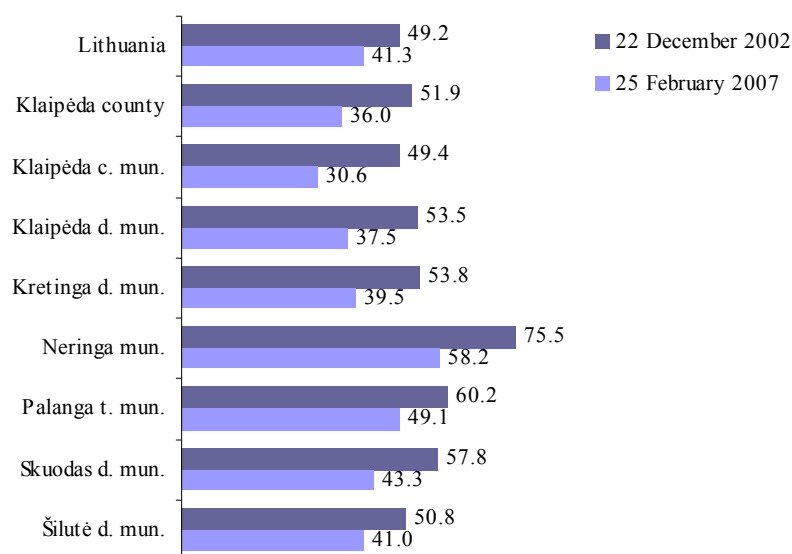
### Results of elections to municipal councils

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

Electoral activity at the municipal council elections in Klaipėda county in 2007, against 2002, decreased in all municipalities, and was the lowest, as compared with the rest counties. In 2007, the most active were the residents of Neringa, Palanga town and Skuodas district municipalities, where 58.2–43.3 % of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. In other municipalities, electoral activity was lower than the national average (41.3 %). The least active were the residents of Klaipėda city and district municipalities (30.6 and 37.5 % respectively).

## Electoral activity at municipal council elections, 2002 and 2007

Per cent



In 2007, in Klaipėda county, out of the total of 175 municipal council mandates, women obtained 42, or 24 %, which is more than the national average (22.2 %). Neringa and Palanga city municipalities council, where women obtained one-third and 28.6 % of mandates respectively, may be distinguished in this regard. The lowest number of women elected to a municipal council was in Kretinga district, where just 4 out of 21 mandates (16 %) were obtained by women. In the rest of municipal councils, women obtained one-fourth / one-fifth of mandates.

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

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1550</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>24.0</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	31	77.4	22.6
Klaipėda d. mun.	25	80.0	20.0
Kretinga d. mun.	25	84.0	16.0
Neringa mun.	21	66.7	33.3
Palanga t. mun.	21	71.4	28.6
Skudodas d. mun.	25	72.0	28.0
Šilutė d. mun.	27	77.8	22.2

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Klaipėda county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Liberal and Centre Union – 29, or 17 %, Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) – 28, or 16 %, Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 26, or 15 %.

The highest number of mandates in Palanga town municipal council – 38 % (8 mandates), Klaipėda city municipal council – 23 % (7 mandates) and Šilutė district municipal council – 22 % (6 mandates) was obtained by the Liberal and Centre Union. In each Klaipėda and Skudodas district municipal councils, 6 mandates, or 24 %, were obtained by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats). In Kretinga district municipal council, the highest number of mandates – 28 %, or 7 mandates – was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party. In Neringa municipal council, 7, or one-third of mandates, were obtained by the Coalition “Už Neringos ateitį” (“For the Future of Neringa”).

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

	Klaipėda county	Klaipėda c. mun.	Klaipėda d. mun.	Kretinga d. mun.	Neringa mun.	Palanga t. mun.	Skuodas d. mun.	Šilutė d. mun.
<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>
Liberal and Centre Union	29	7	2	2	4	8	–	6
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian	28	5	6	4	1	4	6	2
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	26	3	5	7	2	2	3	4
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	17	4	3	4	–	2	2	2
The New Union (Social Liberals)	15	–	1	1	5	1	3	4
Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	13	5	1	–	1	1	3	2
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	12	–	2	3	–	2	3	2
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	8	–	1	–	–	1	3	3
Labour Party	8	2	–	2	–	–	2	2
Coalition “For the Future of Neringa”	7	–	–	–	7	–	–	–
Lithuanian Centre Party	4	–	4	–	–	–	–	–
National Democracy Party	3	–	–	2	1	–	–	–
Political Party Russians’ Alliance	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lithuanian Russians’ Union	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–

### Culture

In all county’s municipalities, there are main cultural institutions, whose number, against 2001, changed insignificantly. The most notable decrease – 3 times – was observed in Klaipėda city.

### Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

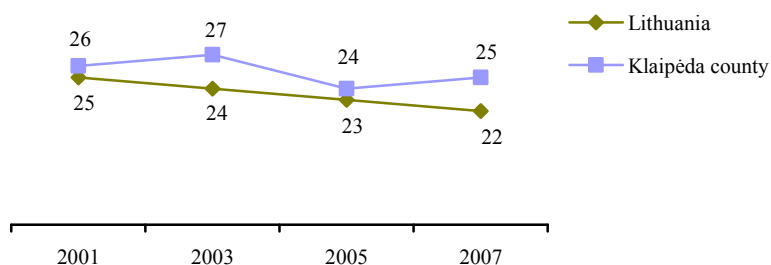
	Libraries				Cultural centres and branches thereof				Museums and branches thereof			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Klaipėda county</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>
Klaipėda c. mun.	16	15	15	15	5	6	5	2	2	2	3	2
Klaipėda d. mun.	26	26	26	26	21	21	20	20	1	1	2	2
Kretinga d. mun.	25	23	23	23	20	19	20	20	1	2	2	2
Neringa mun.	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Palanga t. mun.	3	3	3	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Skuodas d. mun.	20	20	20	21	17	6	6	6	2	2	2	2
Šilutė d. mun.	24	24	24	24	5	6	5	5	2	2	2	2

In 2007, against 2001, the number of libraries decreased only in Kretinga district and Klaipėda city municipalities. The number of library users in the county decreased by 6 %. Although the number of library users has been decreasing in all municipalities, the number of library users per 100 population in the county in 2007 was by 12 % higher than the national average. In Neringa, the number of library users per 100 population was 2 times, in Palanga – 1.5 times higher than the

national average (47 and 35 respectively). In 2007, there were, on average, 817 users per county library. By the number of users per library, Klaipėda county ranks second after Vilnius county (829).

### Number of county library users, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

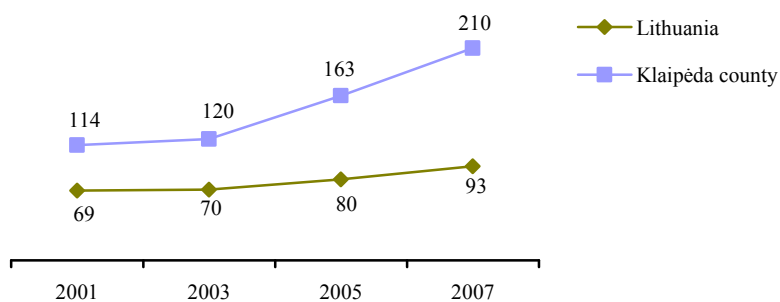


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 19 times. Only Utena county libraries were visited as often. 77 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %). The libraries of Klaipėda county are best-provided with computers. In 2007, there were 755 documents per 100 Klaipėda county population, or by 10 % less than the national average.

In 2007, there were 13 museums in Klaipėda county, which over the year were visited by 796 thousand persons, or one-fourth of all museum visitors in the country. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors in the county grew by 55 %. For many years, the Lithuanian Sea Museum, situated in Klaipėda, has been the most frequently visited museum in Lithuania. In 2007, it was visited by 567 thousand visitors, or 18 % of museum visitors in the county. The Memorial Museum of Thomas Mann in Neringa is annually visited by 50 thousand visitors.

### Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

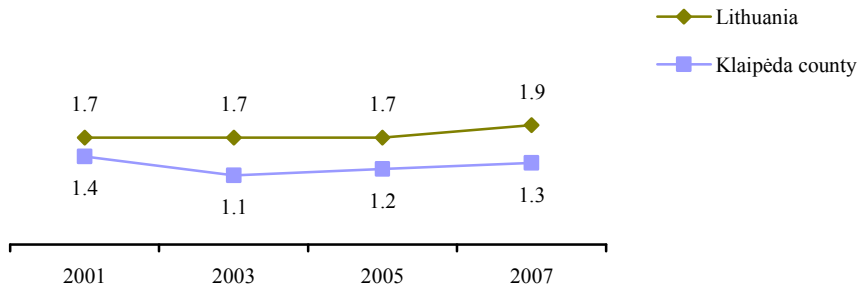


In 2001, museum attendances per 100 population in Klaipėda county made 114 (national average – 69), and by 2007 increased by almost 50 %.

The number of amateur art groups in cultural centres, which are present in all municipalities, against 2001, decreased by 17 %, the number of their members – by 10 %. In 2007, the highest number of participants in amateur art groups per 100 population was in Neringa municipality – 8.7 (county average – 1.3, national average – 1.9). Against 2001, in Neringa, the number of amateur art groups grew by 16, that of their members – by 32 %.

### Number of members of amateur art groups, 2001–2007

Per 100 population



In 2007, the number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population (0.2) in Klaipėda city was one of the lowest in the country (in Kaunas city – 0.1).

In 2007, there were 10 cinema halls in the county. The number of cinemagoers in 2007 was 450 thousand, or 4 times more than in 2001. In 2001, the indicator of cinema attendances per 100 population in Klaipėda county was almost 2 times lower than the national average, while in 2007 this indicator (119 visits per 100 population) exceeded the national average by 20 % (99 visits per 100 population). By the indicator of cinema attendances per 100 population, Klaipėda county lags behind Vilnius (175) and Kaunas (156) counties.

### Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

