

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MARIJAMPOLĖ COUNTY

Population

Marijampolė county ranks sixth in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, it was inhabited by 181.2 thousand persons, or 5.4 % 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
Marijampolė county	188.8	187.6	185.4	182.6	181.2	86.1	95.1	1105
Kalvarija mun.	13.9	13.8	13.6	13.5	13.4	6.4	7.0	1086
Kazlų Rūda mun.	14.9	14.8	14.9	14.6	14.5	6.9	7.6	1111
Marijampolė mun.	70.9	70.5	69.9	69.3	69.0	32.7	36.3	1110
Šakiai d. mun.	38.8	38.5	37.7	36.8	36.4	17.3	19.1	1103
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	50.3	50.0	49.3	48.4	47.9	22.8	25.1	1103

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 7.6 thousand (4 %). Over the said period, the population was decreasing in all county's municipalities: the most – in Šakiai (by 6.2 %) and Vilkaviškis (4.8 %) district municipalities, the least – in Marijampolė and Kazlų Rūda municipalities (by 2.7 % in each).

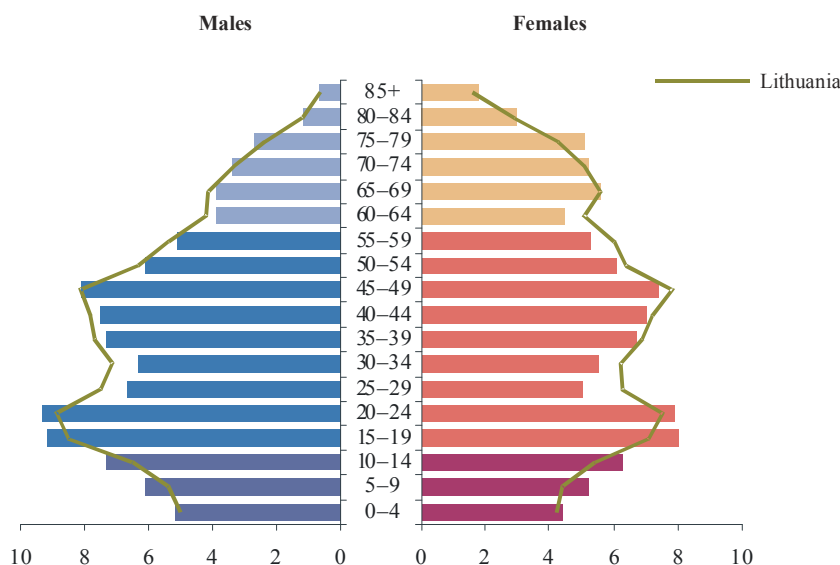
At the beginning of 2008, Marijampolė county was inhabited by 47.5 % of men and 52.5 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1105 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Kazlų Rūda municipality is higher than the respective indicators of the rest of county's municipalities and the county, but lower than the national average.

In 2001–2007, due to the natural decrease, the population in Marijampolė county declined by 4.6 thousand (60.5 %), while due to negative net migration – by 3 thousand (39.5 %).

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

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

Per cent

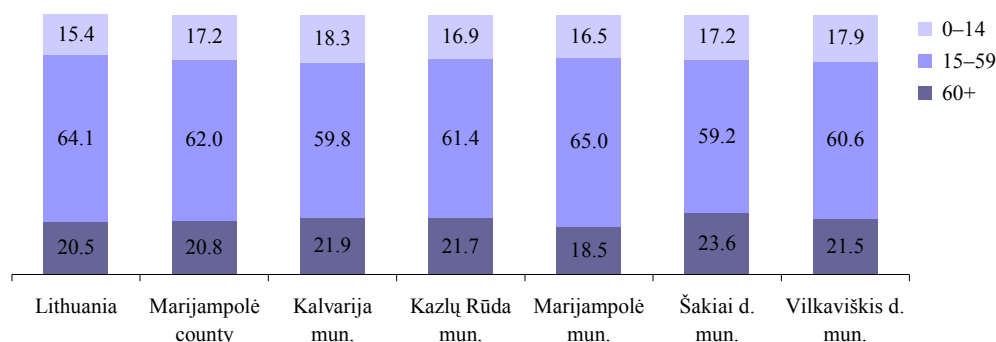


In Marijampolė county elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 20.8 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each sixth man and each fourth woman in Marijampolė county (as in Lithuania) are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 17.5 % (national average – 25.2 %) lower than that of elderly people. In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 24.6 % (national average – 24.7 %).

Population structure by main age groups, beginning of 2008

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Šakiai district, Kalvarija and Kazlų Rūda, where elderly people make up 24–22 % of the population. Better age structure is in Marijampolė municipality, where elderly people make up 18.5 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 28 children and 33 elderly persons per 100 Marijampolė county population aged 15–59 (national averages – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 38 and 36. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Šakiai district, Kalvarija and Vilkaviškis district municipalities, where there were 69–65 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

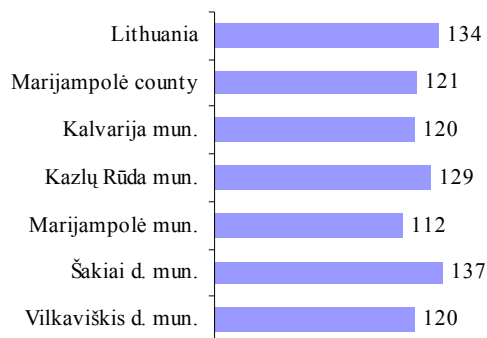
Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	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
Marijampolė county	38	28	36	33	74	61
Kalvarija mun.	43	31	45	36	88	67
Kazlų Rūda mun.	37	28	38	35	75	63
Marijampolė mun.	35	25	29	29	64	54
Šakiai d. mun.	40	29	44	40	84	69
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	39	29	37	36	76	65

At the beginning of 2008, there were 121 elderly persons per 100 children in Marijampolė county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 – just 94. The highest number of elderly people per 100 children was in Šakiai district municipality (137), the lowest – in Marijampolė municipality (112).

Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

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



The mean age of the Marijampolė 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 – 36.8 years.

Migration

In 2001–2007, based on the data of the declaration of the place of residence, about 3 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Marijampolė county to take up the usual residence for a period longer than 6 months, and approximately the same number of persons would leave it. There were, on average, 14.7 persons who arrived in the county and 17 who left it per 1000 county population. Over the period in question, more people left almost all municipalities of Marijampolė county than arrived in them, except for Kalvarija municipality, where more people arrived to than left in 2007.

Internal and international migration, 2001–2007¹

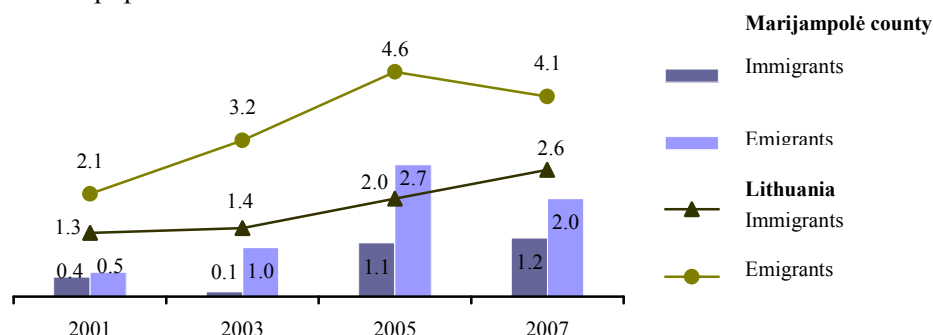
	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	4216	6212	5952	6504	4472	6842	6830	7028	-2559	-6304	-8782	-5244
Marijampolė county	1711	2858	2842	3235	1812	3232	3539	3727	-101	-374	-697	-492
Kalvarija mun.	119	257	280	366	145	231	271	339	-26	26	9	27
Kazlų Rūda mun.	154	345	313	319	117	306	362	360	37	39	-49	-41
Marijampolė mun.	550	1198	1102	1231	725	1356	1342	1382	-175	-158	-240	-151
Šakiai d. mun.	297	432	495	504	326	610	678	682	-29	-178	-183	-178
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	591	626	652	815	499	729	886	964	92	-103	-234	-149

In 2001–2007, on average, 5 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Marijampolė county from abroad, while 9.2 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Marijampolė county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (84.1 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at just 24.4 %.

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

International migration, 2001–2007²

Per 1000 population



Fertility

The crude birth rate in Marijampolė county has been decreasing. In 2001, there were 10.5 live births per 1000 county population, while in 2007 – just 9.3.

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
Lithuania	31546	30598	30541	32346	9.1	8.9	8.9	9.6
Marijampolė county	1973	1900	1655	1691	10.5	10.1	9.0	9.3
Kalvarija mun.	147	139	123	130	10.6	10.1	9.1	9.7
Kazlų Rūda mun.	155	188	141	145	10.4	12.7	9.5	10.0
Marijampolė mun.	702	695	614	651	9.9	9.9	8.8	9.4
Šakiai d. mun.	409	382	288	301	10.6	10.0	7.7	8.2
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	560	496	489	464	11.2	9.9	10.0	9.6

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Marijampolė county was 1.44 (national average – 1.35). The total fertility rate was the highest (1.56) in Vilkaviškis district, the lowest (1.35) – in Marijampolė municipalities.

The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Marijampolė county was 27.5 years (national average – 28 years), while in 2001 – 26.4 years (national average – 26.9 years).

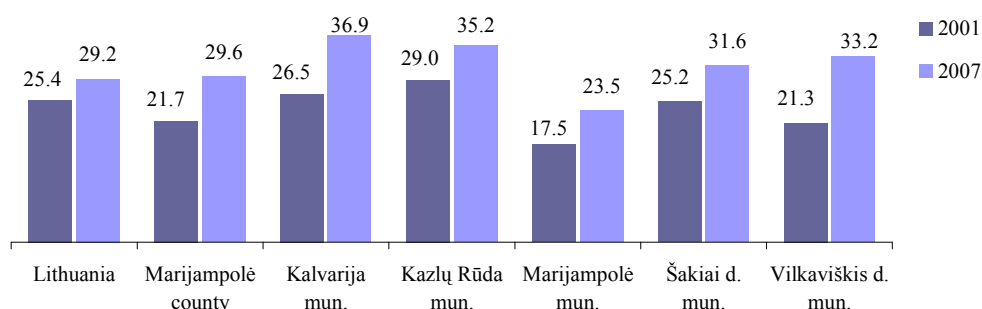
Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 24.6 % in 2001 to 19.5 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate births in Marijampolė county was 501, while in 2001 – 429, which made up, respectively, 29.6 and 21.7 % (national averages – 29.2 and 25.4 %), as compared to the total number of live births. In 2007, the highest number of illegitimate live births (36.9 %) was in Kalvarija, while the lowest (23.5 %) – in Marijampolė municipalities.

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

Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

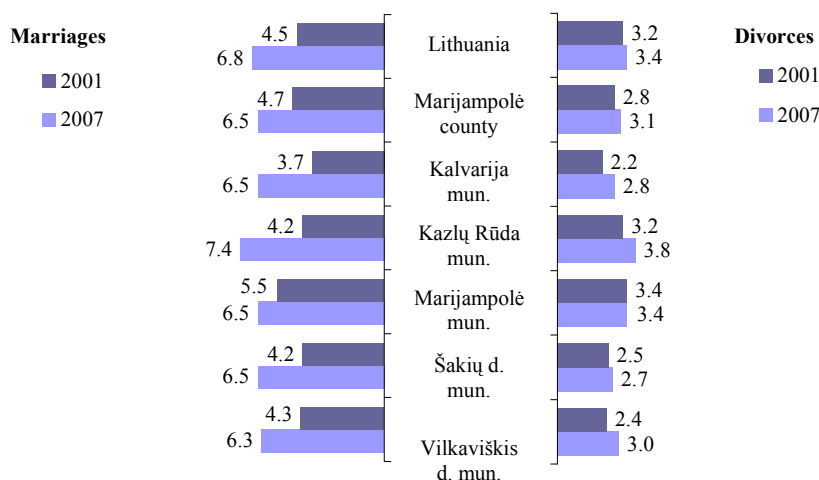
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Marijampolė county was increasing. In 2007, 1182 marriages were registered; there were 6.5 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 878 and 4.7. In 2007, the crude marriage rate in Marijampolė county was slightly lower 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 the county was 27.3, that of women – 25.2 years (national averages – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2001–2007, the number of divorces in Marijampolė county was changing insignificantly. In 2007, 567 divorces were registered; there were 3.1 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 536 and 2.8 respectively. The crude divorce rate in Marijampolė county in 2001–2007 was slightly lower than the national average. In Kazlų Rūda municipality, as compared with other county's municipalities, the crude divorce rate is the highest: in 2007, there were 3.8 divorces per 1000 population.

Mortality

In 2007, 2567 deaths were registered in Marijampolė county. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 9 %. In 2007, there were 14.1 deaths per 1000 Marijampolė county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 12.5.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Marijampolė county municipalities. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Kalvarija and Šakiai district municipalities (17.9 and 15.4 % respectively).

In 2007, there were 8.3 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) per 1000 live births in Marijampolė county (national average – 5.9).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men of Marijampolė county was 65 years, that for women – 76.9. Compared to the national average, the LE for men was higher by 0.2 year, that for women – lower by 0.3 year. In 2001–2007, the LE for men decreased by 1.2, that for women – by 0.5 years. Over the period in question, the difference between the LE for men and that for women increased: in 2007, the LE for men was by 11.9 years shorter than that for women (in 2001 – by 11.2 years).

The structure of causes of death in Marijampolė 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 85.5 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 89.4 % (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
Marijampolė county	244.0	705.4	41.4	163.9	247.9	792.2	59.4	166.6
Kalvarija mun.	346.4	894.9	50.5	230.9	290.0	1026.1	119.0	178.5
Kazlų Rūda mun.	247.9	837.4	26.8	147.4	288.5	845.0	27.5	233.6
Marijampolė mun.	237.2	539.4	29.7	121.4	221.3	632.1	60.8	134.5
Šakiai d. mun.	235.1	824.0	49.1	170.5	240.5	904.8	57.4	191.3
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	231.0	756.7	53.8	205.1	267.8	855.1	51.9	170.2

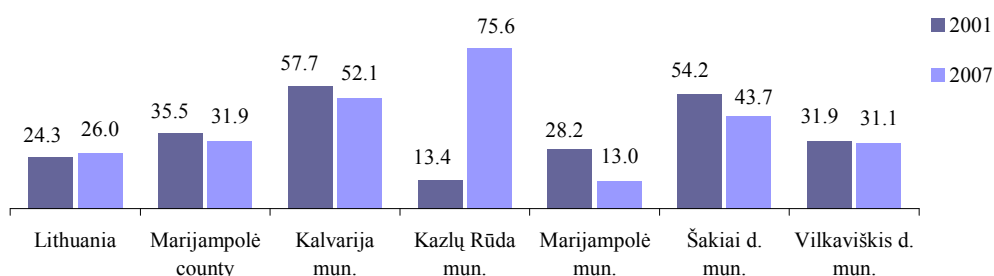
In 2007, more than half (56 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system (in 2001 – 57 %). In Kalvarija municipality, mortality due to these diseases exceeded the national average 1.4 times.

In 2007, there were 451 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (17.6 % of all deaths in Marijampolė county). As compared to other county's municipalities, the highest death rate due to malignant neoplasms for men was in Kazlų Rūda, while that for women – in Kalvarija municipalities.

In 2007, there were 303 deaths due to external causes of death (almost 12 % of all deaths in the county). The death rate due to the said cause for women was 2 times higher than the county average in Šakiai district municipality, that for men – 1.6 times higher than the county average in Kazlų Rūda municipality. In 2007, by mortality due to transport accidents, Marijampolė county ranked third in the country, while mortality due to suicides was slightly higher than the national average.

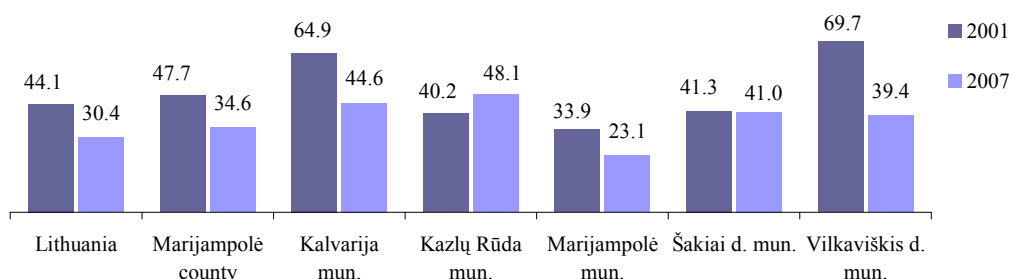
Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Health

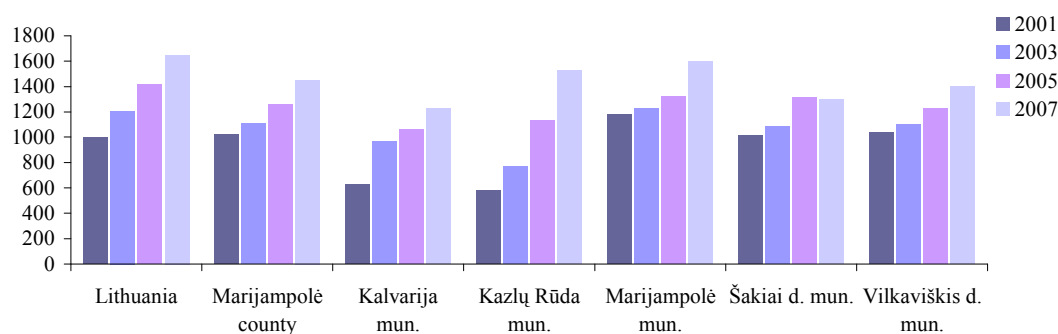
Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre³, in 2007, 41.6 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Marijampolė county, were treated in hospital. The number of visits to health professionals providing primary outpatient health care services per capita in Marijampolė county equalled the national average – 5 times (it was slightly higher in Kazlų Rūda municipality – 6 times, on average).

Although most of the indicators of the prevalence of diseases in Marijampolė county in 2007 were similar to national averages, the prevalence of malignant neoplasms in the county was among the lowest in Lithuania (1452 cases per 100 000 population) – it was just slightly higher than the respective indicator of Telšiai county and by 12 % lower than the national average (1439 and 1650 cases per 100 000 population respectively). Over 2001–2007, in contradistinction to the indicators of other county's municipalities and the national average, the prevalence of malignant neoplasms remained almost unchanged in Šakiai district municipality, while in that of Kazlų Rūda it grew the most – 2.6 times.

³ 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

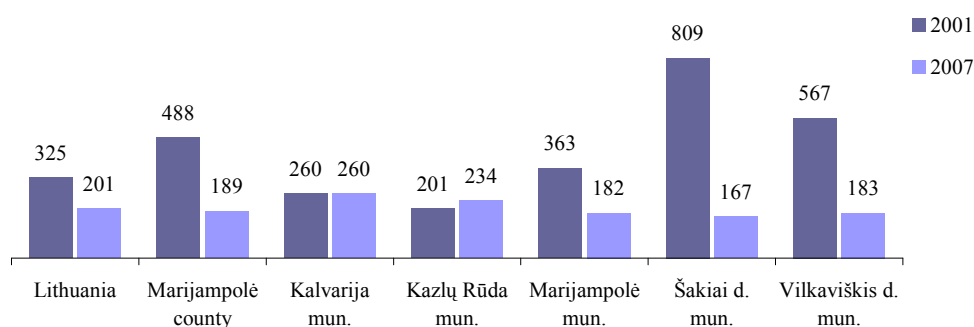
Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



The prevalence of dangerous, so-called social disease – tuberculosis – among the Marijampolė county population is slightly lower than the national average, while against 2001 it decreased by as much as 61 % (from 489 to 189 cases per 100 000 population). A particularly rapid decrease in the indicator in question was observed in Šakiai (almost 5 times) and Vilkaviškis (3 times) district municipalities. However, in Kazlų Rūda municipality, this indicator slightly increased.

Prevalence of tuberculosis, 2001 and 2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



In 2007, in Kalvarija and Kazlų Rūda municipalities, the prevalence of bronchial asthma was threateningly high (1777 and 1710 cases per 100 000 population respectively; national average – 1212), while in Marijampolė municipality it was the highest as compared with the rest of country's municipalities (2621 cases per 100 000 population). Marijampolė municipality also stood out with the highest prevalence of gastritis and duodenitis, as well as spinal pathologies.

Social protection

In 2007, 31.7 thousand (or each sixth resident of the county, i.e. as the national average) residents of Marijampolė county were state social insurance old age pensioners; 12.8 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 286 old age and 115 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county. The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Šakiai district municipality (346 old age pensioners per 1000 working age population).

In 2007, 23.4 thousand residents of Marijampolė county received child benefits; almost one-third thereof were residents of Marijampolė municipality. 883 persons received guardianship (curatorship) benefits, 154 persons – support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 524 women, birth grants – 1.6 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Marijampolė county were paid LTL 26 040.4 thousand of benefits.

The number of residents of the county receiving social services at home has been constantly changing. In 2007, 464 residents of the county were nursed or attended at home, 28 % thereof – in Šakiai district municipality.

At the end of 2007, there were 325 persons living in ten care institutions for the elderly, and almost 700 persons – in four care institutions for disabled adults. There were also 8 child care institutions functioning in the county, where 304 children were taken care of; 6 children were fostered in families. In 2007, 126 persons stayed in four temporary residence institutions (shelters and crisis centres) of Marijampolė 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 1.1 thousand families at social risk living in Marijampolė county in 2007, with 2.6 thousand children brought up in them (almost one-third thereof – in Šakiai 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
Marijampolė county	1398	1198	1086	3381	2916	2556
Kalvarija mun.	84	68	115	238	144	188
Kazlų Rūda mun.	180	126	118	361	310	266
Marijampolė mun.	275	251	206	692	597	477
Šakiai d. mun.	465	428	329	1124	1046	825
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	394	325	318	966	819	800

Education

At the end of 2007, there were 25 preschool education institutions in the county, where 4 thousand children were enrolled. Over 2001–2007, the number of preschool education institutions in the county decreased from 33 to 25 (by 24 %), while the number of children enrolled in them – by 7 %. The most notable changes were observed in Šakiai district municipality, where the number of preschool education institutions almost halved, whereas the number of children enrolled in them grew by 30 %.

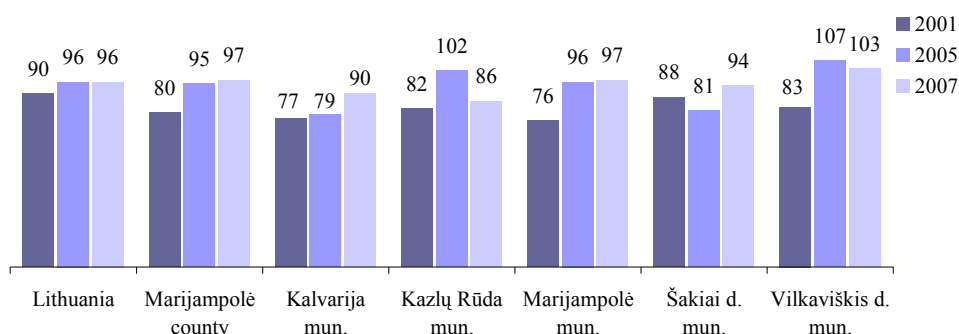
Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Lithuania	89841	89469	90021	93044	3.6
Marijampolė county	3656	3857	3780	3923	7.3
Kalvarija mun.	181	182	184	205	13.3
Kazlų Rūda mun.	134	152	160	152	13.4
Marijampolė mun.	1959	1998	1951	1948	-0.4
Šakiai d. mun.	509	589	630	663	30.3
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	873	936	855	955	9.4

The number of places for children in preschool education institutions has been constantly increasing. In 2007, there were, on average, 97 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions (in 2001 – 80). Except for Vilkaviškis district, the number of children exceeded that of places in preschool education institutions.

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

Places per 100 children

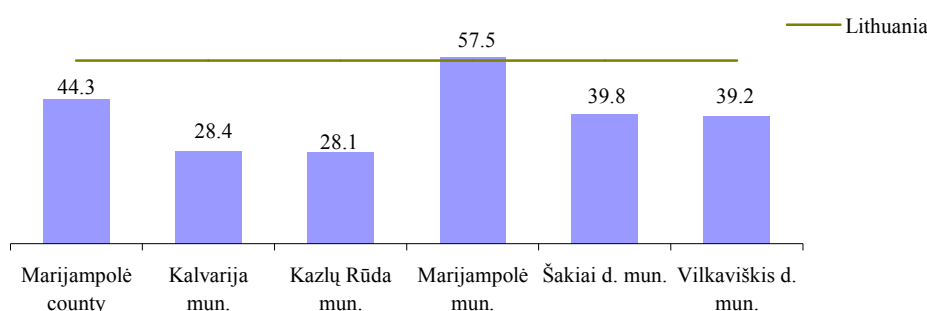


At the end of 2007, the share of children educated according to preschool and pre-primary education programmes in Marijampolė county made up 44 % of children aged 1–6. Although the share of children educated according to such programmes has been annually increasing, it still lags behind the national average (56 %) and is among the lowest in Lithuania.

The change in this indicator in the county's municipalities ranged from 28 % in Kazlų Rūda to 57 % in Marijampolė municipalities.

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 95 general schools in the county, where 29 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools almost halved, while that of pupils – decreased by 5.5 thousand, or 16 %. The most considerable changes were observed in Kazlų Rūda and Vilkaviškis district municipalities.

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
Marijampolė county	34524	33954	31857	29026	-15,9
Kalvarija mun.	2513	2547	2404	2237	-11,0
Kazlų Rūda mun.	2656	2586	2358	2116	-20,3
Marijampolė mun.	13030	12816	12177	11129	-14,6
Šakiai d. mun.	7237	7125	6561	6019	-16,8
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	9088	8880	8357	7525	-17,2

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 2.6 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 2782 to 2580, or by 7 %. The most notable decrease was observed in Šakiai district municipality – in 2007, against 2001, by 11 %. At the beginning of 2007–2008 academic years 88 % of teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 77 %). More teachers having higher education work in Marijampolė (90 %), Šakiai district (89 %) and Kazlų Rūda (87 %) municipalities.

In 2007, general schools were finished by 2.2 thousand pupils, of whom 76.1 % continued their studies in the same year: 39.4 % entered universities, 30.4 % – colleges, 6.3 % – vocational training institutions.

There is one vocational school operating in the county – Marijampolė College. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, higher non-university education in the college was pursued by 2 thousand students.

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
Marijampolė county	1	1	1	2100	1996	1911	818	578	563
Marijampolė mun.	1	1	1	2100	1996	1911	818	578	563

Students may also study in Vilkaviškis and Kudirkos Naumiestis branches of Marijampolė Vocational Education and Training Centre.

There is the only county's higher education establishment in Marijampolė – Marijampolė College. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, higher non-university education there was pursued by 2 thousand students.

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
Marijampolė county	1	1	1	1703	2270	2146	-	500	464
Marijampolė mun.	1	1	1	1703	2270	2146	-	500	464

The most popular fields of studies were management and business administration. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, these curricula were studied by 34 % of all college students; were enrolled in educational studies (49 % thereof – preschool and pre-primary education programmes) 51 % studied social pedagogy.

Employment

In 2007, 82 thousand, or 67 % of the population aged 15–64 were working in Marijampolė county (i.e. by 2 percentage points more than the national average), which made up 5 % 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 2004–2005) increasing. It has been impacted on by positive changes in the national and county's economy.

Employed population, 2001–2007

Thousand

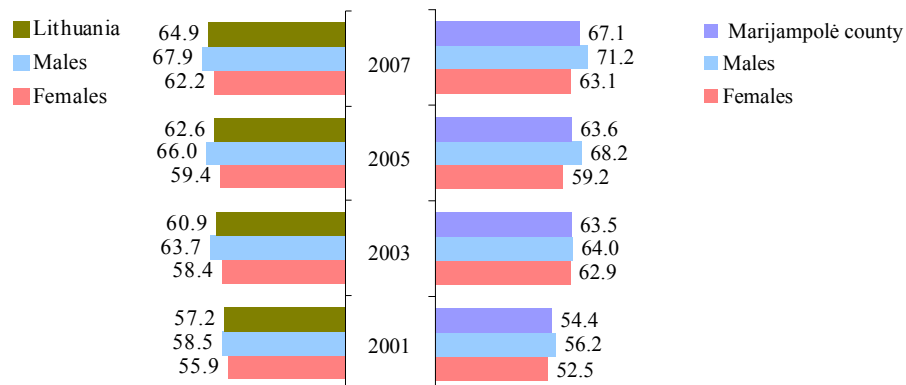
	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	1351.8	1438.0	1473.9	1534.2
Marijampolė county	65.2	80.0	73.9	81.9
Kalvarija mun.	3.4	3.9	3.6	5.1
Kazlų Rūda mun.	4.6	5.0	4.8	6.0
Marijampolė mun.	30.1	36.4	33.7	35.1
Šakiai d. mun.	11.2	12.8	12.7	14.7
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	15.9	21.9	19.1	21.0

In 2007, 43 % of persons employed in Marijampolė county were working in Marijampolė municipality, in Vilkaviškis and Šakiai districts – 26 and 18 % respectively. In 2001–2006, the number of employed persons in all municipalities was changing inconsiderably.

In 2007, the employment rate of the population aged 15–64 in Marijampolė county made up 67.1 %; it testifies to relatively high employment of the population in the region. A higher respective indicator in 2007 was only in Vilnius county (67.4 %). In 2007, the highest employment rate both at the county and national levels was reached. The lowest employment rate in the county was recorded in 2001– 54.4 %. The male and female employment rates differ. Both the male and female employment rates were the highest in 2007 (71.2 and 63.1 % respectively), while the lowest – in 2001 (56.2 and 52.5 %). In 2004–2007, the male employment rate in the county was by 2–3 %, the female one – by 0.5 % higher than national averages.

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

Per cent



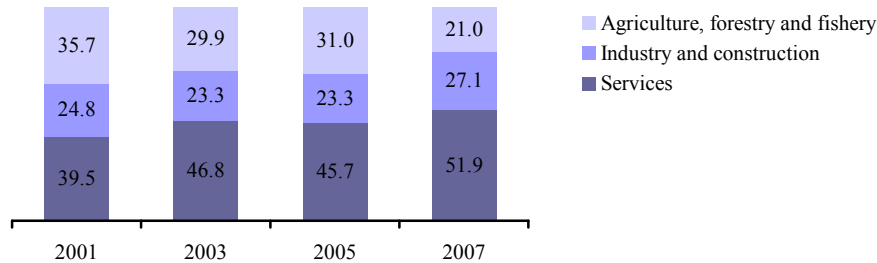
Given the shortage of the labour force, it is important to make use of the reserves of all population groups in the labour market. It became relevant to the economy of Marijampolė county as well. One of the methods is increasing employment of older (aged 55–64) persons. In 2007, 53.4 % of the population of this age group were working in Lithuania, while in Marijampolė county – 49.5 %. Although from 2001, their share grew by more than 13 percentage points, in 2007 it was among the lowest in Lithuania.

In the county, as well as in the entire country, the largest share (in 2007 – almost 52 %, while in 2001 – about 40 %) of the employed population work in the service sector. In 2007, about one-third of the employed population were working in industrial enterprises and the construction sector, while in 2001 – just a quarter. In Marijampolė county, in contradistinction to those of Kaunas, Klaipėda or Vilnius, a relatively large share of the population work in agriculture, forestry and fishery. It may be explained by the fact that soil in the county is mostly rich, and farming activities are profitable. In 2007, 21 % of the Marijampolė county population were working in agriculture,

forestry and fishery (national average – just 10.4 %), while in 2001 – as much as 36 % (national average – just 17 %).

Employment by economic sector, 2001–2007

Per cent



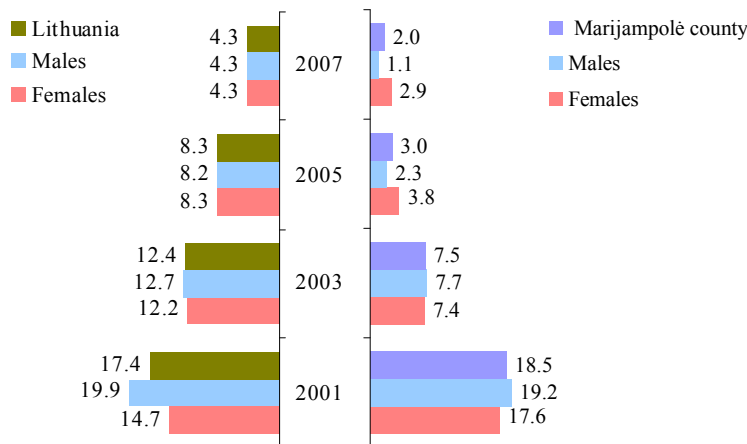
Unemployment

Unemployment, which for a long time had been one of the burning country's problems, rapidly decreased. In Lithuania, over 2001–2007, the number of the unemployed decreased from 284 to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Marijampolė county, the highest number of the unemployed (15 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased almost 10 times – to 1.6 thousand – this decrease being the most considerable in the country.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. In 2007, the unemployment rate in Marijampolė county the lowest in Lithuania – just 2 %, while in 2001 it had reached as much as 18.5 %, and was the highest in the country.

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

Per cent

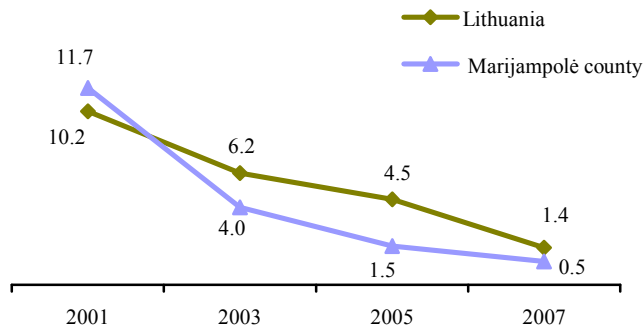


Not only the total number of the unemployed, but also that of the long-term unemployed, i.e. people looking for a job for a year or longer, have been decreasing. The number of the long-term unemployed in Marijampolė county decreased from 9.4 thousand in 2001 to 0.4 thousand in 2007, while the long-term unemployment rate decreased from 11.7 % in 2001 to 0.5 % in 2007. The male long-term unemployment rate in the county decreased from 13.2 % in 2001 to 0.2 % in 2007. In 2001, the share of the long-term unemployed in the county made up as much as 64 % of the total number of the unemployed (national average – 59 %), while in 2007 it decreased in the county, as well as in the entire country, and made up 25 and 32 % respectively. 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 Marijampolė county positively impacted on the decrease in the number of the long-term unemployed and unemployment rate at the national level.

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 Marijampolė 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 the county was 84 thousand, while the labour force activity rate made up 68.4 %, i.e. was by 0.5 % higher than the national average. The highest labour force activity rate in 2007 was in Vilnius county – 70.7 %, the lowest – in Alytus county (63.2 %).

Earnings

In 2007, average gross monthly earnings in Marijampolė county made LTL 1420, and were by 21.2 percentage points lower than the national average. In 2001 and 2007, the highest earnings were in Marijampolė, in 2003 and 2005 – in Kazlų Rūda municipalities. In 2001–2007, the most rapid growth in earnings was observed in Kalvarija municipality (88 %), while the slowest – in Vilkaviškis district municipality (73 %).

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
Marijampolė county	780	847	1001	1420	118.8	78.8
Kalvarija mun.	682	753	853	1281	123.1	71.1
Kazlų Rūda mun.	797	913	1101	1430	102.1	79.4
Marijampolė mun.	813	887	1059	1500	120.2	83.2
Šakiai d. mun.	746	814	949	1369	122.0	76.0
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	734	761	887	1267	119.2	70.3

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

	Lithuania	Marijampolė county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1316	•	1015	1051	1074	1326	1958
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	2088	–	•	•	•	1803	2519
Professionals	1924	1647	–	•	1152	1293	1373	1827
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1273	–	•	1027	1191	•	•
Clerks	1322	1096	•	•	•	•	•	•
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	952	•	•	(1064)	841	•	•
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	•	–	–	–	•	–	–
Craft and related trades workers	1337	1094	•	•	1052	1117	1230	•
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1034	–	•	1056	962	•	•
Elementary occupations	888	787	•	•	770	808	•	•

In 2006, in Marijampolė 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 managers, etc. having higher education were by 38 % higher than earnings of professionals having the same educational level. In Marijampolė county, both earnings of non-manual and manual workers were by 20 % lower than the national average.

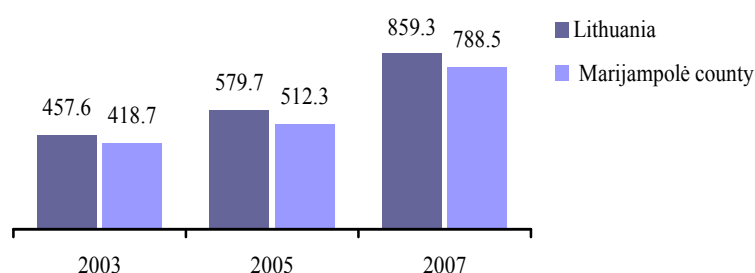
In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 1652) were those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise of 20–29 years, while the lowest (by as much as 55 % lower) – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 50–59 had the highest earnings; their earnings were by 10 % higher than earnings of employees of other age groups.

Standard of living

Based on the data of the Household Budget Survey, average disposable household income (in cash and in kind) in Marijampolė county in 2007 made LTL 789 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 71 less than the national average. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 23.3 %, while against 2003 – by 88.3 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 26.2 %, while against 2003 – 2.2 times.

Changes in average disposable income, 2003–2007

Per household member per month, LTL



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 64 % of the increase in disposable income.

In Marijampolė county, income from paid employment in 2007 made up 45.7 % of the total disposable income, i.e. by as much as 16.7 percentage points less than the national average. Income from business and individual activity was twice as high as the national average; the major share of this income (71.5 %) was comprised of income from agriculture. Social transfers in 2007 made up 23.7 % of disposable income of the Marijampolė county population (by 2.4 percentage points more than the national average), or, on average, LTL 187 per capita per month.

Average disposable income, 2003–2007

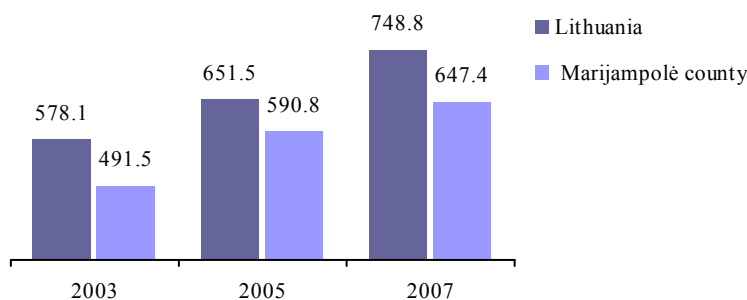
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Marijampolė county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Total disposable income	859.3	418.7	512.3	788.5
Income from paid employment	536.4	173.5	235.5	360.2
Income from self-employment	105.0	105.5	135.3	210.6
income from agriculture	58.8	85.6	109.3	150.5
Social transfers	182.6	104.8	114.0	186.6
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	35.0	27.5	31.1

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Marijampolė county in 2007 made LTL 647 per month, which is by LTL 101 less than the national average. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 9.5 %, or LTL 57 per month. The increase in disposable income was much more rapid than that in consumption expenditure. An increase was observed in the share of income meant for investment and savings.

Average consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Per capita per month, LTL



In 2007, households in Marijampolė county spent on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) 36.2 % of their total consumption expenditure, which made, on average, LTL 235 per household member per month (by LTL 13.6 less than the national average). Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products decreased by 1.1, while against 2003 – by 8.5 percentage points.

Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure – 100 per cent

	Lithuania	Marijampolė county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	44.7	41.0	36.2
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	3.4	4.0	3.5
Clothing and footwear	9.2	8.5	9.2	10.7

	Lithuania	Marijampolė county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	11.9	13.1	12.7
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	3.0	4.6	6.8
Health care	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.7
Transport	10.4	8.4	7.8	8.5
Communication	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.9
Recreation and culture	5.5	3.3	4.1	4.6
Education	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.3
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	2.7	2.4	2.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.6

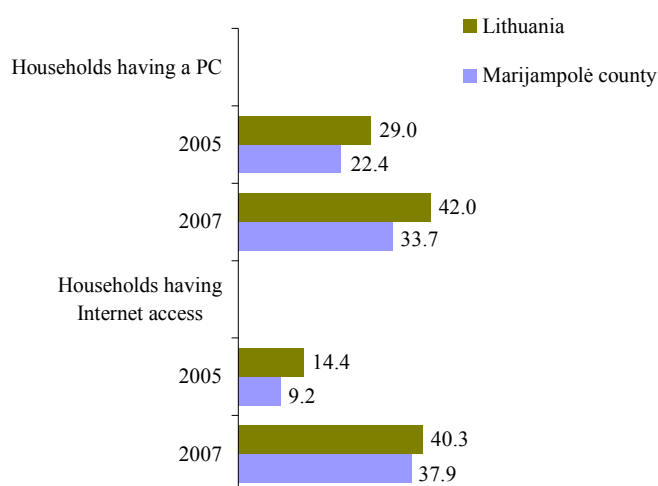
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Marijampolė county made LTL 82 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 12.7 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). Against 2003, expenditure on the maintenance of the house in the county increased 1.5 times, while their specific weight in consumption expenditure – by 0.8 %.

Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Marijampolė county households with personal computers and use of the Internet lagged behind the national average. In I quarter 2007, 34 % of Marijampolė county households had a personal computer at home, 38 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Over two years, the share of Marijampolė county households having a PC increased 1.5 times, those having Internet access – 4.1 times. The increase in the share of households having Internet access at home was impacted on by the increased 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 45 % of the Marijampolė county population aged 16–74 (national average – 52 %). 61 % of persons who were using computers used them daily (national average – 66 %), 27 % – at least once a week, but not daily.

In I quarter 2007, the Internet was used by 42 % of the Marijampolė county population (national average – 49 %).

Half (50 %) of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, 39 % – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 37 % of the Marijampolė 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 13 % of the Marijampolė county population aged 16–74 (national average – 21 %).

E-commerce in Marijampolė county is less popular than in other counties. In I quarter 2007, goods and services for personal use were purchased or ordered via the Internet by 0.6 % of the Marijampolė county population aged 16–74, or by 1.4 % of internauts (national averages – 3.7 and 7.2 % respectively).

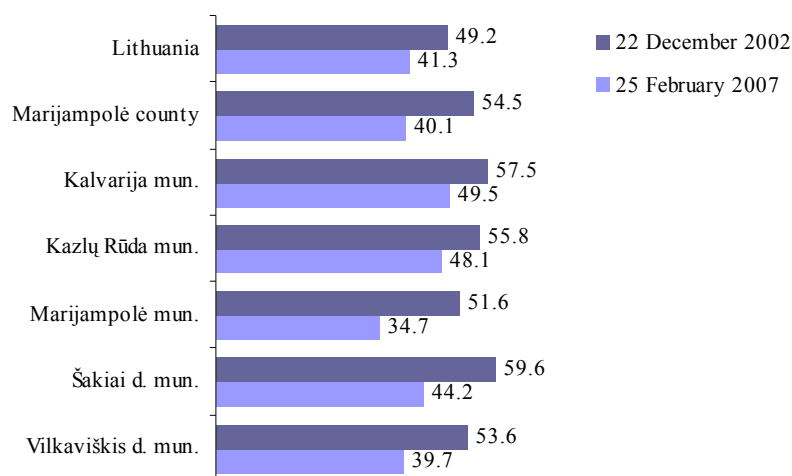
Results of elections to municipal councils

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

Electoral activity at the municipal council elections in Marijampolė county in 2007, against 2002, decreased in all municipalities, and was lower than the national average. The most notable decrease in electoral activity was recorded in Marijampolė and Šakiai district municipalities. In 2007, the most active were the residents of Kalvarija, Kazlų Rūda and Šakiai district municipalities, where 49.5–44.2 % of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. The least active were the residents of Marijampolė and Vilkaviškis district (one-third of residents having voting rights).

Electoral activity at municipal council elections, 2002 and 2007

Per cent



In 2007, in Marijampolė county, out of the total of 119 municipal council mandates, women obtained 22, or 18.5 %, which is less than the national average (22.2 %). According to this indicator, Kazlų Rūda municipality, where women obtained 28.6 % of mandates, stood out against the rest of municipalities. In Marijampolė and Vilkaviškis district municipal councils women make up one-fifth of members. The lowest number of women elected to municipal councils was in Kalvarija (2, or 9.5 %) and Šakiai district (3, or 12 %) municipalities.

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

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
Lithuania	1550	77.8	22.2
Marijampolė county	119	81.5	18.5
Kalvarija mun.	21	90.5	9.5
Kazlų Rūda mun.	21	71.4	28.6

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
Marijampolė mun.	27	77.8	22.2
Šakiai d. mun.	25	88.0	12.0
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	25	80.0	20.0

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Marijampolė county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 28 mandates, or 24 %, Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) – 18 mandates, or one-seventh. The Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties and Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party obtained twice as little mandates as the leader.

In Vilkaviškis district municipality, the highest number of mandates – 11, or 44 %, in Marijampolė municipality – 9, or one-third, was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party. In Šakiai district municipality, 10, or 40 % of mandates, were obtained by the Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties; in Kazlų Rūda municipality, 7, or one-third – by the Liberal and Centre Union. In Kalvarija municipal council, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) and Labour Party – 4, or 19 % each.

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

	Marijampolė county	Kalvarija mun.	Kazlų Rūda mun.	Marijampolė mun.	Šakiai d. mun.	Vilkaviškis d. mun.
Total	119	21	21	27	25	25
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	28	2	2	9	4	11
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats)	18	4	2	6	3	3
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	15	1	1	–	10	3
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	14	3	2	3	4	2
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	11	1	2	4	2	2
Liberal and Centre Union	10	1	7	–	2	–
Labour Party	9	4	1	2	–	2
Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	5	2	1	1	–	1
The New Union (Social Liberals)	4	1	3	–	–	–
Lithuanian Social Democratic Union	2	–	–	2	–	–
Christian Conservative Social Union	2	2	–	–	–	–
Civil Democracy Party	1	–	–	–	–	1

Culture

Over 2001–2007, the number of cultural centres and libraries in the county decreased by 10 %. Cultural establishments were present in all county's municipalities; there are no museums in Kalvarija and Kazlų Rūda municipalities.

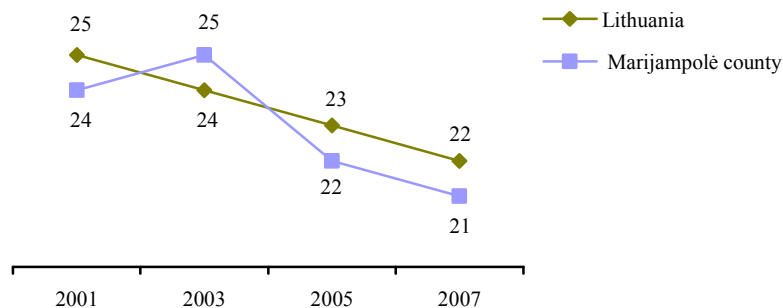
Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

	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
Marijampolė county	116	113	112	111	79	71	71	73	4	4	4	5
Kalvarija mun.	13	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	-	-	-	-
Kazlų Rūda mun.	11	11	11	11	8	7	7	7	-	-	-	-
Marijampolė mun.	28	27	27	27	16	16	17	16	2	2	2	2
Šakiai d. mun.	32	30	30	29	26	27	18	26	1	1	1	1
Vilkaviškis d. mun.	32	32	32	32	17	9	17	12	1	1	1	2

In 2007, against 2001, the number of library users per 100 population in the county decreased by 15 %. In 2007, there were, on average, 350 users per county library (this figure being the lowest in the country). The number of library users per 100 population was close to the national average; however, it was lower only in Telšiai (18), Kaunas (20) and Vilnius (20) counties. In Kalvarija municipality, the number of library users per 100 population was by 42 % higher than the county average. In this municipality, the number of documents per 100 population is by one-third higher than the county average.

Number of county library users, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

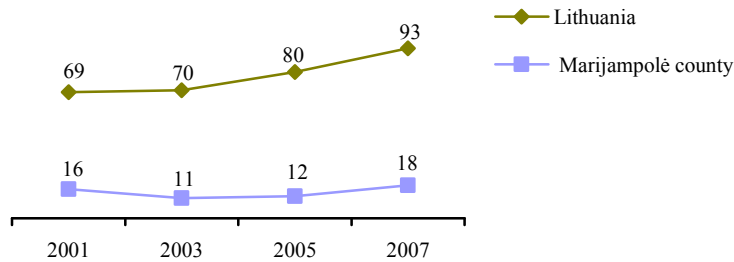


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 14 times (i.e. as the national average). 42 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %). This figure was lower only in Telšiai (23 %) and Vilnius (36 %) counties. In 2007, the number of documents per 100 Marijampolė county population was by 10 % lower than the national average.

In 2007, there were 5 museums in Marijampolė county, which over the year were visited by 32 thousand persons. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors remained almost unchanged (in 2001 – 31 thousand). Half of museum visitors went to the museums of Šakiai district. The most popular museums were the Homestead Museum of Jonas Basanavičius in Vilkaviškis district (in 2007 – 9.8 thousand visitors) and Marijampolė Museum of Regional Studies (in 2007 – 10.9 thousand visitors).

Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

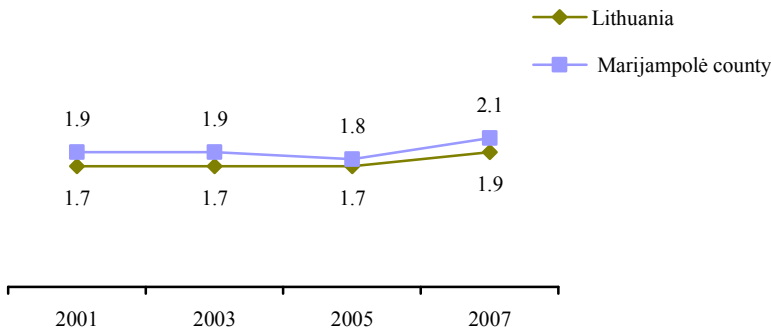


Against 2007, the indicator of museum attendances per 100 population in Marijampolė county was 5 times lower than the national average.

In 2001–2007, the number of amateur art groups and their members in the county grew by 6 %. In 2007, the number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population in the county was by 10 % higher than the national average. In Šakiai district municipality, this indicator was twice as high as the national average; 38 % of members of amateur art groups of the county fell within this district.

Number of members of amateur art groups, 2001–2007

Per 100 population



The number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population is lower only in Vilnius (1.1), Klaipėda (1.3) and Kaunas (1.4) counties.

In 2007, there were 4 cinema halls in the county, which were visited by 58 thousand cinemagoers (in 2001 – 60 thousand). In 2007, against 2001, the indicator of cinema attendances per 100 county population remained unchanged, and was as much as 3 times lower than the national average (in 2001 – by 40 %).

Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

