

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ŠIAULIAI COUNTY

Population

Šiauliai county ranks fourth in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, it was inhabited by 349.9 thousand persons, or 10.4 % 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
Šiauliai county	370.4	367.2	360.7	353.7	349.9	163.2	186.7	1143
Akmenė d. mun.	30.3	29.9	29.1	28.2	27.7	12.8	14.9	1161
Joniškis d. mun.	31.9	31.7	31.2	30.4	30.1	14.1	16.0	1131
Kelmė d. mun.	40.9	40.6	39.7	38.6	38.1	18.2	19.9	1095
Pakruojis d. mun.	29.5	29.2	28.7	27.9	27.4	13.0	14.4	1105
Radviliškis d. mun.	52.2	51.6	50.7	49.7	49.3	23.4	25.9	1107
Šiauliai t. mun.	134.0	132.7	130.0	128.4	127.1	57.8	69.3	1198
Šiauliai d. mun.	51.6	51.5	51.3	50.5	50.2	23.9	26.3	1102

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 20.5 thousand (5.5 %). Over the said period, the population was decreasing in all county's municipalities: the most – in Akmenė (by 8.6 %) and Pakruojis (7.1 %) districts, the least – in Šiauliai district municipality (by 2.7 %).

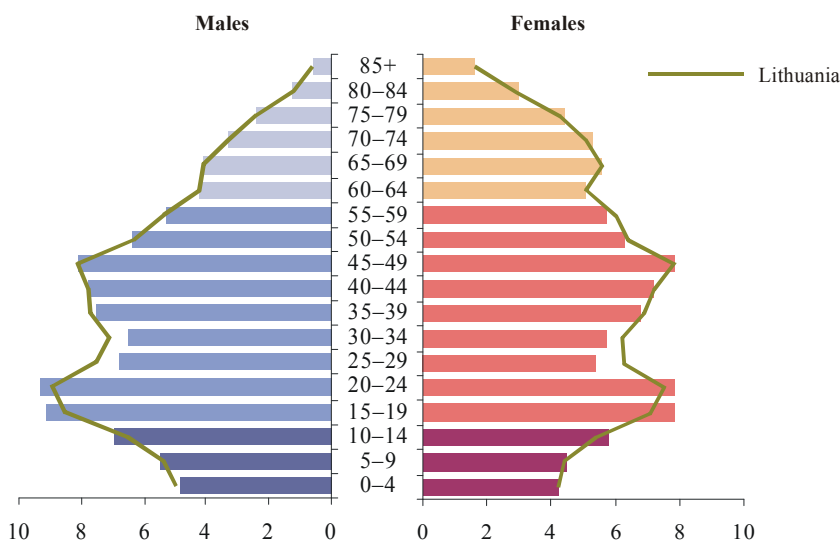
At the beginning of 2008, Šiauliai county was inhabited by 46.6 % of men and 53.4 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1143 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Šiauliai town municipality is higher than the respective indicators of the rest of county's municipalities, as well as the county and national averages.

In 2001–2007, due to the natural decrease, the population in Šiauliai county declined by 9.9 thousand (48.3 %), while due to negative net migration – by 10.6 thousand (51.7 %).

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

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

Per cent

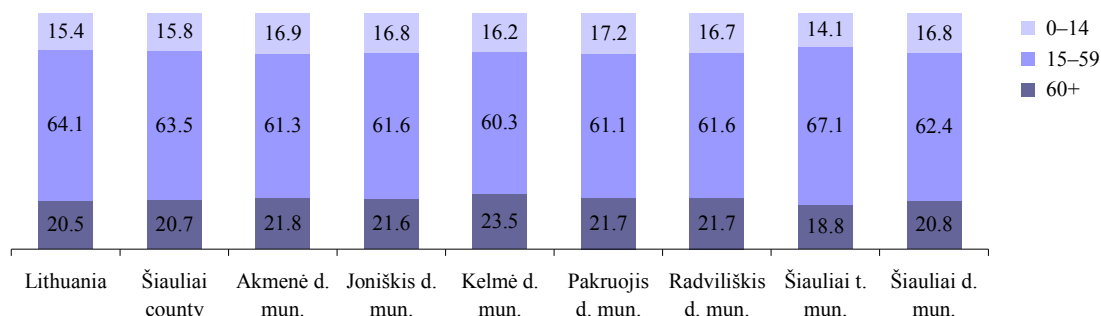


In Šiauliai county elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 20.7 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each sixth man and each fourth woman in Šiauliai county (as in Lithuania) are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 23.9 % (national average – 25.2 %) lower than that of elderly people. In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 28.1 % (national average – 24.7 %).

Population structure by main age groups, beginning of 2008

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Kelmė and Akmenė districts, where elderly people make up 24–22 % of the population. Better age structure is in Šiauliai town municipality, where elderly people make up 18.8 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 25 children and 32 elderly persons per 100 Šiauliai county population aged 15–59 (national averages – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 35 and 32. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Kelmė and Pakruojis districts municipalities, where there were 66–64 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

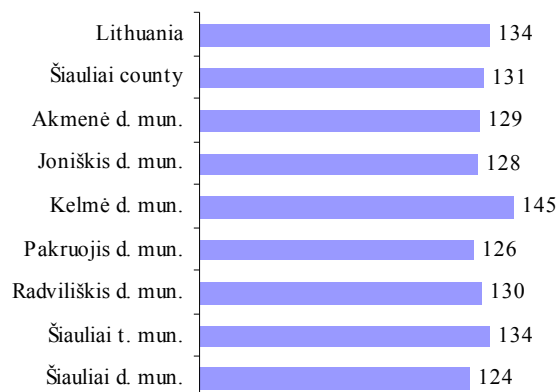
Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	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
Šiauliai county	35	25	32	32	67	57
Akmenė d. mun.	38	27	35	36	73	63
Joniškis d. mun.	38	27	35	35	73	62
Kelmė d. mun.	38	27	41	39	79	66
Pakruojis d. mun.	38	28	36	36	74	64
Radviliškis d. mun.	37	27	36	35	73	62
Šiauliai t. mun.	30	21	26	28	56	49
Šiauliai d. mun.	38	27	35	33	73	60

At the beginning of 2008, there were 131 elderly persons per 100 children in Šiauliai county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 – just 94. The highest number of elderly people per 100 children was in Kelmė district municipality (145), the lowest – in Šiauliai district municipality (124).

Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

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



The mean age of the Šiauliai county population is lower than the national average. At the beginning of 2008, this indicator in the county was 38.8 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, more than 6 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Šiauliai county to take up the usual residence for a period longer than 6 months, while about 8 thousand persons would leave it. There were, on average, 16.8 persons who arrived in the county and 21 who left it per 1000 county population. Over the period in question, more people left almost all municipalities of Šiauliai county than arrived in them.

Internal and international migration, 2001–2007¹

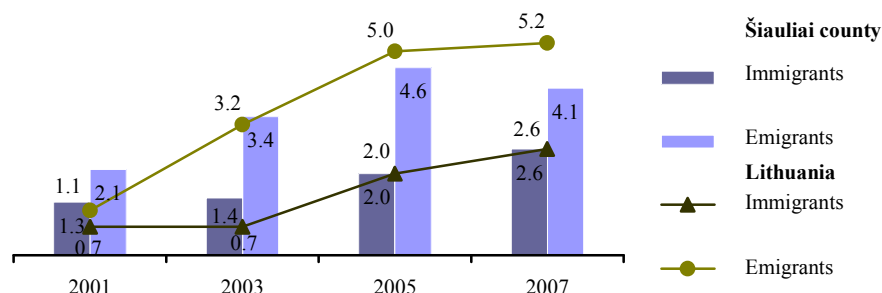
	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	42166	62124	59522	65044	44725	68428	68304	70288	-2559	-6304	-8782	-5244
Šiauliai county	4981	5960	6212	7352	5275	7907	8264	9519	-294	-1947	-2052	-2167
Akmenė d. mun.	800	717	972	941	785	954	1222	1166	15	-237	-250	-225
Joniškis d. mun.	329	540	560	672	277	665	783	776	52	-125	-223	-104
Kelmė d. mun.	370	533	595	792	418	726	916	1099	-48	-193	-321	-307
Pakruojis d. mun.	464	511	368	410	521	604	570	647	-57	-93	-202	-237
Radviliškis d. mun.	503	876	736	956	550	988	1010	1161	-47	-112	-274	-205
Šiauliai t. mun.	1370	1550	1955	2207	1725	2848	2617	3274	-355	-1298	-662	-1067
Šiauliai d. mun.	1145	1233	1026	1374	999	1122	1146	1396	146	111	-120	-22

In 2001–2007, on average, 8.8 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Šiauliai county from abroad, while 15.9 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Šiauliai county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (82.9 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at just 35.1 %.

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

International migration, 2001–2007²

Per 1000 population



Fertility

The crude birth rate in Šiauliai county has been increasing. In 2001, there were 9.1 live births per 1000 county population, while in 2007 – 9.2.

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
Šiauliai county	3354	3266	3064	3248	9.1	8.9	8.5	9.2
Akmenė d. mun.	267	264	243	244	8.8	8.9	8.4	8.7
Joniškis d. mun.	292	321	271	263	9.1	10.2	8.8	8.7
Kelmė d. mun.	393	382	331	351	9.7	9.5	8.4	9.2
Pakruojis d. mun.	285	285	273	252	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.1
Radviliškis d. mun.	497	480	454	486	9.5	9.3	9.0	9.8
Šiauliai t. mun.	1112	1012	1059	1174	8.3	7.7	8.2	9.2
Šiauliai d. mun.	508	522	433	478	9.8	10.1	8.5	9.5

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Šiauliai county equalled the national average (1.35). The total fertility rate was the highest (1.55) in Radviliškis district, the lowest (1.17) – in Šiauliai town municipalities.

The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Šiauliai county was 27.6 years (national average – 28 years), while in 2001 – 26.7 years (national average – 26.9 years).

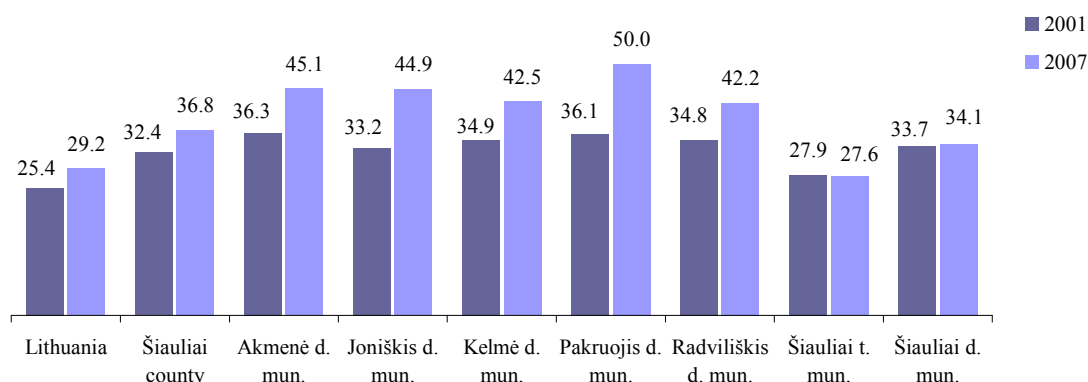
Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 22.5 % in 2001 to 15.3 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate live births in Šiauliai county was 1195, while in 2001 – 1088, which made up, respectively, 36.8 and 32.4 % (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 (50 %) was in Pakruojis district, while the lowest (27.6 %) – in Šiauliai town municipalities.

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

Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

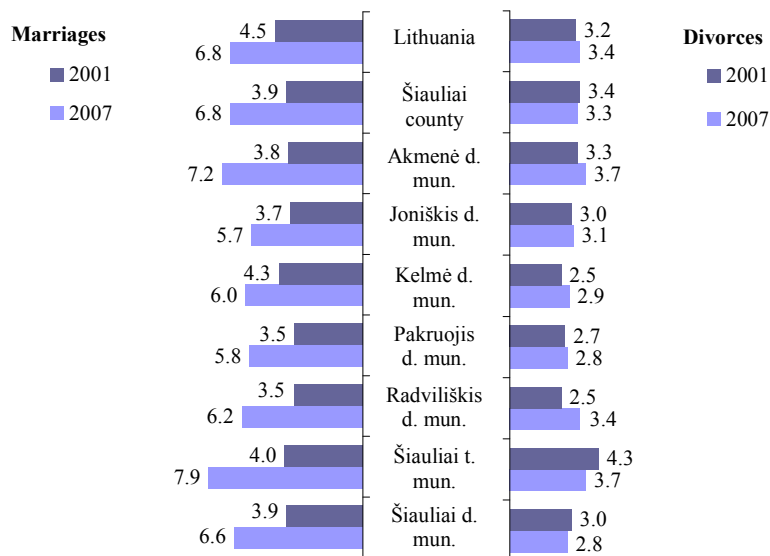
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Šiauliai county was increasing. In 2007, 2408 marriages were registered; there were 6.8 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 1435 and 3.9. In 2007, the crude marriage rate in Šiauliai county equalled 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 27.5, that of women – 25.4 years (national averages – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2001–2007, the number of divorces in Šiauliai county was changing insignificantly. In 2007, 1164 divorces were registered; there were 3.3 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 1242 and 3.4 respectively. The crude divorce rate in Šiauliai county in 2007 was slightly lower than the national average. In Akmenė district and Šiauliai town municipalities, as compared with other county's municipalities, the crude divorce rate is the highest: in 2007, there were 3.7 divorces per 1000 population in each.

Mortality

In 2007, 4918 deaths were registered in Šiauliai county. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 14 %. In 2007, there were 14 deaths per 1000 Šiauliai county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 11.7.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Šiauliai county municipalities. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Akmenė and Pakruojis districts municipalities (17.1 and 16.8 % respectively).

In 2007, there were 6.8 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) per 1000 live births in Šiauliai county (national average – 5.9).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men in Šiauliai county was 64.7 years, that for women – 76.5. Compared to the national average, the LE for men was lower by 0.2, that for women – by 0.7 year. In 2001–2007, the LE both for men and for women in the county decreased by 1.3 years. Although the difference between the LE for men and 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 11.9 years).

The structure of causes of death in Šiauliai county is similar to that across the country. In 2007, the three main causes of death were as follows: diseases of the circulatory system, malignant neoplasms, and external causes of death, which caused 83.3 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 87.4 % (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
Šiauliai county	218.8	651.1	48.1	148.7	266.9	751.9	60.0	146.4
Akmenė d. mun.	198.6	682.0	109.2	205.3	318.2	890.1	75.1	221.6
Joniškis d. mun.	244.5	758.5	50.1	147.3	254.3	911.6	46.2	148.6
Kelmė d. mun.	210.9	760.3	49.1	161.9	310.4	837.3	86.1	185.2
Pakruojis d. mun.	220.9	910.9	47.6	183.5	253.1	1019.6	54.2	155.5
Radviliškis d. mun.	224.6	760.1	65.3	134.4	256.7	865.0	62.7	139.5
Šiauliai t. mun.	213.0	474.7	29.9	119.6	240.4	548.8	49.3	119.0
Šiauliai d. mun.	228.5	679.8	40.7	176.2	297.9	770.7	67.5	145.0

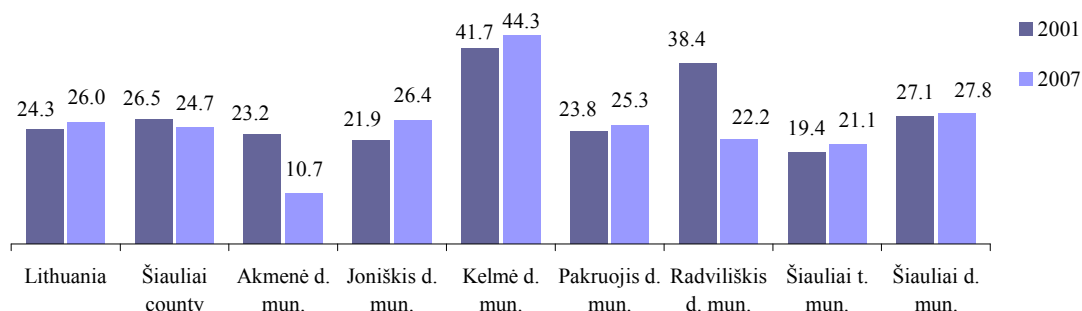
In 2007, more than half (54 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system (in 2001 – 56 %). In Pakruojis district municipality, mortality due to these diseases was 1.4 times higher than the national average.

In 2007, there were 939 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (almost one-fifth of all deaths in Šiauliai county). As compared with other county's municipalities, male mortality due to malignant neoplasms for men was the highest in Akmenė district, for women one – in Radviliškis district municipalities.

In 2007, there were 515 deaths due to external causes of death (one-tenth of all deaths in the county). In Akmenė district municipality, mortality rate due to the said cause for men was 1.6, that for women – 1.4 times higher than the county average. In 2007, mortality due to transport accidents in Šiauliai county was among the lowest in the country, while mortality due to suicides – close to the national average.

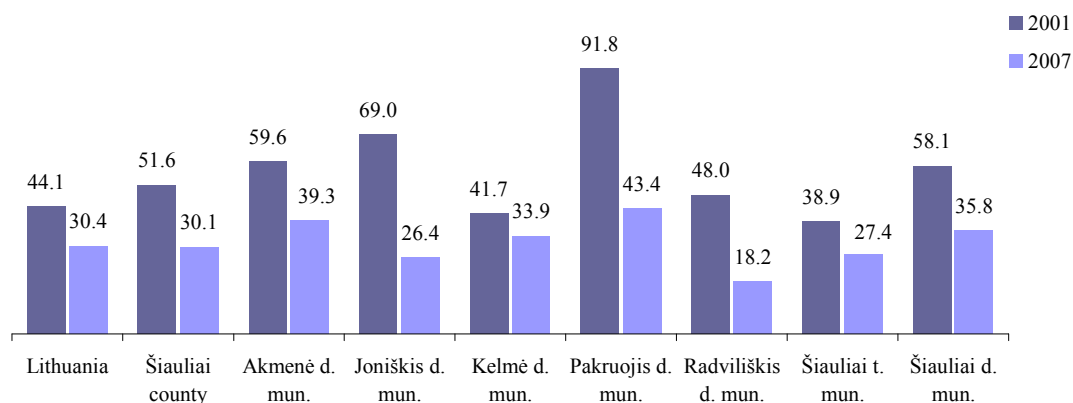
Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Health

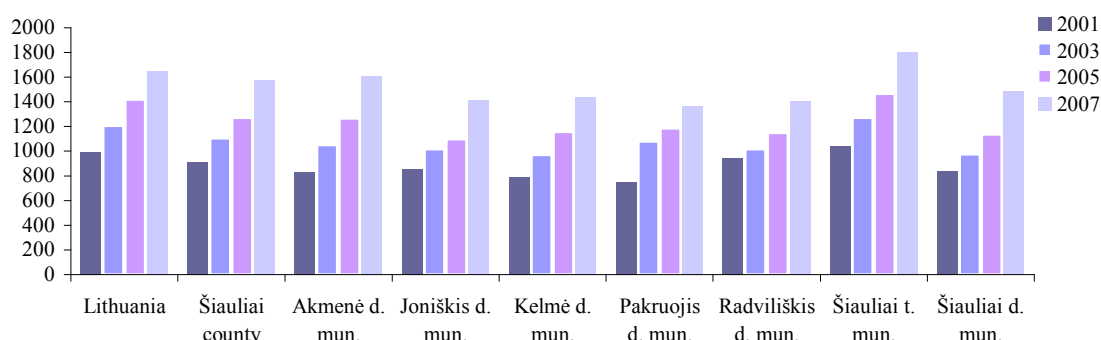
Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre³, in 2007, 89.3 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Šiauliai county, were treated in hospital. The residents of Akmenė municipality were using inpatient services somewhat more often (each third). The number of visits to health professionals providing primary outpatient health care services per capita in Šiauliai county made 4 times (national average – 5 times).

The indicators of the prevalence of malignant neoplasms among the residents of Šiauliai county in 2007 were somewhat better than the national average (1580 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 1650). The prevalence of malignant neoplasms in 2007 was the lowest among the residents of Pakruojis district municipality (1367 cases per 100 000 population); however, in Šiauliai town municipality, the prevalence of these diseases (1804 cases per 100 000 population) was by 9 % higher than the national average.

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

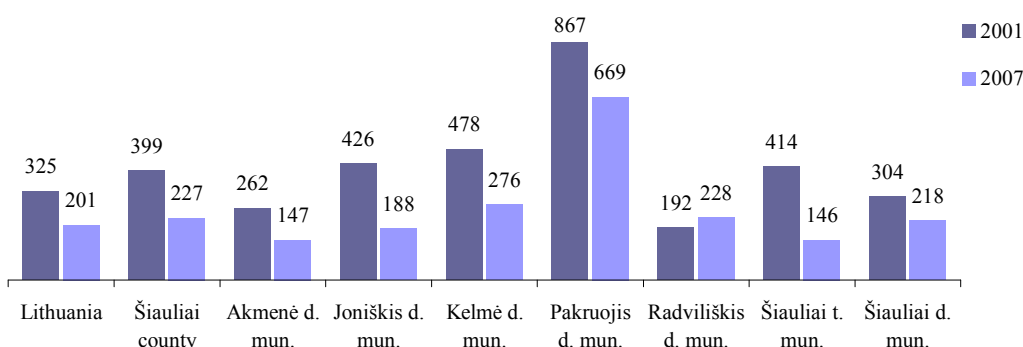
Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



The prevalence of dangerous, so-called social disease – tuberculosis – among Šiauliai county population is by 13 % higher than the national average (227 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 201). The prevalence of tuberculosis is the highest in Pakruojis district municipality (669 cases per 100 000 population). In 2007, by the indicator of the prevalence of tuberculosis, this municipality ranked second in Lithuania (the highest one being recorded in Biržai district municipality). Against 2001, the prevalence of tuberculosis decreased in most of the county's municipalities, while in that of Šiauliai town – by as much as 65 %; in Radviliškis district municipality, the indicator in question grew by one-fifth.

Prevalence of tuberculosis, 2001 and 2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



The indicators of the prevalence of most other diseases in Šiauliai county are close to national averages. In 2007, as compared with other regions of the country, the prevalence of diseases of the stomach and duodenum, as well as bronchial asthma, in the county was lower (prevalence rates, respectively, by 18 % and 9 % lower than national averages).

Social protection

In 2007, 61.2 thousand (or each sixth resident of the county, i.e. as the national average) residents of Šiauliai county were state social insurance old age pensioners; 23.9 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 278 old age and 109 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county. The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Kelmė district municipality (340 old age pensioners per 1000 working age population), while the lowest – in Šiauliai town and district municipalities⁴ (249).

In 2007, 38.7 thousand residents of Šiauliai county received child benefits; 27 % thereof were residents of Šiauliai town municipality. 1562 persons received guardianship (curatorship) benefits,

⁴ Data provided broken down by regional divisions of the State Social Insurance Fund Board.

209 persons – support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 996 women, birth grants – almost 3 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Šiauliai county were paid LTL 43 979.3 thousand of benefits.

The number of residents of the county receiving social services at home has been changing inconsiderably. In 2007, 944 residents of the county were nursed or attended at home (in 2006 – 919, in 2001 – 1036), each fourth thereof – in Šiauliai town municipality.

At the end of 2007, there were 430 persons living in eight care institutions for the elderly, and 923 persons – in three care institutions for disabled adults. There were also 14 care institutions for children functioning in the county, where 811 children were taken care of; 51 children were fostered in families. In 2007, 127 persons stayed in two temporary residence institution (shelters and crisis centres) of Šiauliai 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 Šiauliai county in 2007, with 2.9 thousand children brought up in them (19 % thereof – in Šiauliai 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
Šiauliai county	1656	1232	1076	4134	3176	2948
Akmenė d. mun.	113	106	105	271	268	267
Joniškis d. mun.	203	174	188	490	492	527
Kelmė d. mun.	124	126	126	365	387	387
Pakruojis d. mun.	267	166	164	702	479	470
Radviliškis d. mun.	274	186	204	678	496	532
Šiauliai t. mun.	448	297	99	1008	540	214
Šiauliai d. mun.	227	177	190	620	514	551

Education

At the end of 2007, there were 63 preschool education institutions in the county, where more than 8 thousand children were enrolled. Over 2001–2007, both the number of preschool education institutions and that of children enrolled in them decreased. The number of children enrolled in preschool education institutions in different municipalities was changing differently: in Kelmė district – decreased by as much as 36 %, in Akmenė district – by as much as 29 %, while in Šiauliai district – increased by 10 %.

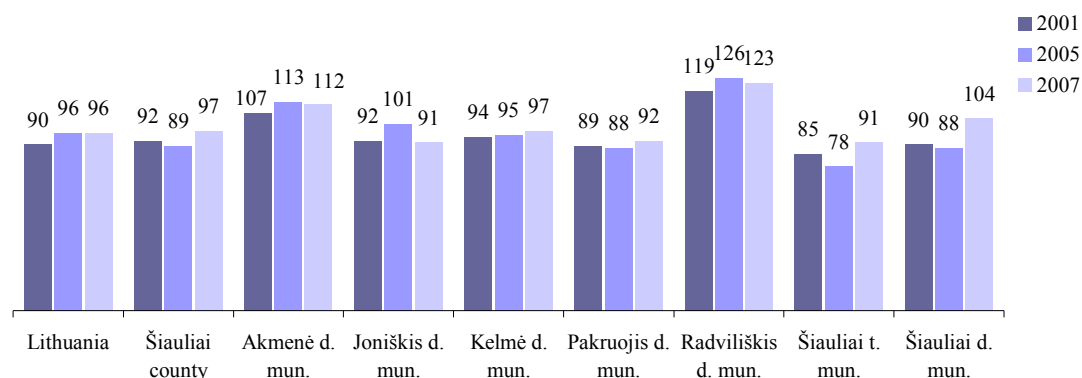
Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Lithuania	89841	89469	90021	93044	3.6
Šiauliai county	8624	8491	7949	8347	-3.2
Akmenė d. mun.	765	697	527	540	-29.4
Joniškis d. mun.	622	632	578	644	3.5
Kelmė d. mun.	654	615	394	420	-35.8
Pakruojis d. mun.	569	622	604	613	7.7
Radviliškis d. mun.	809	785	788	876	8.3
Šiauliai t. mun.	4435	4335	4234	4405	-0.7
Šiauliai d. mun.	770	805	824	849	10.3

In 2007, there were, on average, 97 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions. The number of places for children in preschool education institutions was sufficient only in Radviliškis, Akmenė and Šiauliai district municipalities.

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

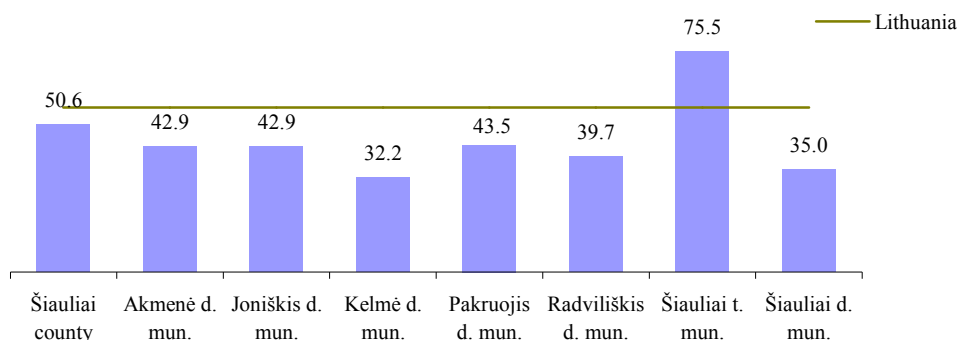
Places per 100 children



At the end of 2007, half of children aged 1–6 in Utena county were educated according to preschool and pre-primary education programmes. The change in this indicator in the county's municipalities ranged from 32 % in Kelmė district to 76 % in Šiauliai town municipalities. Over 2005–2007, the share of children aged 1–6 educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes in Joniškis district and Šiauliai town was growing at the fastest pace (by 7 and 6 percentage points respectively).

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 178 general schools in the county, where 53 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools decreased from 243 to 178 (by 27 %), while that of pupils – by 13 thousand (20 %).

The number of pupils has been decreasing in all municipalities, the most – in those of Joniškis and Radviliškis (by 22 % in each).

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
Šiauliai county	66138	63765	58887	52844	-20.1
Akmenė d. mun.	5764	5529	5220	4760	-17.4
Joniškis d. mun.	5941	5620	5158	4606	-22.5

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Kelmė d. mun.	7242	7015	6399	5721	-21.0
Pakruojis d. mun.	5172	5081	4644	4154	-19.7
Radviliškis d. mun.	9437	9097	8197	7323	-22.4
Šiauliai t. mun.	24615	23624	22048	19852	-19.3
Šiauliai d. mun.	7967	7799	7221	6428	-19.3

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 5403 to 4702, or by almost 13 %. The number of teachers has been decreasing in all county's municipalities, while the most notable decrease was observed in those of Joniškis and Šiauliai – in 2007, against 2001, by 20 % in each. Most (94 %) teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 90 %). More teachers having higher education work in Šiauliai town (98 %), Radviliškis and Šiauliai districts (94 % in each).

In 2007, general schools were finished by 3.6 thousand pupils, of whom 82 % continued their studies in the same year: 54 % entered universities, 22 % – colleges, 6 % – vocational training institutions.

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 8 vocational schools operating in the county, where more than 5 thousand students were enrolled. Against 2003, the number of students in vocational schools dropped by 8 %.

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
Šiauliai county	11	7	8	5756	5540	5274	1767	1515	1379
Akmenė d. mun.	1	1	1	363	447	462	82	118	124
Joniškis d. mun.	1	1	1	602	593	551	184	111	126
Kelmė d. mun.	1	1	1	222	223	303	51	49	41
Pakruojis d. mun.	1	1	2	707	716	580	165	200	177
Radviliškis d. mun.	5	1	1	2984	2804	2736	1022	861	785
Šiauliai t. mun.	2	2	2	878	757	642	263	176	126

There are vocational education establishments in all county's municipalities, except for that of Akmenė district. Since 2004, five vocational schools were reorganised – joined into one Šiauliai Vocational Education and Training Centre, which is the biggest vocational education establishment not only in the county, but also in the entire country, with 2.7 thousand students enrolled in it. There is the Lithuanian Rehabilitation Vocational Training Centre in Radviliškis, where training and socialisation programmes for the disabled are organised.

There are 4 higher education establishments in Šiauliai county – 3 colleges (one public and three private) and a university – with almost 16 thousand students enrolled in them at the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year (8 % of students in Lithuania).

There were almost 4 thousand students enrolled in colleges. Against 2003, the number of college students grew more than 1.5 times. All colleges are situated in Šiauliai town. The largest college – Šiauliai College, where in 2007 2.6 thousand students were enrolled.

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
Šiauliai county	3	3	3	2642	3855	3850	121	1137	948
Šiauliai d. mun.	3	3	3	2642	3855	3850	121	1137	948

There is the only county's university in Šiauliai town – Šiauliai University – with almost 12 thousand students enrolled in it. In 2007, against 2003, the number of students in the university grew by 2 thousand, or 20 %.

Number of universities and students in them

	Number of universities			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003– 2004	2005– 2006	2007– 2008	2003– 2004	2005– 2006	2007– 2008	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	21	21	22	130245	141771	144336	22959	28089	31153
Šiauliai county	1	1	1	9855	12149	11827	1675	2221	2822
Šiauliai d. mun.	1	1	1	9855	12149	11827	1675	2221	2822

In Šiauliai university, bachelor's degree is pursued by 10.5 thousand (88.7 %), master's – 1.3 thousand (11 %), doctoral – about 39 (0.3 %) students. The most popular fields of studies – social sciences (60 % of students), of which pedagogy – 37 %, economics – 25 %.

Employment

In 2007, 149 thousand, or 62 % of the population aged 15–64 were working in Šiauliai county, which made up about 10 % 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 was annually (from 2001 to 2005) increasing, while in 2007, against 2005 and 2006, dropped by 4 thousand.

Employed population

Thousand

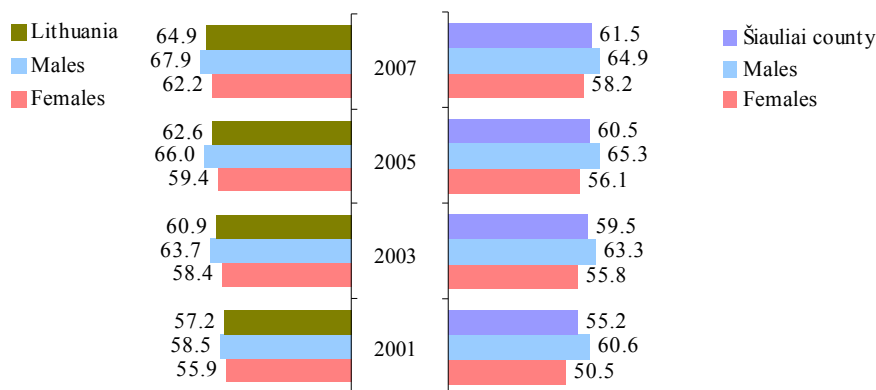
	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	1351.8	1438.0	1473.9	1534.2
Šiauliai county	136.5	150.1	153.1	148.7
Akmenė d. mun.	10.0	10.4	10.4	11.4
Joniškis d. mun.	12.0	13.4	13.1	10.4
Kelmė d. mun.	14.8	16.2	16.6	13.8
Pakruojis d. mun.	11.5	11.5	11.7	10.2
Radviliškis d. mun.	16.2	18.5	20.5	20.7
Šiauliai t. mun.	56.0	62.7	62.4	63.4
Šiauliai d. mun.	16.0	17.4	18.4	18.8

In 2007, persons employed in Šiauliai town made up almost half (43 %), those employed in Radviliškis district – 14 %, Šiauliai district – 13 %, Kelmė district – 9 % of the employed population in Šiauliai county. In 2001–2007, the number of employed persons in different municipalities was changing at a different pace. The number of employed persons in Šiauliai town and Radviliškis region has been almost annually increasing. In recent years, a decrease in the number of employed persons has been observed in Joniškis, Kelmė and Pakruojis municipalities.

In 2007, the employment rate of the population aged 15–64 in Šiauliai county made up 61.5 %, which is by 3.4 % lower than the national average (64.9 %). The employment rate of Šiauliai county population, as compared with the rest of counties, has been recently among the lowest ones. The lowest employment rates were recorded in 2001 and 2002 – 55.2 and 57.4 % respectively (lower than the national average, which made up, respectively 57.2 and 59.6 %). In 2007, the male employment rate in the county made up 64.9 %, the female one – 58.2 %. The female employment rate over the entire period in question would be lower than the male one.

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

Per cent

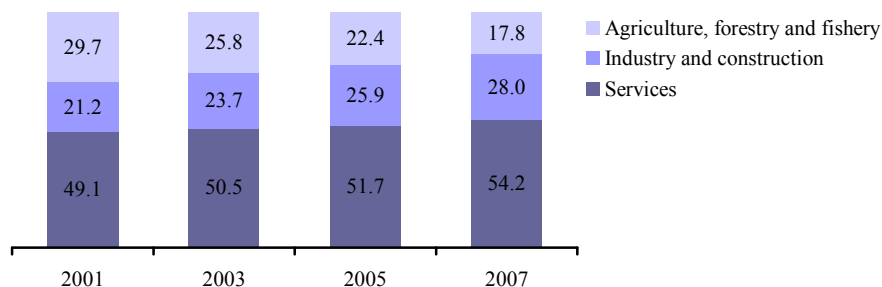


Given the shortage of the labour force, it is important to make use of the reserves of all population groups in the labour market. One of the methods is increasing employment of older (aged 55–64) persons. In 2007, 53.4 % of the population of this age group was working in Lithuania, while in Šiauliai county – just 44.9 %. It is one of the lowest indicators in Lithuania, although from 2001 it grew by 6 percentage points. Relatively low employment rates of people of working age and the elderly are impacted on by a rather slow economic growth in the county.

In 2007, the largest share (54 %) of the employed Šiauliai county population, as in previous years, was working in the service sector. In 2002–2007, about a third of the employed population was working in industrial enterprises and the construction sector. The share of persons working in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishery has been decreasing in the county, as well as across the country. In 2007, 18 % of the Šiauliai county population was working in agriculture, forestry and fishery, which is almost 2 times more than the national average, while in 2001 this indicator in the county made up about 30 %. In Lithuania, in 2007, 10 %, of the employed population were working in this sector.

Employment by economic sector, 2001–2007

Per cent



Unemployment

Unemployment, which for a long time had been one of the burning country's problems, rapidly decreased. In Lithuania, over 2001–2007, the number of the unemployed decreased from

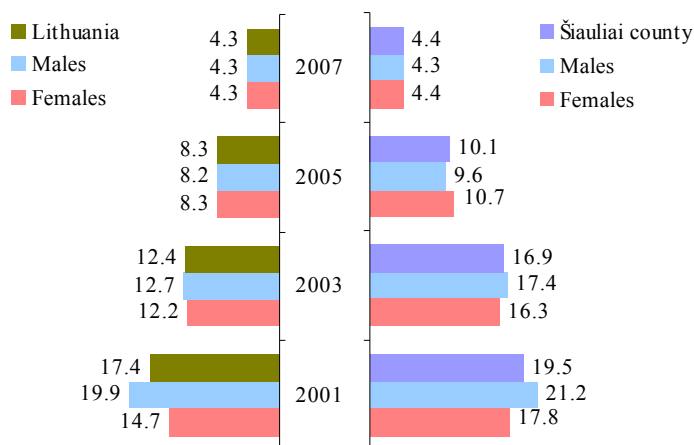
284 to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Šiauliai county, the highest number of the unemployed (33 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased 5 times – to 6.8 thousand. Over the entire period in question, the number of male unemployed was higher than that of female unemployed.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. The unemployment rate in the country decreased from 17.4 % in 2001 to 4.3 % in 2007, while in Šiauliai county from 19.5 to 4.4 % respectively. A decrease in the male unemployment rate was particularly prominent: in 2001, it was as high as 21.2 %, while in 2007 dropped to 4.3 %.

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

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

Per cent

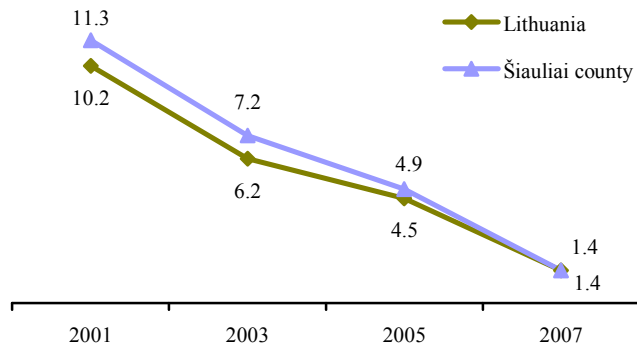


Not only the total number of the unemployed, but also that of the long-term unemployed, i.e. people looking for a job for a year or longer, have been decreasing. The number of the long-term unemployed in Šiauliai county decreased from 19 thousand in 2001 to 2.2 thousand in 2007, while the long-term unemployment rate decreased from 11.3 % in 2001 to 1.4 % in 2007. In 2007, the male and female long-term unemployment rates were similar.

In 2001, the share of the long-term unemployed in Šiauliai county made up 58 % 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 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 Šiauliai 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 Šiauliai 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 156 thousand, while the labour force activity rate made up 64.4 %, i.e. was by 3 % lower than the national average. This indicator is one of the lowest in Lithuania, which reflects a relatively low activity rate in the county. In 2007, the highest activity rate was in Vilnius county (70.7 %), while the lowest – in Alytus county (63.2 %).

Earnings

In 2007, average gross monthly earnings in Šiauliai county made LTL 1498, and were by 16.9 percentage points lower than the national average. In 2001–2007, the highest earnings were in Šiauliai town and Akmenė district municipalities. Over the period in question, the most rapid growth in earnings was observed in Pakruojis district municipality (2 times), while the slowest – in Joniškis 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
Šiauliai county	801	871	1049	1498	120.9	83.1
Akmenė d. mun.	829	937	1130	1549	116.9	86.0
Joniškis d. mun.	759	789	908	1313	122.7	72.9
Kelmė d. mun.	746	790	920	1295	120.0	71.9
Pakruojis d. mun.	739	794	976	1460	124.5	81.0
Radviliškis d. mun.	699	754	915	1272	119.4	70.6
Šiauliai t. mun.	858	934	1129	1613	120.8	89.5
Šiauliai d. mun.	686	757	879	1276	122.8	70.8

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

	Lithuania	Šiauliai county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1387	(976)	1023	1125	1146	1429	2016
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	2328	–	•	1337	1558	1771	2803
Professionals	1924	1710	–	•	1205	1294	1427	1862
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1335	•	•	1127	1232	1448	1487
Clerks	1322	1184	–	•	1106	1039	1310	1385
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	909	•	•	932	804	(1095)	•
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	•	–	•	•	•	–	–
Craft and related trades workers	1337	1289	•	1159	1313	1274	1423	1352
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1224	•	1146	1243	1149	1476	1443
Elementary occupations	888	769	•	787	780	728	•	•

In 2006, in Šiauliai 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 50 % higher than earnings of professionals and by 89 % higher than earnings of technicians and associate professionals having the same educational level. In Šiauliai county, earnings of non-manual workers were by 17%, while those of manual workers – by 6 % lower than the national average.

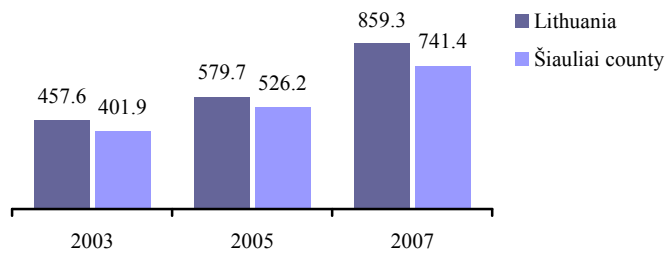
In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 1891) were those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise of 30–39 years, while the lowest (LTL 1119) – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 60 and older had the highest earnings; their earnings were by 60 % higher than earnings of those 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 Šiauliai county in 2007 made LTL 741 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 118 less than the national average. The growth in disposable income in Šiauliai county was slightly slower than the national average. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 21.4 %, while against 2003 – by 84.5 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 25.4 %, while against 2003 – 2.1 times.

Changes in average disposable income, 2003–2007

Per household member per month, LTL



Against 2006, the most visible increase was observed for employment income. The increase in income from paid employment made up 81.5 % of the increase in disposable income.

In Šiauliai county, income from paid employment in 2007 made up 56.5 % of the total disposable income, i.e. by 6 percentage points less than the national average. Social transfers in 2007 made up 24.1 % of disposable income of the Šiauliai county population (by almost 3 percentage points more than the national average), or, on average, LTL 179 per capita per month.

Average disposable income, 2003–2007

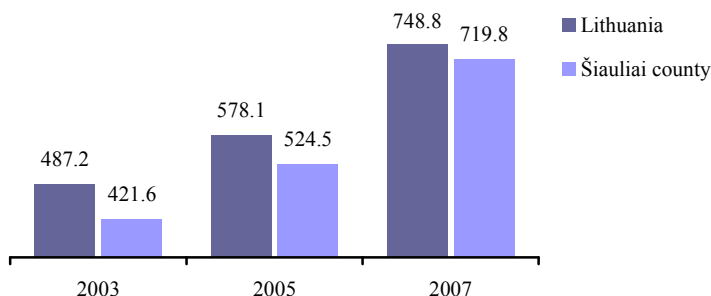
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Šiauliai county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Total disposable income	859.3	401.9	526.2	741.4
Income from paid employment	536.4	202.8	260.8	418.6
Income from self-employment	105.0	75.7	98.7	110.8
income from agriculture	58.8	54.9	82.8	78.6
Social transfers	182.6	97.1	124.0	178.8
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	26.5	42.7	33.2

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Šiauliai county in 2007 made LTL 720 per month, which is by LTL 19 less than the national average. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 18.3 %, or LTL 111 per month. One-fifth of this sum formed due to the increase of expenditure on food products, the same share – expenditure on recreation and culture.

Average consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Per capita per month, LTL



In 2007, households in Šiauliai county spent on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) one third (33.7 %) of their total consumption expenditure, which made, on average, LTL 242.2 per household member per month (by LTL 5.9 less than the national average). Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products decreased by 2.4 percentage points, while against 2003 – by 8.5 percentage points. Although the growth in expenditure on food products, against

2003, in Šiauliai county was the most prominent (36 %), the decrease in the relative share of this expenditure in consumption expenditure was among the most considerable in the country as well.

Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure -100 per cent

	Lithuania	Šiauliai county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	42.2	39.9	33.7
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.2
Clothing and footwear	9.2	7.4	8.1	9.0
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	12.9	12.1	12.2
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	3.6	4.3	5.7
Health care	4.8	5.0	5.5	5.9
Transport	10.4	7.9	7.6	7.9
Communication	4.9	5.1	4.9	4.7
Recreation and culture	5.5	3.7	4.8	7.5
Education	0.8	0.7	1.3	0.9
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	4.0	3.9	4.8
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.4

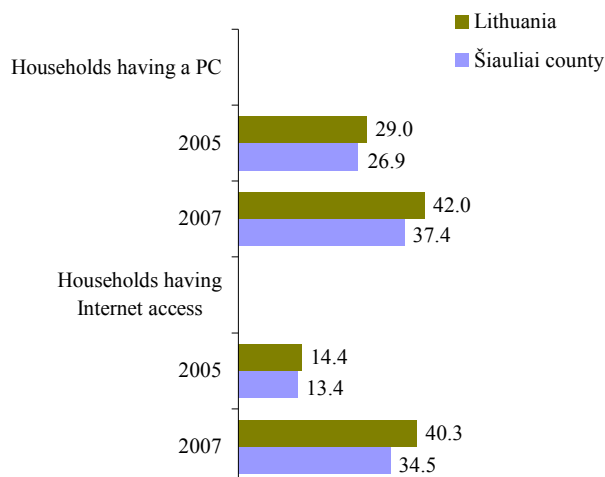
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Šiauliai county made LTL 88 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 12.2 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). Against 2003, expenditure on the maintenance of the house in the county increased by as much as 60.9 %, while their specific weight in consumption expenditure slightly decreased.

Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Šiauliai county households with personal computers and use of the Internet lagged behind the national average. In I quarter 2007, 37 % of Utena county households had a personal computer at home, 35 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Over two years, the share of Šiauliai county households having a PC increased by 11, those having Internet access – by 21 percentage points (national averages, respectively, 13 and 26 percentage points).

Households with computers and Internet access, 2005 and 2007

Per cent



In I quarter 2007, computers were used by 48 % of the Šiauliai county population aged 16–74 (national average – 52 %). 59 % of persons who were using computers used them daily (national average – 66 %), 34 % – at least once a week, but not daily.

In I quarter 2007, the Internet was used by 46 % of the Šiauliai county population (national average – 49 %). As compared with the national average, internet users of Šiauliai county were using the Internet slightly less often. 53 % of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, 39 % – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 42 % of the Šiauliai 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 18 % of the Šiauliai county population aged 16–74 (national average – 21 %).

In I quarter 2007, goods and services for personal use were purchased or ordered via the Internet by 2.3 % of the Šiauliai county population aged 16–74, or by 4.9 % of internet users (national averages – 3.7 and 7.2 % respectively).

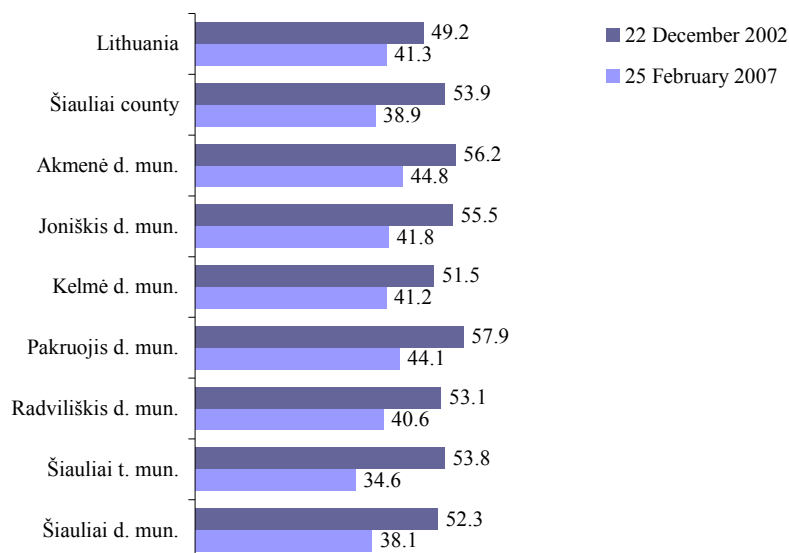
Results of elections to municipal councils

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

Electoral activity at the municipal council elections in Šiauliai county in 2007, against 2002, decreased from 53.9 to 38.9 %, and was lower than the national average. In 2007, the least active were the residents of Šiauliai town and district municipalities, where just one-third of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. In the rest of municipalities, electoral activity exceeded the national average, except for Radviliškis and Kelmė district municipalities, where it was slightly lower than the national average.

Electoral activity at municipal council elections, 2002 and 2007

Per cent



In 2007, in Šiauliai county, out of the total of 183 municipal council mandates, women obtained 39, or 21.3 %, which is slightly less than the national average (22.2 %). The highest number of mandates (one-third) was obtained by women in Akmenė district municipal council. The lowest share of women (4 %) were elected to Kelmė (just 1 mandate out of 25) and Šiauliai (4 out of 27, or 14.8 %) district municipal councils. In other districts, women made up about one-fourth/one-fifth of members of municipal councils.

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

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
Lithuania	1550	77.8	22.2
Šiauliai county	183	78.7	21.3
Akmenė d. mun.	25	64.0	36.0
Joniškis d. mun.	25	76.0	24.0
Kelmė d. mun.	25	96.0	4.0
Pakruojis d. mun.	25	80.0	20.0
Radviliškis d. mun.	25	76.0	24.0
Šiauliai t. mun.	31	74.2	25.8
Šiauliai d. mun.	27	85.2	14.8

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Šiauliai county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 45 mandates, or 25 %, Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic) – 28, or 15 %, Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties – 25, or 14 %, and Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) – 24, or 13 %.

The Lithuanian Social Democratic Party obtained the highest number of mandates in Pakruojis district municipal council (40 %), in Kelmė district (one-third), in Akmenė and Joniškis districts (one-fourth in each). In Šiauliai town municipal council, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party and Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic) – 6 (19 %) each. In Radviliškis district municipal council, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party – 7 (28 %), in Šiauliai district – Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties (9, or 33 %).

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

	Šiauliai county	Akmenės d. mun.	Joniškis d. mun.	Kelmė d. mun.	Pakruojis d. mun.	Radviliškis d. mun.	Šiauliai t. mun.	Šiauliai d. mun.
Total	183	25	25	25	25	25	31	27
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	45	6	6	8	10	4	6	5
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	28	4	5	3	3	3	6	4
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	25	2	4	3	2	3	2	9
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats)	24	3	2	3	3	4	5	4
The New Union (Social Liberals)	15	1	2	2	3	–	5	2
Liberal and Centre Union	14	4	–	2	–	2	5	1
Labour Party	14	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	11	–	–	2	2	7	–	–
Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–
Lithuanian National Union	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lithuanian Centre Party	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–

Culture

In Šiauliai county, the number of libraries from 2001 to 2007 decreased by 22, that of cultural centres – by 13. Museums were functioning in all county's municipalities, except for that of Pakruojis district.

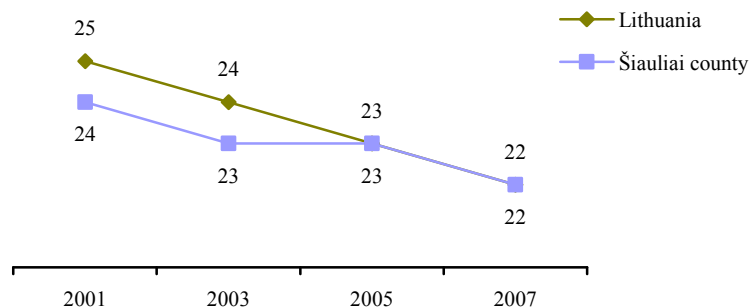
Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

	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
Šiauliai county	181	178	169	169	119	115	107	106	8	10	8	8
Akmenė d. mun.	14	14	14	14	9	4	12	11	-	1	2	2
Joniškis d. mun.	27	27	24	24	15	14	15	15	1	1	1	1
Kelmė d. mun.	32	32	31	31	23	23	22	22	1	1	1	1
Pakruojis d. mun.	25	25	25	25	15	15	15	15	-	-	-	-
Radviliškis d. mun.	38	38	34	34	28	28	25	25	1	2	1	1
Šiauliai t. mun.	12	11	10	10	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	2
Šiauliai d. mun.	33	31	31	31	27	28	14	14	2	1	1	1

In 2007, there were 22 library users per 100 population in the county, i.e. similarly to the national average. Although in Joniškis district the number of libraries, against 2001, decreased by more than 10 %, the number of library users per 100 population was the highest in the county (30). In 2007, there were, on average, 456 users per county library.

Number of county library users, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

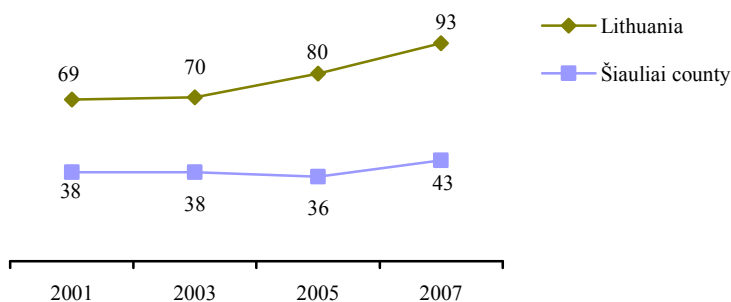


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 13 times (national average – 14 times). 46 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %). In 2007, there were 720 documents per 100 Šiauliai county population, or by 15 % less than the national average (840).

In 2007, there were 8 museums in Šiauliai county, which over the year were visited by 152 thousand persons. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors in the county grew by 9 %. Museum attendances per 100 population in the county made 43, or 2.2 times less than the national average. In 2007, Šiauliai Aušra Museum (70 thousand visitors) and Daugyvenė Cultural Historical Museum-Reserve in Radviliškis district (62 thousand) received 87 % of museum visitors in the county.

Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

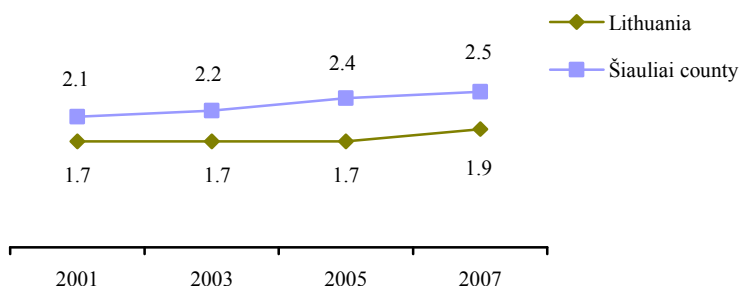


Against 2001, the indicator of museum attendances per 100 population in Šiauliai county increased by 12 % (national average – 25 %).

The number of amateur art groups, against 2001, grew by 15 %, while the number of their members – by 12 %. The number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population in the county was by one-fourth higher than the national average. In 2007, in Pakruojis (4.3) and Radviliškis (3.8) districts, the number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population was the highest, while in Šiauliai town (0.8) – the lowest in the county.

Number of members of amateur art groups, 2001–2007

Per 100 population



In 2007, there were 2 cinema halls in the county. The number of cinemagoers over 2001–2007 decreased by 14 % (in 2001 – 167 thousand, in 2007 – 144 thousand).

In 2007, cinema attendances per 100 county population made 41. Against 2001, this number remained almost unchanged. This indicator was higher only in Vilnius (175), Kaunas (156) and Klaipėda (119) counties.

Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

