ECONOMY OF ŠIAULIAI COUNTY

According to the level of economic development, Šiauliai county slightly lags behind the national average. Šiauliai county produced 7.5 % of country's gross domestic product (GDP). GDP per capita, on average, in the county made LTL 21 thousand, which is by 27.7 % less than the national average in 2007. Nominal GDP per capita in 2007 in Šiauliai county grew by 19.3 % (national average -20.2 %). According GDP per capita, Šiauliai county may be classified under the mediocre ones.

As compared with the general structure of the national economy, Šiauliai county has better-developed industry and construction, generating 30.8 % of the gross value added (GVA) in the county (national average -32.8 %). Agriculture and forestry in the county generate as much as 10.7 % of GDP (national average - just 4.5 %).

In 2007, the enterprises of Šiauliai county paid LTL 96.7 million of the profits tax, which is by 49.8 % more than in 2006. The most considerable growth in the amount of the profits tax paid was recorded in Akmenė municipality, where in 2007, against 2006, profits tax increased as much as 3.3 times. The amount of the social tax paid in 2007 made LTL 24.5 million.

Profits tax paid, 2004–2007 LTL thousand

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Šiauliai county	52496.2	53118.3	64539.0	96679.3
Akmenė d. mun.	2404.5	3313.1	2818.1	9350.4
Joniškis d. mun.	2046.8	2415.6	2982.2	3940.0
Kelmė d. mun.	2281.2	3247.1	2211.7	2464.8
Pakruojis d. mun.	2059.3	3037.5	4859.5	6798.5
Radviliškis d. mun.	2134.9	1975.6	2724.7	3828.7
Šiauliai t. mun.	36620.4	34675.6	44205.2	62808.1
Šiauliai d. mun.	4949.2	4453.9	4737.7	7488.9

Revenue of local authorities received from collected taxes grew as well. In 2007, the largest amount of revenue of local authorities was received from the income tax paid.

Taxes paid to and included in local budgets, 2007 LTL thousand

		of which	of which						
	Taxes paid, total	income tax land tax inheritax		inheritance tax	immovable property tax	pollution tax	charges and fees		
Šiauliai county	310185.7	277682.2	6868.1	320.8	14300.2	3721.7	7292.7		
Akmenė d. mun.	25763.7	22725.5	477.6	14.0	849.3	1607.3	90.0		
Joniškis d. mun.	26130.7	24089.3	1043.0	26.5	726.5	112.5	132.9		
Kelmė d. mun.	33239.4	31497.0	824.1	21.5	410.2	97.1	389.5		
Pakruojis d. mun.	25211.3	23180.5	1200.8	17.8	638.5	104.7	69.0		
Radviliškis d. mun.	42065.1	38777.7	1339.8	18.1	1063.5	695.2	170.8		
Šiauliai t. mun.	114977.8	97441.8	1020.8	193.5	9337.4	777.7	6206.6		
Šiauliai d. mun.	42797.7	39970.4	962.0	29.4	1274.8	327.2	233.9		

In 2006, investment in tangible fixed assets in Šiauliai county made LTL 1158.0 million, or LTL 3259 per capita (national average – LTL 5861 per capita). In Šiauliai town municipality, per capita investment was by LTL 1684 higher than the county average; however, by LTL 918 lower than the national average. The county average was also exceeded in Šiauliai district municipality

(by LTL 332). In the rest of municipalities, per capita investment in tangible fixed assets over 2004–2006 was increasing; however, it did not reach the county average. The lowest total and per capita investment in tangible fixed assets in 2006 was recorded in Akmenė (LTL 51.0 million and LTL 1795), Kelmė (LTL 64.5 million and LTL 1658) and Radviliškis (LTL 96.3 million and LTL 1928) district municipalities.

Per capita investment in tangible fixed assets, 2004–2006 LTL

	2004	2	2005	2006
Lithuania		3523	4540	5861
Šiauliai county		1790	2094	3259
Akmenė d. mun.		1158	1614	1795
Joniškis d. mun.		1761	1371	2041
Kelmė d. mun.		771	1132	1658
Pakruojis d. mun.		1920	2178	2328
Radviliškis d. mun.		1022	1584	1928
Šiauliai t. mun.		2550	2951	4943
Šiauliai d. mun.		1718	1826	3591

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Šiauliai county as of 1 January 2008, made LTL 434.2 million (as of 1 January 2007 – LTL 387.6 million) and increased by 12 %, while since 1 January 2001 – 2.8 times (as of 1 January 2001 – LTL 155.2 million).

As of 1 January 2008, according to the foreign direct investment (FDI) indicator, Šiauliai county ranked seventh in the country. 58 % (LTL 251.0 million) of the total FDI in Šiauliai county was invested in Šiauliai town, 16 % (LTL 71.5 million) – in Pakruojis district municipality.

The per capita FDI in the county, on average, made LTL 1241, or by 13 % more than as of 1 January 2007 (LTL 1096). According to this indicator, Šiauliai county lags behind the national average (LTL 10 547) as much as 8 times.

The highest per capita FDI was in Pakruojis district municipality – LTL 2610, or 2.1 times more than the national average, and Akmenė district municipality – LTL 2261. The lowest total and per capita FDI was in Joniškis (LTL 3.6 million and LTL 121), Kelmė (LTL 8.1 million and LTL 213) and Radviliškis (LTL 9.7 million and LTL 198) district municipalities.

The bulk of investment in Siauliai county was made by the investors from Denmark (LTL 102.3 million, or 24 %), Germany (LTL 55.1 million, or 13 %), the Netherlands (LTL 52.9 million, or 12 %) and Iceland (LTL 26.3 million, or 6 %).

In Šiauliai county, as of 1 January 2008, the bulk of investment was made in manufacturing (LTL 172.0 million, or 40 % of the total FDI), agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (LTL 89.1 million, or 21 %) and real estate, renting and other business activities (LTL 30.0 million, or 7 %).

In manufacturing, the bulk of the FDI was made in the manufacture of mineral products – LTL 70.3 million (41 % of the total FDI in manufacturing), vehicles and other equipment – LTL 39.7 million, or 23 %, and textiles (LTL 28.9 million, or 17 %).

The number of operating enterprises in Šiauliai county has been constantly increasing since 2005, and as of 31 December 2007 made 6625 economic entities. By kind of economic activity, the highest number of operating economic entities was in wholesale and retail trade, a lower number – in manufacturing, real estate, renting and other business activities. Economic entities having up to 9 employees, against the total number of operating economic entities, made up 72 %, while those having 250 and more employees – just 0.6 %.

Entrepreneurship, industry, construction

By the level of entrepreneurship Šiauliai county is outpaced by most of the counties of Lithuania. In 2007, the national average was 18.8, while in Šiauliai county -13.4.

County's industry is concentrated in Šiauliai town municipality (65 % of the value of total industrial production manufactured in the county), where the most well-developed branches are beer production, manufacture of TVs, bicycles, plastic and paper packaging, furniture. The main products manufactured in Akmenė district municipality (13 %) – cement and quicklime; Joniškis (5 %) – flour and compound feedingstuff, freight transport; Pakruojis (5 %) – crushed dolomite; Radviliškis (6 %) and Šiauliai (6 %) – peat; Kelmė (3 %) – milk and dairy products.

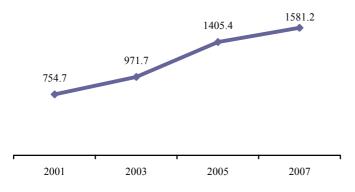
Main products manufactured, 2001-2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Peat mining (relative humidity), thousand t	72.7	107.2	120.7	66.7
Cement, thousand t	529.0	596.0	832.0	1105.4
Quicklime, thousand t	54.6	59.8	39.2	55.2
Crushed dolomite, thousand t	725.8	1522.9	2938.7	4308.8
Beer, thousand dal	2100.0	2677.0	3197.0	2430.4
TVs, thousand units	143.2	686.8	1012.8	480.9
Bicycles, thousand units	322.5	351.2	417.8	404.6

The largest and better-known county's industrial enterprises – private company Šiaulių tauro televizoriai (TVs), public company Baltik vairas (bicycles), private company Putokšnis (PET containers), public company Neaustinių medžiagų fabrikas (blankets, nonwovens, furniture), public company Akmenės cementas (cement and quicklime), public company Gubernija (beer), public company Kelmės pieninė (milk and dairy products), public company Naujoji Rūta and private company Rūta (chocolate and sweets), private company Eternit Akmenė (manufacture of and trade in roofing), public company Naujasis kalcitas (lime), private company Artilux NMF (lighting equipment).

Increasing production volumes in the county's enterprises determined a more rapid growth in exports. In 2007, about 47.8 % of production manufactured in the county was exported. In total, goods manufactured in the county accounted for 5.4 % of exports of Lithuanian goods. The bulk of exported goods fell within bicycles, plastic products, TV signal receivers.

Exports of goods manufactured, 2001–2007 LTL million

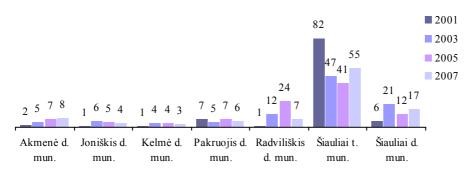


Own-account construction work carried out in Šiauliai county accounted for 6.5 % of total own-account construction work carried out within the country. In 2007, construction work carried out by construction enterprises in the county accounted for LTL 704.1 million. New construction is concentrated in Šiauliai town (55 % of construction work carried out in the county) and district

(18 %) municipalities. The increase in the volume of construction work was determined by the rapidity of new construction and reconstruction work.

Construction work carried out, 2001 and 2007

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



In 2007, 178 residential buildings were completed in the county, with 279 dwellings equipped there. The average useful floor area per dwelling reached 129.4 m² (national average – 102.6 m²). Construction of 1–2 dwelling buildings predominated. In 2007, 174 1–2 dwelling buildings were complete, with 175 dwellings equipped there, whose useful floor area made 27.6 thousand m² (more than 73 % of the total useful floor area of new dwellings completed in the county). Only 1–2 dwelling buildings were built in Akmenė, Joniškis, Kelmė, Pakruojis, Radviliškis and Šiauliai district municipalities. The largest houses in terms of useful floor area were built in Šiauliai district municipality (average per dwelling – 161.1 m²). In Šiauliai town municipality, 4 blocks of flats were built, with 104 dwellings equipped there, whose useful floor area made 9.7 thousand m². New dwellings completed in Šiauliai town municipality made up almost 59 % of all new dwellings completed in the county.

In 2007, building permits for the construction of 550 residential buildings were issued in Šiauliai county, with 574 dwellings planned to be build up there (by 127 less than in 2006).

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

	Number o	Number of dwellings				Useful floor area, thousand m ²		
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	3785	4628	5933	9286	385.3	491.4	651.6	953.2
Šiauliai county	115	243	165	279	13.9	27.0	20.5	36.1
Akmenė d. mun.	3	5	13	7	0.4	0.7	1.9	0.7
Joniškis d. mun.	5	9	4	5	0.8	1.2	0.4	0.7
Kelmė d. mun.	20	20	27	26	2.0	2.4	2.7	3.6
Pakruojis d. mun.	4	4	9	7	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.9
Radviliškis d. mun.	10	23	19	15	1.1	3.0	2.7	1.8
Šiauliai t. mun.	28	137	36	164	4.3	14.5	6.4	19.5
Šiauliai d. mun.	45	45	57	55	4.8	4.8	5.5	8.9

Over 2007, 397 non-residential buildings were completed in the county, with the total area of 176.5 thousand m² (against 2006, the area built up with non-residential buildings increased by 78.3 thousand m²). The bulk of new non-residential construction in Šiauliai town municipality in terms of the total area fell within cultural and sports buildings (48.5 % of the total area of non-residential buildings built in the county), trade, hotels and public catering enterprises (42.8 %); in Šiauliai district municipality – industrial buildings and warehouses; in other municipalities of Šiauliai county – agricultural buildings.

Number and	total floor area	of non-res	sidential b	uildings cor	nnleted, 200	1-2007
- 10111100		O	, - er e - r e - e - e			

	Number o	Number of buildings				Total floor area, thousand m ²			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	
Lithuania	940	1348	5623	5250	672.5	773.7	1300.2	1607.3	
Šiauliai county	70	103	540	397	31.2	51.2	99.9	176.5	
Akmenė d. mun.	6	8	18	35	2.7	2.3	2.6	1.7	
Joniškis d. mun.	14	27	21	20	4.9	8.6	8.6	4.5	
Kelmė d. mun.	13	17	48	41	8.6	2.2	4.2	4.5	
Pakruojis d. mun.	9	3	54	33	2.1	0.4	17.9	4.6	
Radviliškis d. mun.	3	10	158	72	0.6	4.6	21.3	6.7	
Šiauliai t. mun.	13	16	72	90	8.2	21.5	23.3	134.2	
Šiauliai d. mun.	12	22	169	106	4.1	11.6	22.0	20.3	

In 2007, 223 building permits for the construction of non-residential buildings with the total floor area of 207.6 thousand m² (i.e. by 95.1 thousand m² more than in 2006) were issued in Šiauliai county.

Services

In 2007, against 2005, passenger transport by bus in Šiauliai county decreased by 12.8 %; passengers were serviced by 47 passenger transport enterprises, of which 7 belonged to bus companies. The largest share of carriers were individual enterprises. In 2007, the turnover of passenger transport by buses made 314.1 million passenger kilometres; against 2005, it decreased by 1.3 %. The average distance of passenger transportation made 11.4 km, and against 2005 increased by 1.4 km.

Bus trips per capita, 2001-2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	69.	1 81.6	89.6	94.2
Šiauliai county	66.	0 78.5	88.3	78.5
Akmenė d. mun.	15.	0 15.1	15.4	21.7
Joniškis d. mun.	9.	3 9.2	22.6	24.4
Kelmė d. mun.	14.	3 16.6	30.9	26.2
Pakruojis d. mun.	16.	8 15.0	12.7	17.9
Radviliškis d. mun.	14.	7 16.5	17.8	18.0
Šiauliai t. mun.	154.	1 187.6	208.2	178.4
Šiauliai d. mun.	23.	2 23.9	21.1	21.7

Over 2007, national transport by road in Šiauliai county made 5158.9 thousand tonnes, or 10.5 % of goods loaded in the country. The average distance of transportation of a tonne of goods in the county made 61.6 km, and was by 6.8 km longer than the national average.

National freight transport by road, 2004–2007

Thousand tonnes

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Goods loaded in Šiauliai county, total	5279.5	6818.0	5364.2	5158.9
	of which unl	oaded in:		
Alytus county	10.2	21.9	39.0	33.4
Kaunas county	181.3	95.3	139.1	326.4
Klaipėda county	248.3	201.7	267.8	299.6
Marijampolė county	32.3	23.5	36.5	48.1
Panevėžys county	246.3	321.7	440.7	218.6
Šiauliai county	4211.0	5730.9	4056.7	3721.5
Tauragė county	53.2	51.2	103.5	131.4
Telšiai county	89.7	177.1	154.7	158.1
Utena county	29.2	16.5	16.1	16.3
Vilnius county	177.9	178.3	110.2	205.5

There is an International Šiauliai (Zokniai) Airport in the county, which meets not only ICAO, but also special NATO requirements. In 2007, 0.9 thousand passengers arrived at and departed from the airport, which made up 0.04 % of all passengers, serviced at all Lithuanian airports. In 2007, against 2006, the number of passengers grew by 40.6 %. Freight loaded and unloaded at the airport made 0.9 thousand t, or 6.8 % of total freight loaded and unloaded in the country.

At the end of 2007, the number of motor vehicles in Taurage county reached 160.7 thousand, of which 88 % were cars. The most popular marques were Volkswagen (28.9 thousand, or 20.4 % of cars in the county) and Audi (23 thousand, or 16.3 %). In 2007, against 2005, the number of cars increased by 6.3 %.

Number of passenger cars, 2001-2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007 (newly registered)
Šiauliai county	104497	116086	133116	141445	18533
Akmenė d. mun.	7188	8209	8887	9925	1258
Joniškis d. mun.	8117	8948	10482	11044	1386
Kelmė d. mun.	10582	11728	13665	14179	1851
Pakruojis d. mun.	6948	7767	9420	10071	1273
Radviliškis d. mun.	14219	15951	18399	20131	2518
Šiauliai t. mun.	43633	47537	53319	55568	7652
Šiauliai d. mun.	13810	15946	18944	20527	2595

The turnover of retail trade enterprises in the county in 2007 made LTL 1531.6 million, or 8 % of the national total. The highest turnover was in Šiauliai town municipality (62.8 %). Retail sales per capita in the county, on average, made LTL 4354 (by 23.2 % less than the national average). The highest sales per capita were recorded in Šiauliai town (LTL 7527), while the lowest – in Šiauliai district (LTL 1732) municipality.

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

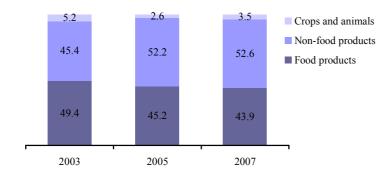
	2003	2005	2007
Šiauliai county	919.6	1148.7	1531,6
Akmenė d. mun.	45.1	52.0	77.6
Joniškis d. mun.	55.4	58.0	87.4

	2003	2005	2007
Kelmė d. mun.	50.9	65.5	91.7
Pakruojis d. mun.	46.2	53.6	82.8
Radviliškis d. mun.	97.9	119.2	143.5
Šiauliai t. mun.	566.3	740.0	961.4
Šiauliai d. mun.	57.8	60.4	87.2

In 2007, at Šiauliai county markets, sales made LTL 155million, which made up 10 % compared to the turnover of retail trade enterprises. Against 2003, the turnover of county's markets dropped by 20.9 %. More than half of turnover is made up by non-food products.

Structure of turnover of goods at markets, 2003–2007

Turnover of goods at Šiauliai county markets – 100 per cent



In 2007, the turnover of restaurants, bars and other catering enterprises in Šiauliai county made LTL 42.7 million, or 4.8 % of the turnover of all analogous enterprises in the country. Catering enterprises are concentrated in Šiauliai town (71.2 % of the turnover of county's restaurants, bars and other catering enterprises). The per capita turnover of catering enterprises in the county, on average, made LTL 121, i.e. less than half of the national average (LTL 262). The highest per capita turnover of catering enterprises (LTL 238) was recorded in Šiauliai town municipality.

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

	2003	2005	2007
Šiauliai county	22.5	34.6	42.7
Akmenė d. mun.	0.5	0.8	1.3
Joniškis d. mun.	1.7	2.1	2.7
Kelmė d. mun.	0.5	0.9	1.3
Pakruojis d. mun.	0.9	1.2	1.6
Radviliškis d. mun.	1.6	2.1	2.8
Šiauliai t. mun.	15.6	25.4	30.4
Šiauliai d. mun.	1.7	2.1	2.6

A favourable geographic location and well-developed communication infrastructure of Šiauliai county are good for developing tourism business. There is an international airport, a large railway terminal in Radviliškis; the county is crossed by major motorways. By the number of guests who had stayed in the county's accommodation establishments and their overnight stays, Šiauliai county ranks fifth in Lithuania (being outpaced by Alytus, Kaunas, Klaipėda and Vilnius counties). The share of guests who stayed in Lithuanian accommodation establishments falling within Šiauliai county and their overnight stays makes up 4 and 3 % respectively. Over 2001–2007, the number of

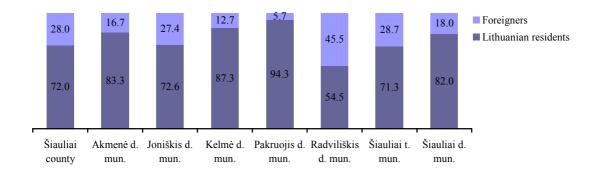
guests received by the county's accommodation establishments grew 2.4 times (national average – 2.5 times).

Indicators of accommodation establishments, 2001 and 2007Thousand

	Number of places		Accommodated guests		Overnight stays	
	2001	2007	2001	2007	2001	2007
Šiauliai county	1.7	1.6	28.5	69.5	61.0	155.0
Akmenė d. mun.	0.2	0.1	0.6	1.6	4.6	7.1
Joniškis d. mun.	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.0	2.0	2.4
Kelmė d. mun.	0.3	0.2	0.3	5.5	1.2	8.7
Pakruojis d. mun.	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.2	1.4
Radviliškis d. mun.	0.1	0.1	3.9	6.7	5.0	17.2
Šiauliai t. mun.	0.6	0.7	21.8	50.4	37.5	107.1
Šiauliai d. mun.	0.4	0.5	1.1	3.6	10.4	11.1

Structure of guests who stayed in accommodation establishments, 2007

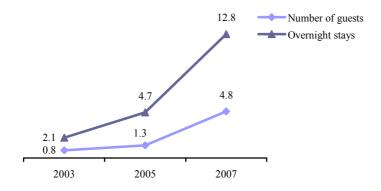
Per cent



More than half of the county's hotels are situated in Šiauliai town municipality; they accommodate 82 % of all guests staying in the region's hotels. Over seven years, the number of guests in Šiauliai hotels grew 2.3, that of their overnight stays – 3 times. The number of foreigners accommodated over 2001–2007 grew from 7.1 to 14.3 thousand.

Rural tourism is not popular in the county. By the number of rural tourism farmsteads, the region ranks ultimate in the county; rural tourism farmsteads in the county receive just about 3 % of guests of all Lithuanian rural tourism farmsteads.

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



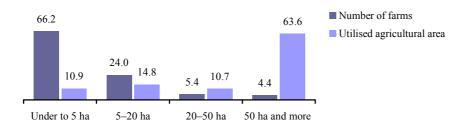
Agriculture

The area of agricultural land of Šiauliai county farms producing agricultural products is the largest in Lithuania and makes 472.1 thousand ha, or 18 % of the total area of agricultural land of Lithuanian farms producing agricultural products. The largest share of agricultural land -81 % - is made up of arable land; meadows and pastures make up 18 %, perennial crops -1 % of agricultural land.

In 2007, there were 29.6 thousand farms producing agricultural products and having more than 1 ha of agricultural land in Šiauliai county. Out of this number, 118 were agricultural companies and enterprises. The farms in Šiauliai county are among the largest in Lithuania: in 2007, the average size of a farm was 15.6 ha. The average size of a farm exceeds the national average in all county's municipalities (in 2007 – 11.6 ha), while in Joniškis district municipality it is the highest in Lithuania (in 2007 – 19.2 ha) and exceed the national average by 65.5 %. Large farms also predominate in Pakruojis and Akmenė district municipalities (the average size of a farm, respectively, 18.1 and 17.1 ha). The average size of agricultural companies and enterprises in the county is the largest in Lithuania and reaches 959.4 ha (national average – 645.1 ha).

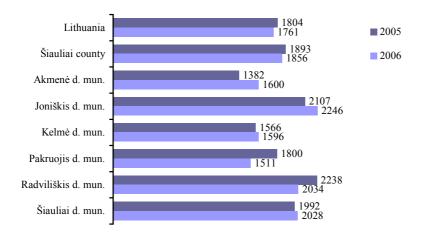
Intensive concentration of agricultural land on large farms is in progress. Farms, having 20 ha and more of agricultural land, own 74.3 % of the county's agricultural land, of which those having 50 ha and more of agricultural land – as much as 63.6 %.

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



In 2006, 17.8 % of the country's agricultural production was grown in the county. 22.4 % of this amount was grown in Radviliškis, 20.7 % – Joniškis, 18.8 % – Šiauliai district municipalities. Crop production made up the largest share (57.8 %) of the county's of gross agricultural production. The same trend was observed in all county's municipalities, except for Kelmė district municipality, where crop production made up 43.3 % of gross agricultural production.

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



By crop area, Šiauliai county ranks first in the country. In 2001–2007, crop area in the county increased by 29 %. The largest crop area – in Pakruojis, Joniškis and Radviliškis district municipalities. The major share (in 2007 - 64.3 %) in the county's crop structure is made up by grain crops. The county ranks first in the country by area under grain crops, of which the largest share – cereal crops (in 2007 - 97.8 %), while the share of pulses is low. The area under spring cereals is larger; in 2007, it made up 54.9 % of the total area under cereal crops in the county. Spring barley predominates (46.3 % of the total area under spring cereals in the county). In the structure of winter cereals, the major share is made up by wheat. Productivity of grain crops in 2007, reaching 3.59 t/ha, was the highest in the country and substantially exceeded the national average (in 2007 - 2.94 t/ha).

A considerable share in the crop structure is made up by rapes (in 2007 – 14.6 %). By area under rapes, the county also ranks first in the country. In 2001–2007, the area under rapes in the county increased almost 3 times. This increase is related to changes in agricultural policy, as well as increasing demand for crops used for biofuel production. Productivity of rapes is the highest in the country and exceeds the national average by 19.6 %.

The area under field vegetables is the largest, their productivity – among the highest in the country.

The number of livestock and pigs kept in Šiauliai county, against other counties, is the highest. At the beginning of 2008, the share of livestock kept in Šiauliai county made up 14.7 % of livestock kept in the country, that of pigs -20.8 %. 74.2 % of livestock was kept on farmers' and family farms. The major share of pigs was kept in agricultural companies and enterprises, while on farmers' and family farms – just one-fourth. The highest number of livestock was kept in Kelmė (in 2007 - 24.4 % of the total number of livestock kept in the county) and Radviliškis (in 2007 - 24 %) district municipalities. The highest number of pigs was kept in Joniškis and Radviliškis district municipalities -23.3 and 21 % of the total number of pigs kept in the county respectively.

At the beginning of 2008, the share of sheep kept in Šiauliai county made up 6.8 % of sheep kept in the country, that of goats -14.4 %, poultry -4.3 %, beehives -9.8 %.

Organic farming becomes more and more popular. Based on the data of the public undertaking Ekoagros, the number of farms certified as organic in the county in 2007 made 247 (8.7 % of farms certified in Lithuania). Their area made 9.6 thousand ha, or 8 % of the total area certified in Lithuania. Rules of organic agriculture on their farms have been applied by 58 farms of Kelmė, 50 – Akmenė, 39 – Pakruojis, 35 – each Radviliškis and Šiauliai and 30 – Joniškis district municipalities.

Despite the average development level in region, Šiauliai county has strong development possibilities – favourable location of the region, picturesque nature, rich soil, and growing economy. However, further economic growth has to be ensured (by increasing business productivity and introducing modern technologies), favourable business environment stimulating investment and innovation, transport infrastructure network meeting mobility requirements, effective energy infrastructure, as well as modern and competitive agriculture have to be created.