

## SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF TAURAGÈ COUNTY

### Population

Tauragè county is the smallest in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, it was inhabited by 127.4 thousand persons, or 3.8 % of the country's population.

### Population at the beginning of the year, 2001–2008

	Population, thousand							Females per 1000 males
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2008			2008
					Total	Males	Females	
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>3487.0</b>	<b>3462.6</b>	<b>3425.3</b>	<b>3384.9</b>	<b>3366.4</b>	<b>1567.0</b>	<b>1799.4</b>	<b>1148</b>
<b>Tauragè county</b>	<b>134.3</b>	<b>133.5</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>128.7</b>	<b>127.4</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>1106</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	37.8	37.4	36.6	35.6	35.2	16.7	18.5	1108
Pagėgiai mun.	12.2	12.2	11.9	11.6	11.4	5.5	5.9	1082
Šilalė d. mun.	31.6	31.4	31.1	30.4	30.1	14.6	15.5	1065
Tauragė d. mun.	52.7	52.5	51.9	51.1	50.7	23.7	27.0	1136

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 6.9 thousand (5.1 %). Over the said period, the population was decreasing in all county's municipalities: the most – in Jurbarkas district (by 6.9 %) and Pagėgiai (by 6.6 %) municipalities, the least – in Tauragė district municipality (by 3.8 %).

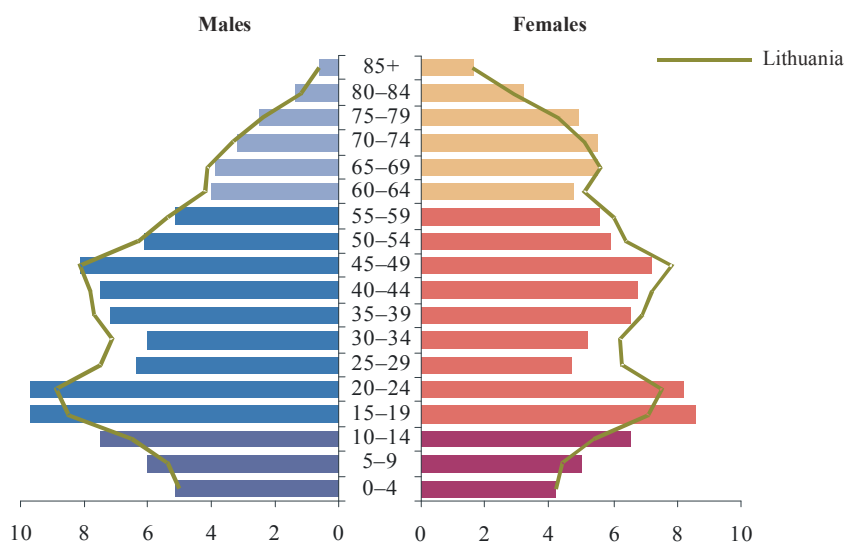
At the beginning of 2008, Tauragè county was inhabited by 47.5 % of men and 52.5 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1106 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Tauragè district municipality is higher than the respective 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 Tauragè county declined by 4.1 thousand (59.4 %), while due to negative net migration – by 2.8 thousand (40.6 %).

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

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

Per cent

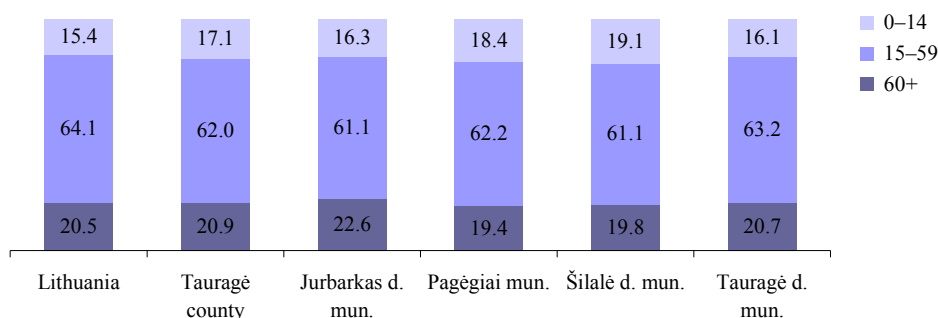


In Tauragè county elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 20.9 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each seventh man (national average – each sixth) and each fourth woman in Tauragè county are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 18 % (national average – 25.2 %) lower than that of elderly people. In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 27.8 % (national average – 24.7 %).

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

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Jurbarkas and Tauragė districts, where elderly people make up 23–21 % of the population. Better age structure is in Pagėgiai municipality, where elderly people make up 19.4 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 27 children and 34 elderly persons per 100 Tauragė county population aged 15–59 (national averages – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 39 and 36. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Jurbarkas and Šilalė districts municipalities, where there were 64–63 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

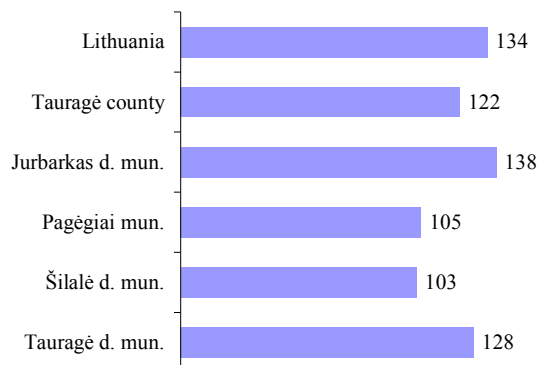
### Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	Persons of certain age per 100 population aged 15–59					
	0–14		60+		0–14 and 60+	
	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>61</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	36	27	38	37	74	64
Pagėgiai mun.	41	30	36	31	77	61
Šilalė d. mun.	45	31	37	32	82	63
Tauragė d. mun.	38	25	33	33	71	58

At the beginning of 2008, there were 122 elderly persons per 100 children in Tauragė county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 – just 91. The highest number of elderly people per 100 children was in Jurbarkas district municipality (138), the lowest – in Šilalė district municipality (103).

### Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

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



The mean age of the Tauragė county population is lower than the national average. At the beginning of 2008, this indicator in the county was 38.3 years (national average – 39 years), while at the beginning of 2001 – 36.6 years.

### Migration

In 2001–2007, based on the data of the declaration of the place of residence, more than 2 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Tauragė county to take up the usual residence for a period longer than 6 months, while about 3 thousand persons would leave it. There were, on average, 15.5 persons who arrived in the county and 18.6 who left it per 1000 county population. Over the period in question, more people left almost all municipalities of Tauragė county than arrived in them.

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

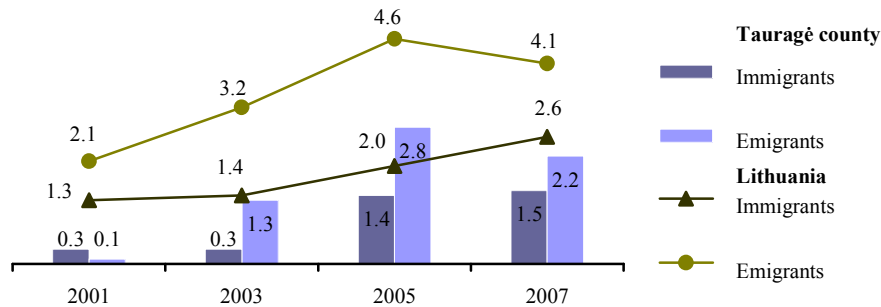
	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>42166</b>	<b>62124</b>	<b>59522</b>	<b>65044</b>	<b>44725</b>	<b>68428</b>	<b>68304</b>	<b>70288</b>	<b>-2559</b>	<b>-6304</b>	<b>-8782</b>	<b>-5244</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>1678</b>	<b>2122</b>	<b>2160</b>	<b>2310</b>	<b>1529</b>	<b>2427</b>	<b>2938</b>	<b>3017</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>-305</b>	<b>-778</b>	<b>-707</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	318	570	544	590	328	697	841	829	-10	-127	-297	-239
Pagėgiai mun.	141	162	172	205	59	219	295	306	82	-57	-123	-101
Šilalė d. mun.	439	475	413	519	358	546	573	706	81	-71	-160	-187
Tauragė d. mun.	780	915	1031	996	784	965	1229	1176	-4	-50	-198	-180

In 2001–2007, on average, 5.9 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Tauragė county from abroad, while 8.4 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Tauragė county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (90.4 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at 57.7 %.

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

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

Per 1000 population



## Fertility

The crude birth rate in Tauragė county has been, although slowly, increasing. In 2001, there were 9.6 live births per 1000 county population, while in 2007 – just slightly less (9.5).

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

	Live births				Live births per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>31546</b>	<b>30598</b>	<b>30541</b>	<b>32346</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>1170</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	346	343	321	321	9.2	9.2	8.8	9.1
Pagėgiai mun.	136	116	132	109	11.1	9.6	11.1	9.5
Šilalė d. mun.	342	367	312	271	10.8	11.7	10.1	8.9
Tauragė d. mun.	470	482	405	514	8.9	9.2	7.8	10.1

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Tauragė county was 1.49 (national average – 1.35). The total fertility rate was the highest (1.52) in Tauragė district, the lowest (1.38) – in Pagėgiai municipalities.

The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Tauragė county was 27.6 years (national average – 28 years), while in 2001 – 26.3 years (national average – 26.9 years).

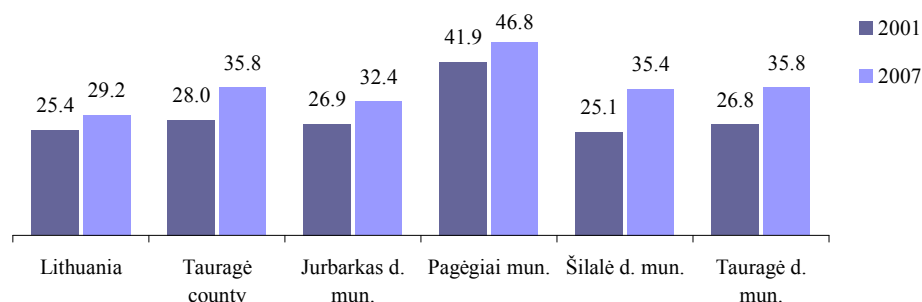
Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 23.3 % in 2001 to 19.3 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate live births in Tauragė county was 435, while in 2001 – 362, which made up, respectively, 35.8 and 28 % (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 (46.8 %) was in Pagėgiai, while the lowest (32.4 %) – in Jurbarkas district municipalities.

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

### Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

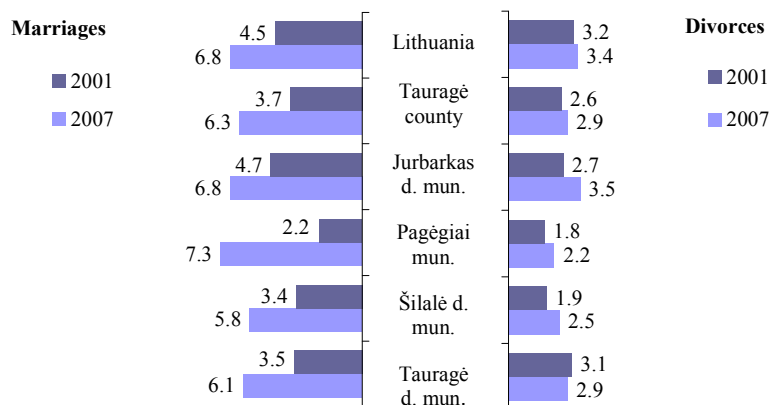
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



### Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Tauragė county was increasing. In 2007, 808 marriages were registered; there were 6.3 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 496 and 3.7. In 2007, the crude marriage rate in Tauragė 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 27.5, that of women – 25.1 years (national averages – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2001–2007, the number of divorces in Tauragė county was changing insignificantly. In 2007, 375 divorces were registered; there were 2.9 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 348 and 2.6 respectively. The crude divorce rate in Tauragė county in 2007 was the lowest, as compared with other counties. In Jurbarkas district municipality, as compared with other county's municipalities, the crude divorce rate is the highest: in 2007, there were 3.5 divorces per 1000 population.

### Mortality

In 2007, 1809 deaths were registered in Tauragė county. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 8.4 %. In 2007, there were 14.1 deaths per 1000 Tauragė county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 12.4.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Tauragė county municipalities. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Pagėgiai and Jurbarkas district municipalities (16.2 and 15.4 % respectively).

In 2007, there were 4.9 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) per 1000 live births in Tauragė county (national average – 5.9).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men in Tauragė county was 64.1 years, that for women – 76.9. Compared to the national average, the LE for men was lower by 0.8, that for women – by 0.3 year. In 2001–2007, the LE for women in the county decreased by 1.7 years, while that for men – by 0.4 year. Although the difference between the LE for men and for women had decreased, it remained vast: in 2007, the LE for men was by 12.8 years shorter than that for women (in 2001 – by 14.8 years).

The structure of causes of death in Tauragė 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 85.6 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 87.5 % (national average – 87 %).

### Mortality by main cause of death, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population

	2001				2007			
	Malignant neoplasms	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	External causes of death	Malignant neoplasms	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	External causes of death
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>223.9</b>	<b>628.2</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>157.9</b>	<b>245.3</b>	<b>720.1</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>155.4</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>222.1</b>	<b>704.4</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>162.5</b>	<b>240.6</b>	<b>803.7</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>164.8</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	262.6	838.1	34.5	127.3	257.1	887.3	67.8	172.4
Pagėgiai mun.	253.5	719.7	147.2	253.5	287.3	792.1	52.2	226.3
Šilalė d. mun.	186.9	684.3	76.0	136.2	218.0	766.2	72.7	118.9
Tauragė d. mun.	207.0	617.1	24.7	182.3	232.0	770.6	43.2	173.0

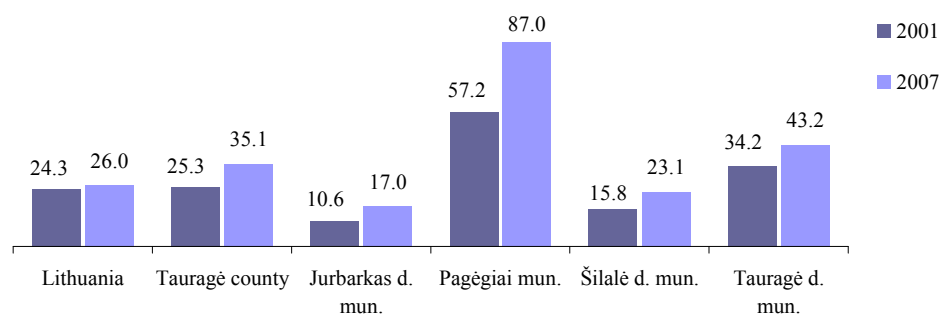
In 2007, more than half (57 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system (in 2001 – 56.6 %). As compared with other county's municipalities, both mortality rates due to these diseases for men and women were the highest in Jurbarkas district municipality.

In 2007, there were 308 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (almost one-sixth of all deaths in Tauragė county). In Pagėgiai municipality, mortality due to malignant neoplasms for men was 1.7 times higher than the national average.

In 2007, there were 211 deaths due to external causes of death (almost 12 % of all deaths in the county). In Pagėgiai municipality, mortality due to the said cause for men was 1.3, that for women – 1.6 times higher than the county average. In 2007, mortality due to transport accidents in Tauragė county was the highest in the country, while by mortality due to suicides the county ranked second in Lithuania.

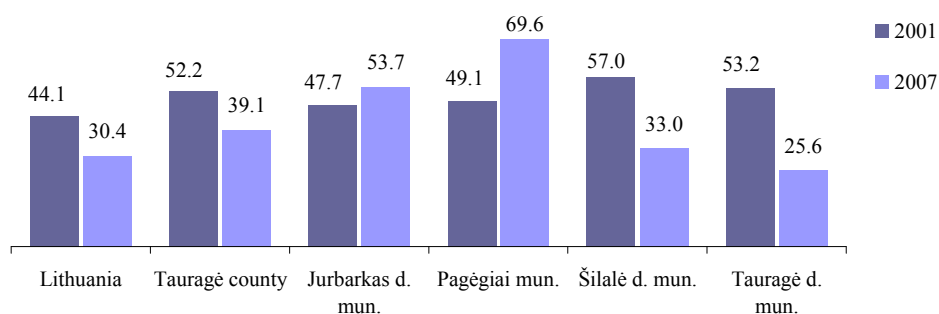
### Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



## Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



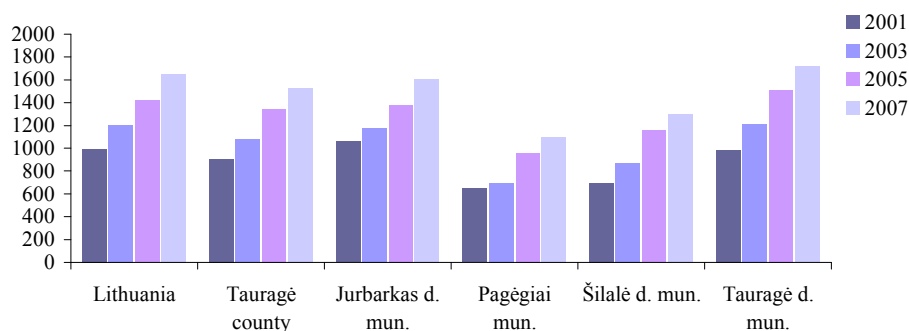
## Health

Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre<sup>3</sup>, in 2007, 29.7 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Tauragė county, were treated in hospital. The residents of Pagėgiai municipality were using inpatient services somewhat less often (each fifth). The number of visits to health professionals providing primary outpatient health care services per capita in Tauragė county made 4 times (national average – 5 times), while in Jurbarkas and Šilalė district municipalities – just 3 times in each, on average.

The prevalence of malignant neoplasms among the residents of Tauragė county in 2007 (1531 cases per 100 000 population) was by 7 % lower than the national average (1650). The prevalence of malignant neoplasms in 2007 was the lowest among the residents of Pagėgiai municipality (1097 cases per 100 000 population), the highest – among the residents of Tauragė district municipality (1716).

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

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population

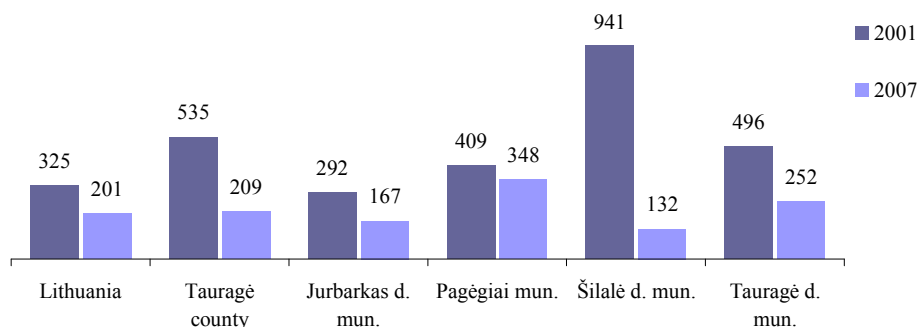


In 2007, the prevalence of so-called social disease – tuberculosis – among Tauragė county population was slightly higher than the national average (209 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 201); however, in different municipalities, the number of cases was quite different. In 2007, the prevalence of tuberculosis among the population of Šilalė and Jurbarkas district municipalities was by, respectively, 34 % and 17 % lower, Pagėgiai and Tauragė district municipalities – by as much as 73 % and 25 % higher than the national average. Against 2001, the prevalence of tuberculosis in Tauragė county decreased 2.6 times, the most – in Šilalė district municipality (as much as 7 times).

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

## Prevalence of tuberculosis, 2001 and 2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



In 2007, disease prevalence rates in Tauragė county were similar with those in other regions of the country; however, the prevalence of diabetes here was the lowest (prevalence rate by as much as 30 % lower than the national average), whereas the prevalence of hypertension disease – by 20 % lower than the national average. However, the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the county was the highest, as compared with other counties, and almost 2 times higher than the national average (2087 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 1126).

### Social protection

In 2007, 21.3 thousand (or each sixth resident of the county, i.e. as the national average) residents of Tauragė county were state social insurance old age pensioners; 7.6 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 300 old age and 107 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county. The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Jurbarkas district municipality (322 old age pensioners per 1000 working age population), while the lowest – in Šilalė district and Pagėgiai municipalities<sup>4</sup> (278).

In 2007, 16.6 thousand residents of Tauragė county received child benefits; 34 % thereof were residents of Tauragė district municipality. 534 persons received guardianship (curatorship) benefits, 96 persons – support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 347 women, birth grants – 1.1 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Tauragė county were paid LTL 17 517.6 thousand of benefits.

The number of residents of the county receiving social services at home has been changing inconsiderably. In 2007, 437 residents of the county were nursed or attended at home (in 2006 – 368, in 2001 – 387), each third thereof – in Jurbarkas district municipality.

At the end of 2007, there were 213 persons living in six care institutions for the elderly, and 202 persons – in a care institution for disabled adults. There were also 4 child care institutions functioning in the county, where 247 children were taken care of; 14 children were fostered in families. In 2007, 68 persons stayed in four temporary residence institutions (shelters and crisis centres) of Tauragė 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 700 families at social risk living in Tauragė county in 2007, with 1.7 thousand children brought up in them (43 % thereof – in Tauragė district municipality).

<sup>4</sup> Data are submitted by regional divisions of the State Social Insurance Fund Board.



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

	Number of families at social risk			Number of children in them		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>1872</b>	<b>1806</b>	<b>1696</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	114	124	132	294	305	327
Pagėgiai mun.	150	133	112	370	315	273
Šilalė d. mun.	124	127	149	332	327	369
Tauragė d. mun.	418	396	309	876	859	727

### Education

At the end of 2007, there were 8 preschool education institutions in the county, where 2 thousand children were enrolled. Over 2001–2007, the number of preschool education institutions in the county decreased from 14 to 8, while the number of children enrolled in them – by 9 %. The number of children enrolled in preschool education institutions in different municipalities was changing differently: in Šilalė district – decreased by as much as 29 %, in Jurbarkas district – 13 %, while in the rest of municipalities remained almost unchanged.

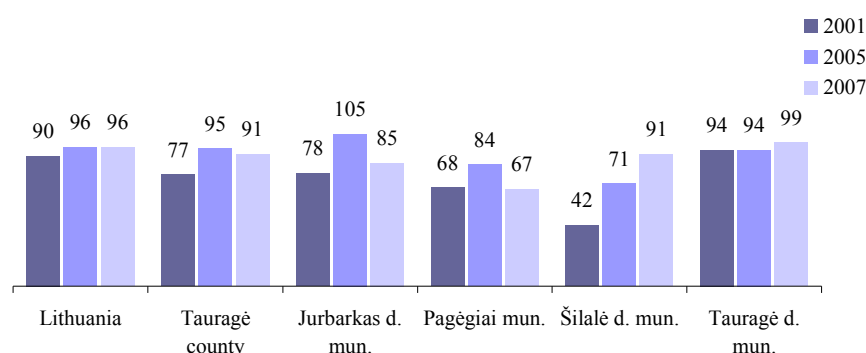
### Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>89841</b>	<b>89469</b>	<b>90021</b>	<b>93044</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>2213</b>	<b>2183</b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>-9.5</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	840	756	780	732	-12.9
Pagėgiai mun.	81	72	77	82	1.2
Šilalė d. mun.	378	506	248	269	-28.8
Tauragė d. mun.	914	849	849	920	0.7

In 2007, there were, on average, 91 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions (in 2001 – 77). The most prominent shortage was observed in Pagėgiai municipality.

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

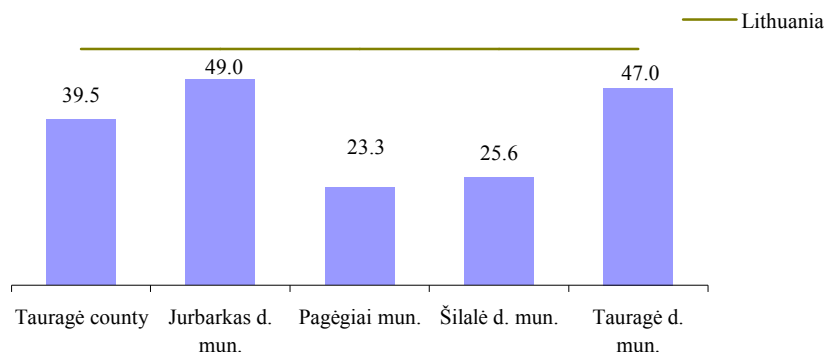
Places per 100 children



At the end of 2007, the share of children educated according to preschool and pre-primary education programmes in Tauragė county made up 39 % of children aged 1–6. As compared with other counties, this indicator was the lowest. The lowest number of children educated according to such programmes was in Pagėgiai (just 23 %) and Šilalė district (26 %) municipalities. Over 2005–2007, the share of children aged 1–6 educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes in Tauragė district was growing at the fastest pace – by 4 percentage points.

### 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 72 general schools in the county, where 20 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools almost halved: decreased from 138 to 72 (by 48 %), while that of pupils – by 5 thousand (21 %).

The number of pupils has been decreasing in all municipalities, the most – in those of Jurbarkas district (by 25 %) and Pagėgiai (by 22 %).

#### Number of pupils in general schools

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>602419</b>	<b>583063</b>	<b>538541</b>	<b>489442</b>	<b>-18.8</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>25921</b>	<b>25205</b>	<b>23039</b>	<b>20500</b>	<b>-20.9</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	6904	6565	5877	5204	-24.6
Pagėgiai mun.	2368	2270	2053	1848	-22.0
Šilalė d. mun.	6787	6747	6280	5584	-17.7
Tauragė d. mun.	9862	9623	8829	7864	-20.3

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 1.8 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 2130 to 1847, or by almost 13 %. The number of teachers has been decreasing in all county's municipalities, while the most notable decrease was observed in that of Tauragė district – in 2007, against 2001, by 16 %. Most (91 %) teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 85 %). More teachers having higher education work in Šilalė (94 %) and Tauragė (92 %) district municipalities.

In 2007, general schools were finished by 1.3 thousand pupils, of whom 78 % continued their studies in the same year: 42 % entered universities, 30 % – colleges, 6 % – vocational training institutions.

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 3 vocational schools operating in the county, where about a thousand students were enrolled. Against 2003, the number of students in vocational schools remained almost unchanged.

#### Number of vocational schools and students in them

	Number of vocational schools			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>44403</b>	<b>46334</b>	<b>43880</b>	<b>14465</b>	<b>12980</b>	<b>12565</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1099</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>229</b>

	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
Jurbarkas d. mun.	-	-	1	401	427	311	117	93	79
Šilalė d. mun.	1	1	1	260	207	167	48	44	36
Tauragė d. mun.	1	1	1	462	543	621	100	122	114

The biggest vocational training establishment in the county – Tauragė Vocational Training Centre, where more than half of vocational school students are enrolled.

Higher non-university education may be obtained in Tauragė branch of Kaunas College. The number of students enrolled in this institution has been slightly increasing annually. As compared with 2003, the number of students grew 3.5 times. In the autumn of 2007, 452 students were enrolled in this educational establishment.

### Number of colleges and students in them

	Number of colleges			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40472</b>	<b>55949</b>	<b>60096</b>	<b>4602</b>	<b>11173</b>	<b>11940</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	-	-	-	<b>128</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>452</b>	-	-	<b>106</b>
Tauragė d. mun.	-	-	-	128	400	452	-	-	106

Students may study business management and accounting. Half of students (53 %) preferred extramural study programmes. In 2006, 48 graduates from Tauragė branch of Kaunas College were the first to be awarded diplomas of higher non-university education.

### Employment

In terms of the population, Tauragė county is the smallest in Lithuania; therefore, the number of employed persons in the county is the lowest as well. In 2007, 51 thousand, or 62.2 % of the population aged 15–64 were working in Tauragė county, which made up just about 3 % 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. It is the only county where over the recent two years the number of employed persons decreased.

### Employed population, 2001–2007

Thousand

	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1351.8</b>	<b>1438.0</b>	<b>1473.9</b>	<b>1534.2</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>51.1</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	15.3	17.6	17.3	14.2
Pagėgiai mun.	3.5	4.9	4.5	4.0
Šilalė d. mun.	12.4	14.5	14.6	13.5
Tauragė d. mun.	17.2	19.6	20.4	19.4

In 2007, persons employed in Tauragė town made up more than a third (38 %), those employed in Jurbarkas and Šilalė districts – less than a third (27 % in each) of the employed population in Tauragė county. In 2001–2007, the number of employed persons in different municipalities was changing at a different pace. The number of employed persons in Tauragė town

has been almost annually increasing, in Jurbarkas and Šilalė over 2001–2005 – slightly increasing, while in 2007 – decreased.

In 2007, the employment rate of the population aged 15–64 in Tauragė county made up 62.2 %, which is by 2.7 % lower than the national average (64.9 %). Recently, the employment rate of Tauragė county population, as compared with the rest of counties, has been among the lowest ones (outpacing just those of Alytus and Šiauliai counties). The lowest employment rate was recorded in 2001 – 57.7 % (slightly higher than the national average – 57.2 %). In 2007, the male employment rate in the county made up 65.5 %, the female one – 58.7 %. 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

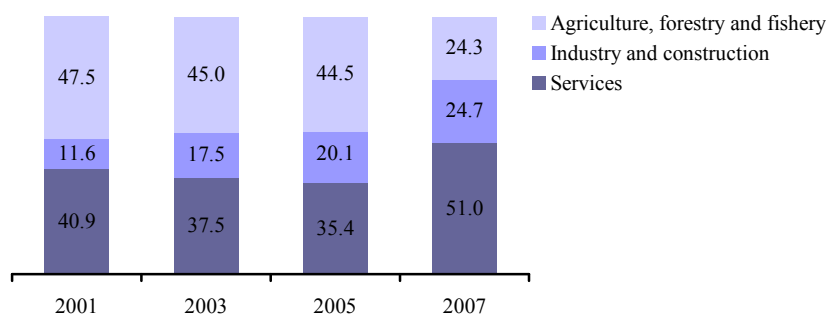


Given the shortage of the labour force, it is important to make use of the reserves of all population groups in the labour market. One of the methods is increasing employment of older (aged 55–64) persons. In 2007, 53.4 % of the population of this age group were working in Lithuania, while in Tauragė county – 52.9 %. It is one of the highest indicators in the country.

In 2007, 51 % of the employed population, as in previous years, were working in the service sector. In 2002–2007, about a quarter of the employed population were working in industrial enterprises and the construction sector. The share of persons working in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishery has been decreasing in the county, as well as across the country. In 2007, about 24 % of the Tauragė county population were working in agriculture, forestry and fishery, and this figure exceeded the national average more than 2 times, while in 2001 this indicator was as high as 48 %. 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

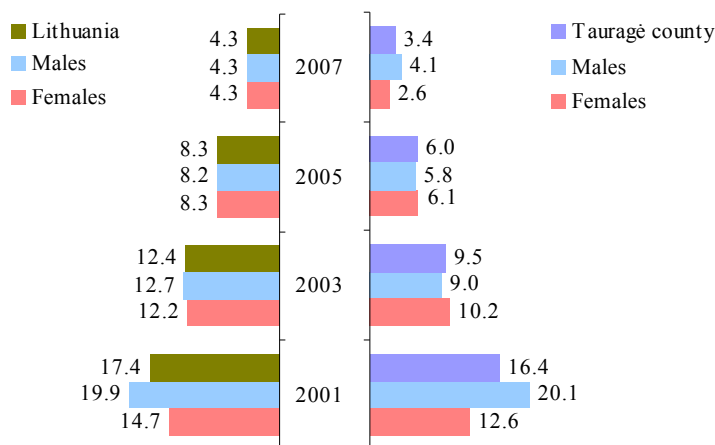
284 to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Tauragė county, the highest number of the unemployed (10 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased 5 times – to 1.8 thousand. Almost over the entire period in question (except for 2001–2002 and 2007), the number of female unemployed would be higher than that of male unemployed.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. In Tauragė county, it was decreasing at a similar pace as the national average. The unemployment rate in the country decreased from 17.4 % in 2001 to 4.3 % in 2007, while in Tauragė county from 16.4 to 3.4 % respectively. A decrease in the male unemployment rate was particularly prominent: in 2001, it was as high as 20.1 %, while in 2007 dropped to 4.1 %. However, over many years, the female unemployment rate was higher than the male one.

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

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

Per cent

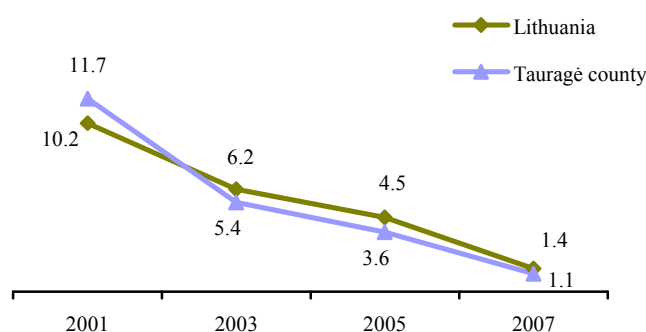


Not only the total number of the unemployed, but also that of the long-term unemployed, i.e. people looking for a job for a year or longer, have been decreasing. The number of the long-term unemployed in Tauragė county decreased from 7 thousand in 2001 to 0.6 thousand in 2007, while the long-term unemployment rate decreased from 11.7 % in 2001 to 1.1 % in 2007. In 2007, the male and female long-term unemployment rates were similar.

In 2001, the share of the long-term unemployed in Tauragė county made up 72 % of the total number of the unemployed (national average – 59 %), and this figure was the highest, as compared with the rest of counties. 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 Tauragė 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 Tauragė 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 53 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 Tauragė county made LTL 1332, and were the lowest in Lithuania (by as much as 26.1 percentage points lower than the national average). In 2001–2007, the highest earnings were in Pagėgiai municipality. Over the period in question, the most rapid growth in earnings was observed in Jurbarkas and Šilalė district municipalities – by 80 % in each, while the slowest – in Pagėgiai 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
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1073</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>1802</b>	<b>120.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>120.7</b>	<b>73.9</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	726	768	890	1306	119.7	72.5
Pagėgiai mun.	921	977	1144	1590	119.0	88.2
Šilalė d. mun.	707	778	901	1274	120.9	70.7
Tauragė d. mun.	755	803	938	1327	121.5	73.6

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

	Lithuania	Tauragė county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1286	•	840	927	1071	1432	2003
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	1949	–	•	•	•	•	2392
Professionals	1924	1749	–	–	•	•	•	1925
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1285	–	•	•	1295	•	•
Clerks	1322	1149	–	•	•	•	•	•
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	913	–	•	889	(904)	•	•
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	•	–	–	•	•	–	–
Craft and related trades workers	1337	907	•	•	850	958	•	•
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1103	•	•	1038	1088	•	•
Elementary occupations	888	731	•	•	732	•	•	•

In 2006, in Tauragė 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 24 % higher than earnings of professionals, having the same educational level. In the county, earnings of non-manual workers were by 23 %, while those of manual workers – by 32 % lower than the national average.

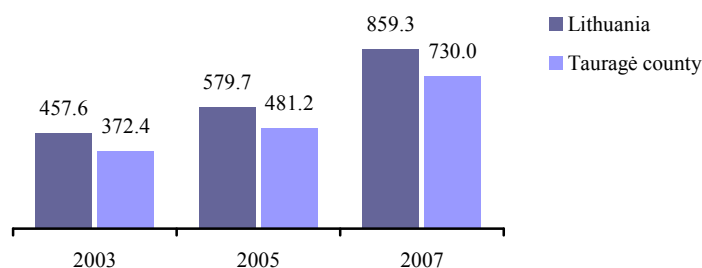
In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 1632) were those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise of 6–9 years, while the lowest (LTL 1039) – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 60 and older had the highest earnings (on average, 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 Tauragė county in 2007 made LTL 730 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 129 less than the national average. The growth in disposable income in 2005–2006 in Tauragė county was slightly slower than the national average, which was exceeded only in 2007. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 34.5 %, while against 2003 – by 96 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 41.3 %, while against 2003 – 2.3 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 73 % of the increase in disposable income.

In Tauragė county, income from paid employment in 2007 made up 44.4 % of the total disposable income, i.e. by 18 percentage points less than the national average. In Tauragė county, the relative share of the rural population is the highest. This fact impacted on the income structure of the population: income from agriculture in Tauragė county was one of the highest in the country, and made up 18.6 % of the total disposable income (national average – 6.8 %). Social transfers in 2007 made up 27.3 % of disposable income of the Tauragė county population (by 6 percentage points more than the national average), or, on average, LTL 199 per capita per month.

### Average disposable income, 2003–2007

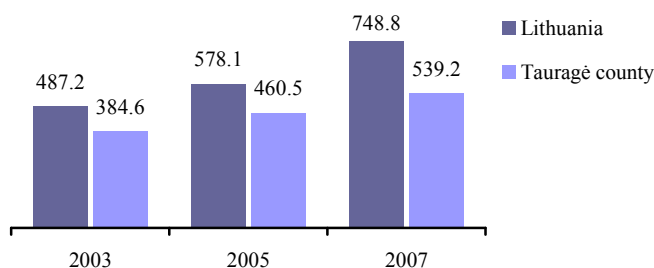
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Tauragė county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
<b>Total disposable income</b>	<b>859.3</b>	<b>372.4</b>	<b>481.2</b>	<b>730.0</b>
Income from paid employment	536.4	163.7	225.9	324.3
Income from self-employment	105.0	88.1	119.4	177.8
income from agriculture	58.8	48.1	88.5	135.9
Social transfers	182.6	95.8	116.3	199.0
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	24.8	19.6	29.0

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Tauragė county in 2007 were the lowest in Lithuania and made LTL 539 per month, which is by LTL 210 less than the national average. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 9.4 %, or LTL 47 per month. Almost half of this sum was due to increased expenditure on food products.

### Average consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Per capita per month, LTL



In 2007, households in Tauragė county would spend on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) 42.5 % of their total consumption expenditure (this percentage share being the highest as compared with the rest of the counties), which made, on average, LTL 229.2 per household member per month (by LTL 18.9 less than the national average). Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products increased by 0.4 percentage point, while against 2003 – decreased by 2.1 percentage points.

### Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure – 100 per cent

	Lithuania	Tauragė county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	44.6	41.5	42.5
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	3.2	3.3	2.8
Clothing and footwear	9.2	6.9	8.4	9.6



	Lithuania	Tauragė county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	12.2	11.1	11.5
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	3.4	4.4	5.0
Health care	4.8	3.8	4.9	4.4
Transport	10.4	12.0	9.3	8.5
Communication	4.9	4.5	4.8	5.3
Recreation and culture	5.5	2.8	4.5	2.4
Education	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.3
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	2.9	3.5	3.3
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	3.0	3.2	4.5

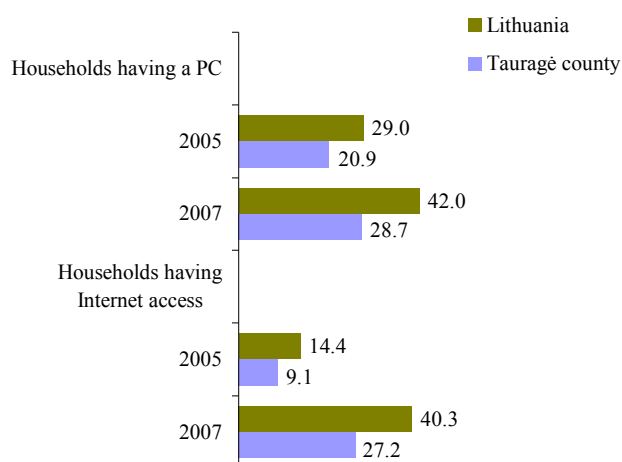
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Tauragė county made LTL 62 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 11.5 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). Against 2003, housing expenditure on the maintenance of the house in the county increased by 32.5 %, while their specific weight in consumption expenditure slightly decreased.

### Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Tauragė county households with personal computers and use of the Internet considerably lagged behind the national average, and, as compared with the rest of counties, was the poorest. In I quarter 2007, 29 % of Tauragė county households had a personal computer at home, 27 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Over two years, the share of Tauragė county households having a PC increased by 8, those having Internet access – by 18 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 37 % of the Tauragė county population aged 16–74 (national average – 52 %). 54 % of persons who were using computers used them daily (national average – 66 %), 40 % – at least once a week, but not daily.

In I quarter 2007, the Internet was used by one-third (33 %) of the Tauragė county population (national average – 49 %). Both the number of people using computers and that of people using the Internet in Tauragė county, against other counties, were the lowest. As much as 60 % of residents of Tauragė county aged 16–74 have never used a computer, 64 % – the Internet.

As compared with the national average, internauts of Tauragė county were using the Internet slightly less often. 48 % of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, 44 % – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 31 % of the Tauragė 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 9 % of the Tauragė 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 2.1 % of the Tauragė county population aged 16–74, or by 5.9 % of internauts (national averages – 3.7 and 7.2 % per cent respectively).

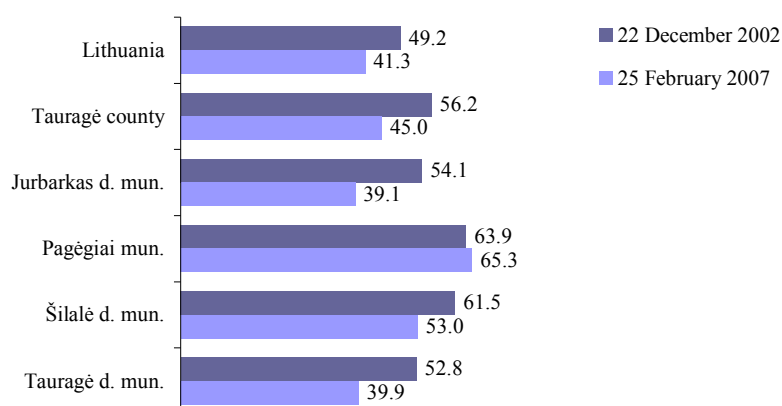
### Results of elections to municipal councils

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

Electoral activity at the municipal council elections in Tauragė county in 2007, against 2002, decreased in all municipalities, except for that of Pagėgiai; however, it remained higher than the national average. In 2007, the most active were the residents of Pagėgiai and Šilalė district municipalities, where, respectively, 65.3 and 53 % of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. The least active were the residents of Jurbarkas (39.1 %) and Tauragė (39.9 %) district municipalities.

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

Per cent



In 2007, in Tauragė county, out of the total of 98 municipal council mandates, women obtained 21, or 21.4 %, which is slightly less than the national average (22.2 %). The highest number (one-third) of mandates was obtained by women in Šilalė district municipal council, this indicator being one of the highest in Lithuania. The lowest number of mandates (14 %) was obtained by women in Pagėgiai district municipal council. In Jurbarkas and Tauragė district municipal councils, women obtained one-fifth of mandates.

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

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1550</b>	<b>77.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>21.4</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	25	80.0	20.0
Pagėgiai mun.	21	85.7	14.3
Šilalė d. mun.	25	68.0	32.0
Tauragė d. mun.	27	81.5	18.5

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Tauragė county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Liberal and Centre Union – 21 mandates, Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 20, and Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic) – 19.

In Šilalė district municipal council, the majority is represented by the Liberal and Centre Union (10, or 40 % of mandates); in Pagėgiai district municipal council – Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic) (12, or 57 % of mandates). In Jurbarkas district municipal council, the highest number of mandates (5, or one-fifth) was obtained by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats). In Tauragė district municipal council, the Liberal and Centre Union and Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) obtained 6 (22 %) mandates each.

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

	Tauragė county	Jurbarkas d. mun.	Pagėgiai mun.	Šilalė d. mun.	Tauragė d. mun.
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>
Liberal and Centre Union	21	4	1	10	6
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	20	3	3	8	6
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	19	4	12	–	3
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats)	18	5	1	6	6
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	8	3	2	–	3
Labour Party	4	2	2	–	–
The New Union (Social Liberals)	4	2	–	–	2
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	3	2	–	–	1
Civil Democracy Party	1	–	–	1	–

#### Culture

In 2007, main cultural establishments were functioning in all municipalities of Tauragė county. The number of cultural establishments has been changing inconsiderably; the number of museums decreased the most – there is now just one museum in each municipality. In all municipalities, the highest number of cultural establishments fell within libraries.

#### Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

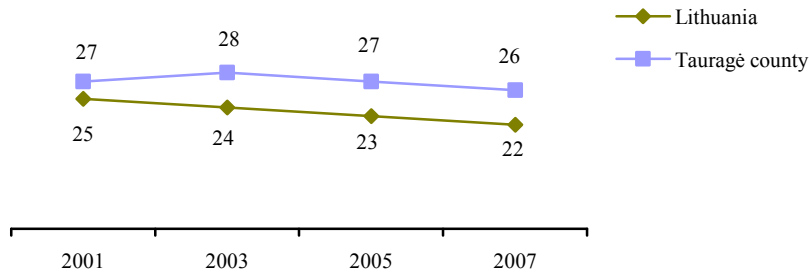
	Libraries				Cultural centres and branches thereof				Museums and branches thereof			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>1449</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>Tauragė county</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Jurbarkas d. mun.	28	28	28	28	26	26	10	23	5	1	1	1
Pagėgiai mun.	10	10	10	10	8	7	1	5	–	1	1	1
Šilalė d. mun.	27	26	26	26	20	19	18	18	1	1	1	1
Tauragė d. mun.	29	29	29	29	18	19	20	20	1	1	1	1

In 2007, there were 26 library users per 100 population in the county, i.e. by 15 % more than the national average. In 2007, there were, on average, 357 users per county library; this indicator was lower only in Marijampolė county (350). The number of documents per library in these

counties was also the lowest – 10 thousand, or 2 times less than the national average. In 2007, the highest number of library users per 100 population was in Pagėgiai municipality (29). In this municipality, the number of documents per 100 population was by 25 % higher than the county and by 10 % higher than the national average.

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

Per 100 population

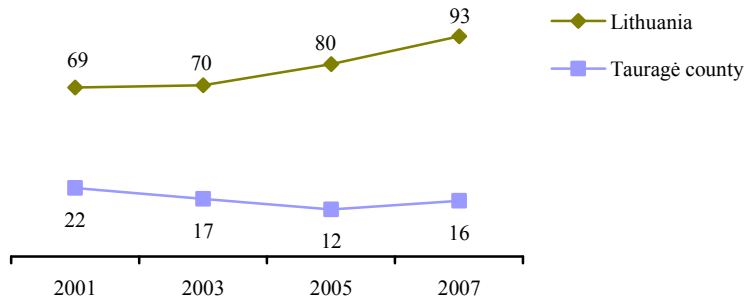


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 12 times (this figure being the lowest in the country). 45 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %). In 2007, there were 711 documents per 100 Tauragė county population, or by 15 % less than the national average (840).

In 2007, there were 4 museums in Tauragė county, which over the year were visited by 20 thousand persons. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors in the county dropped by one-third. Jurbarkas Regional Museum in 2007 received 60 % of museum visitors in the county. The indicator of museum attendances per 100 population in Tauragė county (16) is the lowest in the country, and almost 6 times lower than the national average.

### Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population



The number of amateur art groups, against 2001, decreased by 12 %, while the number of their members – by 18 %. Over 2001–2007, the number of amateur art groups and their members grew only in Tauragė district (by 20 and 7 % respectively). Although the number of members of amateur art groups has been decreasing, the number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population in 2007 made 2.8, and was by 30 % higher than the national average.

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

Per 100 population



The number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population in the county is among the highest in Lithuania; it is higher only in Utena (3.3) and Panevėžys (3.0) counties.

In 2007, there were 4 cinema halls in the county. Although the number of cinema halls over 2001–2007 remained unchanged, the number of cinemagoers decreased 2.4 times (in 2001 – 12 thousand, in 2007 – 5 thousand).

In 2007, cinema attendances per 100 county population made 4 (25 times less than the national average). Against 2001, this number decreased more than 2 times, and was the lowest in Lithuania.

### Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

