

## SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF TELŠIAI COUNTY

### Population

Telšiai county ranks eighth in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, it was inhabited by 173.4 thousand persons, or 5.2 % 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>179.9</b>	<b>179.1</b>	<b>177.0</b>	<b>174.6</b>	<b>173.4</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>91.7</b>	<b>1123</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	67.3	67.1	66.4	65.6	65.1	30.5	34.6	1134
Plungė d. mun.	44.2	44.1	43.9	43.6	43.4	20.5	22.9	1114
Rietavas mun.	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.2	10.1	4.9	5.2	1086
Telšiai d. mun.	57.7	57.3	56.2	55.2	54.8	25.8	29.0	1125

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 6.5 thousand (3.6 %). Over the said period, the population was decreasing in all county's municipalities: the most – in Rietavas and Telšiai district municipalities (by 5.6 and 5 % respectively), the least – in Plungė district municipality (by 1.8 %).

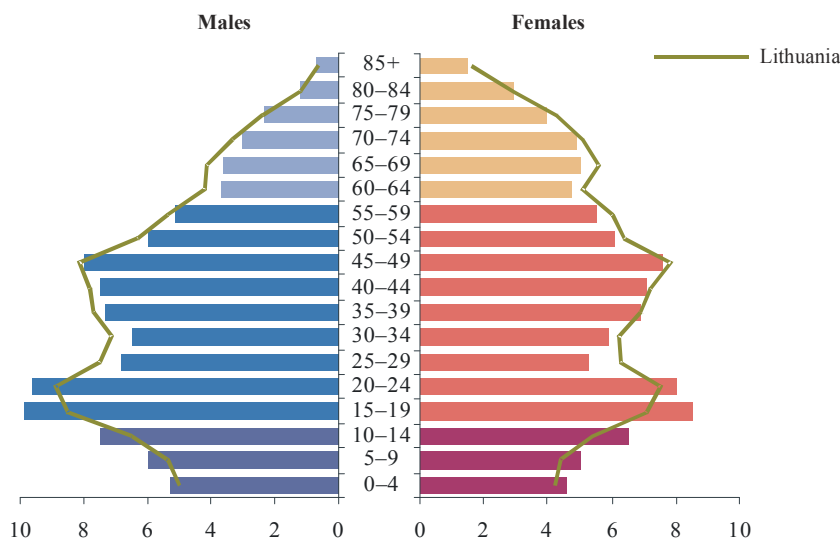
At the beginning of 2008, Telšiai county was inhabited by 47.1 % of men and 52.9 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1123 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Mažeikiai district municipality is higher than the respective indicators of the rest of county's municipalities and the county average, but lower than the national average.

In 2001–2007, due to the natural decrease, the population in Telšiai county declined by 2.7 thousand (41.5 %), while due to negative net migration – by 3.8 thousand (58.5 %).

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

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

Per cent

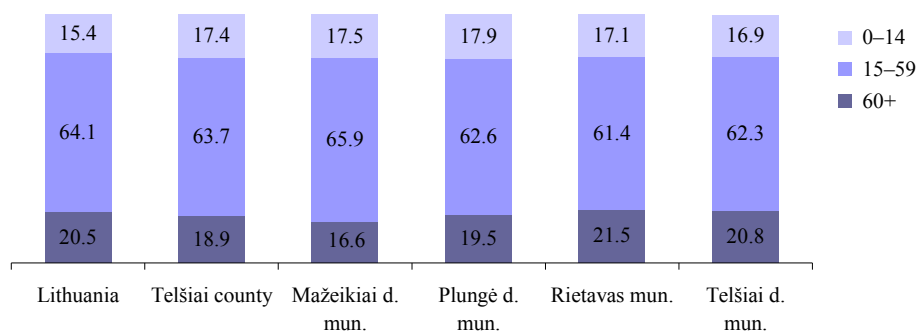


Telšiai county is demographically the “youngest” one in Lithuania. Elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 18.9 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each seventh man (national average – each sixth) and each fourth woman in Telšiai county are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 8.1 % (national average – 25.2 %) lower than that of elderly people. In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 26.9 % (national average – 24.7 %).

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

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Rietavas and Telšiai district, where elderly people make up 22–21 % of the population. A better age structure is in Mažeikiai district municipality, where elderly people make up 16.6 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 27 children and 30 elderly persons per 100 Telšiai county population aged 15–59 (national averages – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 39 and 31 respectively. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Rietavas, Telšiai district and Plungė district municipalities, where there were 63–60 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

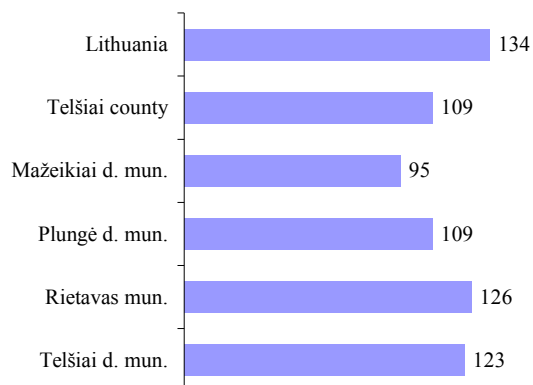
### Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>57</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	37	27	25	25	62	52
Plungė d. mun.	41	29	33	31	74	60
Rietavas mun.	43	28	40	35	83	63
Telšiai d. mun.	38	27	34	33	72	60

At the beginning of 2008, there were 109 elderly persons per 100 children in Telšiai county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 – just 79. The highest number of elderly persons per 100 children was in Rietavas municipality (126), the lowest – in Mažeikiai district municipality (95).

### Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

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



The mean age of the Telšiai county population is lower than the national average. At the beginning of 2008, this indicator in the county was 37.5 years (national average – 39 years), while at the beginning of 2001 – 35.5 years.

### Migration

In 2001–2007, based on the data of the declaration of the place of residence, 3.5 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Telšiai county to take up the usual residence for a period longer than 6 months, while more than 4 thousand persons would leave it. There were, on average, 19.8 persons who arrived in the county and 22.9 who left it per 1000 county population. Over the period in question, more people left almost all municipalities of Telšiai county than arrived in them.

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

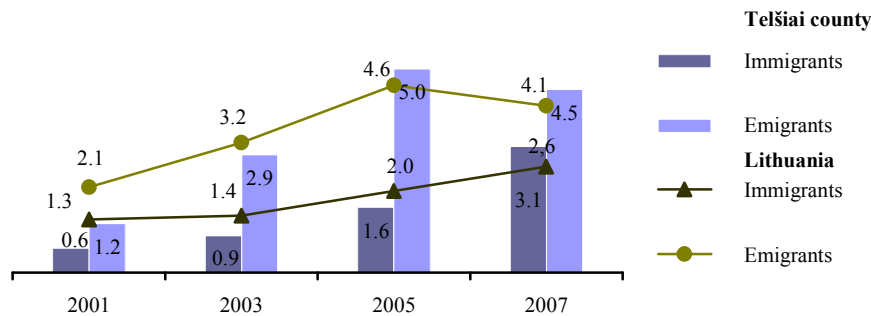
	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>42166</b>	<b>62124</b>	<b>59522</b>	<b>65044</b>	<b>44725</b>	<b>68428</b>	<b>68304</b>	<b>70288</b>	<b>-2559</b>	<b>-6304</b>	<b>-8782</b>	<b>-5244</b>
<b>Telšiai county</b>	<b>2932</b>	<b>3744</b>	<b>3410</b>	<b>4067</b>	<b>3031</b>	<b>4365</b>	<b>4379</b>	<b>4761</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>-621</b>	<b>-969</b>	<b>-694</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	1275	1495	1491	1650	1363	1762	1916	1994	-88	-267	-425	-344
Plungė d. mun.	750	1083	898	1127	734	1076	1049	1155	16	7	-151	-28
Rietavas mun.	136	255	166	232	104	290	237	310	32	-35	-71	-78
Telšiai d. mun.	771	911	855	1058	830	1237	1177	1302	-59	-326	-322	-244

In 2001–2007, on average, 7.6 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Telšiai county from abroad, while 14.1 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Telšiai county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (86.4 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at 29.3 %.

<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 Telšiai county has not been changing. Both in 2001 and 2007, there were 9.9 live births per 1000 county population.

### 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>1787</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>1670</b>	<b>1731</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.9</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	684	652	629	671	10.2	9.7	9.5	10.3
Plungė d. mun.	421	429	391	462	9.5	9.7	8.9	10.6
Rietavas mun.	104	123	90	109	9.7	11.6	8.7	10.7
Telšiai d. mun.	578	546	560	489	10.0	9.6	10.0	8.9

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Telšiai county was 1.45 (national average – 1.35). The total fertility rate was the highest (1.62) in Plungė district, the lowest (1.31) – in Telšiai district municipalities.

The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Telšiai county was 27.4 years (national average – 28 years), while in 2001 – 26.4 years (national average – 26.9 years).

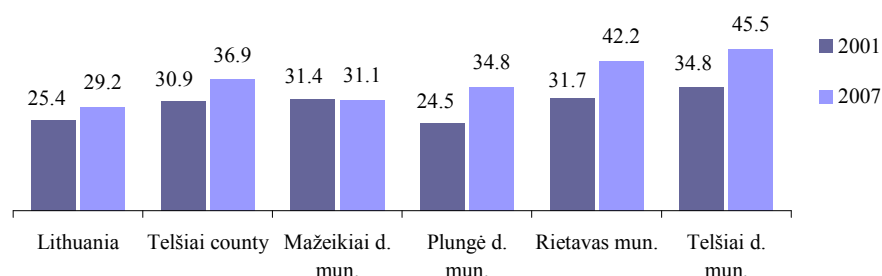
Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 23.7 % in 2001 to 17.0 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate live births in Telšiai county was 639, while in 2001 – 552, which made up, respectively, 36.9 and 30.9 % (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 (45.6 %) was in Telšiai district, while the lowest (31.1 %) – in Mažeikiai district municipalities.

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

### Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

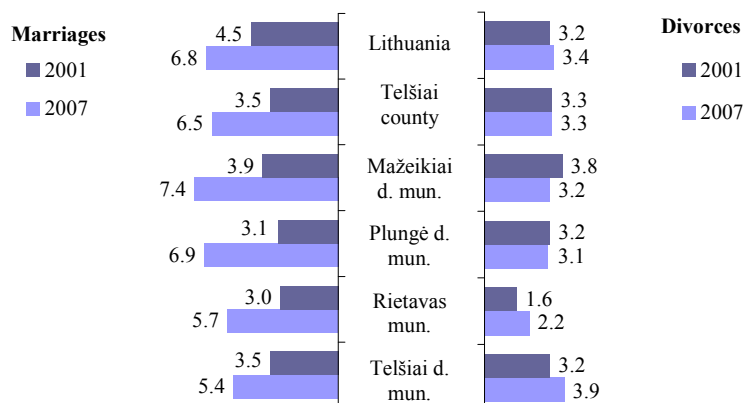
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



### Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Telšiai county was increasing. In 2007, 1134 marriages were registered; there were 6.5 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 632 and 3.5. In 2001–2007, the crude marriage rate in Telšiai county was lower than the national average.

#### Number of marriages and divorces per 1000 population, 2001 and 2007



In 2007, the mean age at first marriage of men in the county was 27.3, that of women – 25.3 years (national averages – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2001–2007, the number of divorces in Telšiai county was changing insignificantly. In 2007, 578 divorces were registered; there were 3.3 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 596 and 3.3 respectively. The crude divorce rate in Telšiai county in 2007 was slightly lower than the national average. In Telšiai district municipality, as compared with other county's municipalities, the crude divorce rate is the highest: in 2007, there were 3.9 divorces per 1000 population.

### Mortality

In 2007, 2227 deaths were registered in Telšiai county. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 9.1 %. In 2007, there were 12.8 deaths per 1000 Telšiai county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 11.3.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Telšiai county municipalities. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Rietavas and Telšiai district municipalities (15.2 % and 13.3 % respectively).

In 2007, there were 5.2 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) per 1000 live births in Telšiai county (national average – 5.9).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men in Telšiai county was 65 years, that for women – 77.7. Compared to the national average, the LE both for men and for women was higher (by 0.2

and 0.5 years respectively). In 2001–2007, the LE for men in the county increased by 0.3, while that for women decreased by 1 year. Over the period in question, the difference between the LE for men and for women, although decreasing, remained broad: in 2007, the LE for men was by 12.7 years shorter than that for women (in 2001 – by 14 years).

The structure of causes of death in Telšiai county is similar to that across the country. In 2007, the three main causes of death were as follows: diseases of the circulatory system, malignant neoplasms, and external causes of death, which caused 82 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 86 % (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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>192.5</b>	<b>608.0</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>175.8</b>	<b>204.0</b>	<b>686.3</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>159.2</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	179.9	571.0	43.1	154.7	195.9	613.8	79.6	130.1
Plungė d. mun.	199.1	574.7	65.6	162.9	218.3	678.0	75.8	188.5
Rietavas mun.	281.1	627.8	65.6	243.6	187.3	877.1	78.8	187.3
Telšiai d. mun.	185.6	672.9	27.7	197.7	205.5	743.8	50.9	165.5

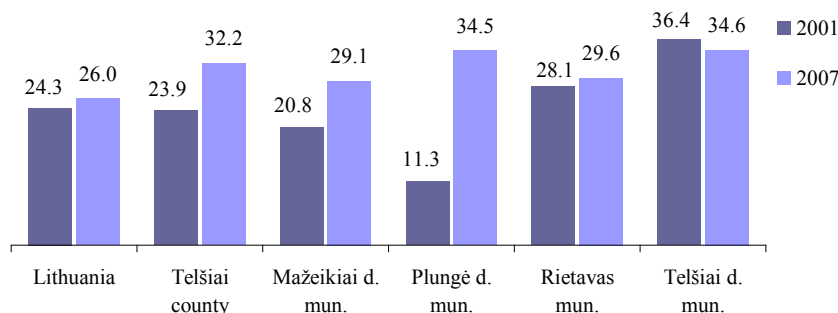
In 2007, as in 2001, more than half (53.6 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system. Mortality due to these diseases for women in Rietavas municipality is 1.5 times higher than the county and national averages.

In 2007, there were 355 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (almost 16 % of all deaths in Telšiai county). In 2007, mortality from malignant neoplasms in Telšiai county was the lowest in Lithuania. Compared to other county's municipalities, the highest mortality due to malignant neoplasms for men and women was in Plungė district municipality.

In 2007, there were 277 deaths due to external causes of death (more than 12 % of all deaths in Telšiai county). In Plungė district municipality, mortality due to the said cause for women was 1.4 times higher than the county average; in Rietavas municipality, mortality for men was 1.2 times higher than the county average. In 2007, mortality due to suicides in Telšiai county was one of the lowest, while that due to transport accidents – among the highest in the country.

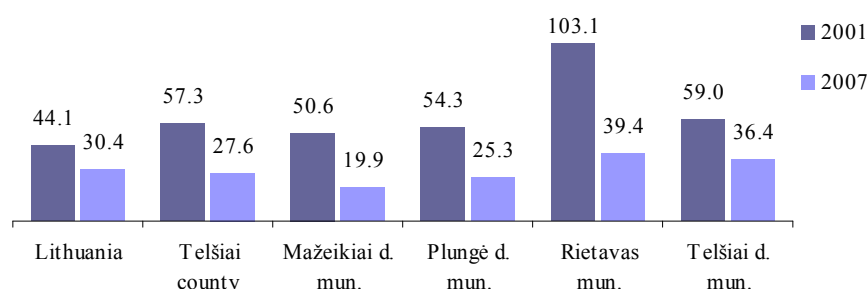
### Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



### Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



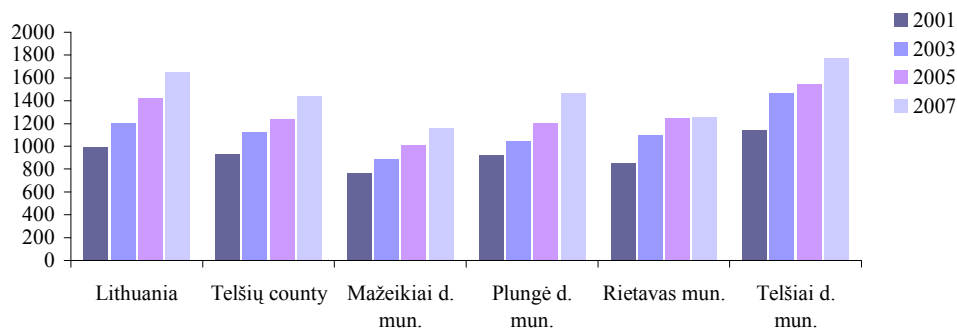
### Health

Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre<sup>3</sup>, in 2007, 39.1 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Telšiai county, stayed in hospital (i.e. similarly to the national average). There were, on average, 4 visits to physicians providing primary outpatient health care services per capita per year, in Mažeikiai and Plungė district municipalities – 5 visits.

The prevalence of malignant neoplasms among the residents of Telšiai county in 2007 was lower (1439 cases per 100 000 population) than the national average (1650), while in Mažeikiai district municipality this indicator was among the lowest, as compared with the rest of the country's municipalities (1160 cases per 100 000 population; this indicator was lower only in Pagėgiai and Panevėžys district municipalities – 1097 and 863 cases per 100 000 population respectively). The prevalence of malignant neoplasms in 2007 was the highest among the residents of Telšiai district municipality (1777 cases per 100 000 population, or by 8 % more than the national average).

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

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population

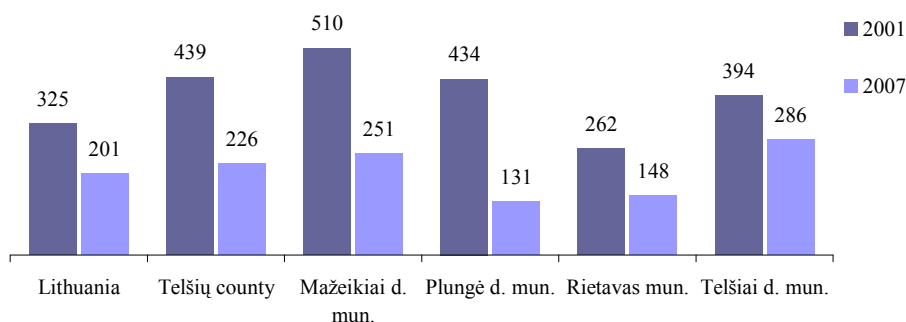


Over 2001–2007, the prevalence of the so-called social disease – tuberculosis – among the Telšiai county population was slightly higher than the national average; however, since 2001, the prevalence of this disease decreased by as much as 49 % (national average – 38 %). In 2007, the prevalence of tuberculosis was the highest in Telšiai district municipality (286 cases per 100 000 population).

<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



Although the indicators of the prevalence of certain diseases in Telšiai county are similar to those of other country's regions, it should be mentioned that in 2007 the prevalence of cerebral circulation disorders here was the lowest (1534 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 2692 cases). As compared with other country's regions, the prevalence of gastritis and duodenitis in Telšiai county was the highest (2619 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 2064 cases), while in Mažeikiai district municipality the prevalence of this disease was among the highest, as compared with the rest of the country's municipalities (3052 cases per 100 000 population; a higher indicator – only in Marijampolė municipality – 3676). Residents of Telšiai county, as compared with other counties, more often suffered from backache (5451 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 3860).

### Social protection

In 2007, 27.4 thousand (or each sixth resident of the county, i.e. similarly to the national average) residents of Telšiai county were state social insurance old age pensioners; 8.1 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 253 old age and 75 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county. The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Telšiai district municipality (281 old age pensioners per 1000 working age population), while the lowest – in Mažeikiai district municipality (214).

In 2007, 22.6 thousand residents of Telšiai county received child benefits; 36 % thereof were residents of Mažeikiai district municipality. 683 persons received guardianship (curatorship) benefits, 148 persons – support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 439 women, birth grants – 1.6 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Telšiai county were paid LTL 24 223.6 thousand of benefits.

Since 2001, the number of residents of the county receiving social services at home grew by 54 %; however, in 2007, it was slightly lower than in 2006 (in 2007 – 536, in 2006 – 580 persons). Half of the residents of the county who were nursed or attended at home lived in Telšiai district municipality.

At the end of 2007, there were 189 persons living in five care institutions for the elderly, and almost 500 persons – in three care institutions for disabled adults. There were also three child care institutions functioning in the county, where 246 children were taken care of. In 2007, 185 persons stayed in four temporary residence institutions (shelters and crisis centres) of Telšiai county.

Based on the data of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, there were more than 600 families at social risk living in Telšiai county in 2007, with 1.5 thousand children brought up in them.



### 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>1784</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>1502</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	296	208	216	689	497	497
Plungė d. mun.	183	178	170	437	419	391
Rietavas mun.	64	52	52	164	144	149
Telšiai d. mun.	191	185	192	494	471	465

### Education

At the end of 2007, there were 31 preschool education institutions in the county, where 4.9 thousand children were enrolled. Over 2001–2007, the number of preschool education institutions in the county decreased by 2, while the number of children enrolled in them increased by 9 %. The number of children enrolled in preschool education institutions has been increasing in all municipalities, in that of Rietavas

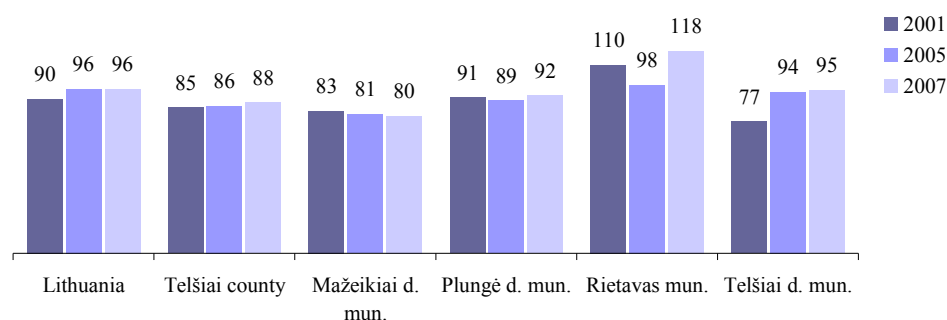
### Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>4468</b>	<b>4638</b>	<b>4683</b>	<b>4873</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	2038	2060	2119	2212	8.5
Plungė d. mun.	1297	1389	1363	1403	8.2
Rietavas mun.	165	162	165	191	15.8
Telšiai d. mun.	968	1027	1036	1067	10.2

In 2007, there were, on average, 88 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions (in 2001 – 85). The most prominent shortage was in Mažeikiai district municipality. The number of places for children in preschool education institutions was sufficient only in Rietavas district municipality.

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

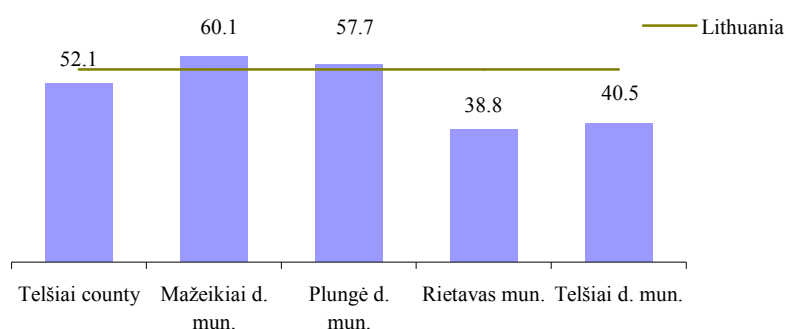
Places per 100 children



At the end of 2007, the share of children educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes in Telšiai county made up more than half (52 %) of children aged 1–6. The smallest share (just 39 %) – in Rietavas municipality.

## 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 97 general schools in the county, where 29 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools decreased from 138 to 97 (by about 30 %), while that of pupils – by more than 6 thousand (18 %).

The number of schools has been decreasing in all municipalities: the most – in that of Rietavas (1.8 times), in other districts – from 1.3 to 1.6 times. The number of pupils in all municipalities was decreasing at a similar pace – on average, by 18 %.

### 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>35204</b>	<b>34514</b>	<b>32033</b>	<b>28981</b>	<b>-17.7</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	13224	12980	12152	11041	-16.5
Plungė d. mun.	9087	8861	8201	7450	-18.0
Rietavas mun.	2060	2009	1883	1669	-19.0
Telšiai d. mun.	10833	10664	9797	8821	-18.6

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were more than 2 thousand teachers in the general schools of Telšiai 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 2633 to 2452, or by 7 %. The number of teachers has been decreasing in all county's municipalities, while the most notable decrease was observed in that of Mažeikiai district – in 2007, against 2001, by 9 %. Most (92 %) teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 85 %). The largest share of teachers with higher education is in Telšiai (92 %) and Mažeikiai (92 %) district municipalities.

In 2007, general schools were finished by almost 2 thousand pupils, of whom 79 % continued their studies in the same year: 40 % entered universities, 35 % – colleges, 4 % – vocational training institutions.

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 4 vocational schools operating in the county, where about 2 thousand students were enrolled. Against 2003, the number of students in vocational schools increased by 12 %.

### 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1627</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>1829</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>402</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	1	1	1	646	781	861	295	147	154
Plungė d. mun.	1	1	1	568	560	552	90	122	133
Rietavas mun.	-	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	-
Telšiai d. mun.	2	2	2	413	404	416	119	81	115

The biggest vocational training establishment in the county – Mažeikiai Polytechnic School, where more than half of the county's vocational school students are enrolled. In vocational schools, students may acquire the qualification of a technical maintenance business professional, agricultural business professional, cook and bartender, rural tourism professional, construction business organiser or service provider, etc.

The youth of the county may obtain higher non-university education in Žemaitija College. Žemaitija College has several branches: in Rietavas – Rietavas Technology and Management faculties, in Telšiai – Telšiai Arts and Pedagogy Faculty, in Mažeikiai – Mažeikiai Management Studies Department. Moreover, there is a Telšiai department of the College of Social Sciences (established in Klaipėda), where students may study law, finances and business management.

### 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1254</b>	<b>2329</b>	<b>2529</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>510</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	-	-	-	-	369	393	-	-	109
Rietavas mun.	1	1	1	939	1316	1269	-	289	281
Telšiai d. mun.	-	-	-	315	644	867	14	102	120

The number of college students has been annually increasing. As compared with 2003, it grew 2 times. In the autumn of 2007, 65 % of college students were enrolled in extramural, 35 % – in intramural study programmes. The highest number of students (31 %) was studying business management, 15 % – accounting, 8 % – social work, 7 % – business information systems and other study programmes.

There are two higher education establishments providing higher university education in the county – Telšiai Faculty of Arts of Vilnius Academy of Arts and Bishop Vincentas Borisevičius Seminary of Telšiai.

### Number of universities and students in them

	Number of universities			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>130245</b>	<b>141771</b>	<b>144336</b>	<b>22959</b>	<b>28089</b>	<b>31153</b>
<b>Telšiai county</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>
Telšiai d. mun.	1	1	1	235	228	216	55	43	42

In the autumn of 2007, the share of university students in Lithuania studying in the county's universities was very low – just slightly more than 200 students.

## Employment

In terms of the population, Telšiai county is among the smallest ones; therefore, the number of employed persons in the county is rather low. In 2007, 78 thousand, or 65 % of the population aged 15–64 were working in the county, which made up 5 % of the employed population in the country.

Although due to increasing emigration the population in the county, as well as countrywide, has been decreasing, the number of employed persons has been annually (since 2005) increasing. It has been impacted on by positive changes in the national and county's economy.

### Employed population

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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>78.2</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	23.9	27.1	26.6	27.6
Plungė d. mun.	16.7	16.7	17.7	19.5
Rietavas mun.	3.0	3.5	3.4	4.7
Telšiai d. mun.	20.3	25.9	26.2	26.4

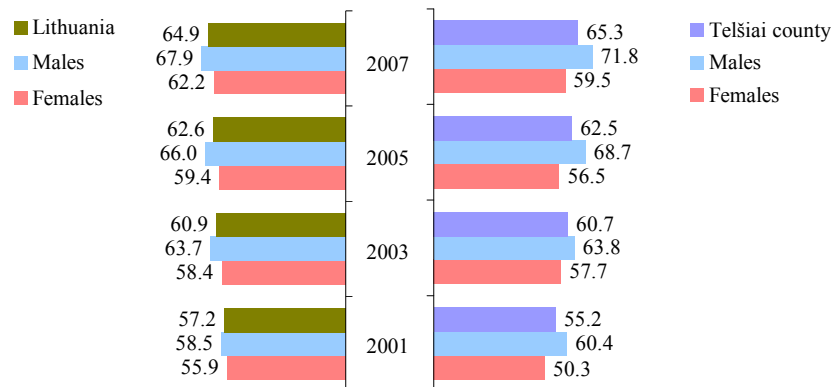
In 2007, more than one-third (34 %) of persons employed in Telšiai county were working in Telšiai district, 35 and 25 % respectively – in Mažeikiai and Plungė districts. In 2001–2007, the number of employed persons in different municipalities was changing at a different pace, and was increasing in all municipalities. The most rapid increase in the number of employed persons was recorded in Rietavas (by 57 %) and Telšiai district (by 30 %), whereas in Mažeikiai and Plungė the indicator in question grew by about 16 %.

In 2007, 65.3 % of the population aged 15–64 were employed in the county, which is by 0.4 % more than the national average. In 2007, the highest employment rate both at the county and national levels was reached. The lowest employment rate in Telšiai county was recorded in 2001 – 55.2 %, or by 2 percentage points lower than the national average. The increase in the number of persons employed since 2002 impacted on the increase in the employment rate, which in 2007 reached 65.3 % (and was the highest in the county).

The male and female employment rates were different. Due to the fact that in Telšiai county quite a considerable share of residents work in industry and construction, the male employment rate is relatively high. In 2007, the male employment rate in the county was the highest in Lithuania (71.8 %), whereas the female one was rather low (59.5 %). In the said year, the male employment rate in the county made up 60.4 %, the female one – 50.3 %.

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

Per cent

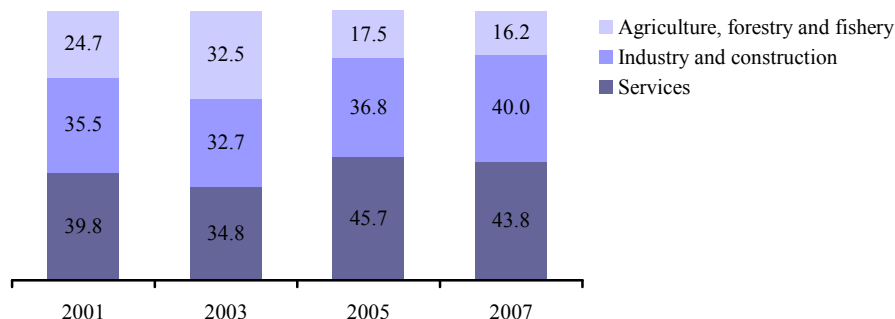


Given the shortage of the labour force, it is important to make use of the reserves of all population groups in the labour market. One of the methods is increasing employment of older (aged 55–64) persons. In 2007, 53.4 % of the population of this age group were working in Lithuania, while in Telšiai county – 54 %; from 2001, their share grew by almost 17 percentage points.

In 2005, as much as 46 % of the employed population were working in the service sector, in 2007 – 44 %. In 2007, Telšiai county stood out among the rest of counties with the share of persons employed in industry and construction (as much 40 % of persons employed in the county; national average – one-third). The share of persons working in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishery has been decreasing in most of the counties. Quite a number of the rural population, who have purchased modern equipment, can do agricultural work faster and, through coordinating the time of works, engage in other economic sectors. It is characteristic of rural areas, where more and more rural population work in adjacent or other larger towns and cities, as well as other economic sectors. Telšiai county stands out among the rest of the counties by the relatively high number of persons still working in the agricultural sector. In 2007, 16 % of the Telšiai county population were working in agriculture, forestry and fishery, while in 2002–2003 – as much as 31–32 % of persons employed in the county (national average – just 18 %). In Lithuania, in 2007, 10 % of the employed population were working in this sector.

## Employment by economic sector, 2001–2007

Per cent



## Unemployment

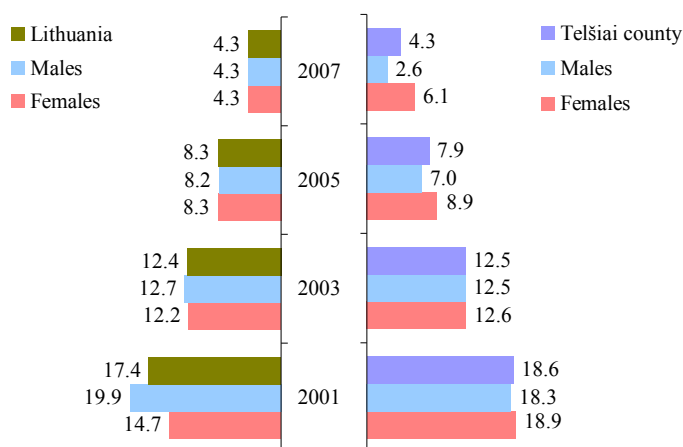
Unemployment, which for a long time had been one of the burning country's problems, rapidly decreased. In Lithuania, over 2001–2007, the number of the unemployed decreased from 284 to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Telšiai county, the highest number of the unemployed (15 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased 4 times – to 3.5 thousand.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. In Telšiai county, it was decreasing at a similar pace as the national average. The unemployment rate in the county decreased from 18.6 % in 2001 to 4.3 % in 2007, and equalled the national average, which in 2007 made up 4.3 %. In Telšiai county, in 2006 and 2007, the female unemployment rate (8.9 and 6.1 % respectively) was about 4 times higher than the male one (2.3 and 2.6 %). In previous years, the female unemployment rate was also higher than the male one; however, there were no such prominent differences.

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

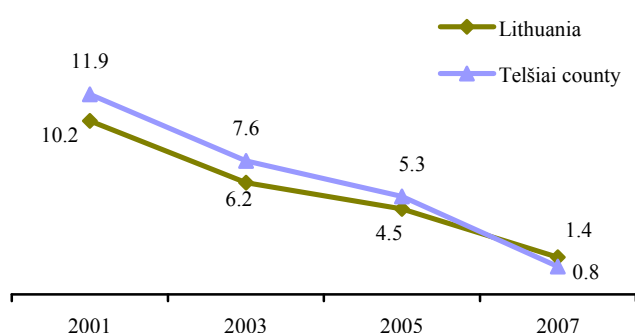


Not only the total number of the unemployed, but also that of the long-term unemployed, i.e. people looking for a job for a year or longer, have been decreasing. The number of the long-term unemployed in Telšiai county decreased from 9 thousand in 2001 to 0.6 thousand in 2007, while the long-term unemployment rate decreased from 11.9 % in 2001 to 0.8 % in 2007. In 2007, the male long-term unemployment rate in the county made up 0.2, the female one – 1.4 %.

In 2001, in contradistinction to other counties, the number of the long-term unemployed in Telšiai county was very high – they made up as much as 64 % of all unemployed (the major share of the long-term unemployed in the country). In 2007, this share considerably decreased and made up 17 % (or by 10 percentage points lower than the national average). 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 in the labour market, 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 Telšiai 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 Telšiai 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 Telšiai county was 82 thousand, while the labour force activity rate made up 68.3 %, i.e. was by 0.4 % higher than the national average.

### Earnings

In 2007, average gross monthly earnings in Telšiai county made LTL 1736 (by this indicator, the county ranked third in the country), and were by 3.7 percentage points lower than the national average. In 2001–2007, the highest earnings were in Mažeikiai district municipality. Over the period in question, the rapid growth (as much as two times) in earnings was observed in the entire county, except for Mažeikiai district municipality, where they grew by 65 %.

### 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1059</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1736</b>	<b>121.2</b>	<b>96.3</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	1189	1329	1502	1961	117.2	108.8
Plungė d. mun.	739	820	1010	1511	126.1	83.9
Rietavas mun.	776	897	1046	1500	123.3	83.2
Telšiai d. mun.	764	874	1086	1625	124.9	90.2

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

	Lithuania	Telšiai county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1496	•	1003	1328	1245	1583	2166
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	2337	–	•	•	1679	1966	2792
Professionals	1924	1839	–	•	•	1350	1516	2042

	Lithuania	Telšiai county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1469	•	•	•	1237	1604	1806
Clerks	1322	1407	–	•	•	•	1518	•
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	880	•	•	899	824	•	•
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	•	–	–	–	•	–	–
Craft and related trades workers	1337	1346	•	1103	1385	1366	(1441)	•
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1620	•	1192	1720	1422	•	•
Elementary occupations	888	911	•	840	926	851	•	•

In 2006, in Telšiai 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 37 % higher than earnings of professionals and by 55 % higher than earnings of technicians and associate professionals, having the same educational level. In Telšiai county, earnings of non-manual workers were by 11 % lower, while those of manual workers – by 9 % higher than the national average.

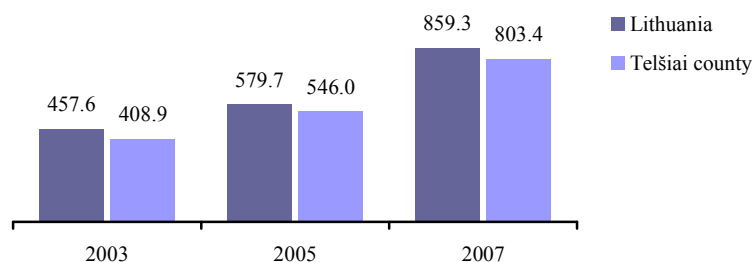
In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 2136) were those of employees with the length of service of 15–19 years, twice as low (LTL 1087) – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 40–49 had the highest earnings (LTL 1564). Employees of age groups of 30–39 and 50–59 had similar earnings; their average gross monthly earnings were by about 20 % higher than those of employees aged 20–29.

### Standard of living

Based on the data of the Household Budget Survey, average disposable household income (in cash and in kind) in Telšiai county in 2007 made LTL 803 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 56 less than the national average. The growth in disposable income in Telšiai county was slightly faster than the national average. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 31.2 %, while against 2003 – by as much as 96.5 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 37.7 %, while against 2003 – 2.2 times, and in 2007 made LTL 715 per capita per month.

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

Per household member per month, LTL



Against 2006, the most visible increase was observed for income from paid employment. The increase in income from paid employment made up 70 % of the increase in disposable income.

In Telšiai county, income from paid employment in 2007 made up 59.5 % of the total disposable income, i.e. by 3 percentage points less than the national average. Social transfers in



2007 made up 20.8 % of disposable income of the Telšiai county population (by 0.5 percentage points less than the national average), or, on average, LTL 167 per capita per month.

### Average disposable income, 2003–2007

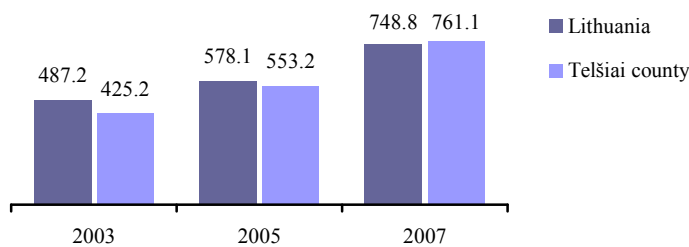
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Telšiai county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
<b>Total disposable income</b>	<b>859.3</b>	<b>408.9</b>	<b>546.0</b>	<b>803.4</b>
Income from paid employment	536.4	207.4	268.4	478.2
Income from self-employment	105.0	71.0	116.5	120.9
income from agriculture	58.8	54.3	82.9	82.3
Social transfers	182.6	94.9	125.7	166.8
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	35.6	35.3	37.5

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Telšiai county in 2007 made LTL 761 per month, which is by LTL 12 more than the national average. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 21.9 %, or LTL 137 per month. The most marked increase was observed for the share of expenditure on transport, health care.

### Average consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Per capita per month, LTL



In 2007, households in Telšiai county spent on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) 34.1 % of their total consumption expenditure, which made, on average, LTL 260 per household member per month. Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products decreased by 4.7, while against 2003 – by 11.5 percentage points.

### Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure – 100 per cent

	Lithuania	Telšiai county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	45.6	42.0	34.1
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4
Clothing and footwear	9.2	7.5	9.8	10.2
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	12.9	12.1	11.5
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	2.7	4.3	4.5
Health care	4.8	5.1	5.4	6.2
Transport	10.4	6.3	7.0	13.5
Communication	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.3
Recreation and culture	5.5	3.6	3.1	3.6
Education	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.3
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	3.1	3.5	4.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	4.3	4.2	3.9

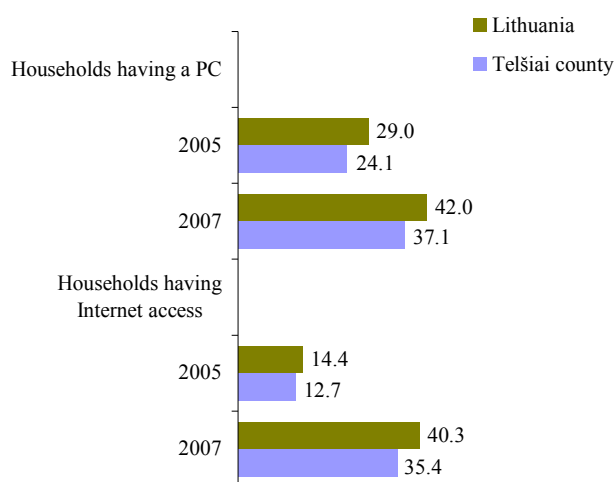
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Telšiai county made LTL 88 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 11.5 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). Against 2003, expenditure on the maintenance of the house in the county increased by 60.3 %, while their specific weight in consumption expenditure slightly decreased.

### Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Telšiai county households with personal computers and use of the Internet slightly lagged behind the national average. In I quarter 2007, 37 % of Telšiai county households had a personal computer at home, 35 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Over two years, the share of Telšiai county households having a PC increased by 13, those having Internet access – by 23 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 46 % of the Telšiai county population aged 16–74 (national average – 52 %). 52 % of persons who were using computers used them daily (national average – 66 %), 38 % – at least once a week, but not daily.

In I quarter 2007, the Internet was used by 41 % of the Telšiai county population (national average – 49 %). As compared with the national average, internet users of Telšiai county were using the Internet slightly less often. 51 % of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, 40 % – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 37 % of the Telšiai 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 Telšiai county population aged 16–74 (national average – 21 %). As compared with other counties, in Telšiai county, the share of residents using e-banking services was the lowest, whereas by the share of persons using the Internet for communication with public authorities and providers of public services the county ranked penultimate (outpacing only Tauragė county).

In I quarter 2007, goods and services for personal use were purchased or ordered via the Internet by 1.5 % of the Telšiai county population aged 16–74, or 3.3 % of internet users (national averages – 3.7 and 7.2 % per cent respectively).

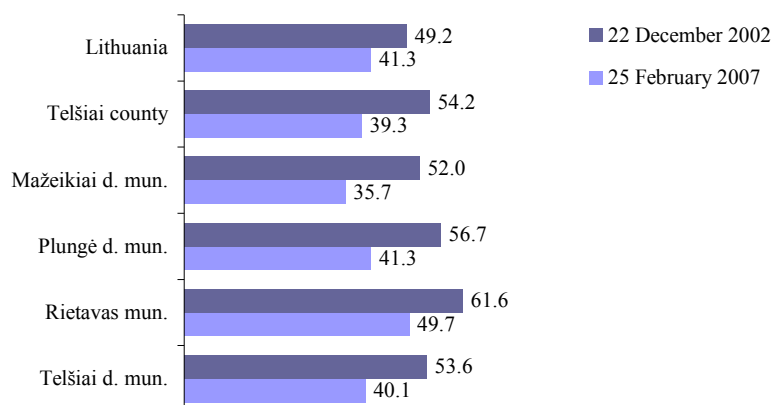
## Results of elections to municipal councils

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

Electoral activity at the municipal council elections in Telšiai county in 2007, against 2002, decreased from 54.2 to 39.3 % and was lower than the national average. Electoral activity decreased the most in Mažeikiai and Plungė district municipalities. In 2007, the most active were the residents of Rietavas municipality, where each second resident having voting rights participated in the elections. In all county's municipalities, electoral activity was lower than the national average (41.3 %).

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

Per cent



In 2007, in Telšiai county, out of the total of 100 municipal council mandates, women obtained 23 %, which is close to the national average (22.2 %). In all county's municipalities, women obtained a quarter of mandates, except for that of Plungė district (one-sixth 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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	27	74.1	25.9
Plungė d. mun.	25	84.0	16.0
Rietavas mun.	21	76.2	23.8
Telšiai d. mun.	27	74.1	25.9

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Telšiai county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic) – 22, or one-fifth of mandates, Liberal and Centre Union – 18 mandates, and Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 17 mandates.

The Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic) had the majority of votes in Telšiai and Mažeikiai district municipalities, where it obtained – 12, or 44 %, and 6, or 22 % of mandates respectively. The Liberal and Centre Union was in the lead in Rietavas municipality, where it obtained 12, or 57 % of mandates. In Plungė district municipality, the highest number of mandates – 6, or a quarter – was obtained by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats).

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

	Telšiai county	Mažeikiai d. mun.	Plungė d. mun.	Rietavas mun.	Telšiai d. mun.
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	22	6	3	1	12
Liberal and Centre Union	18	–	4	12	2
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	17	5	4	3	5
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats)	13	3	6	1	3
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	8	3	2	1	2
Labour Party	6	2	–	1	3
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	4	2	2	–	–
Christian Conservative Social Union	4	4	–	–	–
The New Union (Social Liberals)	3	2	1	–	–
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	3	–	1	2	–
Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	2	–	2	–	–

### Culture

Since 2001, the number of cultural centres in the county decreased by 25 %, while the number of museums and libraries has been changing inconsiderably. These main cultural establishments were present in all county's municipalities.

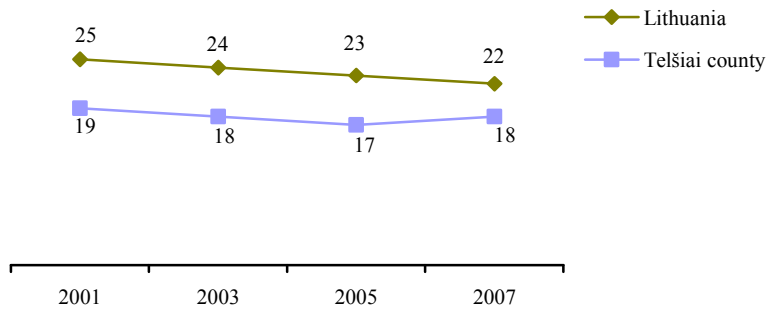
### Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

	Libraries				Cultural centres and branches thereof				Museums and branches thereof			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
<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>Telšiai county</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Mažeikiai d. mun.	29	26	26	26	20	20	8	8	1	1	1	1
Plungė d. mun.	20	20	20	20	13	15	14	11	1	1	1	1
Rietavas mun.	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	6	–	1	1	1
Telšiai d. mun.	32	32	31	31	22	21	21	21	2	2	2	2

In 2007, against 2001, the number of libraries in Mažeikiai district municipality decreased by 3. The number of library users per 100 population in the county in 2007 was by 18 % lower than the national average. In all municipalities, the number of library users per 100 population was lower than the national average. In 2007, there were, on average, 362 users per county library, this indicator being lower only in Marijampolė (350) and Tauragė (357) counties.

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

Per 100 population

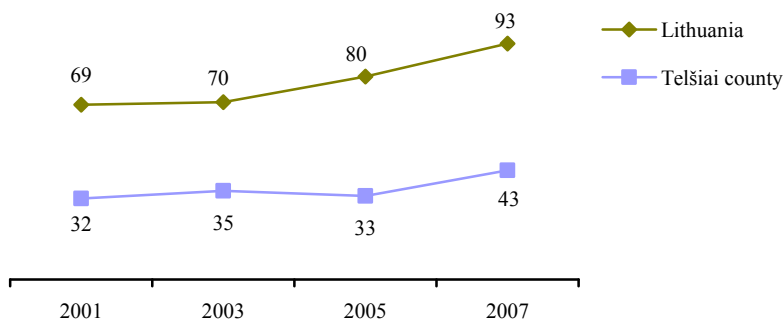


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 15 times. This indicator was higher only in Utena and Klaipėda counties (19 times). 23 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %), this indicator being the poorest in Lithuania. In Mažeikiai district, just 8 % of libraries were provided with computers and had Internet access. In 2007, there were 497 documents per 100 county population, i.e. by 40 % less than the national average; this indicator was the lowest in Lithuania.

In 2007, there were 5 museums in Telšiai county, which over the year were visited by 75 thousand persons. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors in the county grew by almost 25 %. In 2007, the most popular museum was Mažeikiai Museum, which received 35 thousand visitors, or almost half of museum visitors in the county.

### Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

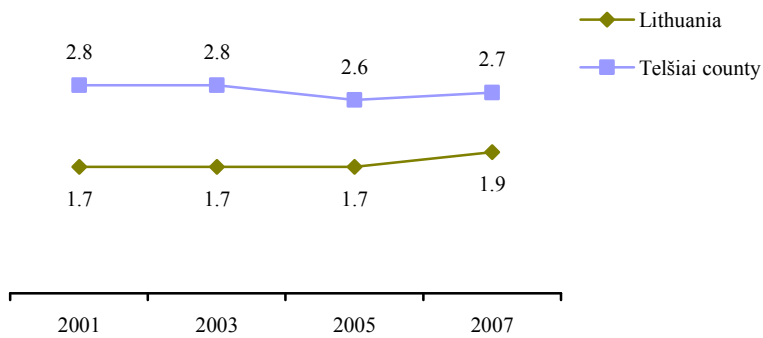


Against 2001, the indicator of museum attendances per 100 population in Telšiai county increased by 25 % (i.e. as the national average).

The number of amateur art groups, against 2001, remained almost unchanged, while the number of their members decreased by 8 %. Only in Mažeikiai district, in 2007, against 2001, the number of amateur art groups increased by almost 20 %, while the number of their members – by 40 %.

### 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; this indicator is higher only in Utena (3.3) and Panevėžys (3) counties.

From 2001 to 2005, the number of cinemagoers decreased from 9 to 1 thousand, while in 2007 not a single cinema hall was functioning in the county.

### Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

