

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF UTENA COUNTY

Population

Utena county ranks ninth in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, it was inhabited by 172.6 thousand persons, or 5.1 % of the country's population.

Population at the beginning of the year, 2001–2008

	Population, thousand							Females per 1000 males
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2008			2008
					Total	Males	Females	
Lithuania	3487.0	3462.6	3425.3	3384.9	3366.4	1567.0	1799.4	1148
Utena county	186.4	183.1	179.0	174.7	172.6	81.3	91.3	1123
Anykščiai d. mun.	35.2	34.4	33.7	32.6	32.1	15.0	17.1	1139
Ignalina d. mun.	23.0	22.7	21.6	20.6	20.2	9.6	10.6	1116
Molėtai d. mun.	25.4	25.0	24.2	23.5	23.2	11.1	12.1	1087
Utena d. mun.	50.2	49.8	49.0	48.4	47.9	22.3	25.6	1151
Visaginas mun.	29.7	28.6	28.7	28.6	28.6	13.6	15.0	1099
Zarasai d. mun.	22.9	22.6	21.8	21.0	20.6	9.7	10.9	1117

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 13.8 thousand (7.4 %). Over the said period, the population was decreasing in all county's municipalities: the most – in Ignalina and Zarasai district municipalities (by 12.2 and 10 % respectively), the least – in Visaginas municipality (by 3.7 %).

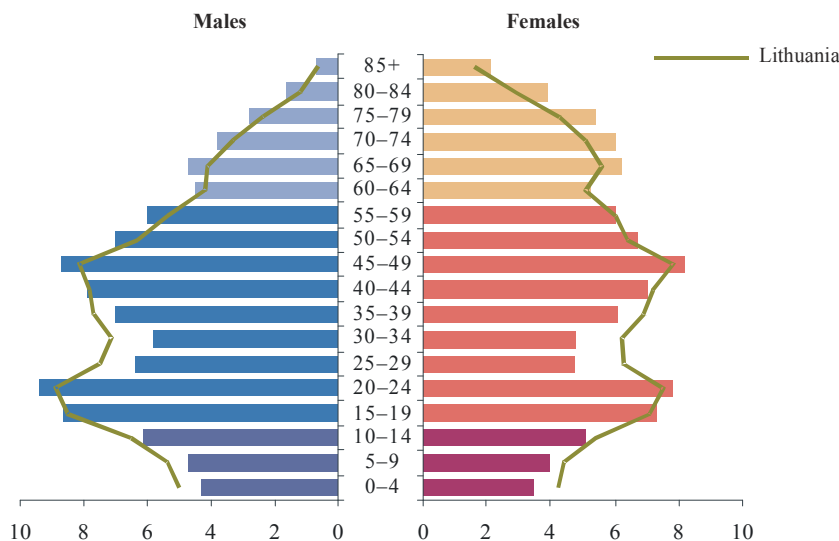
At the beginning of 2008, Utena county was inhabited by 47.1 % of men and 52.9 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1123 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Anykščiai district municipality is higher than the respective 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 Utena county declined by 9.5 thousand (68.8 %), while due to negative net migration – by 4.3 thousand (31.2 %).

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

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

Per cent

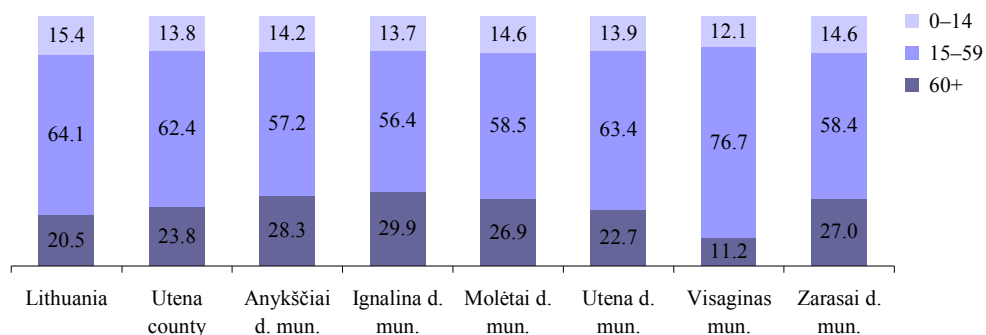


Utena county is demographically the “oldest” one in Lithuania. Elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 23.8 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each sixth man and each third woman (national average – each fourth) in Utena county are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 41.8 % lower than that of elderly people (national average – 25.2 %). In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 31.7 % (national average – 24.7 %).

Population structure by main age groups, beginning of 2008

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Ignalina and Anykščiai districts, where elderly people make up 30–28 % of the population. Better age structure is in Visaginas municipality, where elderly people make up 11.2 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 22 children and 38 elderly persons per 100 Utena county population aged 15–59 (national averages – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 32 and 39. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Ignalina and Anykščiai district municipalities, where there were 77–74 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

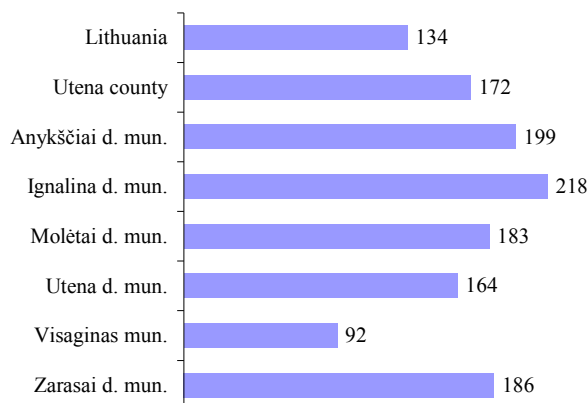
Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	Persons of certain age per 100 population aged 15–59					
	0–14		60+		0–14 and 60+	
	2001	2008	2001	2008	2001	2008
Lithuania	32	24	32	32	64	56
Utena county	32	22	39	38	71	60
Anykščiai d. mun.	36	25	53	49	89	74
Ignalina d. mun.	32	24	55	53	87	77
Molėtai d. mun.	34	25	49	46	83	71
Utena d. mun.	31	22	35	36	66	58
Visaginas mun.	27	16	11	15	38	31
Zarasai d. mun.	35	25	49	46	84	71

At the beginning of 2008, there were 172 elderly persons per 100 children in Utena county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 – just 122. The highest number of elderly people per 100 children was in Ignalina district municipality (218), the lowest – in Visaginas municipality (92).

Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

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



The mean age of the Utena county population exceeds the national average. At the beginning of 2008, this indicator in the county was 41 years (national average – 39 years), while at the beginning of 2001 – 39 years.

Migration

In 2001–2007, based on the data of the declaration of the place of residence, more than 3 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Utena county to take up the usual residence for a period longer than 6 months, while about 4 thousand persons would leave it. There were, on average, 17.4 persons who arrived in the county and 20.8 who left it per 1000 county population. Over the period in question, more people left almost all municipalities of Utena county than arrived in them.

Internal and international migration, 2001–2007¹

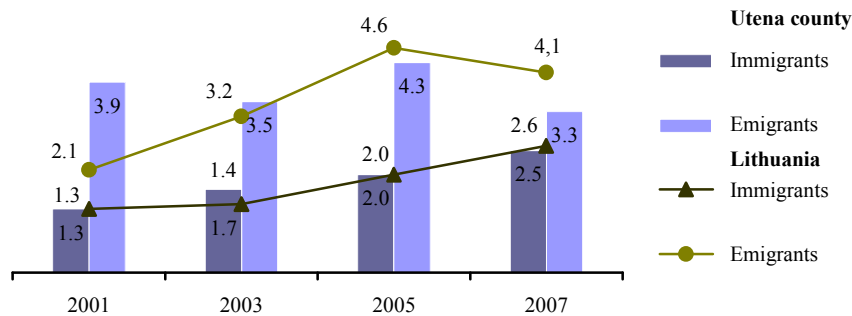
	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	42166	62124	59522	65044	44725	68428	68304	70288	-2559	-6304	-8782	-5244
Utena county	2916	3448	3070	2953	3367	4145	3894	3528	-451	-697	-824	-575
Anykščiai d. mun.	569	643	523	567	535	708	738	659	34	-65	-215	-92
Ignalina d. mun.	446	520	392	326	275	610	542	474	171	-90	-150	-148
Molėtai d. mun.	269	223	329	278	327	387	440	342	-58	-164	-111	-64
Utena d. mun.	851	1007	817	803	784	1124	864	893	67	-117	-47	-90
Visaginas mun.	317	665	620	577	1046	818	767	617	-729	-153	-147	-40
Zarasai d. mun.	464	390	389	402	400	498	543	543	64	-108	-154	-141

In 2001–2007, on average, 10.8 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Utena county from abroad, while 18.2 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Utena county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (80.6 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at just 22 %.

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

International migration, 2001–2007²

Per 1000 population



Fertility

The crude birth rate in Utena county has been decreasing. In 2001, there were 8.1 live births per 1000 county population, while in 2007 – just 7.7.

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

	Live births				Live births per 1000 population			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	31546	30598	30541	32346	9.1	8.9	8.9	9.6
Utena county	1510	1358	1365	1330	8.1	7.5	7.7	7.7
Anykščiai d. mun.	272	258	257	210	7.8	7.5	7.7	6.5
Ignalina d. mun.	174	167	159	129	7.6	7.5	7.5	6.3
Molėtai d. mun.	224	174	198	166	8.9	7.0	8.2	7.1
Utena d. mun.	402	356	334	394	8.0	7.2	6.9	8.2
Visaginas mun.	236	227	234	275	8.0	7.9	8.2	9.6
Zarasai d. mun.	202	176	183	156	8.9	7.9	8.5	7.5

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Utena county was 1.28 (national average – 1.35), i.e. the lowest in Lithuania. The total fertility rate was the highest (1.46) in Zarasai district, the lowest (1.24) – in Utena district municipalities.

The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Utena county was 27.8 years (national average – 28 years), while in 2001 – 26.3 years (national average – 26.9 years).

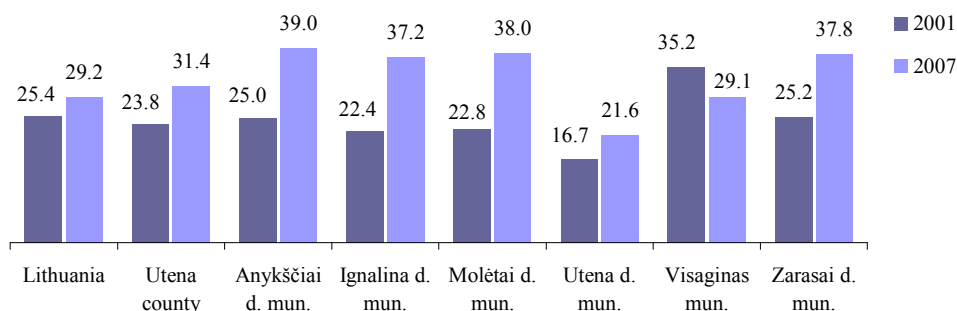
Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 18.1 % in 2001 to 14.4 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate live births in Utena county was 417, while in 2001 – 359, which made up, respectively, 31.4 and 23.8 % (national averages – 29.2 and 25.4 %), as compared to the total number of live births. In 2007, the highest number illegitimate live births (39 %) was in Anykščiai district, while the lowest (21.6 %) – in Utena district municipalities.

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

Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

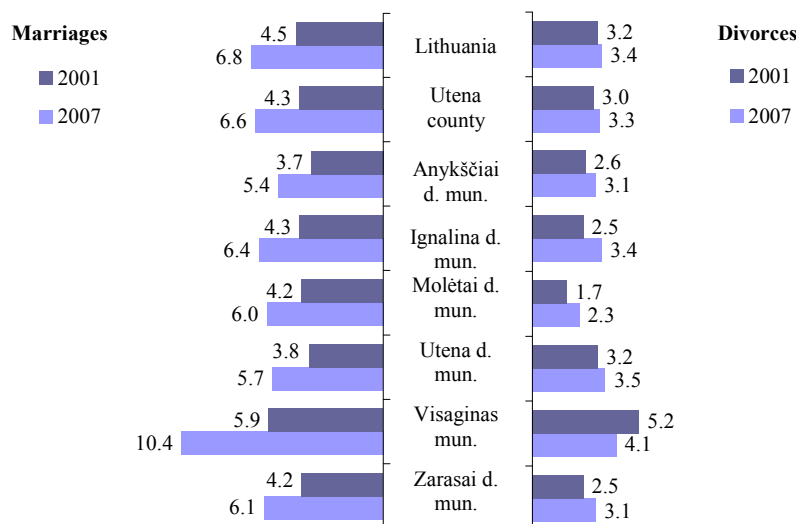
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Utena county was increasing. In 2007, 1143 marriages were registered; there were 6.6 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 791 and 4.3. In 2001–2007, the crude marriage rate in Utena 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 Utena county was 27.9, that of women – 25.6 years (national averages – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2001–2007, the number of divorces in Utena county was changing insignificantly. In 2007, 577 divorces were registered; there were 3.3 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 557 and 3 respectively. The crude divorce rate in Utena county in 2001–2007 was slightly lower than the national average. In Visaginas municipality, as compared with other county's municipalities, the crude divorce rate is the highest: in 2007, there were 4.1 divorces per 1000 population.

Mortality

In 2007, 2918 deaths were registered in Utena county. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 14.5 %. In 2007, there were 16.8 deaths per 1000 Utena county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 13.7. This indicator is to certain extent conditioned by the fact that Utena county is demographically the “oldest” in Lithuania.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Utena county municipalities. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Ignalina and Zarasai districts municipalities (22.5 and 20.2 % respectively).

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

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men in Utena county was 63.7 years, that for women – 77.3. Compared to the national average, the LE for men was lower (by 1.2 years), while that for women almost equalled the national average. In 2001–2007, the LE for men in the county decreased by 2.4, while that for women – by 0.9 years. Over the period in question, the difference between the LE for men and for women increased: in 2007, the LE for men was by 13.6 years shorter than that for women (in 2001 – by 12.1 years).

The structure of causes of death in Utena county is similar to that across the country. In 2007, the three main causes of death were as follows: diseases of the circulatory system, malignant neoplasms, and external causes of death, which caused 83.4 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 89 % (national average – 87 %).

Mortality by main cause of death, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population

	2001				2007			
	Malignant neoplasms	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	External causes of death	Malignant neoplasms	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	External causes of death
Lithuania	223.9	628.2	42.3	157.9	245.3	720.1	57.9	155.4
Utena county	244.6	795.7	67.9	182.1	282.7	938.6	88.7	180.8
Anykščiai d. mun.	317.2	1062.9	68.6	202.9	287.2	1161.1	71.0	191.5
Ignalina d. mun.	339.1	987.0	78.3	269.6	402.2	1192.0	171.7	206.0
Molėtai d. mun.	248.5	828.4	110.5	189.4	265.4	1138.6	124.1	231.1
Utena d. mun.	237.5	670.6	73.8	143.7	290.7	872.2	68.5	147.4
Visaginas mun.	102.2	316.8	10.2	146.5	150.5	381.4	21.0	115.5
Zarasai d. mun.	232.3	1047.7	70.1	184.1	341.4	1038.7	134.6	250.1

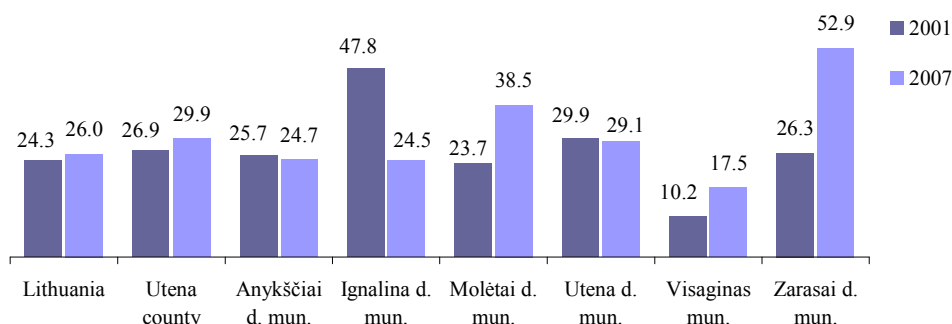
In 2007, more than half (56 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system (in 2001 – 58 %). Mortality due to these diseases in Utena county is the highest in Lithuania, whereas in Ignalina district municipality mortality due to these diseases for women is almost 2 times higher than the national average.

In 2007, there were 491 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (almost 17 % of all deaths in Utena county). As compared to other county's municipalities, the highest mortality rate due to malignant neoplasms for men was in Ignalina district, while for women one – in Zarasai district municipalities (being the highest not only in the county, but in the entire country – exceeding the national average as much as 1.8 times).

In 2007, there were 314 deaths due to external causes of death (one-tenth of all deaths in the county). In Zarasai district municipality, mortality due to the said cause for women was 1.7, for men one – 1.3 times higher than the county average. In 2007, mortality due to transport accidents and suicides in Utena county was one of the highest, while mortality due to suicides in Zarasai district municipality – the highest in the country.

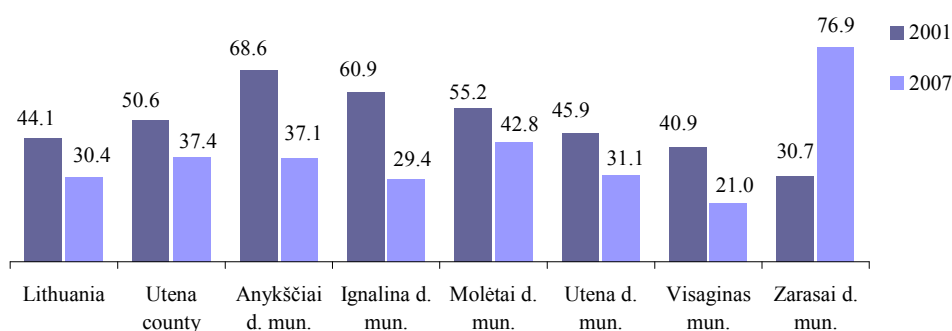
Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Health

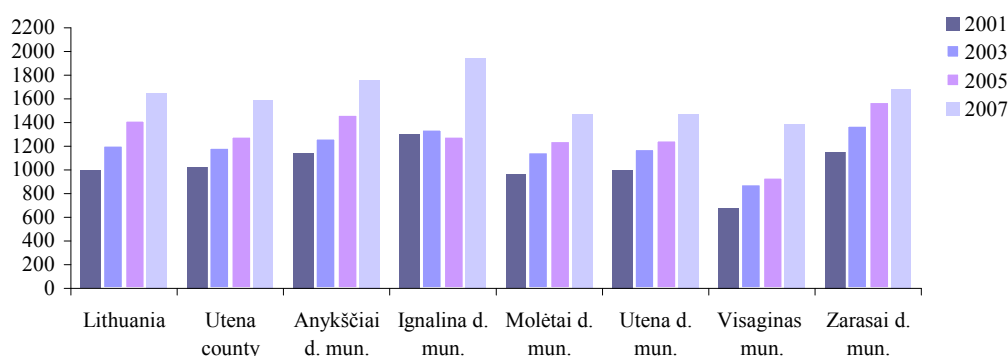
Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre³, in 2007, 43 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Utena county, were treated in hospital. Against other county's municipalities, residents of Visaginas district municipality less often (each fifth) stayed in hospital; however, they more often used primary outpatient health care services (5 visits per capita; national average – 4.6 visits). Residents of Molėtai district municipality used primary health care services the least (3.8 visits per capita per year).

The prevalence of malignant neoplasms among the residents of Utena county in 2007 was somewhat lower (1592 cases per 100 000 population) than the national average (1650); however, in Ignalina, Anykščiai and Zarasai district municipalities, this indicator was higher (1943, 1763 and 1683 cases per 100 000 population respectively). The prevalence of malignant neoplasms in 2007 was the lowest among the residents of Visaginas municipality (1389 cases per 100 000 population).

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

Changes in prevalence of malignant neoplasms, 2001–2007

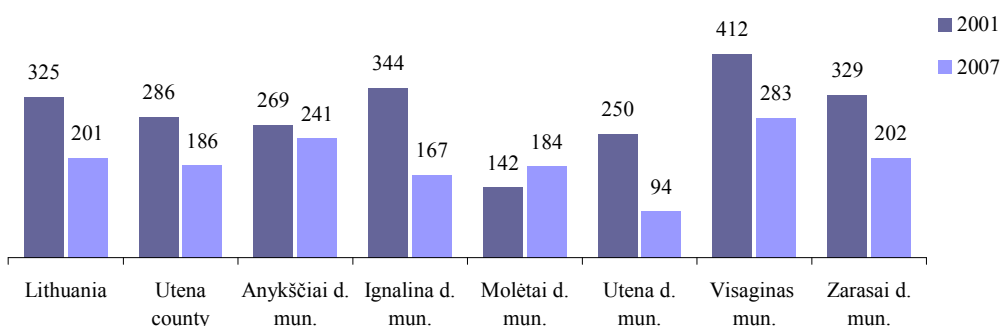
Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



Over 2001–2007, the prevalence of tuberculosis among the Utena county population remained lower than the national average; however, the prevalence of this so-called social disease among the county's municipalities remained uneven. In 2007, the prevalence of tuberculosis was the highest in Visaginas and Anykščiai district municipalities (283 and 241 cases per 100 000 population, or by 41 % and 20 % respectively higher than national averages), while in Birštonas municipality it was more than 2 times lower than the national average (94 cases per 100 000 population).

Prevalence of tuberculosis, 2001 and 2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



In 2007, the prevalence of ischemic heart disease (2819 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 4328), joint diseases (4211 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 4953) and osteoporosis (230 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 462) among the Utena county population was lower than the national averages. However, the registered number of cases of cerebral circulation disorders (3445 cases per 100 000 population; national average – 2692) here was the highest in Lithuania, while in Ignalina and Anykščiai districts – one of the highest, as compared to other municipalities of Lithuania (4960 and 4540 cases per 100 000 population respectively; a higher prevalence was recorded only in Rokiškis district municipality – 5073 cases per 100 000 population).

Social protection

In 2007, 35 thousand (or each fifth resident of the county; national average – each sixth) residents of Utena county were state social insurance old age pensioners; 11.5 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 327 old age and 108 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county. The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Ignalina district municipality (465 old age pensioners per 1000 working age population), while the lowest – in Visaginas municipality (126).

In 2007, 17.2 thousand residents of Utena county received child benefits; a quarter thereof were residents of Utena district municipality. 763 persons received guardianship (curatorship) benefits, 138 persons – support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 365 women, birth grants – 1.2 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Utena county were paid LTL 19 709.9 thousand of benefits.

The number of residents of the county receiving social services at home has been changing inconsiderably. In 2007, 581 residents of the county were nursed or attended at home, almost one-third thereof – in Molėtai district municipality.

At the end of 2007, there were 736 persons living in ten care institutions for the elderly, and 519 persons – in two care institutions for disabled adults. There were also 14 child care institutions functioning in the county, where 457 children were taken care of; 34 children were fostered in families. In 2007, 143 persons stayed in three temporary residence institutions (shelters and crisis centres) of Utena county.

Based on the data of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, there were 869 families at social risk living in Utena county in 2007, with more than 2 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
Utena county	1159	916	869	2508	2127	2016
Anykščiai d. mun.	166	130	136	436	340	345
Ignalina d. mun.	165	168	171	327	343	356
Molėtai d. mun.	266	214	204	628	539	486
Utena d. mun.	239	192	151	469	409	342
Visaginas mun.	151	76	73	227	143	139
Zarasai d. mun.	172	136	134	421	353	348

Education

At the end of 2007, there were 28 preschool education institutions in the county, where about 4 thousand children were enrolled. Over 2001–2007, the number of preschool education institutions in the county decreased from 36 to 28 (22 %), while the number of children enrolled in them in different municipalities was changing differently: in Molėtai district – increased by 14 %, while in Ignalina district – decreased by almost 15 %.

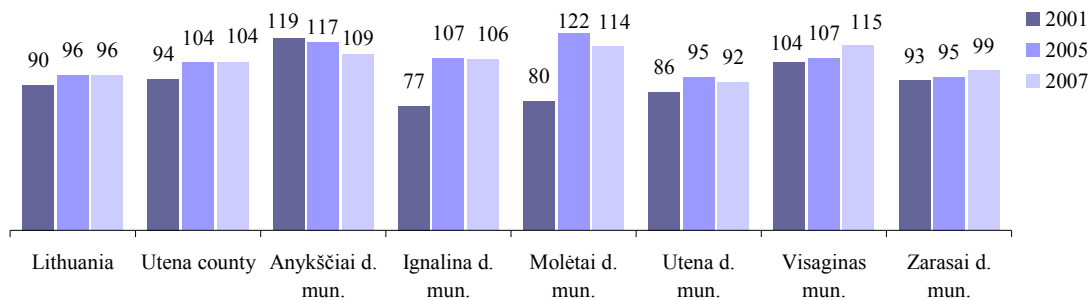
Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Lithuania	89841	89469	90021	93044	3.6
Utena county	3971	3924	3904	3984	0.3
Anykščiai d. mun.	521	531	527	550	5.6
Ignalina d. mun.	422	393	383	360	-14.7
Molėtai d. mun.	357	351	394	408	14.3
Utena d. mun.	1298	1351	1373	1421	9.5
Visaginas mun.	1056	1004	922	953	-9.8
Zarasai d. mun.	317	294	305	292	-7.9

In 2007, there were, on average, 104 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions. The number of places for children in preschool education institutions was insufficient only in Utena and Zarasai district municipalities.

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

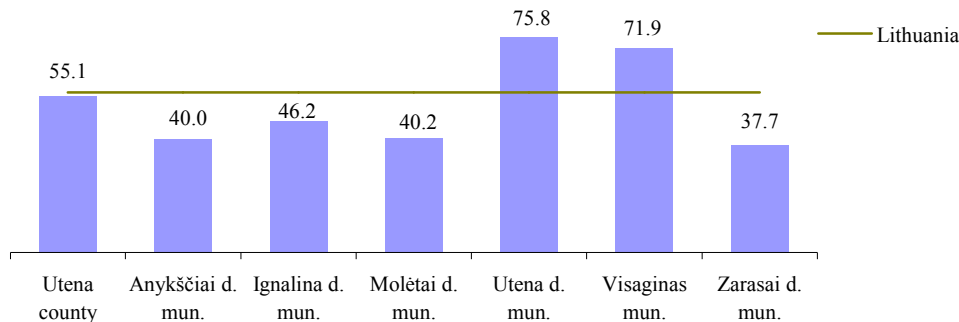
Places per 100 children



The share of children educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes has been increasing. At the end of 2007, the share of children educated according to such programmes in Utena county made up more than half (55 %) of children aged 1–6. The change in this indicator in the county's municipalities ranged from 38 % in Zarasai to 76 % in Utena district municipalities. Over 2005–2007, the share of children aged 1–6 educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes in Utena and Anykščiai districts was growing at the fastest pace.

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 87 general schools in the county, where 23 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools decreased from 155 to 87 (by 44 %), while that of pupils – by more than 8 thousand (26 %).

The number of pupils has been decreasing in all municipalities, the most – in that of Visaginas (by 46 %).

Number of pupils in general schools

	2001–2002	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Lithuania	602419	583063	538541	489442	-18.8
Utena county	31851	29871	26679	23436	-26.4
Anykščiai d. mun.	5753	5551	5124	4495	-21.9
Ignalina d. mun.	3329	3140	2878	2546	-23.5
Molėtai d. mun.	4042	3872	3603	3265	-19.2
Utena d. mun.	8747	8416	7705	6951	-20.5
Visaginas mun.	6211	5349	4288	3334	-46.3
Zarasai d. mun.	3769	3543	3081	2845	-24.5

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 2.2 thousand teachers in the general schools of Utena 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 2803 to 2203, or by almost 21 %. The number of teachers has been decreasing in all county's municipalities, while the most notable decrease was observed in that of Visaginas – in 2007, against 2001, by 39 %. Most (92 %) teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 86 %). More teachers having higher education work in Visaginas (97 %), Utena (93 %) and Zarasai (92 %) district municipalities.

In 2007, general schools were finished by 2.1 thousand pupils, of whom 80 % continued their studies in the same year: 39 % entered universities, 31 % – colleges, almost 10 % – vocational training institutions.

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 6 vocational schools operating in the county, where more than 2.5 thousand students were enrolled. The number of students of vocational schools, which up to the year 2004 had been increasing, started decreasing in 2005, and in 2007 dropped to the level of the year 2003. There are vocational schools in all municipalities, except for Ignalina district.

Number of vocational schools and students in them

	Number of vocational schools			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	83	76	80	44403	46334	43880	14465	12980	12565
Utena county	6	6	6	2551	2724	2551	661	798	747
Anykščiai d. mun.	1	1	1	206	173	167	57	34	26
Molėtai d. mun.	1	1	1	338	425	389	70	111	55
Utena d. mun.	1	1	1	570	621	601	94	180	193
Visaginas mun.	2	2	2	962	1038	926	318	330	339
Zarasai d. mun.	1	1	1	475	467	468	122	143	134

The biggest vocational training establishments in the county – Visaginas Technology and Business Vocational Training Centre and Utena Regional Vocational Training Centre.

There is the only educational establishment providing higher non-university education in the county – Utena College – where a professional bachelor's degree is pursued by more than 2 thousand students.

Number of colleges and students in them

	Number of colleges			Number of students			Number of graduates		
	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003–2004	2005–2006	2007–2008	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	27	28	28	40472	55949	60096	4602	11173	11940
Utena county	1	1	1	2442	2340	2376	687	677	556
Utena d. mun.	1	1	1	2442	2340	2376	687	677	556

As in most high schools, the most popular programmes were management and business administration; in 2007, 33 % of all college students were studying in this field. 15 % of students were studying law, 13 % – social pedagogy.

Employment

In terms of the population, Utena county is among the smallest ones; therefore, the number of employed persons in the county is rather low. In 2007, 82 thousand, or 65 % of the population aged 15–64 were working in Utena 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
Lithuania	1351.8	1438.0	1473.9	1534.2
Utena county	71.8	67.7	74.4	82.0
Anykščiai d. mun.	12.0	12.2	13.9	14.5
Ignalina d. mun.	7.8	7.7	7.0	7.9
Molėtai d. mun.	8.1	8.1	9.6	9.6
Utena d. mun.	21.7	18.0	20.7	26.1
Visaginas mun.	14.3	13.7	14.5	14.3
Zarasai d. mun.	7.9	8.0	8.7	9.6

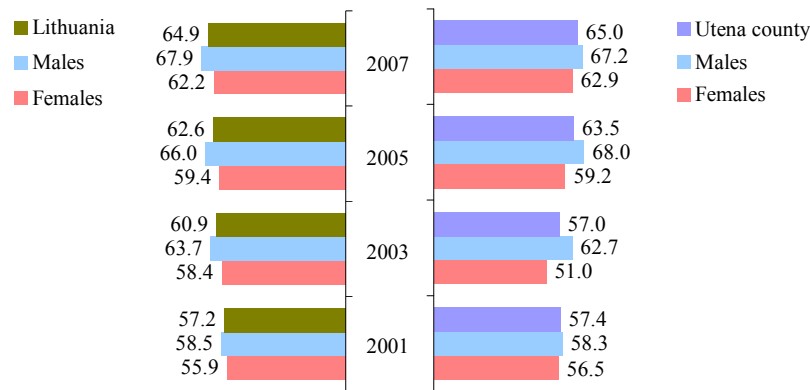
In 2007, more than one-third (32 %) of persons employed in Utena county were working in Utena district, in Anykščiai district and Visaginas – less than one-fifth in each (17 % in each), Molėtai and Zarasai districts – more than one-eighth in each (12 % in each). In 2001–2007, the number of employed persons in different municipalities was changing at a different pace. The most rapid increase in the number of employed persons was recorded in Zarasai district (by 21.5 %), as well as in Anykščiai and Utena districts (by 20 % in each). In Ignalina district and Visaginas municipalities, the number of employed persons remained almost unchanged.

In 2007, the employment rate of the population aged 15–64 in Utena county made up 65 % (close to the national average – 64.9 %). In 2007, the highest employment rate both at the county and national levels was reached. The lowest employment rates in the county were recorded in 2001–2004. The growth in the employed population since 2005 conditioned the increase in the employment rate in the county.

The male and female employment rates differ markedly. Whereas quite a large share of the population in Utena county work in industry and construction, the male employment rate is quite high. In 2007, the male employment rate was 67.2 %, while the female one – 62.9 %. The lowest employment rate in Utena county was recorded in 2003 – 57 % (by almost 2 percentage points lower than the national average). In the said year, the male employment rate in Utena county was 62.7, the female one – 51 %.

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

Per cent

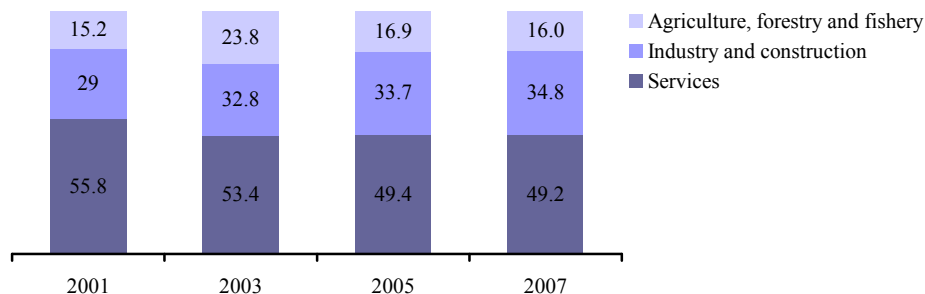


Given the shortage of the labour force, it is important to make use of the reserves of all population groups in the labour market. One of the methods is increasing employment of older (aged 55–64) persons. In 2007, 53.4 % of the population of this age group were working in Lithuania, while in Utena county – 52 %; from 2001, their share grew by almost 12 percentage points.

In 2007 and 2005, 49 % of the employed population were working in the service sector; the highest respective percentage (56 %) was recorded in 2001. In 2002–2007, more than one-third 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. 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. Utena 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 Utena county population were working in agriculture, forestry and fishery, while in 2003–2004 – as much as 24 % of persons employed in the county. In Lithuania, in 2001, 17 %, of the employed population were working in this sector, while in 2007 – just 10 %.

Employment by economic sector, 2001–2007

Per cent



Unemployment

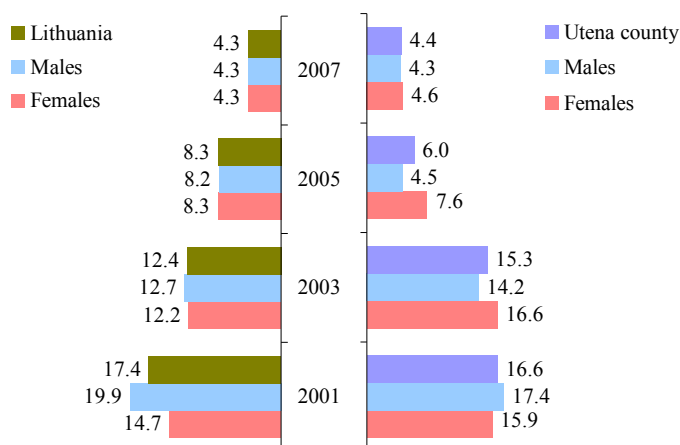
Unemployment, which for a long time had been one of the burning country's problems, rapidly decreased. In Lithuania, over 2001–2007, the number of the unemployed decreased from 284 to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Utena county, the highest number of the unemployed (14 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased 4 times – to 3.8 thousand.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. In Utena county, it was decreasing at a similar pace as the national average. The unemployment rate in the county decreased from 16.6 % in 2001 to 4.4 % in 2007, and was close to the national average, which in 2007 made up 4.3 %. In Utena county, the male unemployment rate was 4.3 %, the female one – 4.6 %, while in 2002–2003 and 2005–2006 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

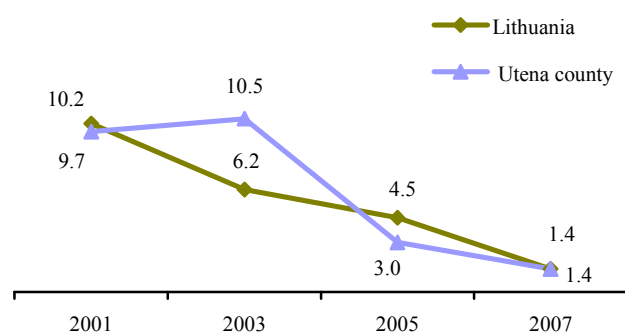


Not only the total number of the unemployed, but also that of the long-term unemployed, i.e. people looking for a job for a year or longer, have been decreasing. The number of the long-term unemployed in Utena county decreased from 8 thousand in 2001 to 1.2 thousand in 2007, while the long-term unemployment rate, similarly to the national average, decreased from 9.7 % in 2001 to 1.4 % in 2007. In 2007, the male long-term unemployment rate in the county made up 1.7, the female one – 1 %.

In 2001, the share of the long-term unemployed in Utena county made up 59 % of the total number of the unemployed, while in 2007 it decreased in the county, as well as in the entire country, and made up 32 %. The major share of the long-term unemployed are unqualified persons, who are not ready to compete in the labour market due to the lack of professional skills, necessary for successful competition 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 Utena 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 Utena 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 Utena county was 86 thousand, while the labour force activity rate made up 68.1 %, i.e. was by 0.2 % higher than the national average.

Earnings

In 2007, average gross monthly earnings in Utena county made LTL 1621, and were by 10.0 percentage points lower than the national average. In 2003–2007, the highest earnings were in Visaginas municipality. Over the period in question, the most rapid growth in earnings was observed in Molėtai district municipality – by 65 %, while the slowest – in Visaginas municipality (34 %).

Average gross monthly earnings and indices, 2001–2007

	Average gross monthly earnings, LTL				Indices, per cent	
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007 against 2006	National economy - 100
Lithuania	982	1073	1276	1802	120.5	100.0
Utena county	1037	1111	1231	1621	116.7	90.0
Anykščiai d. mun.	811	858	938	1306	120.8	72.5
Ignalina d. mun.	1686	903	977	1339	117.6	74.3
Molėtai d. mun.	794	873	1009	1441	124.4	80.0
Utena d. mun.	963	1014	1100	1575	121.5	87.4
Visaginas mun.	767	1634	1843	2196	109.7	121.9
Zarasai d. mun.	750	851	935	1260	116.6	69.9

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

	Lithuania	Utena county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1471	•	1062	1109	1332	1296	2242
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	2361	–	–	•	1773	1691	2930
Professionals	1924	1838	–	•	•	1409	1437	2071
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1412	•	•	1127	1343	1465	(1847)
Clerks	1322	1147	•	•	1017	1043	1180	•
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	883	•	(982)	874	888	839	•
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	•	–	–	•	•	–	–
Craft and related trades workers	1337	1459	•	1162	1310	1574	1220	2156
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1277	•	1239	1209	1282	1184	(2391)
Elementary occupations	888	802	•	800	776	839	742	•

In 2006, in Utena 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 41 % higher than earnings of professionals and by 59 % higher than earnings of technicians and associate professionals, having the same educational level. In Utena county, earnings of non-manual workers were by 13 % lower, while those of manual workers – by 5 % higher than the national average.

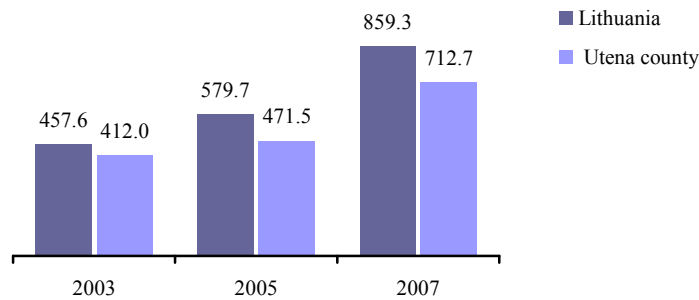
In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 2148) were those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise of 20–29 years, twice as low – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 40–49 and older had the highest earnings; their earnings were by about 70 % higher than earnings of those aged under 19.

Standard of living

Based on the data of the Household Budget Survey, average disposable household income (in cash and in kind) in Utena county in 2007 made LTL 713 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 147 less than the national average. The growth in disposable income in Utena county was slightly slower than the national average. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 23.1 %, while against 2003 – by 73 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 29.5 %, while against 2003 – 97.9 %, and in 2007 made LTL 660 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 82 % of the increase in disposable income.

In Utena county, income from paid employment in 2007 made up 53.3 % of the total disposable income, i.e. by 9 percentage points less than the national average. Social transfers in 2007 made up 26.1 % of disposable income of the Utena county population (by 4.8 percentage points more than the national average), or, on average, LTL 186 per capita per month.

Average disposable income, 2003–2007

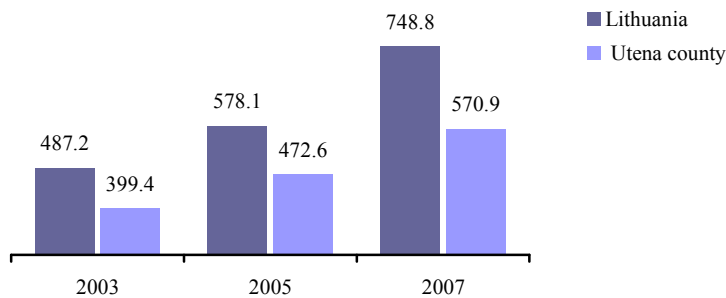
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Utena county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Total disposable income	859.3	412.0	471.5	712.7
Income from paid employment	536.4	199.5	225.1	379.8
Income from self-employment	105.0	71.5	73.0	127.7
income from agriculture	58.8	57.7	49.7	56.5
Social transfers	182.6	118.1	151.7	185.8
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	23.0	21.6	19.4

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Utena county in 2007 made LTL 571 per month, which is by LTL 178 less than the national average. As compared with other counties, consumption expenditure in Utena county was among the lowest in Lithuania, exceeding only the respective indicator of Tauragė county. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 8.7 %, or LTL 45 per month. The most marked increase was observed for the share of expenditure on recreation and culture.

Average consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Per capita per month, LTL



In 2007, households in Utena county spent on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) 39.1 % of their total consumption expenditure, which made, on average, LTL 223

per household member per month. Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products decreased by 0.6 percentage point, while against 2003 – by 7.6 percentage points.

Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure – 100 per cent

	Lithuania	Utena county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	46.7	41.3	39.1
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	4.3	4.1	3.8
Clothing and footwear	9.2	6.3	7.0	8.1
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	11.6	10.2	10.8
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	3.2	5.1	5.4
Health care	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.0
Transport	10.4	7.8	11.3	8.5
Communication	4.9	5.2	4.9	5.2
Recreation and culture	5.5	3.1	3.7	5.6
Education	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.4
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	2.7	2.9	3.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	3.8	3.9	4.5

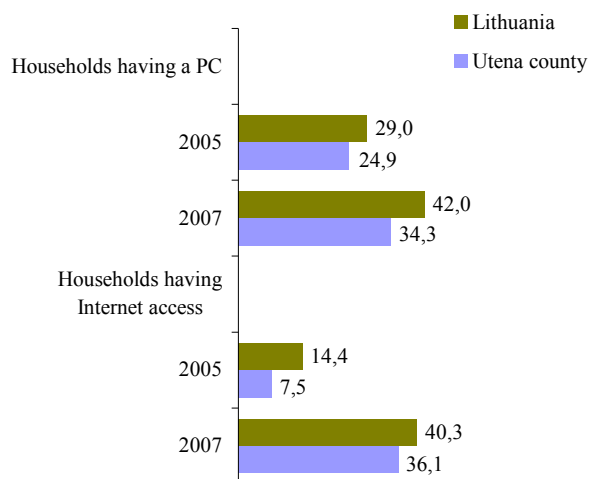
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Utena county made LTL 62 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 10.8 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). Against 2003, expenditure on the maintenance of the house in the county increased by 32.7 %, while their specific weight in consumption expenditure slightly decreased.

Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Utena county households with personal computers and use of the Internet lagged behind the national average. In I quarter 2007, 34 % of Utena county households had a personal computer at home, 36 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Over two years, the share of Utena county households having a PC increased by 9, those having Internet access – by 29 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 42 % of the Utena county population aged 16–74 (national average – 52 %). As compared with other counties, this indicator was among the lowest ones. 56 % of persons who were using computers used them daily (national average – 66 %), 34 % – at least once a week, but not daily.

In I quarter 2007, the Internet was used by 36 % of the Utena county population (national average – 49 %). As compared with the national average, internet users of Utena county were using the Internet slightly less often. 51 % of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, 38 % – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 32 % of the Utena county population aged 16–74 was 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 12 % of the Utena county population aged 16–74 (national average – 21 %); 13 % used the Internet for communication with public authorities and providers of public services (national average – 18 %).

In I quarter 2007, goods and services for personal use were purchased or ordered via the Internet by 0.8 % of the Utena county population aged 16–74, or by 1.9 % of internet users (national averages – 3.7 and 7.2 % per cent respectively).

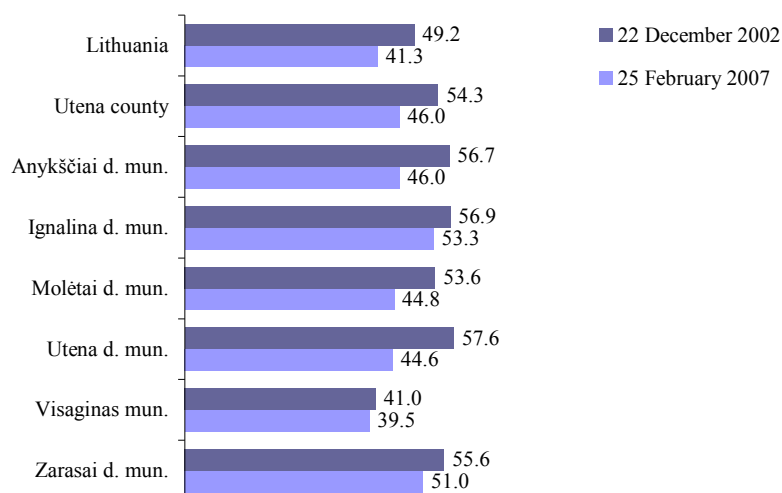
Results of elections to municipal councils

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

Electoral activity at the municipal council elections in Utena county in 2007, against 2002, decreased in all municipalities; however, it remained higher than the national average. In 2007, the most active were the residents of Ignalina and Zarasai district municipalities, where more than half of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. The least active were the residents of Visaginas (39.5 %). In other municipalities, electoral activity exceeded the national average (41.3 %).

Electoral activity at municipal council elections, 2002 and 2007

Per cent



In 2007, in Utena county, out of the total of 150 municipal council mandates, women obtained 28, or 18.7 %, which is less than the national average (22.2 %). According to this indicator, Visaginas municipality, where women obtained 32 % of mandates, stood out against the rest of municipalities. This indicator is one of the highest in the country. In Ignalina and Zarasai district municipal councils, women obtained one-fifth, while in other municipal councils – just 12–16 % of mandates.

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

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
Lithuania	1550	77.8	22.2
Utena county	150	81.3	18.7
Anykščiai d. mun.	25	84.0	16.0
Ignalina d. mun.	25	80.0	20.0
Molėtai d. mun.	25	88.0	12.0
Utena d. mun.	25	88.0	12.0
Visaginas mun.	25	68.0	32.0
Zarasai d. mun.	25	80.0	20.0

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Utena county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 26 mandates, or 17 %, Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) and Liberal and Centre Union – 22 mandates, or 15 %, each.

In the 2007 elections, in Zarasai district municipal council, 7, or 28 % of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, while in Utena district – 8, or one-third, in Anykščiai district – 6, or a quarter of mandates was obtained by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats). In Visaginas municipal council, the Liberal and Centre Union received the majority of votes, and obtained 12 (48 %) mandates. In Ignalina district municipal council, 14 (56 %) were obtained by the Coalition of the Union of Peasants and New Democracy and Christian Democrats. In Molėtai district municipal council, the highest number of mandates (9, ore one-third) was obtained by the Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party.

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

	Utena county	Anykščiai d. mun.	Ignalina d. mun.	Molėtai d. mun.	Utena d. mun.	Visaginas mun.	Zarasai d. mun.
Total	150	25	25	25	25	25	25
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	26	4	4	3	6	2	7
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats)	22	6	2	3	8	–	3
Liberal and Centre Union	22	5	–	3	–	12	2
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	16	2	3	–	2	5	4
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	15	2	–	9	3	–	1
Coalition of the Union of Peasants and New Democracy and Christian Democrats	14	–	14	–	–	–	–
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	13	3	–	4	1	3	2
Labour Party	11	2	1	2	2	–	4
The New Union (Social Liberals)	9	1	–	1	3	2	2
Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	1	–	1	–	–	–	–
Lithuanian Russians Union	1	–	–	–	–	1	–

Culture

Utena county is one of the few counties of Lithuania where the number of main cultural establishments over 2001–2007 remained relatively stable. Libraries and cultural centres were functioning in all municipalities; there were no museums in Visaginas town only.

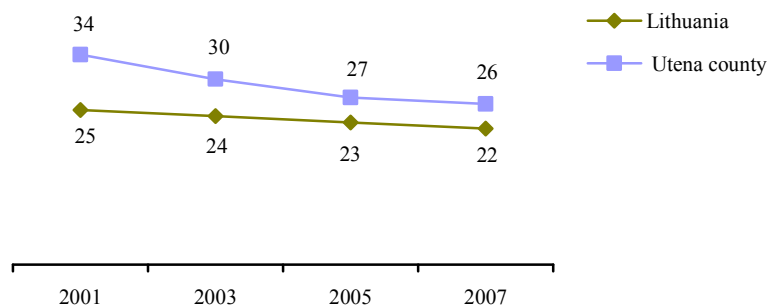
Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

	Libraries				Cultural centres and branches thereof				Museums and branches thereof			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	1449	1418	1396	1395	947	882	850	853	100	111	105	106
Utena county	122	121	120	120	85	79	80	80	6	5	6	7
Anykščiai d. mun.	23	22	22	22	19	15	15	15	1	1	1	1
Ignalina d. mun.	23	23	23	23	20	19	19	19	1	1	1	1
Molėtai d. mun.	26	26	25	25	9	7	12	12	2	1	2	2
Utena d. mun.	25	25	25	25	19	20	18	18	1	1	1	2
Visaginas mun.	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	3	-	-	-	-
Zarasai d. mun.	23	23	23	23	14	14	13	13	1	1	1	1

In 2007, against 2001, the number of libraries in Anykščiai and Molėtai districts decreased by 1 in each. The number of library users per 100 population in the county in 2007 was by 15 % higher than the national average. In Anykščiai and Zarasai districts, the number of library users per 100 population was 1.5 times higher than the national average. In 2007, there were, on average, 375 users per county library.

Number of county library users, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

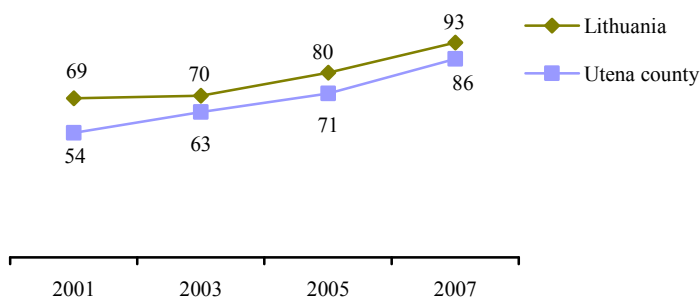


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 19 times. Library users of Utena and Klaipėda counties used library services most often, as compared with the rest of counties. 70 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %). This figure was higher only in Klaipėda (77 %) county. In 2007, there were 844 documents per 100 Utena county population (national average – 840); this indicator was higher only in Vilnius county (1224).

In 2007, there were 7 museums in Utena county, which over the year were visited by 149 thousand persons. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors in the county grew by 33 %. In 2007, the Memorial Museum of A. Baranauskas and A. Vienuolis-Žukauskas in Anykščiai was visited by 95 thousand persons, i.e. more than half of museum visitors in the county.

Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

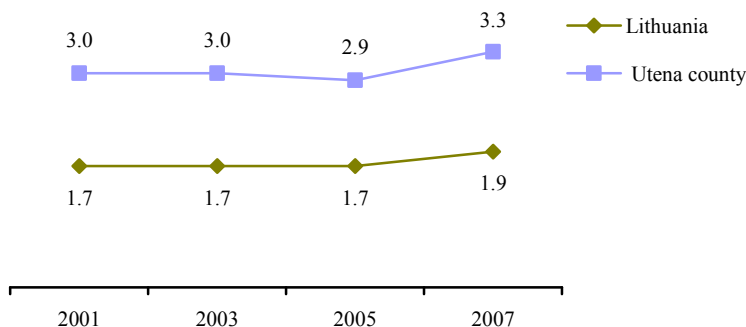


Against 2001, the indicator of museum attendances per 100 population in Utena county increased by 37 % (national average – 25 %).

The number of amateur art groups, against 2001, remained unchanged, while the number of their members increased by 7 %. In 2007, against 2001, in Molėtai district, the number of amateur art groups increased by more than 25 %, while the number of their members doubled.

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 the highest in Lithuania (1.7 times higher than the national average).

In 2007, there were 4 cinema halls in the county, which were visited by 12 thousand cinemagoers. The number of cinemagoers over 2001–2007 decreased by one-third (in 2001 – 18 thousand, in 2007 – 12 thousand).

In 2007, cinema attendances per 100 county population made 7. Against 2001, this number decreased by 30 %, and was 14 times lower than the national average.

Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

