

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ALYTUS COUNTY

Population

Alytus county ranks seventh in Lithuania in terms of the population. At the beginning of 2008, the county was inhabited by 177 thousand persons, or 5.3 % 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
Alytus county	188.0	186.3	182.8	178.9	177.0	84.1	92.9	1104
Alytus t. mun.	71.5	71.5	69.8	68.8	68.3	32.4	35.9	1110
Alytus d. mun.	32.6	32.1	32.1	31.4	31.1	15.2	15.9	1044
Druskininkai	25.5	25.2	24.9	24.5	24.3	11.2	13.1	1173
Lazdijai d. mun.	27.2	26.8	26.1	25.2	24.8	11.8	13.0	1094
Varėna d. mun.	31.2	30.7	29.9	29.0	28.5	13.5	15.0	1110

In 2001–2007, the county's population decreased by 11 thousand (5.9%). Over the said period, the population decreased in all county's municipalities, mostly in Varėna and Lazdijai districts (by 9 % in each), the least – in Alytus town and district municipalities (by 4.5 and 4.6 % respectively).

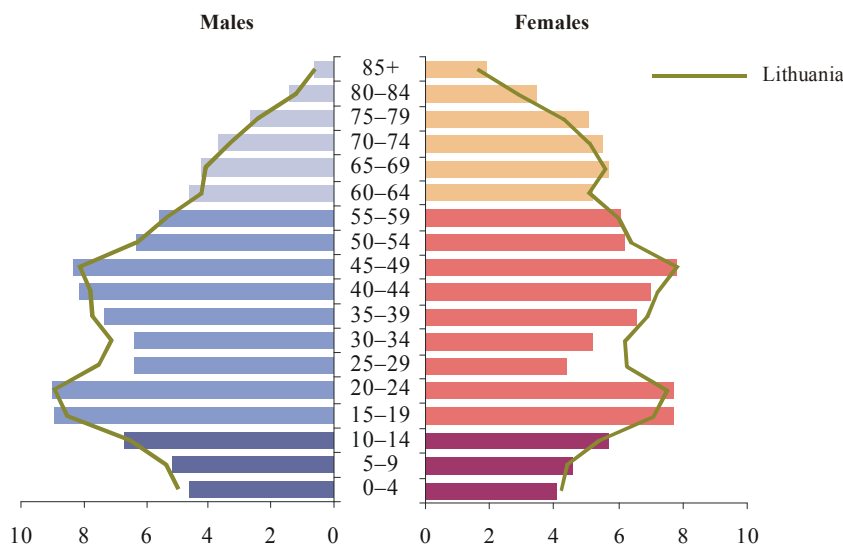
At the beginning of 2008, Alytus county was inhabited by 47.5 % of men and 52.5 % of women (national averages – 46.5 and 53.5 % respectively); there were 1104 women per 1000 men (national average – 1148). The number of women per 1000 men in Druskininkai municipality is higher than the respective indicators of the rest of county's municipalities, as well as the county and national averages.

In 2001–2007, due to the natural decrease, the population in Alytus county declined by 6.2 thousand (56.4 %), while due to negative net migration – by 4.8 thousand (43.6 %).

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

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

Per cent

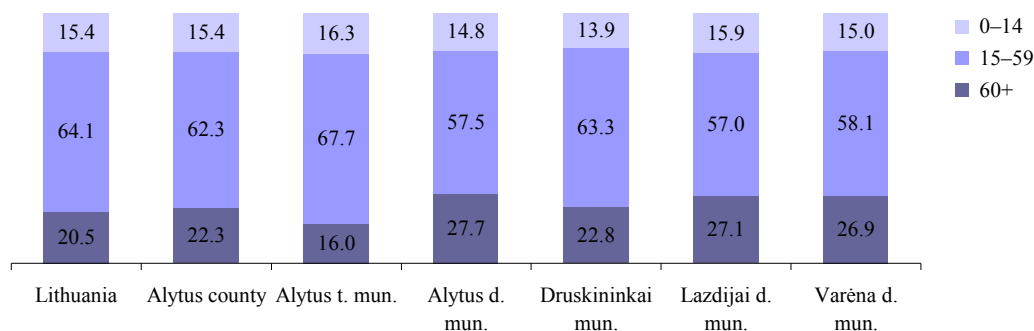


Alytus county is one of the demographically “oldest” ones in Lithuania. Elderly people (aged 60 and older) in the county make up 22.3 % (national average – 20.5 %). Currently, each sixth man and each fourth woman in Alytus county, as well as countrywide, are aged 60 and older.

At the beginning of 2008, the number of children aged under 15 was by 30.8 % (national average – 25.2 %) lower than that of elderly people. In 2001–2007, the number of children in the county decreased by 28 % (national average – 24.7 %).

Population structure by main age groups, beginning of 2008

Per cent



The “oldest” municipalities in the county are those of Alytus, Lazdijai and Varėna districts, where elderly people make up 28–27 % of the population. Better age structure is in Alytus town municipality, where elderly people make up 16 % of the population.

At the beginning of 2008, there were 25 children and 36 elderly persons per 100 Alytus county population aged 15–59 (national average – 24 and 32 respectively), while at the beginning of 2001 – 34 and 36 respectively. The heaviest economic burden on the population aged 15–59 was in Lazdijai, Alytus and Varėna districts municipalities, where there were 75–72 children and elderly persons per 100 population of the respective age.

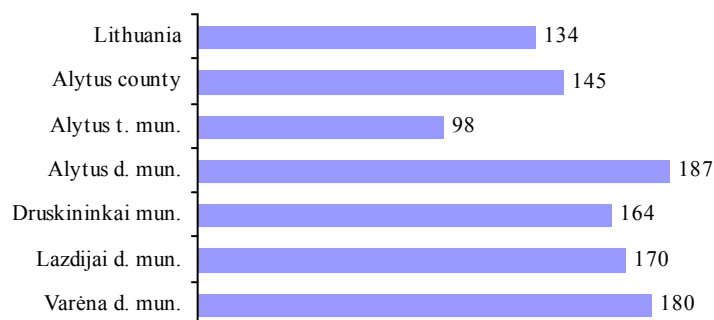
Age dependency ratios, beginning of 2001 and 2008

	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
Alytus county	34	25	36	36	70	61
Alytus t. mun.	32	24	19	24	51	48
Alytus d. mun.	37	26	55	48	92	74
Druskininkai mun.	34	22	35	36	69	58
Lazdijai d. mun.	38	28	54	47	92	75
Varėna d. mun.	35	26	49	46	84	72

At the beginning of 2008, there were 145 elderly persons per 100 children in Alytus county (national average – 134), while at the beginning of 2001 the share of children and that of elderly people were similar. The highest number of elderly people per 100 children was in Alytus district municipality (187), while the lowest – in Alytus town municipality (just 98).

Index of ageing, beginning of 2008

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



The mean age of the Alytus county population exceeds the national average. At the beginning of 2008, this indicator in the county was 39.8 years (national average – 39 years), while at the beginning of 2001 – 37.7 years.

Migration

In 2001–2007, based on the data of the declaration of the place of residence, 3 thousand persons, on average, would annually arrive in Alytus 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, 16.7 persons who arrived in the county and 20.5 who left it per 1000 county population. Over the period in question, more people left the municipalities of Alytus county than arrived in them, except for Druskininkai municipality, in which in 2007 more residents arrived than left.

Internal and international migration, 2001–2007¹

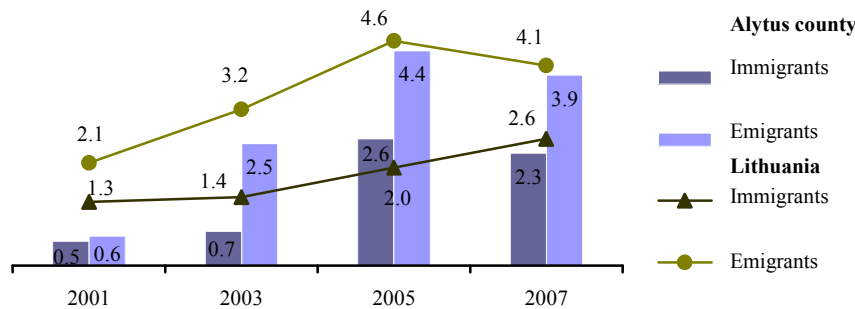
	Arrivals				Departures				Net migration			
	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	42166	62124	59522	65044	4472	68428	68304	70288	-2559	-6304	-8782	-5244
Alytus county	2344	3332	3815	3111	2408	4189	4769	3899	-64	-857	-954	-788
Alytus t. mun.	795	733	1022	1004	807	1632	1640	1478	-12	-899	-618	-474
Alytus d. mun.	548	747	823	658	548	509	796	692	-	238	27	-34
Druskininkai mun.	193	1045	1046	650	269	1064	1046	646	-76	-19	-	4
Lazdijai d. mun.	443	384	383	362	397	447	580	521	46	-63	-197	-159
Varėna d. mun.	365	423	541	437	387	537	707	562	-22	-114	-166	-125

In 2001–2007, on average, 9 % of those who arrived in the county were immigrants, i.e. persons who arrived in or returned to Alytus county from abroad, while 14 % of those who left it – emigrants, i.e. persons who left Alytus county to live abroad. In 2007, the major share of immigrants (81.2 %) were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, returning to their homeland, while in 2001 this figure stood at just 32.6 %.

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

International migration, 2001–2007²

Per 1000 population



Fertility

The crude birth rate in Alytus county has been decreasing. In 2001, there were 9.3 live births per 1000 county population, while in 2007 – just 8.4.

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
Alytus county	1746	1635	1540	1487	9.3	8.8	8.5	8.4
Alytus t. mun.	661	671	557	629	9.3	9.4	8.0	9.2
Alytus d. mun.	336	300	283	266	10.3	9.3	8.9	8.5
Druskininkai mun.	189	167	204	168	7.4	6.7	8.2	6.9
Lazdijai d. mun.	276	220	252	220	10.2	8.3	9.7	8.8
Varėna d. mun.	284	277	244	204	9.1	9.1	8.2	7.1

The average number of children to whom a woman could give birth during her fertile period in 2007 in Alytus county was 1.41 (national average – 1.35). The total fertility rate was the highest (1.67) in Lazdijai district, the lowest (1.23) – in Druskininkai municipalities.

The mean age of women giving birth has been further increasing. In 2007, the mean age of women giving birth in Alytus county was 27.7 years (national average – 28 years), while in 2001 – 26.4 years (national average – 26.9 years).

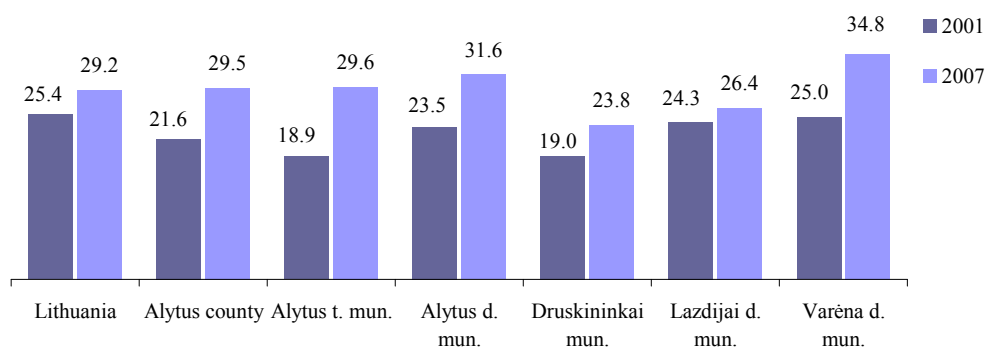
Compared with all live births recorded in the county, the share of higher order (third, fourth, fifth, sixth and higher) births decreased from 20.7 % in 2001 to 15.4 % in 2007.

In 2007, the number of illegitimate live births in Alytus county was 439, while in 2001 – 378, which made up, respectively, 29.5 and 21.6 % (national average – 29.2 and 25.4 %), as compared to the total number of live births. In 2007, the highest number of illegitimate live births (34.8 %) was in Varėna district, while the lowest (23.8 %) – in Druskininkai district municipalities.

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

Illegitimate live births, 2001 and 2007

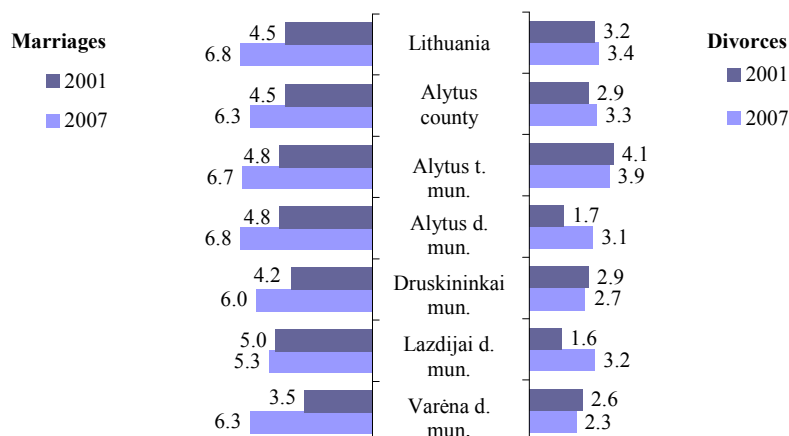
As compared to the total number of live births, per cent



Marriages and divorces

In 2001–2007, the number of marriages in Alytus county was increasing. In 2007, 1128 marriages were registered; there were 6.3 marriages per 1000 county population, while in 2001, respectively, 849 and 4.5. In 2007, the crude marriage rate in Alytus 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 Alytus county was 27.4, that of women – 25.5 years (national averages – 27.7 and 25.5 years respectively).

In 2001–2007, the number of divorces in Alytus county was changing inconsiderably. In 2007, 578 divorces were registered; there were 3.3 divorces per 1000 population, while in 2001 – 543 and 2.9 respectively. In Alytus town 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, 2614 deaths were registered in Alytus county. Over 2001–2007, the number of deaths increased by 15 %. In 2007, there were 14.7 deaths per 1000 Alytus county population (national average – 13.5), while in 2001 – 12.1. This partially conditions the fact that Alytus county is one of the demographically oldest counties in Lithuania.

In 2001–2007, crude death rates were increasing in all Alytus county municipalities. In 2007, mortality was the highest in Lazdijai and Varėna district municipalities (18.8 ‰).

In 2007, there were 7.4 infant deaths (under 1 year of age) per 1000 live births in Alytus county (national average – 5.9).

In 2007, life expectancy at birth (LE) for men in Alytus county was 64.5 years, that for women – 78.1 years. Compared to the national average, the LE for men was shorter (by 0.4 year), while for women – longer (by 0.9 year). In 2001–2007, the LE for women in the county decreased by 1.2, that for men – by 1.1 years. Although the difference between the LE for men and that for women had decreased, it remained considerable: in 2007, the LE for men was by 13.5 years shorter than that for women (in 2001 – by 13.6 years).

The structure of causes of death in Alytus 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 83.5 % of deaths in the county (national average – 83 %), in 2001 – 88 % (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
Alytus county	226.4	694.7	46.4	146.5	270.8	814.6	72.5	140.5
Alytus t. mun.	160.8	352.3	21.0	90.9	189.6	542.5	40.8	96.3
Alytus d. mun.	304.3	1005.2	70.7	255.1	384.0	976.1	105.6	198.4
Druskininkai mun.	204.6	696.5	43.3	86.6	266.1	802.5	24.6	122.8
Lazdijai d. mun.	272.9	1029.0	55.3	188.1	311.7	1094.8	111.9	151.8
Varėna d. mun.	273.3	864.9	74.0	173.6	309.8	1054.7	118.3	188.0

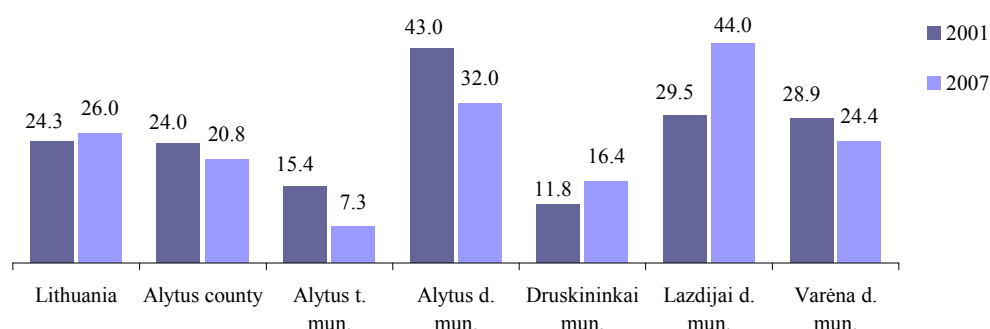
In 2007, more than half (56 %) of deaths in the county were due to diseases of the circulatory system, in 2001 – 57 %. In Alytus district municipality, mortality due to these diseases for men was almost 1.5 times higher than the national average.

In 2007, there were 482 deaths due to malignant neoplasms (18.4 % of all deaths in Alytus county). Compared to other county's municipalities, the highest death rates due to malignant neoplasms for men and for women were in Alytus district municipality.

In 2007, there were 250 deaths due to external causes of death (almost one-tenth of all deaths in the county). In Alytus district municipality, the death rate due to the said cause for men was 1.3 times, that for women – 1.8 times higher than the county average. In 2007, mortality due to suicides in Alytus county was the highest, while mortality due to transport accidents – the lowest in the country.

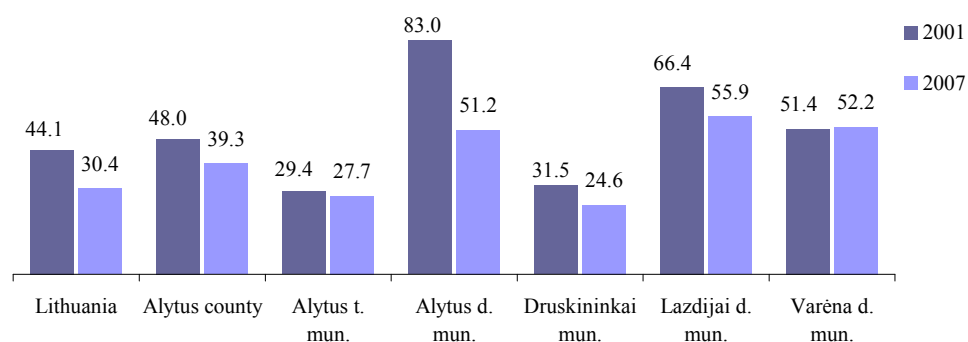
Mortality due to transport accidents, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Mortality due to suicides, 2001 and 2007

Number of deaths per 100 000 population



Health

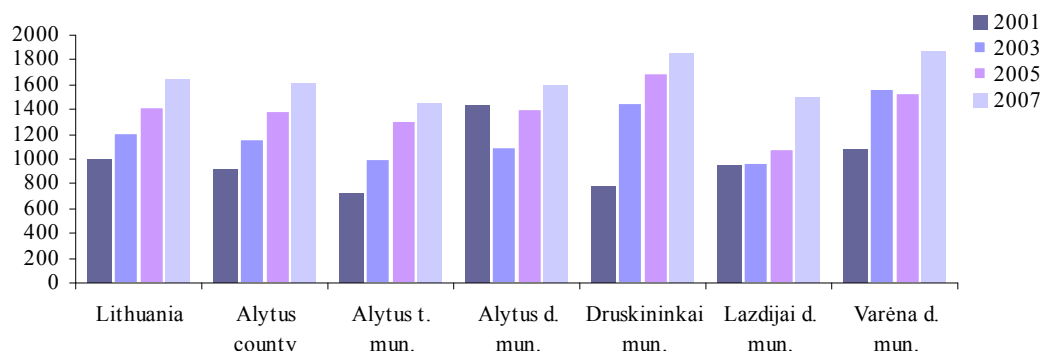
Based on the data of the Lithuanian Health Information Centre³, in 2007, 42.5 thousand persons, or each fourth resident of Alytus county, were treated in hospital, while primary health care services in the county were used by a typical resident, on average, 5 times. Primary outpatient health care services were used slightly more often by the residents of Alytus town (7 visits per capita), whereas somewhat more rarely – those of Alytus district (3 visits per capita).

The prevalence of malignant neoplasms among the residents of Alytus county in 2007 was lower (1606 cases per 100 000 population) than across the country (1650); however, in Varėna district and Druskininkai municipalities, this indicator was higher (1869 and 1859 cases per 100 000 population respectively). Against 2001, this indicator grew in all municipalities; in Druskininkai municipality, it grew the most.

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

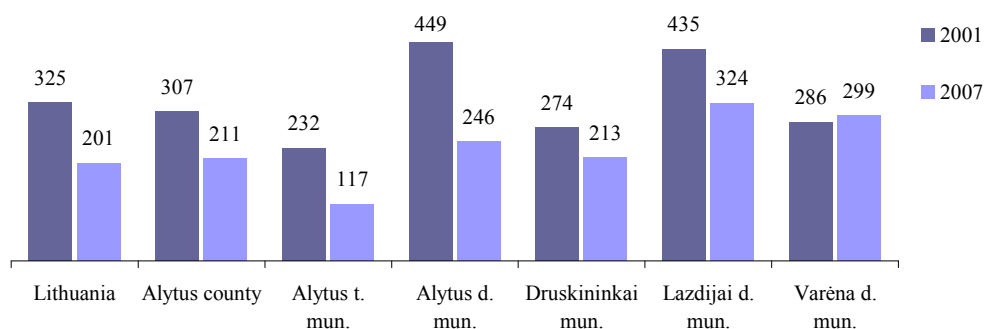
Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



Tuberculosis – called a social disease by health professionals – remained a burning problem. The indicators of the prevalence of tuberculosis in Alytus county in 2007 were slightly higher than the national average; however, the number of cases of the disease has been constantly decreasing (against 2001, prevalence of tuberculosis in the county decreased by 31 %). In 2007, tuberculosis was less common in Alytus town, while more common – in Lazdijai district municipality.

Prevalence of tuberculosis, 2001 and 2007

Number of sick persons per 100 000 population



Most prevalence indicators of Alytus county are similar to the national ones; however, here the number of cases of gastric and duodenal ulcer is relatively higher than, while in Druskininkai municipality – the highest in the country.

In 2007, Alytus county stood out among other country's regions with the lowest prevalence of injuries and poisoning (9360 cases per 100 000 country, 7843 cases per 100 000 Alytus county population); there was also the lowest relative share of people suffering from spinal pathologies.

Social protection

In 2007, almost 33 thousand (or each fifth resident of the county; national average – each sixth) residents of Alytus county were state social insurance old age pensioners; 14.6 thousand persons received a work incapacity (disability) pension. There were 301 old age and 134 work incapacity (disability) pensioners per 1000 working age population in the county. The highest relative share of old age pensioners was in Lazdijai district municipality (445 old age pensioners per 1000 working age population), while the lowest – in Alytus city and district municipalities⁴ (251 old age pensioners per 1000 working age population).

In 2007, more than 20 thousand residents of Alytus county received child benefits; one-third thereof were residents of Alytus town municipality. 581 persons received guardianship (curatorship)

⁴ Data are submitted by regional divisions of the State Social Insurance Fund Board.

benefits, 77 persons received support to acquire or rent housing. Pregnancy grants were received by 431 women, birth grants – 1.4 thousand residents in the county. In 2007, in total, families bringing up children in Alytus county were paid LTL 20 535.5 thousand of benefits.

The number of residents of the county receiving social services at home has been constantly changing. In 2007, almost 500 residents of the county were nursed or attended at home, almost half of them – in Varėna district municipality. In 2007, 69 persons stayed in two temporary accommodation establishments (shelters and crisis centres) of Alytus county.

At the end of 2007, there were 320 persons living in nine care institutions for the elderly, 374 children – in four institutions for children located within the territory of the county; 27 children were fostered in families.

Based on the data of the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, there were about 600 families at social risk living in Alytus 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
Alytus county	744	709	617	1782	1720	1495
Alytus t. mun.	108	94	82	240	202	176
Alytus d. mun.	193	186	183	495	471	460
Druskininkai mun.	83	57	55	167	110	100
Lazdijai d. mun.	122	123	119	291	316	291
Varėna d. mun.	238	249	178	589	621	468

Education

At the end of 2007, there were 32 preschool education institutions in the county, where 4.5 thousand children were enrolled. Against 2001, the number of preschool education institutions in the county decreased from 37 to 32 (by 13 %), while the number of children enrolled therein changed just insignificantly – decreased by 1.6 %. The most considerable changes were observed in Druskininkai and Varėna district municipalities in: Druskininkai municipality, the number of children in preschool education grew by 17 %, in Varėna district – dropped by almost 12 %.

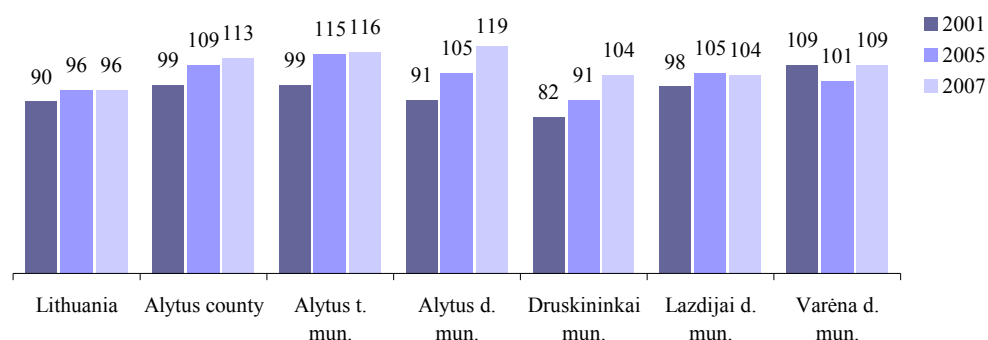
Number of children in preschool education institutions, 2001–2007

	2001	2003	2005	2007	2007, against 2001, growth, drop (-), %
Lithuania	89841	89469	90021	93044	3.6
Alytus county	4543	4723	4580	4472	-1.6
Alytus t. mun.	2881	2981	2864	2800	-2.8
Alytus d. mun.	194	290	209	183	-5.7
Druskininkai mun.	432	453	520	507	17.4
Lazdijai d. mun.	466	438	482	478	2.6
Varėna d. mun.	570	561	505	504	-11.6

In 2007, there were, on average, 113 places per 100 children enrolled in preschool education institutions. The number of places for children in preschool education institutions was sufficient in all county's municipalities.

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

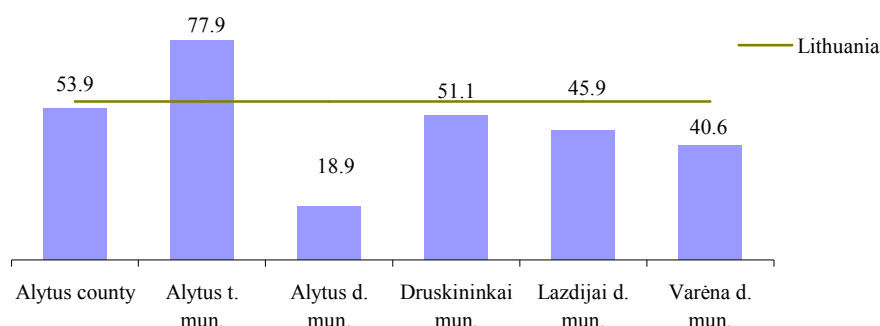
Places per 100 children



From 2001, the share of children educated according to preschool and pre-primary educational programmes has been, although slowly, increasing. At the end of 2007, the share of children educated according to such programmes in Alytus county made up more than half (54 %) of children aged 1–6. However, the change in this indicator in the county's municipalities ranged from 19 % in Alytus district to 78 % in Alytus town.

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 80 general schools in the county, where 26 thousand pupils were enrolled. Against the 2001–2002 academic year, the number of schools almost halved, while that of pupils decreased by almost 7 thousand, or 20 %. The most notable changes took place in Alytus and Lazdijai district municipalities, where the number of pupils decreased by, respectively, 25 and 22 %.

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
Alytus county	32683	31393	28808	26058	-20.3
Alytus t. mun.	14218	13717	12680	11632	-18.2
Alytus d. mun.	4162	3895	3554	3128	-24.8
Druskininkai mun.	4758	4546	4196	3764	-20.9
Lazdijai d. mun.	4526	4389	3969	3546	-21.7
Varėna d. mun.	5019	4846	4409	3988	-20.5

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 2.3 thousand teachers in the general schools of Alytus 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 2629 to 2268, or by almost 14 %. The most notable decrease was observed in Alytus and Lazdijai district municipalities – in 2007, against 2001, by 30 and 20 % respectively. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, 92 % of teachers had higher education (in the 2001–2002 academic year – 84 %). More teachers having higher education worked in Alytus town (96 %), Druskininkai (93 %) and Varėna district (91 %) municipalities.

In 2007, general schools were finished by 2 thousand pupils, of whom 90 % continued their studies in the same year: 50 % entered universities, 29 % – colleges, 11 % – vocational training institutions.

At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, there were 7 vocational schools operating in the county, where 3250 students were enrolled. In 2007, the number of students in these schools was by 4 % higher than in 2001.

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
Alytus county	9	7	7	3079	3181	3250	1096	928	891
Alytus t. mun.	4	2	2	1731	1745	1725	748	590	537
Alytus d. mun.	2	2	2	540	633	703	118	149	168
Druskininkai mun.	1	1	1	164	159	185	47	61	55
Lazdijai d. mun.	1	1	1	371	371	352	99	82	70
Varėna d. mun.	1	1	1	273	273	285	84	46	61

Vocational schools exist in all municipalities. The biggest vocational school is Alytus Vocational Education Centre, where at the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year almost half (49 %) of the county's vocational schools students were enrolled.

In Alytus town, there is the only county's college – Alytus college; in Druskininkai, Druskininkai division of Kaunas college operates. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, 1952 students were enrolled there. Against 2001, the number of students increased 2.5 times.

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
Alytus county	1	1	1	1490	1611	1952	287	402	367
Alytus t. mun.	1	1	1	1355	1432	1744	287	375	326
Druskininkai mun.	-	-	-	135	179	208	-	27	41

The most popular field of studies – management and business administration. At the beginning of the 2007–2008 academic year, 70 % of students of Alytus college were studying this curriculum, 14 % – transport engineering, 9 % – informatics engineering, 7 % – informatics.

Employment

In terms of the population, Alytus county is among the smaller ones; therefore, the number of employed persons in the county is not high as well. In 2007, 71.7 thousand, or 61 % of the population aged 15–64 were working in Alytus county, which made up about 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 slightly increasing almost annually. It has been to some extent impacted on by positive changes in the national and county's economy, creation of new jobs, especially in the trade, industrial, construction sectors.

Employed population, 2001–2007

Thousand

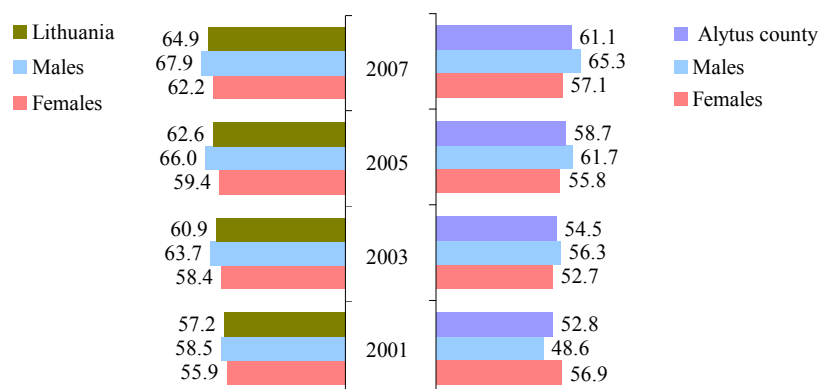
	2001	2003	2005	2007
Lithuania	1351.8	1438.0	1473.9	1534.2
Alytus county	66.7	67.1	72.5	71.7
Alytus t. mun.	31.8	31.7	32.6	33.5
Alytus d. mun.	11.4	9.7	11.4	10.6
Druskininkai mun.	8.0	10.3	11.6	11.8
Lazdijai d. mun.	7.1	6.7	7.3	6.9
Varėna d. mun.	8.4	8.7	9.6	8.9

In 2007, almost half (46.7 %) of persons employed in Alytus county were working in Alytus, 17 % – in Druskininkai, 15 % – in Alytus district. 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 the resort town of Druskininkai. The number of employed persons in the said town grew from 8 thousand in 2001 to 11.8 thousand in 2007 (1.5 times). In other municipalities, the number of employed persons has been changing insignificantly, while in Alytus and Lazdijai district municipalities their number slightly decreased.

In 2007, the employment rate of the population aged 15–64 in Alytus county made up 61.1 % and was by almost 4 % lower than 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 and 2002 – 52.8 and 53.3 % respectively (national averages – 57.2 and 59.6 %). The male and female employment rates differ. In 2001, the female employment rate was rather high – 56.9 %, while the male one was lower – 48.6 %; however, later the male employment rate was annually increasing to reach 65.3 % in 2007, while the female one was gradually moving down to 57.1 %.

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

Per cent

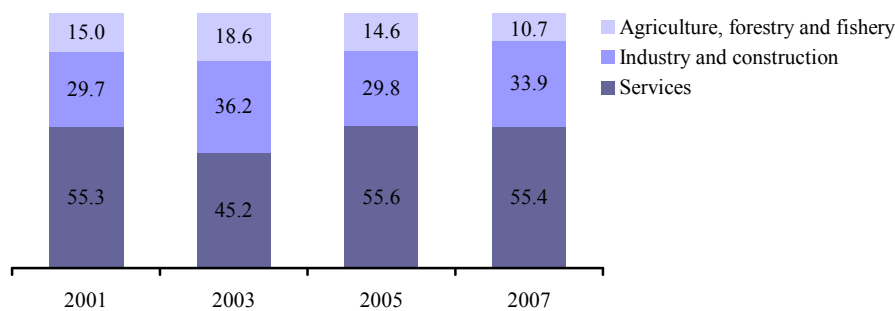


Given the shortage of the labour force, it is important to make use of the reserves of all population groups in the labour market. One of the methods is increasing employment of older (aged 55–64) persons. In 2007, 53.4 % of the population of this age group were working in Lithuania, while in Alytus county – 47.7 %, which is by almost 6 percentage points less than the national average. From 2001, their share grew by almost 13 percentage points.

The major share (55 %) of the employed population in 2007, as well as in 2004–2006, were working in the service sector. In 2002–2003 – 36 %, while in 2007 – 33.9 % 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. In 2007, just 10.7 % of the Alytus county population were working in agriculture, forestry and fishery, although as late as in 2003 this sector had employed the major share – 18.6 % – of employed persons.

Employment by economic sector, 2001–2007

Per cent



Unemployment

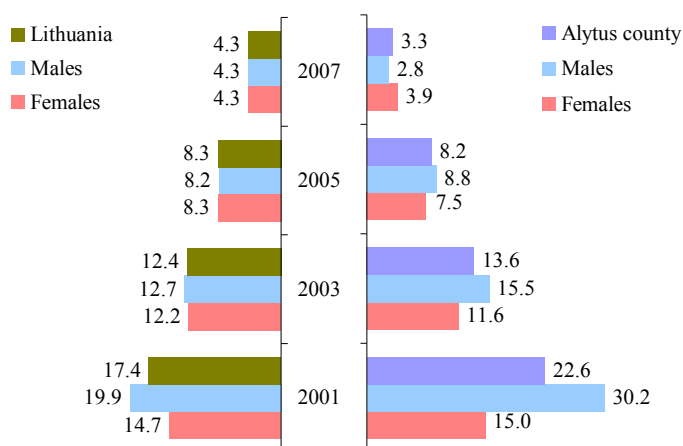
Unemployment, which for a long time had been one of the country's burning problems, rapidly decreased. In Lithuania, over 2001–2007, the number of the unemployed decreased from 284 to 69 thousand, or 4 times. In Alytus county, the highest number of the unemployed (19.5 thousand) was recorded in 2001. By 2007, this number decreased 8 times – to 2.4 thousand. In 2001–2006, the number of the male unemployed was higher than that of the female ones.

With the decrease in the number of the unemployed, the unemployment rate was decreasing as well. In Alytus county, against other counties, this number was decreasing at the fastest pace. The unemployment rate in the county decreased from 22.6 % in 2001 to 3.3 % in 2007, and was lower than the national average, which in 2001 made up 17.4, while in 2007 – 4.3 %.

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

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

Per cent

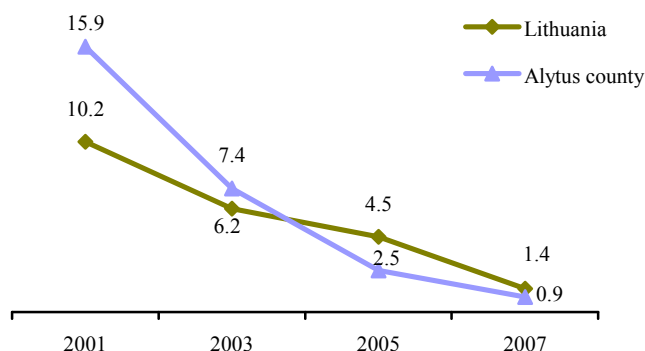


Not only the total number of the unemployed, but also that of the long-term unemployed, i.e. people looking for a job for a year or longer, have been decreasing. The long-term unemployment rate in Alytus county decreased from 15.9 % in 2001 to 0.9 % in 2007.

The decrease in the number of such unemployed in Alytus 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 the recent years, in the county, as well as countrywide, the shortage of the labour force has become prominent. 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 Alytus county and in the entire country. In 2007, the number of persons classified under the labour force, i.e. those working or wanting to work, made 74.1 thousand, while the labour force activity rate made up 63.2 %, and was by 4.7 % lower than the national average. It is one of the lowest activity rates countrywide, reflecting unused reserves of the county labour force, which in the future could be involved in the service sector or industry, thus increasing employment in Alytus county, which is still lower than the national average. The highest activity rate in 2007 was in Vilnius county – 70.7 %.

Earnings

In 2007, average gross monthly earnings in Alytus county made LTL 1540, and were by 14.5 percentage points lower than the national average. In 2001–2007, the highest earnings were in Alytus town municipality. Over the period in question, the most rapid growth in earnings was observed in Alytus district municipality – by 90 %, while the slowest – in Varėna district municipality (72 %).

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
Alytus county	862	912	1072	1540	122.7	85.5
Alytus t. mun.	925	964	1151	1644	122.0	91.2
Alytus d. mun.	762	852	963	1448	125.2	80.4
Druskininkai mun.	779	809	978	1411	124.3	78.3
Lazdijai d. mun.	811	875	1001	1420	120.5	78.8
Varėna d. mun.	820	871	988	1411	123.5	78.3

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

	Lithuania	Alytus county						
		Total	Primary	General lower secondary	General upper secondary	Special secondary	Post-secondary	Higher
Total	1596	1416	•	1159	1120	1179	1389	2173
Legislators, senior officials and managers	2779	2572	•	•	•	•	1950	2970
Professionals	1924	1708	–	•	•	•	1404	1881
Technicians and associate professionals	1536	1404	•	•	•	1221	1442	•
Clerks	1322	1220	–	•	•	1203	•	•
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	991	1007	•	1002	1095	854	1154	•
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	816	•	–	•	–	•	–	–
Craft and related trades workers	1337	1201	•	1347	1181	1172	•	•
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	1316	1263	•	•	1288	1209	•	•
Elementary occupations	888	845	•	915	830	844	•	•

In 2006, in Alytus 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 58 % higher than earnings of professionals having the same educational level. In the county, earnings of non-manual workers were by 12 %, while those of manual workers – by 7 % lower than the national average.

In 2006, the highest average gross monthly earnings (LTL 1632) were those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise of 10–14 years, while the lowest – those of employees with the length of service in the enterprise under one year. Employees aged 60 and older had the

highest earnings (LTL 1610), which were by 40 % higher than earnings of employees aged under 19.

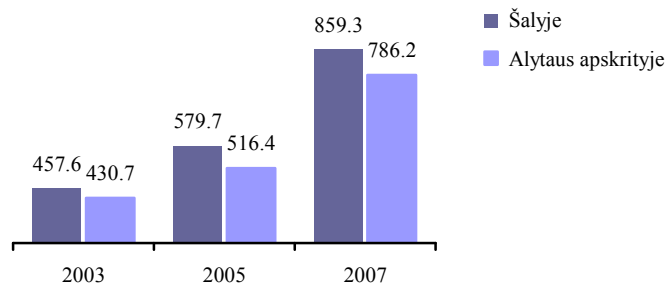
Standard of living

Based on the data of the Household Budget Survey, average disposable household income (in cash and in kind) in Alytus county in 2007 made LTL 786 per capita per month, i.e. by LTL 73 less than the national average. Against 2006, disposable income increased by 30.8 %, while against 2003 – by 82.5 %. Disposable income in cash, against 2006, increased by 36 %, while against 2003 – more than twice.

Against 2006, the most visible increase was observed for earned income, of which the most considerable – for income from paid employment. The increase in earned income made up 81 % of the increase in disposable income.

Changes in average disposable income, 2003–2007

Per household member per month, LTL



Income from paid employment in Alytus county in 2007 made up 55.1 % of the total disposable income, which is by 7.3 percentage points less than the national average. Social transfers in 2007 made up 24.7 % of disposable income of the Alytus county population (by 3.4 percentage points more than the national average), or, on average, LTL 194 per capita per month.

Average disposable income, 2003–2007

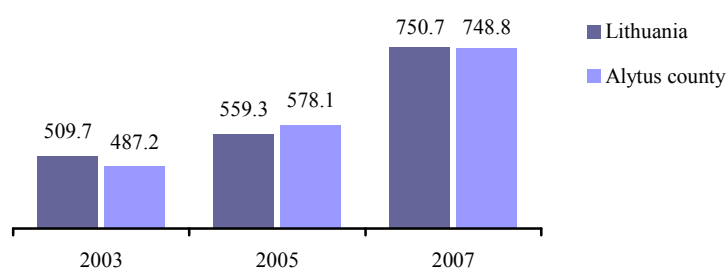
Per capita per month, LTL

	Lithuania	Alytus county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Total disposable income	859.3	430.7	516.4	786.2
Income from paid employment	536.4	202.3	256.8	432.8
Income from self-employment	105.0	74.9	88.0	131.6
income from agriculture	58.8	61.2	72.1	90.2
Social transfers	182.6	117.3	140.6	194.1
Income from rent and property, other income	35.3	36.2	30.9	27.7

Household consumption expenditure per capita in Alytus county in 2007 made LTL 751 per month, which is by LTL 2 more than the national average. Against 2006, consumption expenditure increased by 30.7 %, or LTL 177 per month. The growth in disposable income was much more rapid than that in consumption expenditure. An increase was observed for the share of income meant for investment and savings.

Average consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Per capita per month, LTL



In 2007, households in Alytus county spent on food (excluding sums spent in canteens, cafes and restaurants) 35.5 % of their total consumption expenditure, which made, on average, LTL 266 per household member per month (by LTL 18 more than the national average). Against 2006, the share of expenditure on food products decreased by 3.9 percentage points, while against 2003 – by 5.3 percentage points.

Structure of consumption expenditure, 2003–2007

Total consumption expenditure – 100 per cent

	Lithuania	Alytus county		
	2007	2003	2005	2007
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	33.1	40.8	39.9	35.5
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	3.7	3.2	3.5	3.7
Clothing and footwear	9.2	6.7	7.8	10.8
Housing, water, electricity, gas, fuel	12.0	11.9	13.2	9.6
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	5.1	5.5	6.2
Health care	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.1
Transport	10.4	7.5	8.0	8.8
Communication	4.9	4.4	4.5	4.3
Recreation and culture	5.5	7.8	5.1	6.6
Education	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.3
Hotels, cafes, restaurants, canteens	5.2	2.7	2.5	3.5
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.7	3.8	3.6	4.8

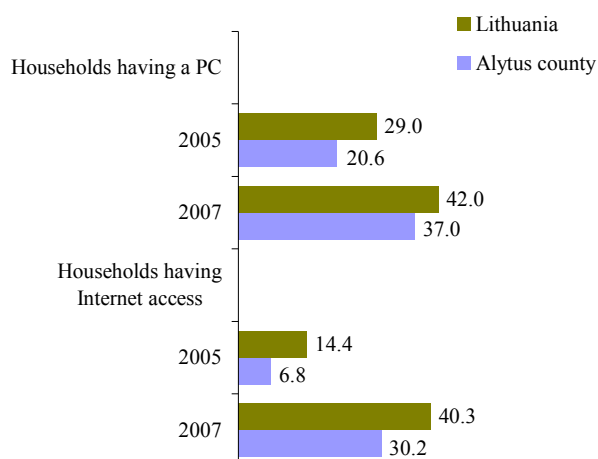
In 2007, consumption expenditure on housing, fuel and energy in Alytus county made LTL 72 per household member per month, national average – LTL 89 (respectively, 9.6 and 12 % of total household consumption expenditure). Against 2003, expenditure on the maintenance of the house in the county increased by 18 %, while their specific weight in consumption expenditure slightly decreased.

Use of information technologies in households

Provision of Alytus county households with personal computers and use of the Internet has been rapidly increasing. In I quarter 2007, 37 % of Alytus county households had a personal computer at home, 30 % – Internet access (national averages, respectively, 42 and 40 %). Against 2005, the share of Alytus county households having a PC increased by 16, those having Internet access – by 23 percentage points. The increase in the share of households having Internet access was impacted on by the enhanced provision of Internet services via mobile communication networks.

Households with computers and Internet access, 2005 and 2007

Per cent



In I quarter 2007, computers were used by 45 % of the Alytus county population aged 16–74 (national average – 52 % of the population of this age group). Two-thirds of persons who were using computers used them daily, each fourth person – at least once a week.

In I quarter 2007, the Internet was used by 40 % of the Alytus county population (national average – 49 %). Most (61 %) of the persons who were using the Internet used it daily, almost each third person – at least once a week, but not daily. Hence 36 % of the Alytus county population aged 16–74 were using the Internet regularly (at least once a week) (national average, respectively, 45 %).

Usually the Internet was used for communication, search for information, reading newspapers and magazines. E-banking services in 2007 were used by 15 % of the Alytus county population aged 16–74; against 2005, this figure increased 1.8 times.

In I quarter 2007, goods and services for personal use were purchased or ordered via the Internet by 1.6 % of the Alytus county population aged 16–74, or by 4 % of internet users (national average – 3.7 and 7.2 % per cent respectively).

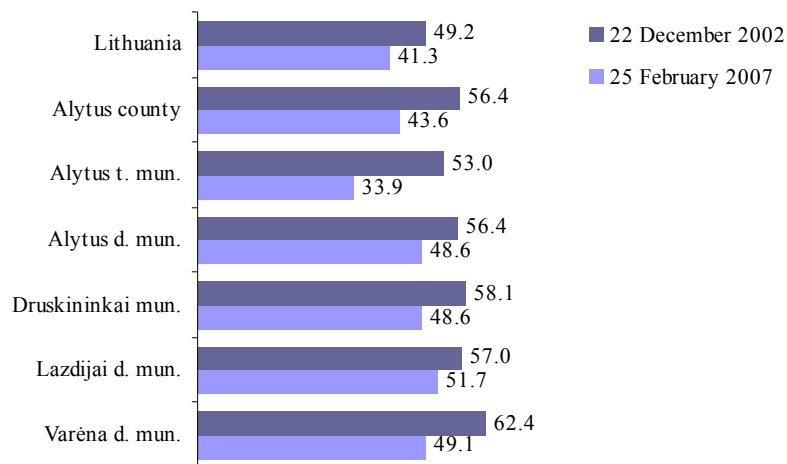
Results of elections to municipal councils

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

In Alytus county electoral activity at the municipal council elections in 2007, against 2002, decreased in all municipalities; however, in Alytus county, it remained higher than the national average. In 2007, the most active were the residents of Lazdijai district municipality, where more than half of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. The least active were the residents of Alytus town municipality, where in 2007 just a third of residents having voting rights participated in the elections. 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 Alytus county, out of the total of 127 municipal council mandates, women obtained 35, or 27.6 %, this number being the highest, as compared with other counties. By the number of women in the municipal council, the most notable was Lazdijai district municipality, where women obtained 40 % of mandates, this figure being among the highest across the country (in Vilnius district – 40.7 %). In Druskininkai municipal council, women obtained one-third of mandates. This share was the lowest in Alytus district, where women obtained just 3 (12 %) out of 25 mandates.

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

	Total	Per cent	
		males	females
Lithuania	1550	77.8	22.2
Alytus county	127	72.4	27.6
Alytus t. mun.	27	77.8	22.2
Alytus d. mun.	25	88.0	12.0
Druskininkai mun.	25	64.0	36.0
Lazdijai d. mun.	25	60.0	40.0
Varėna d. mun.	25	72.0	28.0

In 2007, in the municipal council elections in Alytus county, the highest number of mandates was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party – 36, or 28 %, 32 mandates, or a quarter of mandates was obtained by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats). The number of mandates obtained by the New Union (Social Liberals) and Lithuanian Centre Party was almost by a third less than that obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, i.e. 13 (10 %) mandates each.

In the 2007 elections, a quarter of mandates in Alytus town municipal council was obtained by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, one-fifth – by the Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats). The Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats) predominates in Alytus district municipal council, where it obtained 11 out of 25, or 44 % of mandates, and in Lazdijai district municipality, where it obtained 9 out of 25, or 36 % of mandates. In Druskininkai municipal council, the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party predominates with 72 % of mandates, in Varėna district municipality – the Lithuanian Centre Party (more than half (52 %) of mandates).

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

	Alytus county	Alytus t. mun.	Alytus d. mun.	Druskininkai mun.	Lazdijai d. mun.	Varėna d. mun.
Total	127	27	25	25	25	25
Lithuanian Social Democratic Party	36	7	3	18	5	3
Homeland Union (Conservatives, Political Prisoners and Deportees, Christian Democrats)	32	6	11	3	9	3
The New Union (Social Liberals)	13	3	5	2	1	2
Lithuanian Centre Party	13	-	-	-	-	13
Party Order and Justice (Liberal Democratic)	8	4	2	-	2	-
Liberal and Centre Union	7	3	-	-	3	1
Labour Party	6	2	1	1	1	1
Union of Peasants and New Democracy Parties	5	-	2	-	3	-
Lithuanian Christian Democrats Party	4	1	1	1	1	-
Liberal Movement of the Republic of Lithuania	3	1	-	-	-	2

Culture

There are libraries, cultural centres, museums in each county's municipality (except for Alytus district municipality, where there are no museums). The number of cultural institutions in the county over 2001–2007 remained almost unchanged.

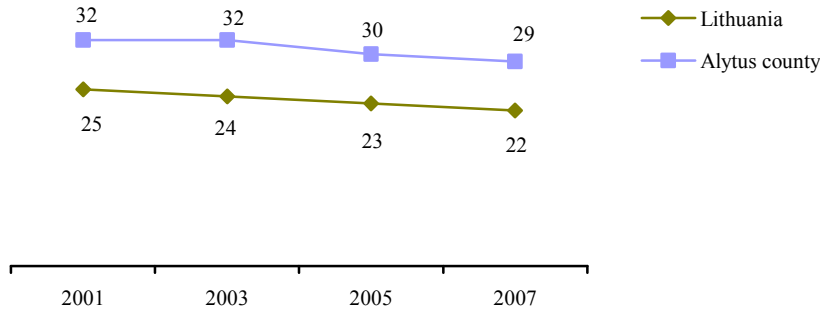
Number of cultural institutions, 2001–2007

	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
Alytus county	105	102	102	102	70	68	70	70	5	6	5	6
Alytus t. mun.	4	4	4	4	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
Alytus d. mun.	37	34	34	34	23	22	22	22	-	-	-	-
Druskininkai	7	7	7	7	4	4	4	4	2	2	2	2
Lazdijai d. mun.	28	28	28	28	21	20	21	21	1	2	1	1
Varėna d. mun.	29	29	29	29	22	22	22	22	1	1	1	2

In 2007, against 2001, the number of libraries in Alytus county decreased by 3 %. Although the number of library users has been annually decreasing, the number of library users per 100 population in Alytus county in 2007 was by a quarter, while in Alytus district – as much as 2.5 times higher than the national average (53 and 22 library users respectively). In 2007, there were, on average, 502 users per county library. By the number of users per library, Alytus county is the fourth after Vilnius (829), Klaipėda (817) and Kaunas (631) counties.

Number of county library users, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

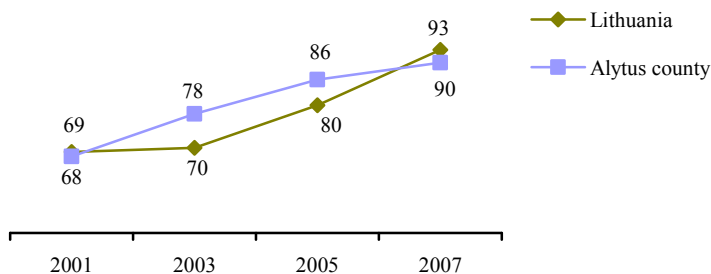


In 2007, one user would use municipal public libraries, on average, 15 times. Only Klaipėda and Utena county libraries were visited more often – 19 times, on average. 68 % of the county's libraries had computers (national average – 53 %). This figure was higher only in Klaipėda (77 %) and Utena (70 %) counties. In 2007, there were 739 documents per 100 Alytus county population (national average – 840, or by 12 % more).

In 2007, there were 6 museums in Alytus county, which over the year were visited by 160 thousand persons. In 2001–2007, the number of museum visitors in the county grew from 128 to 160 thousand, or by 20 %. Almost three-fourth of museum visitors were those visiting Grūtas Park, situated in Druskininkai municipality, which is annually visited by more than 120 thousand visitors.

Museum attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

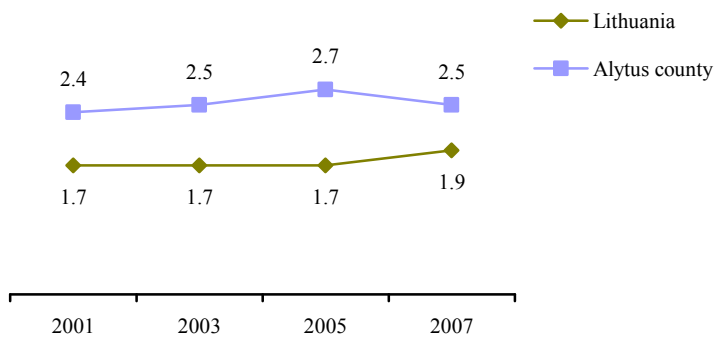


In 2001, museum attendances per 100 population in Alytus county made 68 (national average – 69), while in 2007 this indicator increased by 25 % both in the county and in the country.

The number of amateur art groups in cultural centres, which exist in each county's municipality, against 2001, decreased by 10 %; however, the number of their members remained almost unchanged. In 2007, the highest number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population was in Varėna district municipality – 6.6 (in Alytus county – 2.5, national average – 1.9). Against 2001, the number of amateur art groups in Varėna district grew by 7 %, that of their members – by 20 %.

Number of members of amateur art groups, 2001–2007

Per 100 population



By the number of members of amateur art groups per 100 population, Alytus county, together with those of Utena (3.3), Panevėžys (3.0) Telšiai (2.5), was in the lead.

In 2007, there were just 2 cinema halls in the county, which received 28 thousand visitors (in 2001 – 32 thousand). Although the indicator of cinema attendances per 100 population in 2007 grew and approximated the level of the year 2001 (16 visits per 100 population), Alytus county was lagging behind most other counties: only in Tauragė and Utena counties this number was lower than 10. In 2001, by the indicator of cinema attendances per 100 population, Alytus county was lagging behind the national average 4 times, while in 2007 – 6 times.

Cinema attendances, 2001–2007

Per 100 population

