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EDUCATION 
in Lithuania 2003

Figures and trends



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT,
COMPONENT B2

EDUCATION **2003** *in* Lithuania

Figures and trends



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On the basis of statistical information derived from various sources
the Ministry of Education and Science presents
the status of education in Lithuania 2003.

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EDUCATION IN LITHUANIA 2003

Figures and trends

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According to the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Education and Science is required to publish annual reports on the status of the educational system of Lithuania and its regions. Two comprehensive reports on the status of the Lithuanian education system were published in the Lithuanian language in 2003: 'Education in Lithuania in 2002' and 'Education in Municipalities in 2003'. This publication introduces the Lithuanian education system and provides the main data on the scope of Lithuanian education (the number of pupils/students, pedagogical staff and schools), describes the education processes that have taken place in recent years, as well as the level of education compared with other European states.



The year 2003 was marked by two significant events in education in Lithuania: the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a revised version of the Law on Education and the National Education Strategy for 2003–2012. The Law on Education defines that the Lithuanian education system shall be based upon the following principles:

- 1) Equal opportunities. The education system shall be socially fair and guarantee equal opportunities for all individuals regardless of their gender, race, nationality, language, background, social status, faith, beliefs or attitudes. The education system shall ensure access to education for all persons, provide conditions for acquiring general education and the first qualification as well as create conditions to improve the acquired qualification and obtain new qualifications;
- 2) Contextual interdependence. The education system is closely linked to the economic, social and cultural development of Lithuania, and is constantly adjusting to these developments to meet the changing needs of society;
- 3) Effectiveness. The education system shall ensure high quality results through a prudent and economical use of the available resources, as well as the constant assessment, analysis and planning of its activities by means of effective management and appropriate and timely decision making;
- 4) Continuity. The education system shall be open and flexible, and based on the interaction of various institutions in a variety of forms. It shall create conditions for life-long learning for all individuals.

The above principles have been set out more specifically in the approved goals of the National Education Strategy and its implementation measures, as part of the Education Strategy Implementation Programme. The data contained in this publication will provide an opportunity to assess how Lithuania is succeeding in implementing the chosen principles for organising the activities of the education system. We hope our readers will find this publication interesting and useful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Monkevičius', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Algirdas Monkevičius,
Minister of Education and Science

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The purpose of this publication is to provide a concise overview of the Lithuanian education system. Most information is provided in diagrams, maps and tables. The introductory part presents the structure of Lithuanian education system, that is the school types, programmes and the levels of education. The information is grouped into five fields: Students, Pedagogical staff; Schools; Processes; Lithuania in the International Context. The provided information will help to gain a general view of the situation in the Lithuanian education system.

Data sources

Data on the systems of general education, special training and complementary training (schools, students and pedagogical staff) was collected and provided by the Information Technology Centre (ITC) of the Ministry of Education and Science.

Data on pre-school, vocational, high and non-public education was provided by the Department of Statistics (DST) under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

Some data was collected by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES). School network maps have been prepared on the basis of data on educational establishments collected in the information system of MES (www.mokykla.smm.lt).

Data on Lithuanian education within the international context is taken from the Eurostat bulletins and OECD publications.

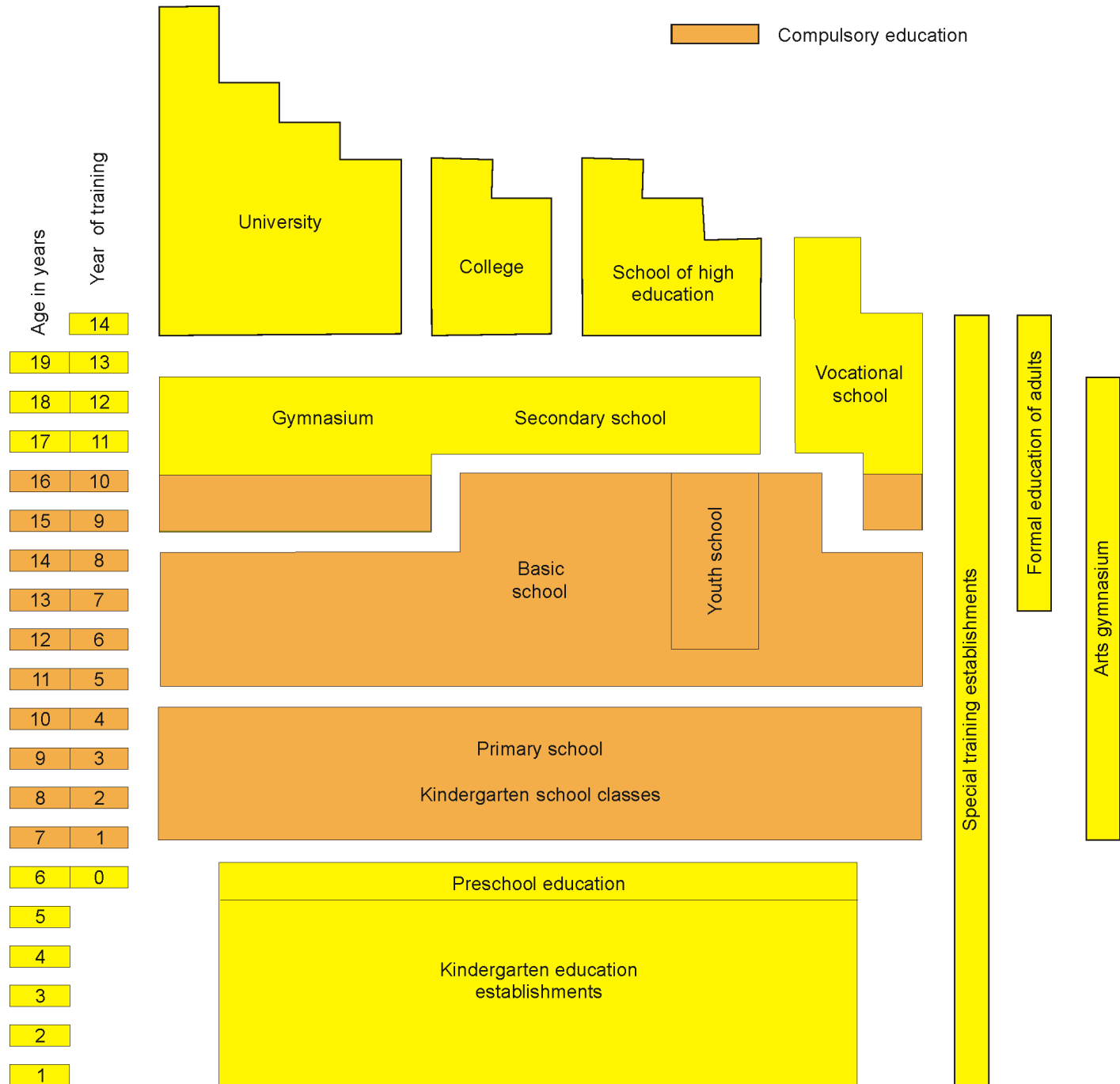
Grouping of data

The data is grouped by the levels of education, by the types of schools and by programmes (for their interdependencies see the section on the structure of Lithuanian education system).

The maps present data according to each municipality. There were 60 municipalities and 10 counties in 2003 in Lithuania.

The main portion of data comes from the 2002–2003 academic year with individual data taken from the earlier or later years. The diagrams, maps and tables always indicate the year when the data was collected.

System of education and training in Lithuania



System of education and training in Lithuania

Level of education

Due to certain national peculiarities the Educational Classification of Lithuania (ECL) slightly differs from ISCED 97:

Educational levels according to the Educational Classification of Lithuania	Educational levels according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 1997)
0 level Kindergarten education (kindergarten and preschool training programmes)	0 level Pre-primary education
Level 1 Primary education (primary education programmes)	Level 1 Primary education or first stage of basic education
Level 2 Basic education (programmes of basic and alternative training, basic vocational training programmes of stage 1)	Level 2 Lower secondary or second stage of basic education
Level 3 Secondary education (programmes of secondary education, basic vocational training programmes of stage 2 and 3)	Level 3 (Upper) secondary education
Level 4 Post-secondary education that does not grant high and higher education (basic vocational training programmes of stage 4)	Level 4 Post-secondary education non-tertiary education
Level 5 High education (programmes of higher studies)	Level 5 First stage of tertiary education
Level 6 Higher education (programmes of Bachelor's and Master's degree studies, university programmes of basic professional studies, programmes of special professional studies, programmes of continuous studies, residency programmes)	
Level 7 Doctoral studies (programmes of doctoral studies) Post-graduate studentship in arts	Level 6 Second stage of tertiary education

Types of Schools

In Lithuania schools are grouped by level and nature of programmes. The following **main groups** are distinguished:

- 1) schools of general education;
- 2) schools of arts and sports training that implement formal training programmes or modules thereof;
- 3) vocational schools;
- 4) schools of high education;
- 5) schools of higher education.

School type is determined on the basis of the highest level of the formal educational programme implemented by that school.

The group of schools of general education consists of the following types of schools:

- **kindergarten-school** (primary training programme);
- **primary school** (primary training programme);
- **basic school** (basic training programme; programmes of basic and primary training, in certain cases – programme of the first basic training content centre and primary training; programme of the first basic training content centre);
- **youth school** (basic training programme);
- **special homes for children's education and care** (primary training programme; programmes of basic and primary training);
- **hospital school** (programmes of basic and primary training);
- **sanatorium school** (programmes of basic and primary training);
- **secondary school** (secondary training programme; programmes of secondary training and the second basic training content centre; programmes of secondary and basic training; programmes of secondary, basic and primary training);
- **gymnasium** – a secondary school that meets the accreditation criteria established by the Government or its authorised institution (secondary training programme; programmes of secondary training and the second basic training content centre; programmes of secondary training, the second basic training content centre and international bachelorship; in certain cases – programmes of secondary and basic training; programmes of secondary, basic and primary training);
- **adult school**, adult training centre (programmes of secondary, basic and primary training; programmes of secondary and basic training);
- **training centre** (programmes of secondary, basic, primary and special training);

System of education and training in Lithuania

- **special school** (programmes of secondary, basic, primary and special training; adapted programmes of secondary, basic, primary and special training);
- **special training centre** (programmes of secondary basic, primary training and adapted programmes of secondary, basic, primary and special training);
- **art and sports training schools** (programmes of training in art and sports).

Also see Chart on page 10.

Vocational training establishments of the following types presently function in Lithuania:

- **vocational schools** that provide vocational training and general education;
- **vocational training centres and courses** that organise theoretical and practical vocational training;
- **specialised vocational training establishments for individuals with special needs** (individuals with disability, convicts, etc.).

Schools of high education are not classified into types.

There are two types of **schools of higher education: universities and colleges**. They can be state-funded or non-state funded.

The type of informal education establishment is determined on the basis of the main educational activity implemented by that establishment: kindergarten, other informal education establishments of children and adults:

- The following belong to the type of kindergarten education establishments: nurseries, nursery-kindergartens, kindergartens, nurseries, nursery-kindergartens and kindergartens for kindergarten training of children with special needs;
- The following belong to the type of children's informal education: music, art, sports training centres for the training of children with special needs, children's palaces, creativity centres, young naturalists', technicians' centres, clubs, Saturday and Sunday schools of ethnic minorities, etc.;
- The following belong to the type of adults' informal education: adult training centre, people's school of higher education, various courses, etc.

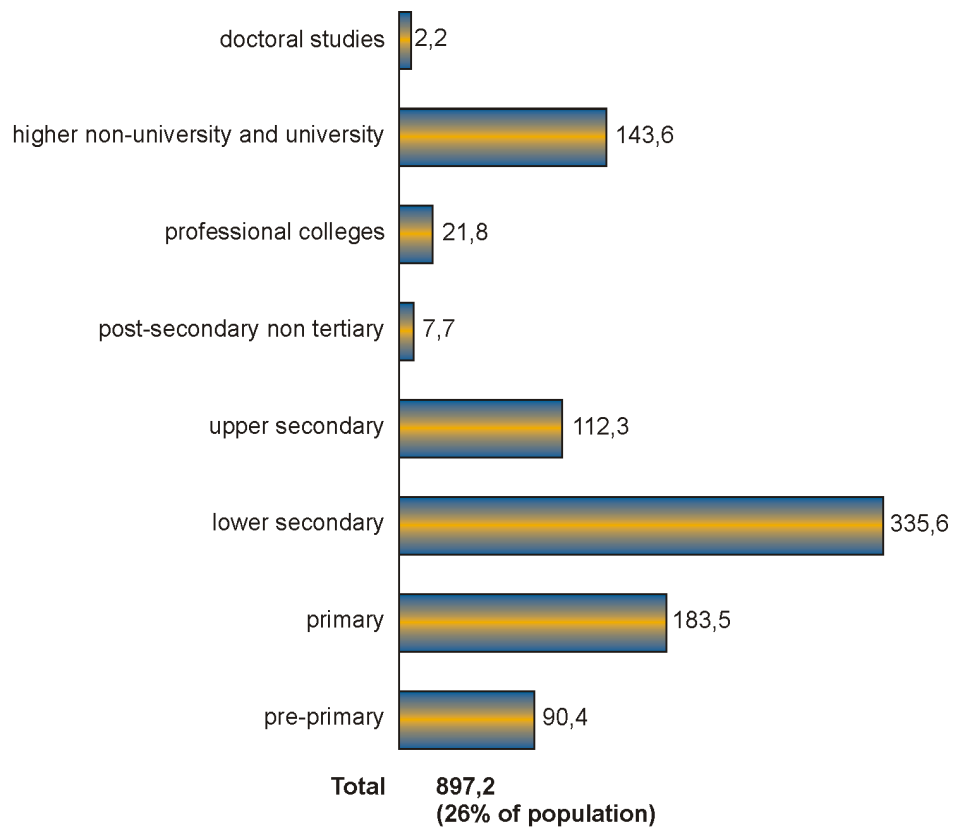
Sources: Educational Classification of Lithuania. Vilnius, 1999
 Law on Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania
 Law on Vocational Training of the Republic of Lithuania
 IS School
 Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania

System of education and training in Lithuania

Main Types of Schools of General Education

	Kindergarten-school	Primary school	Basic school	Youth school	Secondary school	Gymnasium
Secondary education					12 th grade	4 th gymnasium grade
					11 th grade	3 rd gymnasium grade
Second centre of basic education			10 th grade	10 th grade	10 th grade	2 nd gymnasium grade
			9 th grade	9 th grade	9 th grade	1 st gymnasium grade
First centre of basic education			8 th grade	8 th grade	8 th grade	
			7 th grade	7 th grade	7 th grade	
			6 th grade	6 th grade	6 th grade	
			5 th grade		5 th grade	
Second centre of primary education	4 th grade	4 th grade	4 th grade		4 th grade	
	3 rd grade	3 rd grade	3 rd grade		3 rd grade	
First centre of primary education	2 nd grade	2 nd grade	2 nd grade		2 nd grade	
	1 st grade	1 st grade	1 st grade		1 st grade	
Pre-school education	0 grade	0 grade	0 grade		0 grade	
Kindergarten education						

Number by level of education in 2002–2003 (thousands)

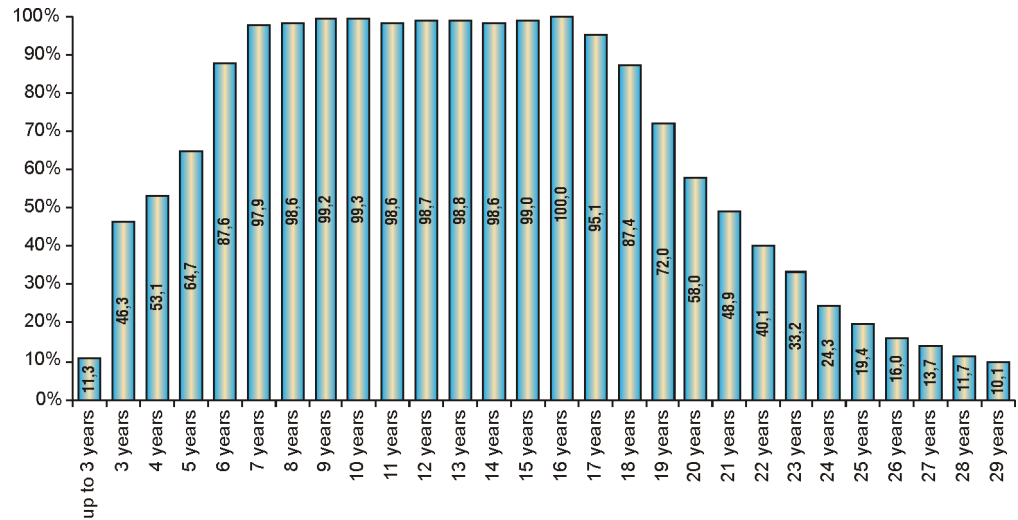


Source of data: DST

How many are there?

Enrolment rates by age at the end of 2002

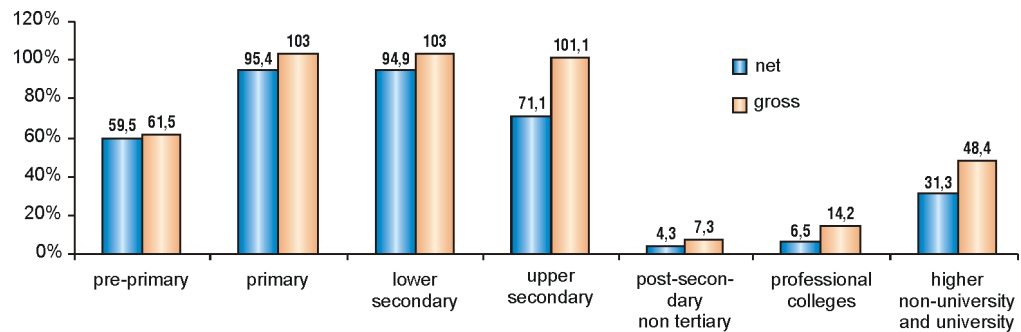
About 99% of children belonging to the age group of compulsory education, i.e. 7–16-year-olds, studied at the end of 2002. The enrolment rate of young people older than 16 years is significantly lower: 40% of 22-year-olds and 10% of 29-year-olds studied at the end of 2002.



Sources of data: ITC, DST

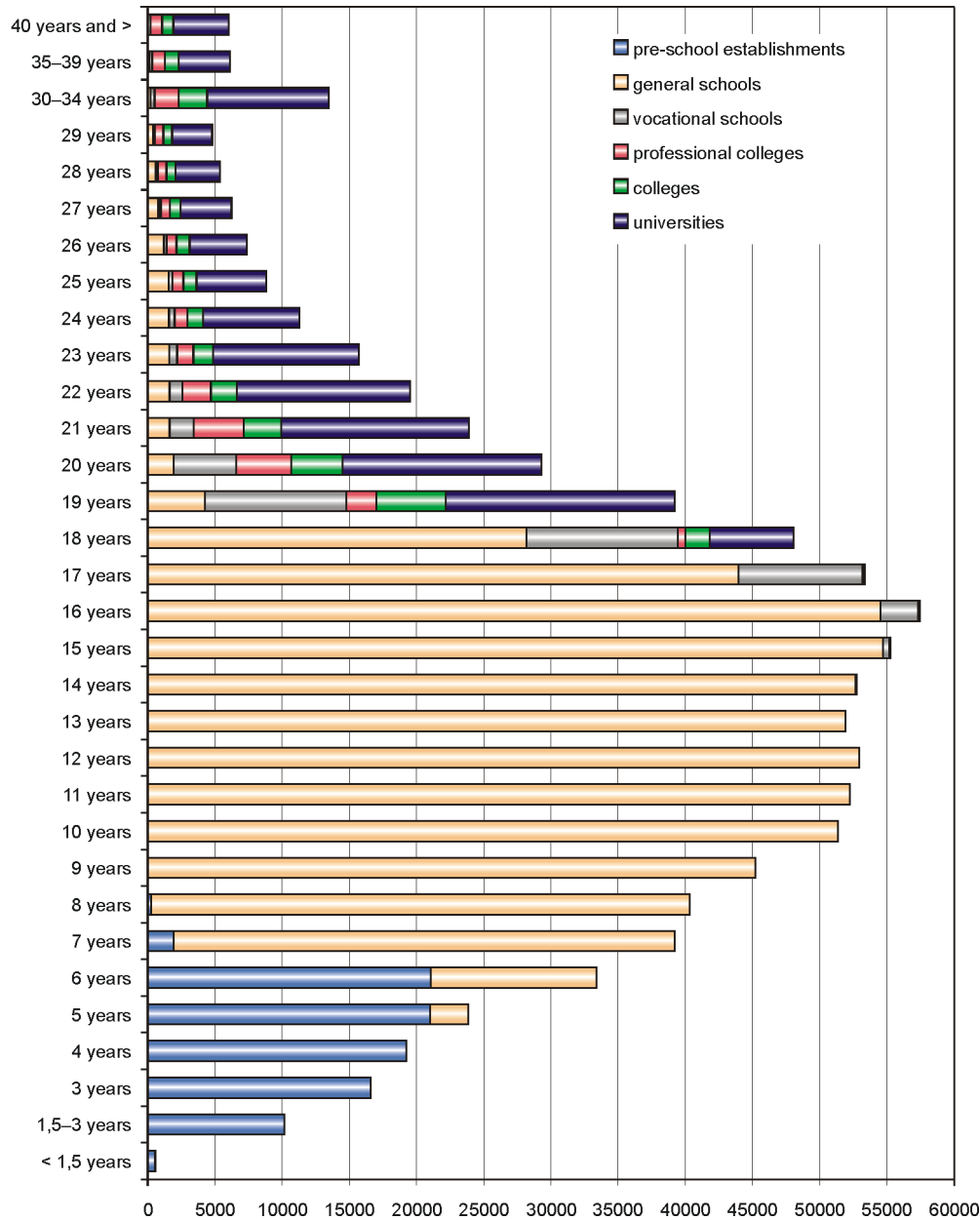
Enrolment rates by level of education at the end of 2002

Gross enrolment rate is greatest in the primary, basic and secondary levels of education (101–103%). About 30% of the students in the secondary education level are older than students normally are at this level of education. The majority of such students are adults who dropped out from the education system in earlier years and now returned back to school.



Source of data: DST

Distribution of students by age in different types of schools at the end of 2002 (number)

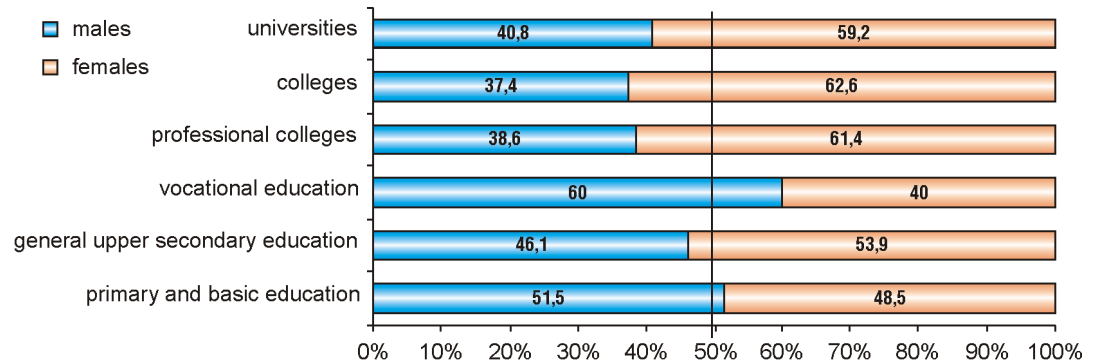


Sources of data: ITC, DST

How old are they?

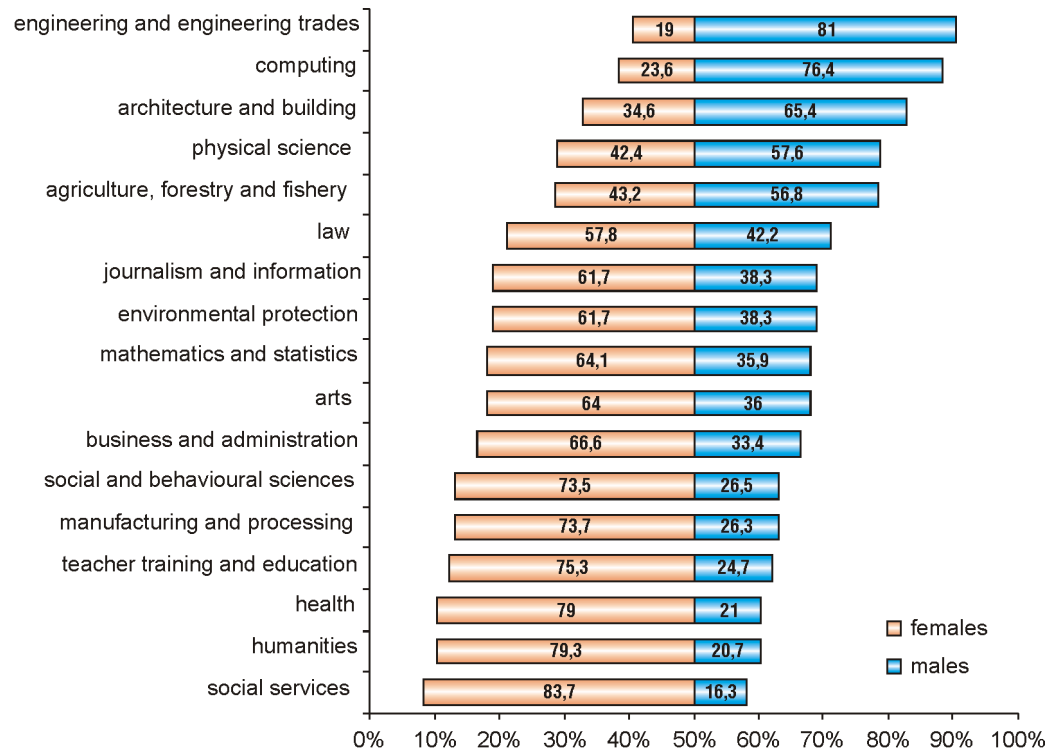
Distribution of students by gender at the end of 2002

51% of all students at the institutions of formal education were female students in the academic year of 2002–2003. Male students made up a higher percentage only in vocational schools (60%).



Ratio of males to females in universities, bachelor and professional programmes, by fields of education at the end of 2002

At universities male students dominate only in these five fields of studies: engineering and engineering trades; computing; architecture and building; physical science; agriculture, forestry and fishery.



Source of data: DST

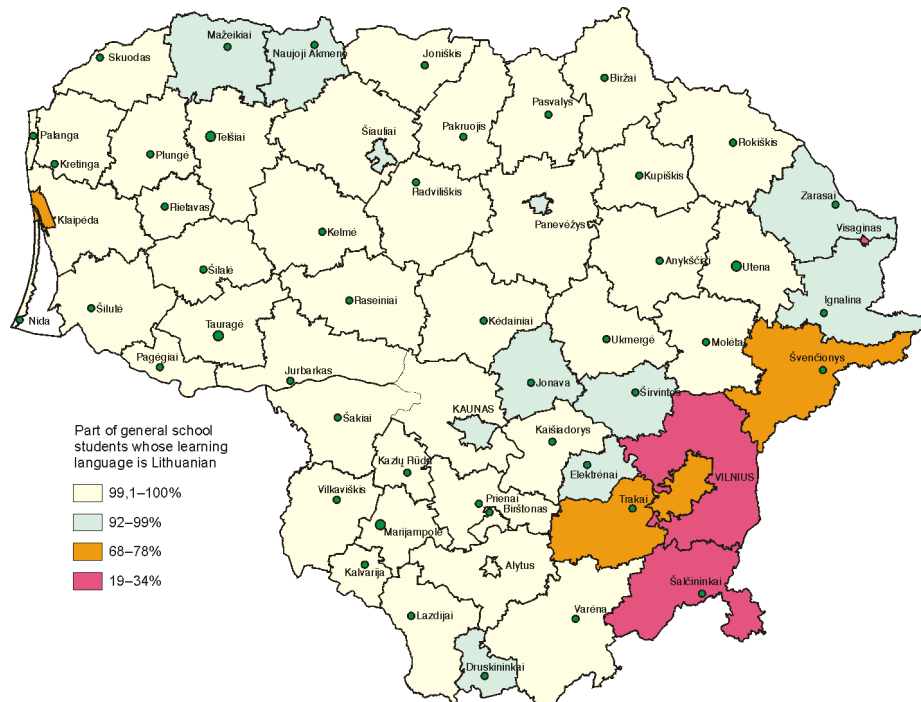
General school students by the learning languages in 2002–2003

The official language of Lithuania is Lithuanian. Lithuanian is the learning language of 90% of all general school students.



General school students by the learning languages in municipalities in 2002–2003

According to the Population Census 2001 data, the national composition of Lithuania is following: 83,5% Lithuanians, 6,7% Poles, 6,3% Russians, 1,2% Belorussians and a small fraction of other nationalities. The Slavic languages – Russian and Polish – are predominantly used for learning in Eastern Lithuania where communities of these national minorities are largest.

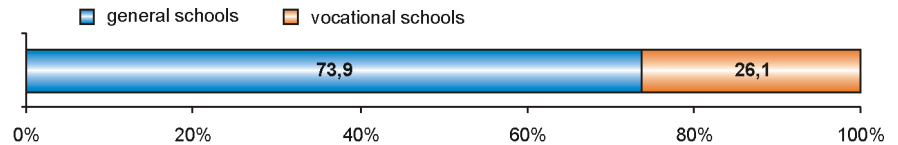


Source of data: ITC

In which languages do they learn?

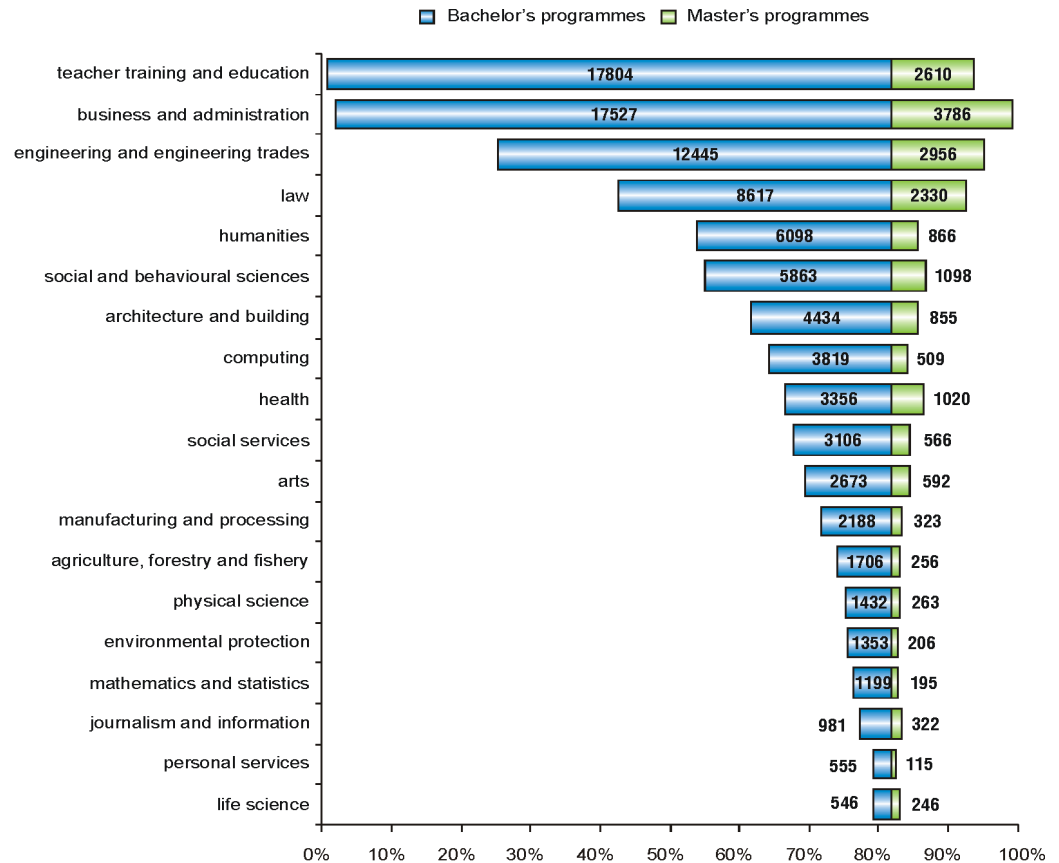
Distribution of students between general and vocational schools at upper secondary level of education in 2002

The general (academic) education is much more popular in Lithuania than vocational training. Only 26% of upper secondary level students and a very small portion of post-secondary level students choose vocational training (see Distribution of students by age in different types of schools, page 13).



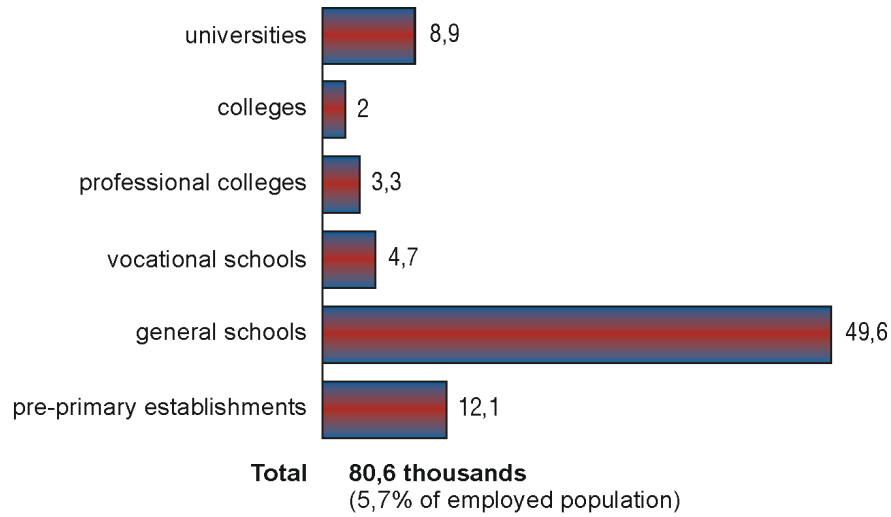
Distribution of university students by field of studies in 2002–2003 (number)

Despite the continuously decreasing birth rate and the demand for teachers, teacher training is the most popular field of studies at higher education level (22,3% of all students), followed by business and administration studies (18% of all students).



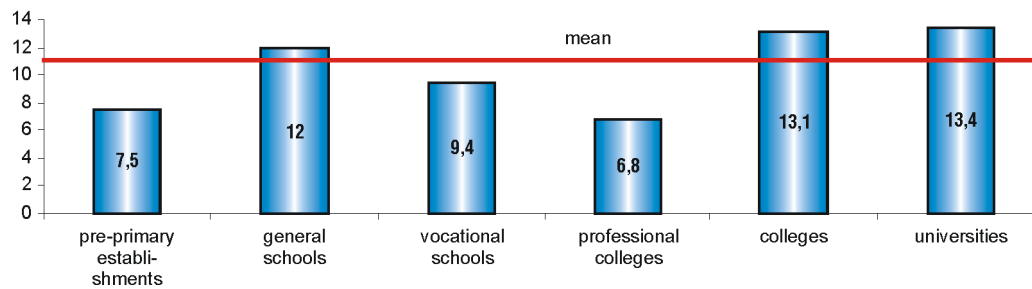
Source of data: DST

Number by type of school in 2002–2003 (thousands)



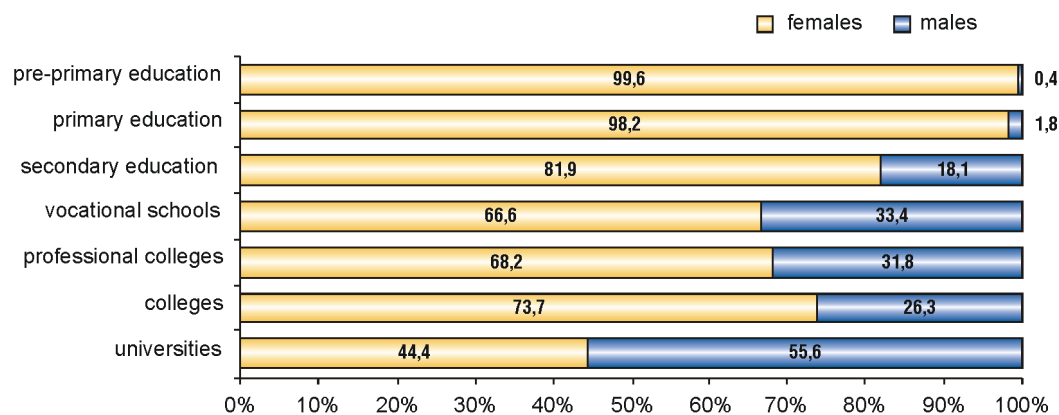
How many are there?

Student / pedagogical staff ratio



Distribution of pedagogical staff by gender in 2002–2003

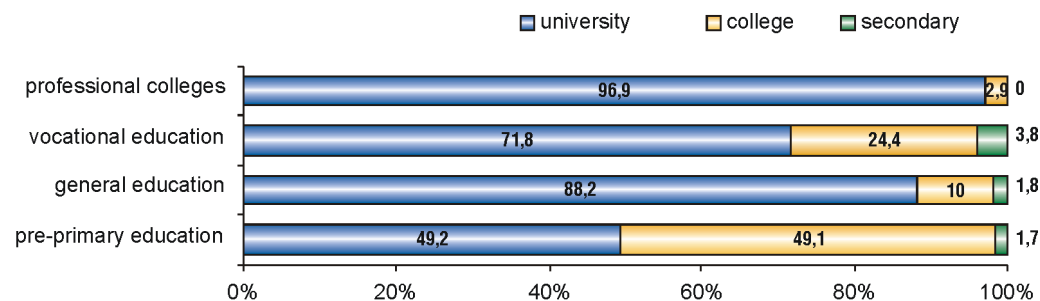
The profession of a teacher is strongly female-dominated: 86% of all teachers are women. The situation is different only in universities, where males account for more than half (55,6%) of all lecturers.



Source of data: DST, ITC

Distribution of pedagogical staff* by educational level in 2002–2003

University-level education is dominant among Lithuanian teachers. 88% of general school teachers, 72% of vocational school teachers and 97% of professional college teachers have a university education.



*Except lecturers at the institutions of higher education, who all acquire university education

Source of data: DST

Distribution of higher education lecturers (main staff) by university and pedagogical degree

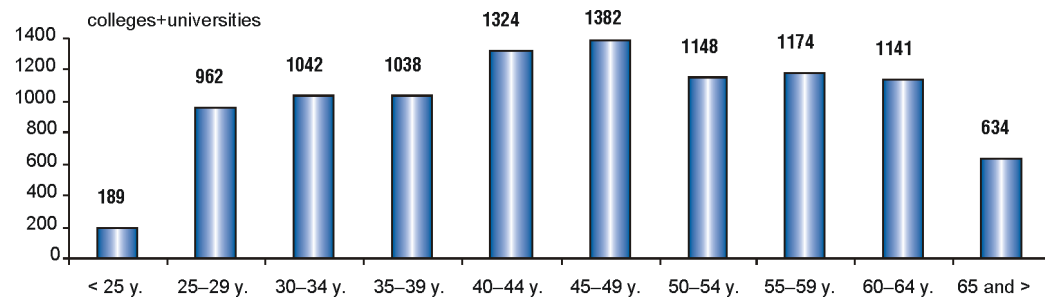
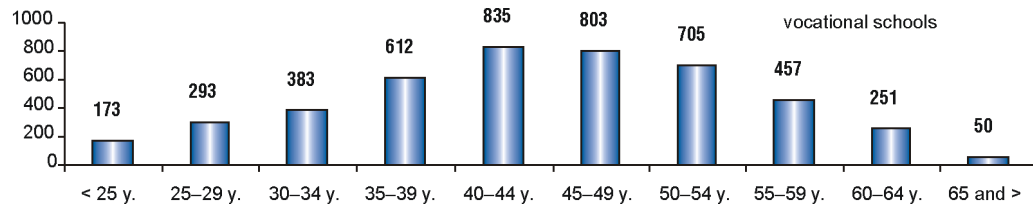
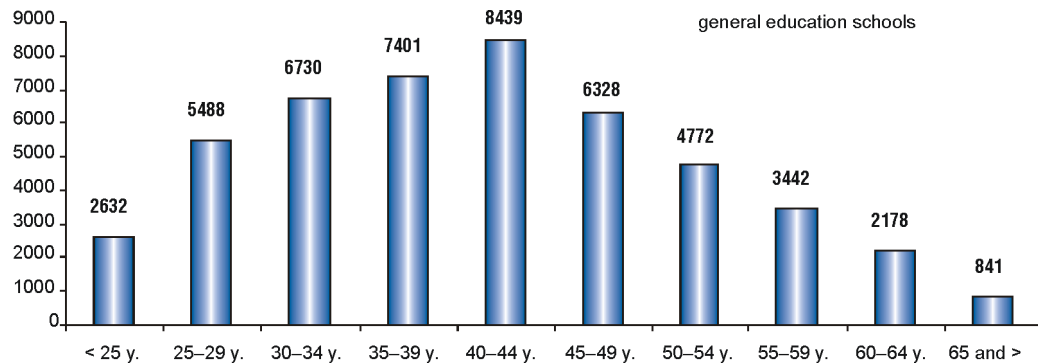
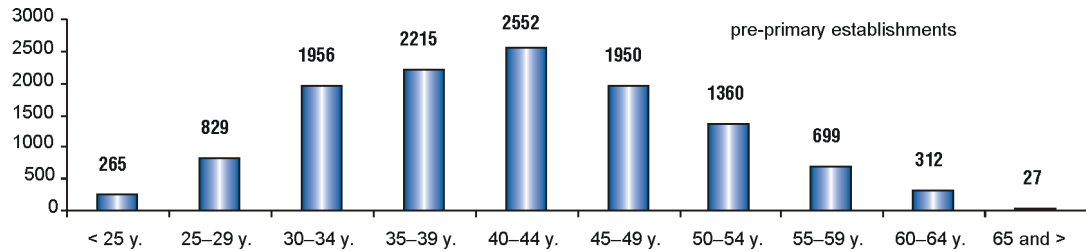
Non-university schools of higher education (colleges) are relatively new compared to other Lithuanian universities. According to the number of academic and pedagogical degrees, the qualification of college teachers is significantly lower than that of university lecturers.

	Doctor's	Doctor's habilitus	Total number	Docent's	Professor's
colleges	67(5,6%)	1(0,08%)	1192(100%)	23(1,9%)	1(0,08%)
universities	3106(49,9%)	497(8%)	6227(100%)	2197(35,3%)	545(8,7%)

Source of data: DST

Distribution of pedagogical staff by age in 2002–2003 (number)

40–44 years is the dominant age group of Lithuanian teachers, which accounts for 16,7% of all teachers. The number of teachers in other age groups becomes smaller the further we distance from this group in both directions. Only schools of higher education make an exception from this tendency, as the dominant age group in these schools is 45–49 years, and the differences between the numbers of teachers at various age groups are not significant.

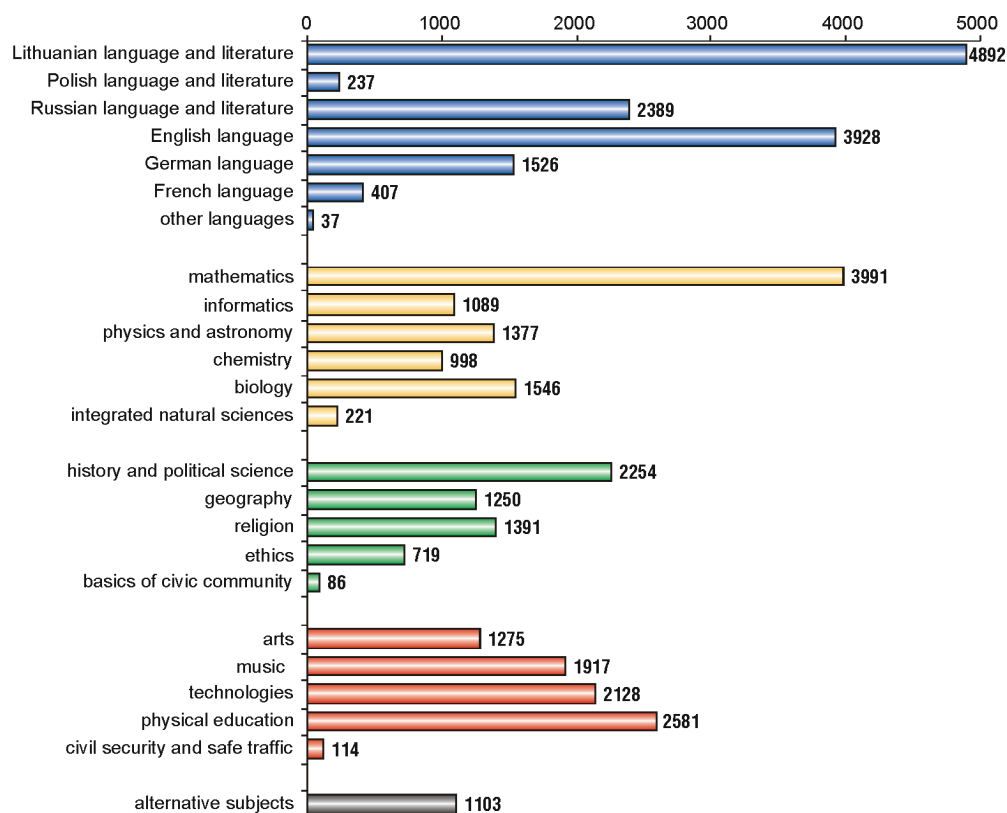


Number of teachers by specialization in public schools (2002–2003)

Pre-school education teachers	844
Primary education teachers	7 297
Subject teachers in schools of general education	36 580
Subject teachers in vocational schools	1 817
Vocational instructors	2 276
Tutors in schools of general education	655
Masters in vocational schools	222

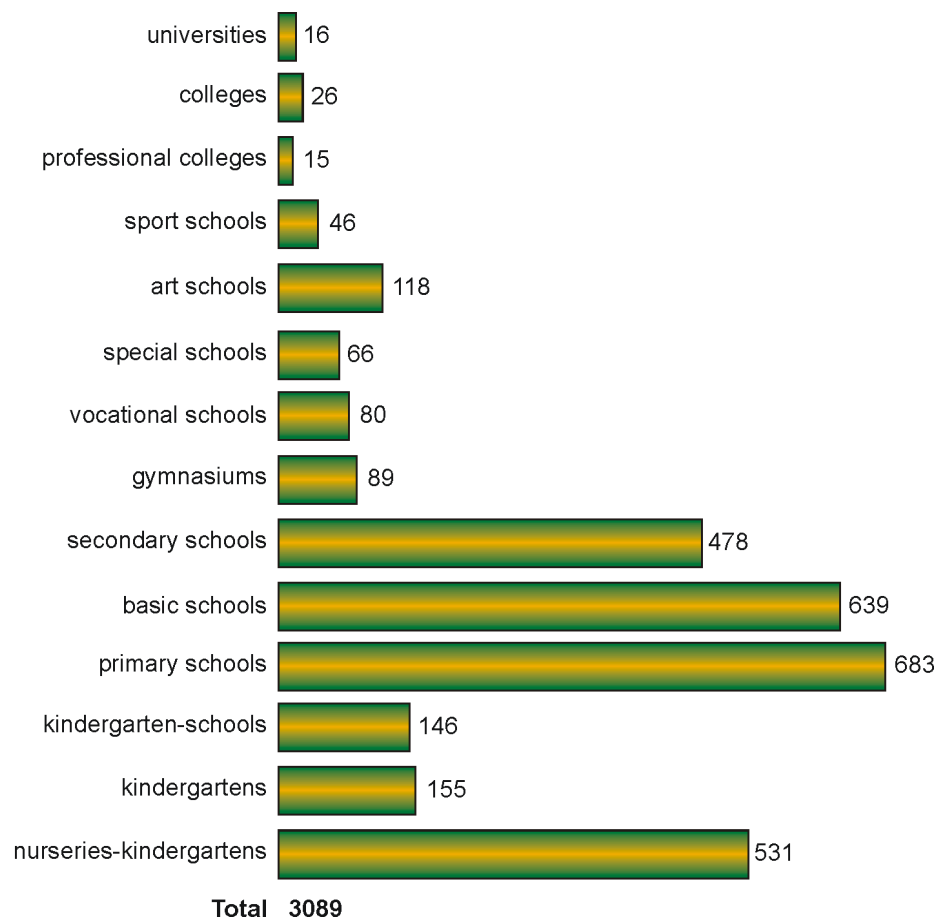
Number of general school teachers by subject in 2002–2003

79% of the teachers in public schools of general education and vocational schools (except heads of schools) are subject teachers. The distribution of the number of teachers by subjects indicates the subjects' importance and popularity. The largest group of teachers (13%) teach Lithuanian language and literature followed by teachers of mathematics and English (10,6%).



Source of data: ITC; DST

Number by type in 2002–2003

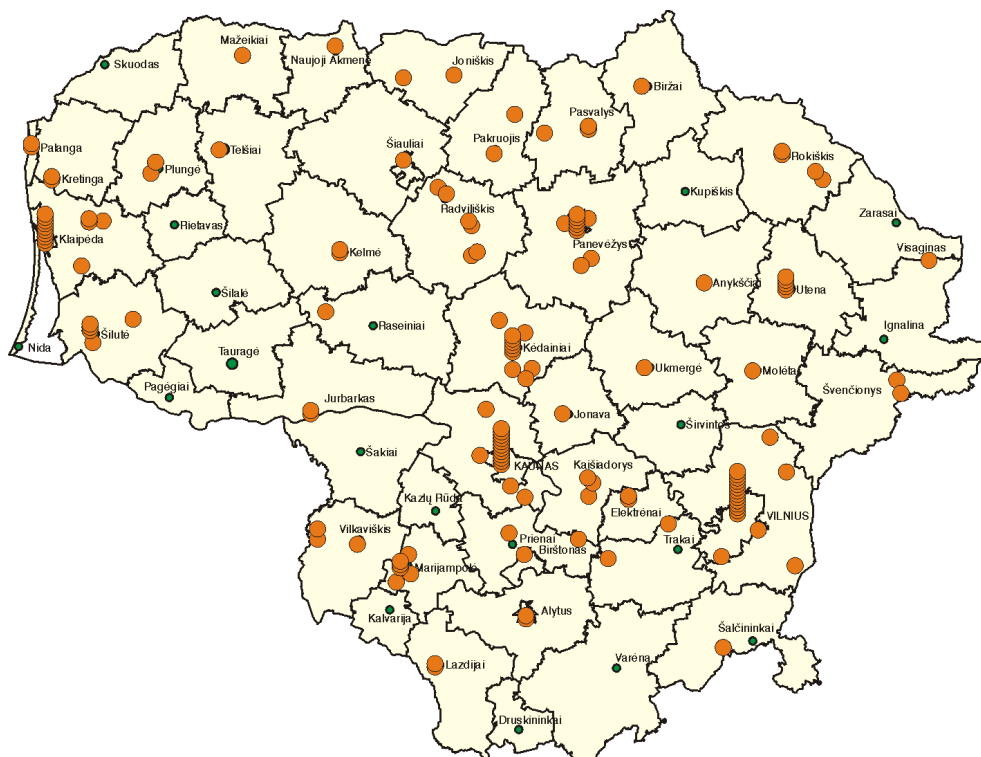


Source of data: ITC, MES, DST

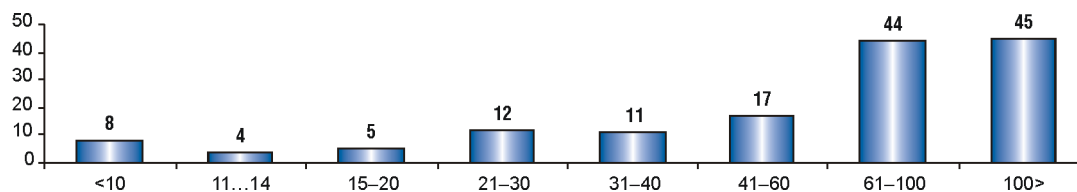
How many are there?

Kindergarten-schools in 2002–2003

Better conditions are created for children who attend the primary grades in kindergarten-schools than in schools. 146 kindergarten-schools operated in Lithuania in 2002–2003. Around 2/3 of the kindergarten-schools were in urban areas and 1/3 in rural areas. The kindergarten-schools are very unequally distributed, and there are no kindergarten-schools in some municipalities.



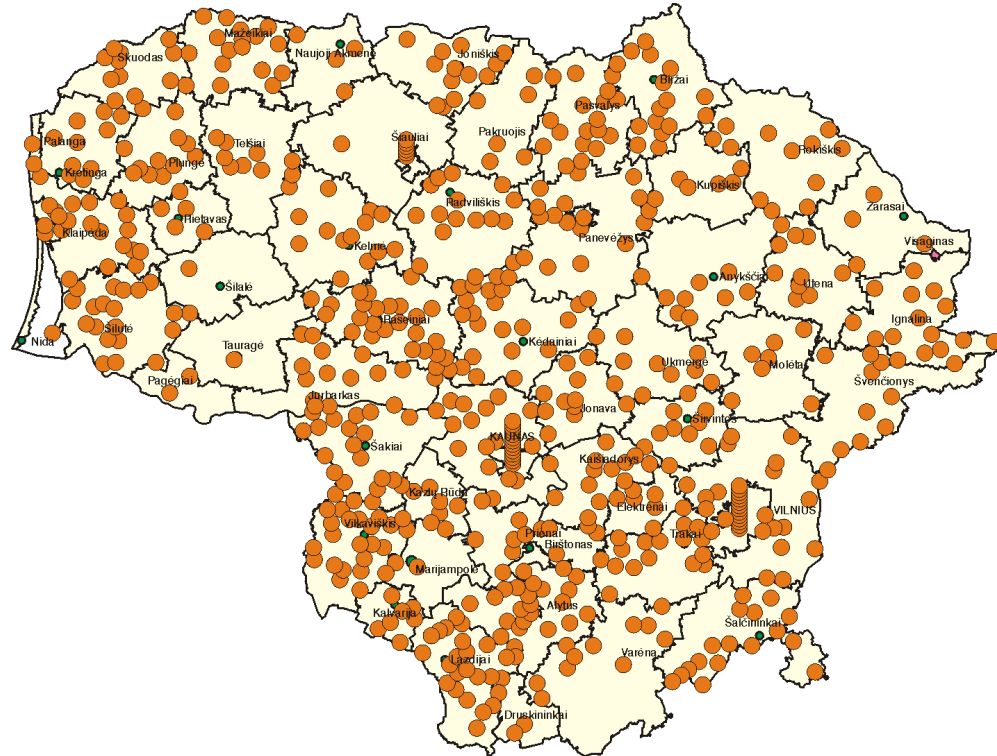
Number of public kindergarten-schools by size (number of children) in 2002–2003



Source of data: ITC

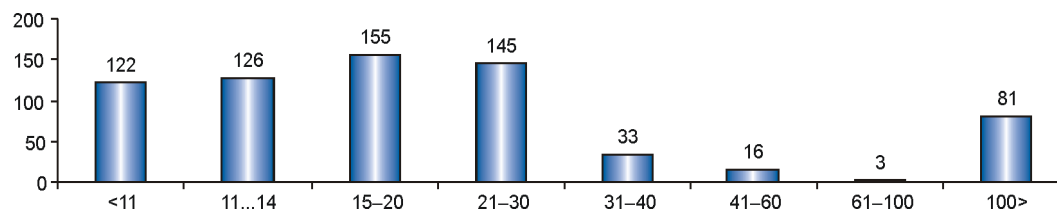
Primary schools in 2002–2003

Primary schools constitute the most numerous group of schools with 683 schools in operation in 2002–2003. Primary schools are usually small schools with 53 students on average. 88% of the primary schools were located in rural areas.



Where and how many?

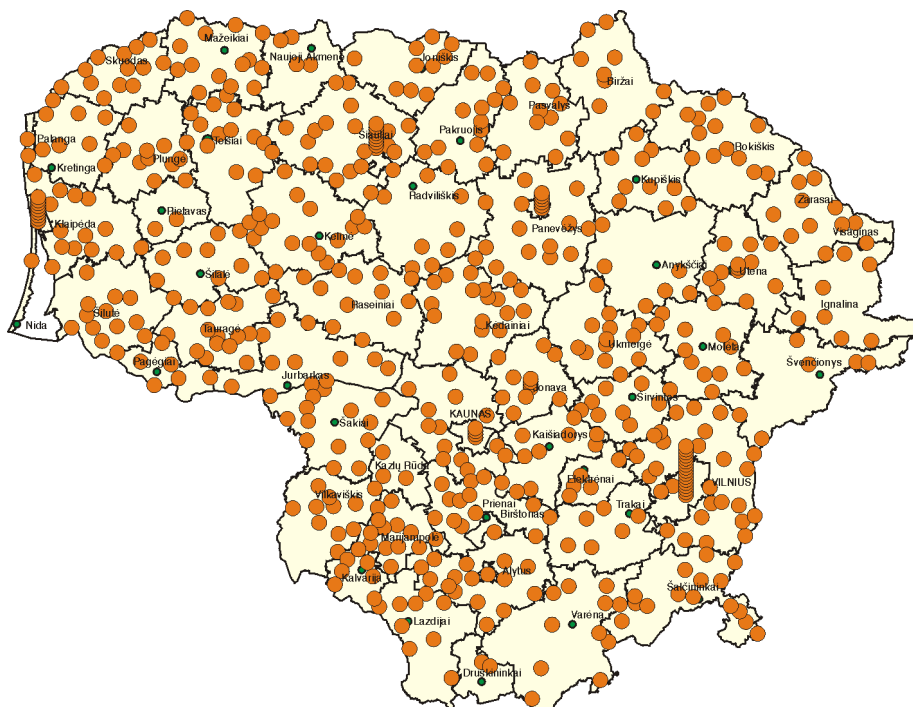
Distribution of public primary schools by size (number of students) in 2002–2003



Source of data: ITC

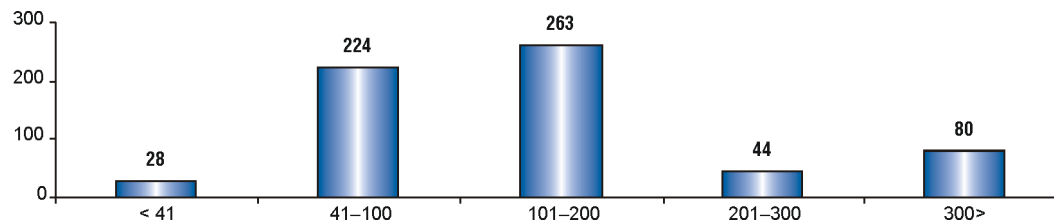
Basic schools in 2002–2003

Basic schools made up the second largest group of schools with 639 schools in operation in 2002–2003. 85% of these schools were located in rural areas. 184 students is the average number of students studying in basic schools.



Distribution of public basic schools by size (number of students) in 2002–2003

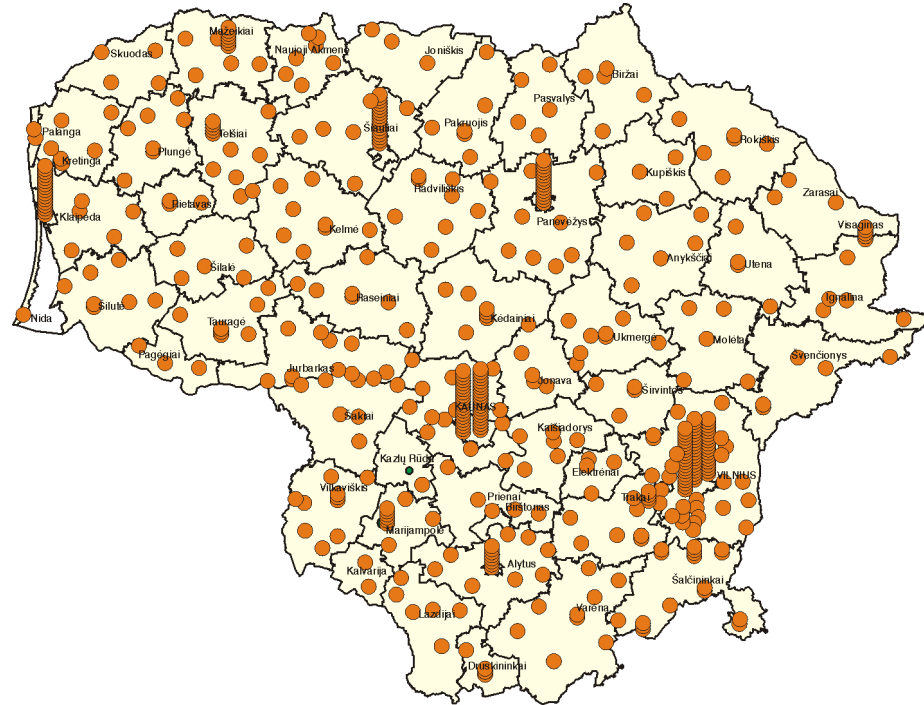
Youth schools fall under the category of basic schools and are offered for students who lack learning motivation. There were 25 such schools in 2002–2003, less than one in two municipalities.



Source of data: ITC

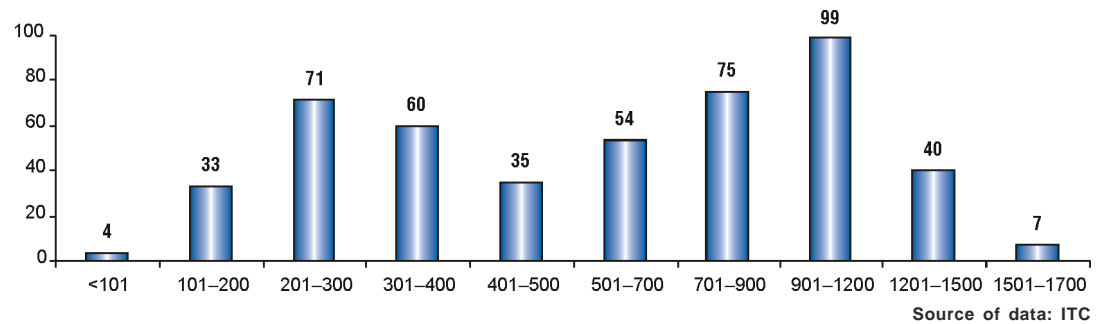
Secondary schools in 2002–2003

Secondary schools have 679 students on average, and are ones of the largest schools. 478 such schools were in operation in 2002–2003 (62% in urban areas).



Where and how many?

Distribution of public secondary schools by size (number of students) in 2002–2003

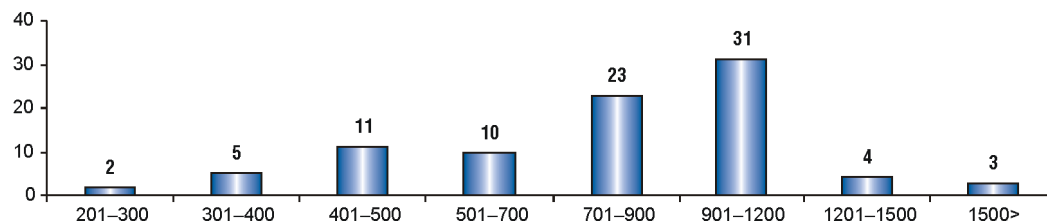


Gymnasiums in 2002–2003

Gymnasiums are the schools of general education that provide only secondary education. The status of a gymnasium is granted upon a school following its accreditation. 89 gymnasiums operated in Lithuania in 2002–2003, almost all in urban areas. Gymnasiums had 838 students on average, which made them the largest schools of general education.



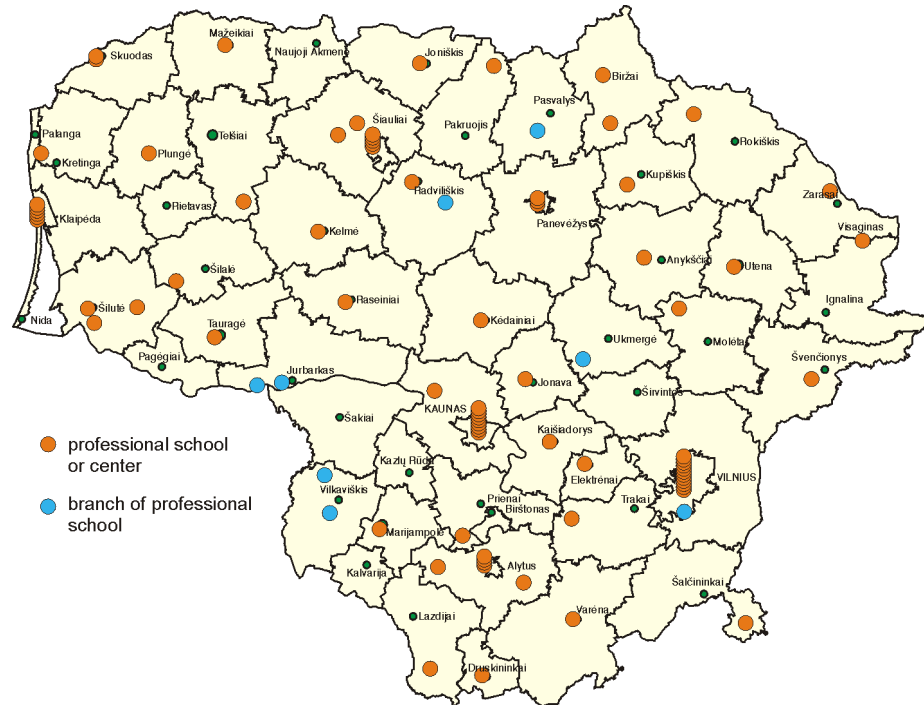
Distribution of public gymnasiums by size (number of students) in 2002–2003



Source of data: ITC

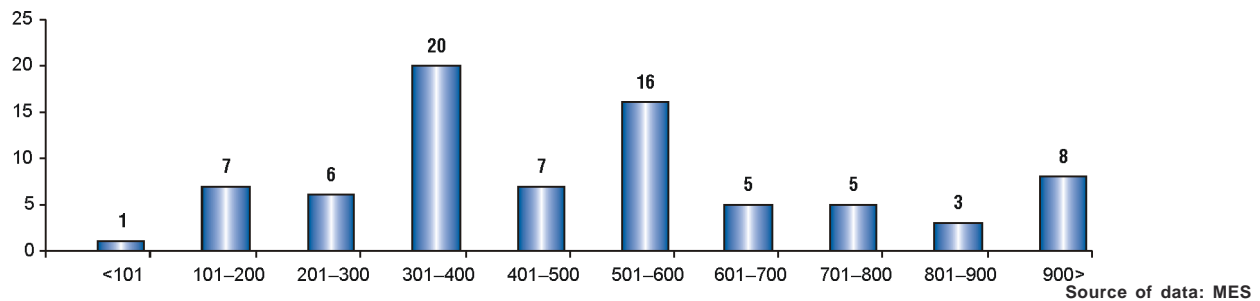
Vocational schools in 2002–2003

80 vocational schools were operating in Lithuania in 2002–2003. These schools varied greatly in size, and they were very unequally distributed. Therefore the scope of vocational training in municipalities varied significantly.



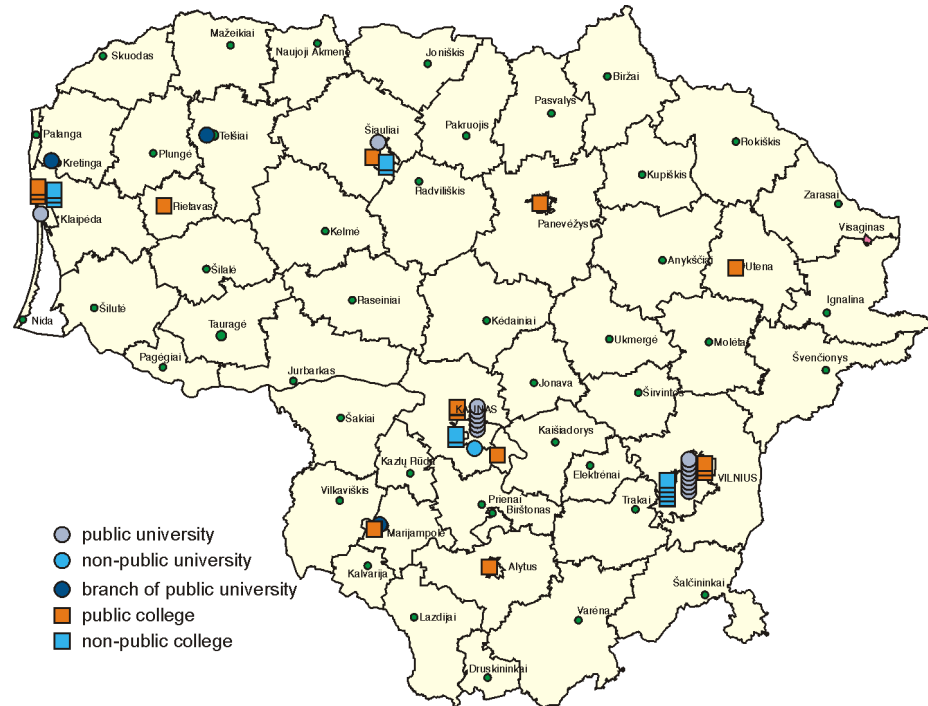
Where and how many?

Distribution of vocational schools by size (number of students) in 2002–2003



Colleges and universities in 2002–2003

There are two types of institutions of higher education in Lithuania: universities and colleges (non-university level institutions). The majority of universities are traditionally based in Vilnius and Kaunas, the two largest cities of Lithuania. Colleges, the majority of which are reorganized schools of higher education, are expected to provide higher non-university education in all the regional centres in the future.



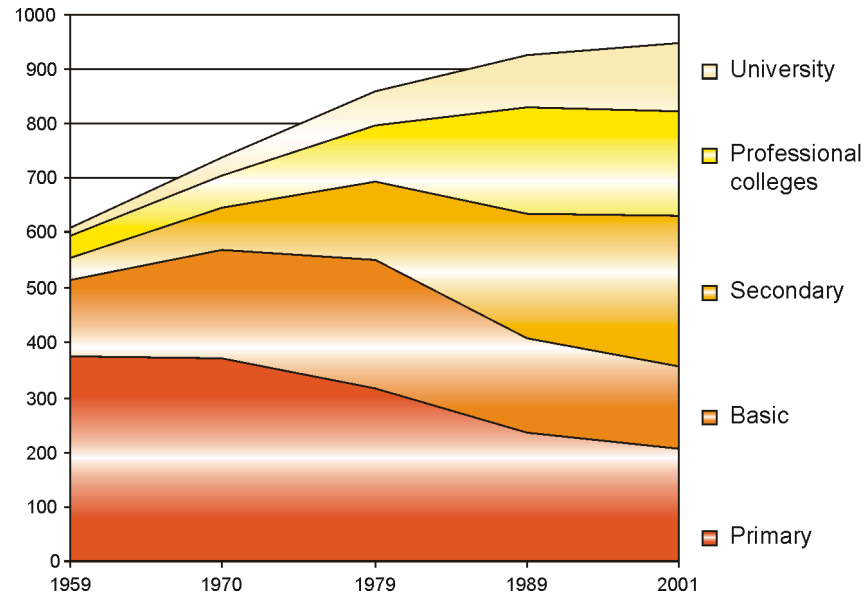
Distribution of colleges and universities by jurisdiction in 2002–2003

	Public	Non-public	Total number
colleges	15	11	26
universities	15	1	16

Source of data: MES

The structure of education of Lithuanian population in 1959–2001

(number of people aged above 10 years with different levels of education per 1000 people)



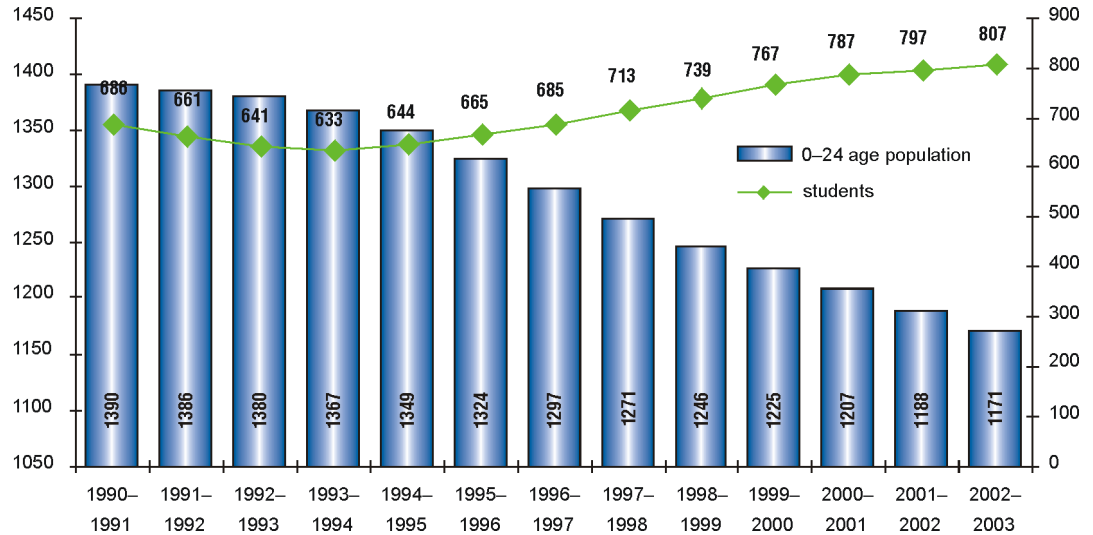
The level of education of Lithuanian population has continued to grow during the past ten years. The structure of education has changed as well, as the percentage of people with only primary and basic education has decreased and the percentage of people with secondary and high education has increased. The percentage of people with high education has remained stable, and is expected to increase in the future, as high schools are being reorganized into colleges.

Source of data: Population Census, DST

How does level of education change?

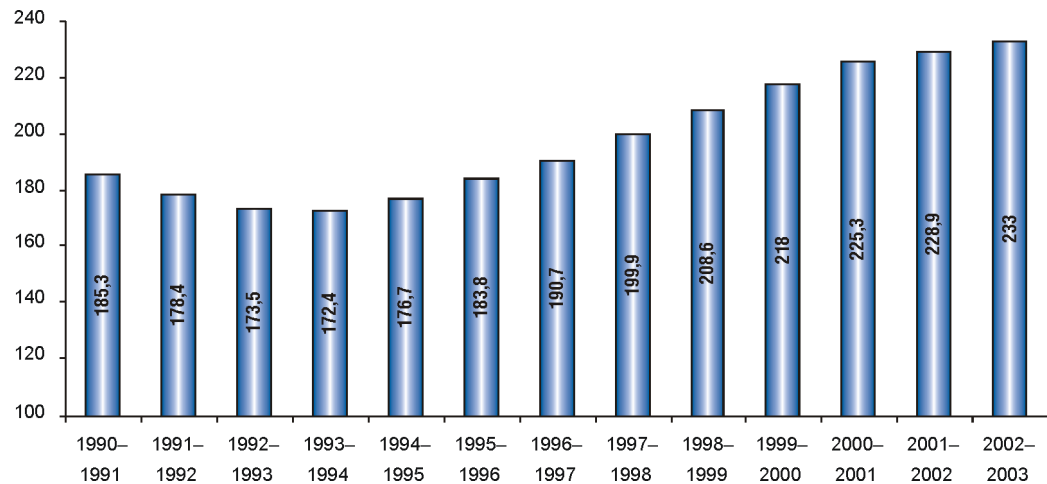
Change of number of students and number of 0–24 age population in 1990–2002 (thousands)

The birth rate in Lithuania is diminishing. The number of 0 to 24-year-olds has decreased by 16% during 1990–2002. Despite this the general number of pupils and students has been increasing since 1993, and has grown by 22% in the past 10 years. Pupils and students made up 17,2% of the population in 1993–1994 and already 23,3% in 2002–2003.



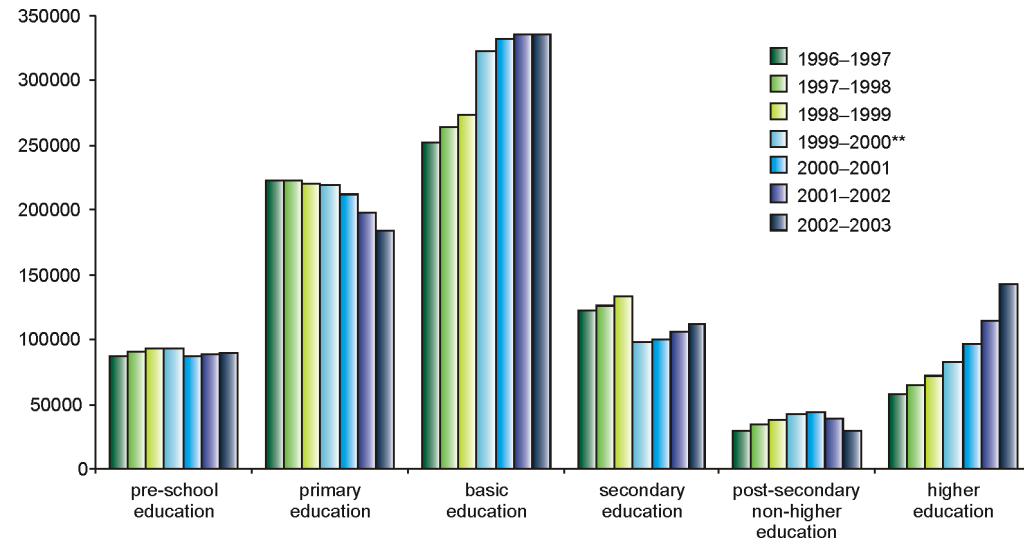
Source of data: DST

Total number of students per 1000 of resident population



Source of data: DST

Number of students* by level of education



*including children in pre-school education

** the structure of schools of general education has changed that year from the nine-year basic and the three-year secondary education to the ten-year basic and the two-year secondary education

	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
pre-school education	87137	91287	93645	93444	87959	88533	90434
primary education	222724	222278	219661	218181	211650	197463	183542
basic education	251434	263653	273405	322885	332097	336096	335632
secondary education	122941	126079	133546	98235	100957	106734	112320
post-secondary non-higher education	29248	33933	37972	43110	43503	39057	29519
higher education	57488	65592	72657	82322	97083	115178	143601
doctoral studies	1288	1476	1875	2023	2057	2112	2183
Total	772260	804298	832761	860200	875306	885173	897231

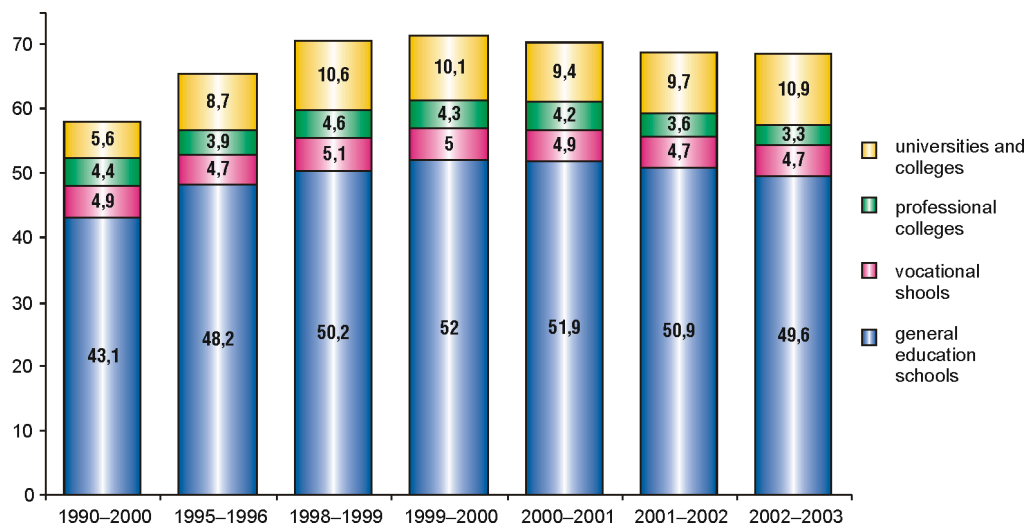
Source of data: DST

The number of pupils at the primary level of education has been continuously diminishing in the recent years. The total number of pupils at the pre-school education level is not yet diminishing due to the introduction of a general pre-school education and the increasing scope of education. The number of pupils at the basic level of education has stopped increasing and is expected to decrease in the coming years. The number of pupils and students at the secondary and higher levels of education is still increasing. This increase is especially sharp in schools of higher education, where the number of students has increased twofold in five years.

How does number of students change?

Number of pedagogical staff, thousands

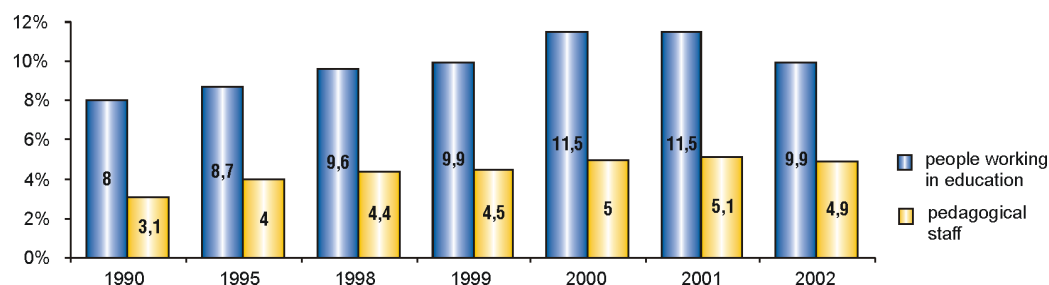
The total number of pedagogical staff in Lithuanian education system has increased until 2000 and from that year on it began decreasing. The changing number and distribution of pupils and students in the recent years should influence the number of pedagogical staff although this number hasn't almost changed yet. This mismatch is mostly pronounced at the level of higher education where the number of students has increased two times in five years, while the number of lecturers hasn't almost changed, which resulted in a twofold increase of their workload.



Source of data: DST

Number of people working in education as part of all the working population (in percent)

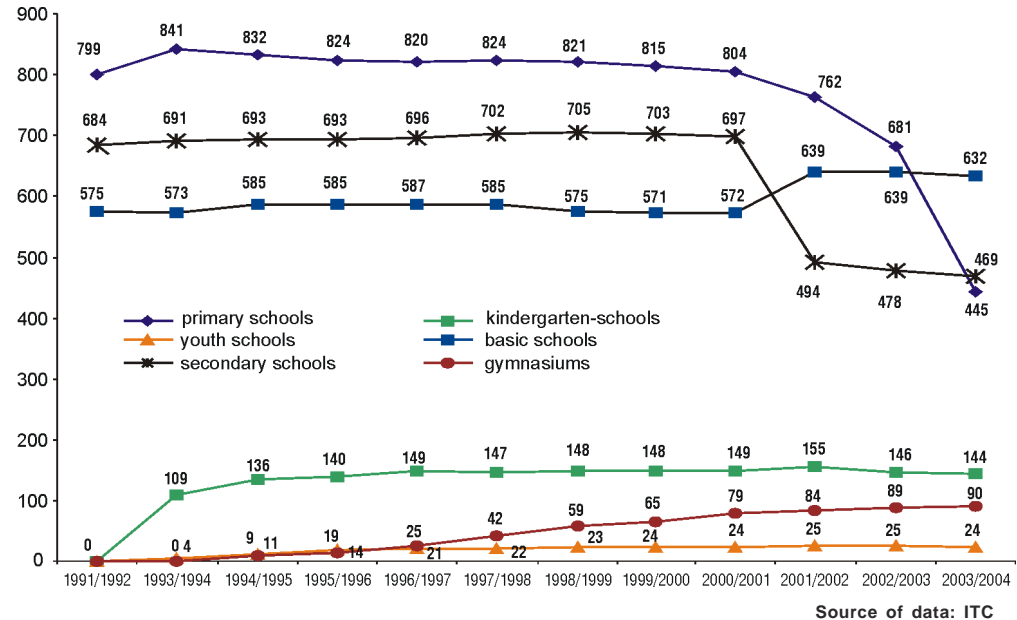
Pedagogical staff comprised 5% of all the working population of Lithuania in the recent years. The number and part of non-pedagogical (supporting) staff is decreasing.



Source of data: DST

Changes of the number of public general education schools (by type) in 1991–2003

There were three types of schools of general education until the restoration of independence in 1990: primary, basic and secondary. The history of general education marks two significant stages after 1990: the period from 1993 to 1995 when due to the liberalization of the education system new school types emerged (kindergarten-schools, youth schools, gymnasiums) and the years 2001–2002 when, taking into account the decreasing birth rate and population migration, the reorganization of the school network has been started. The number of primary schools, the majority of which were small schools in rural areas, decreased significantly. So did the number of secondary schools, as some of these schools were reorganized into basic schools.



How does number of schools change?

Total number of schools in 1995–2002*

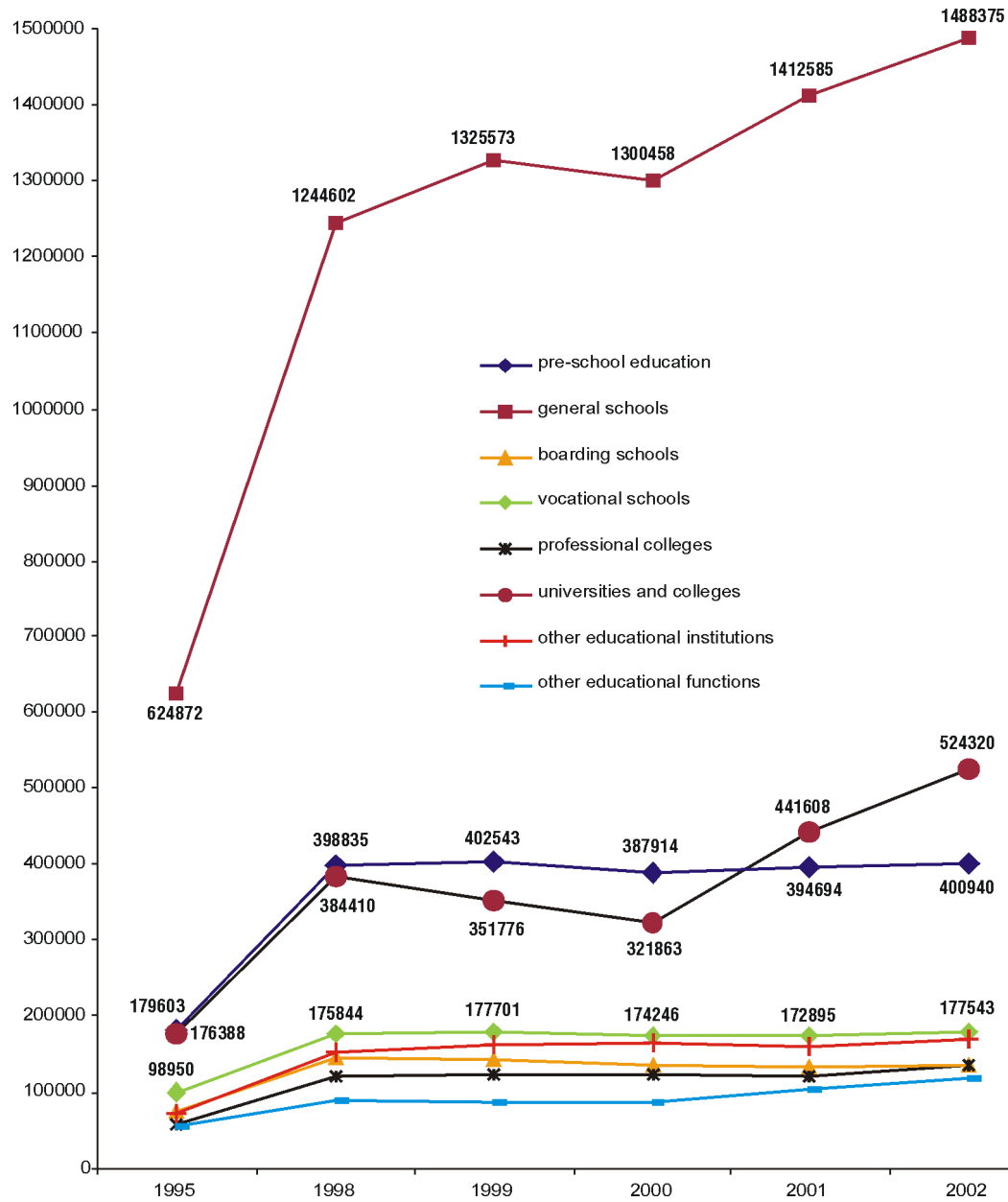
	1995–1996	1998–1999	2000–2001	2001–2002	2002–2003
General schools	2361 (20)	2378 (23)	2354 (20)	2270 (19)	2172 (18)
Vocational schools	106 (1)	104 (1)	84 (1)	81 (1)	82 (1)
Professional colleges	67 (15)	70 (18)	57 (14)	42 (9)	27 (9)
Colleges	–	–	7 (3)	16 (9)	24 (9)
Universities	15	15	19 (4)	19 (4)	19 (4)
Total number	2549 (36)	2567 (42)	2521 (42)	2428 (42)	2324 (41)

* non-public schools in brackets

Source of data: DST

How does financing of education change?

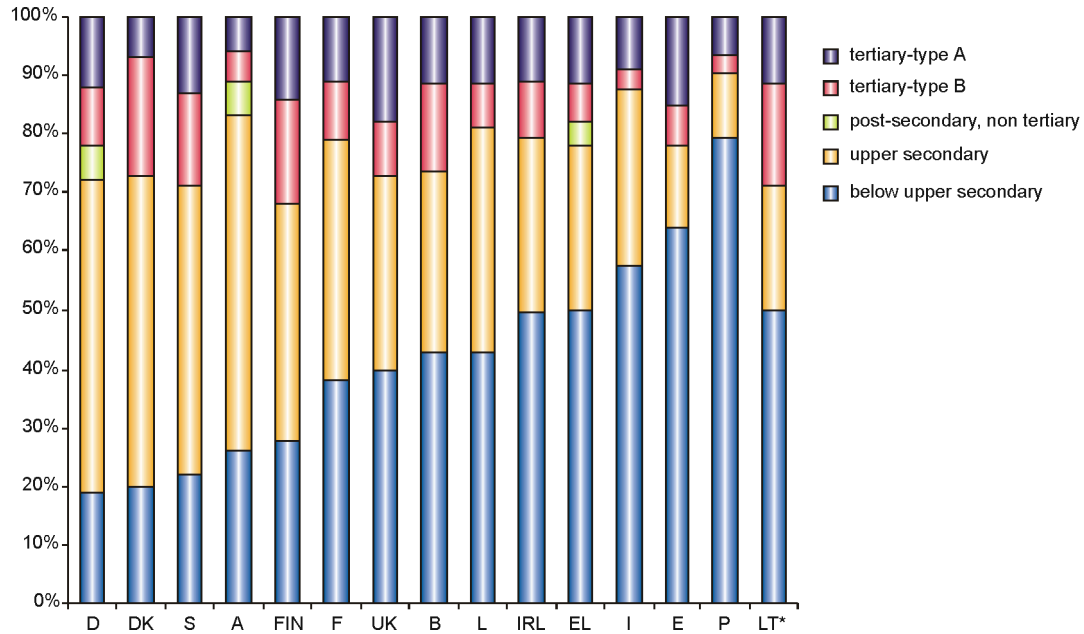
Changes of the national budget expenditure on education (in thousand Litass)



Source of data: MES

Lithuania in the International Context

Level of education of the population (25–64 years) in 15 EU Member States and Lithuania*



*EU Member States data as of 1999, Lithuanian data as of 2001

Sources of data: Education at a Glance, OECD, 2000;
Population by Education, Mother Tongue and Command of other languages,
DST, 2002

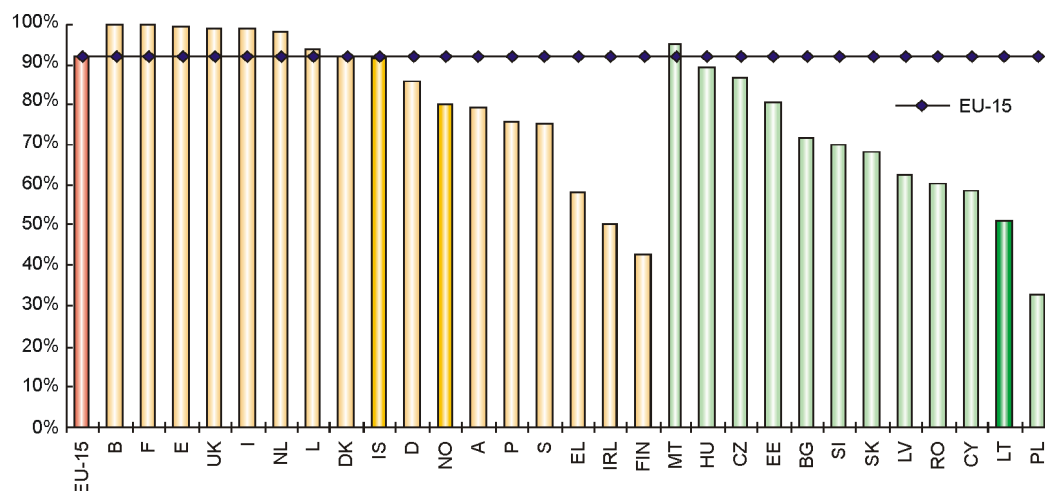
Abbreviations:

A – Austria, B – Belgium, BG – Bulgaria, CY – Cyprus, CZ – Czech Republic, D – Germany, DK – Denmark, E – Spain, EE – Estonia, EL – Greece, F – France, FIN – Finland, HU – Hungary, I – Italy, IRL – Ireland, IS – Iceland, L – Luxemburg, LT – Lithuania, LV – Latvia, MT – Malta, NL – the Netherlands, NO – Norway, P – Portugal, PL – Poland, RO – Romania, S – Sweden, SI – Slovenia, SK – Slovakia, UK – the United Kingdom, EU-15 – Fifteen Member States of the EU

Lithuania in the International Context

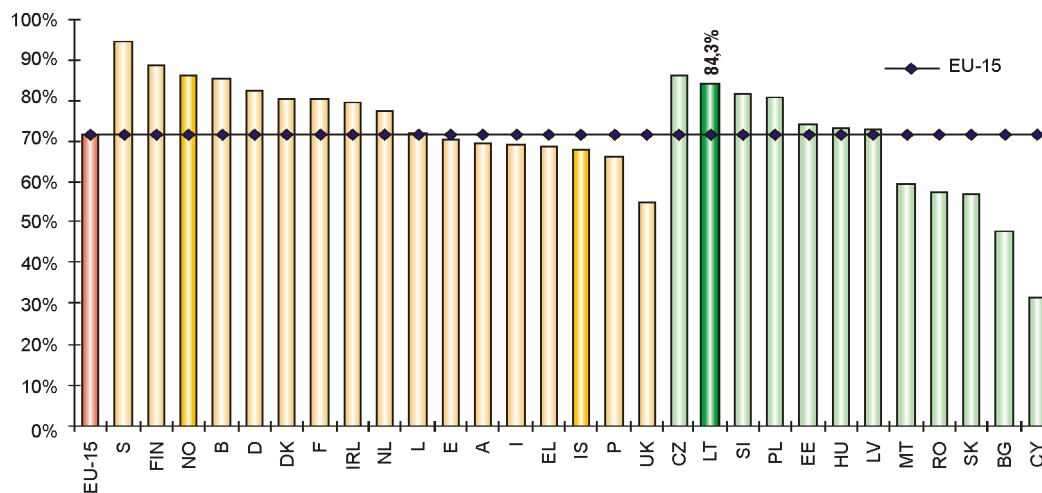
Participation rates of 4-year-olds at ISCED levels 0 and 1 in 2000–2001

Participation rate of four-year-olds in the pre-school education is low in Lithuania compared to the EU Member States and the candidate countries (51,2%; EU average – 92%).



Participation rates of 18-year-olds at ISCED levels 1 to 6 in 2000–2001

Participation rate of 18-year-olds (84,3%) is much higher. It exceeds the EU average (71%), and is one of the highest among the candidate countries.

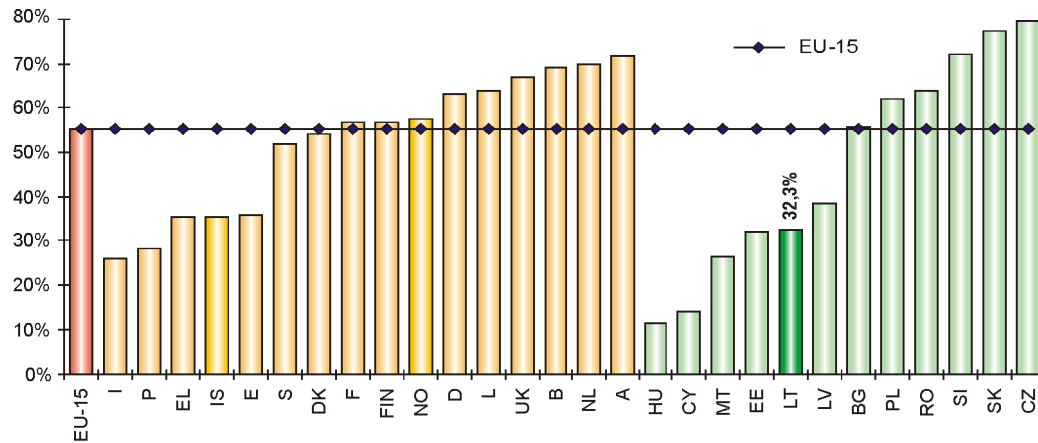


Source of data: Eurostat, STATISTICS IN FOCUS

Lithuania in the International Context

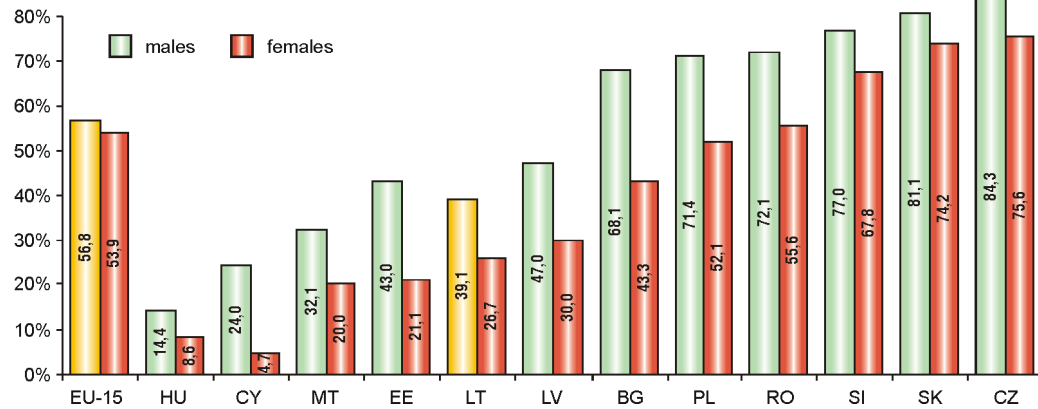
Students in vocational programmes at ISCED level 3 as percent of all ISCED level 3 students in 2000–2001

On average 55% of ISCED level 3 students of the EU countries chose vocational training in 2000–2001. This indicator was much lower in Lithuania (32%), and decreased even more in two years to 26% (see p. 16). Similar situation is in the countries neighbouring Lithuania – Latvia and Estonia.



Students in vocational programmes at ISCED level 3 as percent of all ISCED level 3 students (males/females) in 2000–2001

More males choose vocational training (39,1%) than females (25,7%). This tendency can be observed in all the candidate countries, while the difference between males and females is very insignificant in the EU countries.

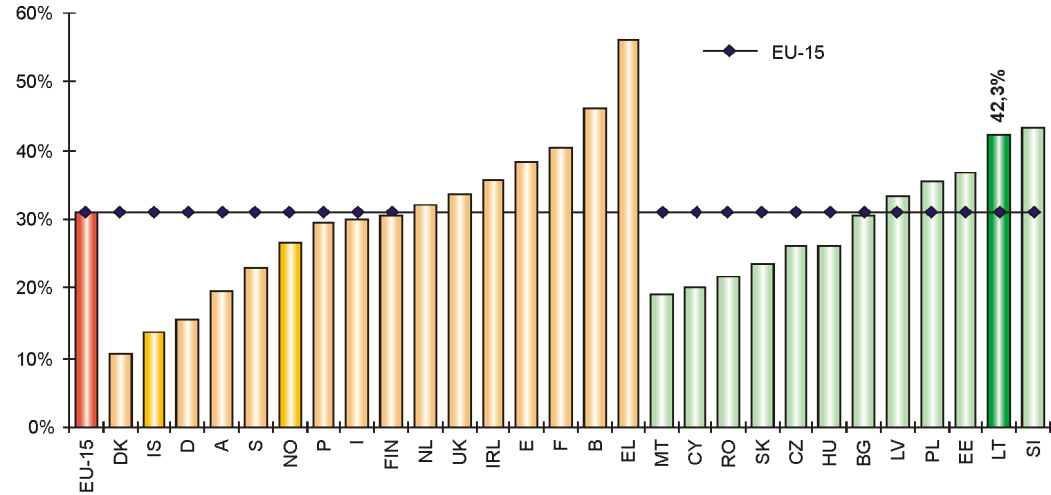


Source of data: Eurostat, Statistics in focus

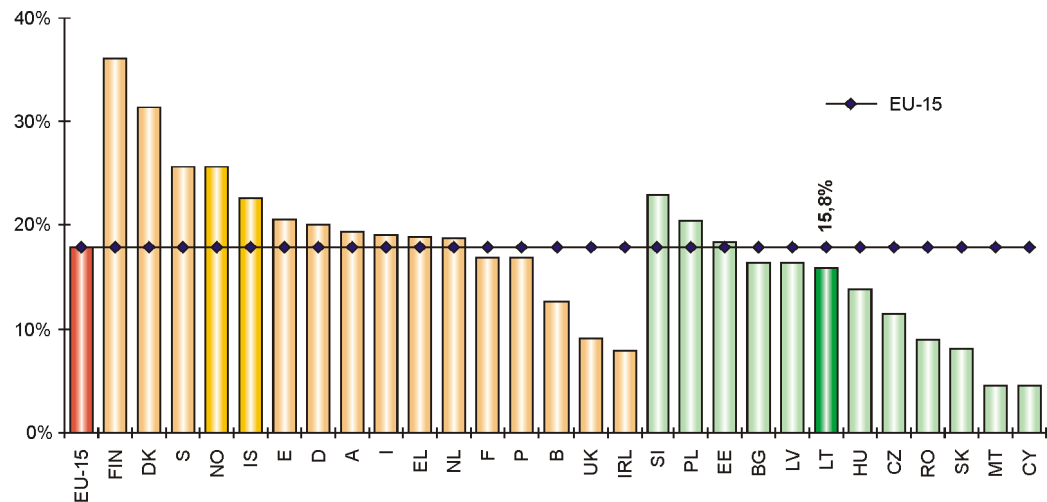
Lithuania in the International Context

Students (ISCED levels 5 and 6) aged 20 as percent of corresponding age population in 2000–2001

42,3% of 20-year-olds and 15,8% of 24-year-olds studied at institutions of higher education in 2000–2001. The corresponding figures in the EU countries were 30% and 18%, respectively. The conclusions that can be drawn from this are that Lithuanian students are relatively young and seek to complete their studies early; and that a large part of young people seeks high education.



Students (ISCED levels 5 and 6) aged 24 as percent of corresponding age population in 2000–2001

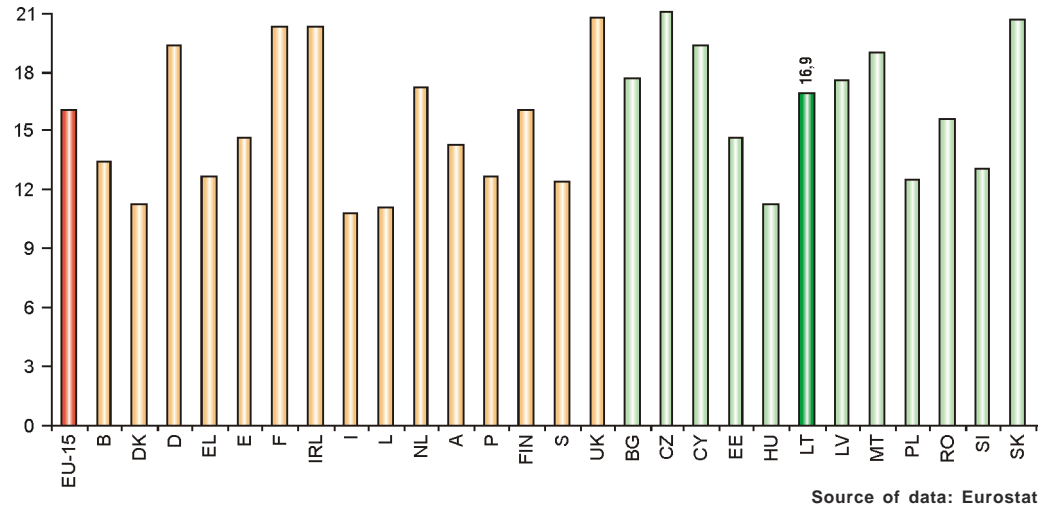


Source of data: Eurostat, Statistics in focus

Lithuania in the International Context

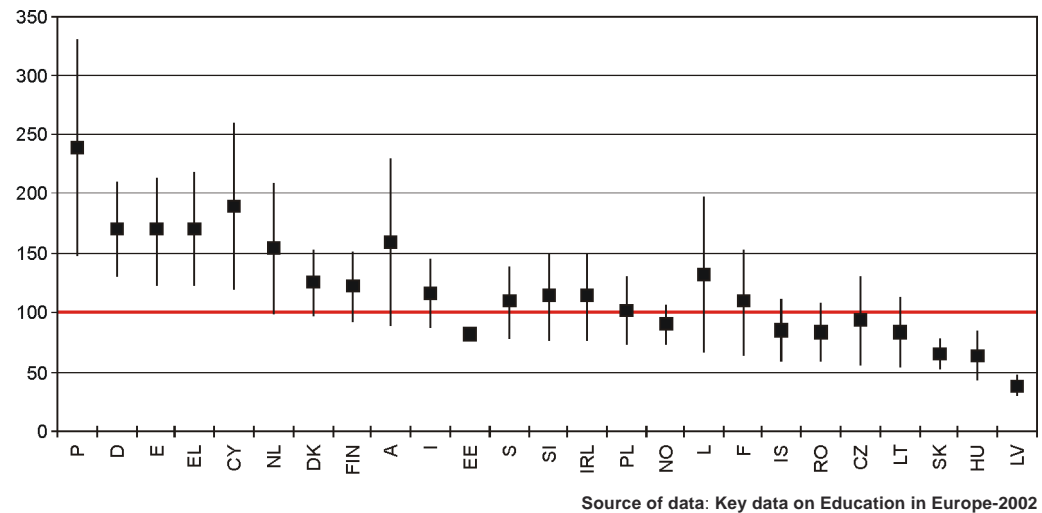
Ratio of pupils to teacher at ISCED level 1 in 2000–2001 (number)

There is a surplus in teachers in Lithuania due to the decreasing birth rate, while the number of teachers being trained hasn't dropped yet. The student/teacher ratio is not very low, however: it is 16,9 at ISCED level 1, which is just slightly higher than EU average (16).



Minimum and maximum salaries of teachers compared to the proportion of GDP per capita in 2000–2001 at all levels of general education (in percent; GDP average – 100%)

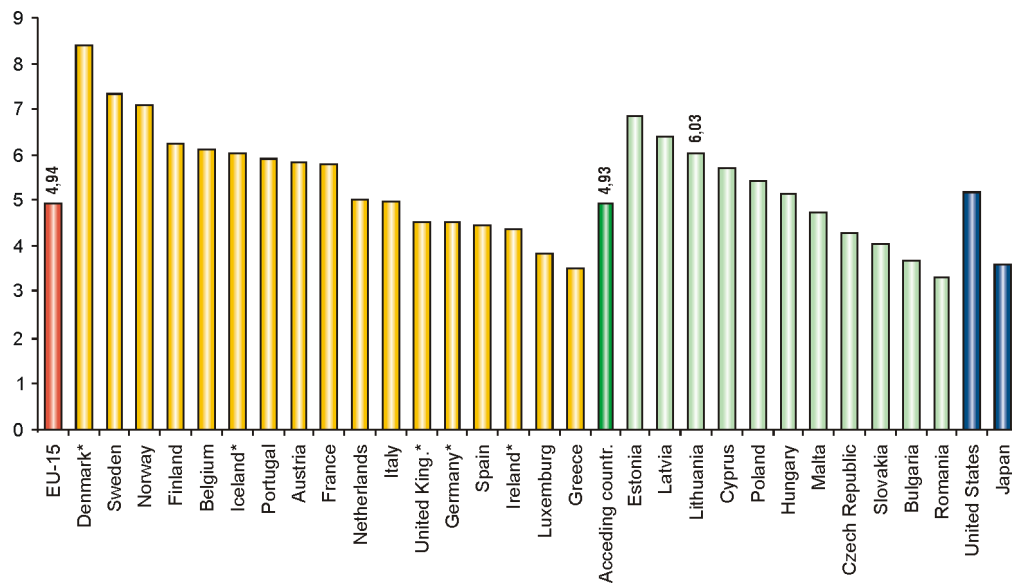
The average salary of Lithuanian teachers is smaller compared to the proportion of GDP per capita, and is one of the smallest in all Europe.



Lithuania in the International Context

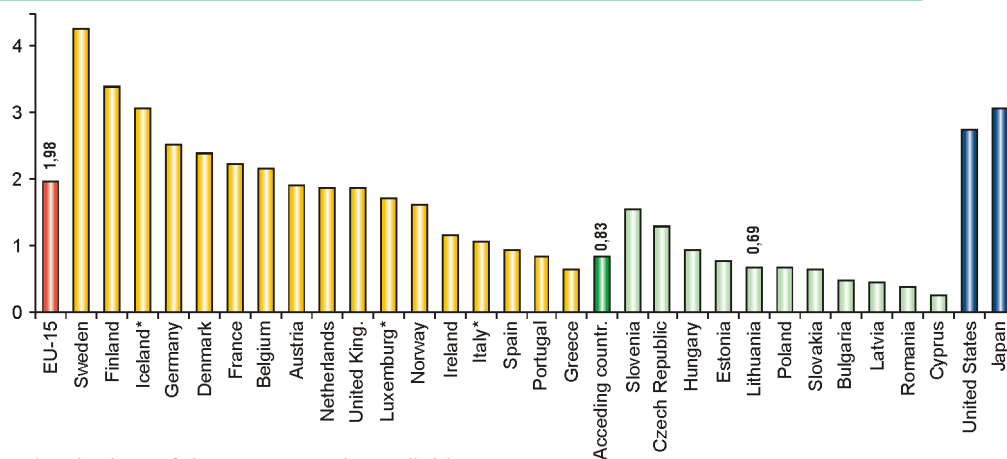
Public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP in 2001

Lithuania has spent about 6% of GDP on education in the recent years, which is a high indicator compared to other countries. EU Member States and the candidate countries spend 4,9% of GDP on education on average. Lithuania lags behind greatly, however, in the field of research and development funding.



* only data of the year 2000 is available

Total expenditure on research and experimental development as a percentage of GDP in 2001



* only data of the year 2000 is available



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