



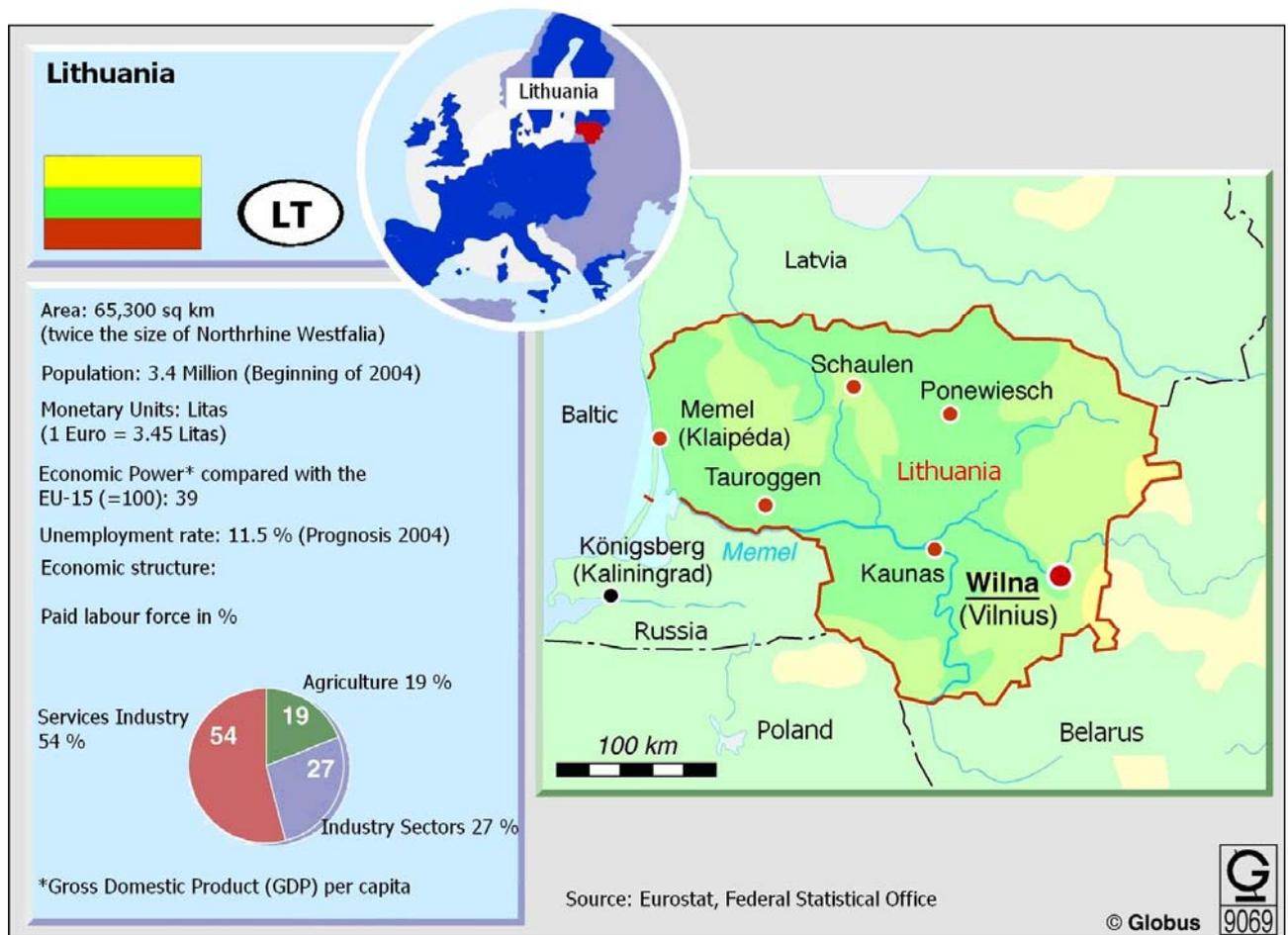
Hanseatic Parliament



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# Lithuania at a Glance

Information and analyses regarding politics, economy and educational system in Lithuania including a “basic vocabulary” and “tips for negotiations”



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Imprint

## Analysis and prognosis regarding Lithuania's state of affairs

### **Political Misdirection**

The young Republic of Lithuania suffers from a lack of democratic tradition. The population is barely organised in political parties, which in turn have as yet not developed firm structures. It is much rather a case of "Selected Clubs" by prominent politicians. When these form new parties, they are frequently successful within a short period of time. A case in point is the workers' party (Darbo partija), founded in October 2003 by Viktor Uspaskich, businessman and millionaire of Russian origin, which garnered 28.6 % of votes in the 2004 elections and entered Lithuania's parliament as the strongest party. Although Algirdas Brazauskas from the Social Democratic Party (Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija) remained prime minister, he nevertheless gave Uspaskich a part in the coalition government. However, the coalition, formed from Social Democrats, the Workers' Party, the New Union and the Agrarian Party was fragile right from the start. Prime Minister Brazauskas refused to take responsibility for the work of his coalition partners. In June 2005 it became clear that this refusal was by no means inept. Economic Minister Uspaskich was forced to resign as minister and had to abdicate his mandate as MP after having been found guilty of pursuing personal business interests and after doubts were voiced regarding his university qualification.

The coalition still exists to date; Uspaskich remains the leader of the Social Democrats. But all these scandals and resignations – the pinnacle of which was reached as early as 2003 with the deposition of President Rolandas Paksas for being in contact with members of organised crime – sap Lithuania's strength and waste valuable legal, parliamentary and public resources. Urgently needed difficult reform procedures such as in the areas of health and education, suffer because of it. At the moment Lithuania still benefits from the successful reform measures implemented on route to the EU-membership. However, the question is how long this impetus can be upheld. At the same time, the internal conflicts weaken Lithuania's role within the EU. The population continues to turn away from politics; electoral participation during the last parliamentary elections fell to 48.6%. On a positive note, these scandals and resignations, and even the deposition of the President, are a good indication that Lithuania takes the fight against corruption and abuse of power very seriously, indeed. Long-term, this may also lead to political stability. Admittedly, at present Prime Minister Brazauskas is also under fire, as his wife has been found to have business dealings with the Russian oil company Lukoil. Personal gain in office combined with favouring a company from the big, rather unloved neighbour state, threaten even his position.

### **Independence from Russia**

Relations to Russia remain strained, anyway. Conflicts repeatedly arise because of the transit to the Russian enclave Kaliningrad or because accusations of espionage flare up. A rather sore point remains the different perspective with which the common history is viewed by both countries. In May 2005, President Valdas Adamkus together with Estonian President Rütel, turn down President Wladimir Putin's invitation to attend the celebrations commemorating the end of the Second World War that were being staged in Moscow. As Lithuania is largely independent of power supplies from Russia due to its own nuclear energy programme which produces 80 % of its electricity consumption, the country is able to take a critical stance. In contrast to Latvia and Estonia, conditions for the small Russian minority (6.3 %) living in Lithuania is not bad, so that this is not a concern for Russia. On the contrary, because of Kaliningrad, Russia actually needs Lithuania's willingness to cooperate.

Although the outdated nuclear power station Ignalia started to be decommissioned at the end of 2004 – this was an important stipulation for Lithuania's EU membership – the Lithuanian ministry

for economy invited 20 international construction and electricity companies, investors and industrial consumers at the beginning of 2006 to let the government know within a couple of months, if they wanted to be involved in the construction of a reactor with an output of between 800 to 1,600 megawatts. In terms of energy politics Lithuania continues to seek independence.

### **Economic tiger leaps**

The strong growth rates of the last five years (up to 10.5 % 2003) are based on lively domestic demand. Both domestic investments and private consumption contribute to this. In 2005 growth remained strong with 6.8 %. Thanks to entry into the EU agrarian market and easier terms in regard of tourism, at last there is again a strong export impulse. Lithuanians enjoy a rise in real income and rapidly dwindling unemployment. Compared with 2004, unemployment fell by almost 3 percentage points to 8.5 %. For 2006 a slight cooling of the growth climate to 6 % is anticipated.

For a long time the strong economic growth has been accompanied by surprisingly low inflation rates. In 2003 prices even fell. However, in 2005 the inflation rate rose to 3.1 %, due primarily to large price increases in the areas of “transport” (10.8 %) and “Cost for accommodation, water, energy, petrol” (6.6 %). Debatable is, whether this inflation rate, which should lie around 2.25 % for 2006, is an obstacle on the way to the EURO. Joaquín Almunia, EU Monetary Affairs Commissioner, regards Lithuania as not yet ready for the EURO and believes it to be unlikely that the EURO will already be introduced as cash currency in 2007. But it is not alone the rate of inflation that must be viewed with a critical eye; the combination of a 9 % trade deficit at a concurrent overheated granting of loans, which rose by 32 % in 2005, harbours risks that will be hard to control after fixation of the exchange rate.

### **Conclusion**

Lithuania still *is* the “Baltic Tiger”. Despite a slow cooling, the impressive economic growth, which is based on sound domestic demand, is going to continue. In order to realise the planned entry to the EURO-Zone, the government must get trade deficit and foreign debt under control. The impulses that the EU-membership brought in its wake cannot achieve this in isolation. To this end political stability is also necessary, which serves to strengthen investor confidence on one hand and enables this small country to confidently represent its own interests in Brussels on the other. Should the government stay weak and, in the worst case scenario, should Brazauskas be toppled, which would lead to new elections, entry to the EURO would become a distant dream.

## Geographic Data



**Area:** 65,300 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:** 3,440,600 (February 2005)

**Population density:** 53 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>

**Capital:** Wilna, lit. Vilnius (approx. 650,000 inhabitants)

**Number of ports** – 3, with a movement of goods of 24 million Tkt (2004)

**Coastal length:** 99 km

**Navigable waters:** 600 km

**Road infrastructure:** 77,148 km, motorway – 417 km.

**Rail network:** 2,000 km.

**Intern. Airports:** 3; freight quantity of 14 thousand tonnes (2002) and passenger quantity of 304 thousand people (2001)

**Proportion of land area used for agriculture** of total area: 45.22 %

Source: CIA World Fact Book

History	
9th c. AD	Immigration of Slavic-Baltic tribes
12th c. AD	Sovereignty of the Principality Kiev
1240	Unification of Lithuania under Count Mindaugas
13th/14th c.	Expansion of the empire up to the Dnjepr estuary Christianisation
1386	Unification with Poland
1410	Victory over the Teutonic Order at Tannenberg
1772	1st Polish Division: Northeast to Russia
1793	2nd Polish Division: Southwest to Russia
1795	3rd Polish Division: Division of the remainder of Lithuania to Prussia and Russia
1915	German occupation
1918	Independent Republic
1920/21	Poland annexes Vilnius
1923-39	Memel Territory is Lithuanian
1939	Hitler-Stalin Pact. Occupation by Soviet troops.
1940	Lithuanian SSR, deportations
1941	German Occupation
1944	Return of the Red Army, deportations, Russian settlers.
1948	Memel Territory again Lithuanian
1989	Lithuanian becomes official state language
1990/91	Independent Republic
1993	Last Russian troops pull out
1995	Application for entry to the EU

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## Basic Historical Information

Lithuania is the only one of the three Baltic states that can look back on a historic state tradition. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the tribes united to one large principality, Lithuania, a medieval feudal state, which at one time stretched all the way from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Through the union of Lublin in 1569 Lithuania became part of the Polish State. After several wars Lithuania became part of the Russian Tsar Empire. The Polish/Lithuanian revolts of 1830/31 and 1863 were brutally defeated. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Lithuanian national movement developed.

Lithuania managed to regain its independence in 1918, after having been occupied by German troops from 1915. A democratic state with a leftwing liberal government was established that was

overturned and turned into a dictatorial regime during the 1926 rebellion staged by the military and rightwing nationalists.

Lithuania's independence ended in 1940 when Soviet troops marched in, as Lithuania had been assigned to the Soviet State under the Hitler-Stalin pact. Following the attack of the Soviet Union Lithuania was occupied by German troops and fell back into Soviet hands after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Until 1953 Lithuanian Partisans (the so-called Brothers of the Forest) put up fierce resistance against their Soviet occupiers, which cost many lives. During this period over 120,000 Lithuanians were deported to Siberian gulags. From the end of the 50s the "Lithuanisation of Lithuania's communist party" began, around 75 % of party members spoke Lithuanian. As a result, russification did not take place in the same extent as was the case in the neighbouring republics, with Lithuanians making up 80 % of the majority of the population even in the final years of the Soviet Union. Lithuania's Communist Party supported the reforms initiated by Gorbachov.

From the Lithuanian branch of Perestroika developed the Lithuanian National Movement (Sajudis), which made Lithuania's independence its goal. After the independence movement won the 1990 parliamentary elections, it declared Lithuania an independent state. Initially, Moscow reacted with an economic blockade, then sent in special military units, which stormed the TV tower. Though some unarmed Lithuanians died at the time, peaceful demonstrations demanding independence continued unabated. Following the August Rebellion in Moscow, Lithuania was recognised by the international community. The building of a state system, as well as political and economic reforms, started to be established. In terms of foreign policy, affiliation with the West and independence from Russia had the highest priority. It led to Lithuania's entry into NATO and the EU.

Source: Tauber, Joachim. Das politische System Litauens. In: Ismayer (Publisher) (2004): Die politischen Systeme Ost-europas. Opladen

## Basic Political Data

Lithuania is a democratic parliamentary republic. In Lithuania the identification with an independent Republic of Lithuania in the interim war years is of great significance. For that reason the old constitution from 1922 was reinstated in the first instance. A new constitution was developed, which had strong leanings towards the old one, but also incorporated other influences, mainly from Scandinavian countries, and which was put into force in 1992 by way of a referendum. In the constitutional rights section citizens are guaranteed comprehensive rights towards the state, and the social welfare principle is also enshrined in the constitution.

### President

Lithuania's Head of State is the **President** (since 2004 Valdas Adamkus), which is elected directly by the people for a five-year period. He determines the direction of foreign affairs, which he carries out jointly with the government, he can introduce a bill or reject a bill, passing it back to parliament; furthermore, he has the right to dissolve parliament and to call re-elections.

### Parliament

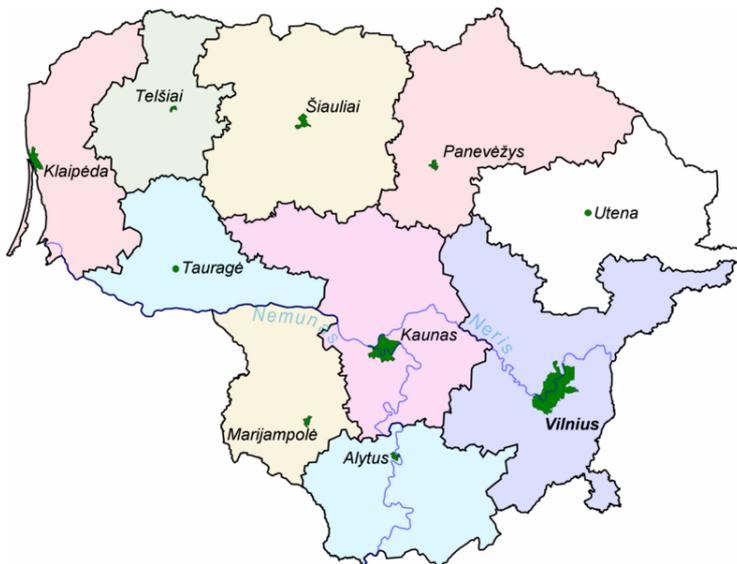
The **Parliament** – the "Seimas" – comprises of 141 members of parliament, elected for five years. It holds the strongest position in the legislative procedure. The Seimas is responsible for building and controlling government, potential amendments to the constitution as well as the deposition of the President.

## Government

The **Government** consists of the Prime Minister (since 2001 Algirdas Brazauskas) and the ministers. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President in agreement with Parliament and can then put together his cabinet independently and can draft a government programme.

## Administration

Lithuania is a centralised state, divided in 10 administrative districts (Country Districts), called *Apskritis*. The 10 administrative districts are again divided into 44 county councils (*rajonai*) and 11 town councils.



District (named after administrative district in each case)	Population	Area
Alytus	182,851	5,425 km <sup>2</sup>
Kaunas	685,723	8,060 km <sup>2</sup>
Klaipėda	382,179	5,209 km <sup>2</sup>
Marijampolė	185,419	4,463 km <sup>2</sup>
Panevėžys	292,376	7,881 km <sup>2</sup>
Šiauliai	360,755	8,540 km <sup>2</sup>
Tauragė	131,481	4,411 km <sup>2</sup>
Telšiai	177,008	4,350 km <sup>2</sup>
Utena	178,977	7,201 km <sup>2</sup>
Vilnius	848,555	9,760 km <sup>2</sup>

Map: Wikipedia, Sources: Tauber, Joachim. Das politische System Litauens. In: Ismayer (Publisher) (2004): Die politischen Systeme Osteuropas. Opladen

<b>Current formation of the Lithuanian Parliament according to parties after the last elections from 10.10.2004</b>		
<b>Party</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Seats (Total 141)</b>
<i>Darbo Partija (DP)</i> Workers' Party, populist-centralised	28.4	39
<i>Už darbą Lietuvai (UDL)</i> For a Working Lithuania	<i>Lietuvos socialdemokratų partija (LSDP)</i> Social Democratic Party Lithuania	20.7
	<i>Naujoji Sąjunga (socialliberalai)</i> Social Liberal Party Lithuania, liberal	11
<i>Tėvynės Sąjunga (TS)</i> Homeland Party, conservative	14.6	25
<i>Už tvarką ir teisingumą (UTT)</i> For Orderliness and Justice	<i>Liberalų Demokratų Partija (LDP)</i> Liberal Democrats, populist	11.4
	<i>Lietuvos liaudies sąjunga "Už teisingą Lietuvą" (LSS)</i> Lithuanian Peoples' Party for a fair Lithuania	
<i>Liberalų ir Centro Sąjunga (LCS)</i> Liberal Central Union	9.1	18
<i>Valstiečių ir Naujosios demokratijos partijų sąjunga (VNDPS)</i>	<i>Lietuvos valstiečių partija (LVP)</i> Lithuanian Agrarian Party, agrarian	6.6
	<i>Naujosios demokratijos partija (NDP)</i> New Democratic Party, leftwing	
<i>Lietuvos lenkų rinkimų akcija (LLRA)</i> Electoral Union of the Polish Minority	3.8	2
<i>Krikščionių konservatorių socialinė sąjunga (KKSS)</i> Christian-conservative Social Union	2.0	-
<i>Lietuvos Krikščionys Demokratai (LKD)</i> Christian-democrats Lithuania's	1.4	-
<i>Independent Non-Party MP's</i>	.	6

Sources: Tauber, Joachim. Das politische Systems Litauens. In: Ismayer (Publisher) (2004): Die politischen Systeme Osteuropas. Opladen sowie osteuropa.ch

## Basic Economic Data

The country has very few resources; other sectors therefore act as economic motors: metal processing and mechanical engineering, construction material and food industry, electronics and chemical industry, paper and furniture industry as well as ship-building and textile industry are flourishing. In addition, Lithuania is the region's leader in bio-technology. Its main export trading partner in 2004 was Germany (10.2 %), Latvia (10.1 %), Russia (9.1 %); import trading partners were Russia (22.3 % - Energy), Germany (16.9 %).

### GDP in respective prices

(total in billion EUR)

2001	2002	2003	2004
13.5	14.9	16.3	17.9

GDP share of the EU (25) in %: 0.2

### Gross Domestic Product

(total, per capita, EUR):

2001	2002	2003	2004
3,900	4,300	4,700	5,100

Gross Domestic Product according to spending power per citizen: 50.4 % of EU-25 (2004) at 44.8 (2001)

### GDP growth rate (%):

2001	2002	2003	2004
6.4	6.8	9.7	7.1

### GDP according to economic sector (2004, %):

Industry	33.4
Service Sector	60.5
Agriculture	6.1

### Monetary Units:

Litas, (LTL or Lt) (100 Centas = 1 Litas)

Monetary system: Currency-Board-System

Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 2.92 LTL

### Rate of Inflation (%):

2001	2002	2003	2004
1.3	0.4	-1.1	1.1

### Budget Deficit (% of GDP):

2001	2002	2003	2004
2.1	1.4	1.7	2.8

### Gross Trade Deficit (million EUR):

5,657.7 (2003) or 69 % of GDP.

### Public Debt (million EUR):

2.17 billion EUR (2004) or 12.2 % of GDP

### Tax Rate (% of GDP): 21 (2003)

### NI Contributions (% of GDP): 27.4 (2003)

### Unemployment rate (%):

2001	2002	2003	2004
16.4	13.5	12.7	10.8

### Employment structure according to sectors (2003, %):

Industry	28.0
Service Sector	54.1
Agriculture	17.8

### Export/Import (in million EUR)

2001	2002	2003	2004
4,780/6,690	5,540/7,960	6,140/8,440	7,450/9,880

### Share per household:

Mobile phone	89.0 %
Internet access	16.0 %
Savings	44.0 %

Source: Eurostat

## Current Economic Climate

Lithuania has the largest and most differentiated economy of the three Baltic states. In the last few years highly specialised enterprises have been established in the areas of electronics, chemistry, mechanical engineering, metal and wood processing, construction materials and food industry. Lithuania continues to have high economic growth, which has albeit slowly and steadily fallen over the last few years, reaching 6.9 % in 2005. The main growth sectors are industry, wholesale and retail, the gastronomy and the construction industry. Despite of high direct foreign investment the current account deficit has further increased and remains Lithuania's national economy's major concern. However, with a rate of inflation of 1.2 % Lithuania is the EU country with the greatest price stability.

## Future Opportunities and Risks

Due to its stable general conditions, in particular its currency and the low labour costs, Lithuania remains highly attractive to investors. Excellent opportunities exist in the construction sector, as the additional EU monies and the realisation of numerous private building projects create here the strongest boom of any sector. What's more, private consumption is overall a motor of Lithuanian growth. The citizen's never-ending consumer spending is responsible for a foreign supplier growth rate of around 20 % for 2005. Germany is the main trading partner, businesses can built on this and establish or expand their trade relations with Lithuania.

Source: Federal Agency for Foreign Trade, KSV1870

## Economic Law

The legal requirements for the registration of enterprises are laid down in the "Law of the Republic of Lithuania for Stock Corporations", the "Law of the Republic of Lithuania for Trade Associations" and the "Law of the Republic of Lithuania for Cooperative Organisations".

## Type of Enterprises

The following business forms are permitted in Lithuania:

- **Individuali imone (II)** – individual enterprises, to form these a simple application suffices.
- **Tikroj ukine bendrija (TUB)** – partnerships, correspond roughly to ordinary partnerships.
- **Komanditine ukine bendrija (KUB)** – limited company
- **Uždaroj akcine bendrove (UAB)** – public company, corresponds to a private limited company, the minimum capital is 10,000 LTL (approx. 2,900 €), it must not have more than 100 partners/members.
- **Akcine bendrove (AB)** – limited company, here the ordinary capital is 150,000 LTL (approx. 43,400 €)

Source: KSV1870

# Employment Law

Employment rights are regulated in the new Employment Law, which came into force on the 1st of January 2003.

## Employment Contract

The contractual partners must agree on the following points prior to signing the contract:

- Place of work
- Specification of duties
- Amount of remuneration.

Employment contracts have to comply with the sample form. Additional agreements (e.g. trial periods, shorter working hours etc.) can become part of the employment contract by mutual agreement. Trial periods must not exceed three months. During the trial period the employment law also applies in its entirety. Exempt are trial periods for example for employees under 18 years of age, for employees who change companies due to an agreement between two employers, and for those who are employed as a result of an election or a public tender.

## Working Hours

The working week has 40 working hours per week, however, shorter working hours may be agreed.

## Holiday Entitlement

Holiday entitlement amounts to a minimum of 28 days. Parental leave can be taken until the child reaches its 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

## Wages/Salaries

Lithuania has a legally binding minimum wage, which currently lies at 450 LTL (approx. 139 €). The average gross salary per month is significantly higher at 1,146 LTL (approx. 330 €). It is important to note though that the average figures are not very meaningful, as wages fluctuate widely. Employees of foreign companies for instance, earn in general significantly more. Collective agreements, such as collective sectoral labour agreements, are the exception. Payment terms are usually agreed in individual contracts.

Source: KSV1870

## Trade Unions

Article 50 and 51 of the Lithuanian Constitution lays down the right to strike and the right to form independent trade unions. However, only around 15 % of Lithuanian employees are organised in trade unions, as they still associate trade unions with the old Soviet system. Foreign employees are also permitted to join Lithuanian trade unions. Lithuanian trade unions are seen as very pragmatic and strikes are rather rare.

Source: Lithuanian Free Market Institute, Lithuanian Development Agency, City Vilnius and Chamber Lideika/Petrauskas/Valiūnas & Partner.

## Labour Market

Unemployment lies around 10 %. As in Estonia and Latvia, a lack of skilled labour is slowly becoming apparent, based on economic growth coinciding with a decline in population. Most unemployed, however, cannot benefit from this fact, as they do not possess the required qualifications.

Source: Federal Agency for Foreign Trade

## Social Conditions

One of Lithuania's major problems is the growing rift within the social structure. Economic reforms and the price increases brought about by these have created social discrepancies. Those employed in the private sector, in industries that are growth sectors, enjoy a high standard of living. Employees in the public sector, pensioners and young families are the losers in this system. The main task for the government in terms of domestic politics is to close the gap between rich and poor and to implement the social security guarantees enshrined in the constitution, so that internal stability can be maintained long-term.

## Social Security

Lithuania has a state-run social security system guaranteeing obligatory social security for anybody with a permanent residence in Lithuania, as well as entitlement to social benefits from a public fund. The provision from national social security comprises:

1. Pensions
2. Sick Pay, Maternity Pay, Parental Leave Pay
3. Unemployment Support.

Employers contribute 27 % of the labour costs; employees contribute 3 % of their wage or salary, so that a total of 30 % is reached. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 employers have to pay 3 % of the labour costs for the compulsory health insurance and 1 % for the in-house accident insurance. The total social insurance costs amount to 34 % (31 % paid by the employer and 3 % by the employee).

Source: Litauische Wirtschaftsförderungsagentur

## Pension

There is a national minimum pension, which is supplemented by additional pension payments that correspond to the amounts and the length of contribution payments. In addition to this there is the opportunity to take out additional voluntary insurance. The current pension law came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1995 and consists of the following pension forms: old age pension, invalidity pension, surviving dependants' pension. Pension rates are calculated on the basis of the previous agreement and years in work. At present women are entitled to old age pension upon reaching 60 years of age and men 6 months after reaching their 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Full pension entitlement is granted after a 30-year qualifying period; a minimum of 15 years are necessary for any entitlement.

Since 2004 the pension system has been extended by the voluntary pillar. Entry into the insurance system is voluntary, but cannot be revoked. There are no minimum or maximum contributions. The contributions to the second pillar insurance scheme count as part of the national insurance contributions and are tax-deductible. No ceiling amount or deductions exist. Provisions can only be paid in form of a pension. The provisions from the second pillar are tax-free. The incentive for insurers is the fact that no additional contributions have to be made. There are no incentives for the employer.

Sources: European Commission, Litauische Wirtschaftsförderungsagentur

## Demographics

Lithuania currently has a population of 3.5 million people, but because of low birth rates and emigration the population is shrinking. 16.1 % of inhabitants are under 14 years old, the proportion of 15 to 64-year-olds is 68.7 %, that of the over 65s is 15.2 %. Ethnically Lithuania is relatively homogenous, with Latvians making up the majority of the population with 83.4 %. The largest minority are the Poles (6.7 %) and Russians (6.3 %).

Sources: CIA Worldfact Book,

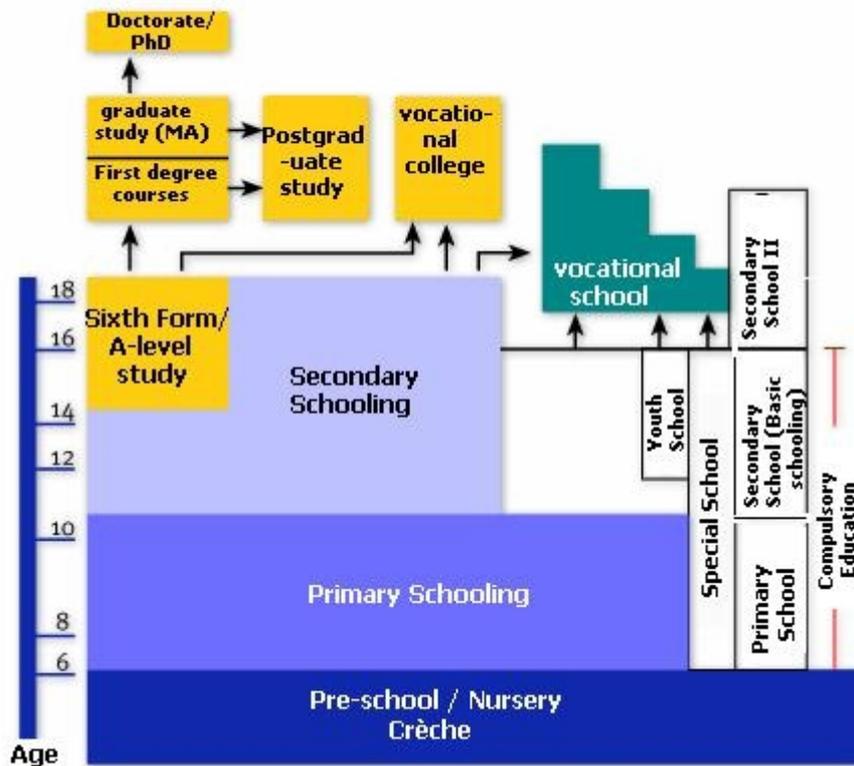
## Negotiating in Lithuania

Lithuanians are less restrained than Estonians and Latvians. Negotiating practices in Lithuania are very similar to those in Russia. Shaking hands as a greeting ritual is only usually done amongst men. The interpersonal relationship is very important; even if strong personal relations exist, people usually drive a hard bargain. The willingness to compromise is seen as a weakness, concessions are only possible when reciprocated, whereby the Lithuanian side expects greater concessions from its negotiating partner than it is willing to give itself. It is quite possible, that negotiating points that have already been agreed, are put back on the agenda anew, it is therefore a good idea to keep a written record of the agreements reached during negotiations. The agenda purely serves as a reference for orientation and must not strictly be adhered to.

Despite these similarities Russia is not overly popular in Lithuania due to the historic events during and after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. For this reason it is advisable to avoid addressing business partners in Russian and opt for English or German instead. Furthermore, the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War and the Hitler-Stalin Pact are very sore topics and are best avoided in talks with business partners. As the catholic faith has very strong roots in Lithuania, ecclesiastical remarks and criticism of the Pope are also inappropriate. Apart from this, Lithuanians are very proud and rather dislike being lumped together with the inhabitants of the neighbouring states under the term Baltic [citizen].

Source: Frank, Anna and Sergey (2004): *Brücken der Verständigung in den EU-Beitrittsländern*, from: Hofmann/Fritsche (Publisher): *So kommen Sie in die EU-Beitrittsländer*. Munich.

## Lithuania's educational system



Lithuania's education system is divided in primary schooling (4 years), secondary schooling I, the 'basic education' (6 years), secondary schooling II, the 'intermediate education' (2 years), and in higher education and University education.

Vocational education takes place without exception in vocational schools. A dual system, such as in Germany, does not exist here. Beside the theoretical content, work experiences ensure the inclusion of practice-based content.

There are four types of educational programmes, resulting in different qualifications. The spectre comprises young dropouts who gain basic qualifications to A-level students who want to achieve a vocation and gain their skilled tradesman qualification. This form of vocational education is not very popular with young Lithuanians, as it does not sufficiently prepare them for the requirements of the labour market.

### Higher Education

There are 48 educational institutions at Higher Education (HE) level, including 21 universities. Lithuania has a dual HE-system, consisting of a university strand and a non-university strand. During the academic year 2000/2001 93,490 students (of which 520 were foreign students) were enrolled at Lithuania's universities.

15 of the 21 universities are state-run. University education has a scientific orientation. A university course consists of three phases: first degree courses (e.g. BA), graduate studies (e.g. MA), postgradu-

ate study (doctorate or PhD). Duration of study is calculated in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). A credit point corresponds to one study week. The first degree course lasts between 3 ½ and 4 ½ years and leads to a first degree grade “Bakalauras” which corresponds to a Bachelor Degree. The first degree study can also lead to a vocational diploma, e.g. for teachers, engineers and artists. The prerequisite for the graduate study is a completed Bachelor degree. The graduate study lasts between 1 ½ and 2 years and either leads to a Masters degree or a vocational qualification (e.g. medical doctor). In addition to that there are three postgraduate study programmes: Rezydentura, Meno aspirantura, Doktorantura. The Rezydentura programme trains medical graduates for the medical practice. The course lasts 3 to 5 years. The Meno-aspirantura programme is a postgraduate art course and trains art graduates to teach at higher education institutions, amongst other things. This postgraduate course lasts a maximum of 2 years and concludes with the "Meno licenciatas". The study for the doctorate/PhD lasts 3 to 4 years. To gain the doctorate, a dissertation must be compiled, which has to be publicly defended.

There are 27 colleges, 16 of which are state-run. The colleges offer vocational study programmes based on applied scientific research. The non-university study programmes last 3 to 4 years. On completion of the course students are awarded a diploma.

Source: Federal Labour Agency

## Links

German Chamber of Commerce Lithuania

<http://www.ahk.de/bueros/l/litauen/index.php>

Baltic Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

<http://www.ahk-balt.org/>

Lithuanian Development Agency

<http://www.lda.lt/>

Guidelines for investors and exporters:

[www.myksv.at/ksv\\_edit/KSV/download\\_de/930-LeitfadenLitauen.pdf](http://www.myksv.at/ksv_edit/KSV/download_de/930-LeitfadenLitauen.pdf) (40 pages, German)

[http://www.ihk-](http://www.ihk-niederrhein.de/downloads/Litauen_Investitionsfuehrer_Doing_Business_in_Lithuania_186_Seiten.pdf)

[niederrhein.de/downloads/Litauen\\_Investitionsfuehrer\\_Doing\\_Business\\_in\\_Lithuania\\_186\\_Seiten.pdf](http://www.ihk-niederrhein.de/downloads/Litauen_Investitionsfuehrer_Doing_Business_in_Lithuania_186_Seiten.pdf) (186 pages, English)

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## Basic Vocabulary

### To say hello, introductions, to say good-bye

Hello / Good-bye	Iki	<i>Aussprache</i>
Hello	Sveiki / Labas	Ikje
Good-bye	Viso gero	Swejkje / Laabas
What's your name?	Kuo jūs vardu?	Visoj gaaro
Are you Mr Mustermann?	Ar jus esate ponas Mustermann?	Kwa juus wardo?
My name is Max Mustermann	Aš esu Max Mustermann	Ar juus esate ponas Mustermann?
How are you?	Kaip laikotes? Kaip sekasi?	Asche so Max Mustermann
So and so.	Šiaip sau	Keip lekotas? Keip sakase?
Pleasure (Nice to meet you).	Malonu Jus matyti	Schähp so
Happy Birthday!	Sveikinu gimtadienio proga!	Maßano jus matiite
		Swäigino gimalino progo!

### Communicating

I don't understand	Aš nesuprantu	Asch na su pranto
I don't speak Lithuanian.		
Do you speak German/English/French?	Ar jūs kalbate vokiškai / angliškai / prancūziškai,	Ari jus kalbate vookischkij / aanglichki / französischkij

### Small words

Thank you	Labai Ačiū	Loboi ahtschu
Please, here you are	Prašau	Praschau
Yes	Taip	Tejp
No	Ne	Nja
Good	Gerai	Gerejj
Bad	Blogai	Blogeij
I don't know		

### Apologising

Please excuse me	Atsiprašau	Atse praschau
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### Personal Details

First Name	vardas	
Surname	pavardė	
Address	adresas	
Telephone number		
Email		
Nationality	tautybė	
Citizenship	pilietybė	
Age	(gyvenimas, metai) amžius	
Date of Birth/ Place of Birth		
Occupation	(profesija) užsiėmimas	
Husband / Wife	vyras / žmona	wiiras / rschmona
Single, married	netekėjusi, vedęs	

Source: <http://dictionaries.vnvsoft.com/de/index.html> (German-Lithuanian Dictionary)