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Fertility in Lithuania. October 2026

Lithuania registered 1,423 live births in October, 91 fewer than a year earlier. Across twelve months the shortfall reached 936 births. The rise in the universal child benefit fell just short of price growth. Two alternative proposals for replacing parents' earnings after a birth were still under consideration at the end of October.

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Births fell in seven of the first ten months

Lithuania registered 1,423 live births in October 2026, compared with 1,514 a year earlier. Coverage includes births at home or abroad to mothers usually resident in Lithuania, and births in Lithuania where the mother is unidentified. The decline was 91 births, or 6.0%. In September the year-on-year decrease was 50 births (3.1%). The State Data Agency assigns provisional monthly counts by date of registration. Its final annual statistics use the date of birth and include late registrations. [1] [22]

Monthly counts totalled 16,875 between November 2025 and October 2026 and 17,811 between November 2024 and October 2025. That is a decline of 936 births or 5.3%. Both intervals cover all seasons and share no months. The latest total may change because the State Data Agency still flags the May–October observations as provisional. [1]

There were 14,172 births in January–October 2026 and 14,939 in the same months of 2025. January alone accounted for 387 of the 767-birth shortfall. March, April and July recorded more births than a year earlier, while seven months recorded fewer. Excluding January in both years still gives a 2.8% fall for February–October. The decline over the whole period spans months with different trajectories. [1]

How widespread was the decline? Of 60 municipalities, 46 have published numerical counts for both Octobers. They recorded 1,321 births compared with 1,425 a year earlier. Births fell in 25, rose in 12 and were unchanged in nine. Six local counts were confidential in October 2026. In October 2025 eight were confidential and one carried the source flag for an absent phenomenon. We retained only numerical pairs. These results describe the 46 matched municipalities. Comparing local fertility rates would also require female population counts by age. [1]

The number of births also depends on how many women of different ages live in the country. The official total fertility rate was 1.04 children per woman in 2025, down from 1.11 in 2024. It sums age-specific fertility rates for a given year. October births alone cannot establish how many children women starting families today will eventually have. That would require following the same birth cohorts over many years. [2] [1]

Live births across comparison periods [1]

Period	Earlier	Latest	Difference
October	1,514	1,423	−91
January–October	14,939	14,172	−767
12 months through October	17,811	16,875	−936

Household purchasing power and housing affordability

The State Data Agency's 28 October flash estimate put harmonised consumer prices (HICP) 6.1% above October 2025. The September year-on-year rate was also 6.1%. The index weights goods and services according to the overall consumption basket. Estimating the price increase faced by a family raising a child would require its own expenditure shares for food, housing and other goods and services. [3] [4]

The universal monthly child benefit rose from €122.50 in October 2025 to €129.50 in October 2026, a nominal gain of 5.7%. Dividing the new amount by 1.061 gives about €122.05 in October 2025 prices. Against the national consumer basket, its purchasing power fell by about 0.4% over the year. An individual family's spending mix and decisions about having children cannot be inferred from this calculation. [20] [3]

Housing prices and earnings can be compared over matching quarters. Between the second quarters of 2025 and 2026, the national house price index rose from 98.61 to 112.75 (2025 average = 100), or 14.3%. Average monthly take-home pay across the economy, including individual enterprises, rose from €1,455.30 to €1,588.70, or 9.2%. House prices outpaced average nominal earnings. Affordability for a family saving for its first home also depends on its deposit, income and local prices. [5] [6]

On 27 October the Bank of Lithuania released its September credit data. The average annual interest rate on new housing loan agreements was 4.33%, up from 4.16% in August and 3.66% in September 2025, a year-on-year increase of 0.67 percentage points. These figures include renegotiated loans. The rate alone cannot determine the monthly payment faced by a family, which also depends on the amount borrowed and remaining term. [7] [8]

In a study of US metropolitan areas, L. Dettling and M. Kearney found that the short-run fertility response to rising house prices differed by housing tenure. Fertility rose among homeowners and fell among non-owners. The Lithuanian national series do not separate these groups. Testing the same relationship here would require linking housing tenure, family income and local prices before pregnancy to subsequent births. October prices describe the environment in which families make future decisions. [9] [5]

Housing costs and earnings over comparable periods [5] [6] [7]

Indicator	Period	Year-on-year change
House price index	2026 Q2	+14.3%
Average net wage	2026 Q2	+9.2%
Housing loan rate	September 2026	+0.67 percentage points

October entitlements and the decision for 2027

All Sodra amounts in this paragraph are before tax. New quarterly social insurance ceilings applied from 1 October. For parents qualifying in the fourth quarter and choosing benefits until the child turns 18 months, the monthly ceiling outside the non-transferable months was €3,139.20, up €87.84 on the previous quarter. For the months reserved for each parent, the ceiling rose to €4,080.96. The monthly minimum remained €592. The higher ceiling matters for families whose insured earnings are high enough for the calculation to reach the cap. [10]

On 16 October the Ministry of Social Security and Labour announced that the government had approved the 2027 benefit bases. In October the universal monthly child benefit was €129.50 and the one-off birth grant was €1,036. The ministry gave the 2027 figures as €136.50 and €1,092 respectively. For one child receiving the universal benefit for twelve months, that would add €84 a year before inflation. The higher amounts did not enter families' October incomes. [11]

Bills before parliament and local proposals

On 20 October the Seimas adjourned consideration of assisted reproduction bill XVP-1315(2) until its next sitting. The amendments sought to define access on medical grounds regardless of marital status. The Constitutional Court had already ruled in 2025 that the marriage or registered-partnership requirement was unconstitutional. The court ruling took effect on 10 April 2026. October's vote was procedural. Estimating the additional access attributable to the bill would require counting how many patients could obtain treatment under the ruling and how many more could do so under the proposed arrangements. [12] [13] [14]

In Resolution 819 of 28 October, the government asked parliament to consider two competing parental benefit proposals alongside amendments it was preparing. For the 18-month option, XVP-1362 would raise income replacement in ordinary months from 60% to 80%. XVP-1683 would pay 78% throughout and, with companion bill XVP-1684, also raise support for lower earners and parents without insurance entitlement. For the second option, the sponsors estimated about €68.8 million in additional social insurance spending and €3 million in state budget spending per year, using projected 2026 recipients and benefit amounts. The government briefing gave no cost estimate for the first option. Both were proposals at the end of October. [15] [16] [21]

The National Association of Families and Parents presented its family-friendly municipality plan in Kaunas District on 8 October and in the Šiauliai region on 13 October. Representatives of five municipalities discussed the guidelines in Marijampolė on 20 October. These records document consultations. To establish implementation, subsequent research would need to identify a municipal council decision, its funding and the number of families served. The review selects documented cases directly relevant to family income, access to treatment or local services. [17] [18]

Reproducing the results and testing a reform

The unit of comparison is a calendar month in Lithuania. Percentage change equals the difference in births divided by births in the corresponding earlier period, multiplied by 100. For the twelve-month comparison, first sum births in each of two non-overlapping periods. The edition's CSV preserves the observations, reference periods and provisional flags used here. Later registry revisions can change results calculated from a fresh download. [1]

After a German parental benefit reform, A. Raute compared groups whose entitlements increased by different amounts. During the five-year follow-up the fertility response was strongest among middle- and higher-earning women. Lithuania already links benefits to prior earnings. The study suggests a question about which families would respond to an increase, without supplying a Lithuanian effect size. [19] [16]

If a reform takes effect, an evaluation could use pre-reform earnings and insurance records to identify groups whose entitlements changed by different amounts. It would first check pre-reform trends, then compare first and subsequent birth rates. Several years of follow-up would help distinguish births brought forward from an eventual increase in family size. October's aggregate data cannot answer those questions. [19] [16]

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