

Lithuania

Ethnicity in Lithuania

Power relations

There are two periods in Lithuania with same ethnic power relations but different group sizes. The periods were divided according to the census in 1989 and 2001. The number of Lithuanians raised and the number of Russians declined. The ethnic power relations have remained the same since independence with Lithuanians as politically dominant ethnic group. The Lithuanians constitute a clear majority with 83.5% (¹⁸²⁸). In Lithuania the minority situation is not an important political issue like in the other Baltic States (¹⁸²⁹), but the other minorities in the country, the Poles and the Russians, are powerless: The Polish minority is represented by the party AWPL (¹⁸³⁰), but they have only a small voter support in the country, and only in those municipalities with high share of Poles. Poles living in Lithuania do not face any significant disadvantage (¹⁸³¹). The Russians usually live in larger cities (¹⁸³²), they do not face disadvantages either (¹⁸³³), but are less well organized than the Polish minority. Still, the Russian minority does have political organizations, like the Russian Union and Alliance of Lithuanian Citizens, and there are also organizations that focus on promoting Russian culture in Lithuania.

Update 2010-2013: The Lithuanians remain politically dominant in Lithuania, and the Poles powerless, regardless of the parliamentary elections of 2012, during which their ‘Electoral Action of Poles in Lithuania’ party won eight seats in the Parliament, one seat in the European Parliament, and 11 seats in coalition with the Russian Alliance in the Vilnius City Municipality (¹⁸³⁴).

¹⁸²⁸ [Statistics Lithuania, 2014]

¹⁸²⁹ [Zaagman, 1999]

¹⁸³⁰ [Akcja Wyborcza Polaków na Litwie, 2010]

¹⁸³¹ [Zaagman, 1999]

¹⁸³² [Library of Congress, 2009]

¹⁸³⁴ [The Baltic Course, 2011]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Lithuania

From 1991 until 2000

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Lithuanians	0.766	DOMINANT
Russians	0.094	POWERLESS
Poles	0.07	POWERLESS

From 2001 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Lithuanians	0.842	DOMINANT
Poles	0.066	POWERLESS
Russians	0.058	POWERLESS



Figure 453: Political status of ethnic groups in Lithuania during 1991-2000.



Figure 454: Political status of ethnic groups in Lithuania during 2001-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Lithuania

From 1991 until 2013

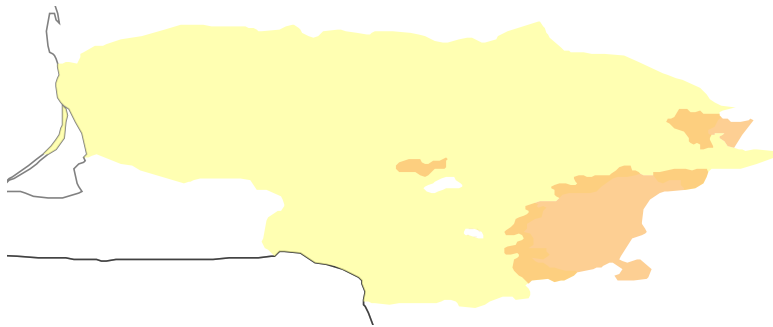


Figure 455: Map of ethnic groups in Lithuania during 2001-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Lithuanians	59 289	Regional & urban
■ Poles	7766	Regional & urban
Russians		Urban

Table 137: List of ethnic groups in Lithuania during 1991-2013.