

ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

Q1 2025

Kilkenny



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council



POPULATION

Total Population Ireland

5,149,139

up 8% since Census 2016

Total Population Kilkenny County

104,160

up 5% since Census 2016

LABOUR MARKET



46,500

Total Labour Force Kilkenny

2,169

Live Register Kilkenny, April 2025

Static from January 2025

170,500

Seasonally Adjusted National Live Register

Up 7,500 since March 2025

4.1%

Monthly Unemployment Rate

Down from revised rate of 4.4% in March 2024

Source: CSO.ie April 2025

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AND PLANNING



Rental Market

National Rents

7.3% year-on-year increase in average listed rents at the end of Q1 2025

Evidence of uptick in inflation in early 2025 - **the National average Monthly Rent has now exceeded €2,000 standing at €2,023 at the end of the quarter**

Kilkenny rents remain below €2,000 however the number of properties to rent remains <20 in the County

Source: daft.ie

Properties listed for sale

242

(66 in Kilkenny City) (Source: Daft.ie May 2025)

€318,914

Average asking price Kilkenny Q1 2025, up 11.6% y-o-y

€346,048

National average asking price Q1 2025, up 11.6% y-o-y

At the start of 2025, there were just 2,500 homes for sale in Ireland - in late 2022, this figure was 4,900
Source Daft.ie Q1 2025

National Vacancy Rate

3.8%

The National Vacancy Rate fell to a low of 3.8% in the last three months of 2024.

3%

Vacant property rate in Kilkenny is 3%, .8% lower than the national average of in Q4 2024.

INDUSTRY ACTIVITY



302,566

Employed in over 1,800 IDA companies

15,500 in the South East (Source: IDA 2024)

234,454

Employed in EI companies Nationally in 2024, 7,100 jobs created in 2024, 7% increase on 2023.

12%

Of the workforce employed in IDA supported companies

Source: EI 2024 Y/E

1,100

Employed in 185 Local Enterprise small businesses in Kilkenny

6,200

Active Enterprises in Kilkenny, 8 >250 employees (Source: CSO.ie)

THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION



(Source: HEA)

- 4,620 students from Kilkenny were enrolled in a third level institution in 2023/2024
- 32% of all Kilkenny students enrolled in third level are attending SETU. The number of Kilkenny students enrolled in SETU is more than double the number enrolled in any other third level institution. The institution with the second highest enrollment from Kilkenny students is UCC at 13%.

Source: HEA.ie, Q4 2024

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- KCC in conjunction with IDA Ireland hosted an Industry Update in Cartoon Saloon's premises on 7th May to facilitate information flow between key players in the housing market
- Kilkenny County Council was proud to support Kilkenny based young Irish Film Makers in their journey to the Cannes Film Festival where they were nominated for an award in the Social and Economic Impact Category.
- Construction work has begun on the Urban Street and Park in the Abbey Quarter and will continue until late 2026 - this landmark project will create a park in the surrounds of St. Francis's Abbey and open up community space and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Contracts were signed to begin construction of the new Pedestrian & Cycle Link Boardwalk at Greensbridge. The structure will link the Riverside Gardens with bishops Meadow Riverside Park, and is set to begin construction in June 2025 with completion later this year.

Planning/Multi-Unit Developments December 2024

122 multi-unit housing developments with planning permission secured in County Kilkenny/ **55** of these within Kilkenny city, **33** of these in larger county towns. **3,323** units within the **122** schemes in the county & city. **70** housing schemes active or built out in County Kilkenny with valid commencements notices for **2,009** units/ **34** housing schemes active or built out within Kilkenny city with valid commencement notices for **1,404** units. An additional 22 multi-unit development applications are in the the planning system currently.

*commencement notices only - not indicative of numbers currently under construction



Kilkenny Business Briefing



Young Irish Film Makers at Cannes



Abbey Quarter Park Signing



Boardwalk at Greensbridge