

# ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

Q1 2026

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

**2,174** Live Register Kilkenny, April 2026  
down from 2,198 in March 2026

**170,600** Seasonally Adjusted National Live Register  
April 2026 down 200 since March 2026

**4.8%** Seasonally Adjusted Monthly  
Unemployment Rate  
Down from 5% in March 2026  
Source: CSO.ie April 2026

## RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AND PLANNING



### Rental Market

#### National Rents

up 4.4% between December 2025 and March 2026 (this is the largest 3 month increase on record)

Market rents are now 40% above pre-Covid levels and 81% higher than 10 years ago.

Kilkenny monthly rental costs for a 3-bed house remain below €2,000 however the number of properties to rent remains <20 in the County.

Source: daft.ie Q1 2026

### Properties listed for sale

**245** (71 in Kilkenny City) (Source: Daft.ie April 2026)

**€321,000** Average asking price 3-bed semi Kilkenny

**€435,000** Average asking price 3-bed semi Nationally (Q5 2025)

**€345,000** Median price of newly built home in Kilkenny in 2025,  
national median price 380,000

Market heat (transaction - listed price) has reduced from 6.8% to 5.8% between mid-2025 and early 2026.

**3.7%** National Vacancy Rate  
The National Vacancy Rate fell to a low of 3.7% in the last three months of 2025.

**3%** Vacant property rate in Kilkenny was 3% as at the end of 2025.

## Planning/Multi-Unit Developments Q1 2026

**87** multi-unit housing developments with planning permission secured in County Kilkenny/ **37** of these within Kilkenny city, **30** of these in larger county towns. **2,942** units within the **87** schemes in the county & city. **50** housing schemes active in County Kilkenny **393** units either built out or under construction/ **37** housing schemes active within Kilkenny city with **620** units either built out or under construction. An additional **24** multi-unit development applications are in the the planning system currently, with potential to yield a further **530** units in the County.

See separate map for further detail on developments in Kilkenny City.

## INDUSTRY ACTIVITY



**312,400** Employed in over 1,800 IDA companies  
16,200 in the South East (Source: IDA 2025)

**232,425** Employed in EI companies Nationally in 2025. 2,938 jobs created in 2025, 1.26% net increase on 2024.

**12.4%** Of the workforce employed in IDA supported companies  
Source: EI 2025 Y/E

**1,120** Employed in 192 Local Enterprise small businesses in Kilkenny

**6,200** Active Enterprises in Kilkenny, 8 >250 employees (Source: CSO.ie)

## THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION

(Source: HEA)



- 4,725 students from Kilkenny were enrolled in a third level institution in 2024/2025
- 75.6% of students progressed to third level from Kilkenny post Leaving Cert 2024
- 30% 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 12%.

Source: HEA.ie, 2024/2025

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Screen Kilkenny hosted Screen Wexford and Screen Waterford under the "Screen South East" banner on April 18<sup>th</sup> in Kilkenny - agencies, local filmmakers and producers participated in workshops and panel discussions to help young people in the industry in their career journeys.
- The URDF funded Boardwalk at Greensbridge construction is now complete and the Boardwalk is open for public use, official launch to take place Summer 2026.
- Works have begun on the redevelopment of St. Kieran's Street and Market Square, with an expected completion date of October 2026. Free parking initiatives underway in the city Monday to Wednesday to promote the Business as Usual message.
- Shop Kilkenny prize giveaway of €100 Kilkenny Gift Card is taking place each week, with a voucher to be won every Thursday which can be spent in any of the 150 participating retailers



Screen Kilkenny event April 18th



Boardwalk at Greensbridge



Shop Kilkenny Competition every week



St.Kieran's Street - BAU while works are ongoing