ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

Q4 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

46,200	Total Labour Force Kilkenny
2,243	Live Register Kilkenny, Dec 2025 Slight increase of 75 from last quarter
171,300	Seasonally Adjusted National Live Register Up 2,900 since Sept2025
4.7%	Monthly Unemployment Rate Steady 4.7% in Q3 2025 Source: CSO.ie Jan 2026

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: IDA 2025 Y/E report
1,120	Employed in 192 Local Enterprise small businesses in Kilkenny
6,200	Active Enterprises in Kilkenny, 8 >250 employees (Source: CSO.ie)

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AND PLANNING

Rental Market

Kilkenny rents currently average €1,750/month (up from €1,450 six months ago).
Source: Daft.ie Jan 2026

National Rents
4.3% year-on-year increase in average listed rents at the end of Q3 2025.
Average national rent is around €2,080
Rental availability nationwide was down by 21% on Q3 last year.

Source: daft.ie Q3 2025

Properties listed for sale

187	52 in Kilkenny City (Daft.ie Jan 2026)
€250,000	Median asking price Kilkenny Q4 2025 (MyHome.ie)
€380,000	National median asking price Q4 2025
+7%	The gap between listed price and transaction price reached a new all-time high in Q3, at 7%
3.7%	**National Vacancy Rate** The National Vacancy Rate fell to a low of 3.7%
3%	Vacant property rate in Kilkenny is 3%, .7% lower than the national average in Q4 2024.

THIRD LEVEL EDUCATION

(Source: HEA)

- 4,735 students from Kilkenny were enrolled in a third level institution in 2024/2025
- 75.6% of students progressed to third level from Kilkenny Leaving Cert 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

Planning/Multi-Unit Developments January 2026

83 multi-unit housing developments with planning permission secured in County Kilkenny/ 35 of these within Kilkenny city, 29 of these in larger county towns. 2,848 units within the 83 schemes in the county & city. 562 units built in total in County Kilkenny with 451 units under construction. Of these there are 437 units built within Kilkenny city with 183 units under construction. An additional 22 multi-unit development applications are in the the planning system currently.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Ambassador Book Launch

Kilkenny County Council is proud to present a new book celebrating the stories of 13 Kilkenny ambassadors. The individual stories within the book celebrate the achievements of a selection of well-known Kilkenny based people.
By sharing personal stories, first-hand experiences of success, and of living and working in Kilkenny, this book highlights and showcases what makes Kilkenny a great place to live and work.

LEO Jobs Growth 2025

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Kilkenny is now financially supporting 192 small businesses, which together employ 1,119 people.
Nationally, the LEO network reported its highest employment levels since its inception, with 40,285 jobs now supported across 7,148 client companies. Across Ireland, LEO-supported businesses created 7,261 new jobs in 2025, representing a 7% increase on 2024 and marking the 12th consecutive year of jobs growth. 82% of all new jobs created by LEO clients in 2025 were outside Dublin