

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



54,000	Total Labour Force Kilkenny
2,243	Live Register Kilkenny, Dec 2025 Slight increase of 75 from last quarter
172,200	Seasonally Adjusted National Live Register Up 2,900 since Sept2025
5%	Monthly Unemployment Rate Up from 4.7% in Sept 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).

In January 2026 there were 14 properties listed on Daft.ie for rent in County Kilkenny, 3 of these in the city centre.

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) (Source: Daft.ie Jan 2026)
€375,000	Median asking price Kilkenny Q3 2025
€435,000	National median asking price Q3 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)

- 4,620 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

Planning/Multi-Unit Developments January 2026

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.