



Kilkenny Socio-Economic Statement 2023 – 2028

Socio Economic evidence

28 November 2022

SWOT

Strengths and Opportunities	Weaknesses and Threats
<p>Central location within the South East Strategic Planning Area with good road and rail links to Dublin and elsewhere</p>	<p>Slowing population growth with relatively little in-migration</p>
<p>A popular tourist destination, hosting numerous festivals and events with the potential to increase the length of visitor stays and their contribution to our local economy</p>	<p>A diminishing number of young adult residents with this having an impact on labour-availability as well as the demographic make-up of many of our communities outside of Kilkenny City</p>
<p>A track record of partnership work, based on integrated delivery mechanisms</p>	<p>A continued need for social and affordable housing and evidence of homelessness</p>
<p>Established community networks and voluntary sector</p>	<p>Overreliance on construction and retail sectors, with room for greater diversity</p>
<p>A growing number of private businesses</p>	<p>A lack of certainty around how tourism will recover from Covid-19</p>
<p>An increasingly skilled population, set to benefit from the newly established South East Technological University</p>	<p>Third level education attainment continues to lag behind the state average</p>
<p>A healthy pipeline of homes with planning permission suggesting that the County will be well placed to sustain the comparatively positive recent growth of its housing stock</p>	<p>Persistent deprivation at a level that exceeds the state average, with evidence of clear concentrations of more acute deprivation</p>
<p>A rural economy that is established and growing in an outstanding natural setting</p>	<p>Climate change is already having a significant impact in the County</p>

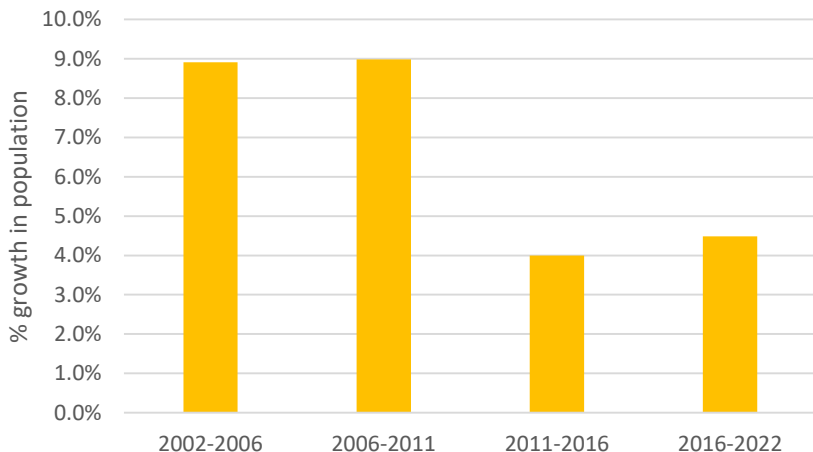
Demographics

103,685 people
living in County
Kilkenny
(2022 Census)

4.5% growth since 2016,
compared to 7.6% growth
across the state

Second lowest of the state's 26
counties

Growth rate has
slowed compared
to previous
decade



Impacting on changing
age profile – between
2011 and 2016 13%
fall in those aged 20 –
34 (11% fall across the
state)

Particularly
pronounced for
those aged 25 – 29 –
fall of circa 1,100
persons

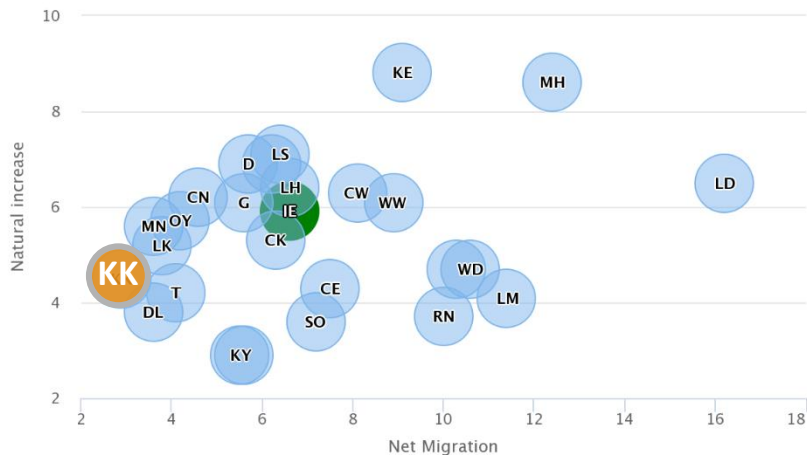
Demographics

Circa 61% of population growth between Census years related to natural increase (births outnumbering deaths)

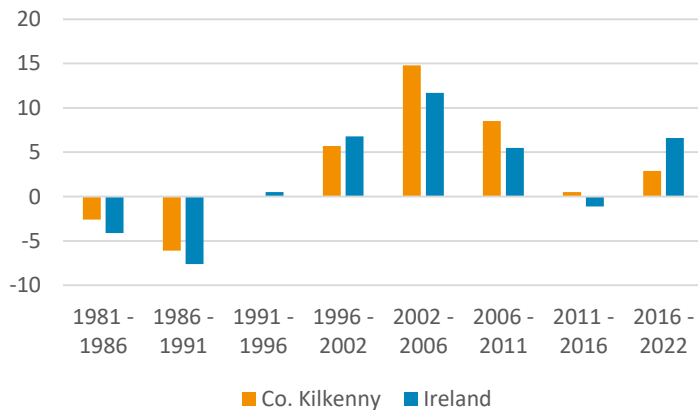
Estimated 1,756 net migrants between Census years adding to the population – lowest in state

Rate of net inward migration also relatively low when compared to other counties

However, RSES projections suggest growth to **112,154 residents in 2028**.
Would suggest growth rate of **8.2% from 2000**



Annual estimated net migration 1981 to 2022 per 1,000 of average population



Local Economy

Some **93%** of the County's businesses employ **fewer than 10 people**

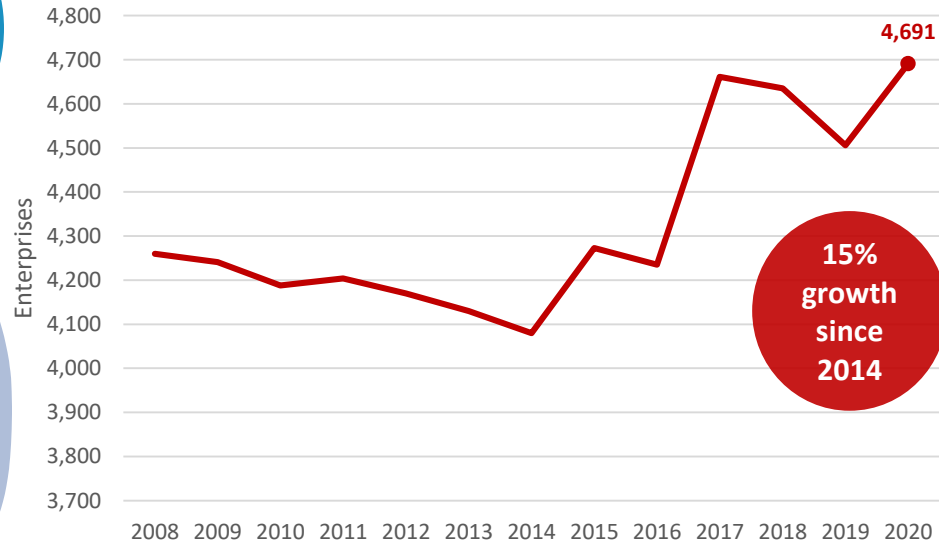
Only **6 businesses** employ more than **250 people**

26% in construction sector
19% in wholesale and retail

16% in professional, scientific or technical
Latter has **grown most strongly since 2014**

4,691 enterprises in its private business economy in 2020

727,000 tourists in 2019
Ireland's second most popular domestic short-break destination



Housing

41,279 dwellings in 2022, rising by 5.2% since 2016

Represents growth of just over 2,000 homes in the six years

Circa 1,619 households on the Housing List in 2021, lowest since 2010
But 300 households reported homeless (April 2022)

Vacancy rate (7.7% in 2022), largely unchanged from 2016 (188 more)

557 unoccupied holiday homes in 2022 – only 6 more than 2016

