

KILDARE LECP 2016 -2021

Socio Economic Baseline Report

Executive Summary



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The following is a short synopsis of the Socio Economic Baseline Report prepared by the All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) Maynooth University to inform the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016 - 2021. A more extensively detailed and visually based report is available in the full Baseline Report available on Kildare County Council (<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/KildareLECP/>) and Kildare LCDC websites (<http://www.kildarelcdc.ie/>) This work has informed the survey questions and the draft high level goals.

The synopsis of this report is presented under the same headings presented in the main report as follows;

<p>Population Profile</p> <p>Urban Rural Mix</p> <p>Economy and Employment</p> <p>Commuting</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Education</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Safe Communities</p> <p>Children & Young People</p> <p>Community, Recreation , Arts and Culture</p> <p>Environmental Quality</p>
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1. Population Profile

Kildare has 5% of the States total population, and is larger than other familiar urban centres such as Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, Cork City, Waterford and Limerick. The County has grown by more than 71% in the last 20 years and now has the third youngest population in the State. Kildare’s older population (+65) has grown by 30% since 2006. The county’s population density is currently five times higher in the northeast, centring on Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth and Kilcock.

2. Urban Rural Mix

Kildare's urban population (72%) lives on 5% of the total land area within the county, with the rural population (28%) living on the remaining 95%. Over 60% of Kildare's population live in the ten largest towns (+5,000 pop), with no towns with a +25,000 pop. There are three times more rental households in urban Kildare than in rural Kildare. There are three times more non-Irish nationals in urban Kildare than in rural Kildare. One in four residents in urban Kildare and one in five residents in rural Kildare work in 'wholesale, retail or trade'. One in ten rural Kildare residents work in 'agriculture, forestry or fishing'.

3. Economy and Employment

In 2012 there were 7,774 active enterprises in Kildare. Less than 2% (14 enterprises) are large scale employers (+ 250 employees), with 92% (7,160 enterprises) being small scale (10 employees). However, the 14 largest enterprises employ 27% of total workforce in Kildare, with the smallest firms employing only 31%. In 2011, Kildare had the second highest rate of foreign owned companies in the State.

Kildare's labour force participation rate in 2011 was 66%, the third highest rate in the State, with the highest proportion employed in the Wholesale, Retail, Transportation, and Food Service sectors (25%). In May 2015, the Live Register recorded 15,126 unemployed persons in Kildare, with 14% under 25 years of age. Less than 4% of population aged 15 and over in Kildare are unable to work due to illness or disability, being the sixth lowest in the state.

4. Commuting

Over 40% of the total workforce living in Kildare work outside the county, mostly in Dublin (73% of all commuters). Kildare is also a significant employment destination, with 17% of its total jobs undertaken by inbound commuters. Kildare has the third highest level of commuting times in the state, with 15% of all workers having a daily return commute of greater than 2 hrs and 47% having a daily return commute of greater than 1 hr. The nature of this commuting is increasingly unsustainable with 66% of Kildare residents using private transport and only 16% walking or cycling to work, school or college.

5. Housing

Over a third of the current housing stock in Kildare was built between 2001-2011, the majority being conventional five room houses. Kildare is currently the third most expensive county in the State to buy a house and has the third highest private rental cost. The county experienced the highest rate of rent increase in the state between 2014-2015. Housing tenure is dominated by owner occupiers (74%), with the third highest rate of owner occupiers with a mortgage in the State.

Kildare has relatively low levels of people living in social housing but high numbers of people on the social housing list (6,585 applicants representing 16,506 people). The numbers on the social housing waiting list increased 20% (1,130) from 2013-2015. Only Dublin and Cork have higher numbers of people in receipt of rent supplement. Over 67% of the 4,135 people from Kildare in receipt of rent supplement are long term recipients.

6. Education

Kildare has a relatively well educated population, with 38% having a third level degree or higher, the fifth highest rate in the State. Rates are highest in the main urban centres of Maynooth (Maynooth University), Naas, Newbridge and Celbridge with much lower rates in the west and south-west of the county. Most Kildare students study in Dublin (54%), followed by Kildare/Maynooth (22%) and Carlow (10%). The 'Social Sciences, Business and Law' category is the main field of study of Kildare residents (15%), with 'Engineering, Manufacturing and Construction' (11%) also relatively high.

There are 105 Primary schools in Kildare (28,344 students), primarily of a Catholic ethos (89) with the remainder being Church of Ireland (7) and Multidenominational (9). Kildare has a high average class size, the ninth highest in the State, with 25% of primary-school students in class sizes of greater than 30 students.

DEIS designated schools provide additional learning supports for children at risk of educational disadvantage. Kildare has 10 DEIS post primary designated schools, the seventh lowest in the State

7. Health and Wellbeing

In 2011, the population of Kildare was relatively healthy with over 90% of every Census respondent stating that their general health was either 'Good' or 'Very Good'. There are 24,369 of people in Kildare with a disability, being the 7th highest number in the state

and the third lowest relative to population size.

There are 98 GP Surgeries in Kildare, a rate of 0.47 GP surgeries for 1,000 of population. This is marginally higher than the State (0.41), with significant variations within the county, the highest rate in Naas (1.74) and the lowest in Kilcock (0.18). There are 39 Dental Practices in Kildare, a rate of 0.19 surgeries for 1,000 of population, with the highest rate in Naas and Kilcullen (0.58) and the lowest in Athy (0.1). There are 23 Nursing Homes in Kildare, equal to 1.4 facilities per 1,000 of the population aged 65 or over.

In 2013, there were 23 deaths by suicide in Kildare and 397 residents of the county presented themselves to hospitals as a result of self harm. Over 34% of the Kildare/Wicklow (combined) population have a medical card, the second lowest figure in the state. There were almost 500 people from the Kildare/West Wicklow region on methadone treatment programmes in 2014. There is currently no methadone maintenance treatment centre in Kildare

8. Safe Communities

There are 15 Garda stations in full time operation in Kildare, the second lowest rate of Garda Stations (per 10,000 of the population) nationally. Kildare also has the lowest rate of Gardai in the country (15.01 Gardai per 10,000 people) with no Community Gardai.

There were 8,117 recorded crimes in Kildare between Q3, 2013 and Q2, 2014. This crime rate is in line the national average, being the 9th highest rate of recorded crime of the 21 Garda Divisions nationally.

There were ten road fatalities per year from 2011-2013, being higher than the state average. Injuries caused by traffic collisions are low in Kildare, being the second lowest annual rate in the state from 2011-2013.

9. Children and Young People

Over 37% of Kildare total population (77,832) are aged '0-24' year. This is the highest rate in the State and is also considerably higher than the average for the Eastern & Midlands Region. The county's birth rate is the second highest nationally. The majority

of children in Kildare grow up in two parent households, with the county also home to 9,254 lone parent families with children under 15 years.

The relatively high rates of children currently in the 0-12 age cohort in Kildare, points to increasing numbers of teenagers living in the county in the near future. Investment by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in Kildare 2011 was the third lowest per capita in the State, at €13.55 per young person.

There are currently over 2,000 young people 18-24 on the live register in the county, with the highest levels in Athy Social Welfare Office. The rate and number of Child protection referrals in Kildare/West Wicklow (2008-2012) was the second highest nationally

10. Community, Recreation, Arts & Culture

There are a wide range of publicly accessible community, sports and arts facilities across Kildare, with nearly two-thirds of these facilities within the urban areas of the county. There are a higher level of facilities in rural areas (per head of population), being primarily driven by the higher number of rural based sports clubs and facilities (GAA, etc). Kildare has a wide range of library and arts facilities spread around the county, with 14 libraries, 2 cinema's, 11 galleries, 10 theatres, and 6 museums.

11. Environmental Quality

The 33 water bodies in Kildare (recognised by the EPA) enjoy a relatively good status, with 31 classified as 'Good' and 2 classified as 'Poor'. Over 84% of Kildare households are connected to the public water system and 73% connected to public sewerage system. All sources of recognised drinking water in the county are currently considered of good quality and safe to drink. Over 80% of settlements in Kildare currently have sufficient capacity in their waste water treatment systems. Kildare has the fourth lowest number of civic amenity centres/bring banks in the country, with each resident creating 320 kg's of collected waste per year. Nearly 78% of Kildare households are heated with oil or gas, with the fourth lowest level of renewable wind energy in the State. Over 54% of homes with BER certificates in the county have a high energy rating (a 'C-rating' or better).

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