

KILKENNY & SOUTH-EAST



The South-East region is developing a strong identity and emerging as a key player in employment and industry. Centrally located in the South-East, Kilkenny is firmly established as a desirable destination to conduct business and to be entertained.

This vibrant city, beautifully historic yet brimming with contemporary practice, is the natural 'hub' of the South-East and the logical choice when planning your event. Within Kilkenny, **The Hub** is a unique resource as the only indoor venue in the south-east offering a multi-purpose space of this scale with quality additional services on site.

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Kilkenny has a good population base and is close to pools of labour in Carlow, Clonmel and Waterford.

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Cathal Smyth, General Manager, Statestreet International on their decision to locate their 300-strong regional office in Kilkenny.

VIBRANT & BURGEONING POPULATION

AREA	POPULATION	DEMOGRAPHICS	INCREASE (NATIONAL: 8%)
South-East Region: Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford, Wexford, Tipperary	526, 861	15-24 yrs: 80,281 (15.2%) 25-34 yrs: 77,879 (14.8%) 35-44 yrs: 78,017 (14.8%) 45-54 yrs: 66,812 (12.7%) 55-64 yrs: 53,530 (10.2%)	+8.3%
40 mile radius: Kilkenny, Carlow, Waterford, Wexford (New Ross & Enniscorthy), Tipperary (Sth Tipp, Roscrea & Thurles), Kildare (Athy), Laois	434,205	15-24 yrs: 61,878 (14.3%) 25-34 yrs: 66,095 (15.2%) 35-44 yrs: 58,492 (14.7%) 45-54 yrs: 63,723 (12.6%) 55-64 yrs: 42,801 (9.9%)	+11.4%
Kilkenny City & County	87,558	15-24 yrs: 11,948 (13.7%) 25-34 yrs: 11,669 (13.3%)* 35-44 yrs: 13,025 (14.9%)* 45-54 yrs: 11,469 (13.1%) 55-64 yrs: 8,822 (10.1%)	+9%

Source Census 2006

*RE-LOCATORS:

A burgeoning population segment in Kilkenny is "Re-locators", people in their early-twenties to mid-forties who have chosen to move to or return to Kilkenny from, e.g. Dublin, Kildare or abroad. A recent survey of one residential area found that over 50% of sales were to re-locators. Reasons for re-locating are; *Improved quality of life, great hospitality, a wealth of arts and cultural activities, a clean environment and excellent educational facilities.*

FUTURE PROJECTION:

The increasing population trend in the South-East will continue, reaching 21% by 2020, compared to a national average increase of 14.2%. (Source: Central Statistics Office). The National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 has also identified Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford as a nationally strategic 'Growth Triangle', with the three counties driving regional growth by "providing a large and skilled population base, substantial capacity for additional residential and employment-related functions and an improving transport network".

KILKENNY'S THRIVING LABOUR FORCE & BUSINESS COMMUNITY

"Kilkenny is an attractive place to live and work, with a thriving business community and a constant striving for excellence in strategic planning and infrastructural development. These are major influencing factors in attracting both inward investment and workers to the City and County. People want to come here."

Alison McGrath, CEO, Kilkenny Chamber.

EMPLOYMENT

Kilkenny's many diverse national and international companies cover a variety of manufacturing and service activities. While tourism remains the biggest source of employment across the City and County, other major employers to have invested in Kilkenny include:

EMPLOYER	STAFF
Local Authorities	730
Glanbia	690
State Street International	300
Banking 365	250
Diageo	250
VHI Healthcare	250

ENTREPRENEURIAL & NETWORKING CULTURE

Kilkenny's strong spirit of entrepreneurship is reflected in the rich diversity of indigenous and micro enterprises providing sustainable employment throughout the City and County. Kilkenny's progressive business community has created great networking associations and is supported by a number of pro-active business development organisations, including:

- Kilkenny Chamber
- Kilkenny County Enterprise Board
- Kilkenny Business Women's Network
- Kilkenny Business Club
- County Kilkenny Leader Partnership
- Lions Club
- Rotary International

A VIBRANT, COSMOPOLITAN CITY

A bustling city by day and night, when your official business is complete, Kilkenny has a wide range of options for activities and entertainment for you or your clients, any time of the year. One of the most attractive, cosmopolitan cities in Ireland, Kilkenny is justifiably proud of its social, artistic and sporting lives, all taking place in the beautiful historic setting of the Medieval Capital of Ireland.

KILKENNY HAS:

- 20 annual festivals, including Kilkenny Arts Festival, the Cat Laughs Comedy Festival and the Rhythm & Roots Music Festival.
- The Watergate Theatre, showing theatre, dance and music year-round.
- A lively music scene, from contemporary to classical, in settings from cathedrals to coffee-houses.
- Stunning historic & cultural sites such as Kilkenny Castle, the Castle Yard (home to the National Craft Gallery), Rothe House, St Canice's Cathedral, the Heritage Council and the Butler Gallery.
- A hugely productive and popular art & craft trail.
- A wide range of sport & leisure amenities, for relaxation or team-building, including the county's favourite: hurling!
- Superb, high quality city-centre shopping through quaint, narrow streets, in addition to the latest modern shopping centres.
- Beautiful rolling countryside, river valleys and picturesque villages, and a short drive to some of the best beaches in Ireland.



ACCOMMODATION

With an extensive provision of everything from 5-star hotels such as Mount Juliet or Lyrath Estate (on our doorstep), to quality self-catering, Kilkenny has accommodation to suit all budgets. With our list of preferred providers, we can help you to source accommodation appropriate to your event requirements.

ACCESSIBILITY

Kilkenny & the South-East are well serviced by the national rail and road network.

By road: Within a two-hour drive of Dublin and Shannon airports
60-minute drive to Waterford airport
55-minute drive to six counties
(The imminent completion of the M9 motorway will significantly reduce driving times in the region).

By rail: On the main Dublin-Waterford line, six trains per day, both directions. Detailed directions to The Hub are available at www.thehubkilkenny.ie
Kilkenny combines the best of city life, amenities and convenience with a progressive culture that's all of its own; the perfect location for your event.



**Choose Kilkenny –
A medieval city brimming
with contemporary practice**