

Kildare Census 2022 Profile

Education



Education Profile

Key Facts

- County Kildare has one of the highest levels of educational attainment, among adults, of local authority areas in Ireland;
- Lower levels of educational attainment are associated with an older age profile, rurality, socio-economic deprivation, gender (males) and membership of the Travelling community;
- Among Ireland's thirty-one local authority areas, County Kildare has the third lowest proportion of persons who did not progress beyond primary school, and the county has the sixth-highest proportion of persons with a third-level qualification;
- There is a contrast between the north-east metropolitan area of the county in respect of educational attainment levels among the resident population – levels are considerably higher in this area than in other parts of the county. The south and west of the county, outside the main towns, record the lowest levels of educational attainment;
- In County Kildare, the proportion of schools, at both primary and secondary level, that have DEIS status is the among the lowest within the State's local authority areas;
- For the 2022/23 academic year, there were 101 primary schools in the county of which only 15 have DEIS status. At a rate of 14.8%, this is the third lowest rate in the country. However, there are an additional 30 primary schools in Kildare that are located in areas of disadvantage that are currently not classed as having DEIS status. Many of these schools are in the south of the county, central Kildare in the areas around the Curragh, and in areas to the north of Kildare such as Allenwood, Blackwood and towards Carbury;
- There are a total of 101 mainstream primary schools in Kildare with 29,290 students enrolled in 2022/23. Of these, the 15 DEIS schools account for 4,139 of all primary students in Kildare (14.1%);
- Across the State, 19.6% (10,844 of 55,395) of all students who sat the Leaving Certificate in 2023 did not progress to either a University or an Institute of Technology (IoT)/Technical University (TU) but progressed via another pathway such as further education, employment or other pathways. In Kildare, sixteen of the twenty-eight secondary schools in the county had a higher rate of non HEI/IoT/TU progression than the State average (19.6%);
- Childcare fees in County Kildare are above the State average (€187) and have increased over recent years – the weekly cost in Kildare is the eighth highest in the State. The average weekly cost per child stands at €192 per week; and
- Kildare has the lowest rate of community based childcare facilities in the State (2021/21) with only 9 of the 189 (5%) childcare services (providing ECCE programme) classed as community services. This is in stark contrast to neighbouring counties of Meath (12%), Wicklow (12%), Carlow (35%) and Laois (21%). The national average is 24%.

Educational Attainment

Overall educational attainment levels in County Kildare are above those of the State and the Eastern and Midland Region. In general, Kildare is viewed as one of the most educated counties in Ireland with a high level of access to education services within and outside of the county. However, there are certain parts of the county that require attention and intervention to improve access to education for the resident population in the county. Due to a growing young population within the county, it can be very challenging to access school places with limited choice, resulting in young people having to travel outside of their town to access secondary schools due to capacity issues.

Low levels of educational attainment are associated with an older age profile, rurality, socio-economic deprivation, gender (males) and membership of the Travelling community. In Kildare (8% or 12,481), the areas with the highest proportions of people who did not progress beyond primary-level education are in north-west Kildare and south-west Kildare - primarily in the Athy and Kildare-Newbridge MDs. Data on educational attainment show that there are significantly lower levels of educational attainment in some county towns and villages (Derrinturn, Ballitore and Suncroft) than there are in the larger settlements. Amongst the larger settlements in the county, Athy (11.5%), Kildare Town (10.5%) and Monasterevan (11.2%) stand out and have much lower level of education attainment than the north-east and metropolitan towns (Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge etc).

Just over one in eight persons (12.3% or 19,363) in Kildare's resident population completed their formal education at lower second level (Intermediate / Junior / Group Certificate). Values are highest (>19%) in rural parts of west and south Kildare. There are higher rates in smaller towns and villages (such as Kilmeage, Ballitore, Blackwood, Ballymore-Eustace and Derrinturn) than in the larger and faster-growing towns in the metropolitan part of the county. Again, both Athy and Kildare Town stand out as having much higher rates than Maynooth, Naas and Celbridge.

The proportion of persons with a Leaving Certificate or equivalent is similar in Kildare (18.6% or 29,120) and the State (18.1%). Areas where this rate of second level education attainment is recorded as the highest are in west Kildare, including in the towns of Athy (22.1%), Monasterevan (21.8%) and Rathangan (22%). As such, this points to lower levels of overall education attainment in these areas. Since 2016, there has been an increase of over eight percent in those completed education with a Leaving Certificate qualification in the county (+8.5% or +2,283).

Kildare has a marginally higher proportion of those with a technical, apprenticeship or certificate qualification (13.6% or 21,335) than is the case in Ireland as a whole. Just over one in seven people fall into this category which is marginally higher than the equivalent State value (13.1%). Higher rates are associated with rural and hinterland parts of the county. There is some variation across the municipal districts in respect of this variable with highest rates in the Athy MD (15.2%). Across the county's settlements, Derrinturn has the highest value (17.2%), while the lowest values are in Maynooth and Straffan. The number of Kildare resident with a technical, apprenticeship or certificate qualification has declined by -1% (-205) since 2016.

Over forty percent (42.7% or 66,893) of Kildare's resident population has a third-level qualification (degree, postgraduate and PhD). This is the sixth highest rate amongst Ireland's thirty-one local authorities. High levels of education attainment are rapidly increased in Ireland and Kildare is no different. Between 2016 and 2022, the population with a third level qualification in Kildare increased +34% (+16,986) - this is due to the increasing levels of Higher Education Institute (HEI) participation of resident Kildare young people and also due to highly educated populations who have moved from elsewhere in Ireland to reside in Kildare in recent years. In 2022, the highest values are in the metropolitan parts of the county to the north-east, stretching from the M7/M9 interchange at Newbridge towards Leixlip. At the MD level, highest rates are recorded in the Naas (50.7%), Celbridge-Leixlip (48.2%) and Clane-Maynooth (45.5%) MDs. In contrast, rates in the Kildare-Newbridge and Athy MDs are below 36%.

Targeting Educational Disadvantage

Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools (DEIS) provision in County Kildare's schools is amongst the lowest across local authority areas in the State. According to the Department of Education data for school term in 2023/24, of the 101 primary schools in Kildare, fifteen (15%) have DEIS status (an additional six schools from 2021/22). In proportional terms, this is the third lowest among the State's thirty-one local authority areas. In relative terms, there is only half a DEIS schools (0.5) per thousand primary school population in Kildare (aged 5-12, Y=2022). This is the third lowest rate in the State.

There are an additional 30 primary schools in Kildare that are located in areas of disadvantage that are currently not classed as having DEIS status. Many of these schools are in the south of the county, central Kildare in the areas around Newbridge-Kildare-Kilcullen, and in areas to the north of Kildare such as Allenwood, Blackwood and towards Carbury.

Of the 29 post-primary schools in Kildare, seven (24%) have DEIS status. In proportional terms, this is the thirteenth lowest among the State's thirty-one local authority areas. In relative terms, there is less than half a DEIS schools (0.37) per thousand secondary school population in Kildare (aged 13-17, Y=2022). This is the ninth lowest rate in the State.

Progression from Second level

Based on an analysis of the Irish Times Feeder Schools data (2020 to 2023), progression rates from second-level education facilities in County Kildare to Higher Education Institutes (HEIs - Universities, Institutes of Technology, Technological Universities) reveal that the county has a progression rate higher than the State average (82.6% in Kildare v 80.5% in State). Relative to other local authorities in Ireland, the progression rate to HEIs for Kildare schools is the 6th highest. Highest rates are in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (91%), Kilkenny (85.7%) and Limerick (84.6%).

Across the State, 19.6% (10,844 of 55,395) of all students who sat the Leaving Certificate in 2023 did not progress to either a University or an

Institute of Technology (IoT)/Technical University (TU) but progressed via another pathway such as further education, employment or other pathways. In Kildare (17.5% or 529/3,032), sixteen of the twenty-eight secondary schools in the county had a higher rate of non HEI/IoT/TU progression than the State average (19.6%).

Class Sizes

The pupil : class ratio (mainstream primary only) in Kildare is 24.2 : 1. This is above the State value, and it is the third-highest among the thirty-one local authorities. The Department of Education also provides a summary of pupil numbers in each class size range for each school in the county. In summary, 8.8% of Kildare's primary pupils are in classes with less than 20 pupils, 82.9% are in classes with between 20 and 30 pupils (second highest rate in the State), and 8.3% are in classes with more than 30 pupils.

Childcare

Data for the three years 2019-2021 (latest data available from Pobal) reveal that weekly childcare fees in Kildare have been consistently more expensive than in Ireland as a whole (€186). Kildare (€191) has the eighth-highest average weekly fees / child among the State's thirty-one local authority areas. The highest fees in the State are in the Greater Dublin Area, followed by Cork City and County.

Kildare has the lowest rate of community based childcare facilities in the State (2021/21) with only 9 of the 189 (5%) childcare services (providing ECCE programme) classed as community services. This is in stark contrast to neighbouring counties of Meath (12%), Wicklow (12%), Carlow (35%) and Laois (21%). The national average is 24%.

Education Attainment: No Formal/Primary Only, 2022

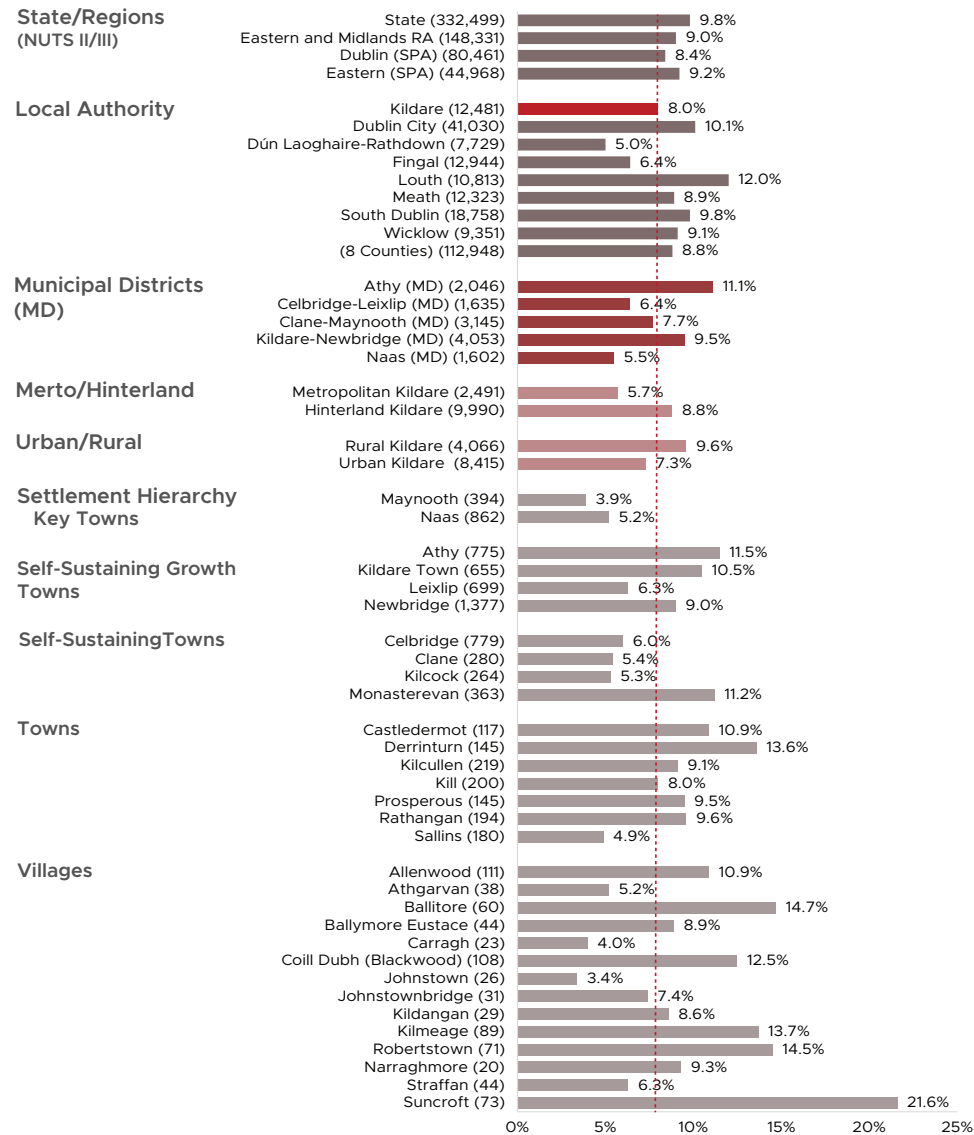


Figure 3.1 - Education Attainment: No Formal /Primary Only, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:

12,481 persons with No Formal/Primary Only Education or 8.0% of the population, 2022

Summary Statistics

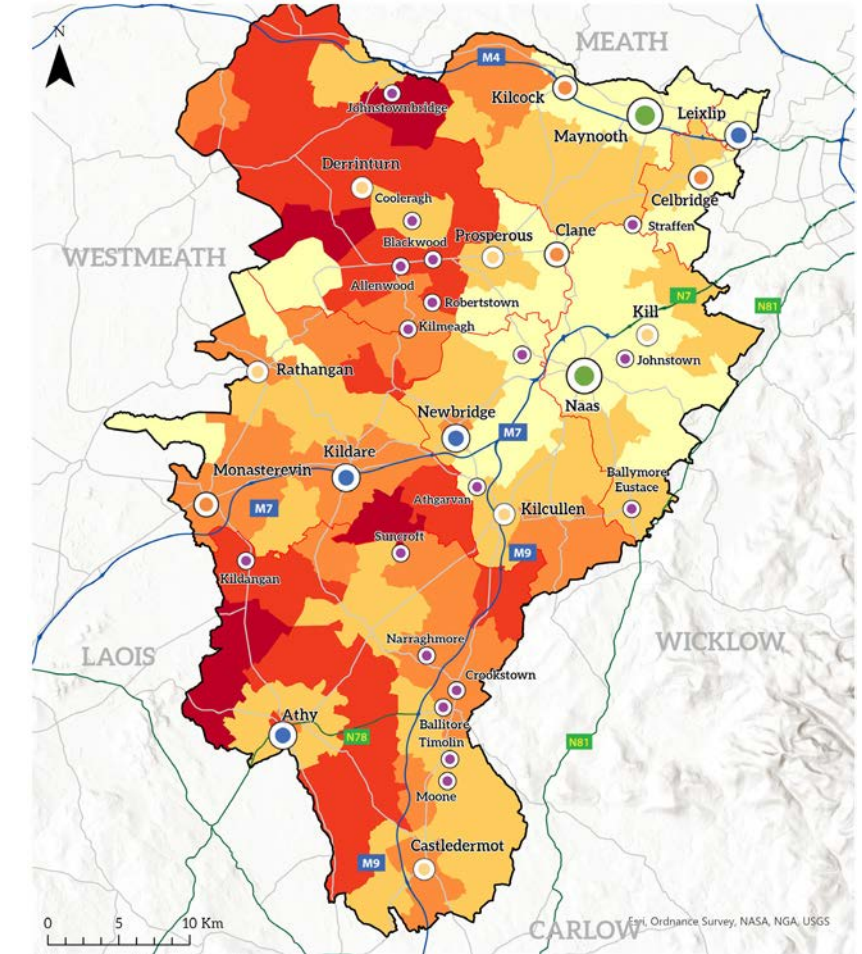
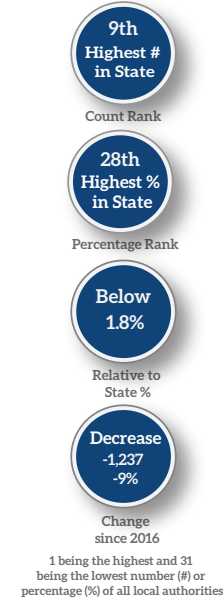


Figure 3.2 - Education Attainment: No Formal/Primary Only, 2022 (Source: CSO)

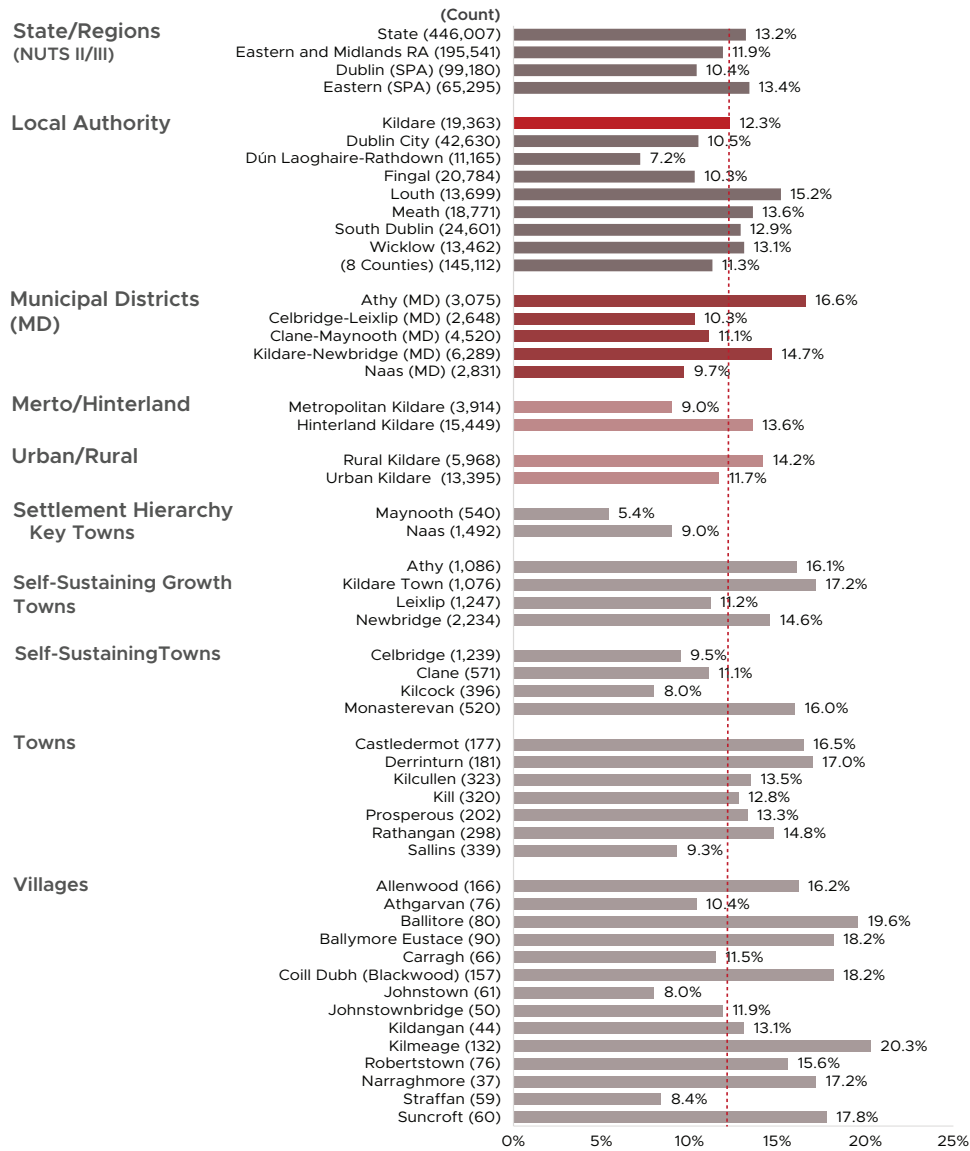


Figure 3.3 - Education Attainment: Lower Secondary, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:
19,363 persons with Lower Secondary Education or 12.3% of the population, 2022

Summary Statistics

7th Highest # in State

27th Highest % in State

Below 0.9%

Increase 405 2.1%

1 being the highest and 31 being the lowest number (#) or percentage (%) of all local authorities

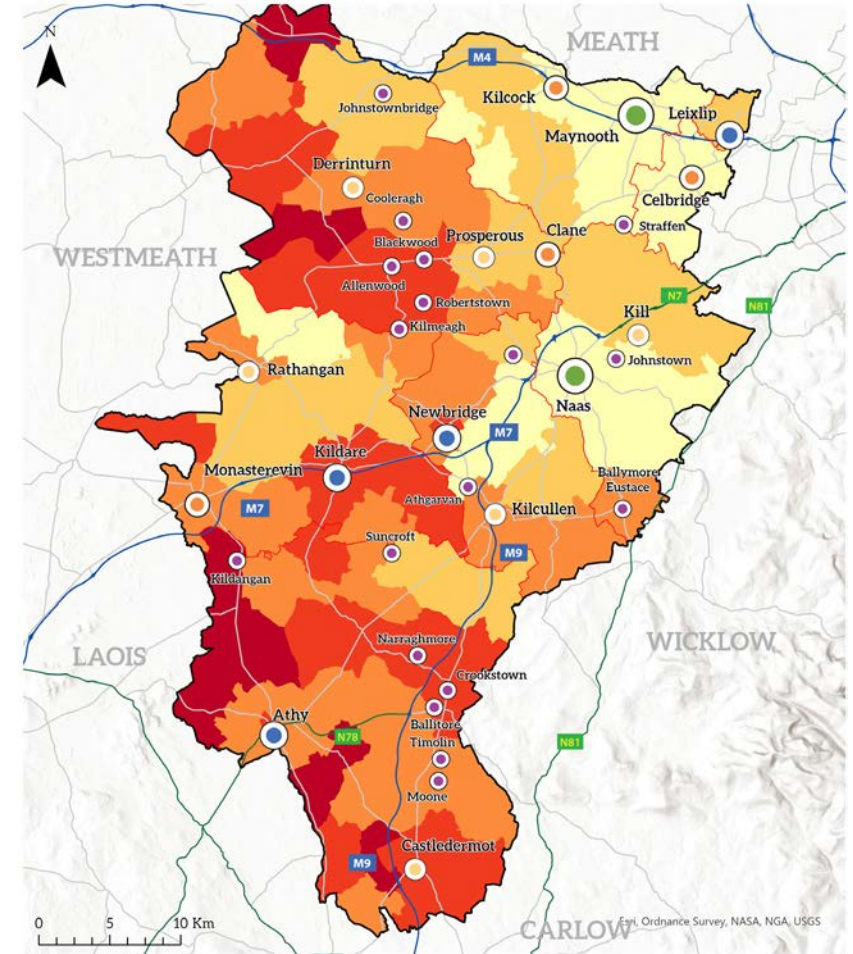


Figure 3.4 - Education Attainment: Lower Secondary, 2022 (Source: CSO)

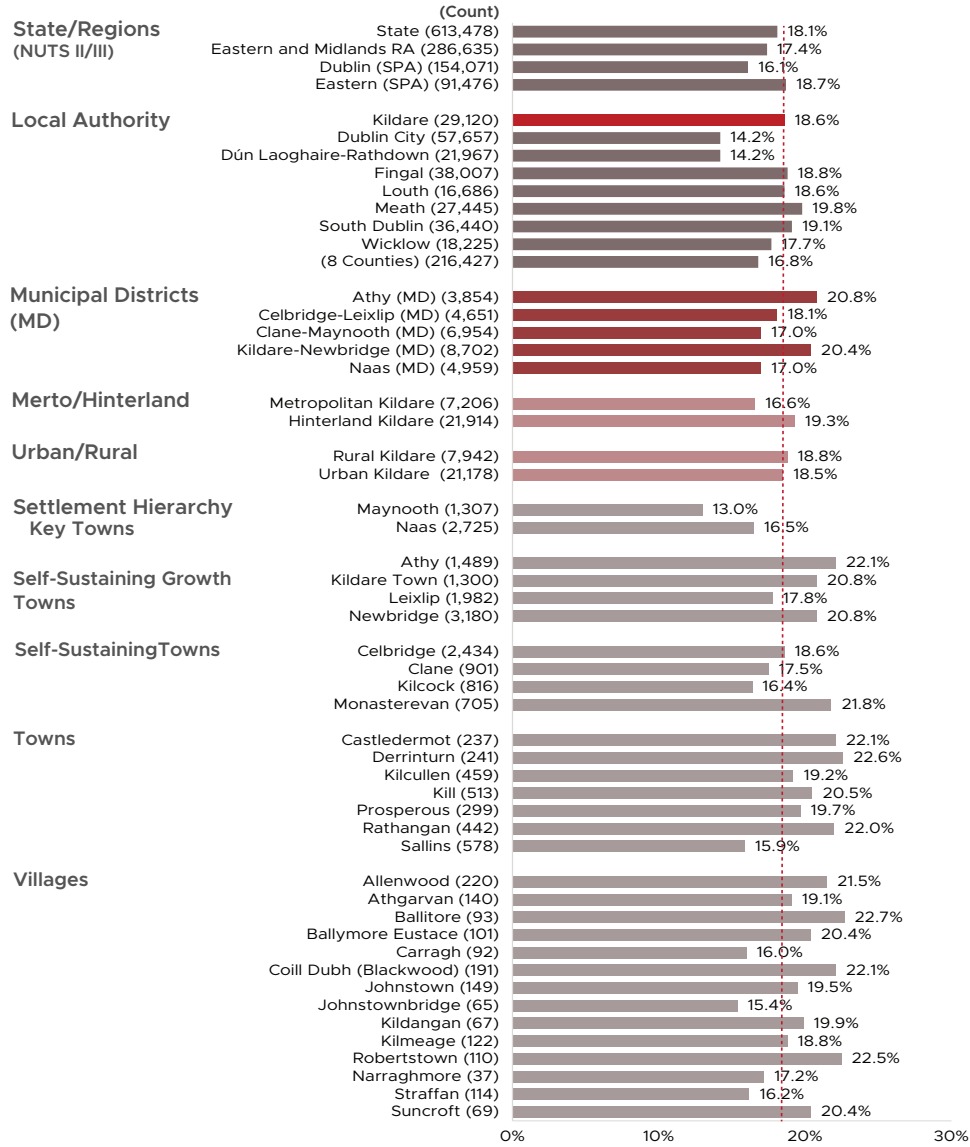


Figure 3.5 - Education Attainment: Higher Secondary, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:
 29,120 persons with Higher Secondary Education or 18.6% of the population, 2022

Summary Statistics

- 5th Highest # in State
- Count Rank
- 16th Highest % in State
- Percentage Rank
- Above 0.5%
- Relative to State %
- Increase 2,283 8.5%
- Change since 2016

1 being the highest and 31 being the lowest number (#) or percentage (%) of all local authorities

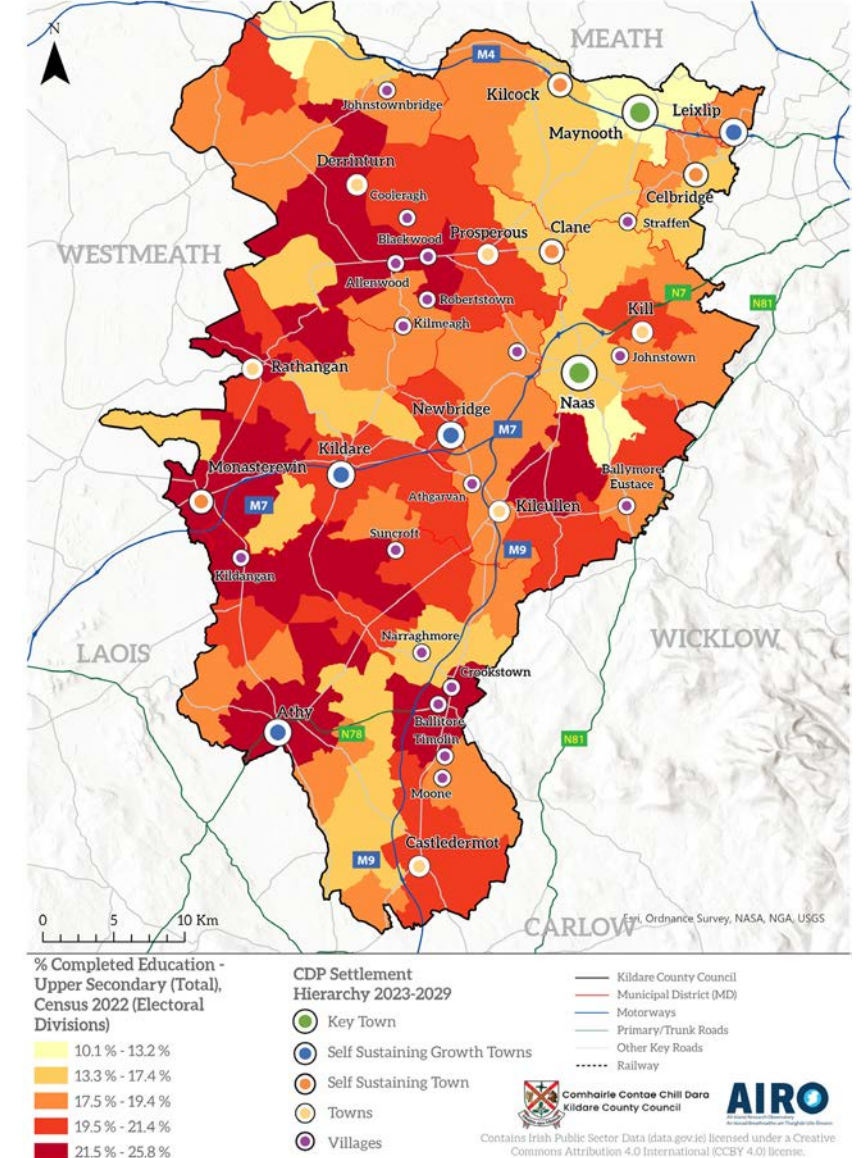


Figure 3.6 - Education Attainment: Higher Secondary, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Education Attainment: Technical/Apprenticeship/Certificate, 2022

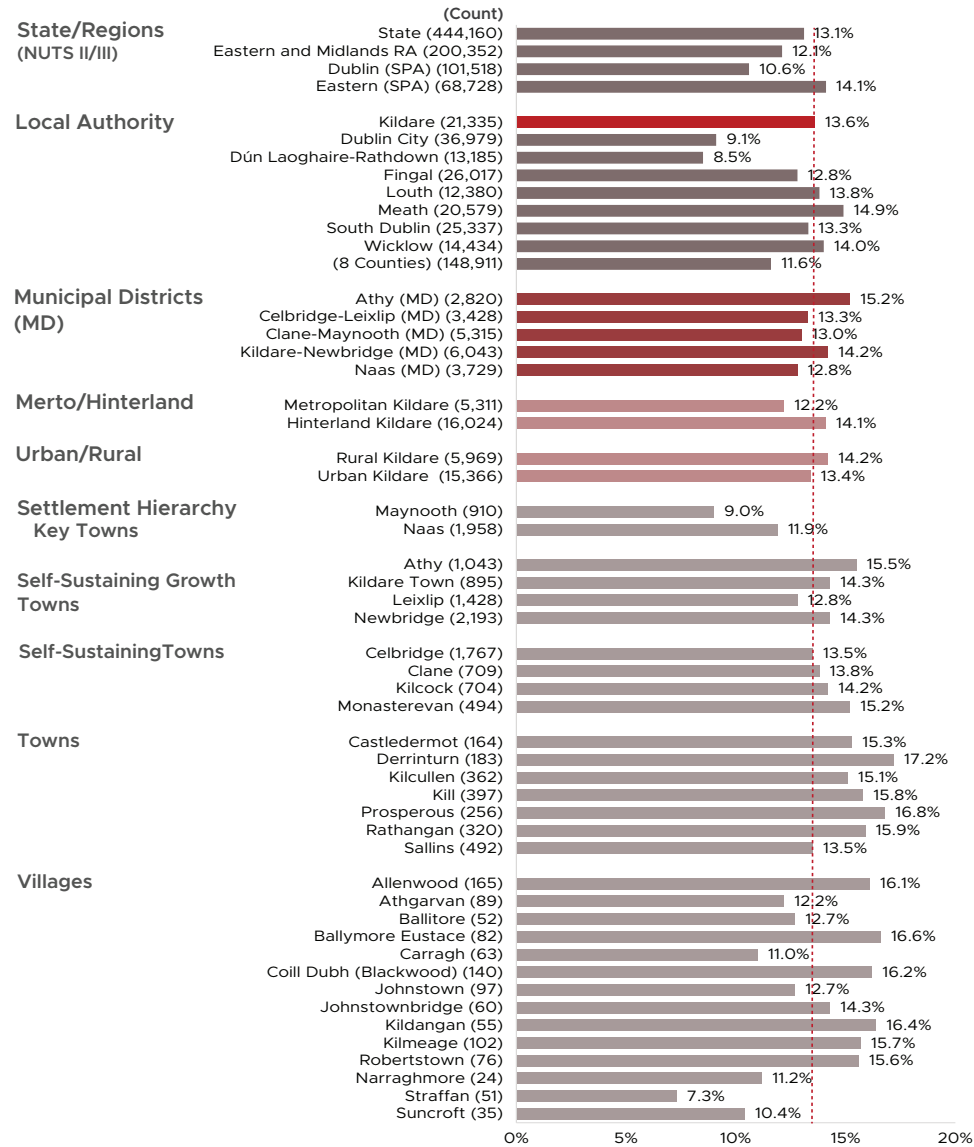


Figure 3.7 - Education Attainment: Tech./Appr./Cert., 2022 (Source: CSO)

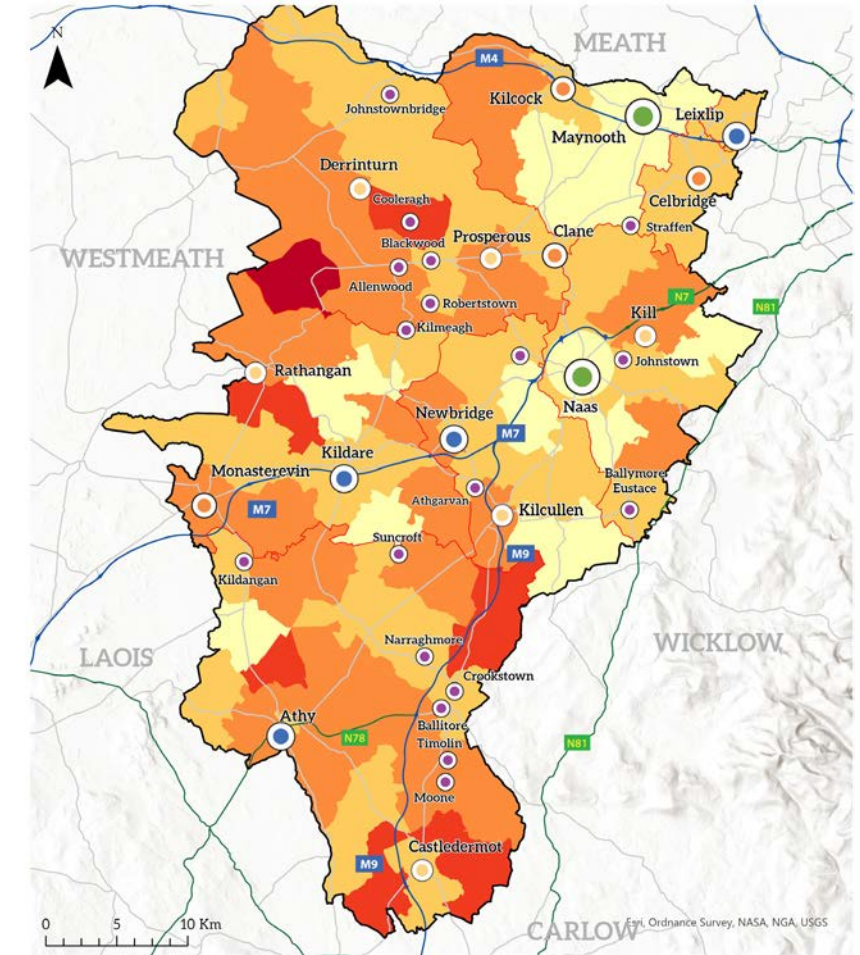
Headline:

21,335 persons with Tech./Appr./Cert. Education or 13.6% of the population, 2022

Summary Statistics

- 5th Highest # in State (Count Rank)
- 21st Highest % in State (Percentage Rank)
- Above 0.5% (Relative to State %)
- Decrease -205 -1% (Change since 2016)

1 being the highest and 31 being the lowest number (#) or percentage (%) of all local authorities



CDP Settlement Hierarchy 2023-2029

- Key Town (Green circle)
- Self Sustaining Growth Towns (Blue circle)
- Self Sustaining Town (Orange circle)
- Towns (Yellow circle)
- Villages (Purple circle)

Legend for map features: Kildare County Council (Red outline), Municipal District (MD) (Blue outline), Motorways (Blue line), Primary/Trunk Roads (Grey line), Other Key Roads (Light blue line), Railway (Black dashed line).

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Figure 3.8 - Education Attainment: Tech./Appr./Cert., 2022 (Source: CSO)

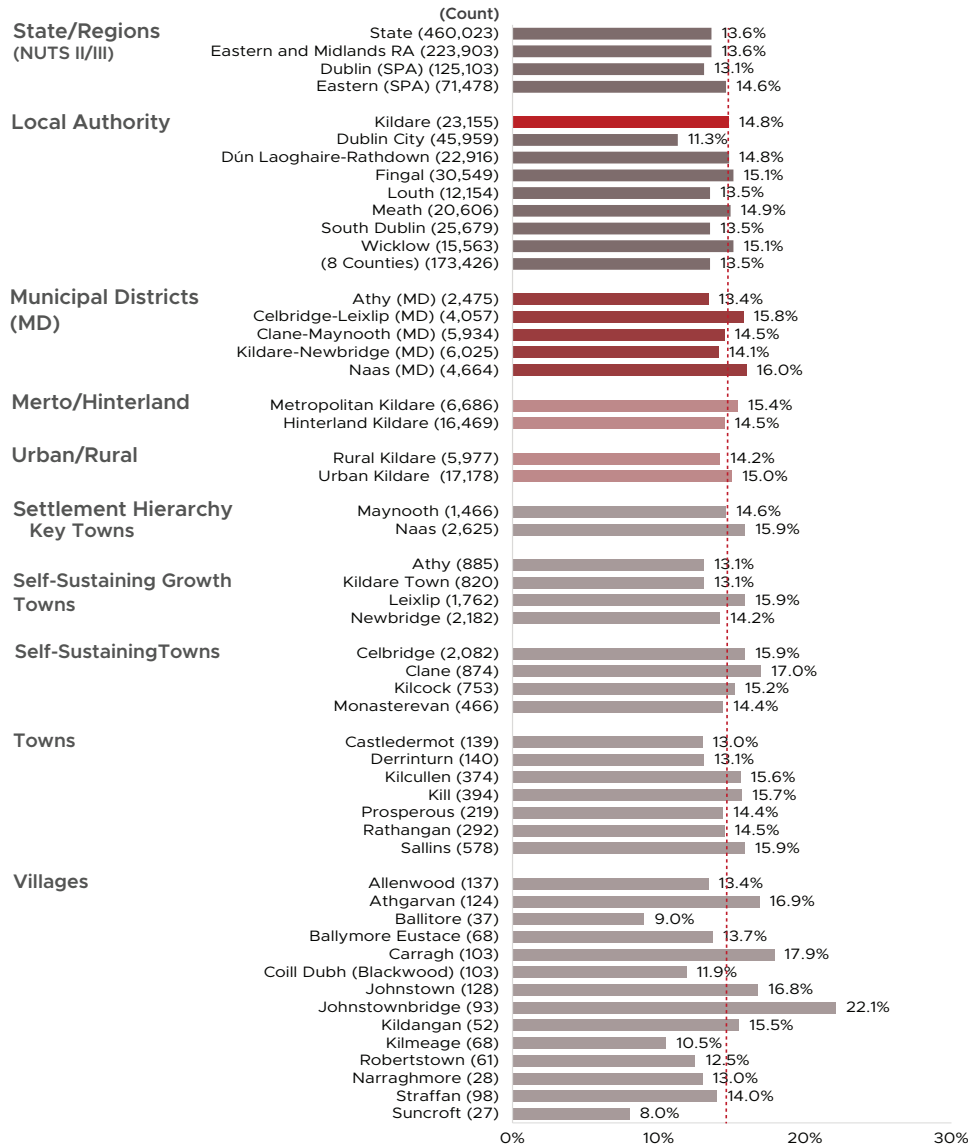
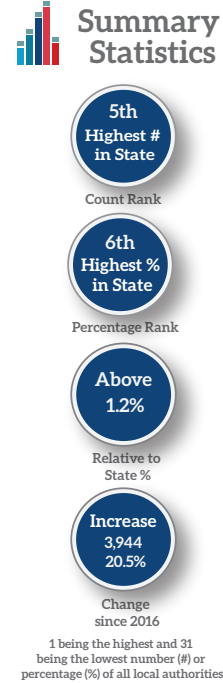


Figure 3.9 - Education Attainment: Lower 3rd Level, 2022 (Source: CSO)



Headline:

23,155 persons with Lower Third Level Education or 14.8% of the population, 2022

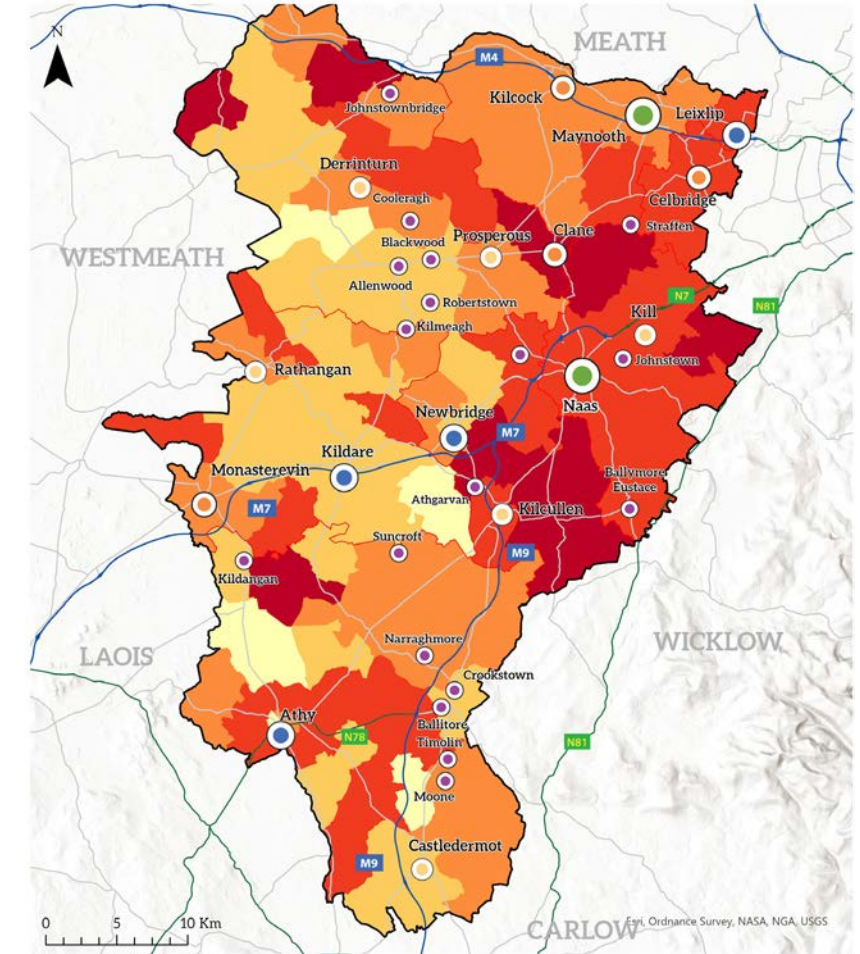
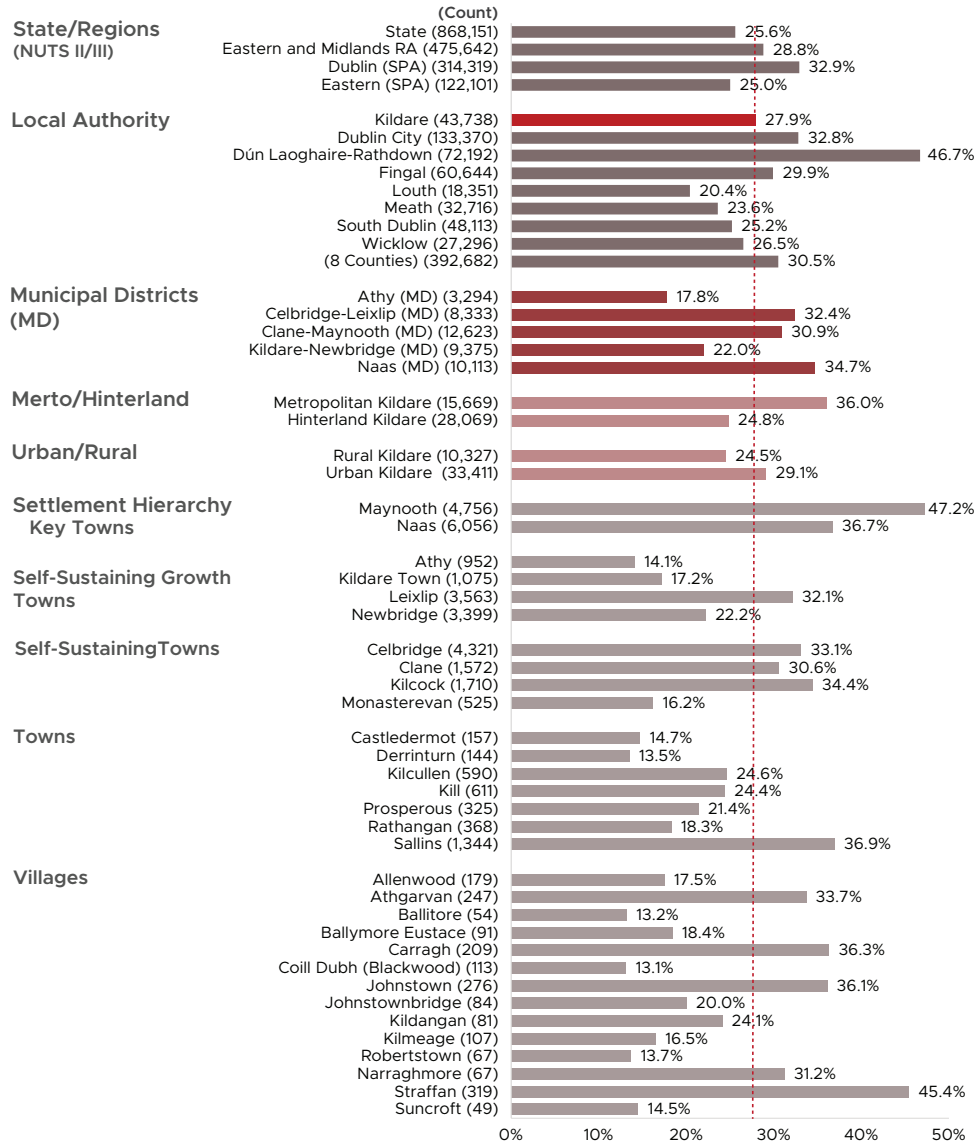


Figure 3.10 - Education Attainment: Lower 3rd Level, 2022 (Source: CSO)



Summary Statistics

7th Highest # in State

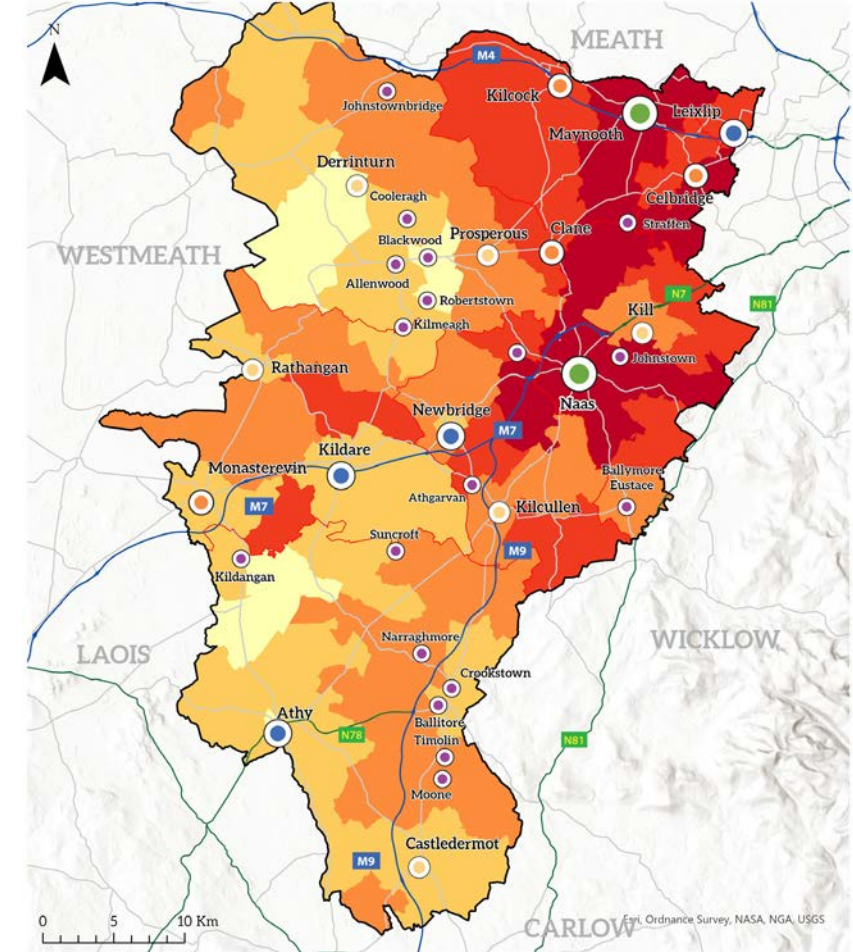
6th Highest % in State

Above 2.3% Relative to State %

Increase 13,042 42.5% Change since 2016

1 being the highest and 31 being the lowest number (#) or percentage (%) of all local authorities

Headline:
43,738 persons with Higher Third Level Education or 27.9% of the population, 2022



% Completed Education - Postgraduate diploma or degree (Total), Census 2022 (Electoral Divisions)

- 7.9% - 13.6%
- 13.7% - 20.8%
- 20.9% - 27.1%
- 27.2% - 34.2%
- 34.3% - 46.1%

CDP Settlement Hierarchy 2023-2029

- Key Town
- Self-Sustaining Growth Towns
- Self-Sustaining Town
- Towns
- Villages

Legend:

- Kildare County Council
- Municipal District (MD)
- Motorways
- Primary/Trunk Roads
- Other Key Roads
- Railway

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Figure 3.11 - Education Attainment: Higher 3rd Level, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Figure 3.12 - Education Attainment: Higher 3rd Level, 2022 (Source: CSO)

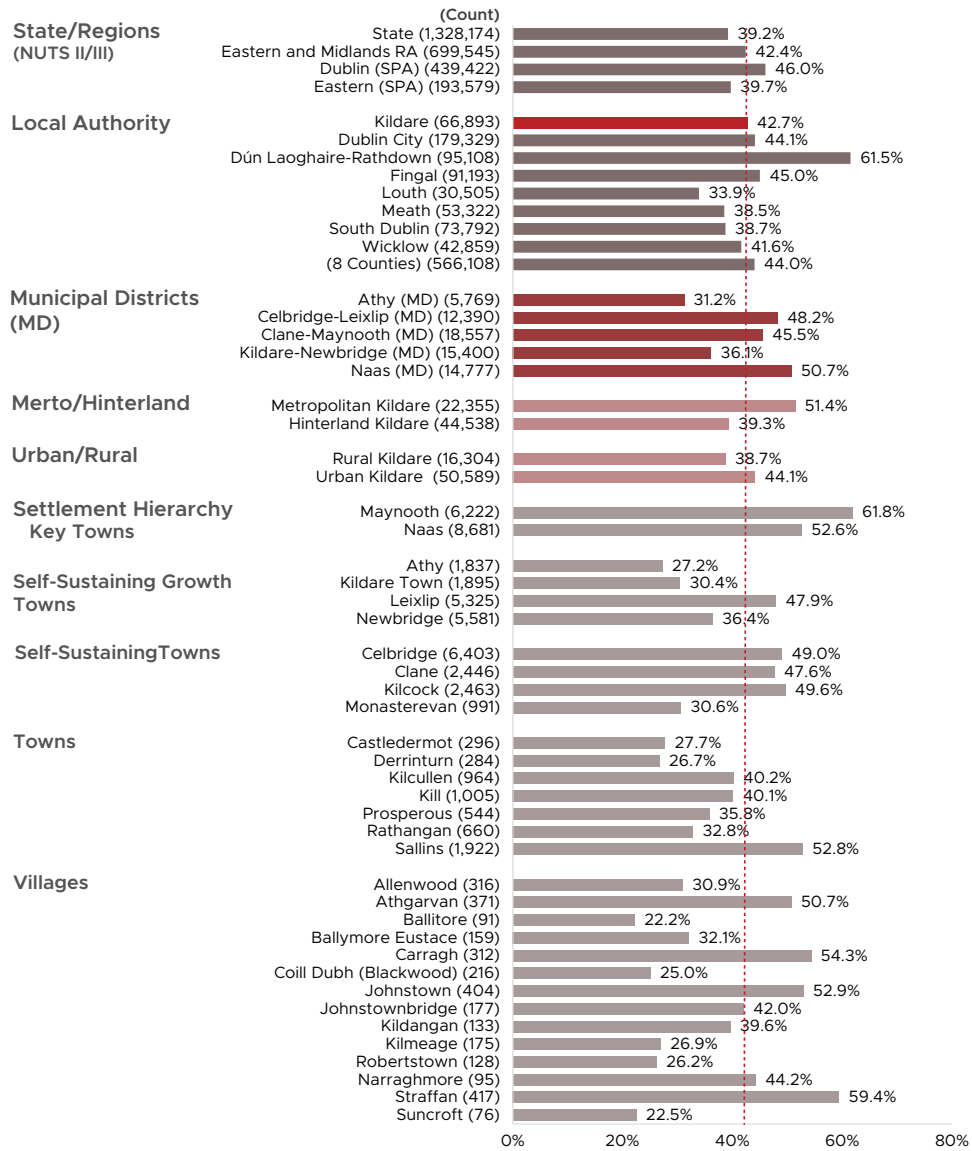


Figure 3.13 - Education Attainment: All 3rd Level, 2022 (Source: CSO)

Headline:
66,893 persons with All third Level Education or 42.7% of the population, 2022

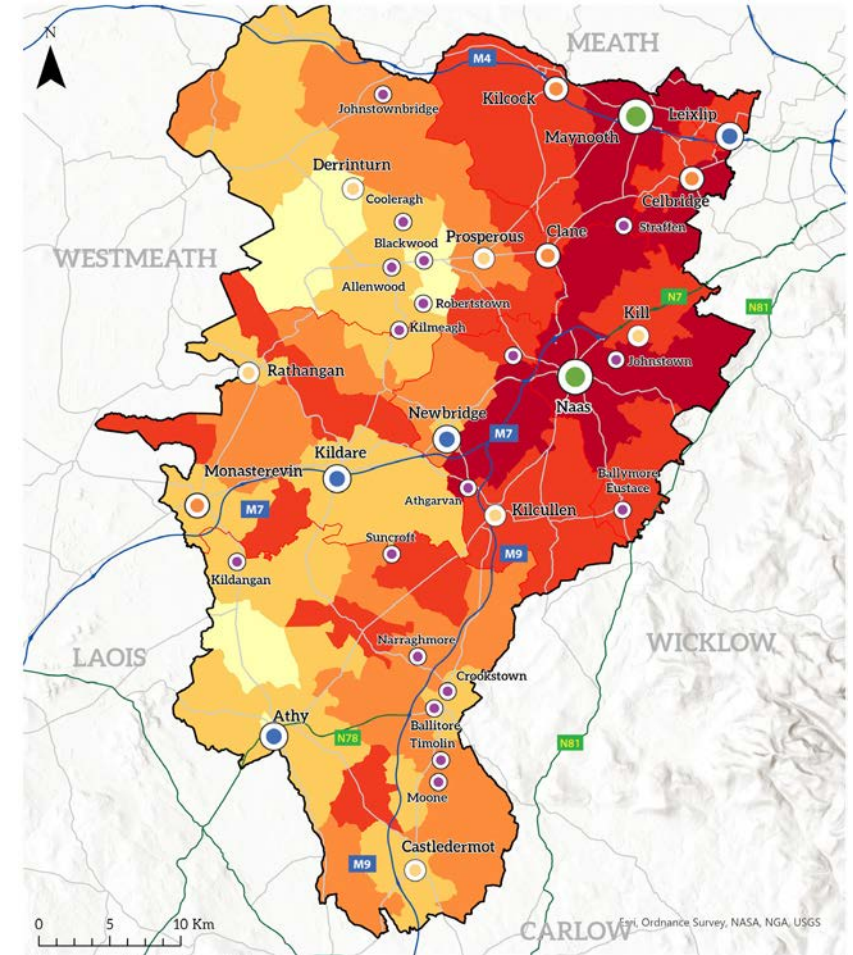
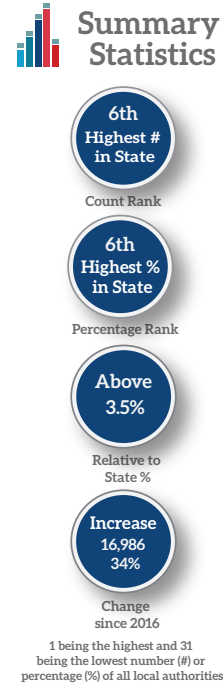


Figure 3.14 - Education Attainment: All 3rd Level, 2022 (Source: CSO)

DEIS Primary Schools Per 1,000 Population Aged 5 - 12

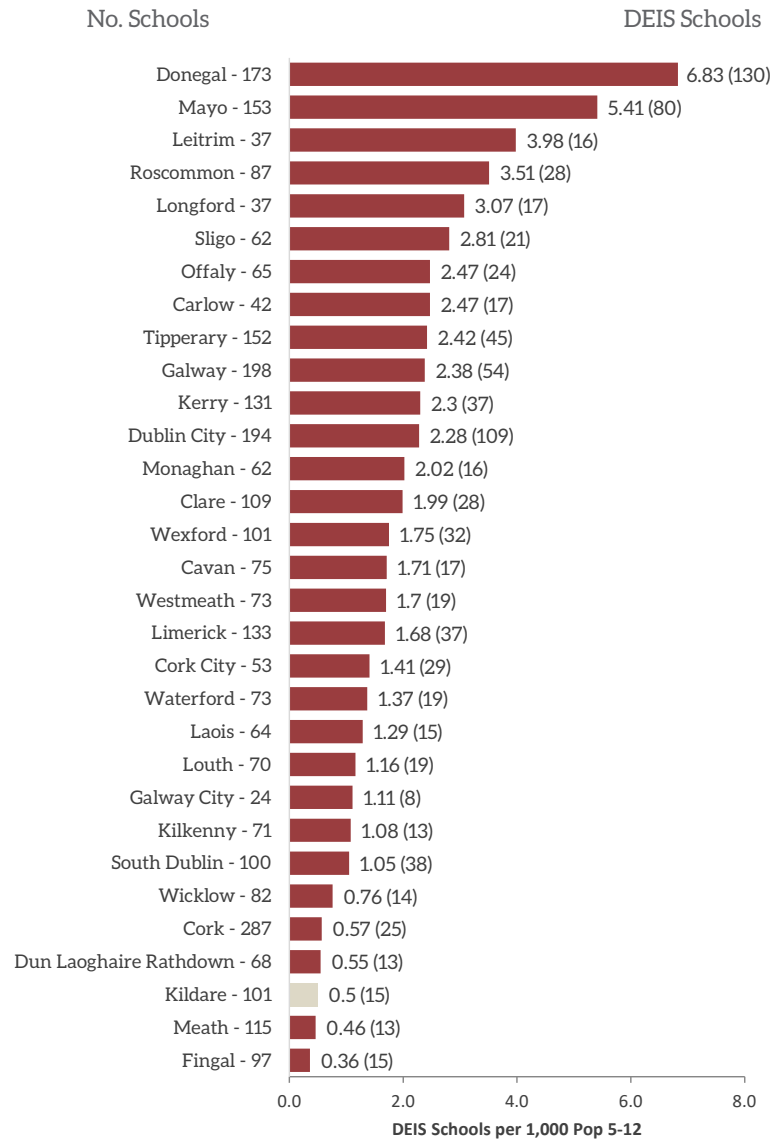


Figure 3.15 - DEIS Primary Schools per 1,000 Population 5 -12, 2023/24 (Source: DES)

% Primary Schools Classified as DEIS

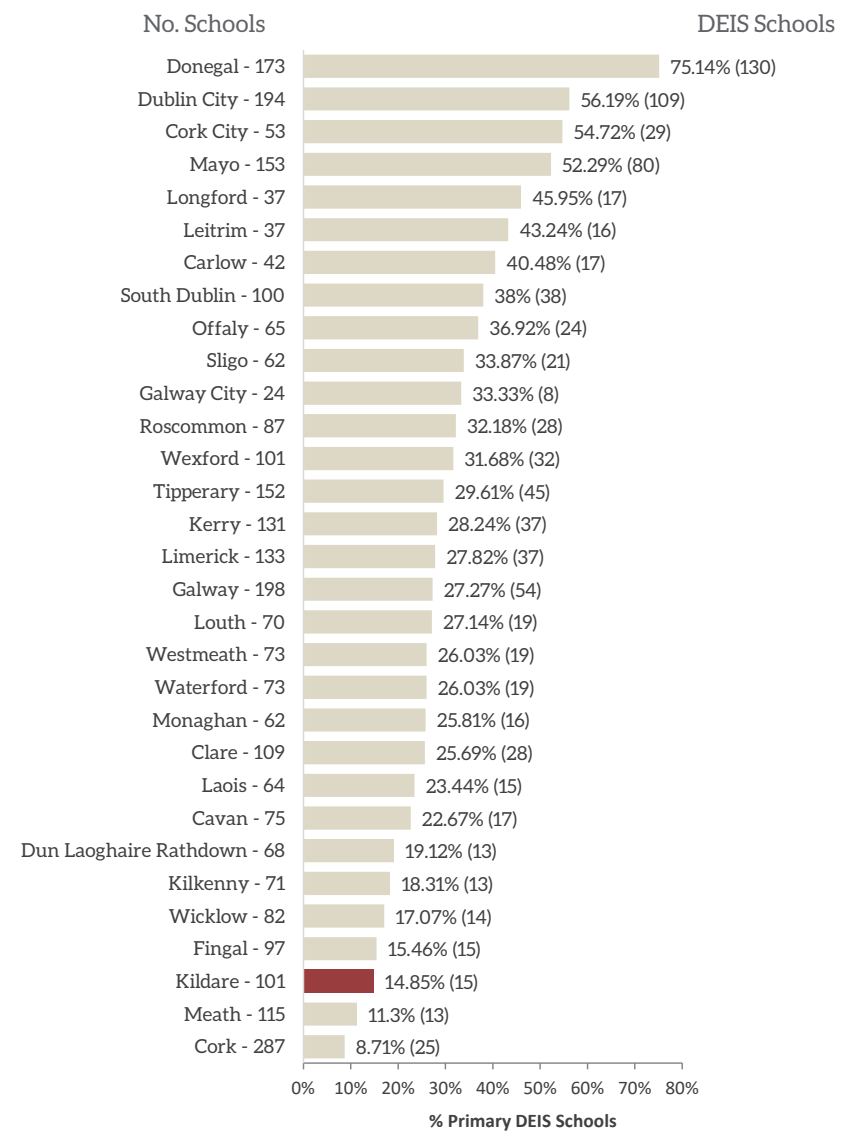


Figure 3.16 - % Primary DEIS Schools, 2023/24 (Source: DES)

Education Profile: DEIS Post Primary Schools, 2023/24

DEIS Post Primary Schools Per 1,000 Pop Aged 5 - 12

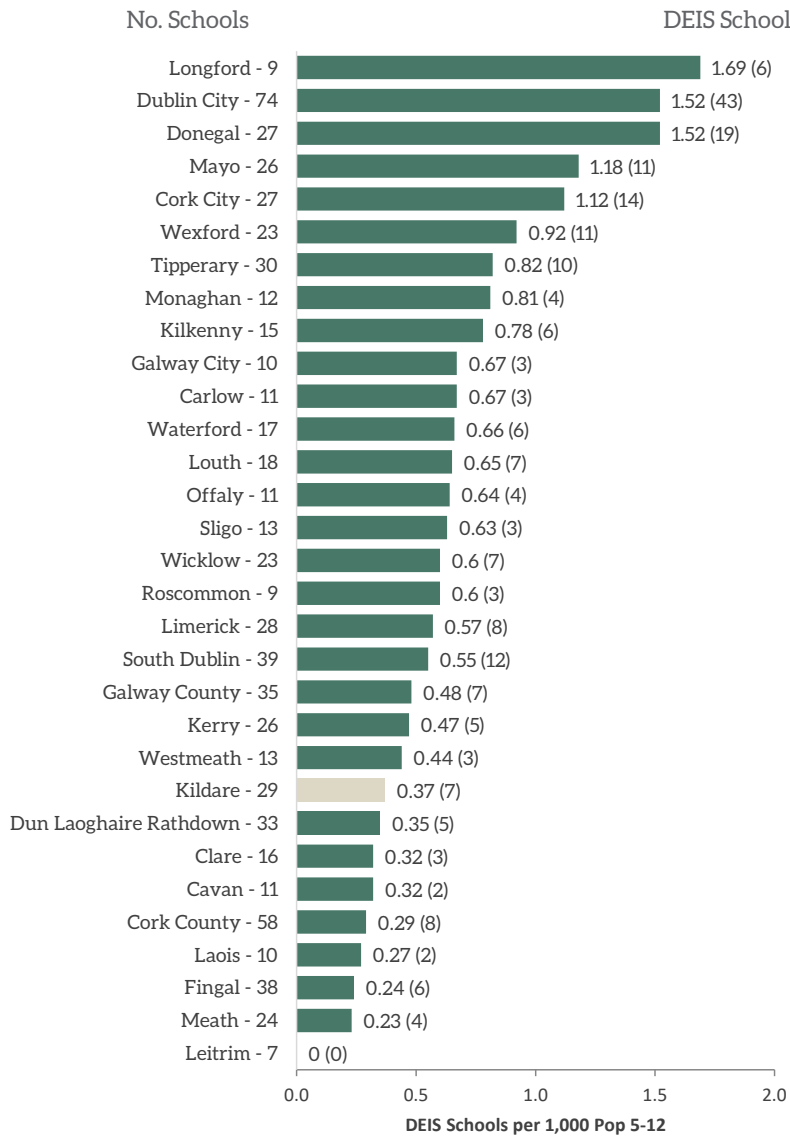


Figure 3.17 - DEIS Post Primary Schools per 1,000 Population 5 -12, 2023/24 (Source: DES)

% Post -Primary Schools Classified as DEIS

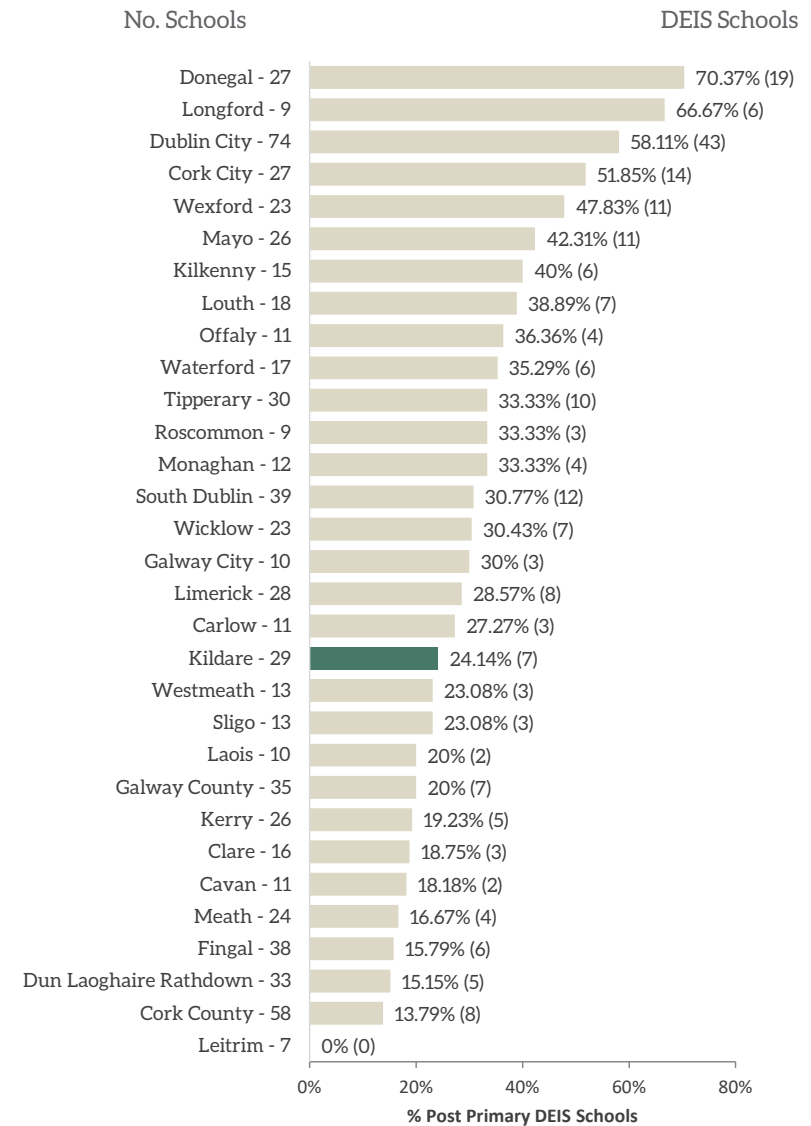


Figure 3.18 - % Post Primary DEIS Schools, 2023/24 (Source: DES)

Education Profile: School Progression Rates in Kildare, 2022/23

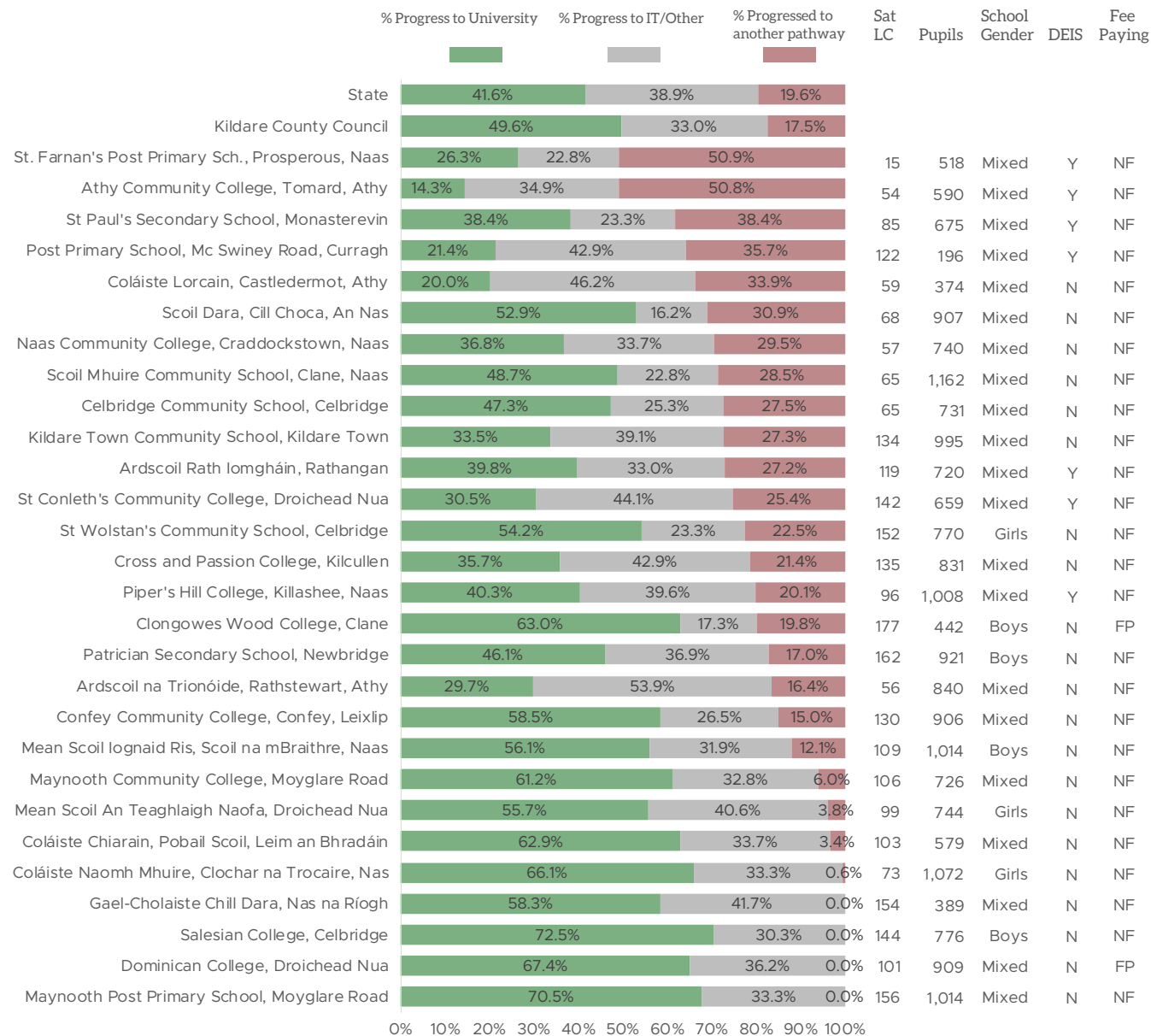


Figure 3.19 - Progression Rates from Kildare schools to Higher Education Institutions, 2022/23 (Source: Irish Times)

Education Profile: Class Sizes and Pupil - Class Ratio, 2022/23

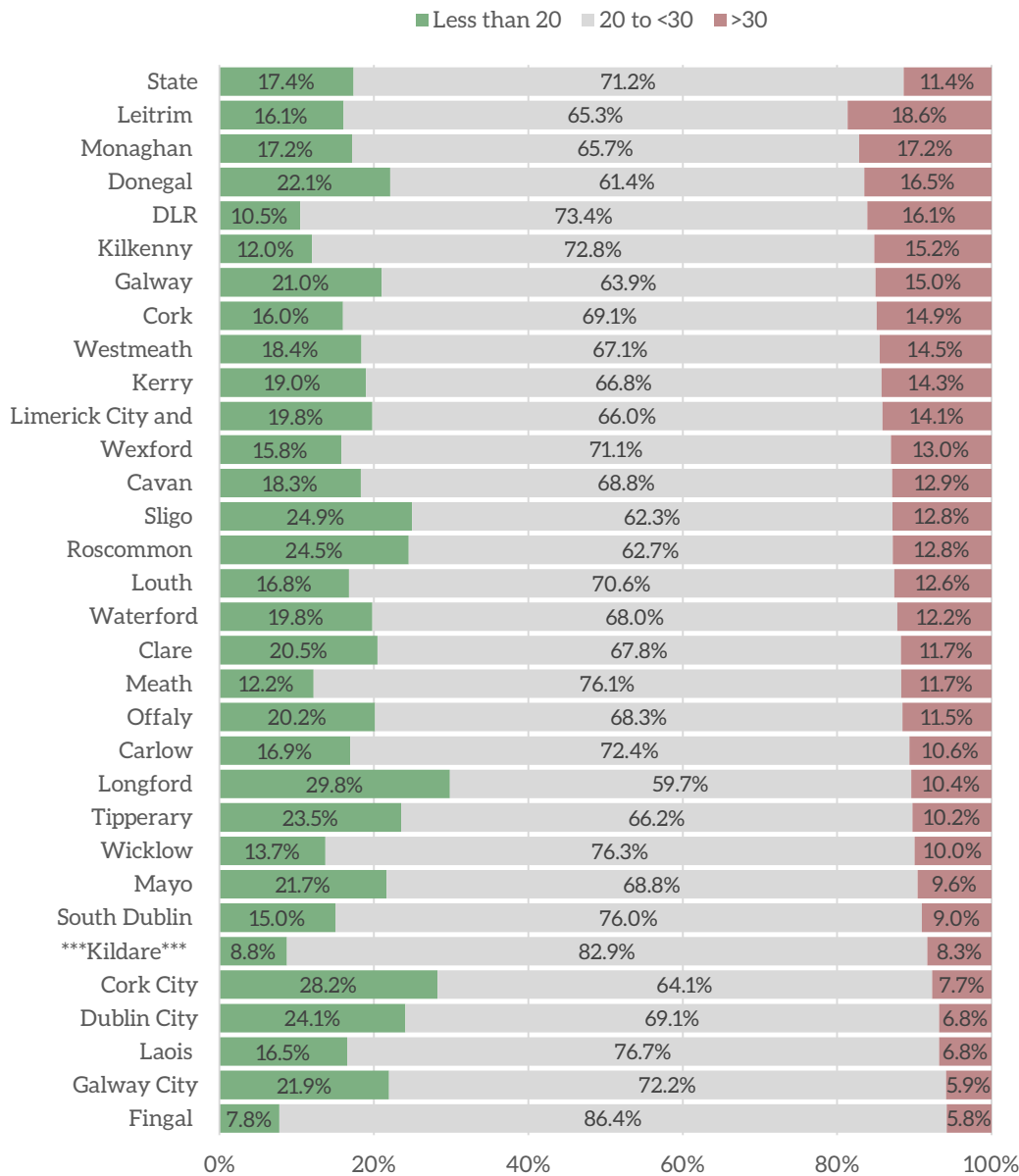


Figure 3.20 - Summary of pupil numbers in each class size range, 2022/23 (Source: DES)

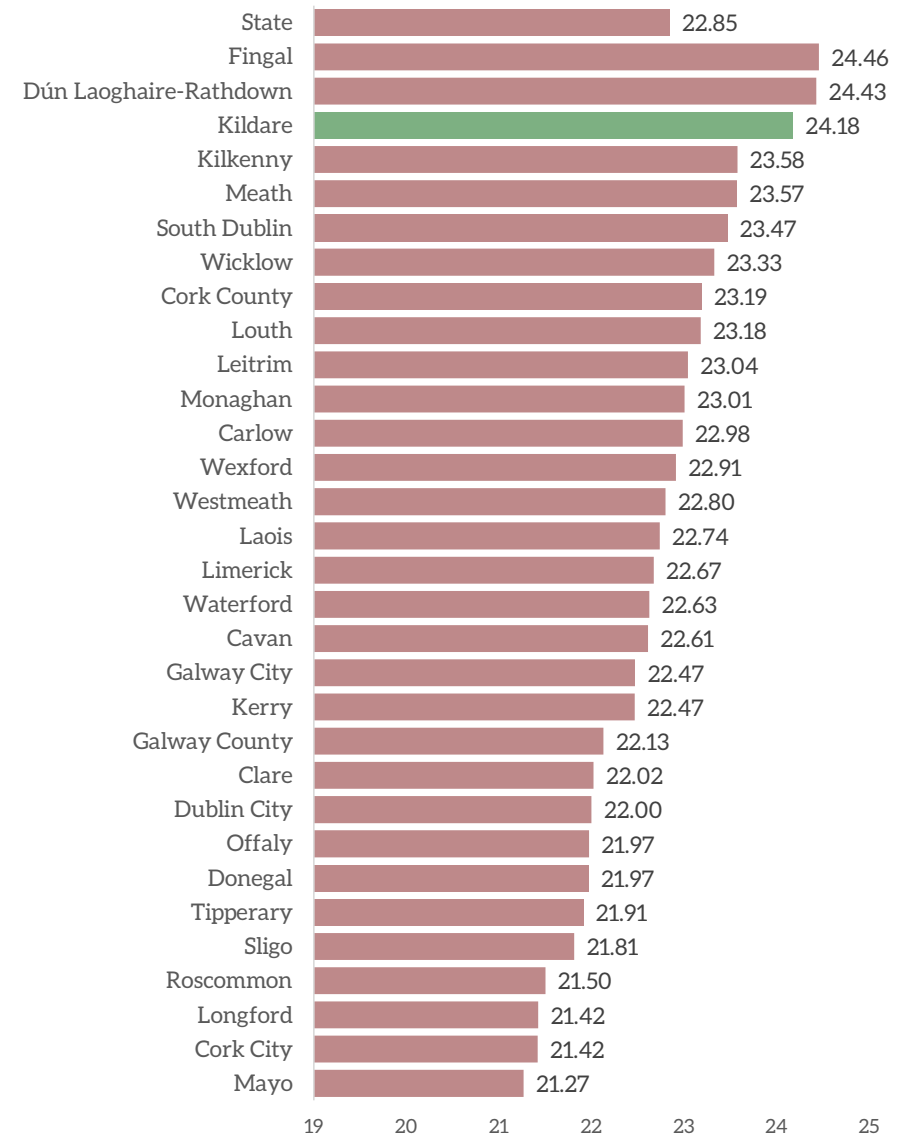


Figure 3.21 - Primary School Pupil/Class Ratio by Local Authority, 2023 (Source: DES)

Average weekly fee by Local Authority for Childcare, 2021

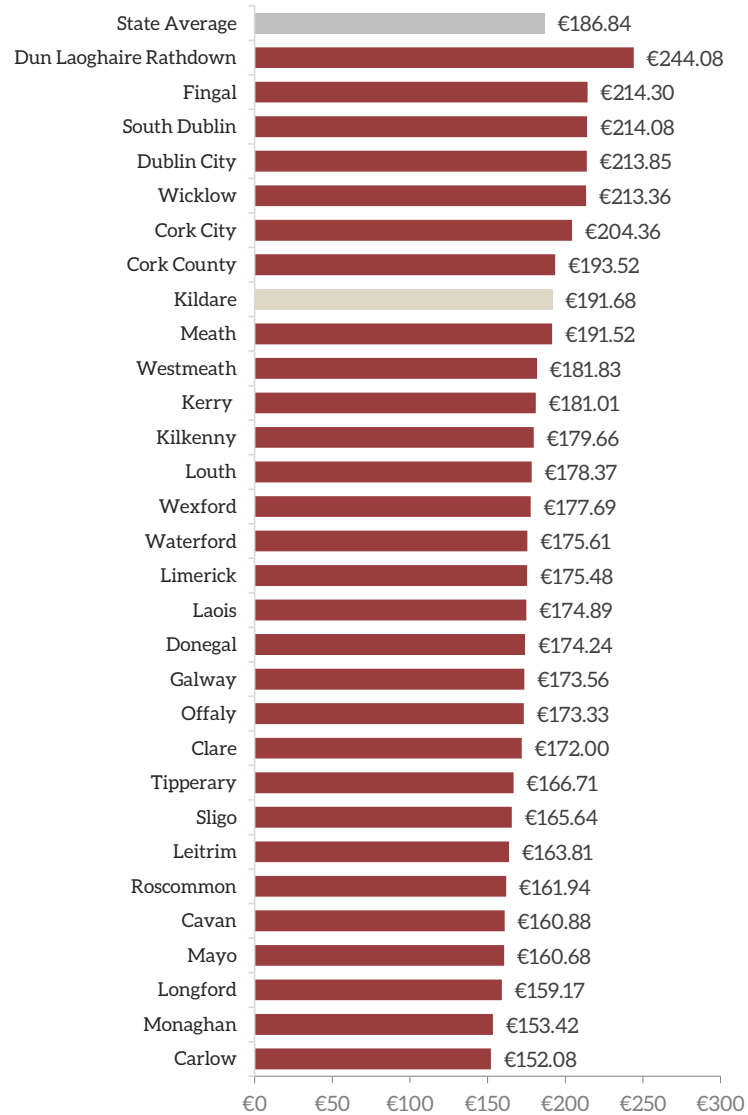


Figure 3.22 - Childcare Costs - Average Weekly Fee, 2021 (Source: Pobal)

Childcare Cost Comparison - Kildare vs State, 2019-2021

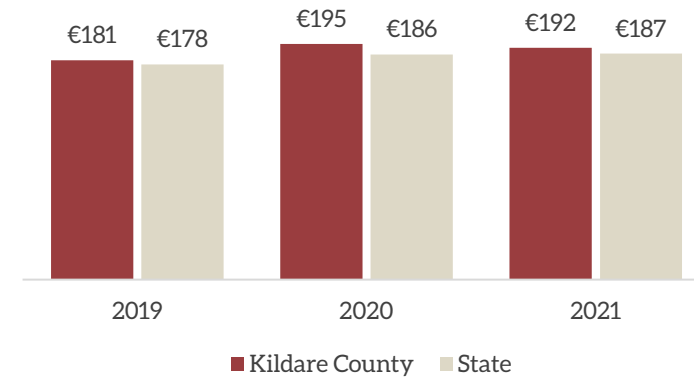


Figure 3.23 - Childcare Cost Kildare vs State, 2019-2021 (Source: Pobal)



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