Our central location

Connect to the rest of Ireland and the world

Laois is Ireland’s strategically best placed county for doing business outside of Dublin. At the heart of the national transport network and within an hour of Dublin, the county benefits from excellent connectivity and ensures rapid access to anywhere in Ireland, with motorways to all leading cities. Portlaoise, Ireland’s fastest growing town, is positioned near the intersection of the M7 and M8 motorways (connecting Dublin, Cork and Limerick), with the N80 linking Laois to the M6 (connecting to Athlone and Galway, and Rosslare Port in the Southeast). In addition, three strategic rail corridors pass through the county and nationwide bus services operate regularly to and from Laois.

Over 72% of businesses surveyed are very happy to be based in Laois and not looking to move. Laois is a great place to live, to visit and to do business in. It is strategically positioned right in the heart of the midlands and easily accessible.

Louise Phelan, VP EMEA PayPal

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Our central location

Laois’s connectivity ensures quick access to key airports and ports across Ireland, while also delivering a large customer base and skilled workforce to its door.

78 trains daily

Buses leave every hour 24/7 from Portlaoise and Dublin City and Dublin Airport

Over 72% of businesses surveyed are very happy to be based in Laois and not looking to move.

Established companies located in Laois

connect2laois.ie

connect2laois.ie
Connect to the right talent

Laois has experienced rapid population growth over the past 25 years and combined with its strategic location within 70 km from the Dublin Metropolitan area, it offers access to a highly-skilled labour force. Only 40 km from Portlaoise, Carlow IT is the fourth largest Institute of Technology in the country with over 7,000 learners.

Laois County Council has a strong relationship with the Institute and is collaborating with them on a number of projects. IT Carlow is committed to promoting start up businesses and working closely with the industrial and commercial sectors nationally and internationally, and is continually developing collaborations with existing businesses.

The highest % of under 35s in Ireland live in Laois.

Secundus Delaney, Founder of Internal Results

Skills and workforce

Laois is ideally situated, with Ireland’s most prestigious and innovative universities on its doorstep.

Portlaoise within 60 minutes drive time

| Population | 736,109 |
| Labour force | 358,021 |
| With third-level qualification | 96,362 |

Sample fields of study

| Business, law, and social science | 57,531 |
| Engineering, manufacturing, and construction | 46,381 |
| Science, mathematics, and computing | 17,448 |

We chose Laois because of the skilled workforce needed to service our clients, Google, Microsoft, Adobe.

92% rate of employment

87% of the population are within 90 mins of Laois
World-class infrastructure

Connect to business facilities and services

In addition to its strategic location, Laois boasts an enabling infrastructure to support and drive business in the county. With access to six international ports and three major airports, all serviced by major motorways, along with an extensive rail network and bus service, Laois is linked to all major cities.

Because of its strategic location, Laois is developing rapidly as a national conference centre. There are seven hotels which have state-of-the-art conference facilities, offering perfect space for small business meetings or facilities for conferences for up to 2,000 delegates.

There is a wonderful infrastructure, road networks and everything you need as a backdrop for a new business.

Jim Reynolds, Managing Director, Ballyfin Demesne

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Jim Reynolds, Managing Director, Ballyfin Demesne

60 mins drive on motorway to Europe’s fastest growing airport, serving 185 routes with 47 airlines.

495 hectares in zoned land available for enterprise development

1,000MBps broadband speed in Portlaoise

Availability of high level gas and electricity networks

7 hotels in the county which can cater for conferences ranging from 800 to 2,000 delegates.

Over 16 hospitals within 90 minutes drive of Laois

8 secondary schools and 67 national primary schools

Over 17,500 seats daily to the UK

Over 4,000 seats daily to the USA

Less than 120 minutes from 6 international ports

Extensive rail and bus network linking to major cities within 60 minutes

Less than 90 minutes from 3 major airports

World-class infrastructure

International Access

Ports

Rail

Airports

UK & USA

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Laois actively welcomes new business, offering both financial and advisory support to those looking to relocate to Laois and is committed to developing and promoting a proactive, pro-business inclusive environment which supports enterprise and enterprising people. Laois County Council, through its Business Support Unit, prides itself on taking a personal interest in supporting each new business, be this through capital investment, mentoring, training, animation or capacity building of collaborative networks and clusters, to foster greater entrepreneurial culture in a town, or a tourism destination or a specialised industry.

In 2016, Laois had the highest number of applications in Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur Competition in the Midlands region and second highest in the country in 2015. Over €1.4 million in grants were given out over the past five years.

Connect to lower operational costs

The average price of housing and accommodation in Portlaoise compares favourably to the Dublin average.*

Cost per sq ft for commercial property <50% cheaper to rent than Dublin

Competitive €36 m² development charge rate

Our lower operational costs

Commercial property rent compared to other Irish cities*

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Over €46 per sq metre to rent commercial property; €380 sq metre to buy

I won best established business in Laois in Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur Competition with a prize fund through the Local Enterprise Office.

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Connect to a better work-life balance

With its strategic location, affordable housing, range of outdoor activities, easy commute to local work or motorway all the way to Dublin, Laois ticks all the boxes. Those living in Laois can have all the benefits of city living, but without the stress and associated cost. Laois isn’t just an attractive place to work based on its accessibility. It also offers an unrivalled lifestyle, perched on Ireland’s Ancient East, hosting internationally acclaimed arts, culture and music festivals, and boasting a huge variety of amenities for everyone.

Heritage

Situated on Ireland’s Ancient East, Laois has a wealth of historical treasure troves to explore. The Rock of Dunamaise and Dunamaise Castle, a beautiful Norman castle, is a hugely popular tourist attraction along the Ancient East and is one of the best sighted castles in the country. Emo Court House and Gardens attracts 300,000 visitors every year.

Sport & Recreation

The South Laois Cycle Trail offers cyclists up to 48 km of trails taking in the towns and villages of Cullahill, Ballacolla, Ballinakill, Attanagh and Durrow. Laois has two public leisure centres, twenty playgrounds, ten public libraries, cinemas and arts centres.

Natural Amenities

The Slieve Bloom Mountains, containing the Glenbarrow Waterfall, are one of the most popular attractions for visitors with the villages of Rosenallis and Clonaslee being the favoured starting and finishing points for a great mountain walking experience.

For me and my staff, work-life balance is very important. It allows us to be more productive.

Heidi Higgins, Heidi Higgins Boutique

Culture and Arts

Hosted in Stradbally, Electric Picnic, Ireland’s premier culture, arts and music festival has had a long and vibrant history, helping a burgeoning local arts scene to thrive. Dunamaise Arts Centre houses local and international exhibitions, while a number of Ireland’s most influential contemporary artists are located in Laois.

Artisan food, outdoor food markets and festivals are a key part of Irish life and Laois is no exception. There is a large range of restaurants and cafés, ranging from independent artisan producers, to five-star gourmet dining. Ballyfin House, one of Ireland’s most prestigious hotels, offers incredible luxury, and in 2016 was awarded Condé Nast’s Hotel of the Year award. Morrisseys pub in Abbeyleix won best pub in Ireland.

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