Harnessing the Power of Data Can Help Solve our Housing Needs

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*The season to buy at auction*

LINDA DALY
MARKET WATCH

When it comes to purchasing homes, the end of the year brings a number of Irish people on the hunt, with the help of big and bright decorations and lighting, both inside and outside their homes. But if you’re planning a viewing, you must do it before the following week.

Auctions are a great way to buy in the short term, especially if you are in a hurry and want to get the best possible price. However, if you’re not in a rush, you may want to consider waiting until after Christmas to find a property that offers more value for your money.

Second, there is little publicity for statistics and data collection. The most recent figures for Ireland’s Urban Settlements, published by the Central Statistics Office, show that the number of homes being built is lower than in previous years. However, this is likely to change in the coming months, as builders start to ramp up their construction activities.

Third, there is a lack of data on long-term trends. The Census 2011 data shows that the population of Ireland has increased by nearly 15% since 2006. However, there is no comprehensive data on the number of people who are moving into or out of the country, or the reasons why they are doing so.

Housing Europe’s report on energy efficiency in homes shows that homes in Ireland are much less energy efficient than homes in other European countries. This is due to a number of factors, including the age of the homes, the type of heating system used, and the level of insulation.

In conclusion, statistics and data collection are crucial for making sound decisions about housing. However, there is a need for more comprehensive and accurate data to be compiled and disseminated.

LORCAN SIRR
ON THE HOME FRONT

Over-the-top Christmas decorations could reduce your home’s desirability during viewings, writes Gráinne Rothery

*Photographing a house decked out with fairy lights means it will look jaded by February*

*Keep festive displays to a minimum or you’ll burn your home’s desirability*