



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Working Age Payment Options in the Current Pandemic Crisis

Supports available from the Department of Social Protection

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An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

**Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment
(PUP for short)**

Jobseekers Allowance and Benefit
Fully unemployed
Working “part-time”

Enhanced (Covid) Illness Benefit

Other Payments

What is the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?



- The Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment is a weekly payment for people who lost their employment (including temporarily laid off) on or after 13 March 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Also available to self-employed people whose income from self-employment ceased or reduced on or after 13 March 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to the extent that they would be available to take up full-time employment.

Who is eligible for PUP ?



You can apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment if you:

- are aged between 18 and 66 years old **and**
- are currently living in the Republic of Ireland **and**
- are capable of work and genuinely seeking work.

If you are an employee, you must also:

- Have paid at least one employee PRSI contribution in the 4 weeks immediately before claiming PUP
- Have lost your job on or after 13 March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- Are not in receipt of any income from an employer

If you are self-employed, you must also:

- Have been in insurable self-employment on or after 13 March 2020
- Be able to show that your income from self-employment ceased or reduced on or after 13 March 2020 to the extent that you would be available for full-time employment

Who is not eligible for PUP ?



You are not eligible to apply for PUP if you:

- Have not been laid off by your employer;
- Did not lose your job on or after 13 March 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic;
- Are still in receipt of employment income or are put back onto the payroll by your employer;
- Left your job voluntarily;
- Refuse an offer to return to your employment;
- Refuse an offer of suitable employment with another employer;
- Fail to take up any reasonable opportunity to obtain suitable employment; or
- Fail to engage with offers of support from the Department to improve your chances of obtaining employment

However, a self-employed person can engage in limited self-employment and earn up to €480 over a four week period and continue to maintain entitlement to PUP.

PUP rates of payment



From 16 October 2020 until 31 January 2021 PUP will be paid at 4 rates.

The rate you receive will depend on the amount you used to get paid:

<u>Weekly Earnings</u>	<u>Weekly Rate</u>
Less than €200	€203
Between €200 and €299.99	€250
Between €300 and €399.99	€300
€400 or more	€350

We will examine your average gross weekly earnings in 2019, and compare it to your average gross weekly earnings in January and February 2020. Payment will be based on the greater of these two figures.

PUP is paid in arrears each Tuesday, with the payment week running from Friday to Thursday in the previous week.

How do I apply for PUP?



You can apply for the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment by:

- Applying online at www.MyWelfare.ie
- Requesting a paper form by emailing: forms@welfare.ie

How can I close my Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?

- You must close your claim on the first day that you go back to work.
- You can close your claim online at www.MyWelfare.ie under the Covid-19 Services section or by calling the Department's Income Support Helpline 1890 800 024

How can I get additional information?

Further information on the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment is available by visiting www.gov.ie/dsp

Easiest, quickest and simplest way to apply is online at www.mywelfare.ie



MyWelfare As Gaeilge Services Login with MyGovID

How can we help you today?

- COVID-19 Services**
+ Apply for payment if you have been affected by COVID19. You can also close your Pandemic Unemployment Payment
- Parents, Children, Family**
Maternity Benefit , Paternity Benefit, Child Benefit,
- Unlock all the benefits of MyWelfare**

Jobseekers



Jobseekers Benefit (JB) and Jobseekers Benefit for the self-employed (JBSE) are based on PRSI contributions.

Jobseekers Allowance (JA) is based on a means test and satisfying the Habitual Residence Conditions.

Rules applicable to both JA and JB

You must

- be aged 18 or over and under 66 years of age.
- be fully unemployed (or work for 3 days a week or less)
- be available for full-time work and genuinely seeking work
- be capable of work

Jobseekers and working part-time/casually



Casual or Part-time work is where someone is working up to maximum of 3 days per week and not working the full-time hours required for their job (e.g. not three 12 hour shifts). If an employer reduces an employee's hours to 3 days per week or less, that employee may be entitled to claim a Jobseeker's payment for the days they are not working.

Depending on their circumstance they may claim Jobseekers Benefit or Allowance and can claim an increase for an adult dependent and each child dependent.

Jobseekers Benefit (except Short-term work support) is taxable.



For Jobseeker's Benefit if an employee is working casually or part-time and then make a claim they must have suffered a loss of earnings or a loss of days from their normal weekly work in order to qualify for payment.

Anybody working part-time and claiming Jobseekers Benefit will need to confirm their working pattern indicating the days they are working and not working each week to ensure they receive the correct payment. If a Jobseeker's Benefit recipient is working for part of a week, their entitlement will be based on a 5-day payment week (JB Social Welfare week is Thursday to Wednesday).

This means that for each day that a person is employed, $\frac{1}{5}$ th of the normal rate of Jobseeker's Benefit is deducted. If they get part-time work for 2 days, they will get $\frac{3}{5}$ ths of the normal Jobseeker's Benefit for that week and if they work for 3 days, they will get $\frac{2}{5}$ ths of the normal rate of Jobseeker's Benefit for the week.

You must be unemployed four days out of seven in a Social Welfare week.



- Short-Time Work Support is a form of Jobseekers Benefit and is an income support payment for employees who have been temporarily placed on a shorter working week by their employer.
- Short-Time Work must be systematic and show a clear repetitive pattern of employment. Employees must work at least 1 day in each week e.g. reduced from a 5 day week to a 3 day week and working 3 days every week –not necessarily the same three days.
- The week is the normal JB payment week (i.e. Thursday to Wednesday)
- It is a non-taxable payment.



Jobseekers Allowance and working part-time

- If you do not qualify for Jobseekers Benefit, you can be assessed for Jobseekers Allowance, which is a means-tested payment. The rate of payment depends on the customer and their spouse/civil partner/cohabitant's income, earnings and savings. The weekly rate may vary depending on the number of days worked.
- Income from work is assessed and can affect the rate of Jobseeker's Allowance payment. However, only a certain amount of income from work is taken into account.
- If you are claiming a Jobseeker's Allowance payment the income from your new employment will be assessed against you as means along with any other sources of income you may have. The rate cannot be more than the weekly rate that would be payable to you for yourself and any Adult or Child Dependents that you might have.
- Anybody working part-time and claiming Jobseekers Allowance will need to confirm their working pattern indicating the days they are working and not working each week to ensure they receive the correct payment. If a Jobseeker's Allowance recipient is working for part of a week, their entitlement will be based on a 6-day payment week. The JA week runs from Wednesday to Tuesday.

Weekly certification



- Anybody working part-time and claiming Jobseekers (casual or short-term work support) needs to confirm their working pattern indicating the days they are working and not working each week to ensure they receive the correct payment.
- Customers can do this through the new online facility on www.MyWelfare.ie or by completing a weekly paper docket form (X's and O's) which must be signed and stamped by the employer.
- If a Jobseeker has an issue with their certification, they should contact their local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office

How do I apply for a Jobseekers payment ?



You can apply for a Jobseekers payment by

- Applying online at www.MyWelfare.ie
- Contacting your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office
 - A list of our offices can be found on www.gov.ie/dsp

If applying for a part-time, casual or Short-time Work Support payment and additional form **UP80** must be completed by the employer and either uploaded with the online application or submitted by post. This form is available to download on www.gov.ie/dsp

How can I get additional information?

Further information on Jobseekers payments is available by visiting

www.gov.ie/dsp

or by calling the Department's Income Support Helpline 1890 800 024

Enhanced (Covid) Illness Benefit



- COVID IB introduced on 9th March 2020
- Objective to encourage people not to go to work due to financial constraints when they should be in isolation
- Different to 'normal' IB:
 - Personal rate of payment €350pw, €203 pw on 'normal' Illness Benefit.
 - No waiting days – paid from first day of illness
 - Paid to employees and self employed
 - Reduced PRSI requirements

COVID IB is payable for 2 weeks to those self isolating due to being a probable source of infection and up to 10 weeks for those with a COVID diagnosis.

Rules of enhanced (COVID) IB



- Person must be certified by a GP as being a person -
 - *who is diagnosed with COVID-19, or*
 - *who is a **probable source of infection** of COVID and is self-isolating – such persons will have either been certified by their Doctor or will have received the HSE text notification*
- Other conditions for those claiming :
 - *aged between 18 and 66 years and*
 - *employed/self-employed and*
 - *have worked in the previous four weeks and*
 - *have a current contract of employment if employed .*
- **Illness Benefit application and medical evidence must be submitted**



EWSS and Jobseekers

- Statement issued by the Department on 9th September 2020
- *The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection wishes to set out the position regarding certain social welfare payments and the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) operated by the Revenue Commissioners.*
- *The Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme from 1st September 2020.*
- *Subject to satisfying the relevant eligibility criteria, employees may claim casual (i.e. part-time) jobseeker payments or Short-Time Work Support payments for days of unemployment, even where their employer is claiming the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme for days of employment.*
- *The normal scheme rules and application processes for casual jobseeker payments and Short-Time Work Support apply, including completion of the relevant forms by the employer to certify days of employment and unemployment.*
- Note - PUP is not payable with EWSS

Other payments



Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) Supplements

A SWA supplement may be paid to assist you meet ongoing additional expenses which a person could not reasonably be expected to meet out of their weekly income.

For further information, contact the local Community Welfare Service through the local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office

A list of our offices can be found on www.gov.ie/dsp or by calling the Department's Income Support Helpline 1890 800 024

Working Family Payment (WFP) (formerly Family Income Supplement (FIS))

WFP is a weekly tax-free payment available to employees with children.

It gives extra financial support to people on low pay and who are employees and who have at least one Dependent child

WFP is not payable with Jobseekers but in certain circumstances PUP can be paid with WFP.

More information



www.gov.ie/dsp

www.citizensinformation.ie

or the Department's Income Support Helpline 1890 800 024

For queries on individual jobseeker claims, contact the local office

Thank you