



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

Changes to the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

**Updated
03.07.2020**

Overview

From the **29th June** the rate of Pandemic Unemployment Payment Pandemic Unemployment Payment changed.

There will now be two rates of payment. The rate which a person receives will depend on their gross weekly employment earnings as follows:

- For those whose prior gross earnings were more than €200 per week or higher (about 75% of recipients), the Pandemic Unemployment Payment rate will remain at €350 per week;
- For those whose prior gross earnings were less than €200 per week (about 25% of recipients), the Pandemic Unemployment rate will be €203 per week;

The new rates of payments will be paid into the bank accounts and Post Office accounts of customers on Tuesday 7th July.

To continue to receive this payment you will also need to confirm your eligibility by 13 July. The quickest way to do this is online at www.mywelfare.ie

Why is the rate changing?

When launched the Pandemic Unemployment Payment was paid at a flat rate. This meant that everyone in receipt of the payment received the same amount of weekly income support and that their rate was not based on their previous income or on the number of hours they had worked. This ensured that all those who needed income support during this unprecedented pandemic were able to get it quickly.

This meant that some recipients, mainly those working lower hours, received a higher amount of income support from the State than they had received from their employment income.

It is important that the social welfare system is fair and equitable. That is why it is important that these changes to the rate are made.

Those people who receive a lower rate of Pandemic Unemployment Payment will still receive more than the amount previously paid by their employer. Nobody on the lower rate will be receiving less than they had been earning from their employment income.

When will I know if my rate is changing?

If your rate changes, you will notice a difference in the amount you receive on **Tuesday 7th July**.

The Pandemic Unemployment Payment is paid in arrears, with the payment week running from Friday to Thursday. This means that the rate change on the **29th June** will take effect in payments from Tuesday **7th July**.

Will the rate of payment that I receive on the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) change?

Your rate of payment of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment scheme may change after the **29th June**. Changes to the payment for the next phase will be based on your weekly employment earnings as follows;

- if your weekly earnings were €200 gross per week or higher there will be no change to your payment of €350 per week;
- if your gross weekly earnings were under €200 per week, your payment will be adjusted to €203 per week. This change will take effect in your payment from **Tuesday 7th July**. [There is one exception to this and applies if you were working part-time and claiming jobseekers immediately before you claimed this Pandemic Unemployment Payment. In this case, there will be no change to your payment of €350 per week.]
- You do not need to contact the Department about your earnings. The Department has access to this information from Revenue Commissioners.

How is the Pandemic Unemployment Payment rate calculated for people who were employed?

- The rate of payment is based on past earnings notified to Revenue and subject to PRSI (Pay Related Social Insurance).
- Rates are calculated based on your average weekly earnings during 2019 (full year) and 2020 (January/February).
- Where an employee record was found in 2019 and 2020, we used the higher amount of income to calculate the rate.
- If no employee record was available, we looked in 2018 for self-employment contributions. The assessment is based on the Class S record only.
- Where no earnings data was available, either as an employee or a self-employed person, the rate of Pandemic Unemployment Payment was reduced to €203 per week.

How is the Pandemic Unemployment Payment rate calculated for people who were self-employed?

- The rate of payment is based on past earnings notified to Revenue and subject to PRSI (Pay Related Social Insurance).
- Rates are calculated based on your self-assessment returns for 2018, the last period for which complete data is available. (2019 returns will not be available until December 2020 or January 2021).
- The assessment is based on the Class S record only. While there a limited number of Class S returns on record for 2019, these relate to returns under the PAYE system; in a significant number of cases, these returns require further examination, or the data could distort the examination of individual employee returns for that year.
- Where no earnings data was available the rate of Pandemic Unemployment Payment was reduced to €203 per week.

I was in part-time employment and claiming Jobseeker's Allowance or Jobseeker's Benefit immediately before I claimed the Pandemic Unemployment Payment, how will the rate change affect me?

Your rate of payment of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment scheme will **not change** after the 29th June and **you will continue to be paid €350** per week.

I am being paid the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and Working Family Payment. How will the rate change affect me?

Your rate of payment of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment scheme may change after the **29th June** depending on your weekly employment earnings as follows:

- If your weekly earnings were €200 gross per week or higher there will be no change to your payment of €350 per week;
- If your gross weekly earnings were under €200 per week, your payment will be adjusted to €203 per week. This change will take effect in your payment from **Tuesday 7th July**.

There will be no change to your Working Family Payment.

I am being paid the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and Carer's Payment. How will the rate change affect me?

Your rate of payment of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment scheme may change after the **29th June** depending on your weekly employment earnings as follows:

- If your weekly earnings were €200 gross per week or higher there will be no change to your payment of €350 per week;

- If your gross weekly earnings were under €200 per week, your payment will be adjusted to €203 per week. This change will take effect in your payment from **Tuesday 7th July**.

There will be no change to your Carer's Payment.

I am being paid the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and One Parent Family Payment. How will the rate change affect me?

Your rate of payment of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment scheme may change after the **29th June** depending on your weekly employment earnings as follows:

- If your weekly earnings were €200 gross per week or higher there will be no change to your payment of €350 per week;
- If your gross weekly earnings were under €200 per week, your payment will be adjusted to €203 per week. This change will take effect in your payment from **Tuesday 7th July**.

There will be no change to your One Parent Family Payment.

I have one adult and one or more dependent children should I be claiming the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?

No, you should claim a Jobseeker's payment instead of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

This is because you can claim an additional allowance for your adult dependent and child dependents, which will bring your weekly payment to in excess of the maximum weekly payment of €350 available under the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

I am a Frontier Worker claiming the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment. How will this rate change affect me?

Where we do not have details of your earnings from your employment in another EU Member State, we will use the notional earnings of the country you worked in to calculate your rate. This will result in your rate of Pandemic Unemployment Payment remaining at €350.

You will need to provide confirmation that you were employed as a frontier worker before this can be done.

This can be done by providing:

- Details of tax returns made in the Republic of Ireland in respect of taxes paid in the UK or relevant EU member State or
- Equivalent of P60 from UK or relevant EU Member State or
- A recent payslip, immediately prior to the date of your claim.

Please submit this additional information to the Department at the following email address PUPRerate@welfare.ie

My rate has been reduced to €203 and I believe that I should continue to receive the higher rate of €350. What can I do to have this reviewed?

If the rate of your payment is reduced to €203 and you believe that your average weekly earnings were €200 or more, you can request a review of earnings by:

- Emailing PUPRerate@welfare.ie
- Writing to **Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rerate Requests, DEASP, Intreo Centre, Cork Road, Waterford,**

You will need to supply documentation to support your request.

Your case will then be examined and any necessary follow up action taken.

It is important to note that we will only accept earnings which have been notified to Revenue and subject to PRSI. Any information which is supplied by you to declare additional earnings will be matched against Revenue records and any discrepancies will be followed up.

For further information on the rate change you can contact our DEASP Income Support Helpline on 1890 800 024, open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Is there anything else I need to know about the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment?

To continue to receive this payment you must confirm your eligibility by 13th July.

The simplest way to do this is online at www.mywelfare.ie

Information & Contact Details

Further information on the rate change and our COVID-19 income supports is available at gov.ie/deaspcovid19

Or by contacting our DEASP Income Support Helpline on 1890 800 024 Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm

Requests for a review of earnings should be **emailed** to:

PUPRerate@welfare.ie

Or **posted** to:

Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rerate Requests,
DEASP, Intreo Centre,
Cork Road,
Waterford

*** Customers should make sure to attach/include all supporting documentation when contacting the Department by email or post to request a review.**

To confirm your continued eligibility for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment visit www.mywelfare.ie