

Update on payments awarded for COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment and Enhanced Illness Benefit

From [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)

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219,900 people receive Pandemic Unemployment Payment this week

Education sector sees 1,500 returning to work

€68.6 million to be paid in PUP payments tomorrow

Today the Department of Social Protection issued payments valued at €68.6 million to 219,900 people for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP). This represents a decrease of 5,100 on the 225,000 people paid last week and it is a drop of over 63% on the 598,000 paid at its peak on 5 May.

In the past seven days, 9,265 people have closed their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment. Some 6,256 will be receiving their final payment tomorrow, 8 September.

The top sector in which employees are returning to work this week is Education with 1,500 going back to work, followed by Accommodation and Food Services; and Transportation and Storage sectors.

The largest age cohort returning to work is in the 45-54 group (1,800). This is followed by 1,700 in the 35-44 age category and 1,600 aged 55 and over.

The above payments made are in addition to the people who were reported on the Live Register as of the end of July. All COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payments issued will be in recipients' bank accounts or at their local post office tomorrow, Tuesday, 8th September.

The easiest way for people to apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is online at www.MyWelfare.ie. When applying, people should provide the name of their employer and details of their last day of employment.

Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, commented:

“It is encouraging to see more and more people close their Pandemic Unemployment Payment as they go back.

“The drop this week is mainly attributed to people returning to work in the education sector.

“I wish to acknowledge the huge effort made by all involved in this sector whose work and determination have enabled our schools to re-open after being closed for so long.”

Minister Humphreys continued:

“It remains incumbent on each one of us to ensure that we follow the guidelines from NPHEA by maintaining our social distancing, washing our hands and wearing a face mask when travelling on public transport and when in shops and other public facilities.

“By adhering to these public health guidelines, we can keep the COVID-19 virus at bay and help make our homes, schools and workplaces safe for each other.”

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

Parents and guardians of students are being reminded that the department’s Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is available to provide financial support with back to school costs. Minister Humphreys has extended the payment, which is means-tested, to include parents and guardians who are receiving the Pandemic Unemployment Payment. Families who wish to make an application can do so via www.MyWelfare.ie. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply. People should apply by 30 September.

Under the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, €150 is paid for each eligible child aged 4 - 11 years on or before 30 September 2020, while an allowance of €275 is paid for each eligible child aged 12 - 22 years on or before 30 September 2020. Students aged between 18 and 22 years must be returning to full-time second-level education in a recognised school or college in autumn 2020.

Changes to PUP Payment Rates

As was announced as part of the July Jobs Stimulus package the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is continuing until April 2021 but the payment rates will change on 17 September 2020, 1 February 2021 and on 1 April 2021.

PUP Rate Changes from 17 September 2020

From 17 September 2020 the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will move from 2[1] rates of payment to 3 rates.

The rate a recipient will receive will depend on the amount they previously earned:

- if they earned over €300 per week - they will now receive €300 per week
- if they earned between €200 and €300 per week - the rate of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will now be €250 per week; and
- if they earned less than €200 per week - the rate of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will be €203 per week (there is no change to this rate)

Recipients of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will see the impact of these changes in their bank accounts on Tuesday 22 September.

Individuals do not need to contact the department about their earnings. The department has access to this information from the Revenue Commissioners and will be contacting PUP recipients in advance of these changes informing them of their new rate of payment.

People returning to work

In the past week, some 9,265 people closed their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 7,716 reported that they were returning to work. Of those 7,716 returning to work, some 6,256 are receiving their last payment this week. As the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is a weekly payment paid in arrears, there can be a one week lag in how closures, due to people returning to work, are reflected in the payment data. The reduction in the number of people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will, therefore, be reflected in next week's figures.

The top sectors in which employees are returning to work this week are Education (1,500); Accommodation and Food Services (800); Transportation and Storage (800); and Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles (700). A full breakdown of the sectors in this area is set out at Appendix 7 below.

The age profile of employees returning to work this week shows that the two largest cohorts are those in the 45-54 (1,800) and 35-44 age group (1,700), followed by 1,600 in the 55 plus age group and 1,500 in the 25-34 age group also returning. Full details are available at Appendix 8.

The department continues to remind workers who are returning to work that they must close their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP).

In order to ensure that their claim is processed correctly, workers who are returning to work **must close their claim for the PUP payment on the actual date that they start back at work**. Since the commencement of Phase One of the government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business, over 314,300 employees have closed their claims and returned to work.

The easiest way to close a claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is online via www.MyWelfare.ie. Any worker returning to work with an enquiry about closing their claim, can contact the department's dedicated income support helpline at 1890 800 024 (Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm).

Industries that remain closed

Where, due to ongoing restrictions, a person's employer has not restarted operations or where a sector is still temporarily closed, the department will continue to support the workers concerned through payment of the PUP.

Back to Education Allowance Option for people receiving PUP

The Back to Education Allowance scheme is an education support for people aged 21 and over who are unemployed. It is also available to those parenting alone or who have a

disability and are getting certain payments from the Department of Social Protection. They have the option of commencing a full-time second or third-level education course and continue to receive a weekly income support.

Ordinarily a person must be in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment for at least nine months before being eligible to apply for the Back to Education Allowance.

The nine month requirement is being waived for PUP recipients who wish to apply for the Back to Education Allowance.

If a person currently in receipt of PUP wants to apply for the Back to Education Allowance, they can now choose to transfer to a jobseeker's payment. Their rate of Back to Education Allowance payment will be linked to their qualifying social welfare rate of payment. For example, if they are eligible for weekly Jobseeker's Allowance payable at €203, they will be paid the Back to Education Allowance at this rate. Whereas the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is short term in nature and scheduled to cease in April 2021, the Back to Education Allowance provides long term income support, which can be provided for the duration of an education course and which can extend for up to 3 or 4 years depending on the individual circumstances.

There is also an annual Cost of Education Allowance of €500 available to participants of the Back to Education Allowance scheme who have one or more dependent children.

This year, in recognition of the difficulties faced by education providers for the upcoming academic year and to ease any stress for the participants, the scheme will include support for blended learning and distance learning opportunities which are not generally supported through the Back to Education Allowance. This particular measure will be reviewed at the end of the next academic year.

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment Checks

As is the case for all social welfare schemes and as part of the department's normal work, the department conducts a series of pre and post payment checks for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment, including:

- integrity checks made against records already held by the department including Public Service Information data and cross checks with payments on other schemes. These help to verify if a person is who they claim to be and that they are entitled to claim payment
- a reconciliation process between the department's PUP payment file and Revenue's records
- a prior employment status check by comparing all claims for PUP against prior earnings and employment records from Revenue data
- as with other welfare schemes, the department contacts recipients to ensure that they continue to satisfy the eligibility criteria of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment
- data analytics

COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit Payment

Since the beginning of September, eight people have been medically certified with having COVID-19 while 292 others have been medically certified because they are medically self-isolating.

To date 58,800 people under age 66 have been medically certified for receipt of the COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit. Over 7% (4,432) have been diagnosed with COVID-19 while almost 93% (54,378) were required to medically self-isolate.

There are 1,147 people currently receiving a COVID-19 related Enhanced Illness Benefit payment.

The two sectors with the highest number of employees medically certified to receive COVID-19 Illness Benefit are the Human Health and Social Work sector and the Wholesale and Retail Trade with 12,500 each, followed by Manufacturing (8,200). Full details are at Appendices 9, 10 and 11.

www.MyWelfare.ie

The department wishes to thank its customers for submitting the majority of applications through our online portal www.MyWelfare.ie. This is the quickest and easiest way to submit an application or close a COVID-19-Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

In the interests of the public health advice and observing social distancing people are asked, if at all possible not to attend their local Intreo Centre. Instead, they should avail of the online services available through www.MyWelfare.ie.

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Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Analysis of Pandemic Unemployment Payments by County
- Appendix 2 - Pandemic Unemployment Payments by Sector
- Appendix 3 - Pandemic Unemployment Payments by Age Profile
- Appendix 4 - Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates by gender
- Appendix 5 - Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates by age
- Appendix 6 - Analysis of People who Closed their PUP Claim to Return to Work
- Appendix 7 - Analysis of Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments by Sector
- Appendix 8 - Analysis of Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments Age Profile
- Appendix 9 - Enhanced Illness Benefit Payments by County
- Appendix 10 - Enhanced Illness Benefit Payments by Sector
- Appendix 11 - Enhanced Illness Benefit Payments Age Profile

Appendix 1 - Analysis of Pandemic Unemployment Payments

There are 219,900 people in receipt a Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 104,100 are female and 115,800 are male.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 8 September	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 1 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5 May
Carlow	2,400	2,500	7,800
Cavan	2,900	3,000	9,700
Clare	4,800	4,900	14,600
Cork	20,500	21,100	61,900
Donegal	6,500	6,700	22,700
Dublin	77,900	78,800	174,200
Galway	11,450	11,800	32,300
Kerry	6,700	6,900	22,200
Kildare	11,100	11,300	26,100
Kilkenny	3,300	3,300	10,600
Laois	3,150	3,400	8,600
Leitrim	1,300	1,300	4,100
Limerick	8,400	8,600	22,300
Longford	1,500	1,500	4,500
Louth	6,600	6,700	17,300
Mayo	5,000	5,200	16,400
Meath	8,800	9,000	25,000
Monaghan	2,700	2,800	8,200
Offaly	3,200	3,300	8,900
Roscommon	2,200	2,300	7,100
Sligo	2,500	2,600	7,700
Tipperary	6,300	6,500	18,800
Waterford	4,500	4,700	14,100
Westmeath	3,800	3,900	11,700
Wexford	5,600	5,800	20,500
Wicklow	6,500	6,700	18,700
County not included	300	400	2,000
Total	219,900	225,000	598,000

Appendix 2 – Pandemic Unemployment Payments - Sector Breakdown

The sector with the highest number of people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is Accommodation and Food Service Activities (46,750) followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (31,700) and Administrative and Support Service activities (23,300). The largest weekly drop was in Education (1,250).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 8 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 1 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5 May
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	3,100	3,100	8,600
Manufacturing	12,000	12,200	37,400
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	900	900	2,100
Construction	16,700	17,000	79,300
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	31,700	32,100	90,300
Transportation and storage	9,200	9,500	17,900
Accommodation and food service activities	46,750	47,400	128,500
Information and communication activities	6,200	6,400	11,800
Financial and insurance activities	5,700	5,800	12,500
Real Estate activities	3,400	3,400	8,100
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	11,300	11,500	24,800
Administrative and support service activities	23,300	23,500	45,800
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	5,200	5,500	14,400
Education	12,850	14,100	22,000
Human Health And Social Work activities	9,100	9,600	22,500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	6,100	6,200	14,200

Other Sectors	9,900	10,100	39,200
Unclassified or unknown	6,500	6,700	18,600
Total	219,900	225,000	598,000

Appendix 3 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 8 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 1 September
< 25	45,200	46,300
25-34	49,900	50,950
35-44	49,100	50,100
45-54	41,500	42,600
55+	34,200	35,050
Total	219,900	225,000

Appendix 4 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by gender

There are 56,600 people receiving €203 this week, while the remainder (163,300) are receiving a payment of €350.

Gender	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 8 September	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 8 September
Male	89,500	26,300
Female	73,800	30,300
Total	163,300	56,600

Appendix 5 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by age

Age category	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 8 September	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 8 September
< 25	30,500	14,700
25-34	40,800	9,100
35-44	37,800	11,300
45-54	30,500	11,000
55+	23,700	10,500
Total	163,300	56,600

Appendix 6 – Analysis of Closed PUP payments to return to Work

Around 7,700 people who have closed their account for return to work since 29 August will receive a Pandemic Unemployment Payment tomorrow, 8 September. Of these, 3,150 are male and 4,550 are female.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 8 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 1 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 25 August
Carlow	100	100	50
Cavan	100	100	50
Clare	200	100	100
Cork	900	700	500
Donegal	300	300	200
Dublin	1,700	1,700	1,400
Galway	500	400	250
Kerry	200	200	150
Kildare	400	300	150
Kilkenny	100	100	100
Laois	200	100	50
Leitrim	100	50	50
Limerick	300	250	200
Longford	100	50	50
Louth	200	200	150
Mayo	200	150	150
Meath	300	200	200
Monaghan	100	100	100
Offaly	200	100	50
Roscommon	100	100	50
Sligo	100	100	50
Tipperary	300	200	200
Waterford	200	200	150
Westmeath	200	100	100
Wexford	300	200	150
Wicklow	300	200	150
County not included	0	0	0
Total	7,700	6,300	4,800

Appendix 7 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments - Sector Breakdown

The top three sectors from which employees closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment in the week ending 8th September are Education (1,500), Accommodation and Food Service Activities (800), and Transportation and Storage (800).

Industrial Sector	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 8 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 1 September
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	100	100
Manufacturing	400	400
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	0	0
Construction	400	400
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	700	700
Transportation and storage	800	300
Accommodation and food service activities	800	1,000
Information and communication activities	200	200
Financial and insurance activities	200	150
Real Estate activities	100	100
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	300	250
Administrative and support service activities	500	500
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	500	250
Education	1,500	950
Human Health And Social Work activities	700	500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	100	150
Other Sectors	300	250
Unclassified or unknown	100	100
Total	7,700	6,300

Appendix 8 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments – Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 8 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 1 September
< 25	1,100	1,200

25-34	1,500	1,400
35-44	1,700	1,400
45-54	1,800	1,300
55+	1,600	1,000
Total	7,700	6,300

Appendix 9 - Analysis of COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit

There are 58,800 people medically certified for receipt of a COVID-19 related Illness Benefit payment, of whom 32,650 are female and 26,150 are male.

For 4,300 people the date of their first certificate was issued from 1 August 2020 onwards, of which 356 have been certified for COVID-19.

1,147 people are currently in receipt of the payment.

The following table shows the number of people medically certified for meeting the conditions for receipt of a COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit payment, by start date entered on the medical certificate.

The number of people medically certified with having COVID-19 is given in brackets and is included in the weekly overall figure shown.

Certificate start date 8 September

Before March 2020	200 (7)
March 2020	31,100 (996)
April 2020	14,500 (2,027)
May 2020	5,000 (772)
June 2020	1,500 (129)
July 2020	2,200 (145)
August 2020	4,000(348)
September 2020	300(8)
Total	58,800 (4,432)

County Breakdown (based on the county recorded on the Illness Benefit certificate)

County	Number of people who are medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit on 8 September	Number of people who are medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit on 1 September
Carlow	800	800
Cavan	1,400	1,400
Clare	1,100	1,000
Cork	6,600	6,500

Donegal	1,300	1,250
Dublin	16,800	16,400
Galway	3,500	3,400
Kerry	1,300	1,200
Kildare	3,200	3,100
Kilkenny	1,200	1,200
Laois	1,100	1,000
Leitrim	200	200
Limerick	2,100	2,000
Longford	500	500
Louth	1,700	1,700
Mayo	1,400	1,400
Meath	2,200	2,200
Monaghan	900	900
Offaly	1,000	1,000
Roscommon	900	900
Sligo	500	500
Tipperary	2,100	2,000
Waterford	1,800	1,700
Westmeath	1,100	1,100
Wexford	1,900	1,900
Wicklow	1,800	1,800
Other (NI & Foreign Address)	400	300
Total	58,800	57,350

Appendix 10 – COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit - Sector Breakdown

The two sectors with the highest number of people medically certified for receipt of a COVID-19 Illness Benefit payment are the Human Health and Social Work sector and the Wholesale and Retail Trade with 12,500 each, followed by Manufacturing (8,200).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people who are medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit on 8 September	Number of people who are medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit on 1 September
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	600	550
Manufacturing	8,200	8,000

Electricity, gas, steam supply; Water supply; Sewerage, waste management	300	300
Construction	2,300	2,200
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	12,500	12,200
Transportation and storage	2,300	2,200
Accommodation and food service activities	2,600	2,500
Information and communication activities	1,000	1,000
Financial and insurance activities	2,400	2,300
Real Estate activities	500	500
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	1,900	1,900
Administrative and support service activities	5,700	5,600
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	2,300	2,300
Education	1,000	900
Human Health And Social Work activities	12,500	12,300
Arts, entertainment and recreation	400	400
Other Sectors	1,800	1,700
Unclassified or unknown	500	500
Total	58,800	57,350

Appendix 11 – Enhanced Illness Benefit - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people medically certified to receive Enhanced Illness Benefit on 8 September
< 25	7,000
25-34	14,400
35-44	16,700
45-54	12,300
55+	8,400
Total	58,800