

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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209,941 people receive Pandemic Unemployment Payment this week

number of PUP recipients down over 64% since peak

€65.5 million to be paid in PUP payments tomorrow

new PUP rates to take effect from 17 September

Today the Department of Social Protection issued payments valued at €65.5 million to 209,941 people for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP). This represents a decrease of 9,959 on the 219,900 people paid last week and it is a drop of over 64% on the 598,000 paid at its peak on 5 May.

In the past seven days, 9,974 people have closed their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment. Some 7,457 people will be receiving their final payment tomorrow, 15 September.

This week the sector with the largest number of employees returning to work is Accommodation and Food Service Activities with 1,304 people going back to work, followed by the Education sector with 1,091 people returning to work.

The largest age cohort returning to work is in the 35-44 group (1,869). This is followed by 1,566 in the 25-34 age category and 1,537 aged 45-54.

The above figures are in addition to the people who were reported on the Live Register as of the end of August. All COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payments issued will be in recipients' bank accounts or at their local post office tomorrow, Tuesday 15 September.

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

Commenting on today's numbers, Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, said:

“While this week’s decrease is encouraging, it is evident to all of us that COVID-19 continues to be active and can re-surface in our communities without warning.

“As more businesses prepare to re-open and schools and colleges return, it is now vital more than ever that we take every possible precaution to protect ourselves, our families and our work colleagues.

“The government, under the advice of NPHET, is currently finalising the new Plan which will be published tomorrow. For the Plan to work as effectively as possible, we all must carry out our daily lives as if the virus is among us.

“We owe these efforts to all those frontline workers who, for many months now, have put their own lives on the line so that can tackle this awful virus.”

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 [MyWelfare.ie](https://www.mywelfare.ie). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply. People should apply by 30th 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 1 April 2021.

PUP Rate Changes from 17 September 2020

From 17 September 2020, the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will move from 2 rates of payment to 3 rates {PUP is currently paid at 2 rates (€203 per week for those with earnings below €200 per week and €350 per week for those with earnings of €200 or more per week)}

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

- if they earned over €300 (gross) per week - they will now receive €300 per week
- if they earned between €200 and €300 (gross) per week - the rate of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will now be €250 per week
- if they earned less than €200 (gross) 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 next week, on Tuesday 22 September.

Individuals do not need to contact the department about their earnings. The department has 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 9,974 people closed their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 7,629 reported that they were returning to work. Of those 7,629 returning to work, some 7,457 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.

This week the sector with the largest number of employees returning to work is Accommodation and Food Service Activities (1,304), followed by the Education sector (1,091) and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor vehicles and Motorcycles (892). A full breakdown of the sectors in this area is set out at Appendix 7 below.

Looking at the age profile, the largest number of people returning to work is in the 35-44 group (1,869), followed by the 25-34 age category (1,566). 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 321,900 employees have closed their claims and returned to work.

The easiest way to close a claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is online via [MyWelfare.ie](https://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.

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, approx. 80 people have been medically certified with having COVID-19 and approx. 1,720 others have been medically certified because they are medically self-isolating.

To date 60,977 people under age 66 have been medically certified for receipt of the COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit.

The two sectors with the highest number of employees medically certified to receive COVID-19 Illness Benefit are Wholesale and Retail Trade (12,890) and Human Health and Social Work sector (12,787), followed by Manufacturing (8,582). Full details are at Appendices 9, 10 and 11.

MyWelfare.ie

The department wishes to thank its customers for submitting the majority of applications through our online portal [MyWelfare.ie](https://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 [MyWelfare.ie](https://mywelfare.ie).

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

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Appendix 7 - Analysis of Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments by Sector

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Appendix 1 - Analysis of Pandemic Unemployment Payments

There are 209,941 people in receipt a Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 97,522 are female and 112,419 are male.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 15 September	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 8 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5 May
Carlow	2,252	2,400	7,800
Cavan	2,744	2,900	9,700
Clare	4,521	4,800	14,600
Cork	19,315	20,500	61,900
Donegal	6,016	6,500	22,700
Dublin	75,978	77,900	174,200
Galway	10,793	11,450	32,300
Kerry	6,358	6,700	22,200
Kildare	10,430	11,100	26,100
Kilkenny	3,013	3,300	10,600
Laois	2,855	3,150	8,600
Leitrim	1,189	1,300	4,100
Limerick	7,980	8,400	22,300
Longford	1,366	1,500	4,500
Louth	6,255	6,600	17,300
Mayo	4,655	5,000	16,400
Meath	8,392	8,800	25,000
Monaghan	2,492	2,700	8,200
Offaly	2,935	3,200	8,900

Roscommon	2,089	2,200	7,100
Sligo	2,315	2,500	7,700
Tipperary	5,743	6,300	18,800
Waterford	4,260	4,500	14,100
Westmeath	3,572	3,800	11,700
Wexford	5,205	5,600	20,500
Wicklow	6,161	6,500	18,700
County not included	1,057	300	2,000
Total	209,941	219,900	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 (45,584) followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (30,869) and Administrative and Support Service activities (22,924).

Industrial Sector	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 15 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 8 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5 May
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	2,945	3,100	8,600
Manufacturing	11,733	12,000	37,400
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	861	900	2,100
Construction	16,360	16,700	79,300
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	30,869	31,700	90,300
Transportation and storage	8,147	9,200	17,900
Accommodation and food service activities	45,584	46,750	128,500
Information and communication activities	5,996	6,200	11,800
Financial and insurance activities	5,431	5,700	12,500
Real Estate activities	3,236	3,400	8,100

Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	10,947	11,300	24,800
Administrative and support service activities	22,924	23,300	45,800
Public Administration And Defence;	4,589	5,200	14,400
Compulsory Social Security			
Education	10,515	12,850	22,000
Human Health And Social Work activities	8,173	9,100	22,500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	5,946	6,100	14,200
Other Sectors	9,395	9,900	39,200
Unclassified or unknown	6,290	6,500	18,600
Total	209,941	219,900	598,000

Appendix 3 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 15 September	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 8 September
< 25	43,792	45,200
25-34	48,064	49,900
35-44	46,779	49,100
45-54	39,226	41,500
55+	32,080	34,200
Total	209,941	219,900

Appendix 4 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by gender

There are 53,847 people receiving €203 this week, while the remainder (156,094) are receiving a payment of €350.

Gender	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 15 September	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 15 September
Male	86,986	25,433
Female	69,018	28,414
Total	156,094	53,847

Appendix 5 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by age

Age category	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 15 September	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 15 September
< 25	29,539	14,253
25-34	39,404	8,660
35-44	36,216	10,563
45-54	28,864	10,362
55+	22,071	10,009
Total	156,094	53,847

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

Around 7,629 people who have closed their account for return to work since 6 September will receive a Pandemic Unemployment Payment tomorrow, 15 September. Of these, 3,281 are male and 4,348 are female.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 15 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 8 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 1 September
Carlow	89	100	100
Cavan	120	100	100
Clare	186	200	100
Cork	868	900	700
Donegal	286	300	300
Dublin	1,888	1,700	1,700
Galway	449	500	400
Kerry	261	200	200
Kildare	446	400	300
Kilkenny	126	100	100
Laois	144	200	100
Leitrim	45	100	50
Limerick	323	300	250
Longford	61	100	50
Louth	228	200	200
Mayo	213	200	150
Meath	312	300	200
Monaghan	136	100	100
Offaly	150	200	100
Roscommon	86	100	100

Sligo	95	100	100
Tipperary	278	300	200
Waterford	175	200	200
Westmeath	176	200	100
Wexford	222	300	200
Wicklow	250	300	200
County not included	16	0	0
Total	7,629	7,700	6,300

Appendix 7 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments - Sector Breakdown

The top three sectors from which employees closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment in the week ending 15 September are Accommodation and Food Service Activities (1,304), Education (1,091) and Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles (892).

Industrial Sector	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 15 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 8 September
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	97	100
Manufacturing	437	400
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	17	0
Construction	472	400
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	892	700
Transportation and storage	509	800
Accommodation and food service activities	1,304	800
Information and communication activities	234	200
Financial and insurance activities	187	200
Real Estate activities	102	100
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	375	300
Administrative and support service activities	566	500

Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	316	500
Education	1,091	1,500
Human Health And Social Work activities	458	700
Arts, entertainment and recreation	187	100
Other Sectors	259	300
Unclassified or unknown	126	100
Total	7,629	7,700

Appendix 8 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments – Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 15 September	Number of people who closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment from 8 September
< 25	1,466	1,100
25-34	1,566	1,500
35-44	1,869	1,700
45-54	1,537	1,800
55+	1,191	1,600
Total	7,629	7,700**

Appendix 9 - Analysis of COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit

There are 60,977 people medically certified for receipt of a COVID-19 related Illness Benefit payment, of whom 33,833 are female and 27,144 are male.

Since September 2020, approximately 1,800 people have been medically certified for meeting the conditions for receipt of a COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit payment and almost 80 of these being diagnosed with COVID-19.

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 15 September	Number of people who are medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit on 8 September
Carlow	880	800
Cavan	1,494	1,400
Clare	1,105	1,100
Cork	6,715	6,600
Donegal	1,338	1,300
Dublin	17,442	16,800

Galway	3,569	3,500
Kerry	1,359	1,300
Kildare	3,299	3,200
Kilkenny	1,264	1,200
Laois	1,100	1,100
Leitrim	251	200
Limerick	2,138	2,100
Longford	523	500
Louth	1,802	1,700
Mayo	1,454	1,400
Meath	2,298	2,200
Monaghan	975	900
Offaly	1,048	1,000
Roscommon	937	900
Sligo	498	500
Tipperary	2,215	2,100
Waterford	1,961	1,800
Westmeath	1,107	1,100
Wexford	1,968	1,900
Wicklow	1,905	1,800
Other (NI & Foreign Address)	332	400
Total	60,977	58,800

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 Wholesale and Retail Trade (12,890) and Human Health and Social Work (12,787), followed by Manufacturing (8,582).

Industrial Sector	Number of people who are medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit on 15 September	Number of people who are medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit on 8 September
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	580	600
Manufacturing	8,582	8,200
Electricity, gas, steam supply; Water supply; Sewerage, waste management	300	300
Construction	2,427	2,300

Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	12,890	12,500
Transportation and storage	2,324	2,300
Accommodation and food service activities	2,863	2,600
Information and communication activities	1,036	1,000
Financial and insurance activities	2,432	2,400
Real Estate activities	498	500
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	1,961	1,900
Administrative and support service activities	5,864	5,700
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	2,424	2,300
Education	1,123	1,000
Human Health And Social Work activities	12,787	12,500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	446	400
Other Sectors	1,882	1,800
Unclassified or unknown	558	500
Total	60,977	58,800

Appendix 11 – Enhanced Illness Benefit - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people medically certified to receive Enhanced Illness Benefit on 15 September
< 25	7,394
25-34	14,963
35-44	17,402
45-54	12,627
55+	8,591
Total	60,977