

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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244,153 people receive Pandemic Unemployment Payment this week

An increase of 15,295 receiving PUP compared to last week

2,526 closed their PUP claim in past 7 days to return to work

€65.5 million to be paid in PUP payments tomorrow

PUP remains open to new entrants who should apply online at www.MyWelfare.ie

Increasing number of people applying for Enhanced Illness Benefit in every County

Today, the Department of Social Protection issued payments valued at €65.5 million, up from €61.4m last week, to 244,153 people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP).

The number of people receiving a PUP payment this week represents an increase of 15,295 on the 228,858 people paid last week.

In the past seven days, 3,950 people have closed their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment. Of these, 2,526 have reported that they were returning to work. Some 1,973 people will be receiving their final payment tomorrow, 20th October.

The sector with the highest number of people receiving a PUP payment this week is Accommodation and Food Service Activities (79,369). It is followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (31,834) and Administrative and Support Service activities (23,273).

This week's figures are in addition to the 211,492 people who were reported on the Live Register as of the end of September. All Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payments issued will be in recipients' bank accounts or at their local post office tomorrow, Tuesday, 20th October.

Commenting on the figures, Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, said:

“Some €65.5 million has been paid out in PUP this week, supporting over 244,000 people.

“Today’s figures demonstrate the unprecedented challenging times the country is facing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“A major factor in managing the behaviour of the virus is being able to reduce the number of people we meet.

“I know how difficult it is for people who are being asked to work from home where possible and to refrain from making household visits.

“But the best way we can protect the people we care about the most is to follow the public health advice: Reduce your contacts, wash your hands, wear your mask, and observe social distancing.”

Minister Humphreys added:

“I am deeply conscious that people feel anxious and concerned about the prospect of future restrictions.

“But I know too that we have it in us as a country to get back on top on this virus. We did it before and we will do it again.

“So let’s come together and ensure we do what is necessary to protect lives and protect livelihoods.

“I also want to thank the huge number of people applying for social protection supports who have moved to use our online service www.MyWelfare.ie.

This is the quickest and easiest way to receive the likes of PUP so I would encourage anyone wishing to avail of supports to do so online.”

Applying for PUP

To apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment, the easiest and quickest way is to do so online at www.MyWelfare.ie. When applying, people should provide the name of their employer and details of their last day of employment. Over 95% of people who applied for PUP last week did so online, ensuring that their payment was processed quickly.

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.

People returning to work

In the past week, some 3,950 people closed their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 2,526 reported that they were returning to work. As the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is a weekly payment paid in arrears, there is a one week lag in how closures, due to people returning to work or people making new applications for PUP, are reflected in the payment data.

This week the sector with the greatest number of employees returning to work is Accommodation and Food Service Activities (391), followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor vehicles and Motorcycles (367) and the Administrative and Support Service activities (267). 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 25-34 group, followed by those aged 35–44. 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.**

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 9.00am to 5.00pm).

Employment supports available to people returning to work

Last week Minister Humphreys announced increased supports for the self-employed who are availing of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and who are looking to restart their business. In order to reduce the risk of moving from the certainty of the PUP payment to the uncertainty of trading income, self-employed people on PUP, including those who work in the arts/entertainment industry, taxi drivers and others, can earn up to €480 per month, while retaining their full PUP entitlement.

In addition, the Minister is making the Part-Time Job Incentive scheme available to self-employed people who come off PUP or a jobseeker's payment. This scheme allows a person to receive a partial jobseeker's payment, while retaining employment income. This may be particularly suited in circumstances where a self-employed person's income exceeds the €480 per month income threshold on PUP.

Employees who satisfy the relevant criteria, may claim casual (i.e. part-time) jobseeker's 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.

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, or has had to close their business again temporarily, the Department will continue to support these workers through payment of the PUP. New applications for PUP can be made until the end of this year.

Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit Payment

Since March, 75,015 people under the age of 66 have been medically certified for receipt of the Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit, which is an increase of 3,374 from last week and an increase of 5,749 in the past two weeks.

Today, some 3,481 people are currently in receipt of an Enhanced Illness Benefit payment.

This week again, the number of people medically certified to receive the Enhanced Illness Benefit has increased in every county, the greatest number being in Dublin, followed by Cork and Galway.

The three counties currently under Level 4, Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan have seen increases of 163, 173 and 97 people respectively medically certified to receive the payment this week.

There has also been an increase in every sector affected by the Covid-19 virus again this week. The sectors with the greatest number of people medically certified for receipt of a Covid-19 Illness Benefit payment are Wholesale and Retail Trade and Human Health and Social Work, followed by Manufacturing. Full details are at Appendices 9, 10 and 11.

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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
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- Appendix 9 - Enhanced Illness Benefit Payments by County
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- Appendix 11 - Enhanced Illness Benefit Payments Age Profile

Appendix 1 - Analysis of Pandemic Unemployment Payments

There are 244,153 people in receipt a Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 115,831 are female and 128,322 are male.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 13th October	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5th May
Carlow	2,398	2,234	7,800

Cavan	3,226	2,875	9,700
Clare	5,493	4,997	14,600
Cork	22,513	20,566	61,900
Donegal	9,119	8,530	22,700
Dublin	85,950	84,485	174,200
Galway	13,035	11,578	32,300
Kerry	9,028	7,630	22,200
Kildare	10,474	10,041	26,100
Kilkenny	3,749	3,338	10,600
Laois	3,014	2,871	8,600
Leitrim	1,447	1,307	4,100
Limerick	9,077	8,300	22,300
Longford	1,513	1,399	4,500
Louth	7,218	6,730	17,300
Mayo	5,977	5,125	16,400
Meath	9,234	8,659	25,000
Monaghan	2,912	2,627	8,200
Offaly	3,081	2,921	8,900
Roscommon	2,417	2,234	7,100
Sligo	2,974	2,659	7,700
Tipperary	6,225	5,775	18,800
Waterford	5,327	4,773	14,100
Westmeath	4,198	3,788	11,700
Wexford	6,540	5,846	20,500
Wicklow	7,195	6,718	18,700
County not included	819	852	2,000
Total	244,153	228,858	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 (79,369) followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (31,834) and Administrative and Support Service activities (23,273).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 13th October	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5th May
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Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	2,998	2,819	8,600
Manufacturing	11,799	11,447	37,400
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	861	845	2,100
Construction	16,209	15,590	79,300
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	31,834	30,612	90,300
Transportation and storage	7,650	7,482	17,900
Accommodation and food service activities	79,369	69,710	128,500
Information and communication activities	6,552	6,252	11,800
Financial and insurance activities	5,538	5,341	12,500
Real Estate activities	3,802	3,575	8,100
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	10,804	10,658	24,800
Administrative and support service activities	23,273	22,707	45,800
Public Administration And Defence;	4,116	4,020	14,400
Compulsory Social Security			
Education	8,549	8,544	22,000
Human Health And Social Work activities	8,069	7,788	22,500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	7,740	7,088	14,200
Other Sectors	9,867	9,341	39,200
Unclassified or unknown	5,123	5,039	18,600
Total	244,153	228,858	598,000

Appendix 3 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 13th October
< 25	60,873	54,999
25-34	55,636	52,780
35-44	52,334	49,554
45-54	42,285	40,099
55+	33,025	31,426
Total	244,153	228,858

Appendix 4 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by gender

Gender	Number of people in receipt of €300 on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of €250 on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 20th October
Male	84,290	19,404	24,628
Female	58,998	24,716	32,117
Total	143,288	44,120	56,745

Appendix 5 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by age

Age category	Number of people in receipt of €300 on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of €250 on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 20th October
< 25	23,117	16,527	21,229
25-34	39,082	8,310	8,224
35-44	35,563	7,271	9,500
45-54	26,939	6,334	9,012
55+	18,587	5,678	8,760
Total	143,288	44,120	56,745

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

Around 2,526 people who have closed their account for return to work since 11th October will receive a Pandemic Unemployment Payment tomorrow, 20th October. Of these 1,327 are male and 1,199 are female.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 20th	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 13th	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 6th
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	October to return to work	October to return to work	October to return to work
Carlow	26	47	50
Cavan	40	36	93
Clare	59	64	114
Cork	257	339	550
Donegal	88	76	123
Dublin	766	939	1,161
Galway	141	189	285
Kerry	60	99	213
Kildare	102	175	286
Kilkenny	44	53	99
Laois	37	48	71
Leitrim	21	17	33
Limerick	121	138	240
Longford	21	16	33
Louth	92	118	133
Mayo	58	73	146
Meath	96	108	216
Monaghan	37	49	95
Offaly	49	58	90
Roscommon	31	37	56
Sligo	40	46	81
Tipperary	73	110	218
Waterford	62	69	138
Westmeath	47	56	105
Wexford	74	87	185
Wicklow	76	85	138
County not included	8	7	17
Total	2,526	3,139	4,969

Appendix 7 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments - Sector Breakdown

The top three sectors from which employees closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment in the week ending 20th October to return to work are Accommodation and Food Service Activities (391), Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles (367) and Administrative and Support Service activities (267).

Industrial Sector	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 20th October to return to work	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 13th October to return to work
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Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	21	35
Manufacturing	220	237
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	19	16
Construction	215	247
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	367	478
Transportation and storage	106	121
Accommodation and food service activities	391	489
Information and communication activities	96	107
Financial and insurance activities	59	72
Real Estate activities	27	26
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	177	232
Administrative and support service activities	267	344
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	80	94
Education	206	236
Human Health And Social Work activities	129	142
Arts, entertainment and recreation	51	93
Other Sectors	76	124
Unclassified or unknown	19	46
Total	2,526	3,139

Appendix 8 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments – Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 20th October to return to work	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 13th October to return to work
< 25	544	700
25-34	679	763
35-44	588	741
45-54	464	606

55+	251	329
Total	2,526	3,139

Appendix 9 - Analysis of Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit

To date, 75,015 people have been medically certified for receipt of a Covid-19 related Illness Benefit payment, of whom 41,499 are female and 33,516 are male.

Today, some 3,481 people are currently in receipt of an Enhanced Illness Benefit payment.

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

County	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 20th October	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 13th October	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 6th October
Carlow	1,042	1,010	990
Cavan	1,876	1,713	1,644
Clare	1,346	1,280	1,231
Cork	8,015	7,637	7,367
Donegal	2,031	1,858	1,726
Dublin	21,431	20,699	20,053
Galway	4,494	4,300	4,140
Kerry	1,749	1,657	1,589
Kildare	3,818	3,691	3,617
Kilkenny	1,546	1,462	1,427
Laois	1,288	1,228	1,187
Leitrim	328	315	302
Limerick	2,531	2,432	2,346
Longford	615	593	580
Louth	2,174	2,109	2,051
Mayo	1,701	1,628	1,591
Meath	2,831	2,662	2,582
Monaghan	1,376	1,279	1,205
Offaly	1,238	1,208	1,175
Roscommon	1,102	1,060	1,020
Sligo	642	576	540
Tipperary	2,730	2,647	2,562
Waterford	2,643	2,461	2,400
Westmeath	1,319	1,263	1,221
Wexford	2,464	2,276	2,189

Wicklow	2,307	2,229	2,168
Other (NI & Foreign Address)	378	368	363
Total	75,015	71,641	69,266

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

The two sectors with the highest number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of a Covid-19 Illness Benefit payment to date are Wholesale and Retail Trade (15,988) and Human Health and Social Work (14,460), followed by Manufacturing (10,413).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 20th October	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 13th October	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 6th October
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	708	664	640
Manufacturing	10,413	9,988	9,711
Electricity, gas, steam supply; Water supply; Sewerage, waste management	370	351	337
Construction	3,168	2,973	2,858
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	15,988	15,205	14,670
Transportation and storage	2,752	2,657	2,584
Accommodation and food service activities	4,316	3,966	3,707
Information and communication activities	1,247	1,198	1,169
Financial and insurance activities	2,812	2,718	2,660
Real Estate activities	599	580	567

Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	2,372	2,275	2,194
Administrative and support service activities	6,863	6,620	6,444
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	3,010	2,884	2,774
Education	1,811	1,659	1,552
Human Health And Social Work activities	14,460	14,063	13,775
Arts, entertainment and recreation	667	613	566
Other Sectors	2,572	2,416	2,304
Unclassified or unknown	887	811	754
Total	75,015	71,641	69,266

Appendix 11 – Enhanced Illness Benefit - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 20th October	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 13th October	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 6th October
< 25	10,333	9,536	9,000
25-34	18,604	17,728	17,118
35-44	21,085	20,325	19,767
45-54	15,108	14,520	14,071
55+	9,885	9,532	9,310
Total	75,015	71,641	69,266