

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates October 2020

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

Published at 19 October 2020

Last updated 20 October 2020

- [1. Rates from 16 October 2020](#)
- [2. Why is the rate changing](#)
- [3. The date your payment will be affected](#)
- [4. How your earnings assessed for this rate change](#)
- [5. Review of rate](#)
- [6. Contact](#)

Rates from 16 October 2020

From 16 October 2020 until 31 January 2021 the Pandemic Unemployment Payment will be paid at 4 rates.

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

- if you earned less than €200 per week - the rate of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment will be €203 per week
- if you earned between €200 and €299.99 per week - the rate of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment will be €250 per week
- if you earned between €300 and €399.99 per week - the rate of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment will be €300 per week
- if you earned €400 or more - you will receive €350

This rate change was announced on 19 October. It is effective from Friday 16 October, therefore payments made on Tuesday 27 October will include the new rate of €350

Why is the rate changing

The introduction of a higher payment rate of €350 reflects the move to a higher level of national restrictions which will result in some businesses being asked to close, and to take into account the earnings of the applicants before they had lost employment.

The date your payment will be affected

If your rate changes, you will notice a difference in the amount you receive on **Tuesday 27 October 2020**.

The Pandemic Unemployment Payment is paid in arrears, with the payment week running from Friday to Thursday.

This means that any change on 16 October takes effect in payments made from 27 October.

The new payment rates will only be effective from 16 October onwards meaning that payments rates will not be backdated.

How your earnings assessed for this rate change

The department has used the calculation which gives you the highest weekly rate of income as the basis for calculating your new rate.

Employees

If you are an employee, we will examine your average gross weekly earnings in 2019, and compare it to your average gross weekly earnings in January and February 2020.

The higher earnings figure will be used to determine your new weekly payment rate.

For example, if your average gross weekly earnings were €195 in 2019 and €210 in 2020, the figure of €210 will be used.

Similarly, if your average gross weekly earnings in 2019 were higher than in 2020, the 2019 figure will be used.

Self-employed

If you are self-employed, we will use the information on 2018 and 2019 earnings that you provided to Revenue.

We will examine your average weekly income for 2018 and 2019 and the higher figure will be used to decide your rate of payment.

Both employed and self-employed in 2019

If you were both employed and self-employed in 2019, your earnings from both will be added together in order to arrive at an average weekly earnings figure .