

Update on Payments Awarded for Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment and Enhanced Illness Benefit

From [Department of Social Protection](#)

Published at 27 October 2020

Last updated 2 November 2020

295,860 people receive Pandemic Unemployment Payment this week

An increase of 51,700 receiving PUP compared to last week

€85.6 million is paid in PUP payments today

New rate of €350 is payable this week

People should apply online for PUP at [MyWelfare.ie](#)

This week, the Department of Social Protection issued payments valued at €85.6 million, an increase of over €20 million from last week, to 295,860 people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP).

The number of people receiving a PUP payment this week represents an increase of 51,707 on the 244,153 people paid last week. The sector with the highest number of people receiving a PUP payment this week is Accommodation and Food Service Activities (90,051). It is followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (43,432) and Administrative and Support Service activities (25,656).

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 today, Tuesday, 27th October.

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

“This week's figures reflect the economic impact of the decision to move to Level 5 of restrictions.

“I know this has been a really difficult few days, particularly for those who have temporarily lost their jobs or whose businesses have had to close. I know that people are worried about the next few weeks. They are worried about their families, their friends and their jobs.

“But I also know that we have it in us to suppress this virus and protect lives.

“So let’s redouble our efforts this week; Limit our contacts, work remotely where possible and stay within 5 kilometres of our home for exercise.

“This is in our gift. We have shown before that we can get this virus back under control and allow our economy to reopen again.”

PUP Payment Rates

PUP is now paid at four rates. With effect from 16 October,

- those with prior gross weekly earnings below €200 will continue to receive a rate of €203 per week.
- those with prior gross weekly earnings of €200 to €299.99 will continue to receive €250 per week.
- those with prior gross weekly earnings of €300 to €399.99 will continue to receive €300 per week.
- those with prior gross weekly earnings of €400 or more will receive a rate of €350 per week.

Existing recipients of PUP who previously earned more than €400 gross have had their PUP rate automatically increased and have received the higher rate of €350 in their payment this week. The other three rates of PUP (€203, €250 and €300) remain unchanged.

PUP is paid weekly in arrears with applications received up to close of business on Thursday in any week being processed for payment on the following Tuesday. Applications received after Thursday each week, are processed as part of the following week’s claims and paid in the next week after that.

The Minister stated:

“The decision by Government to keep PUP open for new applications and to extend it until next April has enabled my Department to get payments quickly to over 50,000 people who have been temporarily laid off as a result of the restrictions.

“My key message in relation to PUP is to apply online so that your payment can be processed as quickly as possible.

“Anybody who has been temporarily laid-off should apply for the PUP online via MyWelfare.ie – that is the quickest and easiest way to claim and receive a payment.

“Officials in my Department are working hard to process claims and respond to any queries as quickly as possible.”

Prior weekly earnings have been assessed in the case of employees, based on Revenue earnings data for 2019 and for January and February 2020. The average weekly pay for 2019 is calculated and the same is done for 2020 with the person being assessed at the highest of these two averages. In the case of self-employed people earnings have been assessed based

on the 2019 and 2018 earnings returns to Revenue with the higher figure being used to determine the payment rate.

Any person, including any self-employed person, who believes that their new payment rate does not accurately reflect their prior earnings (e.g. if earnings have increased since March 2020) can contact the Department to request a review of earnings and forward all supporting documents, which will be matched with Revenue records. They can contact the Department by:

- Emailing PUPRerate@welfare.ie; or
- Writing to Pandemic Unemployment Rerate Requests, DEASP, Intreo Centre, Cork Road, Waterford or
- Calling the Helpline at 1890 800 024 which is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

People returning to work

Even with the commencement of Level 5 restrictions, approximately 3,000 people closed their PUP claims this week.

The Department continues to remind workers who are returning to work that they must close their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) on the actual date that they start back at work, in order to ensure that their claim is processed correctly.

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 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Employment supports available for when people return to work

There are a range of supports for the self-employed who are receiving 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 Part-Time Job Incentive scheme is available to self-employed people who come off PUP or a jobseeker's payment. This scheme which allows a person to receive a partial jobseeker's payment, while retaining employment income, 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.

Applying for PUP

To apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment, the easiest and quickest way is to do so online at [MyWelfare.ie](https://www.mywelfare.ie). When applying, people should provide the name of their employer and details of their last day of employment. Over 96% of people who applied for PUP last week did so online.

In the interests of the public health advice and observing social distancing people are asked, if possible, not to attend their local Intreo Centre. Instead, they should avail of the online services available through [MyWelfare.ie](https://www.mywelfare.ie).

Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit Payment

Since March, a cumulative total of 79,256 people under the age of 66 have been medically certified for receipt of the Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit.

Today, some 3,900 people are currently in receipt of an Enhanced Illness Benefit payment.

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.

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.

ENDS

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 295,860 people in receipt a Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 147,761 are female and 148,099 are male.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5th May
Carlow	3,082	2,398	7,800
Cavan	4,135	3,226	9,700
Clare	6,563	5,493	14,600
Cork	28,962	22,513	61,900
Donegal	10,950	9,119	22,700
Dublin	99,157	85,950	174,200
Galway	16,005	13,035	32,300
Kerry	11,426	9,028	22,200
Kildare	12,903	10,474	26,100
Kilkenny	4,653	3,749	10,600
Laois	3,751	3,014	8,600
Leitrim	1,703	1,447	4,100
Limerick	11,308	9,077	22,300
Longford	1,896	1,513	4,500
Louth	8,892	7,218	17,300
Mayo	7,474	5,977	16,400
Meath	11,225	9,234	25,000
Monaghan	3,577	2,912	8,200
Offaly	3,718	3,081	8,900
Roscommon	2,898	2,417	7,100
Sligo	3,590	2,974	7,700
Tipperary	7,772	6,225	18,800
Waterford	6,704	5,327	14,100
Westmeath	5,245	4,198	11,700
Wexford	8,575	6,540	20,500
Wicklow	8,895	7,195	18,700
County not included	801	819	2,000
Total	295,860	244,153	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 (90,051) followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (43,432) and Administrative and Support Service activities (25,656).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 20th October	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5th May
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	3,474	2,998	8,600
Manufacturing	13,487	11,799	37,400
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	955	861	2,100
Construction	18,193	16,209	79,300
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	43,432	31,834	90,300
Transportation and storage	8,182	7,650	17,900
Accommodation and food service activities	90,051	79,369	128,500
Information and communication activities	7,047	6,552	11,800
Financial and insurance activities	6,260	5,538	12,500
Real Estate activities	4,598	3,802	8,100
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	11,858	10,804	24,800
Administrative and support service activities	25,656	23,273	45,800
Public Administration And Defence;	4,728	4,116	14,400

Compulsory Social Security			
Education	9,464	8,549	22,000
Human Health And Social Work activities	9,061	8,069	22,500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	10,069	7,740	14,200
Other Sectors (e.g. hairdressers & beauty salons)	23,537	9,867	39,200
Unclassified or unknown	5,808	5,123	18,600
Total	295,860	244,153	598,000

Appendix 3 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 20th October
< 25	74,479	60,873
25-34	68,111	55,636
35-44	64,109	52,334
45-54	50,802	42,285
55+	38,359	33,025
Total	295,860	244,153

Appendix 4 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by gender

Gender	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of €300 on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of €250 on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 27th October
Male	73,810	23,918	22,792	27,579
Female	48,383	27,938	31,993	39,447
Total	122,193	51,856	54,785	67,026

Appendix 5 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by age

Age category	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of €300 on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of €250 on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 27th October
< 25	13,878	14,396	20,309	25,896
25-34	34,309	13,702	10,402	9,698
35-44	33,083	10,269	9,477	11,280

45-54	24,686	7,776	7,923	10,417
55+	16,237	5,713	6,674	9,735
Total	122,193	51,856	54,785	67,026

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

Around 1,787 people who have closed their account to return to work since 18th October will receive a Pandemic Unemployment Payment today, 27th October. Of these 948 are male and 839 are female.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 27th October to return to work	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
Carlow	22	26	47
Cavan	33	40	36
Clare	29	59	64
Cork	212	257	339
Donegal	60	88	76
Dublin	569	766	939
Galway	92	141	189
Kerry	49	60	99
Kildare	74	102	175
Kilkenny	35	44	53
Laois	21	37	48
Leitrim	11	21	17
Limerick	88	121	138
Longford	19	21	16
Louth	59	92	118
Mayo	33	58	73
Meath	53	96	108
Monaghan	28	37	49
Offaly	34	49	58
Roscommon	18	31	37
Sligo	26	40	46
Tipperary	59	73	110
Waterford	40	62	69
Westmeath	47	47	56
Wexford	32	74	87
Wicklow	41	76	85

County not included	3	8	7
Total	1,787	2,526	3,139

Appendix 7 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments - Sector Breakdown

The top three sectors from which employees closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment in the week ending 27th October to return to work are Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles (295); Accommodation and Food Service Activities (260), and Administrative and Support Service activities (205).

Industrial Sector	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 27th October to return to work	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 20th October to return to work
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	31	21
Manufacturing	145	220
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	9	19
Construction	137	215
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	295	367
Transportation and storage	98	106
Accommodation and food service activities	260	391
Information and communication activities	86	96
Financial and insurance activities	38	59
Real Estate activities	20	27
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	115	177
Administrative and support service activities	205	267
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	43	80
Education	102	206
Human Health And Social Work activities	104	129
Arts, entertainment and recreation	47	51

Other Sectors	34	76
Unclassified or unknown	18	19
Total	1,787	2,526

Appendix 8 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments – Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 27th October to return to work	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 20th October to return to work
< 25	419	544
25-34	491	679
35-44	409	588
45-54	307	464
55+	161	251
Total	1,787	2,526

Appendix 9 - Analysis of Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit

To date, 79,256 people have been medically certified for receipt of a Covid-19 related Illness Benefit payment, of whom 43,818 are female and 35,438 are male.

Approximately 3,900 people are currently in receipt of an Enhanced Illness Benefit payment.

For 7,819 people the date of their first certificate was issued in October 2020, of which 1,100 have been certified for Covid-19.

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 27th October	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
Carlow	1,108	1,042	1,010
Cavan	2,054	1,876	1,713
Clare	1,417	1,346	1,280
Cork	8,530	8,015	7,637
Donegal	2,205	2,031	1,858
Dublin	22,352	21,431	20,699
Galway	4,784	4,494	4,300
Kerry	1,857	1,749	1,657
Kildare	3,964	3,818	3,691
Kilkenny	1,622	1,546	1,462
Laois	1,336	1,288	1,228

Leitrim	351	328	315
Limerick	2,688	2,531	2,432
Longford	652	615	593
Louth	2,282	2,174	2,109
Mayo	1,783	1,701	1,628
Meath	3,092	2,831	2,662
Monaghan	1,466	1,376	1,279
Offaly	1,280	1,238	1,208
Roscommon	1,153	1,102	1,060
Sligo	715	642	576
Tipperary	2,864	2,730	2,647
Waterford	2,791	2,643	2,461
Westmeath	1,413	1,319	1,263
Wexford	2,684	2,464	2,276
Wicklow	2,400	2,307	2,229
Other (NI & Foreign Address)	413	378	368
Total	79,256	75,015	71,641

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 (16,934) and Human Health and Social Work (15,034), followed by Manufacturing (10,941).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 27th October	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
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	752	708	664
Manufacturing	10,941	10,413	9,988
Electricity, gas, steam supply; Water supply; Sewerage, waste management	392	370	351
Construction	3,443	3,168	2,973

Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	16,934	15,988	15,205
Transportation and storage	2,877	2,752	2,657
Accommodation and food service activities	4,697	4,316	3,966
Information and communication activities	1,308	1,247	1,198
Financial and insurance activities	2,942	2,812	2,718
Real Estate activities	635	599	580
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	2,486	2,372	2,275
Administrative and support service activities	7,138	6,863	6,620
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	3,191	3,010	2,884
Education	2,012	1,811	1,659
Human Health And Social Work activities	15,034	14,460	14,063
Arts, entertainment and recreation	733	667	613
Other Sectors	2,751	2,572	2,416
Unclassified or unknown	990	887	811
Total	79,256	75,015	71,641

Appendix 11 – Enhanced Illness Benefit - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 27th October	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
< 25	11,363	10,333	9,536
25-34	19,639	18,604	17,728
35-44	22,059	21,085	20,325
45-54	15,882	15,108	14,520

55+	10,313	9,885	9,532
Total	79,256	75,015	71,641