

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

From [Department of Social Protection](#)

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Almost 330,000 receive Pandemic Unemployment Payment this week

An increase of 34,000 receiving PUP compared to last week

€95.5 million is paid out in PUP payments today

Quickest and easiest way to apply for PUP is online at www.MyWelfare.ie

Earnings Reference Period for employees extended to September 2020

This week, the Department of Social Protection has issued payments valued at €95.5m, up from €85.6 million last week, to 329,991 people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP).

The number of people receiving a PUP payment this week represents an increase of 34,131 on the 295,860 people paid last week.

The sector with the highest number of people receiving a PUP payment this week is Accommodation and Food Service Activities (98,233). It is followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (51,921) and Other Sectors, e.g., hairdressers and beauty salons (28,799).

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, 3rd November.

Commenting on this week's figures, Minister Humphreys said:

“The increase in the number of people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) was expected as a result of the move to Level 5 of restrictions.

“Supporting workers who have lost their job as a result of this pandemic remains my top priority. My Department has processed and put into payment over 125,000 new applications for PUP in recent weeks.

“I would like to acknowledge the co-operation of the people who are claiming the PUP payment online. By applying online at www.MyWelfare.ie it makes the PUP application process much easier and results in the applications going into payment much faster.”

“The fall in the number of cases of Covid-19 in recent days is encouraging. This is a credit to the Irish people and the sacrifices they are making in responding to the public health advice.

PUP Payment Rates

PUP is paid at four rates. With effect from 16th 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.**

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.

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 January and February 2020. The Department then uses the calculation which gives the person the highest weekly rate of income from these reference periods as the basis for calculating their PUP entitlement.

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 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.

New Reference Period

The Minister today brought a memorandum to Cabinet which extends the 2020 earnings reference period for employees to September 2020.

This will mean that people who only commenced employment after February 2020 but have now been laid-off due to increased restrictions can have their payment rate fixed by reference to their earnings in the period March to September 2020.

The regulations will also provide that people who may have been in employment before February 2020 but whose earnings have reduced in the period since February can still have their PUP payment rate set by reference to their earlier, higher, earnings.

As self-employment earnings are filed with Revenue on an annual basis the assessment of self-employed earnings will continue as before to be based on the best of a person's 2018 or 2019 earnings. Any earnings a person may have received as an employee during 2019 will also be considered and added to their self-employment earnings for the purpose of setting the appropriate PUP payment rate.

Self-employed people can also continue to earn up to €480 (net) per month while in receipt of PUP, take up the Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme or avail of standard jobseeker payments.

People returning to work

In the past seven days, some 4,200 people closed their PUP, 2,460 of whom stated that they were doing so because they are returning to work.

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 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 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

The largest cohort of people who closed their claims to return to work is in the 25-35 age group (649), followed by those aged 35-55 (603). Full details are available at Appendix 8.

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 www.MyWelfare.ie. When applying, people should provide the name of their employer and details of their last day of employment.

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 www.MyWelfare.ie.

Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit Payment

Since March, a cumulative total of 81,999 people under the age of 66 have been medically certified for receipt of the Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit. For 10,340 people the date of their first certificate was issued in October 2020, of which 1,556 have been certified for Covid-19.

Today, some 3,770 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 again this week, the greatest number being in Dublin (22,906), followed by Cork (8,885), Galway (4,987), Kildare (4,052) and Meath (3,252).

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 (17,551) and Human Health and Social Work (15,397), followed by Manufacturing (11,301). Full details are at Appendices 9, 10 and 11.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Analysis of Pandemic Unemployment Payments by County
- Appendix 2 - Pandemic Unemployment Payments by Sector
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Appendix 1 - Analysis of Pandemic Unemployment Payments

There are 329,991 people in receipt a Pandemic Unemployment Payment of which 166,280 are female and 163,711 are male.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of a Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5th May
Carlow	3,481	3,082	7,800
Cavan	4,540	4,135	9,700
Clare	7,255	6,563	14,600
Cork	33,062	28,962	61,900
Donegal	11,673	10,950	22,700
Dublin	108,292	99,157	174,200
Galway	18,214	16,005	32,300
Kerry	12,965	11,426	22,200
Kildare	14,444	12,903	26,100
Kilkenny	5,272	4,653	10,600
Laois	4,334	3,751	8,600
Leitrim	1,939	1,703	4,100
Limerick	12,832	11,308	22,300
Longford	2,119	1,896	4,500
Louth	9,968	8,892	17,300
Mayo	8,642	7,474	16,400
Meath	12,439	11,225	25,000
Monaghan	3,832	3,577	8,200
Offaly	4,133	3,718	8,900
Roscommon	3,274	2,898	7,100
Sligo	4,038	3,590	7,700
Tipperary	8,832	7,772	18,800
Waterford	7,623	6,704	14,100
Westmeath	6,022	5,245	11,700
Wexford	9,932	8,575	20,500
Wicklow	10,022	8,895	18,700
County not included	812	801	2,000
Total	329,991	295,860	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 (98,233) followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (51,921) and Other Sectors e.g. hairdressers and beauty salons (28,799).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 27th October	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 5th May
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	3,911	3,474	8,600
Manufacturing	14,764	13,487	37,400
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	1,065	955	2,100
Construction	19,823	18,193	79,300
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	51,921	43,432	90,300
Transportation and storage	8,759	8,182	17,900
Accommodation and food service activities	98,233	90,051	128,500
Information and communication activities	7,288	7,047	11,800
Financial and insurance activities	6,815	6,260	12,500
Real Estate activities	5,160	4,598	8,100
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	12,745	11,858	24,800
Administrative and support service activities	27,714	25,656	45,800
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	5,174	4,728	14,400
Education	10,146	9,464	22,000

Human Health And Social Work activities	9,853	9,061	22,500
Arts, entertainment and recreation	11,376	10,069	14,200
Other Sectors (e.g. hairdressers and beauty salons)	28,799	23,537	39,200
Unclassified or unknown	6,445	5,808	18,600
Total	329,991	295,860	598,000

Appendix 3 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of Pandemic Unemployment Payment on 27th October
< 25	83,500	74,479
25-34	75,646	68,111
35-44	71,489	64,109
45-54	56,723	50,802
55+	42,633	38,359
Total	329,991	295,860

Appendix 4 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by gender

Gender	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of €300 on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of €250 on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 3rd November
Male	81,459	26,426	25,150	30,676
Female	54,870	31,147	35,536	44,727
Total	136,329	57,573	60,686	75,403

Appendix 5 – Pandemic Unemployment Payment Rates breakdown by age

Age category	Number of people in receipt of €350 on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of €300 on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of €250 on 3rd November	Number of people in receipt of €203 on 3rd November
< 25	15,392	15,915	22,483	29,710
25-34	37,998	15,085	11,349	11,214
35-44	36,903	11,450	10,548	12,588
45-54	27,781	8,703	8,861	11,378
55+	18,255	6,420	7,445	10,513
Total	136,329	57,573	60,686	75,403

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

Around 2,460 people who have closed their account for return to work since 25th October will receive a Pandemic Unemployment Payment tomorrow, 3rd November. Of these 1,453 are male and 1,007 are female.

County Breakdown

County	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 3rd November to return to work	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
Carlow	31	22	26
Cavan	49	33	40
Clare	52	29	59
Cork	273	212	257
Donegal	73	60	88
Dublin	761	569	766
Galway	141	92	141
Kerry	74	49	60
Kildare	128	74	102
Kilkenny	24	35	44
Laois	42	21	37
Leitrim	11	11	21
Limerick	81	88	121
Longford	22	19	21
Louth	68	59	92
Mayo	55	33	58
Meath	111	53	96
Monaghan	37	28	37
Offaly	37	34	49
Roscommon	32	18	31
Sligo	25	26	40
Tipperary	76	59	73
Waterford	55	40	62
Westmeath	45	47	47
Wexford	81	32	74
Wicklow	64	41	76
County not included	12	3	8
Total	2,460	1,787	2,526

Appendix 7 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments - Sector Breakdown

The top three sectors from which employees closed their Pandemic Unemployment Payment in the week ending 3rd November to return to work are Accommodation and Food Service Activities (491), Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles (362) and Construction (279).

Industrial Sector	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 3rd November to return to work	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 27th October to return to work
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	25	31
Manufacturing	234	145
Electricity, gas supply; Water supply, sewerage and waste management	4	9
Construction	279	137
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	362	295
Transportation and storage	91	98
Accommodation and food service activities	491	260
Information and communication activities	75	86
Financial and insurance activities	41	38
Real Estate activities	27	20
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	143	115
Administrative and support service activities	276	205
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	45	43
Education	93	102
Human Health And Social Work activities	124	104
Arts, entertainment and recreation	42	47
Other Sectors	82	34
Unclassified or unknown	26	18
Total	2,460	1,787

Appendix 8 – Closed Pandemic Unemployment Payments to return to work – Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 3rd November to return to work	Number of people who closed their PUP payment from 27th October to return to work
< 25	513	419
25-34	649	491
35-44	603	409
45-54	440	307
55+	255	161
Total	2,460	1,787

Appendix 9 - Analysis of Covid-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit

To date, 81,999 people have been medically certified for receipt of a Covid-19 related Illness Benefit payment, of whom 45,238 are female and 36,761 are male.

Some 3,770 people are currently in receipt of an Enhanced Illness Benefit payment.

For 10,340 people the date of their first certificate was issued in October 2020, of which 1,556 have been certified for Covid-19.

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 Coronavirus is given in brackets and is included in the weekly overall figure shown.

Certificate start date	Number of people medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit
Before March 2020	151 (7)
March 2020	31,139 (1,008)
April 2020	14,469 (2,037)
May 2020	5,009 (772)
June 2020	1,472 (128)
July 2020	2,294 (155)
August 2020	5,718 (554)
September 2020	11,407 (1,076)
October 2020	10,340 (1,556)
Total	81,999 (7,293)

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 3rd November	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
Carlow	1,144	1,108	1,042
Cavan	2,139	2,054	1,876
Clare	1,479	1,417	1,346
Cork	8,885	8,530	8,015
Donegal	2,315	2,205	2,031
Dublin	22,906	22,352	21,431
Galway	4,987	4,784	4,494
Kerry	1,929	1,857	1,749
Kildare	4,052	3,964	3,818
Kilkenny	1,669	1,622	1,546
Laois	1,375	1,336	1,288
Leitrim	365	351	328
Limerick	2,786	2,688	2,531
Longford	674	652	615
Louth	2,360	2,282	2,174
Mayo	1,860	1,783	1,701
Meath	3,252	3,092	2,831
Monaghan	1,525	1,466	1,376
Offaly	1,311	1,280	1,238
Roscommon	1,190	1,153	1,102
Sligo	760	715	642
Tipperary	2,953	2,864	2,730
Waterford	2,865	2,791	2,643
Westmeath	1,489	1,413	1,319
Wexford	2,812	2,684	2,464
Wicklow	2,467	2,400	2,307
Other (NI & Foreign Address)	450	413	378
Total	81,999	79,256	75,015

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

The 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 (17,551) and Human Health and Social Work (15,397), followed by Manufacturing (11,301).

Sector Breakdown

Industrial Sector	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 3rd November	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
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Mining and Quarrying	787	752	708
Manufacturing	11,301	10,941	10,413
Electricity, gas, steam supply; Water supply; Sewerage, waste management	405	392	370
Construction	3,616	3,443	3,168
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and motorcycles	17,551	16,934	15,988
Transportation and storage	2,983	2,877	2,752
Accommodation and food service activities	4,942	4,697	4,316
Information and communication activities	1,348	1,308	1,247
Financial and insurance activities	3,011	2,942	2,812
Real Estate activities	661	635	599
Professional, Scientific and Technical activities	2,572	2,486	2,372
Administrative and support service activities	7,329	7,138	6,863
Public Administration And Defence; Compulsory Social Security	3,296	3,191	3,010
Education	2,117	2,012	1,811

Human Health And Social Work activities	15,397	15,034	14,460
Arts, entertainment and recreation	780	733	667
Other Sectors	2,834	2,751	2,572
Unclassified or unknown	1,069	990	887
Total	81,999	79,256	75,015

Appendix 11 – Enhanced Illness Benefit - Age Profile

Age category	Number of people who have been medically certified for receipt of Enhanced Illness Benefit to 3rd November	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
< 25	12,060	11,363	10,333
25-34	20,282	19,639	18,604
35-44	22,717	22,059	21,085
45-54	16,366	15,882	15,108
55+	10,574	10,313	9,885
Total	81,999	79,256	75,015