



Budget 2024

The largest social welfare package in the history of the State will provide almost €2.3 billion in a package of measures to assist households with the cost of living

- €300 cost of living lump sum to all households getting the **Fuel Allowance**
- €200 cost of living lump sum for pensioners and people with a disability getting the **Living Alone Increase**
- €400 cost of living lump sum to all families getting the **Working Family Payment**
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to support all families with children
- €400 cost of living lump sum for people getting the **Carer's Support Grant***
- €400 cost of living lump sum for people getting **Disability Allowance, Blind Pension or Invalidity Pension***
- €100 cost of living lump sum for people getting an **Increase for a Qualified Child** (to be paid per qualified child)
- Christmas Bonus will be paid to 1.3 million welfare recipients including pensioners, carers, and people with disabilities
- January cost of living bonus for most people getting a long-term weekly social welfare payment to be paid in 2024

* The once off payment of €400 to people getting Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension and/or Carer's Support Grant, is **only payable in respect of one payment**, even if you qualify for more than one of the payments or are caring for more than one person.

Supports for pensioners

- €12 increase in the maximum weekly rate of all State pensions from January 2024. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate
- €300 cost of living lump sum for those getting the **Fuel Allowance**, to be paid in November 2023
- €200 cost of living lump sum to people who are getting a **Living Alone Increase**
- Christmas Bonus to be paid in December 2023
- January cost of living bonus for pensioners to be paid in 2024

Supports for families and children

- €12 increase in weekly social welfare payments from January 2024. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- weekly rates of qualified child payments will increase by €4 in January 2024 bringing them to €54 for those aged 12 and over, and €46 for under 12s
- €400 cost of living lump sum paid to all families getting the **Working Family Payment**
- €100 cost of living lump sum for people getting an **Increase for a Qualified Child** (to be paid per qualified child)
- income thresholds for the **Working Family Payment** will increase by €54 per week regardless of family size from January 2024
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to support all families to be paid in December 2023
- extend **Child Benefit** to 18-year-olds in full time education, from September 2024
- extend **Hot School Meals** on a phased basis in 2024 to all non-DEIS primary schools who applied as part of the expression of interest
- extend **Parent's Benefit** from 7 weeks to 9 weeks in August 2024
- Christmas Bonus to be paid in December 2023
- January cost of living bonus for most people getting a long term weekly social welfare payment, to be paid in 2024

Supports to address child poverty

- €12 increase in weekly social welfare payments from January 2024. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- weekly rates of qualified child payments will increase by €4 in January 2024 bringing them to €54 for those aged 12 and over, and €46 for under 12s
- €400 cost of living lump sum paid to all families getting the **Working Family Payment**
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to support all families to be paid in December 2023
- extend **Child Benefit** to 18-year-olds in full time education, from September 2024
- extend **Hot School Meals**, on a phased basis in 2024, to all non-DEIS primary schools who applied as part of the expression of interest
- the income thresholds for the Working Family Payment will increase by €54 per week regardless of family size from January 2024
- €100 cost of living lump sum for people getting an **Increase for a Qualified Child** (to be paid per qualified child)
- Christmas Bonus to be paid in December 2023
- January cost of living bonus for most people getting a long-term weekly social welfare payment to be paid in 2024

Supports for carers

- increase in the **Carer's Allowance** income disregard to €450 for a single person and €900 for a couple
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting **Carer's Support Grant***
- from January 2024 there will be a €12 increase in the maximum rate of the **Carer's Allowance** and **Carer's Benefit**. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate
- weekly rates of qualified child payments will increase by €4 in January 2024 bringing them to €54 for those aged 12 and over, and €46 for under 12s
- €100 cost of living lump sum for people getting an **Increase for a Qualified Child** (to be paid per qualified child)
- Christmas Bonus double payment to be paid in December 2023
- January cost of living bonus for most people getting a long-term weekly social welfare payment to be paid in 2024

Supports for people with disabilities

- additional funding to include provision for **Free Travel Scheme** for those medically certified unfit to drive
- reduce the minimum weekly hours threshold from 21 to 15 hours for employers to avail of the **Wage Subsidy Scheme**
- increase in the **Carer's Allowance** income disregard to €450 for a single person and €900 for a couple
- €400 cost of living lump sum will be paid to people getting a **Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and Blind Pension** *
- €300 cost of living lump sum for those getting the **Fuel Allowance**, to be paid in November 2023
- €200 cost of living lump sum to people who are getting a **Living Alone Increase**
- Christmas Bonus double payment to all persons getting a long-term disability payment
- from January 2024 there will be an increase of €12 in maximum personal rate of weekly disability payments. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate
- January cost of living bonus for most people getting a long-term weekly social welfare payment to be paid in 2024
- **Domiciliary Care Allowance** to increase by €10 a month from January 2024

Supports for jobseekers

- an increase of €12 in maximum personal weekly rate of jobseekers' payments from January 2024. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- weekly rates of qualified child payments will increase by €4 in January 2024 bringing them to €54 for those aged 12 and over, and €46 for under 12s
- €100 cost of living lump sum for people getting an **Increase for a Qualified Child** (to be paid per qualified child)
- Christmas Bonus to all people getting a long-term jobseeker payment
- January cost of living bonus for recipients of a long-term jobseeker payment, to be paid in 2024
- introduction of the Pay-Related Benefit Scheme for jobseekers in December 2024, subject to Government approval and pending final scheme design

Supports for lone parents

- €400 cost of living lump sum to all families getting the **Working Family Payment** paid in November 2023
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to support all families to be paid in December 2023
- extend **Child Benefit** to 18-year-olds in full time education, from September 2024
- extend **Hot School Meals**, on a phased basis in 2024, to all non-DEIS primary schools who applied as part of the expression of interest
- weekly rates of qualified child payments will increase by €4 in January 2024 bringing them to €54 for those aged 12 and over and €46 for under 12s
- extend **Parent's Benefit** from 7 weeks to 9 weeks in August 2024
- €12 increase in weekly social welfare payments from January 2024. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- the income thresholds for the **Working Family Payment** will increase by €54 per week regardless of family size from January 2024
- €300 cost of living lump sum for those getting the **Fuel Allowance**, to be paid in November 2023
- €100 cost of living lump sum for people getting an **Increase for a Qualified Child** (to be paid per qualified child)
- Christmas Bonus to be paid in December 2023
- January cost of living bonus for most people getting a long-term weekly social welfare payment to be paid in 2024

* The once off payment of €400 to people getting Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension and/or Carer's Support Grant, **is only payable in respect of one payment**, even if you qualify for more than one of the payments or are caring for more than one person.

For more information visit gov.ie/dsp and citizensinformation.ie. Contact the Department of Social Protection on 0818 66 22 44 or 0818 40 50 60 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. Contact Citizens Information on 0818 0740 00 from 9am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.

This Fact Sheet is intended as a guide only and does not purport to be a legal interpretation. The Fact Sheet may be updated to provide greater clarification for the public. Full information is available on gov.ie/dsp.

All figures below for Budget 2024

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2024)	Personal Rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)	Increase for a Qualified Child Under 12	Increase for a Qualified Child Aged 12+
Social Insurance Payments	€	€	€	€
State Pension (Contributory)				
- Personal Rate - Under 80	277.30	See IQA Below	46.00	54.00
- Personal Rate - Aged 80 and over	287.30	See IQA Below	46.00	54.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult - Under 66		184.70		
- Increase for Qualified Adult - 66 and over		248.60		
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension / Deserted Wife's Benefit				
- Under 66	237.50		46.00	54.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	277.30		46.00	54.00
- Aged 80 and over	287.30		46.00	54.00
Invalidity Pension	237.50	169.70	46.00	54.00
Carer's Benefit	249.00		46.00	54.00
Disablement Benefit	263.00		46.00	54.00
Jobseeker's / Illness / Health and Safety / Injury Benefit	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Maternity / Paternity / Adoptive / Parent's Benefit	274.00			
Death Benefit				
- Under 66	262.50		46.00	54.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	281.70		46.00	54.00
- Aged 80 and over	291.70		46.00	54.00

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2024)	Personal Rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult	Increase for a Qualified Child Under 12	Increase for a Qualified Child Aged 12+
Social Assistance Payments	€	€	€	€
State Pension (Non-Contributory)				
- Aged 66 and under 80	266.00		46.00	54.00
- Aged 80 and over	276.00		46.00	54.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult - Under 66		175.70		
Carer's Allowance				
- Under 66	248.00		46.00	54.00
- Aged 66 and over	286.00		46.00	54.00
Disability Allowance / Blind Pension	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension	232.00			
One-Parent Family Payment / Deserted Wife's Allowance	232.00		46.00	54.00
Farm Assist	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Jobseeker's Allowance			46.00	54.00
- Under 25	141.70	141.70	46.00	54.00
- Aged 25 and over	232.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
Supplementary Welfare Allowance				
- Under 25 living independently with State support	230.00	154.00	46.00	54.00
- Under 25 not living independently	141.70	141.70		
- Aged 25 and over	230.00	154.00	46.00	54.00

Child Benefit	2024 Rate
Monthly Rate	€140 per child
<p>Twins – Child Benefit is paid at one and half times the normal monthly rate for each child.</p> <p>All other multiple births – Child Benefit is paid at double the normal monthly rate for each child.</p>	
Employment Programmes	
<p>An increase of €12 per week from January 2024 for those participating in the Work Placement Experience Programme, Community Employment Programme, Rural Social Scheme and Tús.</p>	

Working Family Payment Thresholds	2024 Weekly Income Limit
1 Child	€645
2 Children	€746
3 Children	€847
4 Children	€938
5 Children	€1,064
6 Children	€1,180
7 Children	€1,316
8 Children or more	€1,412

Other Social Welfare Payments	2024 Rate	Frequency
Guardian's Payment (Con/Non-Con)	€215	Weekly Rate
Fuel Allowance	€33	Weekly Rate
Living Alone Allowance	€22	Weekly Rate
Island Allowance (specified offshore islands)	€20	Weekly Rate
Domiciliary Care Allowance	€340	Monthly Rate
Carer's Support Grant	€1,850	Annual Rate
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	€8,000	Once-off payment