



Budget 2025

The largest social welfare package in the history of the State providing €2.6 billion to assist households.

Cost of living measures

- €300 cost of living lump sum payment to all households getting **Fuel Allowance**
- €200 cost of living lump sum payment for pensioners and people with a disability getting the **Living Alone Increase**
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment to all families getting the **Working Family Payment**
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to be paid in both November and December 2024 to support all families with children
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting **Carer's Support Grant** *
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting **Disability Allowance, Blind Pension and Invalidity Pension** *
- €100 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting a **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) to be paid for each qualified child
- October 2024 cost of living bonus will be paid on the same basis as the Christmas bonus to groups including pensioners, carers, lone parents, people on disability payment, long-term jobseeker recipients.
- Christmas bonus will be paid to over 1.3 million social welfare recipients

*The once-off payment 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 to address child poverty

- €12 increase in most weekly social welfare payments from January 2025. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- €15 increase in **Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit** and **Parent's Benefit** from January 2025
- weekly rates of **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) will increase by €8 to €62 for those aged 12 and over, and by €4 to €50 for under 12s in January 2025. This means an **annual** payment of up to €3,224 for a child aged 12 and over, and up to €2,600 for a child aged under 12 (if they are eligible to get the increase on a primary payment for a full year).
- **Newborn Baby Grant** of €280 in addition to the first month of Child Benefit (€140) for newborns who get their first Child Benefit payment in or after January 2025
- the income thresholds for the **Working Family Payment** will increase by €60 a week regardless of family size from January 2025
- extend **Hot School Meals** to all remaining primary schools in 2025 on a phased basis from April 2025
- School Meals **Holiday Hunger pilot** project will start in summer 2025
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment to all families getting the **Working Family Payment** to be paid in November 2024
- €100 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting a **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) to be paid for each qualified child in November 2024
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to be paid in both November and December 2024

- October 2024 cost of living bonus will be paid on the same basis as the Christmas bonus
- Christmas Bonus to be paid in December 2024

Supports for families and children

- €12 increase in most weekly social welfare payments from January 2025. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- €15 increase in **Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit and Parent's Benefit** from January 2025
- weekly rates of **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) will increase by €8 to €62 for those aged 12 and over, and by €4 to €50 for under 12s in January 2025. This means an **annual** payment of up to €3,224 for a child aged 12 and over, and up to €2,600 for a child aged under 12 (if they are eligible to get the increase on a primary payment for a full year).
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- the income thresholds for the **Working Family Payment** will increase by €60 per week regardless of family size from January 2025
- extend **Hot School Meals** to all remaining primary schools in 2025 on a phased basis from April 2025
- School Meals **Holiday Hunger pilot** project will start in summer 2025
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment to all families getting the **Working Family Payment** to be paid in November 2024

- €100 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting a **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) to be paid for each qualified child in November 2024
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to be paid in both November and December 2024
- October 2024 cost of living bonus will be paid on the same basis as the Christmas bonus
- Christmas bonus to be paid in December 2024

Supports for carers

- €12 increase in the maximum rate of the **Carer's Allowance** and **Carer's Benefit** from January 2025. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate
- weekly rates of **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) will increase by €8 to €62 for those aged 12 and over, and by €4 to €50 for under 12s in January 2025. This means an **annual** payment of up to €3,224 for a child aged 12 and over, and up to €2,600 for a child aged under 12 (if they are eligible to get the increase on a primary payment for a full year).
- increase in the **Carer's Allowance** income disregard to €625 for a single person and €1,250 for a couple from July 2025
- extend **Carer's Benefit** to people who are self-employed from January 2025
- €150 increase in the **Carer's Support Grant** paid annually in June

- **Carer's Allowance** will become a qualifying payment for Fuel Allowance from January 2025, subject to meeting all criteria of the Fuel Allowance scheme, including satisfying the Fuel Allowance means test
- €20 increase a month in **Domiciliary Care Allowance** from January 2025
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting **Carer's Support Grant** * to be paid in November 2024
- €100 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting a **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) to be paid for each qualified child in November 2024
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to be paid in both November and December 2024
- October 2024 cost of living bonus will be paid on the same basis as the Christmas bonus
- Christmas bonus to be paid in December 2024

Supports for pensioners

- €12 increase in the maximum weekly rate of all State pensions from January 2025. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- the amount not taken into account when you sell your home to move into care will increase to €337,500 from January 2025, for those who get the **State Pension (Non-contributory)**, or **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension**
- means test disregard for **Fuel Allowance** extended to those aged 66 and over from January 2025- €524 (single person) and €1,048 (couple) meaning more people will qualify for this support

- **Free Travel Scheme Companion Pass** for all those aged over 70 from September 2025
- €300 cost of living lump sum payment to all households getting **Fuel Allowance** to be paid in November 2024
- €200 cost of living lump sum payment to people who are getting a **Living Alone Increase** to be paid in November 2024
- October 2024 cost of living bonus for pensioners
- Christmas bonus to be paid in December 2024

Supports for people with disabilities

- €12 increase in the maximum personal rate of weekly disability payments from January 2025. There will be proportionate increases for people getting a reduced rate
- the amount not taken into account when you sell your home to move into care will increase to €337,500 from January 2025, for those who get the **State Pension (Non-contributory)**, or **Disability Allowance** or **Blind Pension**
- €20 increase a month in **Domiciliary Care Allowance** from January 2025
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting **Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension** and **Blind Pension** * to be paid in November 2024
- €300 cost of living lump sum payment to all households getting **Fuel Allowance** to be paid in November 2024
- €200 cost of living lump sum payment to people who are getting a **Living Alone Increase** to be paid in November 2024

- October 2024 cost of living bonus will be paid on the same basis as the Christmas bonus
- Christmas bonus to all persons getting a long term disability payment to be paid in December 2024

Supports for lone parents

- €12 increase in most weekly social welfare payments from January 2025. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- €15 increase in **Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit and Parent's Benefit** from January 2025
- weekly rates of **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) will increase by €8 to €62 for those aged 12 and over, and by €4 to €50 for under 12s in January 2025. This means an **annual** payment of up to €3,224 for a child aged 12 and over, and up to €2,600 for a child aged under 12 (if they are eligible to get the increase on a primary payment for a full year).
- €400 cost of living lump sum payment to all families getting the **Working Family Payment** to be paid in November 2024
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to be paid in both November and December 2024
- **Newborn Baby Grant** of €280 in addition to the first month of Child Benefit (€140) for newborns who get their first Child Benefit payment in or after January 2025
- the income threshold for the **Working Family Payment** will increase by €60 a week regardless of family size from January 2025

- €300 cost of living lump sum payment to all households getting **Fuel Allowance** to be paid in November 2024
- €100 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting a **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) to be paid for each qualified child in November 2024
- extend **Hot School Meals** to all remaining primary schools in 2025 on a phased basis from April 2025
- School Meals **Holiday Hunger pilot** project to start in summer 2025
- October 2024 cost of living bonus will be paid on the same basis as the Christmas bonus
- Christmas bonus to be paid in December 2024

Auto-enrolment

- introduction of the Auto-enrolment retirement savings scheme from 30 September 2025, helping around 800,000 workers save for their retirement

Supports for jobseekers

- Increase of €12 in maximum personal weekly rate of jobseekers' payments from January 2025. There will be proportionate increases for qualified adults and people getting a reduced rate
- weekly rates of **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) will increase by €8 to €62 for those aged 12 and over, and by €4 to €50 for under 12s in January 2025. This means an **annual** payment of up to €3,224 for a child aged 12 and over, and up to €2,600 for a child aged under 12 (if they are eligible to get the increase on a primary payment for a full year).

- €100 cost of living lump sum payment for people getting a **Child Support Payment** (previously known as Increase for a Qualified Child) to be paid for each qualified child in November 2024.
- double payment of **Child Benefit** to be paid in both November and December 2024
- October 2024 cost of living bonus will be paid on the same basis as the Christmas bonus
- Christmas bonus to be paid in December 2024
- introduction of the **Jobseeker's Pay-Related Benefit Scheme** from 31 March 2025

*The once-off payment 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.

Christmas bonus

The Christmas bonus will be paid to those getting a long term social welfare payment in December 2024. The Christmas bonus has been extended to those who have been getting Illness Benefit for 12 months or longer.

Budget 2025 figures

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2025)	Personal rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)	Child Support Payment* under 12	Child Support Payment* aged 12+
Social insurance payments	€	€	€	€
State Pension (Contributory)				
- Personal rate – Under 80	289.30	See IQA below	50.00	62.00
- Personal Rate - Aged 80 and over	299.30	See IQA below	50.00	62.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult – Under 66		192.70		
- Increase for Qualified Adult – 66 and over		259.40		
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension / Deserted Wife's Benefit				
- Under 66	249.50		50.00	62.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	289.30		50.00	62.00
- Aged 80 and over	299.30		50.00	62.00
Invalidity Pension	249.50	178.30	50.00	62.00
Carer's Benefit	261.00		50.00	62.00
Disablement Benefit	275.00		50.00	62.00
Jobseeker's / Illness / Health and Safety / Injury Benefit	244.00	162.00	50.00	62.00
Maternity / Paternity / Adoptive / Parent's Benefit	289.00			
Death Benefit				
- Under 66	274.50		50.00	62.00
- Aged 66 and under 80	293.70		50.00	62.00
- Aged 80 and over	303.70		50.00	62.00

Maximum weekly rate (from January 2025)	Personal rate	Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)	Child Support Payment* under 12	Child Support Payment* aged 12+
Social assistance payments	€	€	€	€
State Pension (Non-Contributory)				
- Aged 66 and under 80	278.00		50.00	62.00
- Aged 80 and over	288.00		50.00	62.00
- Increase for Qualified Adult – Under 66		183.60		
Carer's Allowance				
- Under 66	260.00		50.00	62.00
- Aged 66 and over	298.00		50.00	62.00
Disability Allowance / Blind Pension	244.00	162.00	50.00	62.00
Widow's / Widower's / Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension	244.00			
One-Parent Family Payment / Deserted Wife's Allowance	244.00		50.00	62.00
Farm and Fish Assist	244.00	162.00	50.00	62.00
Jobseeker's Allowance				
- Under 25	153.70	153.70		
- Aged 25 and over	244.00	162.00	50.00	62.00
Supplementary Welfare Allowance				
- Under 25 living independently with State support	242.00	162.00	50.00	62.00
- Under 25 not living independently	153.70	153.70		
- Aged 25 and over	242.00	162.00	50.00	62.00

*Previously known as 'Increase for Qualified Child'

Child Benefit	2025 Monthly Rate
For each child	€140
Twins	Paid at one and a half times the normal monthly rate for each child
All other multiple births	Paid at double the normal monthly rate for each child
Newborn Baby Grant	Bonus payment of €280 in addition to the first month of Child Benefit (€140) for newborns who get their first Child Benefit payment in or after 1 January 2025

Employment Programmes

An increase of €12 per week from January 2025 for those participating in the Community Employment Programme, Rural Social Scheme and Tús and a €24 increase for the Work Placement Experience Programme.

Working Family Payment Thresholds	2025 Weekly Income Limit
1 Child	€705
2 Children	€806
3 Children	€907
4 Children	€998
5 Children	€1,124
6 Children	€1,240
7 Children	€1,376
8 Children or more	€1,472

Other Social Welfare Payments	2025 Rate	Frequency
Guardian's Payment (Con/Non-Con)	€227	Weekly Rate
Fuel Allowance	€33	Weekly Rate
Living Alone Allowance	€22	Weekly Rate
Island Allowance (specified offshore islands)	€20	Weekly Rate
Domiciliary Care Allowance	€360	Monthly Rate
Carer's Support Grant	€2,000	Annual Rate
Widowed or Surviving Civil Partner Grant	€8,000	Once-off payment